



Press release

European breeding partners join forces in EuroGenomics

Five European cattle breeding partners have decided to join forces to further improve results from genomic selection. The cooperation involves the aggregation of the available reference populations. This will give an important boost to the reliability of genomic values for Holstein.

Under the name of EuroGenomics several European partners will aggregate the reference populations they are using for a number of Holstein breeding programmes. A reference population is a group of bulls with breeding values from progeny tests and known DNA profiles. It provides breeding organisations the indispensable basis for the calculation of reliable genomic effects and genomic breeding values.

The enlargement of the total reference population within EuroGenomics will therefore further increase the reliability of genomic breeding.

Two steps

The aggregation of the reference populations will take place in two steps, resulting in a total reference population of 16,000 proven bulls by the end of this year. This first common European reference population will be one of the largest in the world.

European partners

The following partners are the founders of EuroGenomics:

- **UNCEIA**
French national Association of Livestock & Artificial Insemination Cooperatives
- **CRV**
International cattle improvement organisation with headquarters in the Netherlands
- **DHV and vit**
German national umbrella organization of the Holstein breeding industry and the German computing centre of cattle data
- **VikingGenetics**
Danish-Swedish cattle breeding association

The above mentioned partners will be working closely together with a number of research partners, amongst which are the University of Liège (Belgium), INRA (French research centre), the Nordic Cattle Genetic Evaluation and Aarhus University/Foulum (Denmark).

Benefits for customers

The customers of the EuroGenomics partners will benefit highly from this important cooperation, because it will further improve the accuracy and reliability of the genomic breeding values. Furthermore the ongoing development of genomic selection will result in extra genetic progress and eventually lower costs of the individual breeding programmes, retaining the same or even higher quality. EuroGenomics will therefore position Europe as a leading continent in the world of Holstein breeding.

-ends-

For more information, please contact:

- Viking Genetics: Niels Bo, + 45 87 95 94 02
- vit: Reinhard Reents, + 49 423 1955 140
- UNCEIA: Xavier David, + 33 675 38 27 31
- DHV: Egbert Feddersen + 49 171 40 29 705
- CRV: Roald van Noort, +31 26 389 88 01; after September 27, Bertil Muller, +31 26 389 88 04, mobile +31 6 53 74 54

25 September 2009

Note:

CRV is an international cattle improvement organisation with offices in the Netherlands, Belgium, Brazil, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, the United States, Germany, Spain and Luxembourg. We kindly request that you use the appropriate brand names as mentioned in the press release.

