

# **SPECKLE PARK NZ EBV's Explained**

BREEDPLAN EBVs 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 SPECKLE PARK SIRE**

A BREEDPLAN Guide to Interpreting EBVs helps producers understand how to assess and compare the genetic merit of animals. Each EBV is reported in the units in which the measurements are taken (e.g. Weight EBVs are reported in kilograms). Please note that *only EBVs produced in the same BREEDPLAN analysis can be directly compared.*

When interpreting BREEDPLAN EBVs, producers may:

- 1. Compare to the level of genetic merit within the current population.**

Comparing against the current levels of genetic merit (*breed average and/or percentile bands*) allows you to understand where an animal ranks within the evaluated population. *EBV percentile graphs* can be found online for each animal and provide a visual representation of where an animal ranks for each trait.

- 2. Compare expected difference in progeny performance.**

Comparing the expected difference in outcome if two (or more) different sires are used in a herd gives you an understanding of what these EBVs mean in real terms.

- 3. Consider EBV accuracy.**

As a general rule, animals should be compared on EBVs regardless of accuracy. Most rising two year old bulls will have similar EBV accuracy levels; however, there may be some variation (particularly at multi-vendor sales) due to levels of performance recording and/or progeny if the bull was used as a yearling.

The searchable version of this catalogue can be found online here <https://www.specklepark.org/> or at [www.pivotdesign.co.nz/catalogues](http://www.pivotdesign.co.nz/catalogues).

## SPECKLE PARK BREEDPLAN

Speckle Park International publishes the following BREEDPLAN EBVs.

Growth EBVs	Fertility & Birth EBVs	Carcase EBVs
Birth Weight	Scrotal Size	Carcase Weight
200 Day Growth	Gestation Length	Eye Muscle Area
400 Day Growth		Rib Fat
600 Day Growth		Rump Fat
Milk (Maternal)		Retail Beef Yield
Mature Cow Weight		Intramuscular Fat

More information, including EBV descriptions and how to use them, can be found in the **Using & Understanding BREEDPLAN EBVs** booklet. Scan the QR code for details.



<https://breedplan.une.edu.au/media/dtqpdm34/using-and-understanding-breedplan-ebvs.pdf>