



Pilot Finishing Value (FV)

WHAT IS THE PILOT FINISHING VALUE?

The pilot Finishing Value (FV) is a simple way to compare the estimated growth potential of beef-on-dairy calves.

It combines genetic information from both the sire and dam into a single figure, helping buyers compare calves and identify those bred from performance beef genetics that may be better suited to finishing systems.

It is a trial commercial measure designed to support calf buying and selling decisions, it is not a breeding value.

Why was it developed?

The pilot Finishing Value is one of the first practical steps being tested through the Dairy Beef Opportunities Programme to bring more useful performance information into beef-on-dairy calf trading.

When buying calves, it can be difficult to know which animals have the greatest potential to perform well in a finishing system.

Genetics are an important tool to estimate future performance, but this information is often not always available in a simple, practical format at sale time.

The pilot Finishing Value brings this information together in a single figure, giving buyers another tool to use alongside visual assessment, health status and other purchasing considerations.

Where will it be trialled?

A small initial pilot of the Finishing Value will be trialled at the **NZ Farmers Livestock Dairy Beef weaner sale at Frankton Sale Yards on 19 October** to test how the Finishing Value can support calf buying and selling decisions.

If the trial is successful and receives positive industry feedback, the intention is to continue to test the value at more sale yards across the country.

WHAT THE PILOT FINISHING VALUE TELLS BUYERS

The higher the Finishing Value, the greater the calf's estimated genetic potential for growth.

The pilot Finishing Value is expressed in kilograms (kg) and represents a calf's estimated liveweight advantage at 18 months, compared with a standard beef-on-dairy calf.

Growth rate is an important driver of finishing performance and profitability, and the Finishing Value provides an additional objective measure of a calf's genetic growth potential.

The calculation combines data from B+LNZ's Beef-on-Dairy Progeny Test with sire and dam breeding values. As more data becomes available, the reliability of the Finishing Value predictions is expected to improve.

The pilot Finishing Value helps identify calves with higher growth potential. While the breed of dairy cow plays a role, the quality of the beef sire has a much bigger influence on a calf's growth potential.

The trial measure can be compared across breeds. While different dam breeds may produce different ranges of FV (for example, Jersey-cross calves will typically have lower growth FVs than Friesian-cross calves), calves sired by bulls with higher genetic merit for growth will rank higher regardless of their breed background.

Based on its Finishing Value, Calf A is estimated to be 26kg heavier at 18 months of age than Calf B.

The pilot Finishing Value is **not a breeding value**. It is a trial measure designed to give buyers an indication of genetic growth potential and support calf trading decisions. Like any genetic prediction, the pilot Finishing Value **indicates potential, it does not guarantee performance**. Actual results will still depend on factors such as feeding, health and farm management.

WHICH CALVES ARE ELIGIBLE?

Eligible calves must have both sire and dam parentage recorded in MINDA or myHERD, and the dam must have a liveweight breeding value. At present, the pilot Finishing Value can be calculated for calves sired by Angus, Charolais, Hereford, Murray Grey, Simmental or Speckle Park bulls used via Artificial Insemination.

Planning to buy?

- Use the pilot Finishing Beef Value to compare estimated 18-month liveweight performance across eligible calves.
- Consider the pilot Finishing Value alongside calf health, conformation and fit with your finishing system.

Pilot Finishing Value in action

Calves of comparable sire and dam breeds

