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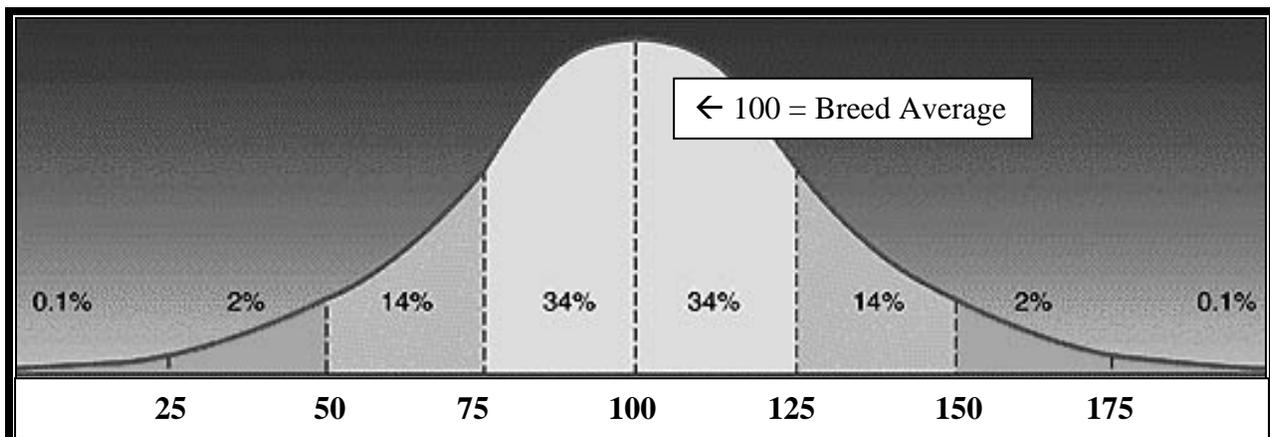
Q11: THERE ARE GAPS IN MY PEDIGREE. WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THIS?

Q12: SOME OF MY GOATS HAVE THE WRONG BIRTHDATES. WHY?

Q1: WHAT IS AN EBV?

Estimated Breeding Values, or EBVs, are calculated using the animal's own performance records, plus records on relatives. We develop individual EBVs for the milk and body confirmation traits that we track and use them to develop three selection indices.

EBV Code	EBV Name	Description
CIdx	Combined Index	Selection index based on 60% PIdx and 40% TIdx (see graph)
PIdx	Production Index	Selection index based on milking traits (Milk, Fat, Protein)
TIdx	Type Index	Selection index based on CGS 8 linear type traits
Milk	Milk Weight	EBV for milk production in Kg (1Kg~1L) EBV is shown as amount of production in kilograms either above or below the current breed average.
Prot	Protein Yield	Given in Kg
ProtP	Protein Percentage	Percent protein in the milk
Fat	Fat Yield	Butter fat, given in Kg
FatP	Fat Percentage	Percent butter fat in milk
TE	Teats	EBVs for type traits are all based on the CGS classification scores of the animals. EBVs at CCSI for type traits are ranked from 1 to 9 with 9 being the highest and 5 being breed average.
FU	Fore Udder	For more information on type classification and criteria, please contact CGS.
RU	Rear Udder	
SL	Suspensory Ligament	
DC	Dairy Character	
GA	General Appearance	
BC	Body Capacity	
FL	Feet and Legs	



For the three selection indices, the breed average is always 100. Anything over 100 is above the breed average and anything over 125 is in the top 17% of all goats evaluated for that breed; likewise, anything below 75 is in the bottom 17% of evaluated goats for that breed in the system.

You can also see the EBVs for milk, fat and protein. These are also calculated against the current breed averages but are expressed in the same units you would use to measure those traits. For instance, if the goat has a +30 EBV for milk, that means the goat is estimated to have the genetic potential to produce, over the year, 30 kg more milk than the breed average. The same principle applies for protein and fat yield. Type traits are ranked out of 9, with 5 being the breed average.

Q2: WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF THERE IS A SMALL “1” NEXT TO THE EBV?

If there is a small 1 next to any evaluation number, this means that the goat itself does not have records or progeny with records included in the evaluation. The EBV is calculated as the average of the parent EBVs. This doesn’t apply to most of your goats, since you have records and not much parentage information. However, as soon as we get the new batch of kids into the computer, they will instantly receive EBVs using their parent averages.

Q3: SOME OF MY GOATS WITH PERFORMANCE DATA DO NOT HAVE EBVS. WHY NOT?

There are several possible reasons why a goat with performance data may not have been included in the evaluation. If you click on a the animal’s performance data icon, a list of the animal’s data will appear. A green smiley face indicates that the record was used in the evaluation. A red face means it was not. If you move your mouse cursor over the red face, a tag should appear explaining why it was disallowed. Below is a list of the most common reasons for exclusion. Also, keep in mind that if you are new to the program, EBVs are only published for enrolled herds; if there has been no evaluation since you have joined, you may have to wait until the next run to see EBVs. If you feel the exclusion was unwarranted or have any questions about the reasoning for these exclusion codes, please contact someone at CCSI and we will be happy to help.

Reasons for Data Exclusion
Days in Milk < 0 or > 305 days
Kidding Age < 7 Months
Missing Milk Weight
Milk < 0 or > 9.5 Kg
Fat % < 1 or > 9.5
Protein % < 1.8 or > 6.4
Classification date unknown or < 1981
Unknown Classifier
Classification Scores outside ranges
Missing, invalid or future freshening date
Lactation # not between 1 and 19
Missing Lactation Number
Unknown Herd
Breed not Evaluated

Q4: SOME OF MY GOATS ARE LISTED AS CROSSBRED GOATS. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY EVALUATIONS?

We currently do not evaluate crossbred goats because the evaluations are compared to breed standards. We are developing rules to evaluate crossbred goats and we will hopefully be doing so in the near future. If no breed was given, goats are automatically assigned as crossbred.

Q5: WHAT ABOUT THE NUMBER OF DAYS IN MILK BEING OVER 305 DAYS OR GOATS THAT ARE ABOVE OR BELOW PROTEIN AND FAT STANDARDS?

Because of the model we are using, we have to adjust for stage of lactation, and we don't have good information beyond 305 days in milk. The accuracy of predicting early and peak lactation performance based on production after 305 days is perhaps questionable. If we had enough data, we could look at this. Keep in mind though that most of the production for a herd will be coming from the first 305 days, even if some of the goats milk longer.

Persistency, or ability to keep producing beyond 305 days might be considered as a different trait as it is thought to be quite heritable. It's something we could consider evaluating, particularly if there is lots of interest at the commercial level.

Q6: HOW DO I USE EBVS IN BREEDING AND CULLING DECISIONS?

EBVs are meant to give you useful data to aid in making breeding and culling decision in your herd. The amount of emphasis you put on the numerical values is up to you. I believe in the integrity of the values we give you, but I also believe that one cannot underestimate human experience and intuition. The milk performance information and EBVs should allow you to quantify the value of each individual goat. Essentially, an EBV for any particular dam is an estimation of her ability to pass on traits of value to her offspring. For instance, if a dam has a milk EBV of 30 kg, you would estimate that she would pass half of that ability, 15 kg over the breed average, onto any of her daughters (the other half of course coming from the chosen sire).

Using these numbers you can do many things. For ongoing production, you can use a ranked list of your goats to keep the most productive animals and cull animals with lower performance. Likewise, you could use doe kids from the top chosen percent of your dams for replacement stock. This way, you are constantly improving the production of your herd. Also, you can use the values and the tools that CCSI provides to predict the EBVs for offspring based on their parents. This may help you to decide what bucks to buy, keep or sell and which to use as herd sires. These are just some ideas of how to use the numbers. Being experienced producers, you will undoubtedly have many ideas about how these values can help you to make informed decision about breeding and culling.

Q7: WHAT ABOUT PREDICTING EBVS BEFORE I ACTUALLY BREED THE DOES?

We have tools that will allow you to enter a list of potential bucks and does for breeding. The program will return with the predicted EBVs for the potential pairings. This could help in deciding what bucks to use, what does to use and which offspring to keep. This planned mating tool also tells you what the inbreeding level would be for the mating.

Q8: WHAT IS JUVENILE SELECTION?

Ideally, our program falls under the breeding and selection regime we have titled “Juvenile Selection”. On our website, you will find further information about this type of selection and how it can help you to get the most out of CCSI’s program. The program is based on the idea of using predicted EBVs of offspring to make mating choices. Because the generation turnover of goats can be so short, keeping larger numbers of young bucks and replacing them with the top 10% of offspring each generation can give remarkably fast genetic improvement. This is very different to the traditional way of breeding - which often involves the purchase and use of one or two sires for the entire herd. Juvenile selection can produce much greater gains in significantly less time due mainly to the fast generation turnover. [Click here for more information.](#)

Q9: WHAT IS “TOP KIDS”?

“Top Kids” is a tool that was developed with the Juvenile Selection program. It has the ability to rank your goats according to any trait or a combination of traits through the production index (pindx), the type index (tindx) or the combined index (cindx). It will also highlight the top percentage of goats according to any trait, allowing you to easily see what goats are performing best for any trait. You can also add matings into the system, so you can have future offspring ranked among your current herd. [Click here for a detailed explanation of all the tools available on the website and how to use them.](#)

Q10: I HAVE NEW KIDS OR MATINGS? WHAT DO I DO WITH THEM?

Send me the birth date (or breeding date if the kids haven’t been born yet) as well as the dam and sire of the offspring and I will add them into the database. If you have access to the internet, you can enter the new matings and kiddings yourself, and instantly see how these new kids rank compared to others in the herd. This can help you to decide which, if any, offspring to keep.

Q11: THERE ARE GAPS IN MY PEDIGREE. WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THIS?

We try to keep the database as accurate as possible in line with the official table at CLRC. We update this from CLRC each time there is an evaluation and check for discrepancies and errors. Some of the gaps are gaps found in the CLRC database, others are because of a problem when we checked the data. Most of these issues seem to involve American goats. We are currently working on the best way to minimize the amount of errors. The best thing to do is email Tracy-Lynn Reside at CCSI with the error or gap and she can look into it and fix the problem.

Q12: SOME OF MY GOATS HAVE THE WRONG BIRTHDATES. WHY?

If the birth date information was unavailable through CLRC, our system estimated a birth date based on the progeny for that animal in the system. Although this is no longer in practice, some goats (mainly American goats) still have these estimated birthdates. This does not effect the evaluations, however we endeavor to have as accurate a database as possible so if you do notice a goat that has gone unchecked, please let me know and I will cross reference with ADGA to get the right date. In rare cases, there may be some errors caused by these birthdates in the pedigree. These can be easily fixed once identified.