

Bovine genetics acquires a European genetic evaluation system and standard

*On 18 July 2025, the European bovine genetics stakeholders signed the founding act of **European Bovine Evaluation (EBE)**.*

The member organisations of Nordic Cattle Genetic Evaluation (NAV), the German vit (IT Solutions for Animal Production w.V.) and the French federation ELIANCE have signed an agreement for the creation of a European genetic evaluation system for cattle breeding. This evaluation system will initially concern cattle from 9 countries, which represent in total more than 50% of the European milk production.

EBE has been established to deliver efficient, high-quality genetic evaluations using a joint reference population with the participating countries across Europe. By pooling data, expertise, and infrastructure, the partners aim to set the European standard for genetic evaluation, enabling better comparability of breeding values across countries while increasing their reliability.

From 2028 on, EBE will routinely provide results from joint single step genetic evaluations for European Holsteins from the associated countries. Although the focus is first on Holsteins, other dairy and beef breeds with populations in Europe will be added soon afterwards, and other species may also follow. EBE will also be open to welcome new Partners from all European nations.

“EBE creates a lot of attention and enthusiasm from our bovine geneticists’ community, because it is promising and at the same time challenging to develop genetic evaluations on such an unprecedented scale in Europe. EBE is the next big step in the genetic improvement of European cattle populations”, Johannes Heise, CEO of EBE, emphasizes.

This European consolidation provides Europe with effective means to respond to challenges related to health, environment, politics, and economy such as animal welfare, greenhouse gas reduction, and food sovereignty.

“This collaboration marks a major step forward for European cattle breeding. By joining forces, we can accelerate the development of new methods and traits, and ensure that

our evaluations are both scientifically robust and practically useful for European farmers,” says Anders Levring, Vice Chair of EBE.

"The economic and societal challenges of cattle farming must be taken at the European level. This pooling of resources and skills strengthens our ability to conduct sustainable livestock farming on European soil." Mention Jean-Yves Dréau, Chairman of EBE.

About EBE:

EBE (European Bovine Evaluation FMBA) is a legal entity established in Denmark and will rely at first on a team of 8 persons spread across Europe for the development of its genetic evaluation systems.

Johannes Heise is the CEO of EBE.

NAV represents Danish, Swedish, and Finnish interests as well as Norwegian interests for Jerseys.

Eliance represents French stakeholders and AWE from Wallonia.

vit represents the German breeding organizations with Luxembourg and Austria being integrated into vit's genetic evaluations of dairy cattle.

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