GREEN to GOLD

SPRING 2019

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

LIC®
LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

CONTENTS

New challenges and new opportunities

The warmth of spring is certainly now upon us. Hopefully the rains will continue so we get the best chance of a productive spring.

Myself and a group of Australian dairy farmers experienced a cold week during the middle of winter when we attended the SIDE (South Island Dairy Event) conference and visited a number of farms in New Zealand.

This was the second year we brought a group of farmers across and there was plenty of learning and fun had by all. The conference highlighted the ongoing challenges the dairy industry faces, with the relatively new term "social license" being used extensively. It's a broad topic, but in simple terms it means the on-going social acceptance by the organisation's (in our case the dairy industry's) standard business practices.

Dairy farming is having the spotlight focused on it, especially around the topics of environmental and animal welfare. I think educating the public is key to closing the gap between city and country and showing all the good that dairying actually does. During our visit to NZ we saw firsthand innovative wintering solutions and the steps farmers are trying to take to bring the public along for the ride in the dairying discussion.

Next year we plan to take another group to the SIDE conference which will be in the Canterbury region. If you are interested please get in touch.

In this edition of Green to Gold we visit the 2019 ANZ Tasmanian Dairy Farmers of the Year, Tim and Fiona Salter. They have been successfully developing a farm from sheep and beef to dairy and are really starting to kick some goals.

We dedicate much of this issue to taking a closer look at the development of genomics in Australia and at LIC. It is all the rage within dairy at present, and developments are moving along at a rapid pace. We feature some of the top up-and-coming genomic sires and offer some advice on the risks and rewards of using genomics within your breeding programme. We also recognise a few of our older sires who have contributed to the improvement of dairy herds throughout the world.

Happy farming,

Mike Rose

Mike Rose

Blank canvas to business of the year: the rise of Clear Springs Dairy

Unlike the name of the Tasmanian town where it is situated, there is nothing meandering about the rise of Clear Springs Dairy. With only three seasons under their belt, farm managers Tim and Fiona Salter have already taken out one of the Tasmanian dairy industry's top awards, the 2019 ANZ Dairy Business of the Year for strong financial performance and a high standard of management skills.

A consortium purchased the land in December 2015. Originally the 360ha effective farm was a beef, sheep and cropping farm, but a dairy conversion was undertaken and milking commenced in August 2016.

Tim and Fiona Salter were brought on as managers to get the property up and running, bringing with them a wealth of dairying knowledge from various farming positions in the past, including owning their own herd.

They are supported by a tight-knit local team consisting of assistant manager Michael, apprentices Laura, Daniel and Lee and casual labourer Sam.

Improvements and growth

In the first season the Salter peaked at 800 milking cows that were purchased from a variety of crossbred herds across Victoria and Tasmania.

"The quality of cows available was a bit of an issue – not too many farmers want to sell their best animals. But we made sure we were starting with a good base, and the right breeding will give us our biggest opportunity for improvement," says Tim.

With their enthusiastic attitude and business acumen, Tim and Fiona managed to achieve excellent results from their pastures and animals producing an average of 432kg milk solids (MS) per cow in their first season from a juvenile herd as Tim explains.

"Production in our first season was 345,600kg MS feeding 800kg concentrate per cow. We also ran 160 young stock on the farm in the first season."

Fiona adds, "Our aim is to move to a more black-coloured crossbred herd with attention on breed mix as well as Australian Balance Performance Index and New Zealand Breeding Worth."

"We want a line of tidy cows that sit around the 480kg mark and can produce their weight or better in milk solids year upon year. We don't want to ask too much but they also need to hold their condition and weight in tougher times and be easily managed when dry," concludes Tim.

The Salter's mentor and neighbour, Brian Lawrence, is an LIC advocate. He has been farming LIC bred cattle for years and knows the importance good animals have on overall farm performance.

"Brian suggested right off the bat that a New Zealand-style animal would work really well in this environment. And when you look at other successful Tasmanian farmers, many of them have a similar type. So we knew from other people's experiences that LIC cows are the right ones for our system.

They work through a low pay-out and look after themselves on pasture and are also high performing when there is a good pay-out and feed is in abundance," says Tim.

Tim and Fiona have now grown their milking herd by 380 cows to 1180 – a mix of two-year-olds and bought-in stock – while at the same time improving their production average.

"In the second season our production lifted to 454,000kg MS, while still feeding 800kg of concentrate.

"This last season we calved 1260 and milked 1180. We achieved 533,658kg MS (452kg MS per cow), which is more than our budgeted production of 499,686, from 900kg of concentrate per cow."

For the 2019-20 season the Salters are keeping up the momentum with budgeted production set at 600,000kgMS.

"We are calving just over 1300 this year and with the milk price being higher, we are looking to increase feed to 1.5t and production to 500kgMS per cow."

The operation runs its calves at a run-off near Hagley, some 20 minutes east of the home farm.

"We want a line of tidy cows that sit around the 480kg mark and can produce their weight or better in milk solids year upon year."

"The young animals get well-looked after out there and return home in great condition, so they have the perfect start to their production lives," Tim says.

The Rushing River

The Meander river winds around the northern and western edges of the 360ha Clear Springs property between the Meander and Deloraine townships in Tasmania. It, along with the bordering forest reserve, is a major part of the farm's eco system.

There's a variety of native wildlife in the area, along with perfect fishing, walking and relaxing spots for the keen outdoorsman. Two camping spots on the farm give the staff a well-earned getaway spot right on their doorstep.

But don't let the peaceful-looking waters fool you. When the area floods, it really floods -bringing down all sorts of materials from the mountain region in the south. However, with the bad comes the good. When the floodwaters recede all the healthy nutrients needed to keep the soils fertile are left on the land.

"260ha of the farm is now under pivot irrigation with two full circle units. The winter and summer temperature swings can be extreme. As can the dry season. The water available to us is a godsend. It has allowed us to increase numbers as quickly as we have, while making only a small dent on the pasture performance," Fiona explains.

The next steps

Improvement and growth go hand-in-hand for Tim and Fiona Salter at Clear Springs Dairy. Superior management skills have rapidly transformed the former sheep and beef property into a sustainable dairy business. It is no surprise that the husband and wife team nabbed the prestigious Tasmanian Dairy Business of the Year award after just three years at the helm.

But this isn't the end of the story for Tim and Fiona. They reckon with the right breeding and further refinement of their team's knowledge and skills, they can get even better.

"We are now working on improving per cow production by improving the genetics in the herd. Eventually we want slightly fewer numbers of highly efficient pasture-converting cows, which we are confident we can achieve with LIC genetics," says Fiona.

"The herd is relatively new, so we know there's lot of opportunities for improvement. But that's all part of the challenge and fun of farming."

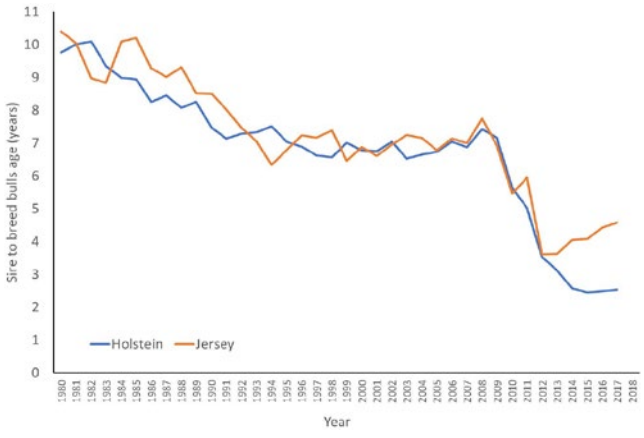
Genomics on the up and up

By Mike Rose, LIC Australia Sales and Operations Manager

Australia has seen rapid uptake of genomics as AI companies and industry groups widely promote its benefits. It is easy to get caught up in the big numbers and fast-paced world of genomics, however it's important to stick to sound breeding principles and common sense when utilising these genetics, and to be informed of the benefits and the risks.

It is still relatively early days in terms of assessing the real success of genomics on farm. It is clear that the science has positively impacted the number and quality of sires coming through, but while the trend looks promising, it's possibly too early to see proof of the impact on the cow population. In a recent presentation at the Herd19 conference, Professor Ben Hayes of Queensland University showed that AI companies are heavily invested in genomics. There has been a dramatic drop in the age of sires being marketed, thereby shortening the generation interval. Even more dramatic is the drop in the age of sires used to breed the next generation of AI bulls, which dropped from 7.5 years to 2-3 years in Holsteins and 3-4 years in Jerseys – well before daughter proofs are ready.

Figure 1. Average age of sires to breed AI bulls



Source: Herd 19 Conference Proceedings, Datagene 2019

Professor Hayes urged caution with interpreting cow Breeding Performance Index (BPI) genetic trends saying that, while they look promising, they could be influenced by other factors such as the introduction of new indices, advances in data collection and changing methods of estimation. He noted that genomics is expected to have more of an impact on some traits than for others, and looks especially promising in traits that are challenging to select for such as fertility.

It all relies on good data, so collecting quality cow-information remains of paramount importance to avoid an erosion of reliabilities of genomic breeding values. "Just getting DNA information on animals, and lots of animals, doesn't get you anywhere. You need those really good trait records, large and continually updated reference populations."[1]

LIC Australia's approach

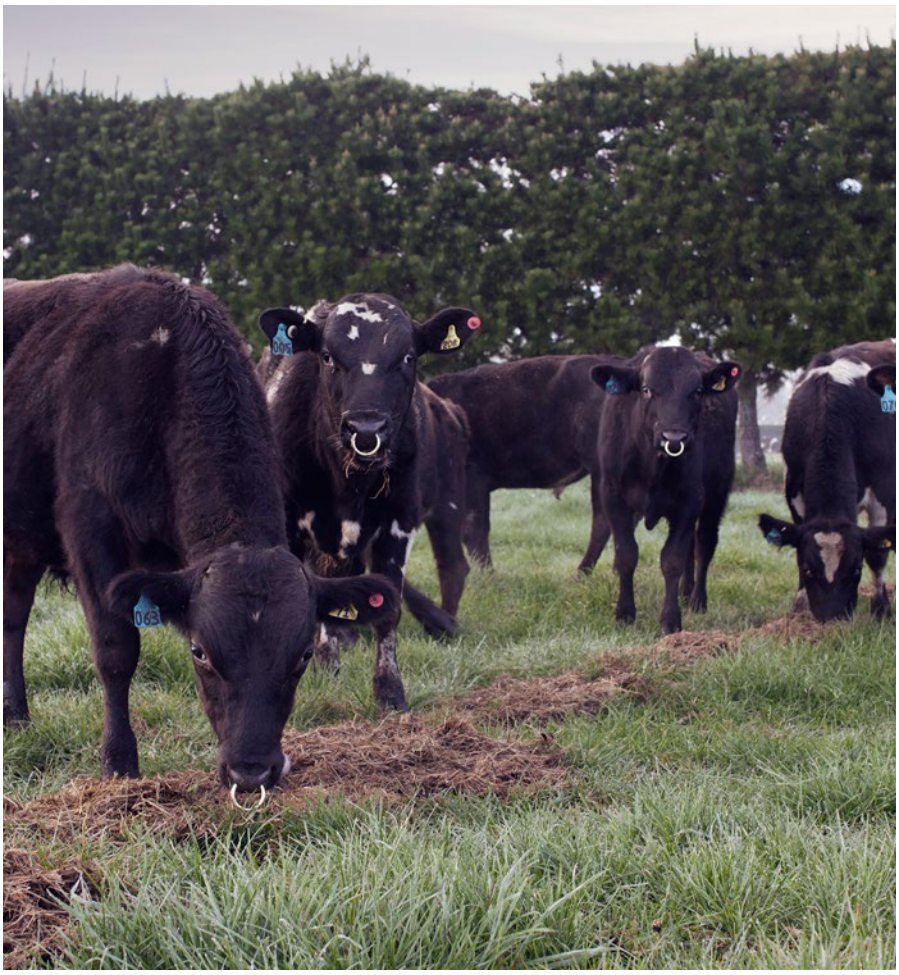
LIC Australia will continue to offer farmers choice and support, with well-considered breeding plans. We aim to give farmers access to elite genomic sires through a balanced approach that manages the re-ranking risk that comes with genomics.

In 2019, we are offering a selection of genomic sires to Australian famers. Selection is based on:

- sires from proven cow families
- those with outcross pedigrees
- A2A2 sires
- high indexing sires
- sires with good breeding values for udders and conformation.

There is also one polled genomic bull that provides another polled option.

For support in choosing the right mix of genomics for your breeding plan, talk to your local LIC Australia District Manager.



References:

1. Herd 19 Conference Proceedings, Datagene. 2019 https://datagene.com.au/node/1260 Retrieved 13/08/2019

Tips for using Genomic and Daughter Proven Sires

When using genomic sires as part of your breeding programme some key principles apply.

Don't put all your eggs in the one basket

Spread the risk. If using solely genomic sires, we recommend a group of 8-12 bulls to give you the equivalent team reliability of a group of 3-4 daughter proven sires. There will be bulls that don't meet expectations from time to time. With genomics, you should keep replacements from a wider range of bulls.

Raise the bar on the young fellas

As the risk of re-ranking is higher with genomic sires, a good policy is to raise the bar on key traits. You want make sure that you protect yourself from downward movement, especially on the traits of interest, so increasing the threshold can help do that.

Don't let your breeding programme be the next Bitcoin

Remember the old saying - if it looks too good to be true then it possibly is. Sires with breeding values that look too good to be true should be used with caution, moderation and as a team. It is tempting to chase the latest high-flying bull but stick to your plan; use a team of bulls with the criteria you want to follow.

You do the maths

The sire selection is only one part of genetic gain equation. You may be using the latest and greatest sires but if you are not doing the basics well it's a bit like trying to build a skyscraper on dodgy foundations. Improving herd reproductive performance, mating yearlings, herd testing, keeping good herd records and knowing your best and worst cows for different breeding options are all areas farmers can focus on to improve their herd quality and rates of genetic gain.

DAM of 118070 TAFTS GR SUPERVISOR

118070 TAFTS GR SUPERVISOR S1F

Holstein-Friesian F16
NZGSUPRVISOR | A2A2

gBW $247/48% REL

PEDIGREE: REGIMENT x ILLUSTRIOUS

Comments from LIC Livestock Selection Manager:
A new bull for spring, Supervisor comes from a high production herd averaging 600kg milk solids. This is one of the top production cow families within the herd with Supervisor's dam averaging three milk solids per day as a four year old. Supervisor is a short gestation sire so is ideal to use late in your joining period, and from all accounts a full package.

Avg	Lactations	Milk Volume	Fat		Protein	
			kg	%	kg	%
Dam	3	6536	317	4.86	248	3.8
MGD	4	7348	257	5.19	279	3.79

NEW ZEALAND DETAILS

Genomic

NZ Breeding Values

0 Daughters

Milk Volume (litres)	1031	Fertility %	1.9
Fat kg	50	Body Condition Score	0.01
Fat %	4.8	Total Longevity (days)	677
Protein kg	42	Calving Difficulty	2.6
Protein %	3.8	Gestation Length (days)	-8.9
SCC	-0.08	Liveweight	42

NZ Evaluation Data

Traits other than production

Management	BV	-0.5 0 0.5 1.0
Adapts to Milking	0.60	
Shed Temperament	0.59	
Milking Speed	0.10	
Overall Opinion	0.68	
Conformation (0 daughters TOP tested)		
Stature	0.66	
Capacity	0.12	
Rump Angle	-0.30	
Rump Width	0.52	
Legs	-0.07	
Udder Support	0.13	
Front Udder	0.52	
Rear Udder	0.01	
Front Teat Placement	0.01	
Rear Teat Placement	-0.56	
Udder Overall	0.26	
Dairy Conformation	0.31	

Unregistrable

Data Source LIC :14/08/2019

118069 COSTERS POLLICE PP-ET S3F

Holstein-Friesian F16
NZGPOLLICEPP | A2A2

gBW $139/54% REL

PEDIGREE: POLITICIAN x GOLDEN BOY

Comments from LIC Livestock Selection Manager:
If you are looking to try a Polled sire suited to grazing based systems this is your guy. A double PP polled sire who has a very well balanced proof, Pollice is sired by well-known Polled bull, Politican. The dam side goes back to Golden boy, who is a Frostman son. Being A2A2 and easy calving this bull will have widespread appeal.

Avg	Lactations	Milk Volume	Fat		Protein	
			kg	%	kg	%
Dam	4	4760	186	3.90	169	3.54
MGD	9	4417	186	4.20	160	3.62

NEW ZEALAND DETAILS

Genomic

NZ Breeding Values

0 Daughters

Milk Volume (litres)	679	Fertility %	1.6
Fat kg	7	Body Condition Score	0.07
Fat %	4.3	Total Longevity (days)	559
Protein kg	24	Calving Difficulty	0.9
Protein %	3.7	Gestation Length (days)	-5.1
SCC	-0.48	Liveweight	-6

NZ Evaluation Data

Traits other than production

Management	BV	-0.5 0 0.5 1.0
Adapts to Milking	0.26	
Shed Temperament	0.24	
Milking Speed	0.04	
Overall Opinion	0.28	
Conformation (0 daughters TOP tested)		
Stature	-0.11	
Capacity	-0.15	
Rump Angle	-0.30	
Rump Width	-0.10	
Legs	-0.12	
Udder Support	0.36	
Front Udder	0.34	
Rear Udder	0.11	
Front Teat Placement	0.08	
Rear Teat Placement	0.37	
Udder Overall	0.28	
Dairy Conformation	-0.18	

Unregistrable

Data Source LIC :14/08/2019

DAM of 318009 SUPERMAN

318009 TIRONUI SUPERMAN ET

Jersey J16
NZGTIROMAN | A2A2

$281/60% gBW REL

PEDIGREE: SUPERSTITION x INTEGRITY

Comments from LIC Livestock Selection Manager:
Up, up and away! Superman certainly looks a real standout with an excellent balance of traits. He hails from the Tironui stud, which needs no introduction, and the "Meg" cow-family that has delivered sons such as Meganev. Superman's dam is a top performer in one of New Zealand's highest indexing herds. She also has excellent type.

Avg	Lactations	Milk Volume	Fat		Protein	
			kg	%	kg	%
Dam	3	3631	238	6.56	166	4.56
MGD	9	3759	225	5.98	172	4.57

NEW ZEALAND DETAILS

Genomic

NZ Breeding Values — 0 Daughters

Milk Volume (litres)	-441	Fertility %	2.1
Fat kg	39	Body Condition Score	0.07
Fat %	6.3	Total Longevity (days)	396
Protein kg	11	Calving Difficulty	-1.8
Protein %	4.4	Gestation Length (days)	-1.5
SCC	0.02	Liveweight	-28

NZ Evaluation Data — Traits other than production

Management	BV	-0.5	0	0.5	1.0
Adapts to Milking	0.26				
Shed Temperament	0.26				
Milking Speed	0.24				
Overall Opinion	0.26				
Conformation (0 daughters TOP tested)					
Stature	-0.37				
Capacity	0.31				
Rump Angle	-0.45				
Rump Width	0.40				
Legs	0.08				
Udder Support	0.44				
Front Udder	0.39				
Rear Udder	0.77				
Front Teat Placement	0.08				
Rear Teat Placement	0.13				
Udder Overall	0.59				
Dairy Conformation	0.41				

Registrable

Data Source LIC :14/08/2019

511011 SIERRA - Sire of 518017 BARNSTORMER

518017 HORIZON BARNSTORMER-ET

Kiwicross™ J8F8
NZGBARNSTORM | A2A2

$265/60% gBW REL

PEDIGREE: SIERRA x SUPERSTITION

Comments from LIC Livestock Selection Manager:
Barnstormer will be a great option for farmers looking for a next-generation son to follow Sierra. Barnstormer's cow family descends from the famous cow ,"Beauty", of the Arkan Stud. This family has delivered bulls such as Bounty and Beaut. The outstanding traits from Barnstormer's sire, Sierra, and his famous cow family is surely a recipe for greatness.

Avg	Lactations	Milk Volume	Fat		Protein	
			kg	%	kg	%
Dam	4	4337	237	5.47	189	4.35
MGD	5	8286	362	4.37	314	3.79

NEW ZEALAND DETAILS

Genomic

NZ Breeding Values — 0 Daughters

Milk Volume (litres)	226	Fertility %	4.0
Fat kg	37	Body Condition Score	0.14
Fat %	5.3	Total Longevity (days)	672
Protein kg	23	Calving Difficulty	-0.2
Protein %	4.0	Gestation Length (days)	-6.3
SCC	-0.33	Liveweight	13

NZ Evaluation Data — Traits other than production

Management	BV	-0.5	0	0.5	1.0
Adapts to Milking	0.49				
Shed Temperament	0.52				
Milking Speed	0.18				
Overall Opinion	0.55				
Conformation (0 daughters TOP tested)					
Stature	0.19				
Capacity	0.53				
Rump Angle	-0.19				
Rump Width	0.21				
Legs	0.05				
Udder Support	0.28				
Front Udder	0.21				
Rear Udder	0.36				
Front Teat Placement	0.08				
Rear Teat Placement	0.45				
Udder Overall	0.26				
Dairy Conformation	0.42				

Unregistrable

Data Source LIC :14/08/2019

The generation game - A balancing act

Joyce Voogt

By Joyce Voogt, LIC International Technical Manager

Improved milking efficiency and better on-farm profitability is the outcome of genetic gain, as each new generation is superior to the one before.

The breeder's equation (Figure 1) explains the drivers of genetic gain.

For good levels of genetic gain we need:

1. sufficient genetic variation in the population to make progress for the trait;
2. the ability to select intensely for elite animals to use as parents;
3. ways to accurately identify those elite animals; and
4. as short a generation interval as possible.

Some of these factors are biologically set, such as genetic variation in the population, selection intensity (via number of offspring per female/year) and the generation interval if relying on natural processes.

Other factors, such as selection intensity (via number of candidates screened) and selection accuracy, may face constraints due to cost, availability of information or computer power for analysis.

"Genomic selection has seen rapid gains in genetic merit around the world, with the fast uptake of the technology in the marketplace"

Technological and scientific advances have opened up new opportunities for the dairy sector to accelerate genetic gain. Genomic science, reproductive technologies and computational power now allow better selection accuracy and intensity, and shorter generation intervals.

Figure 1. The breeders equation.

Rate of genetic gain =
(genetic variation x selection intensity x selection accuracy) / generation interval.

Genomic selection has seen rapid gains in genetic merit around the world, with the fast uptake of the technology in the marketplace. The use of genomics brings the generation interval down from the previous five year interval to as little as two years, thereby turbo boosting genetic improvement, and ultimately production efficiency, of dairy cows on-farm.

There are trade-offs to reducing the generation interval, including accuracy of selection compared to daughter proven bulls and reducing the opportunity to identify previously unknown genetic defects before wide-spread use.

LIC has invested in genomic research since the 1994 and has incorporated genomic selection into its breeding programme for many years. In 2008 it was the first company in the world to commercially market young bulls based on genomic breeding values.

Good gains have been made incorporating genomics into LIC's breeding programme when selecting larger groups such as for the Sire Proving Scheme. Genomics lifts the reliability of estimated breeding values above that of ancestry information alone. While team reliabilities are high with genomic selection, re-ranking risk exists at an individual bull level. Accuracy of genomic predictions is a continued area of focus for LIC scientists, as they seek to improve the accuracy to identify more winners.

Releasing the accuracy handbrake

The rate of genomic implementation and improvement has been slower in the New Zealand industry compared to its international counterparts, as it is unable to utilise other countries' data sets.

This is mainly due to:

- Unique grass-based, seasonal farming systems, and
- Need to run across-breed evaluations.

These challenges call for innovation through advances in the use of data. LIC has collected production information on NZ dairy cows for the last 30 to 40 years. The database contains around a billion pieces of cow data.

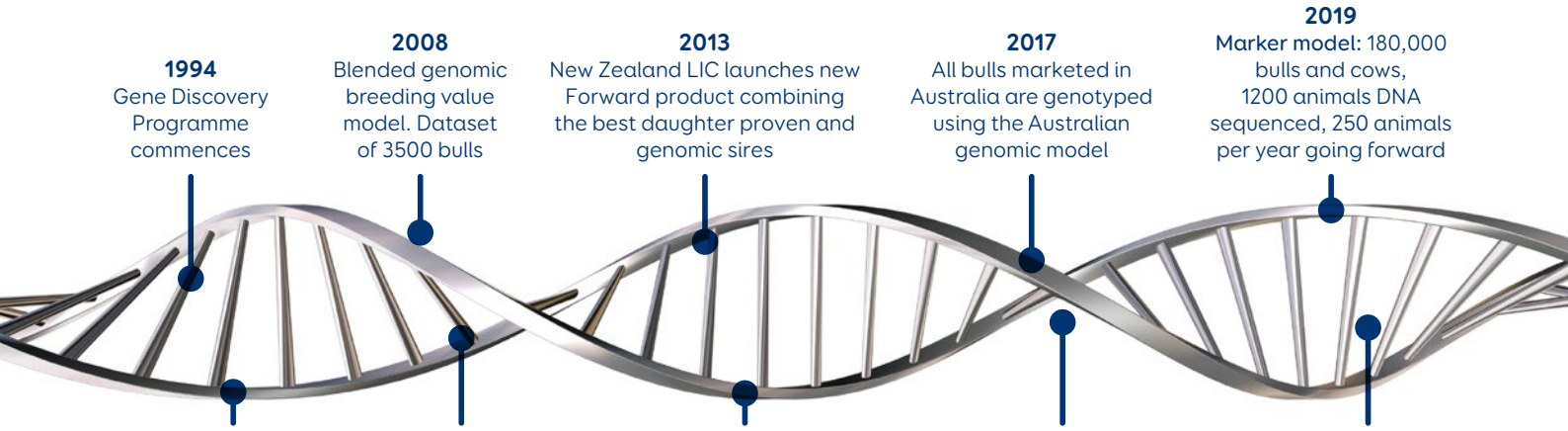
Computing advances have allowed LIC scientists to explore new ways of doing things, including the development of a 'single-step animal evaluation model'. The model evaluates all information simultaneously, calculates breeding values for all animals in the population in a single-step and reduces the risk of distorted results that can influence accuracy of prediction.

Validation of four year cohorts of LIC's Sire Proving Scheme animals, whose daughters have milk recording data, shows use of the new Single Step Animal Model has resulted in a massive 8% increase in genomic prediction accuracy, comparing genomic predictions to actual daughter proofs.

LIC's large progeny test scheme allows early evaluation of genomically selected sires, increased reliabilities of predictions and reduced re-ranking risk with these sires.

This range of options provides farmers with more choice. Many New Zealand farmers now use a combination of daughter proven and genomic sires to find a happy medium in terms of risk and reward.

Our Genomic Journey



1994
Gene Discovery Programme commences

2007
Whole genome analysis

2008
Blended genomic breeding value model. Dataset of 3500 bulls

2008
World first: LIC markets bulls based on genomic breeding value estimates

2013
New Zealand LIC launches new Forward product combining the best daughter proven and genomic sires

2014
Hybrid model: 140,000 bulls and cows, 1000 DNA sequenced animals

2017
All bulls marketed in Australia are genotyped using the Australian genomic model

2018
Improvements in genomic predictions see the Sire Proving bulls exceeding parent average predictions

2019
Marker model: 180,000 bulls and cows, 1200 animals DNA sequenced, 250 animals per year going forward

Future
Ongoing research to drive sustainable dairy

LIC's data-rich science

- Large reference populations of Holstein-Friesians, Jerseys and crossbred animals
- Animal evaluation uses over 30 million animal records and 3.2 million current cows
- Ancestry is still important; strong maternal lines must underpin bulls
- More than $60 million invested to date and counting

NZ Farming Tours 2020

Join LIC and a group of like-minded farmers on one of our farming tours to New Zealand in 2020. Visiting a range of dairy systems and LIC facilities, you will see dairying from different perspectives and learn new things that could help you improve your dairy farming business.

North Island Summer Tour - Late February 2020

Enjoy the company of other progressive farmers while experiencing a variety of farming systems, including high production dairy farms, efficient pasture based systems, once a day milking farms and more.

Highlights

- LIC bull breeders
- OAD farming operation
- LIC bull farm & herd test centre
- View a range of different herd and system types

Approximate cost for tour including flights and accommodation is $1400 plus meals. Local transport is sponsored by LIC.

South Island Winter SIDE Tour - Late June 2020

Once again LIC Australia will host a tour party to the South Island Dairy Event (SIDE). This is the largest dairy conference in NZ and covers a range of relevant topics with a line-up of expert speakers. You will also travel to a range of innovative dairy farms in the Canterbury region and other places of interest.

Tour Summary

- Six day tour
- SIDE conference
- Winter grazing systems
- Special interest visits
- LIC herd test depot and semen dispatch

Approximate cost for tour including flights and accommodation is $1800 plus meals. Local transport is sponsored by LIC.

Places are limited on both tours so please talk to your local District Manager or send your expression of interest to LIC Australia: admin@licaus.com.au | 1800 454 694

www.licnz.com/australia.cfm

Q.

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Hall of fame 2019 Inductee: 311013 OKURA INTEGRITY

Integrity as a bull calf in 2010

Breeders Luke & Lyna Beehre

Entering LIC's Hall of Fame is a special recognition reserved for dairy animals whose achievements leave a profound impact on dairy farmer profitability in New Zealand.

The Hall of Fame occupies a special place in LIC's company culture. This year Okura Integrity was acknowledged at Breeders' Day as LIC's latest to enter its Hall of Fame.

Malcolm Ellis, LIC General Manager NZ Markets, says new inductees to the Hall of Fame don't necessarily happen every year.

"For a bull to be inducted into the Hall of Fame he needs to have made a significant influence on the dairy industry by producing genetically superior female offspring that farmers want to milk. Inductees do not only excel through the performance of their own progeny but also through the contribution of their sons.

"There was no doubt in our mind Integrity has met both of these criteria with ease."

Integrity was first made commercially available to the dairy farmers as a young bull in 2011 after his ability to sire high quality dairy cows was predicted using genomic science.

The elite genetic merit that genomics predicted became reality when information from Integrity's first crop of milking daughters became available.

"His stats were remarkable and he continued to be selected to the Premier Sires teams as a daughter proven bull," Malcolm said.

Integrity appeared likely to become the first bull from any breed to achieve eight years in Premier Sires, after being preliminarily selected for 2019.

"For most bulls, the Hall of Fame honour is received posthumously as the quality of a bull's offspring and its peak influence on the dairy industry is often reached after the bull is no longer with us.

With a BW of 243, outstanding capacity and very strong udder breeding values, he's still at the top of his game."

In Australia Integrity has been a favourite since his launch in 2014 and continues to be popular with farmers.

It is likely however that his sons will make a bigger impact than the sire himself. CurrentlyLIC is marketing four of his sons in Australia including the number one and number three sires on the Good Bulls Guide, Evleen Integrity Larson and Kaitaka OI Leopard.

Having bred 16 bulls that have gone on to become part of LIC's elite bull teams, Luke and Lyna Beehre's Okura stud in Northland is synonymous with bull breeding. But receiving this accolade is a first.

"Getting an Okura bull on to the Hall of Fame has always been a dream of ours. Watching Integrity get his own proof and seeing his sons come through the ranks allowed me to hope he might get there one day," Lyna said.

"Breeding a bull that has added so much value to individual dairy businesses and our industry is a great feeling. We're very excited."

311013 Okura LT Integrity

- Born in 2010, on Luke and Lyna Beehre's Hukerenui farm
- Sired by Lynbrook Terrific ET S3J (a 2018 Hall of Fame inductee)
- Debuted on the Premier Sires team in 2011
- 229,300 inseminations
- 35,889 daughters
- 31 sons and 72 grandsons for the artificial breeding (AB) industry
- Current BW 243
- 57th inductee, 27th Jersey

Father and son duo take spoils at breed society progeny awards

The old adage 'like father, like son' has never been truer at this year's Boehringer Ingelheim Progeny Competition, with all six teams of the winning progeny sired by father - son duo - Fairmont Mint Edition and San Ray FM Beamer.

The annual competition, awarded by Holstein Friesian New Zealand last month, recognises elite progeny teams made up of four junior dairy cows, or five senior dairy cows from the same herd and sired by the same bull.

Breeders select and enter teams of daughters from their herd, to be scored on traits such as udder overall, production worth (PW) and protein BV, with their TOP (Traits other than production) inspections also taken into account.

Of the teams recognised in the 2019 competition, Mint Edition sired the top three progeny teams in the senior category of the competition (daughters over 2.5 years old) and Beamer sired the top three junior progeny teams (daughters under 2.5 years old).

LIC Livestock Selection Manager Simon Worth says this competition is about recognising the elite daughters, but the somewhat coincidental achievement of the father and son sire duo is also worth celebrating.

"This is the first time a father and son duo have sired all six winning teams in the competition's history, and that's a pleasing result for LIC.

"It's further recognition these bulls not only tick the high Breeding Worth (BW) box, but also deliver daughters with high conformation traits, which is a good reflection of the balanced approach LIC takes in its breeding programme."

Mint Edition has a long legacy in the industry and is a member of the LIC Hall of Fame, he was the 53rd inductee in 2015. The Tatuanui farm-bred bull completed 800,000 inseminations in his lifetime, siring over 100,000 daughters across the national dairy herd. He still has a very respectable current BW of 125.

Beamer is still actively marketed both domestically and internationally, including as one of the most popular sires in the LIC Australia team. He is currently fifth on the DairyNZ Ranking of Active Sires (RAS) list with a BW of 185. He has over 31,000 milking daughters around the globe, with many more to come.

111037 San Ray FM Beamer-ET S2F

105038 Fairmont Mint-Edition

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