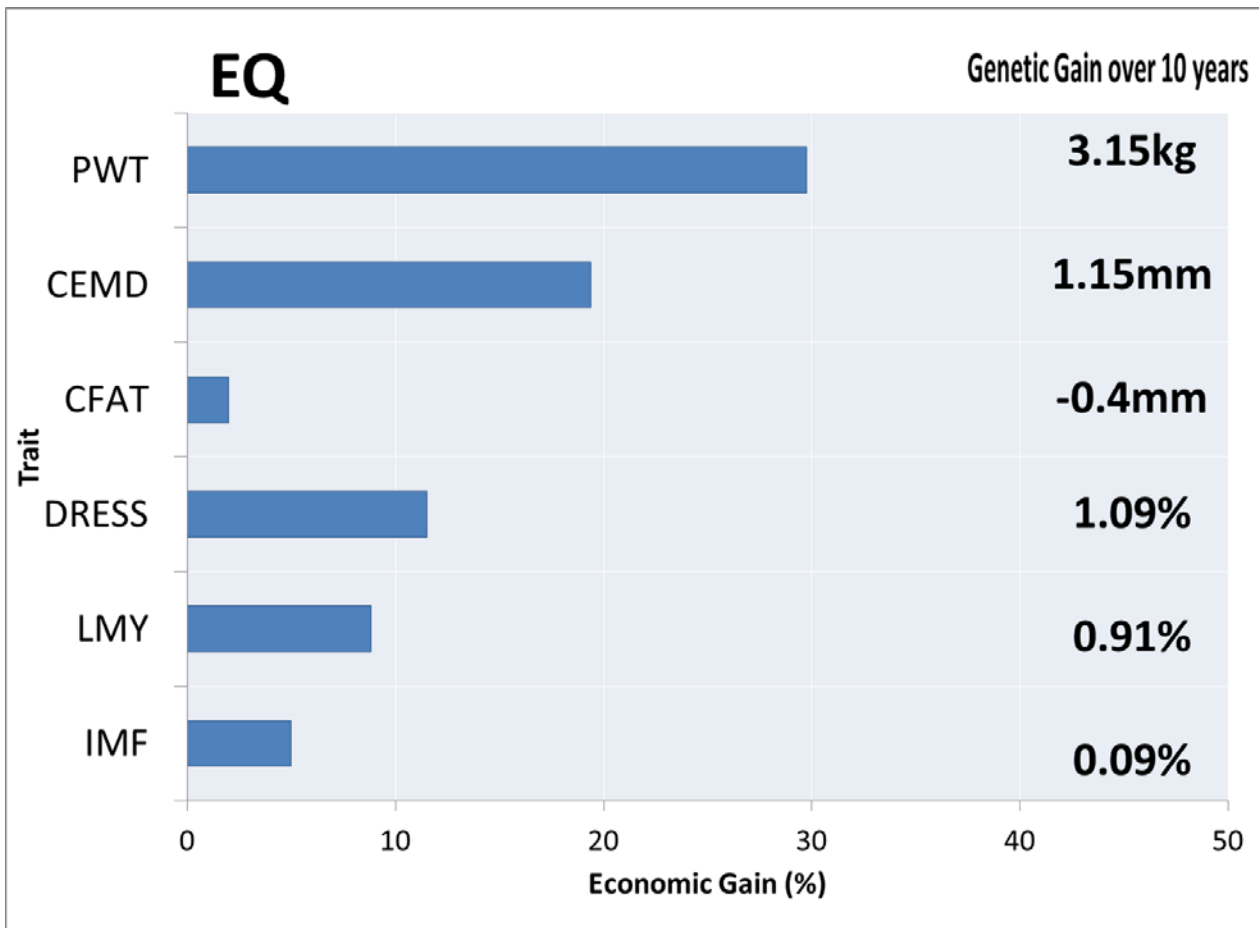




LAMBPLAN Terminal Eating Quality Indexes

Eating Quality (EQ)

The eating quality index is targeted at terminal producers interested in improving the meat eating quality of their prime lambs. The EQ index is based on the same production targets as Carcase + with the added emphasis on eating quality traits including Intramuscular fat (IMF) and Shear force (SF5). The graph below represents the predicted economic gains for each trait of interest in the index and also expresses the expected 10 year gains for the individual traits.



For more information contact Sheep Genetics

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Sheep Genetics is a joint program of Meat & Livestock Australia Limited ABN 39 081 678 364 and Australian Wool Innovation Limited ABN 12 095 165 558

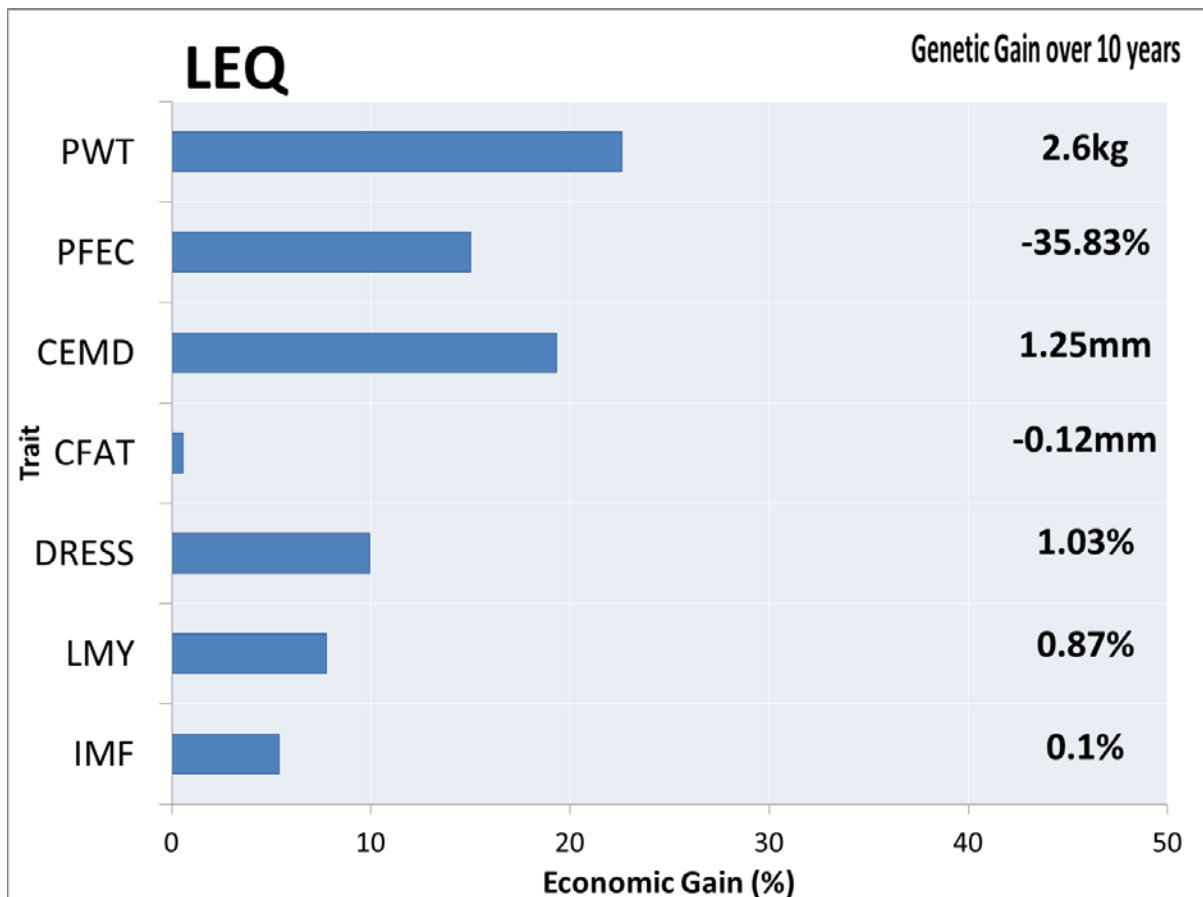




LAMBPLAN Terminal Eating Quality Indexes

LAMB2020 + EQ (LEQ)

The Lamb 2020 Eating Quality index is targeted at terminal producers interested in improving the meat eating quality of their prime lambs while continuing to improve production traits in a balanced way. The LEQ index is similar to the EQ index however is based on the same production targets as Lamb 2020 where birthweight (BWT) and worm egg count (WEC) are important in the breeding objective. The greater emphasis on WEC is the main difference between LEQ and EQ. The graph below represents the predicted economic gains for each trait of interest in the index and also expresses the expected 10 year gains for the individual traits.



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LAMBPLAN Terminal Eating Quality Indexes

The following table illustrates the predicted genetic gain over 10 years for all recognised traits in the new eating quality indexes alongside Carcase + and Lamb 2020.

Trait	Carcase +	EQ	Lamb 2020	LEQ
BWT (kg)	0.15	0.06	0.07	0.07
WWT (kg)	2.85	1.55	1.85	1.28
PWT (kg)	4.4	3.15	2.8	2.6
PEMD (mm)	1.46	1.07	1.44	1.17
PFAT (mm)	0.14	0.04	0.59	0.33
PWEC (%)	0.06	0.16	-52.24	-35.83
CEMD (mm)	1.5	1.15	1.42	1.25
CCFAT (mm)	-0.5	-0.4	0.07	-0.12
DRESS (%)	1.31	1.09	1.1	1.03
LMY (%)	1.66	0.91	1.14	0.87
SF5 (nM)	0.77	-2.41	0.62	-2.06
IMF (%)	-0.27	0.09	-0.14	0.1

It is expected that the gain made over 10 years for LMY is reduced in the eating quality indexes compared to Carcase + and Lamb 2020 due to the antagonistic relationship between IMF/SF5 and LMY. Although this is the case, LMY is still improves over 10 years while the response in eating quality traits is significantly improved. These indexes are targeting a balanced production system where LMY, IMF and SF5 are all improved at the same time.

The eating quality indexes have been developed to give producers the opportunity to make balanced selection decisions reflecting animals with superior meat eating quality in their flock. Eating quality is becoming increasingly important to consumers and the indexes allow proactive selection decisions to be made.