

Buying a recorded Beltex



Why invest in Signet-recorded rams?

Investing in rams with superior genetics can be worth an extra £800 over their lifetime.

With potential gains of £4 per lamb, commercial producers should source Signet-recorded rams with high estimated breeding values (EBVs) for traits of importance to their flock.

Interpreting EBVs when buying a ram

EBVs can be presented on Order of Merit sale cards that report the main traits, or on a breeding chart.

Accuracy values indicate how much is known about an animal for a specific trait and the degree to which EBVs might change over time.



Table 1. Beltex breed benchmark for 2019

Estimated breeding value	Average	Top 25%	Top 10%
8-week weight	0.73	1.37	1.95
Litter size	0.01	0.04	0.07
Maternal ability	-0.05	0.19	0.40
Scan weight	1.95	3.60	5.08
Muscle depth*	0.28	0.77	1.20
Fat depth*	-0.03	0.19	0.39
Lean weight*	0.08	0.29	0.48
Fat weight*	-0.05	0.14	0.31
Gigot*	0.24	0.71	1.14
Terminal sire index	205	231	254
Maternal index	206	244	277

Please note all EBVs were rebased in 2019

* Carcase trait EBVs are now expressed on a weight adjusted basis

Breeding charts

Breeding charts are more informative, showing where a ram's genetic potential sits within the breed for a range of traits.

The centre line indicates the average for that breed. Bars to the right of the centre indicate above-average breeding values, meaning progeny are likely to have faster growth rates, more muscling and be fatter. Bars to the left indicate a below-average value for those traits and leaner progeny.

Finding information

Sale charts for animals can be viewed and printed from the BASCO database, accessed via the 'EBV Search' section of the Signet website (www.signetfbc.co.uk).

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