

Timeline



What is Mature Cow Weight?

- The liveweight measurement of a mature cow when her calf is weighed for 200 Day Growth.
- Measured in kilograms (kg), to the nearest kg.

Why Record Mature Cow Weight?

- Recording Mature Cow Weight enables BREEDPLAN to calculate Mature Cow Weight EBVs.
- Depending on the specific breeding objective, Mature Cow Weight has considerable influence on profitability in terms of:
 - Cow Feed Requirement – in general, lighter cows have a lower feed requirement thus, are less expensive to maintain.
 - Cow Fertility – in general, smaller framed cows will maintain better condition through the dry season and have reduced rebreeding interval.
 - Cull Cow Values – in commercial herds, live weight is a major determinant of value and thus, heavier cows may see higher returns.
 - Achieving the appropriate balance between cow feed requirement and cull cow values is important to consider.

When to Record Mature Cow Weight?

- BREEDPLAN will only analyse the weight of a mature cow if the cow has a calf with a valid 200 Day Growth measurement recorded (i.e. calf aged between 80 – 300 days of age) within two weeks of when the mature weight of the cow was taken.
- It is recommended to record Mature Cow Weight at the same time as recording the 200 Day Growth measurement of her calf.
- BREEDPLAN will only analyse the Mature Cow Weight performance if the first valid Mature Cow Weight has been taken before six years of age (2200 days).

Mature Cow Weight EBV

- Estimate of the genetic difference in cow weight at five years of age.
- Mature Cow Weight EBVs are calculated from the live weight performance of mature cows when her calf is weighed for 200 Day Growth.
- Reported in kilograms (kg).

Interpreting Mature Cow Weight EBVs

- Animals with higher, more positive Mature Cow Weight EBVs would be expected to produce progeny with a higher mature weight than animals with lower Mature Cow Weight EBVs.
- The optimal level of Mature Cow Weight EBV will depend on the individual herd and its breeding objective(s). For example:
 - Breeders looking to decrease the mature weight of their cows may look for lower Mature Cow Weight EBVs.
 - Breeders looking to increase their returns from the sale of cull cows may look for higher Mature Cow Weight EBVs.
 - Breeders looking to maintain the mature size of their breeding cows, while maximising the growth of their progeny, may look for moderate Mature Cow Weight EBVs.

How Many Mature Cow Weight Measurements does BREEDPLAN Use?

- BREEDPLAN can analyse up to four Mature Cow Weights for each cow.
- Rather than trying to guess whether a cow has had four weights taken previously, it is recommended that you weigh all cows in the group when measuring 200 Day Growth of their calves. The BREEDPLAN analysis will sort out which of the Mature Cow Weights can be analysed for you.

More Information

Scan the QR code below or click [here](#) for the BREEDPLAN Help Centre.



Recommended further reading (search in the BREEDPLAN Help Centre):

- Recording Mature Cow Weights (with video)
- Understanding Mature Cow Weight EBVs