



LIMOUSIN PERFORMANCE RECORDING

The 200 Day Milk EBV

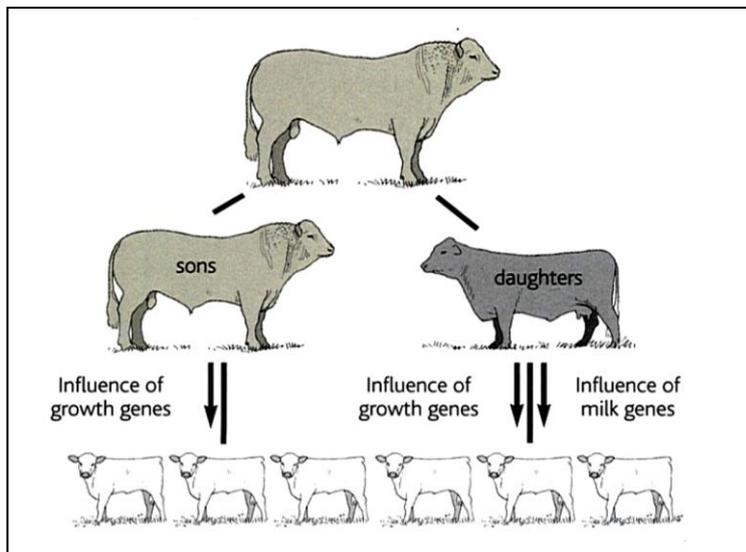
Many commercial and pedigree producers are breeding their own female replacements and need to identify bulls with superior maternal attributes.

An important maternal EBV is the 200 Day Milk EBV, which indicates the degree to which a calf's weight at 200 days of age is influenced by its mother's maternal performance – e.g. milkiness and general mothering ability.

The 200 Day Milk EBV is calculated by considering the performance of the grand-offspring of a bull. The weights of all his grand-offspring are influenced by his growth genes, but only those produced by his daughters are affected by his genes for milk.

If the grandprogeny produced by his daughters are consistently heavier than those produced by his sons, then this is likely to be due to their genes for milk production and maternal behaviour passed on to his daughters and will be reflected by his EBV. This is illustrated in the following diagram...

Interpretation of the 200 Day Milk EBV



A bull with an EBV of +4 for 200-Day Milk is expected to produce heifer calves which will have above average maternal characteristics leading to their calves being 2kg heavier at 200-days than calves from heifers sired by a bull with an EBV of 0.

(The EBV is halved since the other half of the calves' performance will come from their sire)

Calculating the 200 Day Milk EBV for a Stock Bull

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The other maternal traits currently produced include:

- Longevity: predicting the length of an animal's breeding life in the herd
- Age at 1st Calving: predicting early maturity of daughters
- Calving Interval : predicting how quickly daughters will get back in calf
- Maternal Calving Ease: predicting how easily daughters will calve.

Maternal traits are only expressed by females. When attributed to males they indicate how their daughters will perform as mothers.

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