**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.

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**Table 1. Texel breed benchmark for 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Top 25%</th>
<th>Top 10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-week weight</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>5.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter size</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal ability</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan weight</td>
<td>8.14</td>
<td>9.84</td>
<td>11.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle depth</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>2.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat depth</td>
<td>-0.12</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean weight</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>3.03</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat weight</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gigot</td>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>6.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Estimated breeding value**

**Accuracy values**

**8-week weight**

**Muscle depth**

**Fat depth**

**Index**

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For more details on the Better Returns Programme, call 024 7647 8834, email brp@ahdb.org.uk or visit beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk
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.

Finding information
Sale charts for animals can be viewed and printed from the BASCO database, accessed via the ‘EBV Search’ section of the Signet website (www.signetfbc.co.uk).

AVON VALE REAL DEAL MQZ1000044
Sire: DRINKSTONE OH JUST SO PJ08020
Dam: MQZ08022
Ultrasound Scanned: Yes
Date of Birth 20/02/2010

Below Average Above Average
EBV Acc
Litter Size 0.15 94
Maternal Ability 2.02 99
Eight Week Weight 5.84 99
Scan Weight 13.44 99
Muscle Depth 5.50 99
Fat Depth 0.45 99
Index 494 99

BLUP RUN : 17/10/2017
Produced by Signet Breeding Services
Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2TL Tel: 0247 647 8829

Figure 1. Texel EBV chart

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