

Press Release

July 28, 2025

Nordic Partners Co-Found European Bovine Evaluation (EBE)

In July 2025, NAV (Nordisk Cattle Genetic Evaluation), together with its members Faba, Landbrug & Fødevarer, and Växa, signed an agreement with VIT (Germany) and ELIANCE (France) to establish European Bovine Evaluation FMBA (EBE) — a new European collaboration for genetic evaluation in cattle breeding.

EBE is founded to deliver more efficient, and 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.

The first major milestone is to deliver routine breeding values for Holstein by 2028, followed by RDC and Jersey no more than two years later. In the longer term, EBE is expected to include additional breeds, and traits, and it will also be open to new partners.

NAV will continue to be responsible for calculating Nordic Total Merit (NTM), which remains a cornerstone of Nordic cattle breeding. Evaluations for crossbred and beef cattle will also remain under NAV's responsibility for now, with the ambition that EBE may take over these services in the future.

“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 the Nordic and European farmers,” says Anders Levring, Chair of NAV's Board.

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