

Timeline



What is 200-Day Milk?

- The proportion of the 200 Day Growth of the calf that is due to the maternal effects of the dam.
- Maternal effects of the dam include the amount of milk the calf receives, the quality of the milk received and the mothering ability of the dam.
- Dam effects can be due to both genetic and non-genetic maternal factors.

Why Record 200-Day Milk?

- Research shows that 10% of the genetic variation in the weight of calves at 200 days is due to the maternal contribution of the dam.

200-Day Milk EBV

- An estimate of the maternal contribution of a dam to the 200 Day Growth of her calf.
- In the case of sires, it is an estimate the maternal influence that his daughters will have on the 200 Day Growth of their progeny (i.e. the sire's grand progeny).
- Indicates the expected difference in the liveweight of the calf at 200 days that is due to the maternal effect of the cow.
- Calculated from 200 Day Growth of calves.
- Reported in kilograms (kg).

Information Required for 200-Day Milk EBVs

- The 200 Day Growth of calves.
- To improve accuracy, BREEDPLAN will also use the 400 Day Weight for calves in the calculation of 200-Day Milk EBVs (as a repeat measure). Therefore, recording 400 Day Weight of calves is also recommended.

Interpreting 200-Day Milk EBVs

- Larger and more positive 200-Day Milk EBVs indicate a greater maternal genetic contribution to the 200 Day Growth of calves. For example:
 - A dam with a 200-Day Milk EBV of +10 kg would be expected to have a greater maternal genetic contribution to the 200 Day Growth of calves compared to a dam with a 200-Day Milk EBV of +3 kg.
 - A bull with a 200-Day Milk EBV of +10 kg would be expected to sire daughters that have a greater maternal genetic contribution to the 200 Day Growth of their calves than a bull with a 200-Day Milk EBV of +3 kg. With all other factors (e.g. the 200 Day Growth EBVs of calves) being equal, this greater maternal genetic contribution should be reflected through higher weaning weights among the daughter's calves.
- It should be noted that the optimum level of 200-Day Milk EBV is dependent on the specific conditions of the production system as one environment may not be conducive to high 200-day Milk EBVs while another may be. For example:
 - Selection for increased 200-Day Milk EBVs may be warranted when cows are managed under good nutritional conditions and/or calves are sold as weaners.
 - Under suboptimal conditions, high 200-day Milk EBV cows may not get back in calf as easily as lower 200-Day Milk EBV cows in the following year.

More Information

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

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

- Recording Information for Milk EBVs (with video)
- Understanding Milk EBVs

