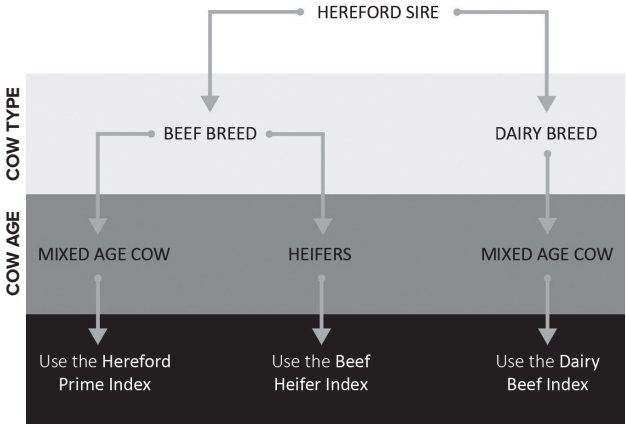
HEREFORD NZ EBV's Explained

BREEDPLAN EBVs and selection indexes remove the effects of non-genetic factors (e.g. feeding regimes, animal age) from what is seen and measured to provide the best measure of an animal's genetic merit. BREEDPLAN information should always be used in conjunction with other selection criteria, including visual assessment.

A BEST PRACTICE GUIDE TO SELECTING YOUR NEXT NEW ZEALAND HEREFORD SIRE

A BREEDPLAN Guide to Animal Selection allows you to select the best genetics for your herd in four easy steps:

Which New Zealand Hereford Selection Index should you use?



1. Identify the New Zealand Hereford selection index of most relevance to you.
2. Rank animals using the chosen selection index.
3. Consider the individual EBVs of importance.
4. Consider other traits of importance (e.g. visual assessment).

The majority of these steps can be undertaken online, allowing you to generate a shortlist of bulls for potential purchase ahead of sale day. The searchable version of this catalogue can be found online at the Hereford NZ website: **www.herefords.co.nz** or at Pivot Design: **www.pivotdesign.co.nz/catalogues**

NEW ZEALAND HEREFORD BREEDPLAN

A BREEDPLAN Guide to Interpreting EBVs outlines how to assess and compare the genetic merit of animals. Please note that only EBVs from the same BREEDPLAN analysis can be directly compared. New Zealand Herefords publishes the following BREEDPLAN EBVs:

Calving Ease Direct (%): Higher (or more positive) CEDir EBVs indicate that two year old heifers will have less difficulty when calving this sire's progeny.

Calving Ease Daughters (%): Higher (or more positive) CEDtr EBVs indicate easier calving of this sire's daughters at two years of age.

Gestation Length (days): Bulls with lower (or more negative) GL EBVs are expected to produce progeny with shorter gestation lengths. Such progeny are also expected to be easier calving.

Birth Weight (kg): Bulls with lower, less positive BWt EBVs are expected to produce progeny that are lighter at birth, with an associated lower risk of calving difficulty. This EBV is particularly important when selecting sires where there is an increased risk of calving difficulty (e.g. heifers, cross-breeding).

200, 400 & 600 Day Weight EBVs (kg): Bulls with larger (or more positive) Weight EBVs are expected to produce progeny that grow faster to 200, 400 & 600 days of age, respectively. The Weight EBV of particular importance will depend on the target market e.g. vealer (200 D), yearling (400 D) or heavy steer (600 D).

Mature Cow Weight (kg): Bulls with larger (or more positive) MCW EBVs are expected to produce daughters with higher mature cow weights and increased feed requirements. More moderate MCW EBVs are generally more favourable in self replacing or maternal production systems.

Milk (kg): Bulls with higher (or more positive) Milk EBVs are expected to produce daughters with more maternal ability leading to higher 200 day weights in their progeny. Selection for moderate Milk EBVs may be preferable in harsher environments as cows with higher Milk EBVs can have impaired fertility and decreased survival under such conditions.

Maternal Value (kg): Bulls with larger (or more positive) Maternal Value EBVs are expected to produce daughters whose progeny will grow faster to 200 days of age.

Scrotal Size (cm): Bulls with larger (or more positive) SS EBVs indicate better semen quality and quantity. Daughters are expected to be more fertile and reach puberty at an earlier age.

Days to Calving (days): Bulls with lower (or more negative) DTC EBVs are expected to produce daughters that are more fertile and have a shorter interval from bull-in date to calving.

Carcase Weight (kg): Bulls with larger (or more positive) CWt EBVs are expected to produce progeny with heavier carcase weights.

Eye Muscle Area (sq. cm): Bulls with a higher (or more positive) EMA EBV are expected to produce progeny with better muscling.

Rib and Rump Fat EBVs (mm): Bulls with higher (or more positive) Rib & Rump Fat EBVs are expected to produce fatter progeny, relative to carcase weight. The desire for more or less fat will depend on the finishing ability of your animals.

Retail Beef Yield (%): Bulls with higher (or more positive) RBY EBVs are expected to produce progeny with higher yielding carcases.

Intramuscular Fat (%): Bulls with higher (or more positive) IMF EBVs are expected to produce progeny with more marbling and better grading scores (e.g. MSA).

Docility (%): Bulls with higher (or more positive) DOC EBVs are expected to produce more progeny with acceptable temperament.

For more information on using and understanding BREEDPLAN information, including the BREEDPLAN Guides, scan the QR code.
https://breedplan.une.edu.au/media/dtqpdm34/using-and-understanding-breedplan-ebvs.pdf

SELECTION INDEXES

New Zealand Herefords currently reports three different selection indexes. These are the: **Hereford Prime Index, Beef Heifer Index, & the Dairy Beef Index**.

Each selection index is reported in units of net profitability per cow mated ($), and relates to a commercial herd using Hereford bulls. Each selection index is focused on efficient beef production, including maternal traits where appropriate. Scan the QR code to find out more details.

https://breedplan.une.edu.au/media/f1bh1b4n/using-new-zealand-hereford-selection-indexes.pdf