Understanding Retail Beef Yield 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.	Milk	Scrotal Size	Days to Calving	Carcase Wt.	Eye Muscle Area (sq.cm)	Rib Fat (mm)	Rump Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF (%)	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%	+28 99%	+55 99%	+							+1.7 98%	+2.0 98%	-0.7 98%	+1.3 98%	+0.35 96%	+1					+$ 83
+3.2 98%	+2.0 96%	-9.8 99%	+2.2 99%	+40 99%	+74 99%	+						+4.9 97%	+1.3 98%	+1.2 98%	+0.2 97%	+2.7 97%	+0.03 93%	-0					+$ 119
+0.7 98%	-2.9 96%	-0.3 99%	+3.1 99%	+29 99%	+63 99%	+						+3.5 98%	+1.3 98%	+2.1 98%	-1.1 98%	+3.6 98%	+ 95%	+1 95					+$ 97
+1.0 98%	+1.3 94%	-5.0 99%	+3.6 99%	+39 99%	+79 99%	+1 99%	99%	99%	99%	92%	98%	+9.4 97%	+0.1 97%	+0.5 98%	+0.4 96%	+4.0 97%	+0.36 92%	+0 92					+$ 126
+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 92%	+74 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	+			+127			-7	+6	+4	4	+1.0					+7				

RBY EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in boned out saleable meat from a 400 kg carcase.

Higher RBY EBVs indicate the animal is expected to produce progeny that yield a higher percentage of saleable beef from a 400 kg carcase.

Retail Beef Yield (RBY) EBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in boned out saleable meat from a 400 kg carcase.

RBY EBVs are calculated by measuring the boned out saleable meat of carcases in the abattoir, or from known relationships between saleable meat yield and other carcase measurements (e.g. fat depth). RBY EBVs are expressed in percentage units.

Higher RBY EBVs indicate the animal is expected to produce progeny that yield a higher percentage of saleable beef from a 400 kg carcase.

Using RBY Fat EBVs to Compare the Genetics of Two Animals

RBY EBVs can be used to estimate the expected difference in the percentage of saleable meat from progeny of two animals, with the expected difference equating to half the difference in the RBY 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 RBY EBV of +1.9 would be expected to produce calves that on average, yield 1% more saleable meat from a 400 kg carcase than a bull with a RBY EBV of -0.1 (i.e. 2% difference in the sire's EBVs, then halved as the sire only contributes half the genetics).

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

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

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

- the breed average EBV
- the percentile table

The current breed average and percentile table for Retail Beef Yield 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 RBY 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 retail beef yield (or true breeding value), and is an indication of the amount of information that has been used in the calculation of the EBV.

RBY 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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