

2020 BREED AVERAGES FOR EPD TRAITS

The table below contains averages from breed association websites. In most cases they are of recently born individuals, the best estimate of where a breed stands in 2020.

These numbers can be used to determine how **individual animals of a breed** compare to **their** current breed average, but **not** to other breed averages. Most associations publish a chart showing distribution of EPD traits. For example, consider a Hereford bull with Yearling EPD +97. According to the association distribution chart that bull is at the 20th percentile. This means 20 percent of the breed is above 97 EPD for Yearling Weight and 80 percent are below 97.

Every association calculates EPDs independently, so **these averages also can not be used to compare breeds**. For instance, the breed average Weaning EPD of +57 for Angus compared to +32 for Charolais **does not** mean the Angus breed averages 25 pounds heavier than the Charolais breed for weaning weight.

Note that **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 45 years ago in some breeds) many breed averages are now markedly different from zero for some traits. 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 breed average** and the **most recent individual EPDs always should be used**.

The table contains the four traits reported by all breeds with EPD and some carcass traits. Other EPD values calculated by some breeds include various combinations (depending on the breed) of calving ease, heifer pregnancy, 30-month pregnancy, gestation length, days to calving, scrotal circumference, yearling hip height, mature weight, dry matter intake, mature cow maintenance, residual ADG (feed efficiency), mature height, docility, stayability (longevity in the herd), carcass weight, USDA Yield Grade or % retail product (percent lean), tenderness, and \$ Value Indexes. For a complete breed genetic evaluation report, contact the particular breed association or their website.

Factors to adjust individual animals for direct EPD comparison can be seen at (<http://beef.tamu.edu>) in the list of publications under "Genetics & Selection". Look for "2020 Across-Breed EPD Adjustments". Overall breed comparisons can be seen in another publication on the above website under "Genetics and Selection". Look for "2020 Sire Breed Comparisons for EPD Traits"

BREED AVERAGE EPD VALUE

Breed	Birth Weight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Milk	Marbling	REA	Fat Cover
Angus	+1.2	+57	+100	+25	+0.56	+0.57	+0.011
Beefmaster	+0.4	+24	+43	+9	+0.1	+0.18	-0.030
Brahman	+0.7	+8	+14	+6	+0.01	+0.01	0
Brangus	+0.9	+25	+46	+9	+0.06	0.34	-0.040
Braunvieh	+2.7	+44	+68	+33	+0.56	+0.39	+0.09
Charolais	+0.3	+32	+59	+10	+0.11	+0.70	+0.009
Chiangus	+1.9	+49	+75	+14	+0.30	+0.38	-0.017
Gelbvieh	-0.2	+67	+101	+20	+0.29	+0.58	-0.017
Hereford	+2.8	+53	+85	+25	+0.10	+0.37	+0.012
Limousin	+0.9	+65	+98	+21	+0.09	+0.91	-0.053
MaineAnjou	+1.7	+44	+55	+19	+0.13	+0.26	-0.030
Murray Grey	+2.8	+17	+25	+3	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00
Red Angus	-1.8	+59	+94	+25	+0.41	+0.11	+0.02
Salers	+0.4	+53	+74	+16	+0.10	+0.60	-0.014
Santa Gertrudis	-0.4	-1.7	-2	+1	+0.01	+0.00	+0.00
Shorthorn	+1.5	+51	+76	+19	-0.02	+0.06	+0.010
Simbrah	+2.4	+59	+86	+19	-0.16	+0.65	-0.12
Simmental	+1.8	+76	+113	+23	+0.11	+0.87	-0.09
South Devon	+1.0	+56	+83	+16	+0.40	+0.21	-0.07
Tarentaise	+0.5	+16	+28	+1			

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