Understanding LAMBPLAN Maternal ASBVs

Rams with a more positive weaning weight (WWT) will, on average, produce lambs that grow quicker to weaning. This ram will produce lambs that are, on average, 0.4kg heavier than a ram with a 0 ASBV for WWT.

Rams with more positive ASBVs for post weaning weight (PWT) produce lambs that grow quicker and reach target weights in a shorter time. This ram will produce lambs that are, on average, 1.25kg heavier than a ram with a 0 ASBV for PWT.

Rams with more positive ASBVs for eye muscle depth (EMD) produce lambs that have a higher lean meat yield. This ram will produce lambs that have a 0.2mm deeper eye muscle than a ram with a 0 EMD ASBV.

Rams with a higher clean fleece weight (CFW) ASBV will produce progeny that cut more wool. This ram will produce progeny that, on average, cut 2.5% more wool than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Worm egg count (WEC) ASBVs estimate an animal's genetic potential for resisting worm burdens. Lower WEC ASBVs are desirable. This ram will, on average, sire progeny that have 10% fewer eggs/gram than a ram with an ASBV of 0.

Trait	WWT (kg)	MWT (kg)	PWT (kg)	FAT (mm)	EMD (mm)	NLW (%)	CFW (%)	SC (cm)	WEC (%)	INDEX
ASBV	0.8	1.0	2.5	-0.4	0.4	4	5	0.6	-10	105.6
Acc	*51*	*53*	*61*	*45*	*38*	*33*	*37*	*44*	*37*	

Rams with more positive ASBVs for maternal weaning weight (MWT) will produce daughters which will wean heavier lambs. This ASBV reflects a combination of the daughter's ability to milk and provide a better maternal environment.

Rams with a more negative ASBV for fat will produce lambs that are leaner, at the same weight. This ram will produce lambs that are, on average, 0.2mm leaner at the GR site when compared to a ram with a FAT ASBV of 0.

Rams with a more positive number of lambs weaned (NLW) ASBV will sire daughters that wean a higher percentage of lambs. This ram with an ASBV of 4 will sire daughters which, on average, will wean 2% more lambs.

Rams with higher scrotal circumference (SC) ASBVs will sire daughters that are, on average, more fertile.

An index is a guide to the value of a ram for a particular market. Rams with higher indexes will produce lambs that are more suited to that particular breeding objective. In many cases the indexes used for maternal breeds are in $ terms.

- **An ASBV of 0 is the average of the 1990 drop.**
- *Note: A useful rule of thumb for converting ram ASBVs into lamb production differences is to simply halve the ASBV (as rams contribute half the genetics of the lamb).*
- Accuracy - published as a percentage, is a reflection of the amount of effective information that is available to calculate the ASBV. All ASBVs are now published with accuracies. The higher the percentage, the closer the ASBV is to the true breeding value of the animal. Breeding values without accuracies are Flock Breeding Values (FBVs) and can only be compared within the flock.