

Performance Recording

- The phrase “rubbish in – rubbish out” highlights that the reliability of BREEDPLAN EBVs depends on the quality of submitted performance data.
- This tipsheet outlines 8 common recording issues and provides solutions and steps to avoid them.

1. Inadequate Planning

- Inadequate planning leads to recording performance data inconsistently, reducing the value of the information collected.

Solutions:

- Become a “proactive” performance recorder.
- Incorporate performance recording into the standard management of your herd.
- Plan data collection ahead of time.

2. Poor recording of recipient dam information

- When recipient dam details are missing or different breeds are used in embryo transfer (ET) programs, BREEDPLAN cannot properly analyse ET calves.

Solutions:

- Use recipient dams that are all the same breed when running an ET program.
- Ensure adequate recipient dam information is recorded.
- Use recipient dams that have been used in previous ET programs.

3. Unverified Outliers

- An outlier is a performance record that differs greatly from the group average.
- If outlier reports are ignored the data remains unverified and is excluded from future BREEDPLAN analyses, reducing the accuracy of herd results.

Solution:

- Verify/Correct all outlier reports as soon as you receive them.

4. Inadequate Recording of Important traits

- Failure to record key traits results in less reliable EBVs.

Solutions:

- Record all traits that are important to you.
- Do not rely on pedigree recording to generate EBVs.

5. Over Management Grouping

- Placing calves into small management groups (1–2 animals) prevents fair comparison of calves’ performance, reducing accuracy of genetic evaluations.

Solutions:

- Understand the criteria that automatically form contemporary groups in BREEDPLAN.
- Only submit management groups for non-genetic factors (e.g. sick animals).

6. Inadequate Management Grouping

- Poor management grouping will result in BREEDPLAN not being able to differentiate between calves that have had different levels of management or feeding.
- This results in less accurate and misleading EBVs.

Solution:

- Provide management groups for animals that have been treated differently to their peers and have performed differently due to the non-genetic factors.

7. Small Contemporary Groups

- Small contemporary groups results in animals having too few “similar” peers for comparison.
- Therefore, their performance data cannot be effectively analysed by BREEDPLAN.

Solutions:

- Restrict calving periods to 6 - 8 weeks.
- Run as many calves as possible under the same management conditions.
- Weigh all animals in a management group on the same day.

8. Single Sire Contemporary Groups

- When calves in a contemporary group come from a single sire, BREEDPLAN cannot compare them with calves from other sires, making it difficult to accurately calculate EBVs.

Solutions:

- Use more than one sire in each particular joining.
- Consciously manage the herd so that more than one sire is represented in each contemporary group.

More Information

- Scan the QR code below for the complete BREEDPLAN tipsheet or click [here](#) for the BREEDPLAN Help Centre

