

## Commercial ram buyers guide to genetic selection

### What a Australian Sheep Breeding Values

Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) can be used to compare the genetic differences between animals for a range of important traits. Performance data, pedigree, and genomic data inform an animal's ASBVs, with ASBVs also being adjusted for known non-genetic impacts on performance. ASBVs provide an indication of how an animal's progeny will perform based on the genes an animal has, allowing you to compare the genetic differences between rams, enabling informed selection decisions. It's important to set a breeding objective prior to sale and to track your flock's performance.

### What is an index

Indexes combine multiple traits (i.e., growth, reproduction, carcass, and wool) into a single value to describe an animal's economic value based on its relative importance to a specific production system. Indexes are a useful ranking tool within a catalogue, once sorted using an index it is important to look at individual ASBVs within your breeding objective. For more information on ASBVs and indexes scan the QR code.



### What is a Percentile Band and how to use it

Percentile bands are used within Sheep Genetics to benchmark where an individual animal is sitting for a trait relative to industry. For the most up to date ASBVs and Percentile Bands visit the Sheep Genetics website, as they are updated every 2 weeks. On the Sheep Genetics search site, animals are highlighted based on the top 5 (purple), 10 (blue) and 20% (green) for each trait in the analyses.

