

Next step in establishment of a joint European genetic evaluation centre

Six partners responsible for the national genetic evaluation in Poland, Spain, France, Germany, Netherlands, and the NAV countries (Finland, Denmark and Sweden) have over the last year intensively discussed the possibilities for establishing a joint European genetic evaluation centre (EBE) for cattle. The aim is jointly to provide world class genetic evaluation based on innovation and pooled data from the six partners for all dairy and beef breeds.

At a joint meeting 11. July 2024 all partners gave a positive response to a proposal for establishment of EBE and decided to continue the process. EBE will start working with Holstein, followed by other dairy breeds including RDC and Jersey. The partners also agreed to work for including genetic evaluation of beef cattle in EBE - both pure breed beef cattle and beef on dairy.

The six partners have agreed to set up a preliminary EBE decision board to run the process until signed articles are in place. The two representatives for the NAV board are Anders Levring and Gert Pedersen Aamand.

The articles of EBE will be finalised during the coming months, and at the same time preparation for hiring a director of EBE and handling of other open questions will take place. The plan is to have EBE registered as an entity before the end of 2024.

The goal is that EBE has official genetic evaluation for single traits ready for Holstein by the end of 2027 and for Jersey and RDC during 2029. It means that EBE will take over some of the current NAV tasks, but NAV will still be responsible for defining and calculating composite indices and NTM.

Until EBE can take over the respective operations, NAV will continue to be responsible for the official genetic evaluation, and further development of the genetic evaluation. This applies to RDC and Jersey, but also to purebred beef and crossbred animals. The NAV board will discuss how to adjust NAV activities to the new situation.

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