

Introduction

The latest routine international evaluation for SNP Training for clinical mastitis took place as scheduled at the Interbull Centre. Data from five (5) countries were included in this evaluation.

International genetic evaluations for SNP Training for clinical mastitis of bulls from Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States of America were computed. Brown Swiss, Holstein and Jersey breed data were included in this evaluation.

Changes in national procedures

Changes in the national genetic evaluation of SNP Training for clinical mastitis are as follows:

USA (ALL)	Drops in herds/daughters/EDC are related to pedigree correctness and daughter-herd-year minimum edits
DEU (HOL)	Missing bulls due to corrections in the data and bulls no longer qualifying
CHE (BSW)	Slight drops in reliability due to a bug correction. Pedigree used now including information for genotyped and non-genotyped animals.

INTERBULL CHANGES COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS ROUTINE RUN

A new document called confdoc_DEFINITION{runid}.itb has been introduced reporting all the trait definitions applied by countries as reported in the PREP.

Direct Gestation Length (ges) has been added as the fifth trait in the calving evaluation starting from the August 2025 MACE routine evaluation, and therefore added in the calv{BRD}{RUNID}.itb and calv{BRD}{RUNID}.ipr.

During 2023-2024, Interbull Centre and the Interbull Technical Committee (ITC) have worked on developing a new procedures for adjusting of the international correlations after a given test run in case countries would decide NOT TO implement the changes tested in the next routine run. Until now, the relative difference between the previous routine's and test run's correlations, for each pair of countries, was assessed and the average value of the two was used whenever such difference did exceed a threshold of 0.01. Otherwise, correlations from the latest test run were used. However, in some cases, the difference in correlations between routine/test runs were way above a 1% difference so that by using the average value the newly derived correlations would still be greatly affected by the changes tested but not implemented. This remark has been made in few occasions by some participating countries. A new approach proposed by Peter Sullivan, was developed and extensively tested. The new approach is based on first identifying the relative impact of the changes tested by a country during the test run (but not implemented in a routine run) and then correcting the whole correlation matrix detracting such estimated impact. This new approach would assure that the new correlations would be free from any effect from any changes tested but not implemented. The new procedure has been fully developed during 2023 and extensively tested during 2024 and introduced officially in the April 2025 routine evaluation.

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
<https://interbull.org/ib/servicecalendar>

NEXT TEST INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION

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

From 2025 an extra MACE test run has been scheduled in May, data submissions' deadline and target for distribution of results are all reported in the above link.

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 SNP training for clinical mastitis (April Routine Evaluation 2026). Number of records for clinical mastitis by breed

Country	BSW	GUE	HOL	JER	RDC	SIM
AUS						
BEL						
CAN			5649	286		
CHE	860		975			
CZE						
DEA						
DEU			5525			
DFS						
ESP						
EST						
FRA	450		12403			
FRM						
GBR						
HUN						
IRL						
ISR						
ITA						
JPN						
KOR						
LTU						
LVA						
NLD						
NOR						
NZL						
POL						
PRT						
SVK						
SVN						
URY						
USA	110		9456	1105		
ZAF						
CAM						
No. Records	1420		34008	1391		
Pub. Proofs	1290	0	28369	1220	0	0

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

BSW	cma		
	CHE	FRA	USA
CHE	11.73		
FRA	0.86	0.95	
USA	0.85	0.88	2.70

HOL	cma				
	CAN	CHE	DEU	FRA	USA
CAN	8.31				
CHE	0.90	11.10			
DEU	0.88	0.95	9.69		
FRA	0.90	0.96	0.92	1.15	

USA 0.82 0.86 0.87 0.90 2.56

JER cma

	CAN	USA
CAN	8.16	
USA	0.82	2.59

^LAPPENDIX II. Number of common bulls

BSW cma

common bulls below diagonal
common three quarter sib group above diagonal
CHE FRA USA

CHE	0	91	36
FRA	78	0	32
USA	32	31	0

GUE cma

HOL cma

common bulls below diagonal
common three quarter sib group above diagonal
CAN CHE DEU FRA USA

CAN	0	341	945	953	1555
CHE	306	0	351	320	315
DEU	773	326	0	1136	962
FRA	835	296	895	0	1049
USA	1747	275	850	879	0

JER cma

common bulls below diagonal
common three quarter sib group above diagonal
CAN USA

CAN	0	110
USA	103	0

RDC cma

SIM cma