

Animal Research Programme – Genetic Improvement of Animals

RMIS No: 6161

Title

Improving performance, animal health & welfare, environmental impact and product quality in organic and 'low input' dairy cow and beef cattle production systems

Abstract

The scientific concept of the LowInputBreeds project is to improve animal health, product quality and performance of organic and 'low input' production systems through research, development, training and dissemination activities focused on the development of novel breeding concepts/strategies and their integration with appropriate management innovations. The project will focus on 6 major livestock production systems (dairy cows, beef, dairy and meat sheep, pigs and laying hens).

The project's objectives are:

To develop and to analyse innovative breeding concepts for their ability to deliver genotypes with 'robustness' and quality traits required under organic and 'low input' production conditions;

To integrate the use of improved genotypes with innovative management approaches suitable for organic and 'low input' systems;

to carry out economic, environmental, genetic diversity and ethical impacts assessments to quantify the performance of improved breeds/genotypes and management innovations against different societal and consumer demands.

To establish a training and dissemination programme aimed at facilitating rapid exploitation of results by the organic and 'low input' industry. This will involve close collaboration with established technology transfer networks in Europe

Project Leader: Donagh Berry
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Expected Finish date: 1 January 2014