

NEW MATING PROGRAM INCREASES ACCURACY OF BREEDING DECISIONS

GMS GenoMate, launched at the Dairy Event by Genus ABS will give UK dairy farmers access to the most comprehensive system available in the world for making genetic mating decisions.

“Matings made today will affect a herd’s profitability for at least the next six years, so it’s essential to make the correct breeding decisions,” explains Genus ABS European Business Development Manager, Hugh Ratcliffe. “GMS GenoMate is based on a widely proven system and gives dairy farmers access to more genetic information than any other system currently available.”

The GMS GenoMate database contains details on over 300,000 sires and is the only programme in the world to look back over seven generations. “Most mating systems have more limited databases, and only look back for five generations. The extra data in GenoMate is a major step forward in helping farmers protect their herds from the negative impact of inbreeding and the risk of recessive disorders.”

The GenoMate system was initially developed in the USA and has been used in over 34 countries world-wide so farmers can have confidence in the quality of the programme which has been converted to use UK data. Working with a breeding expert, the farms breeding goals and objectives are agreed and a tailored mating programme is developed for the farm. The programme allows farmers to place particular emphasis on the health and fitness traits which are increasingly sought after in modern dairy cows. Traits including lifespan, somatic cell counts and daughter fertility are combined into a new durability index. A series of easy to use reports are produced to allow farmers to implement the programme and monitor progress.

Continued...

“Breeding better cows is a long term business but can have a significant impact on profits through reduced replacement costs, increased yields and reduced vet bills. Equally poor breeding decisions can hit profits by increasing costs so it is important to make the correct decisions based on sound data. GMS GenoMate allows farmers to make the right decisions for the long term future of their herd,” Mr Ratcliffe concludes.