

# Understanding Docility 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. 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	+28	+55	+68	+67	+8	+4.0	-3.1	+42						0.35	1.05	+25				
99%	97%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%							98%	90%				
+3.2	+2.0	-9.8	+2.2	+40	+74	+99	+80	+21	+1.7	-6.7	+21						0.03	-0.13	+13				
98%	96%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	96%	98%							93%	95%				
+0.7	-2.9	-0.3	+3.1	+29	+63	+82	+60	+18	+2.8	-5.1	+26						0.81	+1.36	+6				
98%	96%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	98%							95%	96%				
+1.0	+1.3	-5.0	+3.6	+39	+79	+104	+76	+30	+3.4	-5.4	+31						0.36	+0.40	+34				
98%	94%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	92%	98%	97%	97%	98%	96%	97%		0.36	+0.40	+34			
+5.9	+6.2	-9.9	+3.2	+51	+93	+123	+142	+10	+2.4	-12.0	+74	+5.0	-0.2	+0.7	-0.5	+3.2	+0.24	+0.45	-7				
98%	93%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	92%	98%	97%	97%	98%	96%	97%	0.91	0.91	99%				
+3.3	+3.3	-3.3	+4.7	+5.1	+127	+127	+127	+127	+127	-7.1	+6.1	+4.1	-4.1	+1.0					+7				

Docility EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in temperament.

Higher Docility EBVs indicate an animal is expected to produce a higher percentage of progeny with acceptable temperament.

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Docility EBVs are calculated from a subjective assessment of temperament when animals are between 60 to 400 days of age and are expressed in percentage units.

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## Using Docility EBVs to Compare the Genetics of Two Animals

Docility EBVs can be used to estimate the difference in the percentage of progeny from two animals that will have acceptable temperament, with the expected difference equating to half the difference in the Docility 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 Docility EBV of +20 would be expected to on average produce 15% more progeny with acceptable temperament than a bull with a Docility EBV of -10.

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

Similarly, Docility EBVs can be used to benchmark an

animal's genetics for temperament relative to other Angus animals in Australia and New Zealand.

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

- the breed average EBV
- the percentile table

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

Docility 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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