

Dorset Down Breed Benchmark 2024 – National Terminal Sire Evaluation

Estimated Breeding Value	Attribute	Bottom 5%	Bottom 10%	Bottom 25%	Average	Top 25%	Top 10%	Top 5%
Birth Weight	Birth Weight	0.32	0.28	0.20	0.11	0.02	-0.06	-0.10
Lambing Ease	Lamb's Ease of Birth	-0.44	-0.36	-0.23	-0.09	0.05	0.18	0.26
Lambing Ease Maternal	Ewe's Ease of Lambing	-0.10	-0.09	-0.07	-0.04	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Lamb Survival	Survival to Sale	-0.04	-0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.12
Eight Week Weight	Early Growth	-0.72	-0.41	0.11	0.68	1.25	1.77	2.08
Shearling Weight	Ewe Efficiency	-1.63	-1.04	-0.07	1.02	2.11	3.08	3.67
Litter Size	Prolificacy	-0.15	-0.13	-0.10	-0.07	-0.04	-0.01	0.01
Litter Size Reared	Prolificacy/Care	-0.08	-0.07	-0.05	-0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Maternal Ability	Milk/Care	-0.26	-0.19	-0.07	0.07	0.21	0.33	0.40
Scan Weight	Growth	-1.85	-1.03	0.34	1.87	3.40	4.77	5.59
Muscle Depth	Muscling	-1.79	-1.49	-0.99	-0.44	0.11	0.61	0.91
Fat Depth	Finish	-0.91	-0.76	-0.52	-0.25	0.02	0.26	0.41
Terminal Sire Index	Profitable Slaughter Lambs	26	46	80	118	155	189	209
Maternal Index	Profitable Ewes	33	46	68	93	118	140	153

Rebasing - EBVs and indexes have been rebased and are expressed relative to the average animal in 2010.

Weight adjusted traits

Please note that all traits marked * are now weight adjusted. This means that EBVs are a better prediction of carcass composition at a fixed weight.

Example: A ram with a muscle depth EBV of +2mm is estimated to produce lambs with loin depths 1mm deeper at a fixed weight than a ram with an EBV of 0