

Timeline



What is Gestation Length?

- Gestation length (GL) is the period from the date of conception (i.e. when the female gets in calf) to when the subsequent calf is born.

Why Record Gestation Length?

- GL affects birth weight, calving ease, re-breeding performance, and weaning weight of calves.
- Shorter GL is associated with lighter birth weight, improved calving ease and improved re-breeding performance among dams.
- Calves born with a shorter GL may be heavier at weaning due to more days of growth post-birth.

How to Record Gestation Length

- GL EBVs are calculated from both the artificial insemination (AI) date and date of birth records for calves conceived by AI.
- The information that needs to be recorded for the calculation of GL EBVs includes the birth date of each calf and the AI date (submitted with calf registrations).
- AI information submitted through mating lists are not used.

Considerations when recording GL

- Only AI calves are included in the analysis of GL EBVs.
- GL Information is currently excluded from the BREEDPLAN analysis if:
 - The calf is an embryo transfer calf or twin.
 - Only one animal is represented in a contemporary group.
 - More than 2/3 of animals in a contemporary group have the same GL.

Interpreting Gestation Length EBVs

- Gestation Length EBVs provide an estimate of genetic differences between animals in gestation length. Gestation Length EBVs are expressed in days.
- Lower or more negative Gestation Length EBVs are considered to be more favourable.
- For example, a bull with a Gestation Length EBV of -2 days would be expected to produce calves that are born earlier, and more easily, than a bull with a Gestation Length EBV of +2 days.

More Information

- Scan the QR codes below for the complete BREEDPLAN Tip Sheets or click [here](#) for the BREEDPLAN Help Centre.

