

Ram**COMPARE**

YEAR THREE RESULTS



MAY 2019

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Introduction

RamCompare is one of the UK's most important sheep breeding projects.

With industry support, we've created a unique dataset that not only shows the commercial value of recorded rams, but also enables a deeper understanding of how a ram's genetics can influence farm profitability and lamb products reaching the consumer.

RamCompare data is actively enhancing the UK's National Terminal Sire breeding programme, with data flowing into both ongoing research and the day-to-day delivery of breeding values to ram breeders. Early findings have led to new approaches in assessing the performance of pedigree animals and have strengthened our ability to compare the genetic merit of sheep of different breeds reared in different flocks.

This year, the publication of RamCompare results was delayed to create a fuller dataset, with results being released immediately prior to the ram selling season. Coinciding with the relaunch of Signet's recording services for Terminal Sire breeders, this is an exciting time for both ram breeders and their commercial customers.

We trust this report is informative and would like to thank all the farmers, partners and funders involved in RamCompare for their work and enthusiasm.



Samuel Boon and Bridget Lloyd
AHDB

What is RamCompare?

RamCompare is the UK's commercial progeny test for terminal sire rams. Over three breeding seasons, we have recorded the performance of 12,000 lambs sired by 138 rams through artificial insemination (AI) and natural mating.

Data on growth and carcase traits has been collected from these lambs under commercial conditions; fed back directly into genetic evaluations and used to produce estimated breeding values (EBVs).

What information is collected?

The RamCompare dataset includes:

- Ewe records – breed, age, weight and body condition score throughout the year
- Lambing records – including sire and dam, number born, birth weight, ease of birth, deaths and fostering information
- On-farm lamb performance – weights at around 56 days, 90 days (including ultrasound muscle and fat depth measurements) and at sale
- Carcase information – carcase weight, conformation, fat class and age at slaughter
- Saleable meat yield (by weighing primal joints) and tenderness score on loins (using shear force analysis) are collected from a significant proportion of the lamb crop (~30% of each progeny group)
- DNA samples for future research

How is RamCompare data analysed?

RamCompare data is subjected to best linear unbiased prediction (BLUP) analysis, the industry standard for the evaluation of genetic merit. BLUP analyses take into account environmental differences between farms and non-genetic factors such as a lamb's age, sex and birth type.

EBVs are produced from two separate analyses:

The National Terminal Sire Evaluation generates

- EBVs for eight-week weight, scan weight, muscle and fat depth

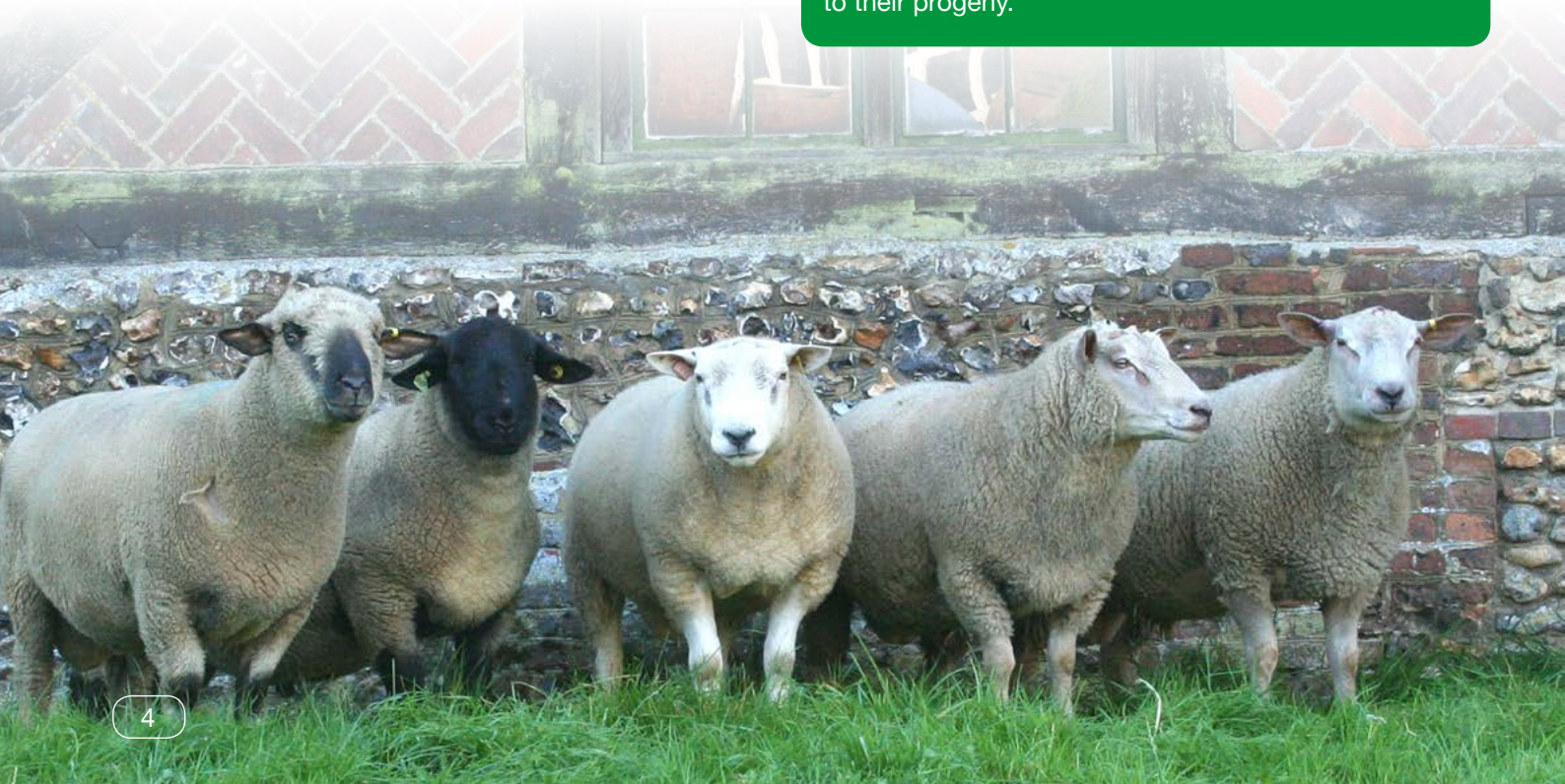
The RamCompare Evaluation generates

- EBVs for carcase weight, conformation and fat class
- EBVs for primal weights and shear force
- EBVs for days to slaughter

Why is RamCompare important?

- To compare the performance of progeny by different high index rams from various terminal sire breeds for a variety of traits
- To produce EBVs from abattoir data, to understand how they relate to EBVs produced from measurements in the live animal, and to determine their value to industry
- To collect data that adds value to Signet's multi-breed analysis, the National Terminal Sire Evaluation

RamCompare helps ram breeders and commercial ram buyers to select the most profitable sheep for their flock, based on the genetic attributes they will pass on to their progeny.



RamCompare – leading advances in Terminal Sire breeding

Launch of the National Terminal Sire Evaluation

For the first time, ram breeders recording with Signet can access monthly updates from a multi-breed analysis. The calculations used to produce EBVs have been updated. Eight new EBVs and two new breeding indexes have been developed to aid ram selection decisions.

New ways to assess muscle and fat depth

The UK sheep industry pioneered the use of ultrasound scanning across the loin. Historically, traits such as muscle depth have been adjusted for age, to identify lambs that lay down muscle at a certain age, regardless of their weight.

Breeders can already select for growth rate, so a better approach is to assess muscling and fat cover independently from growth, i.e. a comparison of muscling and fat depth at a fixed weight, rather than a fixed age.

Within this report, muscle and fat depth EBVs are expressed on a more commercially focused, weight-adjusted basis.

New EBVs for primal cuts

The project works in partnership with Sainsbury's and for the duration of the project, teams at Dunbia and Randall Parker Foods have worked extremely hard to supplement our knowledge of carcase traits, providing data on primal yields, principally the weight of the front, middle and haunch of the carcase. These new traits have been shown to be highly heritable. Expressed on a weight-adjusted basis, the new primal EBVs indicate the potential to change the distribution of meat within the carcase.

New EBVs for shear force testing

Shear force is a measure of meat tenderness, which is important to consumers. The AHDB Meat Science team has taken loin samples from over 2,460 lambs. They measured cuts that had been defrosted and cooked in a standardised manner. We have found that 17% of the variation between individual cuts is due to their genes. Shear force EBVs are now available for rams tested on RamCompare.



Leading rams for Primal Yield and Shear Force

Since 2016, we have collected 3,053 primal yield and 2,462 shear force measures. These tables show the leading sires, based on three years of data.

Top Sires for Front Weight

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
RUGLEY JER1505263	Texel	E A & L Jackson	100	151	84
MISERDEN YOUNG REBEL AAS/15/01680	Blue Texel	A & S Andrews	40	138	75
TURBO 08441:24891	Blue Texel	J & J J M Rodenburg	80	136	89
RUGLEY JER1505286	Texel	E A & L Jackson	117	134	81
STANTON VANTAGE II WPS1400599	Texel	P K Woof Claybury Texels	59	133	85
MIDHOPE L20:15:00822	Suffolk	John Key	95	133	74
MISERDEN AAS1401255	Texel	A & S Andrews	167	133	81
CANNAHARS PANACHE 15KF00715	Charollais	H E G Davies R S & J A Gregory	60	131	78
CASTELLAU 14TZ00843	Charollais	T L Prichard	32	129	77
TILTON 15YPP01267	Charollais	A D & R M Thomas	87	129	78

Top Sires for Middle Weight

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
COURT 13090 LEADER 73R13090	Hampshire Down	Mike J Adams	90	160	60
COURT 12077 GENERAL 73R12077	Hampshire Down	Mike J Adams Simon Williams	83	148	69
GRAYLEN 24Y1502085	Hampshire Down	Graham & Judith Galbraith	144	144	69
KELSEY 18U1600422	Hampshire Down	D Smith & J Atkinson	118	140	68
KELSEY 13249 LYSANDER 18U13249	Hampshire Down	D Smith & J Atkinson	97	140	65
DRINKSTONE TOP GUN PJP1202836	Texel	R J L Park	99	136	81
ESSIE H6:16:01143	Suffolk	Irene Fowlie	98	134	74
KERSEY NUTCRACKER C41:N22	Suffolk	R Partridge & Son Ltd A J Cony & Partners	158	134	83
BENNIWORTH 03Y1600346	Hampshire Down	Simon Williams	86	132	63
YARCOMBE 141320 QUADRANT 30N1401320	Hampshire Down	H C Derryman & Sons	232	130	74

Top Sires for Haunch Weight

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
RUGLEY JER1505286	Texel	E A & L Jackson	117	148	82
CASTLE KELLY AJAX ILI1700914	Texel	James Kelly	65	142	83
TURBO 08441:24891	Blue Texel	J & J J M Rodenburg	80	139	90
RUGLEY JER1505263	Texel	E A & L Jackson	100	133	84
STONEDGE WALLYKAZAM YDP1500991	Texel	D M & S Prince	157	132	78
STANTON VANTAGE II WPS1400599	Texel	P K Woof Claybury Texels	59	132	86
RUGLEY RAMCOMPARE 10P:14:04080	Suffolk	E A & L Jackson	215	127	90
FOULRICE ON RAMCOMPARE 14DG04690	Charollais	C W Marwood & Son	422	126	89
BOULD 15CJ01675	Charollais	G Meyrick & Sons	67	124	88
MICKLEHILLS 14ZWA03355	Charollais	Victoria Sercombe	254	124	85

Top Sires for Shear Force

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
CANNAHARS PANACHE 15KF00715	Charollais	H E G Davies R S & J A Gregory	60	149	87
ELKSTONE HME1501742	Texel	Matt Hobbs	57	147	85
PENYGELLI PAP1501802	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	67	141	92
GRAYLEN 24Y1502085	Hampshire Down	Graham & Judith Galbraith	144	141	83
BRETTLES RICARDO 16WF01887	Charollais	M M & M L Rushbrooke Andrew Walton	72	140	92
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	139	94
ALLISON 9618 GA:149618	Meatline	George Allison	101	139	93
LOWERYE 13ZVY00706	Charollais	N Oughton	126	133	71
VINES 3051 EV:1503051	Meatline	E R & J E Vines	91	129	94
TILTON 15YPP01267	Charollais	A D & R M Thomas	87	128	87

Notes: BLUP run date: 22/03/2019. Analysis type: RamCompare Evaluation

Leading rams for Scan Weight EBV (2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
BENTLEY XCELLENT 239:16:02039	Suffolk	T C & C A Harding E A & L Jackson	24	140	92
BEEFORD WARRIOR CBS1500509	Texel	S J Curtis E A & L Jackson	38	134	93
BENTLEY BOMBER II 239:14:01128	Suffolk	T C & C A Harding R J L Park	35	132	92
RUMWELL OPEN WORLD JER:160102	Bleu du Maine	J E Richardson	44	131	86
DRINKSTONE NAPOLEON 12 Y68:12:031	Suffolk	R J L Park	38	130	98
DRINKSTONE TRIPLE JOHN Y68:14:06241	Suffolk	R J L Park	41	127	97
SAMPFORDEL HRH:15:00452	Suffolk	K A Hill	106	125	93
ORTUM SUPER TRIPLE 78X:14:00601	Suffolk	Garner & Son	21	124	93
PENYGELLI PAP1602386	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	31	124	83
DERRYLOMAN PRINCE OF PEACE LHY:16:00552	Suffolk	Rodney Atwell	53	123	92
YARCOMBE 151761 DYNAMO 30N1501761	Hampshire Down	H C Derryman & Sons	216	122	96
PERRINPIT PEACEMAKER P50:J58	Suffolk	A E Weaver & Son D M & S Prince	53	122	97
MISERDEN YOUNG REBEL AAS/15/01680	Blue Texel	A & S Andrews	40	121	89
MIDHOPE L20:15:00943	Suffolk	John Key	153	121	94
DRINKSTONE TOP GUN PJP1202836	Texel	R J L Park	99	121	95

Leading rams for Scan Weight EBV (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
BENTLEY XCELLENT 239:16:02039	Suffolk	T C & C A Harding E A & L Jackson	24	140	92
BEEFORD WARRIOR CBS1500509	Texel	S J Curtis E A & L Jackson	38	134	93
ASPLEY 92W1400386	Hampshire Down	George & Sara Wood	140	132	95
BENTLEY BOMBER II 239:14:01128	Suffolk	T C & C A Harding R J L Park	35	132	92
RUMWELL OPEN WORLD JER:160102	Bleu du Maine	J E Richardson	44	131	86
DRINKSTONE NAPOLEON 12 Y68:12:031	Suffolk	R J L Park	38	130	98
DRINKSTONE TRIPLE JOHN Y68:14:06241	Suffolk	R J L Park	41	127	97
SAMPFORDEL HRH:15:00390	Suffolk	K A Hill	83	127	92
SAMPFORDEL HRH:15:00452	Suffolk	K A Hill	106	125	93
HANDBANK PRH1500573	Texel	R M & E A Payne	67	125	93
WEDDERBURN PELEUS 15WNY02086	Charollais	J D R & J L Corbett Lowerye, Rainbow, Crogham and Hyde flocks	72	124	99
RUGLEY RAMCOMPARE 10P:14:04080	Suffolk	E A & L Jackson	215	124	97
ORTUM SUPER TRIPLE 78X:14:00601	Suffolk	Garner & Son	21	124	93
STONEDGE LYN:15:01124	Suffolk	D M & S Prince	60	124	90
PENYGELLI PAP1602386	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	31	124	83

Notes: BLUP run date: 22/03/2019. Analysis type: National Terminal Sire Evaluation

For more information go to www.signetfbc.co.uk

Leading rams for Muscle Depth EBV (2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
HANDBANK SUPER NOVA PRH1100114	Texel	R M & E A Payne	40	210	95
ESSIE H6:16:01143	Suffolk	Irene Fowlie	98	149	95
GARGOUR NIJINSKY CJN07579	Texel	J & H Clark Claybury Texels	24	149	97
PERRINPIT PEACEMAKER P50:J58	Suffolk	A E Weaver & Son D M & S Prince	53	146	98
ORTUM TRULINE 78X:12:009	Suffolk	Garner & Son	38	143	96
MIDHOPE L20:15:00943	Suffolk	John Key	153	142	96
HAMMERTON PBH1401161	Texel	D A & H Pickles	80	140	95
LOWERYE STALLONE 17ZVY03456	Charollais	N Oughton	48	135	92
PENYGELLI PAP1602386	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	31	134	89
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	134	99
MILLFIELDS 12084 MAGIC 43W12084	Hampshire Down	G & J Boyles	37	134	93
SAMPFORDEL HRH:15:00452	Suffolk	K A Hill	106	132	96
SAMPFORDEL HRH:16:00513	Suffolk	K A Hill	48	129	92
RUGLEY 10P:15:05108	Suffolk	E A & L Jackson	73	128	95
ORTUM SUPER TRIPLE 78X:14:00601	Suffolk	Garner & Son	21	127	95

Leading rams for Muscle Depth EBV (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
HANDBANK SUPER NOVA PRH1100114	Texel	R M & E A Payne	40	210	95
HANS FOKKER 95 T79:13:095	Suffolk	H F Porksen	57	155	99
ESSIE H6:16:01143	Suffolk	Irene Fowlie	98	149	95
GARNGOUR NIJINSKY CJN07579	Texel	J & H Clark Claybury Texels	24	149	97
PERRINPIT PEACEMAKER P50:J58	Suffolk	A E Weaver & Son D M & S Prince	53	146	98
ORTUM SUPERSIRE 05 78X:F49	Suffolk	Garner & Son	194	146	99
ORTUM TRULINE 78X:12:009	Suffolk	Garner & Son	38	143	96
MIDHOPE L20:15:00943	Suffolk	John Key	153	142	96
MISERDEN VALEGRO AAS1401351	Texel	A & S Andrews	75	142	94
HAMMERTON PBH1401161	Texel	D A & H Pickles	80	140	95
LOWERYE STALLONE 17ZVY03456	Charollais	N Oughton	48	135	92
PENYGELLI PAP1602386	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	31	134	89
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	134	99
MILLFIELDS 12084 MAGIC 43W12084	Hampshire Down	G & J Boyles	37	134	93
WHICHFORD FIRST CLASS C18:15:00001	Suffolk	JB & RL Cook	58	134	93

Notes: BLUP run date: 22/03/2019. Analysis type: National Terminal Sire Evaluation

For more information go to www.signetfbc.co.uk

Leading rams for Fat Depth EBV – Leanest (2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
RUMWELL OPEN WORLD JER:160102	Bleu du Maine	J E Richardson	44	67	92
RUGLEY JER1505286	Texel	E A & L Jackson	117	60	96
DRINKSTONE TRIPLE JOHN Y68:14:06241	Suffolk	R J L Park	41	56	98
DRINKSTONE NAPOLEON 12 Y68:12:031	Suffolk	R J L Park	38	54	98
BENTLEY XCELLENT 239:16:02039	Suffolk	T C & C A Harding E A & L Jackson	24	45	95

Leading rams for Fat Depth EBV – Fattest (2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
POORTON 359:W0374	Poll Dorset	Fooks Brothers Tim Pratt	83	129	97
WICARDO 14WMH01600	Charollais	Richard Berry	49	126	93
DOOLEY SPARKY DOO:S005	Beltex	David Thornley D M & S Prince	41	123	95
KELSEY 18U1600422	Hampshire Down	D Smith & J Atkinson	118	121	95
BEEFORD WARRIOR CBS1500509	Texel	S J Curtis E A & L Jackson	38	120	96

Leading rams for Fat Depth EBV – Leanest (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
WEDDERBURN 15WNY02192	Charollais	J D R & J L Corbett	84	59	93
DRINKSTONE TRIPLE JOHN Y68:14:06241	Suffolk	R J L Park	41	56	98
DRINKSTONE NAPOLEON 12 Y68:12:031	Suffolk	R J L Park	38	54	98
STANTON VANTAGE II WPS1400599	Texel	P K Woof Claybury Texels	59	45	99
BENTLEY XCELLENT 239:16:02039	Suffolk	T C & C A Harding E A & L Jackson	24	45	95

Leading rams for Fat Depth EBV – Fattest (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Standardised value	Accuracy (%)
GRAYLEN 24Y1502085	Hampshire Down	Graham & Judith Galbraith	144	147	95
MISERDEN VALEGRO AAS1401351	Texel	A & S Andrews	75	141	95
POORTON 359:W0374	Poll Dorset	Fooks Brothers Tim Pratt	83	129	97
THORGANBY 2731 HRF:02731	Meatlinc	H R Fell & Sons Ltd	74	129	98
ORTUM SUPERSIRE 05 78X:F49	Suffolk	Garner & Son	194	128	99

Leading rams for Carcase Weight EBV (2018)

Interpretation: The EBV for carcase weight is expressed in kilograms (kg). A ram with an EBV for carcase weight of +1 has the genetic potential to produce progeny that will be on average 0.5 kg heavier at a constant age than a ram with an EBV of 0. Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
BAMBURGH WATSON T51:W0246	Poll Dorset	Alistair Johnson D W Rossiter	34	0.87	71	125
LUMBYLAW MADRAS ORL06032	Texel	R G Oates (Lumbylaw Ltd) A B Europe	17	0.84	64	125
LANGSTONE 16QU01385	Charollais	N & R Hart	91	0.76	88	122
ARKLE SANDIAGO WGA1100657	Texel	G H & G G Wilkinson D M & S Prince	39	0.73	74	122
BEEFORD WARRIOR CBS1500509	Texel	S J Curtis E A & L Jackson	38	0.71	78	121
ERRIGAL PBH:17:01112	Suffolk	Seamus Browne	31	0.71	69	121
ELKSTONE HME1602449	Texel	Matt Hobbs	119	0.68	87	120
TURBO 08441:24891	Blue Texel	J & J J M Rodenburg	80	0.63	88	119
HANDBANK SUPER NOVA PRH1100114	Texel	R M & E A Payne	40	0.62	81	119
GARNGOUR NIJINSKY CJN07579	Texel	J & H Clark Claybury Texels	24	0.51	70	116
FOULRICE ON RAMCOMPARE 14DG04690	Charollais	C W Marwood & Son	422	0.44	97	114
GAYNES ROLLS ROYCE CMG1000086	Texel	Gaynes Park Farm Limited R J L Park	123	0.38	90	113
PENYGELLI PAP1602386	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	31	0.36	73	112
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	0.36	89	112
CASTLE KELLY AJAX IL11700914	Texel	James Kelly	65	0.31	84	111

Leading rams for Carcase Weight EBV (2016–2018)

Interpretation: The EBV for carcase weight is expressed in kilograms (kg). A ram with an EBV for carcase weight of +1 has the genetic potential to produce progeny that will be on average 0.5 kg heavier at a constant age than a ram with an EBV of 0. Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
HANS FOKKER 95 T79:13:095	Suffolk	H F Porksen	57	1.37	81	138
COURT 7739 CONTENDER 73R07739	Hampshire Down	Mike J Adams	32	1.19	79	133
ROXBURGH SHOT GUN WILLIE EJR1101108	Texel	John Elliot D M & S Prince	142	1.17	91	133
WEALDEN HTW1501312	Texel	T R Healy	85	1.00	86	129
HANDBANK PRH1500573	Texel	R M & E A Payne	67	0.99	87	128
GAYNES MAJOR CMG06129	Texel	Gaynes Park Farm Limited Trinidad Investments UK Ltd	181	0.98	94	128
DALBY MALACHITE 12PE01501	Charollais	C R Sercombe Edstaston, Knockin, Rainbow and Fortress flocks	144	0.93	92	127
COURT 12077 GENERAL 73R12077	Hampshire Down	Mike J Adams Simon Williams	83	0.90	87	126
WEDDERBURN PELEUS 15WNY02086	Charollais	J D R & J L Corbett Lowerye, Rainbow, Crogham and Hyde flocks	72	0.89	86	126
BAMBURGH WATSON T51:W0246	Poll Dorset	Alistair Johnson D W Rossiter	34	0.87	71	125
MISERDEN VALEGRO AAS1401351	Texel	A & S Andrews	75	0.84	74	125
LUMBYLAW MADRAS ORL06032	Texel	R G Oates (Lumbylaw Ltd) A B Europe	17	0.84	64	125
PENYGELLI PAP1401307	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	104	0.81	91	124
LANGSTONE 16QU01385	Charollais	N & R Hart	91	0.76	88	122
CANNAHARS PANACHE 15KF00715	Charollais	H E G Davies R S & J A Gregory	60	0.76	85	122

Notes: BLUP run date: 22/03/2019. Analysis type: RamCompare Evaluation

For more information go to www.signetfbc.co.uk

Leading rams for Carcase Conformation EBV (2018)

Interpretation: Carcase conformation EBVs indicate genetic potential for conformation and units of measurement are based on a 15-point scale. Animals with a high positive value have the genetic potential to produce superior conformation. Standardised value of 100 equates to the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
CORSTANE KNOT-OUT MDC:K0056	Beltex	Mary Dunlop	41	3.78	93	163
TURBO 08441:24891	Blue Texel	J & J J M Rodenburg	80	2.69	96	144
HANDBANK SUPER NOVA PRH1100114	Texel	R M & E A Payne	40	2.57	93	142
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	2.41	96	140
LOWERYE STALLONE 17ZVY03456	Charollais	N Oughton	48	2.18	93	136
CLARY NUMBER ONE COC:N3557	Beltex	Jock McMillan Mary Dunlop	74	1.80	95	129
GARGOUR NIJINSKY CJN07579	Texel	J & H Clark Claybury Texels	24	1.61	86	126
ARKLE SANDIAGO WGA1100657	Texel	G H & G G Wilkinson D M & S Prince	39	1.54	89	125
MISERDEN YOUNG REBEL AAS/15/01680	Blue Texel	A & S Andrews	40	1.42	91	123
CASTLE KELLY AJAX IL11700914	Texel	James Kelly	65	1.30	94	121
LANGSTONE 16QU01385	Charollais	N & R Hart	91	1.23	95	119
LOOSEBEARE WAVER QEL1505792	Texel	E W Quick	96	1.21	96	119
DOOLEY SPARKY DOO:S005	Beltex	David Thornley D M & S Prince	41	1.19	91	119
ELKSTONE HME1602449	Texel	Matt Hobbs	119	1.11	95	117
HAMMERTON PBH1401161	Texel	D A & H Pickles	80	0.94	96	114

Leading rams for Carcase Conformation EBV (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Carcase conformation EBVs indicate genetic potential for conformation and units of measurement are based on a 15-point scale. Animals with a high positive value have the genetic potential to produce superior conformation. Standardised value of 100 equates to the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
CORSTANE KNOT-OUT MDC:K0056	Beltex	Mary Dunlop	41	3.78	93	163
ELKSTONE HME1501742	Texel	Matt Hobbs	57	2.91	94	148
TURBO 08441:24891	Blue Texel	J & J J M Rodenburg	80	2.69	96	144
HANDBANK SUPER NOVA PRH1100114	Texel	R M & E A Payne	40	2.57	93	142
PENYGELLI PAP1501802	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	67	2.46	94	140
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	2.41	96	140
ROXBURGH SHOT GUN WILLIE EJR1101108	Texel	John Elliot D M & S Prince	142	2.27	97	137
LOWERYE STALLONE 17ZVY03456	Charollais	N Oughton	48	2.18	93	136
CLARY NUMBER ONE COC:N3557	Beltex	Jock McMillan Mary Dunlop	74	1.80	95	129
STONEDGE WALLYKAZAM YDP1500991	Texel	D M & S Prince	157	1.77	98	129
GARGOUR NIJINSKY CJN07579	Texel	J & H Clark Claybury Texels	24	1.61	86	126
ARKLE SANDIAGO WGA1100657	Texel	G H & G G Wilkinson D M & S Prince	39	1.54	89	125
MISERDEN YOUNG REBEL AAS/15/01680	Blue Texel	A & S Andrews	40	1.42	91	123
CASTLE KELLY AJAX IL11700914	Texel	James Kelly	65	1.30	94	121
LANGSTONE 16QU01385	Charollais	N & R Hart	91	1.23	95	119

Notes: BLUP run date: 22/03/2019. Analysis type: RamCompare Evaluation

For more information go to www.signetfbc.co.uk

Leading rams for Carcase Fat Class EBV – Leanest (2018)

Interpretation: Carcase fat class EBVs indicate genetic potential to influence fat class. Animals with low negative values have the genetic potential to produce leaner carcasses; positive values indicate fatter carcasses. Standardised value of 100 equates to the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
CLARY NUMBER ONE COC:N3557	Beltex	Jock McMillan Mary Dunlop	74	-1.45	94	78
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	-1.50	94	77
HAMMERTON PBH1401161	Texel	D A & H Pickles	80	-1.61	94	75
RUGLEY JER1505286	Texel	E A & L Jackson	117	-1.63	96	75
DRINKSTONE TRIPLE JOHN Y68:14:06241	Suffolk	R J L Park	41	-1.85	89	71

Leading rams for Carcase Fat Class EBV – Fattest (2018)

Interpretation: Carcase fat class EBVs indicate genetic potential to influence fat class. Animals with low negative values have the genetic potential to produce leaner carcasses; positive values indicate fatter carcasses. Standardised value of 100 equates to the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
YARCOMBE 151761 DYNAMO 30N1501761	Hampshire Down	H C Derryman & Sons	216	1.53	97	129
GRAYLEN 162594 JAVELIN 24Y1602594	Hampshire Down	Graham & Judith Galbraith	42	1.22	85	124
KELSEY 18U1600422	Hampshire Down	D Smith & J Atkinson	118	1.17	96	123
BAMBURGH WATSON T51:W0246	Poll Dorset	Alistair Johnson D W Rossiter	34	1.04	83	121
MIDHOPE L20:15:00943	Suffolk	John Key	153	0.87	97	118

Leading rams for Carcase Fat Class EBV – Leanest (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Carcase fat class EBVs indicate genetic potential to influence fat class. Animals with low negative values have the genetic potential to produce leaner carcasses; positive values indicate fatter carcasses. Standardised value of 100 equates to the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
RUGLEY RAMCOMPARE 10P-14:04080	Suffolk	E A & L Jackson	215	-1.67	98	74
PENYGELLI PAP1501802	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	67	-1.83	93	72
DRINKSTONE TRIPLE JOHN Y68:14:06241	Suffolk	R J L Park	41	-1.85	89	71
STONEDGE WALLYKAZAM YDP1500991	Texel	D M & S Prince	157	-2.12	97	67
STANTON VANTAGE II WPS1400599	Texel	P K Woof Claybury Texels	59	-2.61	92	58

Leading rams for Carcase Fat Class EBV – Fattest (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Carcase fat class EBVs indicate genetic potential to influence fat class. Animals with low negative values have the genetic potential to produce leaner carcasses; positive values indicate fatter carcasses. Standardised value of 100 equates to the average animal in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
COURT 12077 GENERAL 73R12077	Hampshire Down	Mike J Adams Simon Williams	83	3.36	94	161
COURT 7739 CONTENDER 73R07739	Hampshire Down	Mike J Adams	32	2.94	88	153
ASPLEY 92W1400386	Hampshire Down	George & Sara Wood	140	2.39	95	144
COURT 13090 LEADER 73R13090	Hampshire Down	Mike J Adams	90	2.18	95	140
YARCOMBE 141320 QUADRANT 30N1401320	Hampshire Down	H C Derryman & Sons	232	1.78	98	134

Leading rams for Days to Slaughter EBV (2018)

Interpretation: Days to slaughter EBVs indicate genetic potential to influence the number of days to finish. Animals with low negative values will have the genetic potential to achieve target finished specification in a reduced number of days; positive values indicate a longer period of time to achieve the same finish. Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
HARDY 16WZW00054	Charollais	D & S Laws	75	-17.50	95	140
SAMPFORDEL HRH:16:00513	Suffolk	K A Hill	48	-13.33	92	130
HUIH A26:W08318	Poll Dorset	D W Rossiter	55	-12.69	90	129
ELKSTONE HME1602449	Texel	Matt Hobbs	119	-11.46	95	126
HUIH A26:T04019	Poll Dorset	D W Rossiter	87	-10.16	95	123
KERSEY C41:16:01342	Suffolk	R Partridge & Son Ltd	83	-10.12	93	123
CASTELLAU 14TZ00843	Charollais	T L Prichard	32	-9.30	90	121
DRINKSTONE TOP GUN PJP1202836	Texel	R J L Park	99	-9.13	96	120
FOUNDRY ALEXANDER PXI1702970	Texel	Ann Murphy	59	-7.94	93	118
ESSIE H6:16:01143	Suffolk	Irene Fowlie	98	-7.46	96	117
BABER 6446 UK 0 369455 06446	Suffolk	P L & L F Baber	114	-7.44	96	117
RUMWELL OPEN WORLD JER:160102	Bleu du Maine	J E Richardson	44	-7.01	90	116
ALLISON 12571 GA:1612571	Meatline	George Allison	83	-6.25	95	114
MIDHOPE L20:15:00943	Suffolk	John Key	153	-5.80	98	113
BRETTLES RICARDO 16WF01887	Charollais	M M & M L Rushbrooke Andrew Walton	72	-5.55	95	112

Leading rams for Days to Slaughter EBV (2016–2018)

Interpretation: Days to slaughter EBVs indicate genetic potential to influence the number of days to finish. Animals with low negative values will have the genetic potential to achieve target finished specification in a reduced number of days; positive values indicate a longer period of time to achieve the same finish. Standardised value of 100 equals the average animal born in 2018.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Estimated Breeding Value	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
HARDY 16WZW00054	Charollais	D & S Laws	75	-17.50	95	140
SAMPFORDEL HRH:16:00513	Suffolk	K A Hill	48	-13.33	92	130
HUISH A26:W08318	Poll Dorset	D W Rossiter	55	-12.69	90	129
ELKSTONE HME1602449	Texel	Matt Hobbs	119	-11.46	95	126
ASPLEY 92W1400386	Hampshire Down	George & Sara Wood	140	-11.08	96	125
ALLISON 11681 GA:1511681	Meatlinec	George Allison	89	-10.83	96	124
HUISH A26:T04019	Poll Dorset	D W Rossiter	87	-10.16	95	123
KERSEY C41:16:01342	Suffolk	R Partridge & Son Ltd	83	-10.12	93	123
SAMPFORDEL HRH:15:00390	Suffolk	K A Hill	83	-9.51	95	121
CASTELLAU 14TZ00843	Charollais	T L Prichard	32	-9.30	90	121
DRINKSTONE TOP GUN PJP1202836	Texel	R J L Park	99	-9.13	96	120
FOUNDRY ALEXANDER PX11702970	Texel	Ann Murphy	59	-7.94	93	118
BOULD 15CJ01675	Charollais	G Meyrick & Sons	67	-7.81	93	117
ESSIE H6:14:00612	Suffolk	Irene Fowlie	150	-7.76	97	117
VINES 3051 EV:1503051	Meatlinec	E R & J E Vines	91	-7.57	96	117

Notes: BLUP run date: 22/03/2019. Analysis type: RamCompare Evaluation

For more information go to www.signetfbc.co.uk

Leading rams for Overall Carcase Merit (2018)

Interpretation: The index for carcase merit provides a ranking of RamCompare sires that takes into account EBVs for carcase weight, carcase conformation and carcase fat class. The index serves as a guide towards the genetic merit of sires used in a typical commercial flock. Actual financial performance will depend on the system, target market and seasonal price fluctuations.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Breeding Index	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
HANDBANK SUPER NOVA PRH1100114	Texel	R M & E A Payne	40	7.00	83	131
TURBO 08441:24891	Blue Texel	J & J J M Rodenburg	80	6.88	89	130
ARKLE SANDIAGO WGA1100657	Texel	G H & G G Wilkinson D M & S Prince	39	5.77	76	126
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	5.64	90	125
LANGSTONE 16QU01385	Charollais	N & R Hart	91	5.42	89	124
LUMBYLAW MADRAS ORL06032	Texel	R G Oates (Lumbylaw Ltd) A B Europe	17	5.14	66	123
ELKSTONE HME1602449	Texel	Matt Hobbs	119	5.11	88	123
GARNGOUR NIJINSKY CJN07579	Texel	J & H Clark Claybury Texels	24	4.97	73	122
BAMBURGH WATSON T51:W0246	Poll Dorset	Alistair Johnson D W Rossiter	34	3.82	74	118
LOWERYE STALLONE 17ZVY03456	Charollais	N Oughton	48	3.72	85	117
ERRIGAL PBH:17:01112	Suffolk	Seamus Browne	31	3.70	72	117
BEEFORD WARRIOR CBS1500509	Texel	S J Curtis A E & L Jackson	38	3.68	81	117
FOULRICE ON RAMCOMPARE 14DG04690	Charollais	C W Marwood & Son	422	3.54	98	116
CASTLE KELLY AJAX ILI1700914	Texel	James Kelly	65	3.13	86	115
CLARY NUMBER ONE COC:N3557	Beltex	Jock McMillan Mary Dunlop	74	2.85	89	114

Leading rams for Overall Carcase Merit (2016–2018)

Interpretation: The index for carcase merit provides a ranking of RamCompare sires that takes into account EBVs for carcase weight, carcase conformation and carcase fat class. The index serves as a guide towards the genetic merit of sires used in a typical commercial flock. Actual financial performance will depend on the system, target market and seasonal price fluctuations.

Ram ID	Breed	Owner/breeder (both if different)	Number of progeny	Breeding Index	Accuracy (%)	Standardised value
ROXBURGH SHOT GUN WILLIE EJR1101108	Texel	John Elliot D M & S Prince	142	9.64	92	142
PENYGELLI PAP1501802	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	67	7.39	88	133
HANDBANK PRH1500573	Texel	R M & E A Payne	67	7.28	88	132
HANDBANK SUPER NOVA PRH1100114	Texel	R M & E A Payne	40	7.00	83	131
GAYNES MAJOR CMG06129	Texel	Gaynes Park Farm Ltd Trinidad Investments UK Ltd	181	6.99	95	131
TURBO 08441:24891	Blue Texel	J & J M Rodenburg	80	6.88	89	130
ELKSTONE HME1501742	Texel	Matt Hobbs	57	6.52	85	129
HANS FOKKER 95 T79:13:095	Suffolk	H F Porsken	57	6.15	83	127
DALBY MALACHITE 12PE01501	Charollais	C R Sercombe Edstaston, Knockin, Rainbow and Fortress flocks	144	6.02	93	127
ARKLE SANDIAGO WGA1100657	Texel	G H & G G Wilkinson D M & S Prince	39	5.77	76	126
BOGHOUSE ULTRA MUSCLE JKE1304414	Texel	K I Johnstone Alwyn Phillips	78	5.64	90	125
PENYGELLI PAP1401307	Texel	Alwyn Phillips	104	5.50	92	125
LANGSTONE 16QU01385	Charollais	N & R Hart	91	5.42	89	124
WEDDERBURN PELEUS 15WNY02086	Charollais	J D R & J L Corbett Lowerye, Rainbow, Crogham and Hyde flocks	72	5.28	88	124
WEALDEN HTW1501312	Texel	T R Healy	85	5.17	87	123

Notes: BLUP run date: 22/03/2019. Analysis type: RamCompare Evaluation

For more information go to www.signetfbc.co.uk

Meet the farmers

Duncan Nelless, Thistleyhaugh, Northumberland

– lambs recorded: 2,268 over three years

- 550 ha upland farm, mixed organic farm, 2,000 Lleyn ewes
- Lambing March/April, finished from clover-rich leys, strict grassland management

“Since being involved in RamCompare, we have clearly seen the benefit of using high index recorded rams. Over the last three years, lambs have consistently killed out with heavier carcasses when drawn at the same weight. They are not killing out as fat, which means a higher percentage of carcasses fall into the 2–3L specification. Through our involvement, we are convinced of the significance of a ram’s individual EBVs and would choose future replacements based on this.”

Duncan Nelless



Ian Robertson, Chawton Park Farm, Hampshire

– lambs recorded: 2,440 over three years

- 270 ha of grassland, 1,400 Lleyn ewes, outside year-round
- Lambing in May, all lambs are finished from grass/silage aftermath in the autumn

“I see the sheep world changing over the next few years. The technical data that RamCompare continues to generate will become very important, to enable us as an industry to produce what the consumer wants at the right price.”

Ian Robertson



Sion Williams, Bowhill Estate, Selkirk

– lambs recorded: 2,184 over three years

- Using part of Buccleuch’s Bowhill Estate 5,463 ha; with a total of 6,800 breeding ewes
- 350 Aberfield x Scottish Blackfaced trial ewes are lambed indoors in March
- Post-weaning lambs are finished from red clover leys or silage aftermath

“Participation in the project allows us to assess what has been achieved, to date, on the farm and connect that to the sheep industry. We can understand and learn as a business and provide the industry with real on-farm data for future business decisions. We want to be able to determine what difference a ram can make to the efficiency and productivity of a flock, to ensure sustainability through tough times.”

Sion Williams



Philip and Charlie Whitehouse, Bradley Farm, Gloucestershire

– lambs recorded: 1,466 over three years

- 930 ha mixed farm, including >700 ha combinable crops, 1,000 milking goats, a suckler herd, 1,000 pedigree Lleyn ewes
- Lambing in February, with lambs finished from grass by the end of August

“The rams supplied over the years, have come in all conditions and breed types, presented from top show condition, to rams in extremely commercial working clothes, but it is clear that all lambs from all sires bear no resemblance. Thus proving to us, that EBVs are far more important than both ram appearance and condition. The lambs produced from all rams have produced quality lambs, which is apparent from a very early age. In order to remain successful in the industry, it is vital to drive down cost of production where we can, and it is clear to us that genetics play an important part in that.”

Philip Whitehouse



Mark and Lynne Exelby, The Hutts Farm, Yorkshire

– lambs recorded: 623 in one year

- 202 ha split between two holdings, mixed organic farm, 80 mixed breed suckler herd, 24 ha of combinable crops, 20 ha forage crop of barley and pea mix, under-sown with red clover
- 400 North of England Mule ewes, lamb outside in May, lambs are finished August – February from red clover leys and supplemented with home-grown, organic, whole oats

“Using high index, performance-recorded rams pays, irrespective of breed. I have been impressed by the high heritability of breeding traits passed from the rams to their offspring. We have been surprised at the large range in performance within each breed, this has clearly demonstrated to us the impossibility of judging how a ram will perform, based purely on looks. Genetic potential is key and EBVs are a useful guide to make informed decisions to increase ewe output on a commercial sheep enterprise.”

Mark Exelby



Russel and Rhys Edwards, Hendre Ifan Goch Farm, Bridgend

– Lambs recorded: 568 in one year

- 101 ha hill sheep farm with 550 white faced mule ewes
- Lambing indoors from early March, all lambs are finished from high sugar grass leys
- All data is monitored from the farm and abattoir to ensure an economic, profitable enterprise

“Having been involved in the project for just one year, it is clear to see that selection of rams based on EBV figures can maximise margins tailored to our sheep system with no extra work. All our lambs are treated as one large group. Weighed fortnightly, it is interesting to monitor which progeny groups excel. We are keen to see how this season’s lambs perform.”

Rhys Edwards



Adrian and Lyn Coombe, Dupath Farm, Cornwall

– lambs recorded: 679 in one year

- 154 ha mixed farm with barley, potatoes, 180 dairy beef cattle and the sheep enterprise
- 380 North Country mules and 120 ewe lambs graze permanent pasture and improved grass leys
- Lambing indoors in March, rotational grazing is used where possible, with weaned lambs finishing from silage aftermath

“This project has given us a better understanding of EBVs and their importance when selecting rams as a terminal sire. Having trialled five different breeds in the first year, it has certainly opened our eyes to selecting rams based on their individual EBVs irrespective of breed.”

Adrian Coombe



Richard Parry, Mint & Mustard Produce Ltd. Suffolk

– lambs recorded: 498 in one year

- 750 ha coast land farm, large-scale vegetable production, some combinable crops, the sheep enterprise uses field waste to ensure the efficient removal of volunteer weeds in the following crop
- 1200 Suffolk x Mule breeding ewes lamb March/April and are fully recorded, with lambs sold from autumn to early spring, managed by Richard Whitney

“We are keen to see how the progeny from different terminal sires respond within our system. We want to be able to determine which individual traits are key and produce the best lambs from our enterprise.”

Richard Parry



Aurélie Aubry, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Northern Ireland

– lambs recorded: 452 in one year

- Located at two sites with lowland grazing pastures, with 360 composite ewes involved
- Texel and Suffolk artificial insemination sires have been used over two seasons, linking RamCompare to the Sheep Ireland progeny test
- Lambing in March and managed in a 4-paddock rotational grazing system, lambs are finished off grass from late July
- Access to the UK's first electronic feed efficiency unit (FEU) for sheep, recording individual intakes and continuous liveweight gain. This will aid investigation of the effect of sire EBV for muscle on the net feed efficiency of a subsample of progeny (80 lambs each year)

“The FEU will facilitate precise investigation into the interactions between genetic and nutritional factors. Through evaluating such innovations, we can improve production efficiency and profitability of sheep production in the UK.”

Aurélie Aubry, Senior Sheep Researcher, AFBI



What's next for RamCompare?

The current phase of RamCompare will run for at least two more years, capturing data on lambs born in 2019 and 2020.

How can ram breeders use RamCompare information?

Ram breeders supporting the project can use the data to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their flock and develop breeding strategies to address these challenges and make faster genetic gain.

They can use RamCompare results to promote the best attributes of their flock and highlight their involvement in a leading industry project.

Looking to the future, breeders should consider ways to collect abattoir data in their own flocks or by working with commercial partners.

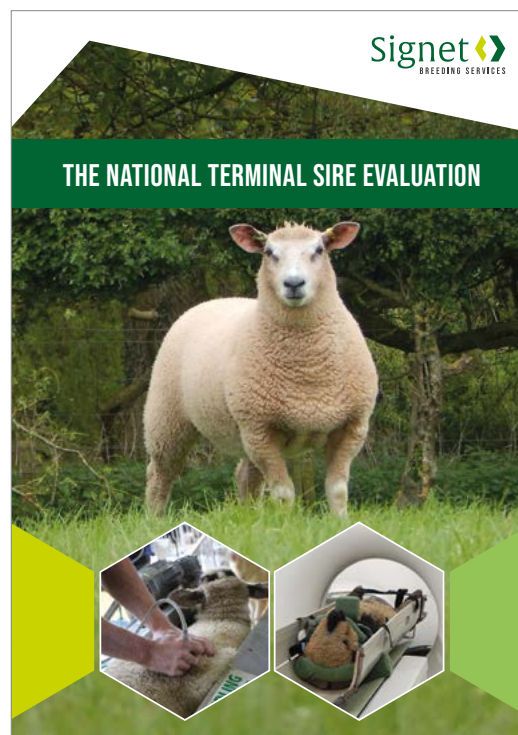
How does RamCompare benefit commercial farmers?

RamCompare shows that genetics have a major influence on a range of financially important carcase traits. By selecting the right ram using EBVs, producers can increase flock profitability by £3–£5 per lamb.

RamCompare shows that the selection of performance-recorded rams based on existing EBVs like Scan Weight, Muscle Depth and Fat Depth can increase the proportion of carcasses hitting specification and reduce days to slaughter, but access to EBVs derived from abattoir data (and CT scanning) will deliver faster rates of genetic gain.

Results from RamCompare fully support the new approaches adopted within the new National Terminal Sire Evaluation. Ram breeders and commercial producers are encouraged to find out what these changes mean for their flocks and how the latest EBVs should be interpreted when selecting rams.

For more information, read ***The National Terminal Sire Evaluation***.



RamCompare is a partnership that brings together many organisations throughout the supply chain to help take genetic evaluation in the UK sheep industry forward. All partners have had an important role in getting RamCompare to this point.

FARMERS

Duncan Nelles
Thistleyhaugh
Northumberland

Ian Robertson
Chawton Park Farm
Hampshire

**Philip & Charlie
Whitehouse**
Bradley Farm
Gloucestershire

Mark & Lynne Exelby
The Hutts Farm
Yorkshire

Sion Williams
Bowhill Estate
Selkirk

**Russel & Rhys
Edwards**
Hendre Ifan Goch Farm
Bridgend

Adrian & Lyn Coombe
Dupath Farm
Cornwall

Richard Parry
Mint & Mustard Produce Ltd
Suffolk

Aur lie Aubry
Agri-food and Biosciences
Institute (AFBI)
Northern Ireland

FUNDERS



SUPPORTERS



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