

CDCB's Dairy Evaluation Review Team (DERT)

Background

The *Dairy Evaluation Review Team* (DERT) provides independent expert advice to the CDCB staff on dairy genetic evaluation results. The DERT members serve as reviewers prior to the official releases after preliminary checking is completed by the CDCB staff. The DERT members have various levels of expertise in quantitative genetics, statistical genetics, dairy data analysis and genomic methods.

Purpose

DERT exists to provide independent, objective, impartial reviews of the CDCB dairy genetic evaluation results and to provide feedback to the CDCB staff in order to reduce the likelihood that inaccurate predictions will be released. DERT works as an auxiliary support group to the CDCB, assuming no responsibility over incorrect estimates that the CDCB may eventually publish.

3. Term

DERT

This Terms of Reference is effective from January 1, 2017 and will be ongoing until terminated by the CDCB Board of Directors.

Members

- Reviewers from different categories of stakeholders are nominated for a 2-year term by their respective sectors and their names are forwarded to the CDCB Board of Directors for approval.
- Given the specific knowledge and experience required, no limit on number of consecutive terms is imposed.
- Reviewers will sign a confidentiality clause (attached) agreeing to keep all material reviewed private until the information is available to the public.

3. Membership¹

Reviewers (<i>CDCB staff suggestions in italics</i>)	Maximum Number of Reviewers	Appointed by
Dairy Records Providers; no one has been designated, which is ok with CDCB staff as we have sufficient checkers already	0	NDHIA
Dairy Records Processing Center; DRPC suggested reviewer declined as he felt he was not familiar enough to carry out the assignment.	0	DRPC
Purebred Dairy Cattle Association; Tom Lawlor and Sam Comstock	2	PDCA
National Association of Animal Breeders; Mark Chamberlain, Ryan Starkenburg, and Bob Welper.	3	NAAB
Total:	5	

4. Accountability

The DERT is a non-executive body appointed by the CDCB Board of Directors and reporting back to the CDCB staff.

5. Roles and responsibilities

DERT:

- To serve as the expert panel to review CDCB routine evaluation results considered ready for release by the CDCB staff.
- Results to be reviewed include:
 - CDCB official runs, conventional genetic evaluations (April, August and December) – all release files.

Membership:

- To put the interests of the CDCB above any personal or corporate interests or preferences when making technical recommendations.
- To review the result files and reports provided by the CDCB staff in the time frame requested (typically in 2 days).
- To participate in any scheduled DERT conference calls.
- To maintain confidentiality on all research results reviewed prior to release time.

6. Meetings

¹ This group has been assisting for several years. Initially the group was composed of Tom Lawlor (PDCA), Cari Wolfe (PDCA), Sam Comstock (PDCA), Chuck Sattler (NAAB), Angie Coburn (NAAB), Bob Welper (NAAB). Ryan Starkenburg (NAAB), Devon Funk (NAAB) and Erick Metzger (PDCA) have served as substitute reviewer when others were not available. Originally, the DHI segment declined to nominate reviewers.

DERT will have conference calls if needed and regular email exchanges in order to fulfill its purpose and perform its roles and responsibilities.

Confidentiality Agreement:

Subject: Confidentiality Agreement

To: Joao Durr

From: John Doe

As a member of the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding's (CDCB) Dairy Evaluation Review Team, I acknowledge that in the course of reviewing the evaluation materials that I will be exposed to valuable confidential data of the CDCB. I agree to treat all the information as confidential and to take necessary precautions against disclosure of such information to any third parties prior to the information being available to the public. I agree to review the genetic material provided to me by the CDCB in a confidential manner and I will not use the information for my own personal benefit or for the benefit of relatives, friends, or my employing organization prior to the time the information is available for public release.

Reviewer's Signature

Date