

2015 BREED AVERAGES FOR EPD TRAITS

The table below contains the most recent averages from breed association genetic evaluation programs as compiled by the U. S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska. Averages are for individuals born in 2013, the best estimate of where a breed stands in 2015.

These figures can be used to determine how **individual animals** compare to their current breed average. Every association calculates EPDs independently, so **these averages can not be used to compare breeds**. For instance, the average Weaning EPD of +50 for Angus compared to +26 for Charolais **does not** mean the Angus breed averages 24 pounds heavier than Charolais for weaning weight.

Breed comparisons can be seen on this website (<http://beef.tamu.edu>) in the list of publications under “Genetics & Selection”. Look for “2015 Sire-Breed Comparisons for EPD Traits”. Factors to adjust EPDs for comparison of **individuals** of different breeds, also based on U. S. Meat Animal Research Center studies, can be found in another publication on the above website under “2015 Across-Breed EPD Adjustments.”

Note that almost **none** of the breed averages **are zero**. They are calculated in relation to breed average for a base (the starting year or some other base), which varies for each breed. Since the base can be the year when the breed’s EPD program started (over 40 years ago in some breeds) many breed averages are now markedly different from zero for some traits, especially weaning and yearling weight. Also, breed averages often change each year, possibly significantly if an association chooses to use a different base from preceding years, so the most recent average should always be used.

The first table contains the four traits reported by all breeds with EPD. The second table contains calving ease, scrotal circumference, and carcass traits reported by breeds. Other EPD values calculated by some breeds include various combinations of gestation length, yearling hip height, mature weight, mature height, docility, stayability (longevity in the herd), carcass weight, Yield Grade or cutability (estimated percent lean), tenderness, and \$ Value Indexes. For a full genetic evaluation report containing all EPD values, contact the particular breed association or access their website.

Breed Average EPD Value				
Breed	Birth Weight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Milk
Angus	+1.7	+50	+88	+23
Beefmaster	+0.3	+10	+14	+2
Braford	+1.0	+11	+17	+3
Brahman	+1.8	+16	+26	+6
Brangus	+1.1	+25	+46	+10

Braunvieh	+2.9	+44	+69	+34
Charolais	+0.5	+26	+48	+8
Chiangus	+2.4	+43	+62	+17
Gelbvieh	+1.0	+68	+98	+28
Hereford	+3.3	+47	+77	+19
Limousin	+1.9	+46	+91	+25
MaineAnjou	+1.2	+46	+60	+17
Murray Grey	+3.7	+23	+35	+4
Red Angus	-1.2	+56	+87	+20
Red Brangus	+1.5	+13	+20	+5
Red Poll	+1.6	+15	+24	+6
Salers	+1.5	+42	+80	+19
Santa Gertrudis	+0.2	+4	+5	0
Senepol	+1.2	+12	+16	+4
Shorthorn	+2.2	+48	+53	+20
Simbrah	+3.9	+63	+85	+21
Simmental	+2.0	+63	+91	+22
South Devon	+2.5	+43	+81	+24
Tarentaise	+1.3	+18	+31	+1

Breed	Calving Ease Direct	Calving Ease Maternal	Scrotal Circumference	Marbling	Ribeye Area	Fat Cover
Angus	+4	+8	+0.82	+0.54	+0.51	+0.01
Beefmaster			+0.2	0	+0.03	+0.01
Braford				+0.01	+0.06	+0.01
Brahman				+0.01	+0.01	-0.01
Brangus	+4.6	+3.7	+0.48	0	+0.31	-0.04
Braunvieh	+5.4	+0.7	-0.12	+0.57	+0.33	-0.43
Charolais	+3.1	+3.5	+0.72	+0.03	+0.28	0
Chiangus	+5.5	-2.5		+0.15	+0.19	-0.04
Gelbvieh	+10.2	+7.2		+0.06	+0.45	-0.05

Hereford	+0.9	+1.2	+0.82	+0.07	+0.30	0
Limousin	+6.9	+5.5	+0.14	-0.07	+0.50	
MaineAnjou	+7.8	+2.4		+0.04	+0.19	-0.05
Murray Grey	-0.6	-0.2	+0.2	0	+0.10	0
Red Angus	+4	+5		+0.44	+0.10	0
Salers	+0.4	+0.4	+0.3	0	+0.04	0
Santa Gertrudis				-0.01	+0.03	0
Shorthorn	+4.0	+1.4		+0.05	-0.06	-0.03
Simbrah	+2.5	+6.4		-0.08	+0.46	-0.06
Simmental	+8.6	+9.4		+0.12	+0.77	-0.05
South Devon			+0.1	+0.40	+0.22	+0.01
Tarentaise	-0.1	+0.7				

Updated August, 2015