

European Bovine Evaluation (EBE) And Nordic role in EBE

Anders Levring, NAV chairman

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Outline - EBE

1. Vision
2. Status and timeline
3. Governance
4. Budget & share of costs
5. Position towards EBE
6. Summary

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Introduction

Why do we need European Bovine Evaluation?

- Be more efficient in financial and human resources
 - Routine // development
- Consistent ranking across countries
 - Single traits // EBV combined across lactations

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Vision

World class EBE:

Provide world class genetic evaluation based on innovation and pooled data.

Deliverables of world class EBE:

- Cost efficient joint evaluation for all single traits and combined EBV across lactations
- Considering all dairy and beef + crosses (when fully established)
- Attractive international work environment
- Strong relation with research community to drive innovation
- Toolbox a paid EBE service – conditions need to be defined

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Updated timeline for EBE

2022

Initiation EBE Working group

Discussion outside EG to involve other organizations; EG driver



May 2023
Sign 1st letter of Intent

Work in different EBE working groups

November 2023
EBE meeting Leiden and creation new Governance WG

Autumn 2024
Preparations; IT-platform
Process hiring director
Legal structure

May – June 2025
EBE established as legal entity

February 2025

Signing 2nd letter of intent for finalizing



Which breeds will be included in EBE?

✓ EBE and dairy breeds

- ✓ EBE will work for all breeds and the same traits for all breeds
- ✓ More dairy breeds only represented in some countries will be included in EBE like RDC, Jersey, MRIJ, Monbeliarde, Normande

✓ EBE and beef breeds

- ✓ Everyone see that genetic evaluation of beef breeds become more and more important
- ✓ EBE will look at possibilities for cooperation within beef cattle

✓ Starting with Holsten

- ✓ Holstein being the common denominator for all countries
- ✓ RDC and JER will follow among some other breeds in 2027

Which countries are in the EBE process?



✓ Approximately 1,300,000 Holstein EBVs

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EBE

Back-office to calculate breeding values (conventional and genomic in a single step) as service to the Parties

- 💡 **Deliver high quality breeding values**
- 💡 **Implement harmonized publication rules and dates**
- 💡 **Continuously improve methods and implement new technologies for genetic evaluation**
- 💡 **Develop services and common toolbox**

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NAV tasks in relation to genetic evaluation

*Future EBE tasks is **Green***

Merge Nordic data beef and dairy

Genetic evaluation dairy and beef

Calculation and publication of official combined indices and NTM

R&D to improve genetic evaluation methods

R&D to improve combined indices and NTM.

Homepage and communication

NAV feedback

- ✓ **EBE must include all dairy breeds**
 - ✓ Protection of breeding program essential for RDC and Jersey
 - ✓ Needed to be efficient - EBE should be responsible for all breeds
 - ✓ Breeds not included from the start of EBE has to pay an entrance fee
 - ✓ In a longer perspective – beefxdairy and beef should also be included
- ✓ **EBE should evaluate all traits**
 - ✓ Interbull traits
 - ✓ Class A traits
 - ✓ (Class B traits – when agreements are in place)

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NAV Feedback

✓ EBE should

- ✓ EBE board should organize an annual open meeting inviting more representative per country/region (eg 2 extra)
- ✓ Should organize webinars/workshops presenting EBE work

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NAV Feedback

- **Budget**

- ✓ Support that the budget show that EBE will work for all dairy breeds
- ✓ Support a significant budget for development – investments needed
 - ✓ Important if EBE/European cattle breeding should be competitive – first mover and not just a follower within genetic evaluation.

- **Fee – principles for phase 1 and phase 2**

- ✓ Same payment per cow (all cows get the same benefit)
 - ✓ Does not matter which criteria is used, but should be based on comparable criteria (=fair system for farmers in all countries)
 - ✓ Same principles should be applied in all countries (eg published EBVs for females should be based on same criteria)

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- ✓ Support credit system for data – motivate for investment in registrations



Summary

- Letter of intent to be signed in February
- DFS, DE, FR and PL in the process
- Aim to establish legal entity before summer
- Work ongoing hiring director, establishing IT-platform
- IB traits for HOL could be published in 2027
- IB traits for RDC and JER follow in 2028