

Understanding Gestation Length EBVs

Calving Ease Dir (%)	Calving Ease Dtrs (%)	Gestation Length (days)	Birth Wt. (kg)	200 Day Wt. (kg)	400 Day Wt. (kg)	600 Day Wt. (kg)	Mat.	Days	Eye	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IME (%)	NFI-P (kg/day)	NFI-F (kg/day)	Docility	Angus Breeding Index	Domestic Index	Heavy Grain Index	Heavy Grass Index
+4.6 99%	+6.1 97%	-5.2 99%	+2.1 99%	+26 99%	+74 99%					+1.7 98%	+2.0 98%	-0.7 98%	+1.3 98%	+0.35 96%	+1.05 96%	+25 90%	+\$ 77	+\$ 88	+\$ 65	+\$ 83
+3.2 98%	+2.0 96%	-9.8 99%	+2.2 99%	+40 99%	+74 99%					+1.3 98%	+1.2 98%	+0.2 97%	+2.7 97%	+0.03 93%	-0.13 93%	+13 95%	+\$ 127	+\$ 113	+\$ 139	+\$ 119
+0.7 98%	-2.9 96%	-0.3 99%	+3.1 99%	+29 99%	+63 99%					+1.3 98%							+\$ 105	+\$ 96	+\$ 120	+\$ 97
+1.0 98%	+1.3 94%	-5.0 99%	+3.6 99%	+39 99%	+79 99%					+0.1 97%							+\$ 139	+\$ 120	+\$ 165	+\$ 126
+5.9 98%	+6.2 93%	-9.9 99%	+3.2 99%	+51 99%	+93 99%	+123 99%	+142 98%	+10 98%	+2.4 92%	-12.0 98%	+74 97%	+5.0 97%	-0.2 97%				+\$ 164	+\$ 132	+\$ 194	+\$ 144
+3.3 98%	+2.3 96%	-3 99%	+4.7 99%	+5 99%	+127 99%															

Gestation Length EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in the length of time from the date of conception to the birth of the calf.

Lower Gestation Length EBVs indicate an animal is expected to produce calves that are born with a shorter gestation length.

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Gestation Length EBVs are calculated from both the joining date and date of birth records for calves conceived by either artificial insemination (AI) or hand mating, and/ or genomic information where available, and are expressed in day units.

Lower Gestation Length EBVs indicate an animal is expected to produce calves that are born with a shorter gestation length.

Using Gestation Length EBVs to Compare the Genetics of Two Animals

Gestation Length EBVs can be used to estimate the difference in the gestation length of progeny from two animals, with the expected difference equating to half the difference in the Gestation Length EBV of the animals, all other things being equal (e.g. they are joined to the same animal/s).

For example, a bull with a Gestation Length EBV of -4.0 would be expected to on average produce calves that are born 3 days earlier than a bull with a Gestation Length EBV of +2.0 (i.e. 6 days difference between the sire's EBVs, then halved as the sire only contributes half the genetics).

Using Gestation Length EBVs to Benchmark an Animal's Genetics with the Breed

Similarly, Gestation Length EBVs can be used to benchmark an animal's genetics for gestation length relative to other Angus animals in Australia and New Zealand.

To benchmark an animal's genetics relative to other Angus animals, an animal's Gestation Length EBV can be compared to:

- the breed average EBV
- the percentile table

The current breed average and percentile table for gestation length can be found on the Angus Australia website, or they are normally listed in most BREEDPLAN reports, sale and semen catalogues.

Considering Accuracy

An accuracy value is published in association with each Gestation Length EBV, which is usually displayed as a percentage value immediately below the EBV.

The accuracy value provides an indication of the reliability of the EBV in estimating the animal's genetics for gestation length (or true breeding value), and is an indication of the amount of information that has been used in the calculation of the EBV.

Gestation Length EBVs with accuracy values below 50% should be considered as preliminary or of low accuracy, 50-74% as of medium accuracy, 75-90% of medium to high accuracy, and 90% or greater as high accuracy.

For further information, please contact staff at:

Angus Australia
Phone: 02 6773 4600
Email: office@angusaustralia.com.au
Website: www.angusaustralia.com.au

