

SANTA GERTRUDIS

GENOMIC BREEDING VALUE REPORT

September 2026



DR M. PHIRINYANE

Herd Number: 721863

E-mail: molefep@hotmail.com



 **LOGIX**



EBVs, EBVi's and GEBVs

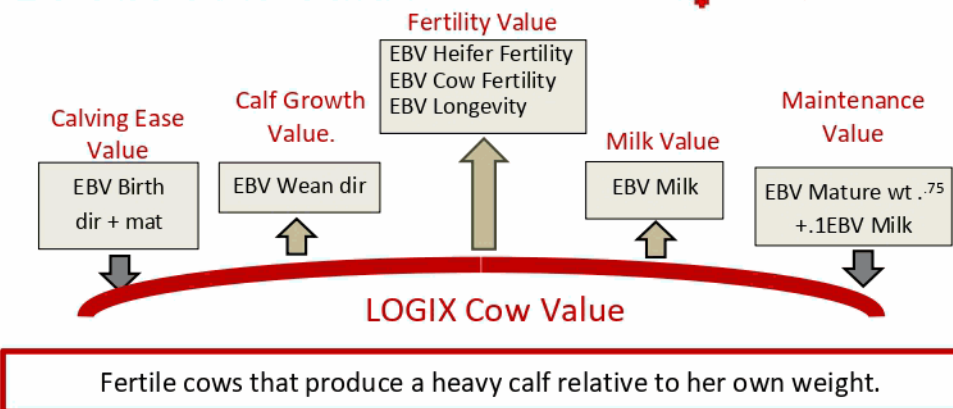
EBVi (Breeding Value Index): Genetic potential relative to the average (100) of the live (active) animals in the breed. Roughly 50% of the animals have values between 90 and 110. Values above 100, depending on the trait, tend to be in the more favourable direction.

EBV (Breeding Value): Genetic potential relative to the average of the animals born in the base year (1990), expressed in the unit of measurement.

GEBV (Genomic Breeding Value) Interpreted like the EBVi. (GEBV = EBV + Genomic information)

LOGIX Selection values combine different breeding values in a logical way. For example, Heifer Fertility (how early a heifer starts calving), Cow Fertility (how regular she calves) and Longevity (retention within the family) are combined to form the Fertility Value.

LOGIX Cow Value



Selection Values

LOGIX Cow Value



Selecting for:

- fertile,
- low maintenance,
- easy calving cows
- with heavy weaners

LOGIX Growth Value



Select for efficient growers on veld and in feedlot, as measured in Phase C and D Growth Tests.

LOGIX Carcass Value



Select for more meat on the carcass as measured from end weight in Phase C and D Growth Tests and RTU scanning.

LOGIX Production Value



80% LOGIX Cow Value +
20% LOGIX Growth Value

How to use the Cow Value

Selection values should be compatible with your selection goal.

AVERAGE ANIMALS

(NO GROWTH EXTREMES)

- Selection Values 90 to 110
 - Cow Value and Fertility Value average to high
- A safe choice, as animals are profitable in most environments.

GROWERS

(GOOD ENVIRONMENT)

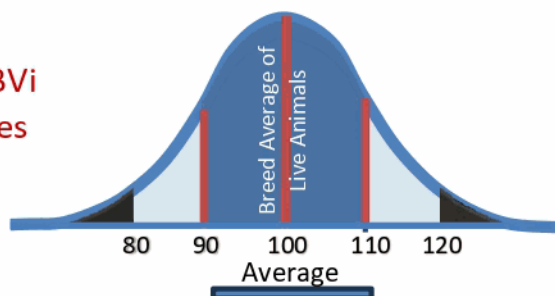
- WeanerCalf / Growth Value > 120
 - Cow Value and Fertility Value average to high
- Growers are usually heavier at birth (lower Calving Ease Value), and maturity (lower Maintenance Value).

LOW- MAINTENANCE ANIMALS

(HARSH ENVIRONMENT)

- Maintenance Value >110
 - Cow Value and Fertility Value average to high
- Lighter cows have a lower maintenance.

Interpretation of EBVi and Selection Values



Examples

Type of Animal	Cow Value	Calving Ease V	Weaner Calf V	Milk Value	Maint. Value	Fertility Value
Average	Med-High	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Med-High
Grower	Med-High		High			Med-High
Low Maintenance	Med-High				High	Med-High

Contemporary Groups

The correct composition of contemporary groups is one of the cornerstones of BLUP breeding value estimation. Breeding values are estimated from the differences between animals exposed to the same environment, *as these differences are caused by genetics*. The following aspects are important:

1. Animals at the same time, place and treatment

A contemporary group is a comparable group of animals measured at the same time in the same environment. It is therefore a comparable group of animals that were together on the same farm or camp in the same year and season. If there are animals in the group that were treated differently, they should be given a separate treatment code because their performance is influenced by other environmental influences than the rest of the group. Examples of possible different treatments are when some animals received supplements or creep feed, sale or show animals, embryo donors, sick or foster calves or even purchased cows and calves. If bull and heifer calves or older cows and young heifers were in the same camp, they should be placed in the same group – corrections for sex, age and first calving of cows are automatically made during breeding value estimation.

2. Progeny of at least two sires, of which one is a link sire

The progeny of different sires needs to be compared in the same group in order to determine the sires' genetic merit relative to each other. At least one sire should be a link sire with progeny in other herds. Genetic links between herds are used to determine the position of sires in the breed. All sires are good link sires. Smaller herds could artificially inseminate some cows or allow some cows to be covered by another herd's bull.

3. Larger groups stabilise Breeding Values

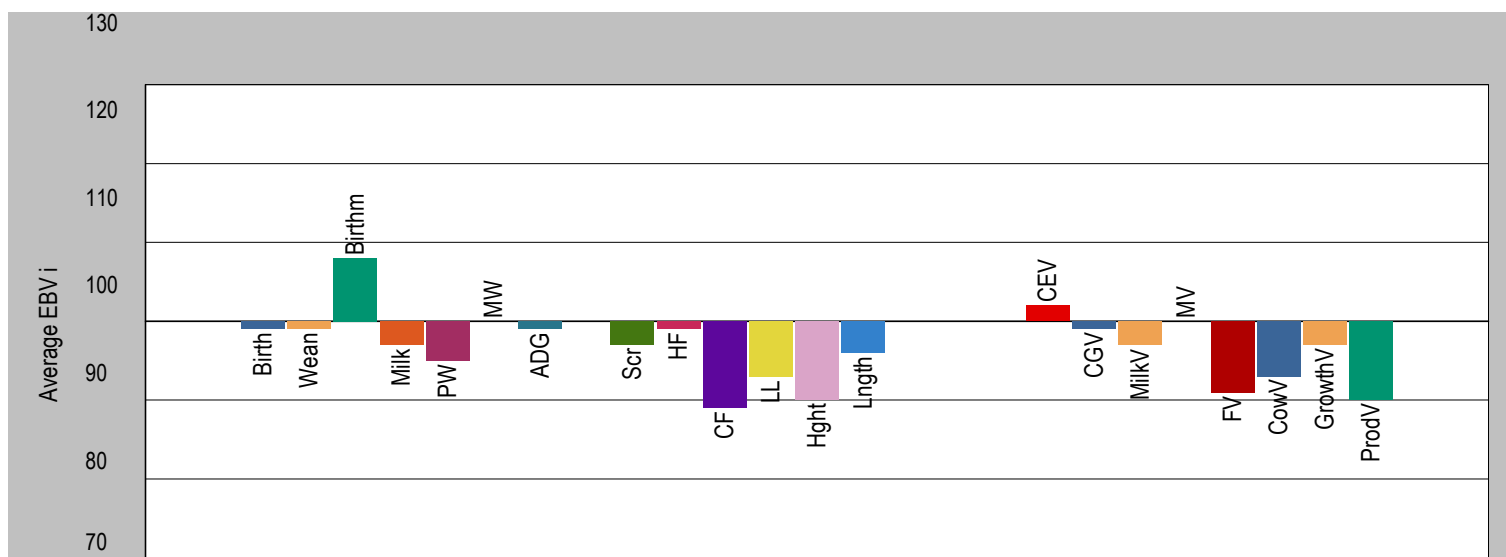
Larger groups result in more accurate and stable breeding values, as the mean and distribution of the group can be more accurately determined and are thus more representative. Groups should preferably have more than 5 animals. Weigh all the animals in the same group on the same day, as corrections for age differences are made during genetic evaluation. The use of breeding seasons rather than through the year calving will also increase contemporary group size. Groups with less than 3 animals are not included in breeding value estimation. An accidental mistake in a small group affects the animal itself, its family, all the other animals in the group and their families. The effect could be much less in large groups.

4. Measure all animals in the contemporary group

Weigh ALL the animals in the contemporary group, the good as well as the poor performers. Weigh animals before they are culled, so their parents can be penalized for their poor breeding.



Herd and Breed Averages



Breeding Values:

Birth:	Birth weight	Scr:	Scrotal circumf.
Wean:	Weaning weight	HF:	Heifer Fertility
Birthm:	Birth maternal	CF:	Cow Fertility
Milk:	Milk	LL:	Longevity
PW:	Post-wean weight	Hght:	Height
MW:	Mature weight	Lngth:	Length
ADG:	Average Daily Gain	Dr%:	Dressing%
FCR:	Feed Conversion Ratio	RMV:	Red Meat Yield
		Marb:	Marbling

Selection Values:

CEV:	Calving Ease Value
CGV:	Calf Growth Value
MilkV:	Milk Value
MV:	Maintenance Value
FV:	Fertility Value
CowV:	Cow Value (CV)
GrowthV:	Growth Value (GV)
ProdV:	Production Value (PV)

	Trait	EBV Herd	EBV Index	EBV Breed
Prewrite Growth	Birth Weight	1.18	99	1.11
	Wean Weight	14.1	99	14.7
	Birth Mat.	-0.39	108	-0.07
	Milk (Wn.Mat.)	-0.2	97	0.7
Postwean Growth	Postwean Wt	18.9	95	23.1
	Mature Weight	19	100	19
	ADG	91	99	95
	FCR			
Fertility	Scrotal Circumf.	8.7	97	10.4
	Heifer Fertility	-2.8	99	-3.8
	Cow Fertility	-3.4	89	-5.8
	Longevity	27.9	93	33.0
Frame	Height	6	90	12
	Length	21	96	24
Carcass	Dressing%			
	RedMeatYield			
	Marbling			

Selection Value	Ave. Herd
Calving Ease	102
Calf Growth	99
Milk	97
Maintenance	100
Fertility	91
Cow Value	93
Growth Value	97
Production Value	90

- Average of live animals in the breed: 100
- Above 100: **more favourable**,
- Below 100: **less favourable**

What does a sub-selection value above breed average (100) mean?:

Calving ease:	Smaller calf at birth - easier calving
Calf growth:	Heavier calves at wean due to growth potential of the calf
Milk:	Cows with more milk and better mothering ability
Maintenance:	Animals with low maintenance requirements (lower mature weight).
Fertility:	Cows/daughters that calve

Genetic Windows

Bulls on the farm

Bulls born in and earlier that are available for natural mating
130
120
110
100
90
80
70

Animals available for breeding

Total:	Cows born in and earlier
	130
	120
	110
	100
	90
	80
	70

Cow Herd

Total:

Sires of young animals

Sires (Natural mating and AI) of animals 3 years and younger
130
120
110
100
90
80
70

Results of previous selection decisions

Total:	Cows born in and earlier
	130
	120
	110
	100
	90
	80
	70

Cows older than 6 years

Total:

Selection possibilities

Bull calves

Bulls born in
130
120
110
100
90
80
70

Total:

Heifers born in
130
120
110
100
90
80
70

Heifer calves

Total:

Summary of Cow Herd

			Selection Values (SV)								Calf Weight		Dam		Growth & Efficiency				Fertility				Frame	
Birth Year	No. Cows	Average Cow Value	Calving Ease	Calf Grwth	Milk	Maint.	Fertility	Cow Value	Growth Value	Prod Value	Birth Weight	Wean Weight	Birth Mat.	Milk (Wn.Mat)	Postwn Weight	Mature Weight	ADG	Kleiber	Scrotal Circumf.	Heifer Fertility	Cow Fertility	Longevity	Height	Length
Cows in Breed Average:																								

Cows in Herd Average:

Genetic Trends for On-Farm Traits

The graphs show the genetic gain of the herd relative to the breed. Only data of animals with measurements are included.

Herd

Birth Year	Calving Ease				Calf Growth			Milk		Maintenance					Fertility						Cow Value		
	Birth Weight		Dir EBV	Calv. Ease	Weaning Weight		Calf Growth	Milk (Wn.Mat.)		Postwean Weight		Mature Weight			Maine- nance	Heifer Fert.		Cow Fert.		Longevity		Ferti- lity	
	Number	EBV			Number	EBV		Number	EBV	Milk	Number	EBV	Number	EBV		Number	EBV	Number	EBV	Number			EBV

Breed

Birth Year	Calving Ease				Calf Growth			Milk		Maintenance					Fertility						Cow Value		
	Birth Weight		Mat EBV	Calv. Ease	Weaning Weight		Calf Growth	Milk (Wn.Mat.)		Postwean Weight		Mature Weight		Maine-nance	Heifer Fert.		Cow Fert.		Longevity			Ferti-lity	
	Number	Dir EBV			Number	EBV		Number	EBV	Number	EBV	Number	EBV		Number	EBV	Number	EBV	Number	EBV			Number
2016	2689	1.09	-0.07	100	1903	13.7	98	1903	-0.18	97	513	20.0	171	13	105	1226	-3.3	906	-4.7	5869	24.3	94	93
2017	2776	1.13	-0.09	100	2154	14.4	99	2154	-0.17	97	642	20.4	214	14	106	1179	-4.1	871	-4.8	5765	25.8	96	93
2018	2956	1.05	-0.07	101	2127	15.3	101	2127	-0.52	96	545	22.6	259	13	105	1243	-3.8	835	-5.5	6004	26.3	97	98
2019	3205	1.15	-0.07	100	2831	14.6	100	2831	-0.05	97	800	23.6	299	15	102	1189	-3.7	844	-5.7	5985	27.5	98	97
2020	3447	1.14	-0.10	100	3076	14.9	100	3076	0.03	98	695	23.9	286	17	102	1192	-3.4	704	-5.7	6060	28.1	99	97
2021	3337	1.21	-0.16	99	3401	15.6	102	3401	0.37	99	732	22.7	273	17	101	1071	-4.0	641	-6.0	5554	29.9	101	100
2022	3474	1.17	-0.14	100	3746	15.4	101	3746	0.01	98	748	23.3	226	18	101	854	-3.8	274	-6.5	2809	29.7	101	100
2023	3301	1.22	-0.18	100	3337	16.3	103	3337	-0.10	97	702	24.6	48	23	101	435	-2.9	15	-7.5			103	102
2024	3311	1.17	-0.16	100	3379	16.1	103	3379	0.56	99	667	25.1			101	21	-6.0					108	103
2025	3015	1.12	-0.13	101	1920	16.2	103	1920	0.86	100	441	17.5			105								104
2026	1509	1.01	-0.07	102	57	13.1	97	57	1.96	104													98

Genetic Trends for Growth Test Traits

Herd

Birth Year	Growth									Frame						Carcass						Selection Values			
	FCR			ADG			Scrotum			Height			Length			EMA			Fat		Marbling		Carcass Value	Growth Value	Prod Value
	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi	RTU Number	EBV	EBVi	EBV	EBVi	EBV	EBVi			

Breed

Birth Year	Growth									Frame						Carcass						Selection Values			
	FCR			ADG			Scrotum			Height			Length			RTU Number	EMA		Fat		Marbling		Cracss Value	Growth Value	Prod Value
	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi	Number	EBV	EBVi		EBV	EBVi	EBV	EBVi	EBV	EBVi			
2017	73	-23	102	285	93	100	299	9.4	98	288	11	99	285	24	100	202	0.47	96	-0.03	98	0.58	102	99	97	94
2018	47	-23	102	220	86	98	275	9.2	98	248	11	98	220	22	98	123	0.85	101	0.10	99	0.72	104	103	95	101
2019	55	-26	105	256	102	102	338	10.3	100	253	13	101	183	27	103	206	1.00	103	-0.39	95	0.48	101	102	99	96
2020	30	-25	104	229	95	100	292	10.6	100	170	14	103	138	32	107	206	0.67	99	0.29	101	0.82	105	103	98	100
2021	35	-19	99	271	100	101	299	14.8	108	278	12	100	271	27	102	196	1.02	103	0.33	101	0.82	105	105	99	99
2022	22	-22	102	198	104	102	198	14.7	108	198	13	102	198	28	103	83	1.38	107	0.38	101	0.92	106	108	100	99
2023	28	-34	112	154	111	104	154	12.8	104	154	12	100	154	27	103	99	1.43	108	0.64	103	1.10	108	112	102	99
2024	28	-28	107	96	148	112	95	14.8	108	135	15	105	135	37	111	104	1.50	109	0.70	104	0.92	106	114	111	107
2025				94	70	94	94	12.6	104	136	13	101	136	25	100	32	1.90	114	1.19	108	1.46	113		92	95
2026																									

Sires

Bull				Selection Values								Calf		Dam		Growth				Fertility				Frame		Carcass			Measured Progeny	
ID	Index EBV Acc	Sire ID	Dam ID	Calv. Ease Value	Calf Grwth Value	Milk Value	Maint. Value	Fertility Value	Cow Value	Growth Value	Prod Value	Birth Dir	Wean Dir	Birth Mat.	Wean Mat.	Post wn wt	Mature weight	ADG	FCR	Scrotal	Heifer Fertility	Cow Fertility	Long-evi ty	Height	Length	EMA	Fat	Marbling	Birth Grwth Test	Wean Dgt/Calvs.
HH 130032		DJW 080041	HH 080015	102	100	100	83	111	101	113	101	97	100	120	100	100	119	108	117	82	123	97	97	85	104	107	97	91	17	41
KNOX				89	92	87	81	87	83	85	83	1.33	14.4	-0.83	0.6	22.8	37	130	-40	0.5	-22.4	-5.2	31.0	3	29	1.36	-0.19	-0.32	7	9 22
KT 060001		KT 960005	KT 990030	102	100	105	112	90	99	83	93	100	100	108	105	93	87	88	88	96	91	97	90	96	98	88	79	80	48	40
NIKE 06 01				90	90	78	34	69	75	29	66	1.12	14.6	-0.37	2.4	17.5	7	43	-6	8.3	3.0	-5.2	26.3	9	22	-0.24	-2.46	-1.21		10 31
VV 020194		DT 990084	VV 000066	87	109	94	89	80	90	109	90	88	109	103	94	93	112	111	109	117	84	82	94	84	99	104	90	78	250	242
CHAMP 02 194				99	99	98	95	97	92	96	93	2.12	19.5	-0.18	-0.9	17.9	31	142	-30	19.7	9.0	-2.2	28.6	3	24	1.06	-1.14	-1.35		73 309
VV 080098		VV 020194	VV 990064	97	91	102	101	77	78	99	78	95	91	108	102	87	98	101	99	101	85	85	80	80	89	97	82	79	15	12
08 98				80	82	68	32	64	68	36	62	1.54	9.9	-0.39	1.2	12.7	17	99	-19	11.0	8.0	-2.8	19.6	0	13	0.50	-2.06	-1.28		

Breeding Values and Accuracies: Bulls

Green: >120 High
White: 80-120 Average
Orange: <80 Low

Inbreeding in red is high

Value <80Value >120

Breeding values with an accuracy < 5% are not printed

Animal			Selection Values										Birth		Wean				Growth			Fertility				Frame		Carcass		
Index EBV Acc	% Inbreeding	Sire ID Dam ID	Calv. Ease V	Calv Growth V	Milk V	Maint. V	Fertility V	Cow Value	Growth Value	Prod. Value	Carcass Value	Birth wt dir	Birth mat	Mature wt	Wean wt	Wean mat	Cow-Calf Ratio (Wean)	Postwean wt	ADG	FCR	Scrotal Circ.	Heifer Fertility	Cow Fertility	Longevity	Height	Length	EMA	Fat	Marbling	
ID Number Name																														
VV 100177 72209497 VV100177	9	VV 020194 VV 070152	89 70	103 70	98 61	96 29	88 55	91 59	102 34	89 54	98 33	88 2.14	108 -0.39	104 23	103 16.6	98 0.0	100 53	93 17.9	103 109	103 -23	107 14.2	98 -1.9	85 -2.6	93 28.1	89 6	97 22	92 0.09	98 -0.02	84 -0.91	
VV 100193 72136260 VV100193	3	KT 060001 VV 060173	108 67	99 68	94 54	107 20	90 46	95 55	92 22	91 48	90 14	106 0.62	105 -0.25	91 11	99 14.0	94 -1.0	96 46	96 20.4	96 78	94 -13	95 7.8	95 0.3	95 -4.8	86 23.8	94 9	97 21	90 -0.05	88 -1.31	86 -0.70	
VV 120046 4000042962 VV120046	6	VV 080098 VV 070153	103 66	96 68	95 54	103 20	73 45	82 54	95 23	81 48	91 20	100 1.10	108 -0.40	96 16	96 12.6	95 -0.8	93 38	92 16.9	97 82	98 -17	98 9.1	78 13.6	81 -1.9	86 23.8	85 3	91 15	92 0.10	96 -0.36	87 -0.60	
UOJ 200025 291354579 BW: TRIPLE S UOJ2025	1	HH 130032 UOJ 170001	107 44	97 50	101 46	93 22	112 44	103 42	99 35	100 41	96 33	103 0.84	112 -0.52	107 26	97 13.2	101 1.0	95 43	97 20.5	100 95	101 -21	88 3.8	124 -23.2	93 -4.3	105 36.1	91 7	100 24	99 0.71	101 0.39	95 0.02	

Breeding Values and Accuracies: Cows

Green: >120 High
White: 80-120 Average
Orange: <80 Low

Inbreeding in red is high

Value <80Value >120

Breeding values with an accuracy < 5% are not printed

Animal			Selection Values								Birth		Wean				Growth			Fertility				Frame		Carcass			
Index EBV Acc	% Inbreeding	Sire ID Dam ID	Calv. Ease V	Calv Growth V	Milk V	Maint. V	Fertility V	Cow Value	Growth Value	Prod. Value	Carcass Value	Birth wt dir	Birth mat	Mature wt	Wean wt	Wean mat	Cow-Calf Ratio (Wean)	Postwean wt	ADG	FCR	Scrotal Circ.	Heifer Fertility	Cow Fertility	Longevity	Height	Length	EMA	Fat	Marbling

Selection List on Cow Value
Bulls 2 years and older

ID	Name	Sire ID	Dam ID	% Inbreeding	Horned / Polled	Myostatin				Calving Ease Value Acc	Calf Growth Value Acc	Milk Value Acc	Maint. Value Acc	Fertility Value Acc	Cow Value Acc	Growth Value Acc	Prod Value Acc									
						nt821	Q204X	F94L	Genomic tested																	
Sorted on ID																										
										★★★★☆																
1	UOJ 200025	BW: TRIPLE S UOJ2025	HH 130032	UOJ 170001	0.8					107	44	97	50	101	46	93	22	112	44	103	42	99	35	100	41	
										★★★★																
1	VV 100177	VV100177	VV 020194	VV 070152	8.6					89	70	103	70	98	61	96	29	88	55	91	59	102	34	89	54	
2	VV 100193	VV100193	KT 060001	VV 060173	3.5					108	67	99	68	94	54	107	20	90	46	95	55	92	22	91	48	
										★★★★☆																
1	VV 120046	VV120046	VV 080098	VV 070153	5.8					103	66	96	68	95	54	103	20	73	45	82	54	95	23	81	48	

	EBVi	Description / Measurement	Goal	Low Value	High Value
Selection Values	Calving Ease Value	Difficult calving due to high birth weight	Average birth weight	High	Low
	Calf Growth Value	Calf's genetic ability for prewean growth	Heavy weaner	Light	Heavy
	Milk Value	Cow's genetic mothering and milking ability	Enough milk for calf	Less	More
	Maintenance Value	Maintenance requirement of cow (weight and milk)	Low cow maintenance	High	Low
	Fertility Value	Fertility and retention of cows and heifers	Fertile cows	Low	High
	Cow Value	Combination of calving ease, calf growth, milk, maintenance and fertility values (Rand-value per Ha)	Profitable cows	Loss	Profit
	Weaner Calf Value	Heavier weaners and more milk, with lower birth and cow weights	Heavy weaner	Light	Heavy
	Growth Value	Efficient growth on veld and in feedlot (Rand-value per animal)	Profitable growth	Loss	Profit
	Production Value	Combination of Cow- and Growth Values (Rand-value)	Profitable animals	Loss	Profit
	Carcass Value	Meat on carcass (Weight and RTU EBVs)	Meat on carcass	Less	More
Birth	Cow weight - birth	Cow weight at birth of calves	Mature cow weight	Light	Heavy
	Birth weight direct	Birth weight (Calf's genetic ability)	Average birth weight	Heavy	Light
	Cow-Calf birth	EBV Birth dir / EBV Mature cow weight	Average	Low	High
Wean	Cow Weight wean	Cow weight at weaning of calves	Mature cow weight	Light	Heavy
	Weaning weight direct	Weaning weight (Calf's genetic ability)	Heavy weaners	Light	Heavy
	Weaning weight mat	Weaning weight (Dam's genetic ability)	Good mothers	Poor	Good
	Cow-Calf Wean	EBV Wean dir / EBV Mature cow weight	High cow-calf ratio	Low	High
Growth & Adaptation	Post-Wean weight	12- and 18mth weights	Post-wean growth	Low	High
	Ave. Daily Gain	Average daily gain in growth test (Phase C and D)	Good growth	Poor	Good
	Veld Growth	ADG on veld (Phase B)	Good adaptation	Poor	Good
	Feed Conversion Ratio	100g feed intake /g weight gain	Feed Efficiency	Poor	Good
	Final Test Weight	Final weight in growth test (Phase C and D)	Heavy Carcasses	Light	Heavy
	Skin Thickness	Measured in growth tests	Thicker skin	Thin	Thick
Fertility	Scrotal Circumference	Scrotal circumference in growth test	Fertile bulls	Less	More
	Heifer Fertility	Age at first calving	Fertile heifers	Less	More
	Cow Fertility	First 3 inter-calving periods (ICPs)	Fertile cows	Less	More
	Longevity	Retention of progeny	Acceptable progeny	Poor	Good
Frame	Height	Shoulder / Hip height in growth test	Average height	Short	Tall
	Length	Length in growth test	Longer (more meat)	Short	Long
	Length:Height	EBV Length / EBV Height	Longer, not higher	Less desirable	More desirable
Carcass	Eye Muscle Area	RTU Eye muscle area	Muscle in carcass	Small	Big
	Fat	RTU P8 Backfat Thickness	Carcass quality & adaptability	Thin	Thick
	Marbling	RTU % Marbling	Juicy meat	Low	High
	Dressing%	Carcass weight / Live weight	High dressing %	Low	High

Notes on the interpretation of EBVs, EBVi's, sub-values and selection values

EBVi (EBVindex) is the breeding value index and is easier to interpret than the breeding value, especially for commercial farmers buying from stud farmers. The base of a breeding value index is 100, which is the average of all the live animals in the breed, and all values are expressed relative to this value. Values above 100 are always in a more desirable direction: an index of 105 for AFC indicates a genetic potential to calve earlier. Note that a very high index is not always desirable. For certain traits, such as birth weight, average values can be better.

EBV: (Estimated Breeding Value) indicates the genetic potential of the animal for a specific trait. It is presented in the unit of measurement and relative to the average of animals born in the base year (1990 for most breeds and traits). Higher values for certain traits are better while lower values for other traits are better, for example, an EBV of -2 for AFC (age at first calving) indicates that the animal has the genetic potential to calve 2 days earlier than the average heifer in 1990 (the base year). Earlier calving is better and therefore low breeding values (high breeding value indices) are better. For weaning weight, higher values are better.

Sub-values combine similar breeding values in a scientific manner to simplify the selection of animals. For example, AFC (age at first calving) and ICP (inter-calving period) are combined to form the sub-value Fertility by taking the heritability and economic importance in consideration. The sub-value is expressed in an index format, thus an animal with a sub-value of 110 for Fertility will genetically be above average compared to the live animals in the breed.

Selection Values (Cow Value and Growth Value) combine the sub-values into a single value. This gives a quick and easy indication of the combined genetic value of an animal compared to the breed. It is advised to still look at the sub-values to see where the strengths and weaknesses lie.

How to use breeding values to select animals

Selecting animals on breeding values is easy if you know how. There is a common saying that “good nutrition can mask poor breeding”. This is very true. If an animal that is genetically inferior is fed well, it can appear as a great animal. This great performance will not be passed over to future generations. An animal that is genetically superior can appear to be inferior if its environment did not allow it to reach its true potential. It is best to select animals that are most adapted to the environment and can reach their full potential. To continuously adapt the environment to the animal can be expensive.

The reason why the use of breeding values is such a valuable tool is because it “removes” the environmental effect that contributes to the performance.

Scientific methods are used to determine how much of the performance is due to genetics and to identify genetically superior animals. This involves the measurement of animals under controlled environments, complete record keeping and pedigree information. *If performance recording and pedigree information are not done correctly, breeding values of these animals will not be useful.* Keep in mind that breeding is a long-term option: the effect of a bull selected/bought today will only show much later. If it is a good decision, his daughters will become part of the breeding herd and contribute to overall profitability in future.

Even if a bull is not perfect in all aspects, knowing the shortcomings will allow strategic selection with suitable cows. Traits are genetically correlated, meaning that a change in one trait can lead to a change in another. This change can be favourable or unfavourable. An increase in weaning weight can lead to an increase in birth weight, which can lead to calving difficulty. It is therefore advisable to not only select on a single trait. Take other traits in consideration to avoid negative effects.

How to improve the herd genetically

The first and most important aspect is to know what type of animal will improve the herd genetically. This can be determined through the following factors:

What happens to the calves? For example: used as replacement heifers, sold as stud animals or sold to commercial breeders who sell weaner calves.

How much feed is available? The availability of feed (or the hardness of the environment) determines the optimal frame size. If feed is abundant and the environment is less harsh, larger animals would be ideal. If not, medium framed animals would be ideal.

What is the genetics of the cow herd? Are they the wrong frame type, grow too slowly, do not have enough milk, etc.? Always aim to breed a calf that is superior to its dam.

Conclusion

Different types of bulls are suitable for different types of cows, environments and breeding objectives. Inbreeding should be avoided or limited as much as possible. Mating programs are available to aid in the pairing of bulls and cows.

The data used for this evaluation is pedigree information and performance data found on LOGIX as provided by breeders. All attempts are made to present accurate information. SA Stud Book takes no responsibility for the use and interpretation of information presented in this report.

