

Performance Pays

A major trial* involving 12,000 lambs has shown that high EBV recorded rams can generate premiums of up to £8/ewe mated.

This benefit may be expressed through

- ☑ Increases in carcase weight
- ☑ Savings in feed costs
- ☑ Premiums for carcase quality
- ☑ Reductions in penalties for fatness



The trial showed that to optimise returns, commercial farmers should:

- Identify whether it is most profitable to change growth or carcase characteristics
- Pick rams based on their EBVs, not just their overall index
- Avoid rams with very low fat depth EBVs where lambs are to be finished under 21kg
- Time lamb sales to capitalise on periods of high returns.

* Trial run in 2005 - 2007 by CST Recorded Ram Marketing Ltd, Grampian Foods and ASDA Walmart. Managed by Lesley Stubbings, LSSC Ltd

Ram Buying Tips

- 1). Set Breeding Objectives that will optimise the profitability of your flock.
Talk to the ram breeder about your requirements.
- 2). Select rams with the right EBVs to realise these objectives
- 3). Compare each ram's EBVs against the Breed Benchmark to identify his strengths and weaknesses.
- 4). Remember EBVs can be compared between flocks, but not between breeds.
- 5). Buy early to ensure the availability of a wide selection of recorded rams
- 6). It pays to invest. The difference between an average ram and one with high EBVs could be worth £500 during its lifetime.
- 7). Look after the health and nutritional requirements of your ram to ensure he has a long productive life

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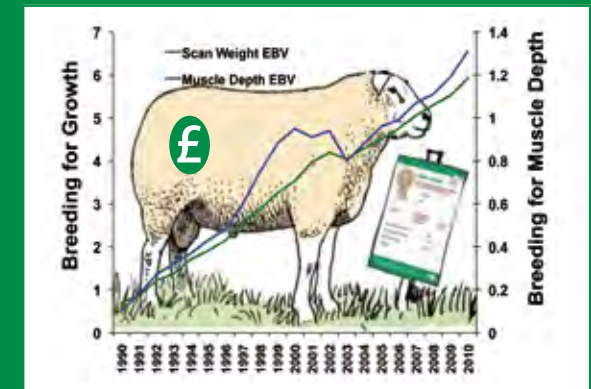
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A Buyer's Guide to Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs)

Buy the right recorded Texel ram for your flock



20 years of selective breeding has transformed the genetic potential of Texel Sheep

Find out how you can Profit from their Performance





Texel

Breed Benchmark 2011

The Breed Benchmark enables you to identify where a ram ranks within the breed.

	Average	Top 25%	Top 10%
Eight Week Weight (kg)	2.36	2.89	3.64
Litter Size	0.13	0.17	0.20
Maternal Ability (kg)	0.28	0.45	0.61
Scan Weight (kg)	5.25	6.32	7.92
Muscle Depth (mm)	0.99	1.39	1.96
Fat Depth (mm)	-0.09	-0.22	Leaner
		0.05	Fatter
Terminal Sire Index	191	214	245

Eight Week Weight - Breeding potential for growth to 8 weeks of age

Litter Size - Breeding potential to produce prolific female progeny

Maternal Ability - The ewe's maternal ability - milk production and maternal care - expressed by lambs' performance to 8 weeks

Scan Weight - Breeding potential for growth to 21 weeks (age at scanning). Rams with high EBVs produce faster growing lambs that can be taken to heavier weights

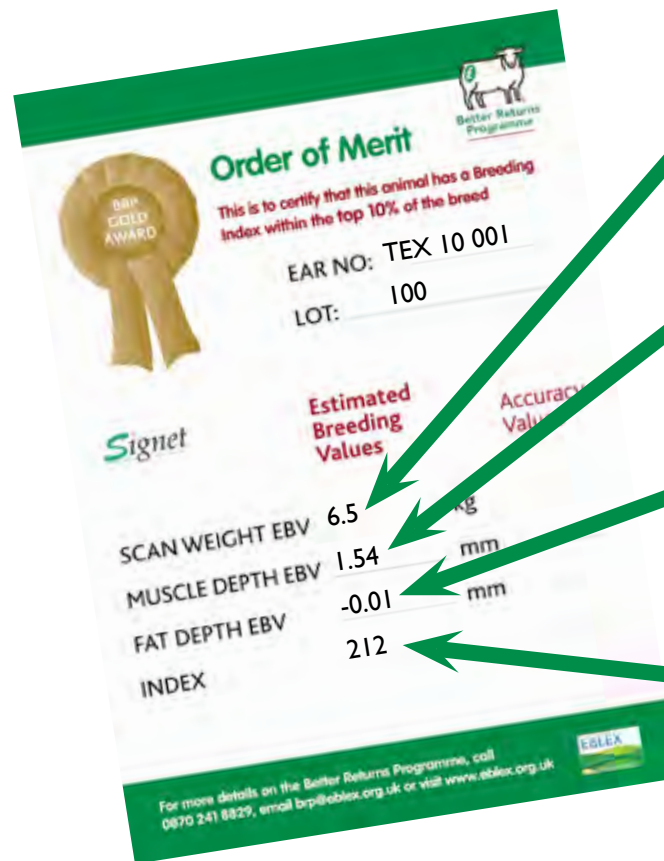
Muscle Depth - An assessment of muscling across the loin, which can be used to assess the yield of lean meat in the carcass

Fat Depth - Negative values indicate animals that will produce leaner carcasses, which can be taken to higher weights without becoming over-fat. Positive values would indicate fatter progeny.

Index - Highlights superior terminal sires for both the pedigree and commercial producer

Buying a Recorded Texel Ram

The most important Estimated Breeding Values to check when selecting a Terminal Sire are Scan Weight, Muscle Depth and Fat Depth.



High scan weight EBV
= high growth rates

High muscle depth EBV
= better conformation

Negative fat depth EBV
= leaner lambs

Index = overall ranking

Where can I review the EBVs for recorded sheep?

The EBVs for Signet recorded sheep can be viewed online at www.signetfbc.co.uk

Where can I find recorded flocks?

EBLEX BRP can supply you with a Directory of Performance Recorded Flocks in England
Tel: 0870 241 8829