

## Breed Benchmark for 2024 – Easycare Shedding Composite

Trait	Bottom 1%	Bottom 5%	Bottom 10%	Bottom 25%	Breed Average	Top 25%	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 1%
Birth Weight	0.72	0.53	0.42	0.25	0.05	-0.15	-0.32	-0.43	-0.62
Lambing Ease	-0.78	-0.53	-0.39	-0.17	0.08	0.33	0.55	0.69	0.94
Lambing Ease Maternal	-0.26	-0.20	-0.16	-0.11	-0.05	0.01	0.06	0.10	0.16
Lamb Survival	-0.22	-0.18	-0.16	-0.13	-0.10	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.02
Eight Week Weight	-1.72	-1.26	-1.01	-0.60	-0.14	0.32	0.73	0.98	1.44
Shearling Weight	-4.83	-3.58	-2.92	-1.81	-0.57	0.67	1.78	2.44	3.69
Litter Size	-0.32	-0.24	-0.20	-0.13	-0.06	0.01	0.08	0.12	0.20
Litter Size Reared	-0.19	-0.15	-0.13	-0.09	-0.05	-0.01	0.03	0.05	0.09
Maternal Ability	-0.70	-0.47	-0.34	-0.13	0.11	0.35	0.56	0.69	0.92
Scan Weight	-2.21	-1.10	-0.52	0.47	1.56	2.65	3.64	4.22	5.33
Muscle Depth	-0.87	-0.52	-0.33	-0.01	0.34	0.69	1.01	1.20	1.55
Fat Depth	-0.56	-0.39	-0.30	-0.15	0.02	0.19	0.34	0.43	0.60
FEC (Strongyles)	0.49	0.41	0.36	0.29	0.21	0.13	0.06	0.01	-0.07
FEC (Nematodirus)	0.63	0.52	0.47	0.37	0.26	0.15	0.05	0.00	-0.11
Serum IgA	-0.01	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.20
Parasite Plus (SI)	91.03	96.17	98.90	103.48	108.57	113.66	118.24	120.97	126.11
Longevity	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.13
Mature Weight (PreMating)	-7.06	-5.54	-4.72	-3.37	-1.86	-0.35	1.01	1.82	3.35
Body Condition Score (PreMating)	-0.41	-0.37	-0.34	-0.30	-0.25	-0.20	-0.16	-0.14	-0.09
Days to Slaughter	-5.30	-6.80	-7.61	-8.95	-10.44	-11.93	-13.27	-14.08	-15.58
Carcase Weight	-2.52	-2.33	-2.22	-2.05	-1.85	-1.65	-1.48	-1.37	-1.18
Carcase Conformation	-4.63	-4.42	-4.31	-4.12	-3.91	-3.70	-3.51	-3.40	-3.19
Fat Class	0.43	0.56	0.63	0.74	0.87	1.00	1.11	1.18	1.31
Easycare Index	35	57	68	87	109	130	149	161	182

A brief explanation:	
Birth Weight	Negative values indicate animals that will produce smaller lambs at birth.
Lambing Ease	Shows the genetic variation that exists in the lamb's ability to be born without assistance.
Lambing Ease Maternal	Shows the genetic variation that exists in the ewe's ability to produce lambs that are born without assistance.
Lamb Survival	High value indicate sheep with superior genes for lamb survival.
Eight Week Weight	Breeding potential for lamb growth rates from birth to 8 weeks of age.
Shearling Weight	Choosing animals with high figures for this trait will increase mature size
Litter Size	The breeding potential to produce prolific female progeny.
Litter Size Reared	Positive values indicate ewes who will rear more lambs.
Maternal Ability	Maternal component of 8-week measurement. Higher figures indicate a ram's ewe lambs will perform better as mothers (milking ability).
Scan Weight	Breeding potential for lamb growth rates to 21 weeks (age at scanning). Selection of breeding stock with high scan weight EBVs will result in animals with heavier carcasses at a constant fat class or leaner carcasses at a constant age.
Muscle Depth	Choosing animals with high muscle depth EBVs will increase lamb muscularity and hence the lean meat content of the carcass.
Fat Depth	Negative values indicate animals with lower fat content which will produce leaner carcasses, or which can be taken to higher weights without becoming over-fat.
FEC (Strongyles)	Animals with negative figures are more resistant to Strongyles worms and excrete less worms onto pasture.
FEC (Nematodirus)	Animals with negative figures are more resistant to Nematodirus worms and excrete less worms onto pasture.
Serum Iga	An indicator of immune response when challenged by worms.
Parasite Plus (SI)	An indicator of sheep that are more resistant to parasites, taking into account breeding values for faecal egg count and serum IgA.
Longevity	High values indicate sheep with superior genes to produce ewes with longer productive lives
Mature Weight (Premating)	An indication of breeding potential for mature ewe weights at mating.
Body Condition Score (Premating)	Breeding potential for body condition score, higher values indicating breeding lines that tend to have higher body condition at mating time.
Days To Slaughter	Animals with lower values for days to slaughter tend to have faster finishing progeny.
Carcass Weight	Positive values indicate animals with the genetic potential to produce heavier carcass weights.
Carcass Conformation	Positive values indicate animals that produce progeny with superior carcass conformation.
Fat Class	Indicates animals whose progeny are fatter (positive values) or leaner (negative values) than those with a breeding value of zero.
Easycare Index	Highlights superior breeding stock for a specific objective.