



Understanding KIDPLAN EBVs

- Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) allow you to compare the genetic differences between bucks.
- Bucks contribute half of a kid's genetics. Bucks have the largest impact on genetic progress, as they have more progeny throughout their lifetime.
- EBVs are based around 0. It is important to compare EBVs against current industry percentiles, which can be found on the Sheep Genetics website.
- EBVs are reported with an accuracy figure. The higher the accuracy, the more information there is contributing to the EBV, and the closer it is to the true breeding value of the animal.
- EBVs are reported with an age stage, shown as a letter at the beginning of a trait. e.g. weaning weight is WWT.
- Indexes combine traits into a single ranking value to describe an animal's suitability for a given production system.

How to interpret EBVs

A selection index is an important tool to drive genetic improvement when there are a range of traits of economic or functional importance. Bucks with higher indexes will produce kids that are more suited to a particular production system.

Bucks with a more negative worm egg count (WEC) EBV will produce progeny that are more resistant to worm burdens. A buck with a WEC EBV of -50% will produce progeny that have 15% less worms compared to a buck with an EBV of -20%.

Bucks with a more positive EBV for eye muscle depth (EMD) produce kids that have more muscle. A buck with an EBV of 1mm will breed kids with 0.5mm more eye muscle than a buck with an EBV of 0mm.

INDEX	WT (kg)	EMD (mm)	FAT (mm)	WEC (%)
137.10	6.5	1	-0.22	-50
ACC. 56	ACC. 60	ACC. 58	ACC. 55	ACC. 52

Bucks with a more positive EBV for weight (WT) will produce kids that grow faster and therefore reach target weights in a shorter period of time. This buck will produce kids that are 3.25kg heavier than a buck with an EBV of 0.

Bucks with a negative EBV for fat (FAT) will produce kids that are leaner, at the same weight. This buck will produce kids that are on average -0.11mm leaner at the GR site when compared with an EBV of 0mm.