

# Understanding Mature Cow Weight 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)	Mature Cow Wt. (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Days to Calving (days)	Carcass Wt. (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq.cm)	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	+6.1	-5.2	+2.1	+55	+68	+67	+8	+4.0	-3.1	+42	+4.1	+1.7	+2.0	-0.7	+1.3	+0.35	+1.05	+25	99%	+\$ 77	+\$ 88	+\$ 65	+\$ 83
+9	+9	+9	+9	+99	+99	+99	+99	+99	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+90	+\$ 127	+\$ 113	+\$ 139	+\$ 119
+9	+9	+9	+9	+99	+99	+99	+99	+99	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+95	+\$ 105	+\$ 96	+\$ 120	+\$ 97
+9	+9	+9	+9	+99	+99	+99	+99	+99	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+96	+\$ 139	+\$ 120	+\$ 165	+\$ 126
+9	+9	+9	+9	+99	+99	+99	+99	+99	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+99	+\$ 164	+\$ 132	+\$ 194	+\$ 144
+9	+9	+9	+9	+99	+99	+99	+99	+99	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+98	+99	+\$ 164	+\$ 132	+\$ 194	+\$ 144

Mature Cow Weight EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in live weight of cows at 5 years of age.

Higher Mature Cow Weight EBVs indicate the animal is expected to produce daughters with heavier mature weights.

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Mature Cow Weight EBVs are calculated from the live weights of cows when their calves are 200 days of age (i.e. at or around weaning), and/ or genomic information where available, and are expressed in kilogram units.

Higher Mature Cow Weight EBVs indicate the animal is expected to produce daughters with heavier mature weights. Heavier mature weights are associated with higher feed and maintenance costs, but conversely higher returns for cull cows.

## Using Birth Weight EBVs to Compare the Genetics of Two Animals

Mature Cow Weight EBVs can be used to estimate the expected difference in mature weight of daughters from two animals, with the expected difference equating to half the difference in the Mature Cow Weight 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 Mature Cow Weight EBV of +120 would be expected to produce progeny that are on average, 20 kg heavier at 5 years of age than a bull with a Mature Cow Weight EBV of +80 (i.e. 40 kg difference between the sire's EBVs, then halved as the sire only contributes half the genetics).

## Using Mature Cow Weight EBVs to Benchmark an Animal's Genetics with the Breed

Similarly, Mature Cow Weight EBVs can be used to benchmark an animal's genetics for mature weight relative to other Angus animals in Australia and New Zealand.

To benchmark an animal's genetics relative to other Angus animals, an animal's Mature Cow Weight EBV can be compared to:

- the breed average EBV
- the percentile table

The current breed average and percentile table for Mature Cow Weight 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 Mature Cow Weight 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 mature weight (or true breeding value), and is an indication of the amount of information that has been used in the calculation of the EBV.

Mature Cow Weight 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:

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