

Understanding Milk EBVs

Calving Ease Dir (%)	Calving Ease Dtrs (%)	Gestation Length (%)	Birth Wt. (%)	200 Day Wt. (%)	400 Day Wt. (%)	600 Day Wt. (%)	Mat. Cow Wt. (%)	Milk (kg) (%)	Scrotal Size (cm) (%)	Days to Calving (days) (%)	Carcass Wt. (%)	Eye Muscle Area (%)	Rib Fat (%)	Rump Fat (%)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF (%)	NFI-P (%)	NFI-F (g/day) (%)	Docility (%)	Angus Breeding Index (%)	Domestic Index (%)	Heavy Grain Index (%)	Heavy Grass Index (%)
+98%	+98%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+8	+4.0	-3.1	+9	+97%	+97%	+98%	+96%	+97%	+91%	+1.05	+25	+\$ 77	+\$ 88	+\$ 65	+\$ 83
+98%	+98%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+21	+1.7	-6.7	+9	+97%	+97%	+98%	+96%	+97%	+91%	+1.13	+13	+\$ 127	+\$ 113	+\$ 139	+\$ 119
+98%	+98%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+18	+2.8	-5.1	+9	+97%	+97%	+98%	+96%	+97%	+91%	+1.36	+6	+\$ 105	+\$ 96	+\$ 120	+\$ 97
+98%	+98%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+30	+2.4	-5.4	+9	+97%	+97%	+98%	+96%	+97%	+91%	+1.40	+34	+\$ 139	+\$ 120	+\$ 165	+\$ 126
+98%	+98%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+10	+2.4	-12.0	+9	+97%	+97%	+98%	+96%	+97%	+91%	+1.45	-7	+\$ 164	+\$ 132	+\$ 194	+\$ 144
+98%	+98%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+99%	+127	+2.4	-7	+9	+97%	+97%	+98%	+96%	+97%	+91%	+1.45	+7				

Milk EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in live weight at 200 days of age due to the maternal contribution of its dam.

Higher Milk EBVs indicate the animal is expected to produce daughters that have heavier calves at 200 days of age due to superior maternal attributes (e.g. more milk).

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

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Using Milk Fat EBVs to Compare the Genetics of Two Animals

Milk EBVs can be used to estimate expected differences in the live weights for calves raised by the daughters from two animals at 200 days of age due to differences in the maternal contribution of their daughters, with the expected difference equating to half the difference in the Milk 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 Milk EBV of +20 would be expected to produce daughters whose calves are on average, 5 kg heavier at 200 days of age due to the maternal contribution of their dam than a bull with a Milk EBV of +10 (i.e. 10 kg difference between the sire's EBVs, then halved as the sire only contributes half the genetics).

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

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

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

- the breed average EBV
- the percentile table

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

Milk 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.

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