



## LIMOUSIN PERFORMANCE RECORDING

### New EBVs and Genomic EBVs for Limousin

The BLCS is currently involved in three significant areas of work unique to Limousin and unique to the UK to provide breeders and buyers with even better breeding information over the next two years.

#### New Carcase Trait EBVs

In the eyes of most commercial producers, a better product is a bull to breed crossbred calves that achieve herd or market targets at lower cost. The current EUROP classification system rewards the breed well. We already know that animals are being produced that didn't exist ten years ago, such is the high rate of progress the breed has made for traits such as growth and muscle depth. But as new meat technologies embed themselves within processing plants, EUROP, as the sole method of classification, may well become a thing of the past.

Through the Carcase Traits project – relying on widespread collection of performance data – the BLCS is putting measures in place to enable breeders to respond to this quickly, ensuring they continue to produce a better, relevant product under any classification and payment method.



#### The Carcase Traits Project:

- ✓ £1.5m project funded by Government Technology Strategy Board
- ✓ ABP Abattoir and SRUC (formerly SAC) as partners
- ✓ Main Objective: to identify the contribution that genetics make to carcase attributes using DNA technology and modern carcase evaluation techniques in abattoirs
- ✓ **Main Outcome: a suite of up to nine new Carcase Trait EBVs measured from on-farm and VIA (Visual Image Analysis) records.**

#### Genomic/

### **Genomic EBVs**

A further outcome of the Carcase Traits Project will be the development of a 'SNP Chip' for the Limousin breed. Designed specifically for our UK population, this will use the vast pools of performance and carcase records to develop a 'key' for the breed against which a calf's DNA sample can be compared to identify its breeding potential. This can offer a much more accurate assessment much earlier in an animal's life which can speed up the rate of genetic progress that any one herd, or even a breed, can make, allowing it to better respond to an ever changing market place. It is particularly useful for traits that are difficult to measure, such as meat quality and fertility.



For enquiries contact:

British Limousin Cattle Society

Telephone 02476 696500 Email [info@limousin.co.uk](mailto:info@limousin.co.uk)