



## Breeding Indexes: The Beef Value, Calving Value and Maternal Value

The Beef Value, Calving Value and Maternal Value are ‘breeding indexes’. Breeding indexes combine individual trait EBVs in to overall scores of genetic merit, which are weighted according to the relative economic value of each of its contributing trait EBVs.

The aim of breeding indexes is to provide a way of selecting for a number of traits at the same time, making the maximum rate of gain from each. BLPR currently provides three main indexes as follows:

### Beef Value

The economic value of an animal in terms of the financial merit of its offsprings’ carcasses

### Calving Value

The economic value of an animal in terms of gestation length and difficult calvings

### Maternal Value

The economic value of an animal’s genetic ability to produce breeding females

The EBVs accounted for in the calculation of these indexes is shown below:

Birthweight 400 Day Growth Muscle Depth Backfat Depth	<b>Beef Value</b>
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Gestation Length Calving Ease	<b>Calving Value</b>
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Longevity Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> Calving 200 Day Milk Weight Maternal Calving Ease Calving Interval	<b>Maternal Value</b>
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As with EBVs, Breeding Indexes cannot be compared between breeds.

To help identify which index is which, all Calving Values and Maternal Values are suffixed with letters, examples of which are as follows:

Calving Value: LM2C  
Maternal Value: LM3V

The Beef Value carries no such suffix and appears, for example, like this: LM43.

'LM' in front of each Breeding Index indicates it relates to a Limousin animal.

When using an Index it is important that your breeding objective is broadly similar to that of the Index in question, otherwise you may unwittingly change aspects of your herd that you did not necessarily want to.

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