

18 MARCH 2025
CHRISTCHURCH

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Genetics
BEEF BREEDER FORUM



Tuesday 18 March

7:30am Registration open

8:15am Welcome

8:30am An introduction to Beef + Lamb New Zealand's new CEO

Alan Thomson, B+LNZ CEO.

Alan Thomson was appointed as CEO of Beef + Lamb New Zealand in November 2024. With a strong background in agritech and a lifelong connection to agriculture, Alan will share his vision for B+LNZ's refreshed strategy and his commitment to delivering great outcomes for farmers.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Genetics update

Dan Brier, General Manager B+LNZ Genetics

Dan will provide an overview of B+LNZ Genetics' beef programme for the next 12 months, with updates on the Informing New Zealand Beef programme, Dairy Beef programme, and research and innovation projects.

Reducing methane, improving feed efficiency: insights from research trial

Dr Jason Archer, B+LNZ Genetics and Will Wilding, Te Mania Angus

In 2024, a research trial by B+LNZ Genetics and AgResearch, hosted at Te Mania Angus, was launched to measure feed efficiency and methane emissions in beef cattle. This collaboration aims to develop genetic tools to help farmers produce efficient cattle with a light environmental footprint. Hear from Jason and Will as they share insights into the trial's progress and key learnings so far.

Developing NZ-specific selection indexes

Jason Archer, B+LNZ Genetics

AbacusBio and B+LNZ Genetics are developing selection indexes tailored to New Zealand's beef farming systems. This session will cover the development process, which includes input from INZB industry groups and farmers, to deliver prototype index models for maternal, terminal, and dairy-beef systems in New Zealand.

Introducing nProve for beef

David Campbell, B+LNZ Genetics

Be the first to hear about an exciting new development from B+LNZ. An important component of INZB is delivering intuitive, easy-to-use genetic tools for farmers. After collaboration with industry, we are excited to launch nProve Beef at forum - an online tool designed to help farmers select the best bulls for their specific breeding objectives and farm systems.

12pm Lunch

Interactive workshops and breakout sessions:

Hands-on with nProve: interactive workshops

B+LNZ Genetics team

Delegates will get a closer look at nProve Beef with two interactive workshops: one showcasing the public version of nProve Beef and its functionality, and the second workshop exploring breeder-specific features.

Exploring innovation in beef genetics: breakout sessions

Join breakout sessions of your choice and explore opportunities in the technology and innovation space that are shaping the future of beef genetics and breeding.

Further details on each of these sessions will be confirmed in Jan 2025.

Simon Kenny: Head of Impact and Communications, McDonald's NZ

Session sponsored by NZ Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.

With around 10% of New Zealand's beef exports destined for McDonald's markets, Simon Kenny will discuss the company's global commitments and direction as a significant buyer of NZ beef. He'll discuss the contrast between McDonald's sustainability goals and the mindset of their customers, who may not prioritise sustainability as a purchase driver but expect the sector to take meaningful action.

Open invitation: NZ Roundtable for Sustainable Beef meeting

All forum delegates are invited to attend the NZRSB session and learn more about the work undertaken by this group. The aim of the NZRSB is to ensure New Zealand's beef is continually produced in a sustainable way, and in-line with consumers' expectations, through identifying material sustainability issues and promoting good practice through the supply chain.

5pm Forum closes

6pm Pre-dinner drinks (at Addington Events Centre)

7pm Seated for dinner – menu designed by B+LNZ Ambassador Chef
