DataGene
Solutions for Herd Development

Solutions for herd improvement

An overview of DataGene

DataGene is an independent and industry-owned organisation that is responsible for driving genetic gain and herd improvement in the Australian dairy industry, through research, development and extension activities.

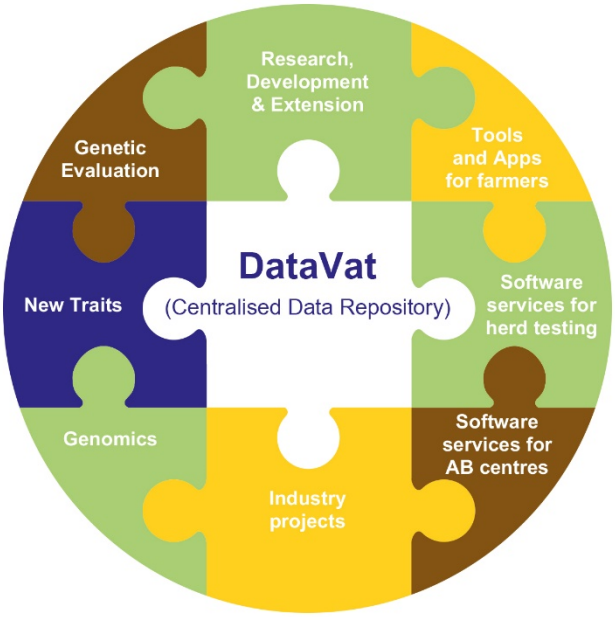
Formed in 2016, DataGene is responsible for many precompetitive herd improvement functions, including genetics, software for herd testing and herd recording and data systems.

Membership

DataGene is owned by the industry; its foundation members being Dairy Australia, Australian Dairyfarmers and the National Herd Improvement Association (NHIA). More than 20 industry members include herd test centres, genetics companies, genomic service providers, breed associations and animal health companies.

Collaboration

DataGene's highly collaborative role involves working with industry organisations, private sector agribusinesses, research agencies,



universities and government.

Centralised Data Repository (CDR)

One of DataGene's key projects is the development of a Centralised Data Repository (CDR) to connect data from a variety of external sources such as on-farm equipment and software, herd test centres, breed societies, vets, milk companies and monitoring systems such as NLIS.

DataVat

DataVat is a web portal that allows customised, secure access to various reports, tools and resources that draw upon data in the CDR and the genetic evaluation system.

Benefits to farmers and industry

Easier

DataGene develops modern, user-friendly tools designed specifically for dairy farmers and their service providers to improve genetic gain and allow better decisions. This means:

- Easier data entry.
- Easier decision making, when and where you need it.

Smarter

A Centralised Data Repository allows safe and seamless access of herd records from multiple. This enables:

- New, data-driven decision making tools.
- World-leading scientific research.
- Efficient organisational structures.

Better

As an independent, industry-owned organisation, DataGene enables farmers and industry to influence future directions of herd improvement in Australia and maintain joint responsibility for its delivery.

DataGene's structure allows it to operate with improved leadership, collaboration and governance to contribute to:

- Higher farm profits.
- Better herd improvement decisions.
- Leadership of the herd improvement industry.
- Collaboration between research, implementation and industry.

Faster

The Centralised Data Repository and the tools it supports allow for:

- Faster access to data and information (enter it once but use it in multiple ways across different platforms and devices).
- Faster decisions based on accessible farm data.
- Faster conversion of R&D to decisions on farm.

Driving genetic gain

Genetics contributes about 30% of production gains on Australian dairy farms. DataGene's genetic evaluation system underpins these gains. A key goal is to increase the number of farmers breeding replacements from Good Bulls and using Australian Breeding Values and indices to make breeding decisions.

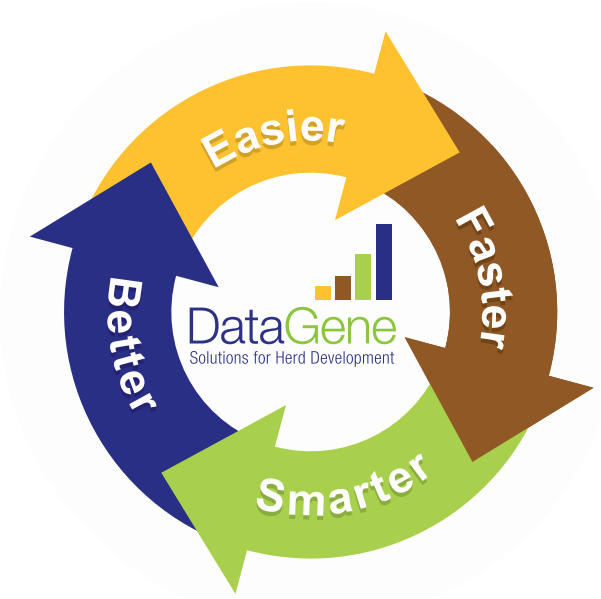
Another priority is to increase the rate of genomic testing of females in the Australian dairy population as this is also a key driver of genetic gain in dairy herds.

Herd Improvement R&D

Genomics and other technological advances present opportunities to improve animal performance through herd improvement.

DataGene works with researchers to develop breeding values for new traits and applications of new technologies such as mid-infrared (MIR).

DataGene works particularly closely with DairyBio, a collaboration of Agriculture Victoria, Dairy Australia and the Gardiner Foundation.



Ginfo

DataGene manages the Ginfo project on behalf of the industry. Ginfo is Australia's national reference herd for genetic information. It is a large scale genotyping project that provides genetic and performance information to increase the reliability of Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) and indices.

Ginfo enables the development of breeding values for traits that are difficult to measure, such as health traits. It also provides a foundation for developing applications of new technologies such as mid-infrared (MIR).

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