



## Understanding LAMBPLAN Maternal ASBVs

- Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) allow you to compare the genetic differences between rams.
- Rams contribute half of a lamb's genetics. Rams have the largest impact on genetic progress, as they have more progeny throughout their lifetime.
- ASBVs are based around 0. It is important to compare ASBVs against current industry percentiles, which can be found on the Sheep Genetics website.
- ASBVs are reported with an accuracy figure. The higher the accuracy, the more information there is contributing to the ASBV, and the closer it is to the true breeding value of the animal.
- ASBVs are reported with an age stage, shown as a letter at the beginning of a trait e.g. weaning weight is WWT.
- Indexes combine traits into a single ranking value to describe an animal's suitability for a given production system.

## How to interpret ASBVs

A selection index is an important tool to drive genetic improvement when there are a range of traits of economic or functional importance. Rams with higher indexes will produce lambs that are more suited to a particular production system.

Rams with a higher weaning rate (WR) will produce daughters who wean more lambs per ewe joined. A ram with a WR of 0.2 will produce daughters who wean 0.05 more lambs per ewe joined than a ram with an ASBV of 0.1.

Rams with a more positive ASBV for eye muscle depth (EMD) produce lambs that have more muscle. A ram with an ASBV of 1mm will breed lambs with 0.5mm more eye muscle than a ram with an ASBV of 0mm. Rams with more positive ASBVs for greasy fleece weight (GFW) will produce progeny that cut more wool. A ram with an ASBV of 30% will produce progeny that cut 5% more wool than the progeny of a ram with an ASBV of 20%.

| INDEX           | WT<br>(kg)  | EMD<br>(mm)     | FAT<br>(mm) | WR                           | MWWT<br>(kg)                               | GFW<br>(%)  | WEC<br>(%) |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| 199.46          | 14.7  | 2.5             | 1           | 0.2                          | 1.2  | 30  | -40        |
| ACC. 54         | ACC. 70   | ACC. 65         | ACC. 63     | ACC. 55                      | ACC. 61                                    | ACC. 64   | ACC. 52    |
| ill produce lar | ore positive ASBV fo<br>nbs that grow faster<br>eights in a shorter p | r and therefore |             | weaning wei<br>which will we |  | 's for maternal<br>roduce daughters<br>. This ASBV reflects |            |
|                 |   |                 |             |                              | on of the daughter'<br>tter maternal envir | s ability to milk and<br>ronment.                           | -          |

More information

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