



National Sheep Association

Signet 
BREEDING SERVICES

SIGNET BREED BENCHMARKS

A new approach for 2019



A NEW APPROACH FOR 2019

Signet's National Terminal Sire Breeding Evaluation is a multi-breed analysis that identifies the most profitable sheep for commercial lamb production.

ALL EBVS HAVE BEEN REBASED

Each estimated breeding value (EBV) and breeding index has been updated and is now expressed relative to the breed average in 2010.

CHANGES TO THE EXPRESSION OF EBVS

All carcase traits are now weight-adjusted, showing muscling and fatness/leanness at a constant liveweight. This change has increased their accuracy and commercial relevance.

MORE INFORMATION

This publication contains the new Breed Benchmarks.

For more information on buying a recorded ram, please refer to the Better Returns manual ***Buying a recorded terminal sire.***



BELTEX

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	-0.13	0.11	0.33
Litter size	0.02	0.05	0.08
8 week weight	0.90	1.51	2.07
Scan weight	2.33	3.92	5.34
Muscle depth	0.09	0.64	1.13
Fat depth	0.00	0.25	0.47
Terminal Sire Index	137	173	205
Maternal Index	132	159	182

BLEU DU MAINE

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.17	0.60	0.99
Litter size	-0.02	0.01	0.03
8 week weight	0.77	1.30	1.78
Scan weight	0.97	2.41	3.70
Muscle depth	0.05	0.71	1.31
Fat depth	0.13	0.32	0.49
Terminal Sire Index	124	157	187
Maternal Index	110	147	180

BLUE TEXEL

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	-0.05	0.12	0.27
Litter size	-0.01	0.02	0.05
8 week weight	0.59	1.33	2.00
Scan weight	1.44	3.32	5.02
Muscle depth	0.44	0.96	1.43
Fat depth	0.02	0.22	0.39
Terminal Sire Index	126	163	197
Maternal Index	116	147	175

CHAROLLAIS

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.36	0.79	1.17
Litter size	0.00	0.03	0.06
8 week weight	1.06	1.76	2.38
Scan weight	2.70	4.54	6.20
Muscle depth	0.73	1.36	1.92
Fat depth	-0.04	0.22	0.45
Terminal Sire Index	174	217	255
Maternal Index	150	186	219

DORSET

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.20	0.48	0.73
Litter size	0.02	0.05	0.08
8 week weight	0.90	1.55	2.14
Scan weight	2.44	4.14	5.67
Muscle depth	0.58	1.10	1.57
Fat depth	-0.13	0.11	0.32
Terminal Sire Index	153	186	216
Maternal Index	148	179	206

HAMPSHIRE DOWN

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.20	0.42	0.61
Litter size	0.01	0.04	0.07
8 week weight	0.93	1.56	2.12
Scan weight	2.34	4.05	5.58
Muscle depth	0.16	0.67	1.13
Fat depth	-0.12	0.10	0.29
Terminal Sire Index	149	188	223
Maternal Index	139	171	199

MEATLINC

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.14	0.39	0.61
Litter size	-0.01	0.02	0.05
8 week weight	1.29	2.05	2.73
Scan weight	3.21	5.30	7.17
Muscle depth	0.37	1.10	1.75
Fat depth	-0.16	0.08	0.29
Terminal Sire Index	187	236	280
Maternal Index	141	174	204

SHROPSHIRE

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.33	0.57	0.79
Litter size	0.01	0.04	0.07
8 week weight	1.60	2.15	2.65
Scan weight	4.20	5.67	6.99
Muscle depth	0.62	1.13	1.58
Fat depth	-0.26	-0.06	0.12
Terminal Sire Index	181	210	237
Maternal Index	165	189	211

SOUTHDOWN

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.26	0.49	0.70
Litter size	0.00	0.03	0.06
8 week weight	1.13	1.70	2.22
Scan weight	3.29	4.87	6.29
Muscle depth	0.58	1.15	1.66
Fat depth	-0.32	-0.04	0.21
Terminal Sire Index	166	198	226
Maternal Index	147	174	199

SUFFOLK

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.28	0.63	0.95
Litter size	0.02	0.05	0.08
8 week weight	0.52	1.22	1.84
Scan weight	1.34	3.04	4.57
Muscle depth	0.12	0.67	1.17
Fat depth	0.01	0.18	0.33
Terminal Sire Index	133	178	219
Maternal Index	132	165	196

TEXEL

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	-0.01	0.20	0.39
Litter size	0.05	0.08	0.11
8 week weight	1.30	1.93	2.51
Scan weight	3.33	4.94	6.39
Muscle depth	-0.07	0.37	0.76
Fat depth	-0.28	-0.06	0.13
Terminal Sire Index	150	182	210
Maternal Index	150	177	201

VENDEEN

Estimated Breeding Values	Top 50%	Top 25%	Top 10%
Maternal ability	0.35	0.53	0.68
Litter size	-0.02	0.01	0.04
8 week weight	1.60	2.11	2.57
Scan weight	4.21	5.53	6.72
Muscle depth	1.34	1.96	2.52
Fat depth	0.19	0.41	0.61
Terminal Sire Index	209	237	263
Maternal Index	174	194	211

PROFIT FROM PERFORMANCE

High index rams can increase profitability by £3–4 per lamb. Over a ram's lifetime, this is worth an extra £1,000.

Signet recorded flocks now use tags to highlight rams in the top 10% and 25% of the breed to help buyers find the right rams for their flock.

For more information read ***The National Terminal Sire Evaluation*** guide available in hard copies from Signet.

SEEK

Recorded rams with high indexes



CHECK

The ram identity



REVIEW

The EBVs with the breeder, the sale chart or online: signetdata.com



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