Buying a recorded Dorset

Why invest in Signet-recorded rams?
Investing in rams with superior genetics can be worth an extra £800 over their lifetime.
With potential gains of £4 per lamb, commercial producers should source Signet-recorded rams with high estimated breeding values (EBVs) for traits of importance to their flock.

Interpreting EBVs when buying a ram
EBVs can be presented on Order of Merit sale cards that report the main traits, or on a breeding chart.
Accuracy values indicate how much is known about an animal for a specific trait and the degree to which EBVs might change over time.

Table 1. Dorset breed benchmark for 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated breeding value</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Top 25%</th>
<th>Top 10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-week weight</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>2.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter size</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal ability</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan weight</td>
<td>6.49</td>
<td>7.81</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle depth</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat depth</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean weight</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat weight</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal index</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal index</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Breeding charts
Breeding charts are more informative, showing where a ram's genetic potential sits within the breed for a range of traits.

The centre line indicates the average for that breed. Bars to the right of the centre indicate above-average breeding values, meaning progeny are likely to have faster growth rates, more muscling and be fatter. Bars to the left indicate a below-average value for those traits and leaner progeny.

BLACKHILL WINDJAMMER D26:W2732
Sire: HUISH TOP FLIGHT A26:T04150
Dam: D26:S1127
Ultrasound Scanned: Yes
Date of Birth 17/09/2014

Below Average Above Average
Litter Size -0.03 59
Maternal Ability 4.78 83
Eight Week Weight 2.08 92
Scan Weight 10.39 91
Muscle Depth 5.43 89
Fat Depth 1.08 87
T. Sire Index 466 89
Maternal Index 279 80

EBV Acc

BLUP RUN : 11/01/2018
Produced by Signet Breeding Services
Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2TL Tel: 0247 647 8829

Figure 1. Dorset EBV chart