Breed Benchmark for 2025 - Hebridean

EBV/Index	Bottom 1%	Bottom 5%	Bottom 10%	Bottom 25%	**Breed Average**	Top 25%	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 1%
Lamb Survival	-0.12	-0.08	-0.06	-0.02	**0.02**	0.06	0.10	0.12	0.16
Eight Week Weight	-1.11	-0.74	-0.54	-0.21	**0.15**	0.51	0.84	1.04	1.41
Shearling Weight	-2.57	-1.71	-1.26	-0.49	**0.36**	1.21	1.98	2.43	3.29
Litter Size	-0.11	-0.07	-0.05	-0.02	**0.01**	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.13
Litter Size Reared	-0.07	-0.05	-0.03	-0.01	**0.02**	0.05	0.07	0.09	0.11
Maternal Ability	-0.51	-0.34	-0.25	-0.10	**0.07**	0.24	0.39	0.48	0.65
Scan Weight	-2.54	-1.70	-1.26	-0.51	**0.32**	1.15	1.90	2.34	3.18
Muscle Depth	-0.65	-0.44	-0.33	-0.15	**0.05**	0.25	0.43	0.54	0.75
Fat Depth	-0.18	-0.12	-0.09	-0.04	**0.01**	0.06	0.11	0.14	0.20
Longevity	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Mature Weight (PreMating)	-1.30	-0.85	-0.61	-0.21	**0.24**	0.69	1.09	1.33	1.78
Body Condition Score (PreMating)	-0.04	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	**0.00**	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05
Hill Index	£3.11	£4.74	£5.61	£7.06	**£8.67**	£10.28	£11.73	£12.60	£14.23

Estimated Breeding Values (EBV) are predictions of genetic merit for specific traits. A full description is provided overleaf.

Breeding Indexes provide a way to rank animals for a given breeding objective. The index reported here helps to identify those sheep with the most profitable genetics for use in hill flocks.

Signet
BREEDING SERVICES

Estimated Breeding Values for Hill Sheep

An explanation of the breeding values available to hill sheep producers

EBV	A brief explanation:
Lamb Survival	Positive values indicate animals 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 8wk 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 carcases at a constant fat class or leaner carcases 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 carcase.
Fat Depth	Negative values indicate animals with lower fat content which will produce leaner carcases, or which can be taken to higher weights without becoming over-fat.
Longevity	High values indicate sheep with superior genes to produce ewes with longer productive lives.
Mature Weight (Premating)	High values indicate larger ewes. Selecting against increases in mature weight can help identify more efficient breeding lines.
Body Condition Score (Premating)	High values indicate ewes with the genetic potential to carry extra body condition at mating.
Hill Index	Highlights superior breeding stock for a specific objective.