

Interpreting beef carcass traits

The Carcass Traits Project

Breeding values produced as part of the Carcass Traits Project, an AHDB Beef and Lamb, AHDB Dairy and HCC funded research project undertaken by SRUC. This analysis links data from BCMS, abattoirs and Breed Societies to produce Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) for traits of economic importance.

Search for an animal:

Animal Details

Animal ID	UK544507300054	Date of birth	24/04/2012	Sire	UK521115502048
Prefix name	DUNESK HERO	Sex	M	Dam	UK544507600029
Herdbooknumber	MBM0054131				

Analysis

	BLUP Analysis Date:	22/12/2017	
Breed in analysis:	Charolais	Number of progeny with carcass records:	51
Breed group:	Continental	Number of herds with carcass records:	1

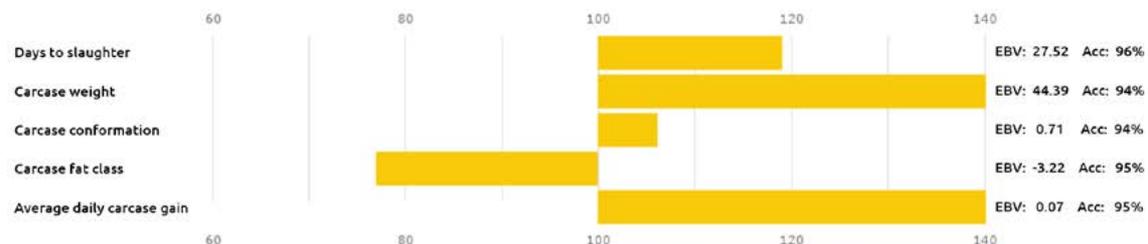


Figure 1. Egenes web page enabling producers to find EBVs for specific animals

Breeding values for carcass traits

Estimated breeding values (EBVs) are now available to beef producers for traits derived from abattoir data.

These new EBVs are produced from a multi-breed analysis that brings together information derived from the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS), abattoirs and third parties, including breed societies. The combined dataset contains over seven million carcass records, representing around 30 per cent of the national slaughter population.

Further information

The new EBVs can be found at egenes.co.uk/carcassdata. The website was established by SRUC and funded by AHDB, and enables producers to find EBVs for specific animals.

For breeds that record with ABRI Breedplan, a link will be created between the animal record on the Breedplan website and this new information.

Which new traits are available?

The following EBVs are routinely produced:

- Days to slaughter
- Carcass weight
- Carcass conformation
- Carcass fat class
- Average daily carcass gain (ADCG)



Interpretation

Carcase weight

Definition: An EBV predicting carcass weight at a given slaughter age.

Unit of measurement: Kilogrammes (kg)

Interpretation: A bull with a carcass weight EBV of +10kg will produce progeny that have 5kg heavier carcasses than a bull with a carcass weight EBV of 0.

Carcass conformation

Definition: An EBV predicting carcass conformation at a given slaughter age.

Calculated from: Records of carcass conformation based on the EUROP classification system.

Unit of measurement: Carcass conformation scores converted to a 45 point score. A conformation grade spans about 9 points.

Interpretation: A bull with a carcass conformation EBV of +9 will produce progeny that have conformation half a grade higher than a bull with a carcass conformation EBV of 0.

Carcass fat class

Definition: An EBV predicting carcass fat class at a given slaughter age.

Calculated from: Records of carcass fat class based on the EUROP classification system, where 1 = leanest and 5H = fattest.

Unit of measurement: Fat class scores (ie values 1 to 5H) are converted to a 45 point score. The difference between the main grades is about 6 points.

Interpretation: A bull with a fat class EBV of -6 will produce progeny that are half a grade lower (leaner) than a bull with a fat class EBV of 0.

Days to slaughter

Definition: An EBV predicting days to slaughter at a given weight and fat class.

Calculated from: Dates of birth and slaughter. These are primarily obtained from records within the BCMS database.

Unit of measurement: Days

Interpretation: A bull with a days to slaughter EBV of -20 will produce progeny that reach slaughter 10 days earlier than a bull with a days to slaughter EBV of 0.

Average daily carcass gain (ADCG)

Definition: An EBV predicting daily gain in the carcass.

Calculated from: Carcass weight, date of birth and date of slaughter.

Unit of measurement: Kilogrammes (kg)

Interpretation: A bull with an ADCG EBV of +0.2kg will produce progeny that have a daily carcass gain 0.1kg greater than a bull with an EBV of 0.

Further information

For more information on the beef carcass traits project, see the Beef carcass traits factsheet, available at beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/returns

Funders

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