



For Collaborators: Key Talking Points

Empowered On-Farm Conversations

Your role building support for and confidence in the National Cooperator Database is vital.

Here are key points explaining the value of farm participation and the future of U.S. dairy genetics.

- Simply said, the National Cooperator Database is the engine that helps breed better cows.
- The “integrated system” is a powerful collaboration of 10,000 dairy farms across the U.S. and more than 60 organizations that collect, standardize, and move data on individual dairy animals into the national database.
- Tens of millions of records each year are entered into the national database, which is the data source for U.S. genetic evaluations and national benchmarks produced by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB). This provides independent, objective, and reliable genetic information used by farmers worldwide.
- The tremendous volume of data, along with robust quality certification, results in the reliable genetic evaluations produced by CDCB and enables development of new traits that can improve cows and herds.
- Genetic evaluations calculated from the National Cooperator Database are labeled “Powered by CDCB” and are recognized as the global standard for dairy cattle genetic evaluations.
- Across the U.S., farm owners and managers have chosen to share phenotypic and/or genotypic data on individual cows with the goal of making the next generation better. Contributing herds represent diverse management styles, facilities, sizes, breeds, and regions.
- Every herd benefits from reliable evaluations – for sire selection and female management. This information and the introduction of new traits to breed better cows are a result of the national database. Herds providing information benefit from fee credits for genomic testing and improved reliability of evaluations.
- Herds that share data with the national database and process their cow records benefit from a third-party review for improved accuracy, completeness of data, and better dairy decision tools for cow-by-cow and group-by-group management.
- When quality standards are met, herds contributing cow performance data are eligible for fee credits when genomic testing.
- The entire dairy industry can make more – and accelerated – improvement because of the database, through reliable genetic evaluations, data-driven decision tools, and independent research that adds value to dairy herds.
- Strict data confidentiality standards protect the privacy of individual farms. All data is aggregated into the National Cooperator Database, with codes that protect identifying information.
- CDCB uses this dataset to publish U.S. dairy genetic evaluations and national benchmarks. Data is also available to researchers at CDCB and approved research institutions for specific projects. No access to third parties is allowed unless authorized by the farm owner and data stored in the national database is never sold.
- Producer questions should be directed to the DHI affiliate that collects on-farm data and milk samples or to the Dairy Records Processing Center (DRPC) for herds that process records. The new Herd Portal managed by National DHIA will be an easier way for producers to direct how and with whom their DHI records are shared.

Learn More



Questions?

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