

## VikingGenetics wins the Agromek Award 2008

**VikingGenetics' three-star news at Agromek – GenVik – Genomic Selection – was in November presented with the Agromek Award for being the largest innovation within cattle breeding.**

GenVik is a method which, via blood or tissue samples, facilitates the selection of the best sires shortly after the bull calves are born. At present it most commonly takes five years until we have reliable breeding values that will determine if the bull is suitable for breeding. Furthermore, GenVik can find the best female animals for breeding right after birth. GenVik shortens the generational interval significantly and increases the genetic progress by at least 50%.

VikingGenetics has developed this new method in cooperation with the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Aarhus University.

The judgment committee based their decision of GenVik as the largest innovation in Agromek as follows:

- The selection of sires which is made available with GenVik is a quantum leap for cattle breeding.
- The method will be of great importance to breeding work because VikingGenetics is now able to find the best bull calves for breeding at a much earlier stage. At the same time, this gives potential for a wider range of bull calves since it will be possible to find animals with potentials of which we have not been aware,
- We particularly hope that we will attain faster progress regarding health issues. At the same time the cattle industry in the Nordic countries traditionally has systematic registration of health traits. This means that the new method will bring good financial progress in breeding – and at the same time improve animal welfare, so stresses the jury.

### **Six awards in Agromek**

Two-star and three-star New Product exhibits were evaluated further by four judgment committees – for products from arable farming, cattle farming and pig production plus specific other products. The six Agromek Awards are presented to new products which, in the opinion of the committees, can be of the greatest importance in practical application.

The committee in cattle farming consists of farmers to nominate three new product exhibits and then select one Award winner. GenVik was selected and VikingGenetics is both proud and honoured on behalf of the Nordic cattle breeders

Assentoft, December 8, 2008

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Head of Research & Development Søren Borchersen  
Tel. +45 8795 9409 / cell +45 2360 0763  
sob@vikinggenetics.com