



## Understanding LAMBPLAN ASBVs

Rams with lower ASBVs for birth weight (BWT) produce lambs with lower birth weight. Both low (lamb survival) and high (lambling difficulties) birth weights should be avoided.

Rams with more positive ASBVs for post weaning weight (PWT) produce lambs that grow quicker and reach target weights in a shorter time. This ram will produce lambs that are, on average, 3kg heavier at post weaning age (7.5 months) than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Worm egg count (WEC) ASBVs estimate an animal's genetic potential for worm burdens. Lower WEC ASBVs are desirable. This ram will, on average, sire progeny that will have 5% fewer eggs/gram than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Trait	BWT (kg)	WWT (kg)	PWT (kg)	PFAT (mm)	PEMD (mm)	WEC (%)	INDEX
ASBV	0.3	4	6.0	-1.5	1.0	-10	150
Acc	43	63	71	59	69	37	

Rams with a more positive ASBV for weaning weight (WWT) will, on average, produce lambs that grow quicker to weaning. This ram will produce lambs that are 2kg heavier than a ram with a 0 ASBV for WWT.

Rams with a more negative ASBV for post weaning fat (PFAT) will produce lambs that are leaner, at the same weight. This ram will produce lambs that are, on average, 0.75mm leaner at the GR site when compared to a ram with a FAT ASBV of 0.

Rams with more positive ASBVs for post weaning eye muscle depth (PEMD) produce lambs that have more muscle, independent of weight, and a higher lean meat yield. This ram will produce lambs that have, on average, a 0.5mm deeper eye muscle than a ram with a 0 EMD ASBV.

An index is a guide to the value of a ram for a particular market. Rams with higher indexes will produce lambs that are more suited to that particular market target. It is important to understand what market the index applies to before using an index.

- 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.
- MLA acknowledges the contributions of the Australian Government and AWI in the development of this publication.

**For more information contact Sheep Genetics**  
**Ph: 02 8055 1818 Fax: 02 8055 1850**  
**info@sheepgenetics.org.au www.sheepgenetics.org.au**

Sheep Genetics is a program of Meat & Livestock Australia Limited ABN 39 081 678 364

