WAGYU FEEDER CHECK GENERATION 2

WAGYU FEEDER CHECK

Larger, More Diverse Genomic Reference Population

More Accurate Genetic Predictions

Suitable for a Wider Range of Wagyu F1 Animals

Wagyu Feeder Check is delivered to the Wagyu industry in a collaboration between:

AUSTRALIAN WAGYU ASSOCIATION™

NEOGEN®

CSIRO

WAGYU FEEDER CHECK
GENERATION 2

The 2nd Generation of Wagyu Feeder Check is now available

Building on the success of Wagyu Feeder Check since its launch at the WagyuEdge Conference in April 2023, the Australian Wagyu Association, Neogen Australasia, and CSIRO, have continued their close collaboration to launch generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check.

WHAT IS **WAGYU FEEDER CHECK?**

Wagyu Feeder Check is a genomic selection tool designed for Wagyu content beef cattle that aims to optimise resource use efficiency, increase drought adaptability, and improve profitability and resilience in the high-value Australian Wagyu Beef export beef sector.

Wagyu Feeder Check reports genetic predictions for five traits:

- Feedlot Average Daily Gain
- Carcase Weight
- Subcutaneous Fat Depth
- Eye Muscle Area
- Marble Score

Additionally, a Wagyu Feeder Index is reported, predicting the overall commercial value ranking of each individual animal in a typical Wagyu long fed feedlot finishing program, based on the respective animal's genetic merit across all five individual traits.

Sire verification will also be provided for any progeny of sires that have genomic profiles recorded with the Australian Wagyu Association.

WHAT ENHANCEMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN GENERATION 2 OF WAGYU FEEDER CHECK?

1. Larger, More Diverse Genomic Reference Population

The genetic predictions calculated in Wagyu Feeder Check are based on a genomic reference population, being a large group of animals that have both genotypes (i.e. genomic profiles) and phenotypes (i.e. performance measurements) available.

The genomic reference population utilised in generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check is considerably larger, doubling in size from 8,316 animals to 17,301 animals (Figure 1).

Additionally, the genetic background of the animals in the genomic reference population is more diverse, with a greater number of Wagyu x *Bos indicus*, Wagyu x Holstein, and Wagyu x non-Angus *Bos taurus* animals included (Figure 2).

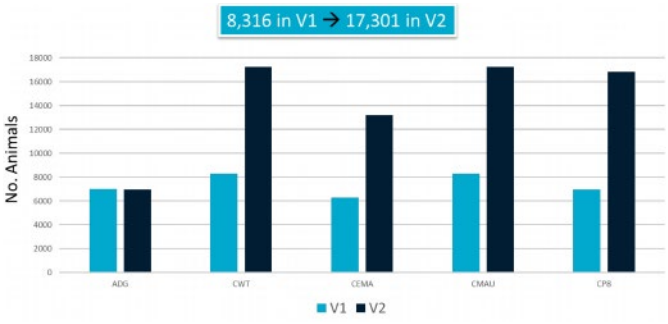

Figure 1 – The number of animals in the Wagyu Feeder Check genomic reference population has increased from 8,316 animals to 17,301 animals.

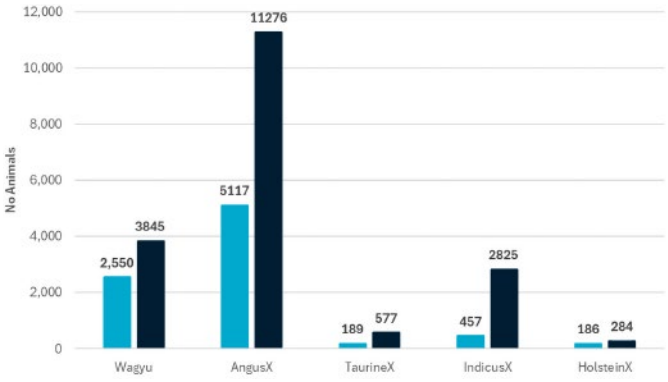

Figure 2 – The genetic background of animals in the Wagyu Feeder Check genomic reference population is now more genetically diverse

2. More Accurate Genetic Predictions

With a larger, more genetically diverse genomic reference population, the predictive ability of the genetic predictions calculated in generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check has increased. As a result, Wagyu Feeder Check now predicts the genetic merit of Wagyu content animals with additional accuracy (Figure 3).

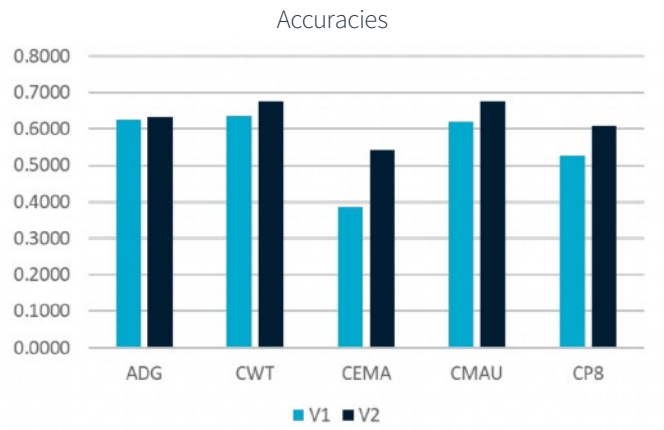

Figure 3 – The predictive ability of the genetic predictions calculated in Wagyu Feeder Check has increased.

3. Suitable for a Wider Range of Wagyu F1 Cattle

The more genetically diverse genomic reference population used for generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check is comprised of Purebred Wagyu (20%), Wagyu x Angus (60%) and Wagyu x *Bos indicus* (15%) animals, with the remaining 5% comprised of Wagyu x Holstein and Wagyu x non-Angus *Bos taurus* animals.

Validation studies have shown that the genetic predictions calculated for animals from the different genetic backgrounds have similar predictive ability (Figure 4), meaning generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check can be utilised with confidence in a wider range of Wagyu F1 crosses.

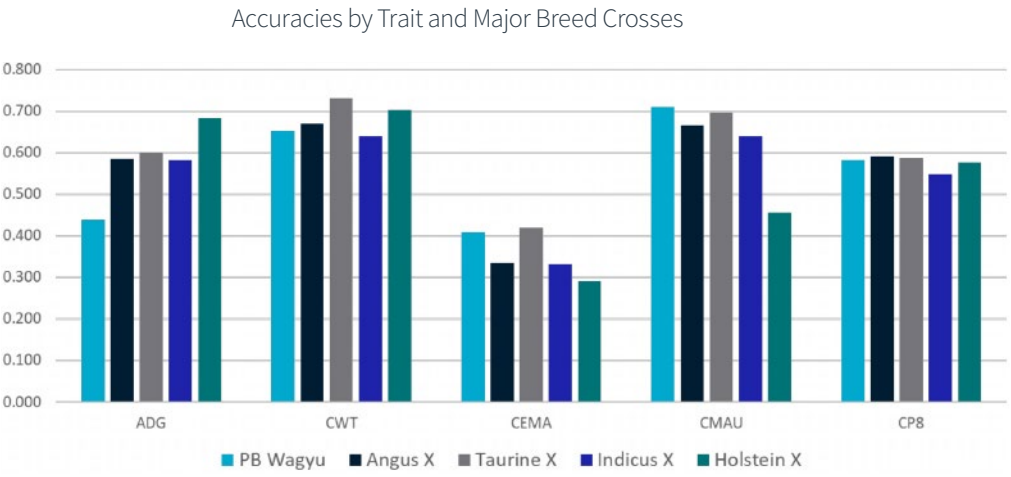

Figure 4 – Validation studies have shown generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check can be used with confidence in a wide range of Wagyu F1 crosses.

WHERE DO I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT WAGYU FEEDER CHECK?

Further information on Wagyu Feeder Check is available on both the Australian Wagyu Association and Neogen Australasia websites.

wagyu.org.au

neogenaustralasia.com.au

WHO DO I CONTACT SHOULD I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WAGYU FEEDER CHECK?

If you have any questions about Wagyu Feeder Check, please contact:

Australian Wagyu Association
Ph: +61 2 8880 7700
E: dna@wagyu.org.au

Neogen Australasia
Ph: +61 7 3736 2134
E: naa-lab@neogen.com

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I Order Generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check?

The process for ordering generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check is the same as the initial version.

Wagyu Feeder Check is ordered through the Australian Wagyu Association (AWA).

Before an order can be placed, you need to:
- become a member of the AWA (if you aren't already), and
- create an account on the Wagyu Feeder Check Helical database.

To place an order for Wagyu Feeder Check:
- collect TSU samples on the animals you want to test
- submit your request to the AWA through the Wagyu Feeder Check Helical database.
- print the documents that are generated when your order is submitted, and send your TSU samples, along with these documents to the Neogen lab.

Once your results are ready, you will receive an email notification telling you that you can access your results from the Wagyu Feeder Check Helical database.

2. What is the Cost of Generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check?

As of September 2025, Generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check is available in Australia for AUD $37 (ex GST).

A $4 rebate is refunded if animals tested with Wagyu Feeder Check are subsequently recorded free-of-charge in the AWA Slaughter register, are sire verified, and have abattoir carcase data submitted to the AWA.

3. Are the genetic predictions from Generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check comparable with the genetic predictions of animals tested with the initial version of Wagyu Feeder Check?

No. The genetic predictions from generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check can only be compared to other genetic predictions from generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check.

They can not be directly compared to the genetic predictions for animals tested with the initial version of Wagyu Feeder Check.

4. How much do animals re-rank between the initial version and Generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check?

Genetic predictions for 8,302 animals were calculated using both versions of Wagyu Feeder Check and showed animals ranked similarly when tested on the initial version and generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check. The highest correlation was for ADG, and the lowest correlation was for CEMA.

Trait	Corr(V1,V2)
ADG	0.967
CWT	0.937
CEMA	0.858
CMAU	0.918
CP8	0.887

5. Can I upgrade animals tested with the initial version of Wagyu Feeder Check to Generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check?

If you have animals recently tested on the initial version of Wagyu Feeder Check, and would like to upgrade the genetic predictions for these animals to generation 2 of Wagyu Feeder Check, please contact staff at the Australian Wagyu Association to discuss this. Additional costs will apply.

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