

TIA seeking dairy farmers to participate in research on dairy-beef crossbreeding (North–West Region)

What are we doing?

We want to work with commercial dairy farms that have established dairy-beef crossbreeding programs to assess the relationships between sire characteristics, cow characteristics and calving outcomes for the 2023 and/or 2024 seasons.

Why are we doing this?

Dairy-beef crossbreeding reproduction programs require decisions matching dam to sire. These decisions are essential to maximising the resulting calf sale value without increasing the risk of calving difficulty and stillbirth. The results of this study will guide dairy producers when making decisions about their dairy-beef reproduction programs.

What will we need from you?

We will need the following data from you around the **time of AI**

- Breed and age of cows being bred
- The type of semen (dairy/beef) used with each cow and their name/breeder (to access data on EBVs)
- Body condition score of cows (assessed by researchers during a farm visit)

We will need the following data from you at **calving**

- Calving difficulty score (scale 0-4)
- Calf outcomes (e.g., sex, born alive/stillborn, dam and calf ID, birth weight if possible)
- Body condition score of cows (assessed by researchers during the lead feed period)

We would like the following data for **pre-weaned calves** (if possible)

- ID of calf and date for any mortalities/medical treatments
- If you rear your calves until weaning, we would also like to talk about the possibility of weighing your calves prior to weaning.

If you have any questions or wish to participate, please contact us

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