

DNA REMITS

Whatever the outcome of the DNA Remits at the 2012 AGM there can be no doubt that the membership has been well informed on both sides. For the membership that is unable to attend the AGM a few closing statements before you enter your proxy vote:

- DNA is an important part of Dexter or any breeding; it retains integrity within our breed.
- If **Remit 10** is passed Allflex New Zealand have agreed to offer the Area Groups of the DCNZ a one-off deal, a two for one price deal. That is for every applicator gun that is purchased for an area group Allflex will supply one free of charge. This will ensure that every member through their area group will have access to an applicator to G3 profile their animals. (This is for area groups only not the general membership)

As with any healthy discussion the right of reply is always welcomed and following is GeneMark reply to points recently raised in this discussion:

- “A significant number of the SNPs in GeneMark G3 panel are also in the Illumina 50,000 SNP panel run by some overseas and domestic labs. It is unlikely another lab would by chance use the same SNPs if they were to also develop a cut down ‘parentage only’ panel from that same pool of 50,000 SNPs
- GenomNZ is compatible with the rest of the world because there is a standard set of ISAG markers for G1 profiling.
- If/when a decision is made on what markers are to be used GeneMark would need to see what markers are on this panel and if need be incorporate these into our panel. However we would be willing to do this to bring ourselves in line with the standard, it would not mean that the SNP's we currently use would not be of any use, and if we had to add these additional SNP's it would only make our panel more powerful than others.
- The GeneMark panel is not compatible with G1 however any SNP panel will also not be compatible with G1. The two technologies are entirely different.”
- The matter of tail vs. punch, the punch can be taken when the calves are tagged; all stock has a requirement to be tagged under the new NAIT laws. Also hair has been shown to have lower success rates at obtaining a workable profile than tissue *[This has been the Society's experience on several instances in the past]* .
- The point raised about isolating us from the rest of the world. Most other cattle breeds, when Semen is bought in from overseas, the company that imported the semen is required to send a straw for DNA testing. With the apparent decline of AI in New Zealand Dexters and the continual tightening of importing semen from overseas (most recently US with BSC being found in California) how much of an issue is this point?
- While today we maybe discussing “just parent verification” who knows what our children or future members will want. The leaps and bounds of any technology in the last three or four years has been staggering. We must ensure that we have a good DNA base to build from, that can meet any issues that may arise in the future.

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