



Enhancements to Angus BREEDPLAN

December 2016

A number of enhancements have been implemented in the December 2016 Angus BREEDPLAN analysis.

These enhancements are part of the ongoing maintenance and improvement to the Angus BREEDPLAN genetic evaluation. In most cases, the enhancements are not expected to have any significant effect on the EBV ranking of animals.

Calculation of Structural Soundness EBVs

The Structural Soundness EBVs that are calculated for Front Feet Angle, Front Feet Claw Set, Rear Feet Angle, Rear Leg Hind View and Rear Leg Side View will no longer be considered "Trial" EBVs, but will now be considered as standard EBVs within the Angus BREEDPLAN genetic evaluation.

Resulting from this change:

- Structural Soundness EBVs will now be calculated as part of each routine Angus BREEDPLAN analyses
- Structural Soundness EBVs will be included in the EBV reference tables (i.e. breed average EBVs, percentile bands) that are displayed on the Angus Australia website
- Front Feet Angle, Front Feet Claw Set & Rear Feet Angle EBVs will now be reported as whole numbers, rather than to 1 decimal place
- Software development is underway to publish the Structural Soundness EBVs in the Angus BREEDPLAN herd reports, on the Angus Australia EBV Search facility, and in the EBVs files available from the member login area on the Angus Australia website.

Further information regarding Structural Soundness EBVs, and the collection of structural soundness score information for inclusion in Angus BREEDPLAN is available from the Angus Australia website.

Inclusion of Additional Temporal Genetic Groups

Additional genetic groups have been included for animals born in Australia, New Zealand and North America, whereby animals born in each respective country after 1/1/2000 will now be split into two

genetic groups, one including animals born between 1/1/2000 – 31/12/2010, and one including animals born after 1/1/2011. Previously, all animals born in each respective country after 1/1/2000 were included in the one group.

Note: Genetic groups are used to assign a starting EBV value to animals whose sire and dams do not have EBVs. For example, imported sires or base animals.

Different genetic groups are formed based on the animal's year of birth, country of origin and breed, and ensure that animals are assigned a starting EBV value that is reflective of the origin of their genetics and the expectation of these genetics, as determined by similar animals in the analysis.

The introduction of the additional genetic groups will result in improvements to the manner in which starting EBV values are assigned for animals born in Australia, New Zealand and North America after 1/1/2000, and whose sire or dam do not have EBVs.

Revised Protocol for the Collection of Net Feed Intake Measurements

The protocols for the collection of net feed intake measurements for inclusion in the calculation of NFI-P and NFI-F EBVs have been updated to reflect the current feed efficiency equipment that is available.

The revised protocol are available in the "Collection Guidelines for Angus BREEDPLAN" publication on the Angus Australia website.

Updated EPD Information for Overseas Animals

A revised set of EPDs has been included in the December 2016 Angus BREEDPLAN analysis for imported American and Canadian Black and Red Angus animals.

Inclusion of Additional Abattoir Carcase Data

A significant amount of new abattoir carcase data has been included in the December 2016 Angus BREEDPLAN analysis.

This new data includes:

- Carcase weight, eye muscle area, rib fat, rump fat and MSA marbling score information recorded on Cohort 4 steers in the Angus Sire Benchmarking Program (ASBP)
- Boned out, retail beef yield data from steers in the NSW DPI muscling herd at Glen Innes Ag Research & Advisory Station

The inclusion of this data has resulted in changes to the EBVs of animals in the ASBP and NSW DPI muscling herd, and their relatives.

While of much lesser degree, further changes to EBVs

are anticipated in the January 2017 Angus BREEDPLAN analysis following the inclusion of any information that has been excluded from the December analysis as being “outlier” records.

Further Information

To further discuss any of the enhancements that have been implemented in the December 2016 Angus BREEDPLAN analysis, please contact Angus Australia’s Breed Development & Extension Manager, Andrew Byrne on (02) 6773 4618 or via email andrew@angusaustralia.com.

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