

Changes to LAMBPLAN ASBVs



Since the last ram selling season there have been a number of changes implemented in the LAMBPLAN analysis for all terminal breeds. As a result of these changes you may notice that the ASBVs reported in sale catalogues this year show a slightly different range. It is important to note that these changes apply to all animals in the database and generally animals have not re-ranked. Animals that had previously ranked in the top 10% of the breed are generally still in the top 10%.

The most significant change is that Birth Weight (BWT) ASBVs have increased, the average value has increased by 0.1 kg. It is therefore recommended that producers increase their acceptable ranges for BWT by this amount. For example, if the heaviest BWT ASBV you have previously been prepared to use was +0.4 kg, that range could now be increased to +0.5 kg with the same birth weights resulting in the ram's progeny.

At the same time Weaning Weight (WWT) and Post Weaning Weight (PWT) ASBVs have on average decreased by 0.4 kg and 0.7 kg respectively. Index values have also decreased. For example, Carcase Plus (C+) values have on average decreased by approximately 5 points. Rams that would previously had C+ values of +185 may now be expected values around +180.

When using ASBVs and Indexes it is important to compare the individual animal's values to the breed average and/or the percentile bands table to assess the animal's relative merit and identify where it ranks within the breed.

If you require any further information regarding the use of ASBVs and Indexes, please contact the Sheep Genetics staff on 02 6773 2948.

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