

Position Description: Product Owner (Dairy Beef Information Sharing)

Directly responsible to:

Portfolio Manager - Genetic Research Programmes

Functional Guidance: Genetics Systems Manager (delivery authority)

Role context:

The **Product Owner** is a delivery-focused role responsible for leading the development and implementation of a dairy-beef information sharing capability within the nProve ecosystem.

The role sits at the intersection of **genetics, data systems, farm operations, processors and commercial vendors**, translating programme intent into a working, trusted product that enables:

- clear animal identity,
- seamless data flow across the dairy-beef value chain,
- and flow of carcass and performance data into genetic evaluation.

The role is accountable for **execution and delivery**, operating under agreed programme direction and governance. It does not set organisational strategy but is responsible for **turning strategy into functioning product outcomes**.

The Product Owner operates in a complex, multi-stakeholder environment and acts as the primary integrator across farmers, breeding companies, processors, data partners and software vendors. The role requires strong coordination, practical judgement, and a bias toward progress and pragmatic solutions rather than theoretical perfection.

Farmer trust and data integrity are critical success factors. Any farmer-facing functionality must be simple, intuitive and optional, and must not compromise confidence in B+LNZ as a neutral data steward.

Our Vision

Thriving sheep and beef farmers, now and into the future.

Strategic priorities:

Championing farming excellence – On-farm extension focused on enhancing productivity, productivity and sustainability; Investing in research and innovation to solve sector production challenges.

Advocacy – Championing farmers' interests; Shaping the future domestically and internationally.

Energising the sector – Leading, building trust, reputation and confidence; Proudly celebrating sheep and beef farming.

Values

What we believe.
The essence of B+LNZ

Positivity and
Confidence

Fronting up

Caring about
quality and impact

Pushing
boundaries

All voices
count

Position purpose - Product Owner (Dairy Beef Information Sharing)

The **Product Owner** is responsible for shaping development of, prioritising activities for and delivery of a functioning information sharing and data-flow tool that supports the Dairy Beef Opportunities programme and strengthens genetic feedback loops, ensuring commercial value is visible across the supply chain.

The role ensures that high-quality data can flow **into and out of nProve** across the dairy-beef lifecycle, enabling:

- more accurate genetic evaluations, resulting in more reliable Estimated Breeding Value predictions for Dairy-Beef traits,
- demonstration of the value of animals genetics,
- better transparency and confidence for purchasers of dairy-beef calves,
- and improved use of carcass and performance data.

The Product Owner leads delivery from concept through proof-of-concept, MVP and early adoption, ensuring solutions are fit-for-purpose, interoperable and trusted by farmers and partners.

While not holding line management accountability, the role exercises product leadership across internal teams and external providers, setting priorities, coordinating delivery, and resolving practical barriers to progress.

The Product Owner is relied upon for disciplined execution, clear communication, and sound judgement in balancing data standards, usability, and delivery pace.

Key Accountabilities

Industry Data Enablement	Data Governance & Stewardship
Product Ownership & Delivery	Personal, team and project-based contribution
Stakeholder Coordination & Integration	Reporting and financial management
Farmer Trust & Usability	Health and safety

Key Accountabilities	Job holder is successful when
1. Industry Data Enablement <i>The role enables reliable, end-to-end data flow across the dairy-beef value chain in support of genetic improvement and value capture.</i>	• A working information sharing capability exists linking animal identity, management data and carcass outcomes. • Data flows cleanly into and out of nProve, with carcass and performance data returned to genetic evaluation where available. • Integration is prioritised over duplication; existing commercial or industry systems are leveraged wherever possible. • Early end to end pilots demonstrate feasibility with real animals and commercial partners.
2. Product Ownership & Delivery <i>The role owns the product backlog and delivery pathway from concept to working outcomes.</i>	• Scope, priorities and trade-offs are actively managed to maintain pace and quality. • Requirements are identified, documented and prioritised to support solution design and specification. • Clear MVP, POC and staged delivery plans are defined and executed.

Values

What we believe.
The essence of B+LNZ



Positivity and
Confidence

Fronting up

Caring about
quality and impact

Pushing
boundaries

All voices
count

Key Accountabilities	Job holder is successful when
	• Delivery progress is visible, realistic and outcome focused. • Solutions are built only where necessary; build vs integrate decisions are explicit and justified.
3. Stakeholder Coordination & Integration <i>The role coordinates delivery across a diverse set of partners and contributors.</i>	• Farmers, breeding companies, processors, data providers and vendors are effectively aligned around practical delivery objectives. • Effort is focused on willing partners and early adopters to accelerate learning and momentum. • Effectively interface with solution delivery team(s), translating business needs into clear actionable requirements, and collaborating throughout the integration / development lifecycle. • Dependencies and risks across organisations are identified early and actively managed. • Collaboration results in tangible delivery progress, not just discussion.
4. Farmer Trust & Usability <i>The role ensures farmer confidence is protected and strengthened.</i>	• Any farmer facing functionality is simple, intuitive and mobile friendly. • Data sharing, consent and public/private use are managed clearly, with transparency. • Solutions respect on-farm realities and minimise additional workload. • Farmer trust in B+LNZ as a neutral steward of data is maintained.
5. Data Governance & Stewardship <i>The role supports appropriate data standards and governance without over-engineering.</i>	• Data definitions, interfaces and access models are clear and fit for purpose. • Public and private data boundaries are well understood and respected. • Data governance requirements support delivery rather than constrain it. • Risks related to data quality, misuse or misinterpretation are actively managed.
6. Personal, Team and Project Based Contribution <i>The role contributes to organisational and programme priorities as required.</i>	• The Product Owner represents B+LNZ effectively in delivery forums and working groups. • Cross team collaboration is constructive and professional. • Colleagues and partners value the role's contribution and delivery focus.
7. Reporting & Financial Management <i>The role is responsible for managing delivery within allocated resources.</i>	• Progress, risks and issues are reported clearly and honestly. • Budgets are managed effectively, with variances understood and addressed in a timely manner. • Reporting supports decision making and accountability.

Values

What we believe.
The essence of B+LNZ



Positivity and
Confidence

Fronting up

Caring about
quality and impact

Pushing
boundaries

All voices
count

Key Accountabilities	Job holder is successful when
8. Health & Safety (“H&S”) <i>The Product Owner leads by example in health, safety and wellbeing.</i>	• Supports and complies with B+LNZ’s H&S policies and obligations. • Ensures external providers and delivery activities operate in line with H&S requirements. • Shows responsibility for own health, safety and wellbeing, is proactive in own actions to keep self and others safe and cooperates with local workplace safety management practices, policies and procedures that support a healthy, safe and well culture. • Report any accidents or incidents as soon as possible through Auditix, B+LNZ’s safety management system, or to your manager.

Key relationships

Key external relationships

Farmers, rearers and finishers, Breeding companies (e.g. LIC, CRV and others), Processors and processor data teams, NZAEL / DIGAD and genetics partners, Software vendors, system integrators and data providers, MPI and programme funding partners, Advisory and technical working groups

Key internal relationships

Portfolio Manager – Genetics Research Programmes, Genetics Systems Manager, B+LNZ Genetics and Farming Excellence teams, Senior Leadership Team (as required)

Location

This position is located at a B+LNZ office (preferably Dunedin but not necessary). National travel may be required.

Hours

Core business hours are Monday – Friday 8.30 – 5.00pm.

The incumbent may be required to work outside these hours from time to time.

DATED: May 2026

Values

*What we believe.
The essence of B+LNZ*



Positivity and
Confidence

Fronting up

Caring about
quality and impact

Pushing
boundaries

All voices
count

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Product Owner (Dairy Beef Information Sharing)

Technical knowledge + expertise

- Strong understanding of data-driven product delivery in complex, multi-stakeholder environments.
- Working knowledge of livestock production systems and information sharing.
- Understanding of data integration, APIs and interoperability principles.
- Ability to translate business, farm and genetic requirements into practical product delivery.
- Understands farmer priorities and operational realities.
- Values trust, clarity and follow-through.
- Focuses on practical benefit rather than abstract solutions

Education + experience

- Relevant qualification in agriculture, technology, data, or product management, or equivalent industry experience.
- Credibility with farmers, technical teams and industry partners.
- Experience as a Product Owner, Product Manager, or Delivery Lead.
- Delivery of digital or data platforms involving external system integration.
- Experience collaborating with farmers or frontline users.
- Exposure to genetics, information sharing, or regulated data systems is desirable.

Communication, collaboration + relationships

- Builds appropriate rapport and maintains relationships with all people, up, down and sideways, inside and outside the organisation and across a variety of functions and locations
- Adjusts communication content and style to meet the needs of the audience
- High level of competence in verbal and written communication in a variety of settings
- Provides timely and helpful information to others and keeps people informed
- Is seen as a team player, who is cooperative, contributes ideas and encourages and initiates collaboration
- Communicates clearly across technical, operational and non-technical audiences.
- Builds practical working relationships that support delivery.
- Comfortable coordinating across organisational boundaries.

Customer orientation

- Does everything with the best interests of the customer, farmer, stakeholder or sector in mind
- Has a clear understanding of other groups' business priorities and how you can impact them
- Is dedicated to meeting the needs of internal and external customers
- Able to stand in customers' shoes, show empathy and uncover their needs and experiences
- Communicates ideas and solutions and brings the customer along on the journey
- Builds trust and respect over time as delivers on promises

Problem solving and decision making

- Exercises sound judgement in ambiguity.
- Balances pace, quality and risk effectively.
- Escalates issues appropriately while maintaining momentum.

Drive + results focused

- Works independently/autonomously, managing own time, priorities and deadlines effectively with the flexibility and adaptability to attend to urgent and unscheduled tasks
- Able to manage workload, tasks and priorities effectively and can be counted on to deliver agreed outputs
- Shows initiative, is proactive and able to self-direct

Personal attributes

- A champion of the culture of the organisation
 - Adheres to and promotes the core values of the organisation
 - Has a personal commitment to personal excellence; displays honesty, integrity, and a strong sense of ethics in all decisions and actions
 - Instils trust, keeps confidences and honours commitments
 - Intuitively knows what is right and will do the right thing when no-one is looking
 - Must have a strong commitment to furthering the success and prosperity of the New Zealand sheep and beef industry
 - Establishes an environment of respect and trust when working to advance cross cultural understanding
 - A willingness to develop and apply a growing understanding of Te Ao Māori, tikanga, and Te Reo with their work
 - Pragmatic, delivery-focused and resilient.
 - Demonstrates integrity and professionalism.
 - Committed to improving outcomes for New Zealand farmers.
-