

# DAERA Bovine Genetics Project

## Privacy Notice

### Purpose of this Privacy Notice

This privacy notice gives you information about how DAERA uses and protects your personal data in relation to the Bovine Genetics Project. It is important that you read this Privacy Notice together with any consent request we may provide on specific occasions so that you are fully aware of how and why we are using your personal data. When processing your personal data, we will comply with all applicable data protection law.

Personal data means any information about an individual from which that person can be identified. It does not include data where a person's identity has been removed and cannot be reinstated, such as anonymised data or aggregated data where the dataset cannot be deanonymised or disaggregated.

Throughout this Privacy Notice, your personal information will be termed "**Personal Data**" and when referring to information which cannot identify you (either in isolation or together with other information) this will be termed "**Non-Personal Data**". Together, Personal Data and Non-Personal Data will be termed "**Project Data**".

### Who we are

Data Controller Name: **Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)**

Address: **Food, Farming and Rural Affairs Group/Agricultural Policy Division**

**Clare House,  
303 Airport Road West,  
Belfast.  
BT3 9ED.**

Telephone: **028 9081 6200**

Data Protection Officer Email: **[dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk)**

### Data Protection Principles

We will comply with the data protection legislation and all applicable law when processing your Personal Data. We must comply with the data protection principles and agree that our processing of your Personal Data shall be in line with the following principles:

1. lawful, fair and transparent;
2. collected only for valid purposes which we have clearly explained to you in this Privacy Notice and not used for any other purposes;
3. relevant to and limited to the purposes we have told you about in this Privacy Notice;
4. accurate and kept up to date;
5. kept only as long as necessary for the purposes we have described in this Privacy Notice; and,
6. must be kept secure from any unlawful processing, access, disclosure or deletion.

### **Why are we Processing your Personal Data?**

The Bovine Genetics Project (the 'Project') will be delivered by DAERA, in partnership with the agri-food industry, and the industry has established Sustainable Ruminant Genetics Limited (SRG) which will assist DAERA in delivery of several key functions, including the promotion and marketing of the Project to producers and other stakeholders. The Project will provide farmers with the required tools and data to make better informed breeding decisions and enable the breeding of more productive, carbon efficient animals with reduced pollution potential and, in the longer-term, improved animal health and welfare. The Project is essential for DAERA and the wider NI agri-food industry. It will deliver public good benefits, such as contributing to the achievement of the targets to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as detailed in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

The data being processed is the minimum deemed necessary for efficient delivery of this work.

Farmer's Personal Data will be collected, stored and processed throughout the duration of this Project in order to achieve these outcomes. The Project will enable farmers to understand the genetic performance and potential of individual animals and their livestock enterprises. Farmers can also use the information to help inform their own farm management practices to drive improved environmental and economical sustainability. The Project will enable CAFRE to support farmers to understand the genetic performance of their enterprises and help farmers to implement actions to deliver reduced GHG emissions, lower pollution potential and improved animal health and welfare.

Participation in the Bovine Genetics Project will be a condition of eligibility for entitlement to the Farm Sustainability Payment (FSP).

A combination of Personal Data and Non-Personal Data will be ingested by DAERA's appointed Service Provider, the Irish Cattle Breeders Federation (ICBF), to deliver the genomic evaluation and benchmarking services required for the project.

**The Personal Data being processed is the minimum deemed necessary for efficient delivery of this Project in compliance with the data protection legislation.**

**The type of Personal Data collected for the Project.**

The Personal Data of individual farmers that will be collected and processed as part of the Project include:

- Business ID\*
- Business name
- Party ID\*
- Herd ID\*
- Herd Keeper name
- Herd Keeper preferred postal address
- Herd Keeper preferred Email address
- Herd Keeper preferred telephone number

\* Although this is personal data and may be collected from Livestock markets and beef and dairy processors, this data will not in itself identify any individual unless it is combined with other personal information. DAERA will only allow ICBF to gain access to this other personal information once the herd owner registers for the project and agrees to the specific Terms and Conditions provided.

Individual farm businesses participating in the project will have the ability to supply the following data to the project, via the SRG branded user portal provided by ICBF:

- Calving difficulty (No assistance required, Some Assistance – without use of a calving aid, Considerable Difficulty – use of a calving aid required, Veterinary Assistance - for either a natural birth or caesarean section)
- Calf Size (Extra Small, Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)
- Calf Vigour (Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor)
- Birthweight (kg)
- Calf Docility (Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor)
- Calf Quality (Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor)
- Calf Scour (0 = No instance, 1 = 1 instance, 2+ = 2 or more instances)
- Calf Pneumonia (0 = No instance, 1 = 1 instance, 2+ = 2 or more instances)
- Cow Docility (Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor)
- Cow Milk ability (Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor)
- Bull Docility (Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor)
- Bull Functionality (Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor)
- Cow Culling Reason(s) (Fertility, Docility, Feet & Legs, Genetic Evaluation, Injury, Milk, Mastitis, Other)
- Bull Culling Reason(s) (Fertility, Docility, Feet & Legs, Genetic Evaluation, Injury, Poor Progeny, Inbreeding, Other)
- Cow Liveweight (kg)

- Calf Liveweight (kg)

No special category data will be collected by DAERA as part of the Project, being data of a sensitive nature such as biometric data (fingerprint or facial recognition) or membership of Farming Unions.

### **How do we collect your Personal Data?**

The Personal Data that is required for the Project will come from Personal Data that DAERA already holds and continues to collect. This Personal Data will be extracted by DAERA and supplied to ICBF and its subcontractors for the Bovine Genetics Project. DAERA have entered a Data Sharing Agreement (the Agreement) with ICBF, who shall act as DAERA's processor to help fulfil the purpose of the Project. ICBF will collate this data with other datasets to deliver genomic evaluation and benchmarking services with the appropriate information security controls to safeguard against any unlawful disclosure of the Project Data.

### **Do we share your Personal Data with anyone else?**

The Project Data will be aggregated, which is when data is combined together to provide a wider analysis of a subject. Once aggregated, it will not be possible to identify any individual farmer and as such it is Non-Personal Data. The aggregated Non-Personal Data may be shared with industry stakeholders including for example industry processors, SRG, research institutes, and CAFRE to provide knowledge transfer to farmers and enable industry improvements to be made across the supply chain.

You can nominate an industry processor, via the SRG branded user portal at registration or at any stage thereafter, to receive an anonymised aggregated report, which contains your aggregated Non-Personal Data. If the industry processor you supply wishes to have access to your Personal Data, you will need to confirm your consent for this to happen. Whether you wish to consent is a matter between the processor and you. DAERA has no role in negotiating this. DAERA will not share your Personal Data with any industry processor without the proper authorisations in place.

Sustainable Ruminant Genetics Ltd is a not-for-profit company established by industry to promote and market the Bovine Genetics Project. DAERA will supply personal data for this limited purpose and a separate data sharing agreement is in place for this.

Anonymised data, which does not identify an individual farm business, and as such is Non-Personal Data, will be shared as part of a representative sample of Northern Ireland farms to inform the GHG Inventory for Northern Ireland.

The Project Data held by DAERA will be encrypted. We have put in place appropriate security measures to prevent your Personal Data from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered or disclosed. We have put in place procedures to deal with any suspected Personal Data breach and will notify you and any applicable regulator of a breach when required to do so by law.

**DAERA will not share your Personal Data with anyone else unless there is a legal obligation to do so, for example, for law enforcement purposes under Part 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018.**

### **What is the legal basis for processing Personal Data for the Project?**

The law requires us to have a legal basis for collecting and using your Personal Data. For processing of Personal Data in relation to the Project, we shall rely upon the legal basis of public task under the UK GDPR Article 6(1)(e), namely that the processing is necessary for the performance of a task vested in DAERA. DAERA is the government department responsible for the environment, and sustainable development of the agriculture sector in Northern Ireland. The Project is in pursuit of DAERA's public task and, more specifically, for the performance of its public task under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (including sections 19 (1) and (2) and section 52, and in achieving the related emissions targets in sections 1, 3 to 5 and 24).

### **What will the Project Data we collect be used for?**

1. Produce genetic and genomic evaluations, for the beef and dairy subsectors, from which producers can make informed breeding decisions to improve the genetic merit of their livestock.
2. Provide physical benchmarking reports, at both individual animal and enterprise level, which will enable herd owners to assess their performance on key metrics, and how this compares to the performance of others.
3. Anonymised data (Non-Personal Data) collected for this Project will be used to inform and update the GHG Inventory for NI.
4. Anonymised data (Non-Personal Data) from this Project will be used to:
  - provide an evidence base to inform the achievement of carbon budgets and targets as set out in the Climate Action Plan for NI;
  - inform the design of future policies and their impact on agriculture and the environment;

- support research and development;
- enable industry processors to support improvements to be made across the supply chain to improve farming and Project outcomes; and,
- inform evidence based public communications about outcomes and progress being made through the roll-out and development of the Project.

5. Personal and Non-personal data will also be used to:

- administer farm support and development programme schemes; and,
- provide knowledge transfer to farmers, by CAFRE, and enable industry improvements to be made across the supply chain.

**At no time will DAERA use the Project Data collected for the purpose of enforcement by DAERA or its agents or subcontractors.**

### **How long do you keep my Personal Data?**

The Personal Data and wider Project Data will be managed to comply with DAERA's Data Retention and Archiving policy. The Personal Data used in this Project will be reviewed by DAERA following the conclusion of the Project to ensure that it is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the objectives of the Project. Following this review, Personal Data may be archived for a longer period, which will be stipulated by the business area, which will include the legal basis for further processing.

DAERA shall only keep the Personal Data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes for which we collected it and comply with any legal obligation.

### **Your data protection rights**

Under data protection law, you have rights including:

- **Your right of access** - You have the right to ask us for copies of your Personal Data.
- **Your right to rectification** - You have the right to ask us to rectify Personal Data you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete.
- **Your right to erasure** - You have the right to ask us to erase your Personal Data in certain circumstances, for example, if the Personal Data is no longer necessary for the purpose it was collected or processed for.
- **Your right to restriction of processing** - You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your Personal Data in certain circumstances.
- **Your right to object to processing** - You have the right to object to the processing of your Personal Data in certain circumstances.

- **Your right to data portability** - You have the right to ask that we transfer the Personal Data you gave us to another organisation, or to you, in certain circumstances.

You are not required to pay any charge for exercising your rights. If you make a request, we have one month to respond to you.

Please contact us at **dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk** if you wish to make a request.

### **Changes to the Privacy Policy and our duty to inform you of change**

This document was issued on 1 January 2025 and can be made available in alternative formats.

**DAERA will notify you of any changes to this Privacy Notice.**

**Should DAERA wish to use your Personal Data for any other purpose than those specified in this Privacy Notice, we shall seek your prior consent in advance of such further processing, and we shall not proceed with such further processing until we provide you with an updated Privacy Notice and your consent has been obtained.**

### **How do I complain if I am not happy?**

If you are unhappy with how any aspect of this Privacy Notice, or how your Personal Data is being processed, please contact Department Data Protection Officer at: **dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk**

If you are still not happy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO):

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>