

NOTES & GLOSSARY

DUDAUMAN PARK BREEDING STRATEGY

Dudauman Park's goat breeding is directed at turning off the best **possible fit-for-purpose meat production goats**. To these ends, we select and breed on the basis of both **visual/structural traits** (visually assessed) and **genetic traits** (as estimated by the Kidplan system from Sheep Genetics in Armidale). **Structural, carcass and reproductive traits** are always top priority. **Worm resistance** is important for some areas but not others; **colour** is a secondary priority. To meet these objectives, we use **composite, purebred, percentage and full-blood** animals as required. For fit-for-purpose objectives, we group the animals on their genetic profiles into four 'types': Terminal, Maternal, Worm Resistant and Full-blood.

TYPES

- A '**Terminal**' sire has a genetic profile that will tend to produce kids suited for slaughter rather than reproduction. [e.g. C+, YEMD]
- A '**Maternal**' sire has a genetic profile that will tend to produce progeny suited for reproduction. [e.g. NKB, NKW, YSC]
- A '**Dual Purpose**' sire has a genetic profile that is strong in both Terminal and Maternal areas.
- A '**Worm Resistant**' sire will tend to throw progeny with a higher resistance to intestinal worms. [YFEC]
- A '**Full-blood**' buck has a pedigree that goes exclusively and directly to animals imported from South Africa, without external infusion, and should be registrable with either of the two Australian breed societies.
- A '**Purebred**', '**Percentage**' or '**Composite**' animal is infused or crossed with genetics from outside the breed.

INDEXES

- The **Carcase Plus Index (C+)** combines post-weaning weight, fat depth and eye muscle depth EBVs to predict an animal's genetic suitability for high growth and muscle depth. It selects for purely terminal characteristics.
- The **Boer \$ Index (B\$)** combines several terminal and reproductive EBVs (mainly early weights, EMD and NKW) to estimate an animal's genetic merits

in a self-replacing herd, where both terminal production and replacing breeders are important. It is a 'balanced' index selecting for a combination of terminal, maternal and worm resistance characteristics.

ESTIMATED BREEDING VALUES (Refer to Kidplan at ..)

www.sheepgenetics.org.au/Breeding-services/KIDPLAN-Home

- **Birth Weight EBV ('BWT')** is based on measured birth weight of kids adjusted for age of dam. Where birth weights are not available it is estimated as a correlated trait from weight measurements taken as the lamb matures. The lower the EBV, the lighter is the estimated progeny birth weight potential.
- Weight EBVs, including **Adult Weight ('AWT')** describe the animals' genetic merit for growth rate. A positive EBV means the animal is genetically faster growing. Weight EBVs are available for weaning (100 days), post-weaning (200 days), yearling, hogget and adult ages ('AWT').
- **Eye Muscle Depth EBV ('EMD')** describes the value of animals' genes for eye muscle depth at a constant weight – a positive EBV means a genetically thicker-muscled animal, and one that will have slightly more of its lean tissue in the higher-priced cuts. **YEMD** is the EBV for the yearling stage.
- **Reproductive EBVs** describe the value of animals' genes for kidding and/or marking rate. **'YSC'** describes the scrotal circumference of males. **'NKB'** is the EBV for Number of Kids Born. **'NKW'** is the EBV for Number of Kids Weaned.
- **Worm Egg Count EBVs ('WEC' or 'FEC')** describe the value of animal's genes for resisting worm burdens – a combination of being genetically less likely to pick up worms and being better at getting rid of them. **'YFEC'** is the EBV for worm resistance at the yearling stage. Note the more negative numbers indicate higher resistance.
- **In-breeding Percentage ('IB%')** describes the degree of in-breeding in the animal's pedigree.

VISUAL SCORE (by CLASSIMATE)

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The **Visual Score** (or **ClassiMate Score**) is a ranking, out of a possible 10 points, that indicates the visual and structural correctness of a particular animal as determined by an assessor. The ClassiMate program - a visual livestock assessment tool, soon to be released - calculates the score from observations of key visual traits (Meat, Feet, Structure, Character, Reproduction) using industry accepted weightings for each observation.

NOTE : These scores are presented here as a trial of the ClassiMate system which is in the 'beta testing' stage at this time. We welcome feedback on the scores and associated graphics on Auctions Plus and on pens. Please pass any feedback to Angus at angus@classimate.net or Colin at colin.ramsay@bigpond.com

DISCLAIMER : Note that, in this case, the assessment has been done by the Vendor, not an independent assessor.