

Introduction

The latest international evaluation for dairy production traits took place as scheduled at the Interbull Centre. Data from thirty-three (33) countries were included in this evaluation.

International genetic evaluations for milk, fat and protein yields of bulls from Australia, Austria-Germany, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark-Finland-Sweden, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of South Africa, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Portugal, Korea, and Uruguay were computed. Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Red Dairy Cattle and Simmental breed data were included in this evaluation.

Changes in national procedures

Changes in the national genetic evaluation of conformation traits are as follows:

USA (ALL)	Decrease in information due to the pedigree correction and herd-year minimum edits
AUS (ALL)	Some decrease in information due to pedigree, data updates and change in bulls' status which made bulls no longer qualifying for inclusion.
NLD (ALL)	Base change. Minor update of the EDC calculation. Too many data were provided for the January test run, the error has been corrected resulting in drops of information especially for HOL.
DEA (SIM)	HUN included in the DEA-consortium. Model as previous runs, except for new effect classes with respect to the added Hungarian data.
POL (HOL)	Drop in information due to the data edits.
DFS (RDC)	Improved handling of Finnish AMS data. Finnish HOL discarded from RDC model. Update of genetic parameters/heritability.
CHE (ALL)	Drop of information due to changes in the groups of fixed effects regions and level (geographical) and edits in database. Base change.
FRA (ALL)	Base change
DEU (ALL)	Base change
EST (HOL, JER)	Drop in information due to the pedigree update and/or new location of some daughters in different dairy farms of owners.
JPN (HOL)	Drop in information due to the pedigree modification
IRL (HOL, JER)	Drop in information because ancestry errors are being corrected on an on-going basis as the genotypes come in.
ITA (HOL)	Base change. Drop in information due to the yearly data cut-off for phenotypes
ITA (SIM)	Base change. Drop in information due to the pedigree editing.
BEL (HOL)	Drop in information due to few pedigree correction
NZL (HOL, JER, RDC)	Drop in information due to the DNA parentage testing.
ITA (BSW)	Base change
GBR (HOL, JER, RDC, BSW)	Drop in information due to the pedigree updates and clean up and data edits.
CAN (ALL)	Base change

INTERBULL CHANGES COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS ROUTINE RUN

In 2020 new post-processing windows\200\231 correlations for all breeds and traits have been applied: the upper bounds have been set to 0.99 as these were judged to have very little effect on evaluations while the lower values have been reduced to the 10th percentile. This reduction would provide post-processed correlations to be closer to the real estimated ones. The previously lower value adopted (based on the 25th percentile) had been found too high causing estimated and post-processed correlations to differ significantly from each other. It is a recommendation from the Interbull Technical Committee to review such windows every 5 years. The weight assigned to the magnitude of the changes tested by each country has also been revised. The new weight will allow post-processed correlations to take more in consideration the value of the new estimated ones even when no changes are applied by the countries. More information can be read on https://interbull.org/ib/rq_procedure

Since 2021 a new trait group has been added to the MACE evaluation, called stcm (SNP Training for clinical mastitis) evaluating the trait cma (pure clinical mastitis). New trait group codes have been issued as follows: 041 for international ebv files (.itb), 071 for parent average (ipr).

DATA AND METHOD OF ANALYSIS

Data were national genetic evaluations of AI sampled bulls with at least 10 daughters or 10 EDC (for clinical mastitis and maternal calving traits at least 50 daughters or 50 EDC, and for direct calving traits at least 50 calvings or 50 EDC) in at least 10 herds. Table 1 presents the amount of data included in this Interbull evaluation for all breeds.

National proofs were first de-regressed within country and then analysed jointly with a linear model including the effects of evaluation country, genetic group of bull and bull merit. Heritability estimates used in both the de-regression and international evaluation were as in each country's national evaluation.

Table 2 presents the date of evaluation as supplied by each country

Estimated genetic parameters and sire standard deviations are shown in APPENDIX I
and the corresponding number of common bulls are listed in APPENDIX II.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

The international genetic evaluation procedure is based on international work
described in the following scientific publications:

International genetic evaluation computation:
Schaeffer. 1994. J. Dairy Sci. 77:2671-2678
Klei, 1998. Interbull Bulletin 17:3-7

Verification and Genetic trend validation:
Klei et al., 2002. Interbull Bulletin 29:178-182.
Boichard et al., 1995. J. Dairy Sci. 78:431-437

Weighting factors:
Fikse and Banos, 2001. J. Dairy Sci. 84:1759-1767

De-regression:
Sigurdsson and G. Banos. 1995. Acta Agric. Scand. 45:207-219
Jairath et al. 1998. J. Dairy Sci. Vol. 81:550-562

Genetic parameter estimation:
Klei and Weigel, 1998, Interbull Bulletin 17:8-14
Sullivan, 1999. Interbull Bulletin 22:146-148

Post-processing of estimated genetic correlations:
Mark et al., 2003, Interbull Bulletin 30:126-135
Jorjani et al., 2003. J. Dairy Sci. 86:677-679
<https://wiki.interbull.org/public/rG%20procedure?action=print>

Time edits
Weigel and Banos. 1997. J. Dairy Sci. 80:3425-3430

International reliability estimation
Harris and Johnson. 1998. Interbull Bulletin 17:31-36

NEXT ROUTINE INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

Dates for the next routine evaluation can be found on
<http://www.interbull.org/ib/servicecalendar>.

NEXT TEST INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

Dates for the next test run can be found on
<http://www.interbull.org/ib/servicecalendar>.

PUBLICATION OF INTERBULL ROUTINE RUN

Results were distributed by the Interbull Centre to designated
representatives in each country. The international evaluation file comprised
international proofs expressed on the base and unit of each country included
in the analysis. Such records readily provide more information on bull
performance in various countries, thereby minimizing the need to resort to
conversions.

At the same time, all recipients of Interbull results are expected to honor
the agreed code of practice, decided by the Interbull Steering Committee,
and only publish international evaluations on their own country scale.
Evaluations expressed on another country scale are confidential and may only

be used internally for research and review purposes.

PUBLICATION OF INTERBULL TEST RUN

Test evaluation results are meant for review purposes only and should not be published.

[^]LTable 1. National evaluation data considered in the Interbull evaluation for dairy production traits (April Routine Evaluation 2024).
Number of records for milk yield by breed

Country	BSW	GUE	HOL	JER	RDC	SIM
AUS	232	151	8988	1914	864	
BEL			2345			
CAN	288	111	14093	902	892	
CHE	3257		3441	103		3695
CZE			5255			
DEA	6482				26842	
DEU		24562		281	308	
DFS		14434		2374	8078	
ESP		4626				
EST		1432			498	
FRA	503	18711			497	
FRM					5209	
GBR	197	382	8277	1015	738	122
HUN			3614			
IRL			3279	163	62	104
ISR			1758			
ITA	2414		9073	172		2039
JPN			6958			
KOR			1781			
LTU			897		373	
LVA			1532		721	
NLD	243		17140	271	104	
NOR					4373	
NZL	89	63	9250	5656	1566	
POL			12946			
PRT			2971			
SVK			1211			
SVN	348		720			704
URY			1191			
USA	1236	833	42885	5485	821	114
ZAF			1316	752	144	
HRV			986			1072
CAM					50	
No. Records	15289	1540	225672	19088	19592	40921
Pub. Proofs	12091	1214	161563	15077	17229	36740

[^]LAPPENDIX I. Sire standard deviations in diagonal and genetic correlations below diagonal

BSW	mil	CAN	FRA	USA	CHE	ITA	DEA	NLD	SVN	NZL	GBR	AUS
CAN	654.47											
FRA	0.90	651.62										
USA	0.91	0.89	638.95									
CHE	0.90	0.90	0.85	488.71								
ITA	0.87	0.83	0.86	0.87	613.73							
DEA	0.82	0.85	0.83	0.94	0.89	467.04						
NLD	0.88	0.87	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.86	658.95					
SVN	0.69	0.74	0.70	0.71	0.63	0.72	0.68	10.52				

NZL	0.68	0.76	0.70	0.73	0.68	0.72	0.71	0.65	475.68		
GBR	0.84	0.86	0.82	0.85	0.77	0.76	0.83	0.68	0.72	289.21	
AUS	0.72	0.76	0.70	0.69	0.64	0.63	0.71	0.65	0.83	0.69	369.21

BSW fat

	CAN	FRA	USA	CHE	ITA	DEA	NLD	SVN	NZL	GBR	AUS
CAN	27.15										
FRA	0.88	27.08									
USA	0.89	0.89	23.52								
CHE	0.85	0.89	0.82	19.34							
ITA	0.87	0.87	0.85	0.87	23.33						
DEA	0.80	0.87	0.82	0.94	0.87	17.35					
NLD	0.86	0.84	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.85	25.21				
SVN	0.77	0.79	0.72	0.73	0.70	0.78	0.67	10.78			
NZL	0.70	0.79	0.74	0.78	0.68	0.78	0.68	0.67	23.13		
GBR	0.83	0.86	0.83	0.83	0.78	0.76	0.83	0.68	0.72	10.18	
AUS	0.73	0.72	0.74	0.63	0.65	0.65	0.67	0.62	0.80	0.67	15.41

BSW pro

	CAN	FRA	USA	CHE	ITA	DEA	NLD	SVN	NZL	GBR	AUS
CAN	23.41										
FRA	0.86	21.16									
USA	0.88	0.86	18.99								
CHE	0.83	0.85	0.81	15.56							
ITA	0.82	0.81	0.82	0.85	21.46						
DEA	0.77	0.80	0.79	0.93	0.87	14.54					
NLD	0.84	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.84	21.74				
SVN	0.66	0.72	0.68	0.65	0.64	0.69	0.64	10.19			
NZL	0.61	0.71	0.64	0.68	0.63	0.68	0.63	0.62	16.58		
GBR	0.83	0.82	0.79	0.80	0.74	0.70	0.82	0.65	0.65	8.43	
AUS	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.60	0.57	0.57	0.62	0.56	0.78	0.63	11.81

GUE mil

	CAN	USA	AUS	GBR	NZL
CAN	809.36				
USA	0.93	783.11			
AUS	0.76	0.73	479.41		
GBR	0.86	0.82	0.71	267.08	
NZL	0.71	0.68	0.83	0.71	376.26

GUE fat

	CAN	USA	AUS	GBR	NZL
CAN	30.87				
USA	0.92	27.29			
AUS	0.76	0.74	17.43		
GBR	0.86	0.81	0.71	10.37	
NZL	0.71	0.73	0.82	0.72	18.45

GUE pro

	CAN	USA	AUS	GBR	NZL
CAN	24.14				
USA	0.90	20.75			
AUS	0.66	0.63	13.75		
GBR	0.84	0.79	0.65	7.77	
NZL	0.62	0.60	0.79	0.63	12.69

HOL mil

GBR	74	61	103	67	71	64	38	17	26	0	68
AUS	108	64	128	88	100	104	53	20	34	60	0

BSW

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	CAN	FRA	USA	CHE	ITA	DEA	NLD	SVN	NZL	GBR	AUS
CAN	0	99	199	156	150	169	61	35	37	78	105
FRA	90	0	136	196	233	262	100	52	36	74	80
USA	195	101	0	337	264	360	97	42	48	110	136
CHE	133	155	316	0	531	668	121	81	45	89	128
ITA	133	196	191	472	0	836	153	101	52	97	135
DEA	148	214	329	559	734	0	174	108	62	96	142
NLD	56	85	89	112	129	165	0	50	39	47	70
SVN	31	50	33	76	95	99	50	0	15	22	28
NZL	36	27	40	34	44	56	32	13	0	31	42
GBR	74	61	103	67	71	64	38	17	26	0	68
AUS	108	64	128	88	100	104	53	20	34	60	0

BSW

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	CAN	FRA	USA	CHE	ITA	DEA	NLD	SVN	NZL	GBR	AUS
CAN	0	99	199	156	150	169	61	35	37	78	105
FRA	90	0	136	196	233	262	100	52	36	74	80
USA	195	101	0	337	264	360	97	42	48	110	136
CHE	133	155	316	0	531	668	121	81	45	89	128
ITA	133	196	191	472	0	836	153	101	52	97	135
DEA	148	214	329	559	734	0	174	108	62	96	142
NLD	56	85	89	112	129	165	0	50	39	47	70
SVN	31	50	33	76	95	99	50	0	15	22	28
NZL	36	27	40	34	44	56	32	13	0	31	42
GBR	74	61	103	67	71	64	38	17	26	0	68
AUS	108	64	128	88	100	104	53	20	34	60	0

GUE

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	CAN	USA	AUS	GBR	NZL
CAN	0	79	56	41	14
USA	71	0	73	104	32
AUS	53	70	0	47	27
GBR	35	105	40	0	16
NZL	11	29	27	14	0

GUE

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	CAN	USA	AUS	GBR	NZL
CAN	0	79	56	41	14
USA	71	0	73	104	32
AUS	53	70	0	47	27
GBR	35	105	40	0	16
NZL	11	29	27	14	0

GUE

common bulls below diagonal
 common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	CAN	USA	AUS	GBR	NZL
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common three quarter sib group above diagonal

	CHE	DEA	FRM	ITA	SVN	FRA	NLD	IRL	GBR	HRV	USA
CHE	0	388	247	104	2	15	94	57	56	2	34
DEA	358	0	292	1107	280	262	408	68	55	740	40
FRM	299	335	0	194	11	2	135	72	73	2	92
ITA	106	1015	219	0	159	148	267	66	48	347	39
SVN	2	263	10	150	0	55	87	6	0	135	2
FRA	12	220	1	132	51	0	82	6	0	105	3
NLD	96	427	158	261	81	78	0	59	53	172	32
IRL	54	61	77	62	6	6	53	0	40	10	18
GBR	64	58	94	52	0	0	54	34	0	0	20
HRV	2	774	1	330	125	94	166	9	0	0	5
USA	33	43	107	46	2	3	33	17	28	5	0
