

Understanding Net Feed Intake (Feedlot) 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	Scrotal	Days to Carcase	Eye Muscle	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IME (%)	NFI-F (kg/day)	NFI-F (kg/day)	Docility	Angus Breeding Domestic	Heavy Cross	Heavy Cross				
+4.6 99%	+6.1 97%	-5.2 99%	+2.1 99%	+28 99%	+55 99%	+68 99%					1.7			98%	+1.3 98%	+0.35 96%	+1.05 96%	+25 90%						
+3.2 98%	+2.0 96%	-9.8 99%	+2.2 99%	+40 99%	+74 99%	+99 99%					1.3	+1.2	+0.2	+2.7	+0.03	-0.13	+13							
+0.7 98%	-2.9 96%	-0.3 99%	+3.1 99%	+29 99%	+63 99%	+82 99%					+1.3	+2.1	-1.1	+3.6	+0.81	+1.36	+6							
+1.0 98%	+1.3 94%	-5.0 99%	+3.6 99%	+39 99%	+79 99%	+104 99%					+0.1	+0.5	+0.4	+4.0	+0.36	+0.40	+34							
+5.9 98%	+6.2 93%	-9.9 99%	+3.2 99%	+51 99%	+93 99%	+123 99%	+142 99%	+10 98%	+2.4 99%	+12.0 98%	+7.4 98%	+5.0 97%	-0.2 97%	+0.7 98%	-0.5 96%	+3.2 97%	+0.24 91%	+0.45 91%	-7 99%	+\$ 164	+\$ 132	+\$ 194	+\$ 144	
+3.3			+4.7	+5			+127				4	+1.0					+7							

NFI-F EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in feed intake at a standard weight and rate of weight gain when animals are in a feedlot finishing phase.

Lower NFI-F EBVs indicate the animal is expected to produce progeny that eat less feed per day, relative to their weight and rate of weight gain.

Net Feed Intake (Feedlot) EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in feed intake at a standard weight and rate of weight gain when animals are in a feedlot finishing phase.

NFI-F EBVs are calculated from the differences in the amount of feed consumed by animals in feed efficiency trials where animals are placed in a feedlot while in a finishing phase, and are expressed in kilogram per day units.

Lower NFI-F EBVs indicate the animal is expected to produce progeny that eat less feed per day, relative to their weight and rate of weight gain.

Using Net Feed Intake (Feedlot) EBVs to Compare the Genetics of Two Animals

NFI-F EBVs can be used to estimate the expected difference in feed intake at a standard weight and rate of weight gain of progeny from two animals, with the expected difference equating to half the difference in the NFI-F EBV of the animals, all other things being equal (e.g. they are joined to the same animal/s).

For example, a bull with an NFI-F EBV of -0.80 would be expected to produce progeny that eat on average 0.5 kg less feed per day when at the same weight and growing at the same rate than the progeny of a bull with an NFI-F EBV of +0.20 (i.e. 1.0 kg/day difference between the sire's EBVs, then halved as the sire only contributes half the genetics).

Using Net Feed Intake (Feedlot) EBVs to Benchmark an Animal's Genetics with the Breed

Similarly, NFI-F EBVs can be used to benchmark an animal's genetics for net feed intake during a finishing phase relative to other Angus animals in Australia and New Zealand.

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

- the breed average EBV
- the percentile table

The current breed average and percentile table for Net Feed Intake (Feedlot) can be found on the Angus Australia website, or they are normally listed in most BREDPLAN reports, sale and semen catalogues.

Considering Accuracy

An accuracy value is published in association with each NFI-F 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 calving ease (or true breeding value), and is an indication of the amount of information that has been used in the calculation of the EBV.

NFI-F 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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