# Understanding MERINOSELECT ASBVs

Rams with a higher clean fleece weight (CFW) will produce progeny that cut more wool. A ram with an ASBV of 20% will produce progeny that cut 10% more wool than the progeny of a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Animals with lower fibre diameter coefficient of variation (FDCV) ASBVs will genetically have a lower variation in fibre diameter. A higher CV% is often associated with lower staple strength.

Animals with more positive staple strength (SS) ASBVs will, on average, have genetically stronger wool. This ram will, on average, sire progeny with 7.5 N/Kt stronger wool than an average sire.

Rams with a more positive ASBV for eye muscle depth (EMD) produce lambs that have a higher lean meat yield. A ram with an ASBV of 1.0 will breed lambs with 0.5mm more EMD than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Worm egg count (WEC) ASBVs estimate an animal's genetic potential for resisting worm burdens. Lower WEC ASBVs are desirable. This ram will, on average, sire progeny that have 10% fewer eggs/gram than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

| Trait | WT (kg) | CFW (%) | FD (m) | FDCV (%) | SS (N/Kt) | SL (mm) | EMD (mm) | NLW (%) | WEC (%) | INDEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ASBV | 4.0 | 20 | -0.80 | 1.24 | 15 | 10 | 1.0 | 10 | -20 | 138.6 |
| Acc | 46 | 40 | 46 | 46 | 37 | 45 | 45 | 21 | 45 | |

Animals with a more positive ASBV for weight (WT) will produce lambs that grow faster and therefore reach target weights in a shorter period of time.

Lower negative fibre diameter (FD) ASBVs are generally desirable. A ram that has an ASBV of -0.8 will produce progeny that are genetically 0.4 microns finer than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Animals with more positive staple length (SL) ASBVs will, on average, have greater genetic potential for longer fibre length. This ram will sire progeny that grow, on average, 5mm longer wool than progeny of a ram with a 0 ASBV for SL.

Rams with a higher number of lambs weaned (NLW) ASBV will sire daughters that wean a higher percentage of lambs. A ram with an ASBV of 10 will sire daughters who on average will wean 5% more lambs than daughters of a ram with an ASBV of 0.

An index is a guide to the value of a ram for a particular market. Rams with higher indexes will produce sheep that are more suited to that particular breeding objective.

- An ASBV of 0 is the average of the 1990 drop. It is important to compare ASBVs against current industry average.
- *Note: A useful rule of thumb for converting ram ASBVs into lamb production differences is to simply halve the ASBV (as rams contribute half the genetics of the lamb).*
- Accuracy - published as a percentage, is a reflection of the amount of effective information that is available to calculate the ASBV. All ASBVs are now published with accuracies. The higher the percentage, the closer the ASBV is to the true breeding value of the animal. Breeding values without accuracies are Flock Breeding Values (FBVs) and can only be compared within the flock.
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