Overview: data collection for beef on dairy

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Joint ICAR – Interbull Session

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6 countries
100+ interviewees
Beef from dairy: a dairy origin animal entering the beef supply chain
Beef from dairy: a dairy origin animal entering the beef supply chain
Win-win-win?

- Sustainable pathway for all calves
- Higher value calves
- New markets for beef genetics
- Lower carbon footprint
- Year-round supply

Image courtesy of Summit Livestock

Image courtesy of Agriculture Victoria
Data for a global snapshot?

Fragmented....

1 year ≠ 1 year
Data for a global snapshot?
Figure. Trends in semen usage in dairy herds around the world using semen sales data.
**Figure.** Trends in semen usage in dairy herds around the world using semen sales and insemination data.
Figure. Trends in semen usage in dairy herds around the world using semen sales and insemination data.

Where a breakdown of conventional and sexed dairy semen usage is not available a combined value is shown (all dairy).

Usage of beef semen

Usage of dairy sexed semen

Adoption rate varies across countries

Data source: AHDB, ANARL 2023, ANGERA 2023, In militia dairies, Fleurance 2023, Lactamed Canada 2023, National Dairy Genetics 2023
**Figure.** Total semen sales into both dairy and beef herds

Data source: NHIA 2014 – 2023, NAAB 2014 – 2023
Figure. Total semen sales into both dairy and beef herds and sexed dairy semen sales as a proportion of dairy semen sales.

Data source: NHIA 2014 – 2023, NAAB 2014 – 2023
Key findings & recommendations delivered in 2023.

Watch the replay:
Successful beef on dairy integration

“Wicked problem”

- Multifaceted
- Collaboration across industries
- Collaboration across disciplines
Successful beef on dairy integration

“Wicked problem”

Genetics one of the pieces

- Identify bulls whose progeny will perform in the beef supply chain
- Support mating decisions on-farm
- Informed calf purchasing
- Improve profitability of beef from dairy
Successful beef on dairy integration

“Wicked” problem

Genetics one of the pieces

Data a key barrier
Successful beef on dairy integration

- Few combined beef & dairy databases
- Calving traits for beef on dairy
- Dairy-beef progeny performance
  - carcass traits
  - efficiency traits

Data a key barrier
Prioritise establishing data collection pipelines & collecting data on dairy-beef progeny

Monitor trends: semen usage, genetic trends...

Validation: understand how existing (genetic) tools perform

Develop: New tools for local markets
Thank-you

BWYPEX Hosts:
• University of California Davis
• Interbull Centre
• ANAFIBJ
• ANAPRI
• AHDB
• ICBF

Interviewees
ICAR would like to acknowledge the 11 Members who help fund the inaugural Brian Wickham Young Persons Exchange Program.