

Get Ready for the New Expression of ABVs

Key messages

- › The April 7th 2008 ABV release will contain the new look ABVs.
- › Plan ahead to ensure your organisation and customers are ready for the change.
- › ADHIS is supporting herd improvement businesses by providing tools to explain the changes.

A change is coming

The New Expression of ABVs for non-production traits will make sire selection easier for dairy farmers, but it is important that the herd improvement industry is prepared to support its customers as the changes are implemented.



What will be the impact of the changes?

In the April 2008 ABV release, the expression of some ABVs will change. Consider how the changes will affect your organisation.

Change Conformation traits will be expressed as a percentage more or less from an average of 100. The changes apply to ABVs and ABV(i)s.

Impact You will not require + or – symbols when publishing non-production ABVs. The average for bar graphs will become 100 instead of 0.

Change Milking speed, temperament and likability will be expressed as a percentage more or less than an average of 100.

Impact In August 07, an ABV of 95 for milking speed was quite desirable. As of April 08, an ABV of 95 will mean the bull has 5% less daughters rated satisfactory (or better) than average for milking speed. Don't forget to emphasise this example with farmers.

Change Cell count will be expressed as a percentage more or less than an average of 100. The direction of this trait will also change. For example Farmers who seek to lower cell count will select a bull with an ABV of 107 over a bull with ABV of 100.

Impact Those who usually look for a negative cell count value need to be informed that a higher ABV is now desirable.

Change The base (average) will change to reflect the current population of Australian dairy cows. Moving forward, the base will be updated annually for all traits.

Impact You can expect less upheaval resulting from base changes as the base keeps pace with the current Australian dairy herd.

Change The ABVs will be expressed relative to the variation that exists in the trait. Expression will not be standardised. Traits with a small variation in the population will show only a modest trend more or less than 100. Examples of these traits are foot angle and rear leg rear view.

Impact Consider publishing the range in bar charts to show the variation that exists in the population.

Change ABV's will be released in April and August. ABV(i)s will be released in January, April and August.

Impact Consider how the timing of ABVs will affect communication with your customers.

Further reading

For further explanation, go to www.adhis.com.au.

Some things won't change. Production ABVs will still be expressed in kilograms, litres or percentages more or less than the average of zero. The Australian Profit Ranking (APR) and the Australian Selection Index (ASI) will also remain as net dollars profit per cow per year (\$).

The ranking of bulls will not change as a result of the new ABV expression.

Is your organization ready for the change?

Plan ahead to ensure a smooth transition to the new ABV Expressions.

- Is your team aware of the changes which will occur?
- How will the new expression of ABVs affect your catalogue templates, websites, spreadsheets etc?
- How will the new timing of ABV releases affect your promotional activities?
- Is there an opportunity to communicate the changes at field days, bull nights and other customer activities?
- Can ADHIS support your organization to implement the changes?

ADHIS is building a range of tools to assist people as the changes occur. Check the website, www.adhis.com.au for more details.