



World Holstein Friesian Federation

WHFF Council Statement on Gene Editing and the labelling of their products

Gene Editing is a new technology allowing for the alteration of the genome, by exchange, addition or deletion of nucleotides to develop animals with altered or modified DNA. The sequences used in the alteration process may originate from the same animal species or derive from a different species entirely. Precision breeding uses gene editing to make small adjustments to the genome of an animal to delete, repair or replace individual elements of their respective DNA. Gene editing and precision breeding are technologies for providing new options not only for the dairy industry.

Gene editing enables precise and intentional changes in the genetic material of plants and animals used in food production, which can improve their health and sustainability. The technology can allow farmers to be more efficient while using less water, land, nutrients and other resources.

The **WHFF Monogenetic Traits and Registration WG** has been working with the WHFF Council regarding the coding for Gene Editing.

It has been decided that WHFF will recommend members use

GEC (cisgenesis – using genes from within species) and
GET (transgenesis – using genes from another species)

to indicate the type of gene editing. This code should be available on all official documentation, including the animal's Zootechnical Certificate and on supplementary documentation, ideally as a suffix to the animal's name.

It can then be traced back through the pedigree, showing which animals originate from gene-edited ancestry.