

Contact details

Signet Technicians – covering England and Wales



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– covering West Midlands, South West, Mid and South Wales



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– covering Northern, North Wales

Other AHDB Accredited Scanning Providers

Payment for scanning is made directly to the provider.

Charges may vary between providers.

Willie Wilson

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AI Services

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David Cain

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For more information contact one of the scanners or Signet on 0247 647 8829 or signet@eblex.ahdb.org.uk

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Ultrasound Scanning Beef Cattle



If you want to improve carcass conformation you need to measure it....

Signet
Signet Breeding Services

Why ultrasound scan your cattle?

Ultrasound scanning enables breeders to assess the carcase quality of their cattle by measuring muscle and fat depth in the live animal.

Unlike growth rate, it isn't easy to identify cattle with superior muscling across the loin. Ultrasound images enable breeders to select animals with superior loins and avoid those with a high level of carcase fat. Research indicates that selective breeding for muscle depth across the loin will enhance muscle yield throughout the carcase.

New ultrasound scanning kit

Signet's ultrasound scanning service has recently been enhanced through investment in the latest scanning software, the SonoScape scanner produced by Vet Image Solutions of Bromley. The new machine has sharper and clearer images, enabling muscle and fat layers to be defined more clearly.



What is involved?

Cattle are restrained in a crush and liquid paraffin is applied to the hide to assist acoustic contact. Measurements are taken at the last rib and third lumbar vertebrae. Each image is frozen on the screen and the measurements recorded are submitted for inclusion in breeding evaluations.

Price Details

All scanning technicians are required to pass AHDB accreditation tests for accuracy and repeatability. Scanning is provided by both Signet employees and freelance technicians. Scanning charges are typically £6+VAT per head, with a minimum visit fee of £175+VAT.

Ultrasound scanning can benefit a herd in a number of ways...

Helping the selection of males

- Promoting bulls at sales
- Highlighting superior stock bulls – influencing semen sales
- Identifying young bulls that should be retained for use at home



Helping the selection of females

- Aiding heifer selection
- Highlighting cows worth flushing for embryos

Authentication of performance

- Providing customers with assurance about the quality of measurements taken in the herd

Increasing accuracy levels

- Enabling superior animals to be identified
- Enabling faster rates of genetic progress

Testing new breeding lines

- Enhancing the evaluation of untested or imported breeding lines – enabling the best genetics to get better EBVs more quickly

'If you want to breed for muscle, you need to measure muscle'