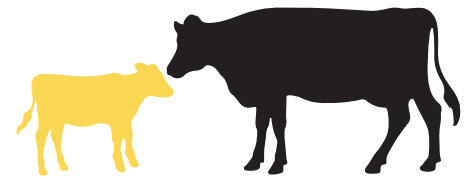


Introduction to Days to Calving EBV

Days to calving EBVs estimate the genetic differences between females in the time from the first mating until producing a calf, a trait which can have significant impact on the profitability and performance of a herd.



Expression of Days to Calving EBV

Days to calving EBVs are expressed in days, calculated from information from natural joining of heifers and mature cows. A lower, more negative Days to Calving EBV indicates that a female conceived earlier in her joining period, successfully

completing her job of conceiving, delivering a live calf and raising it until weaning within each 12-month period of her active breeding life. While currently only information from paddock services are analyzed, research

is underway to utilize AI and ET records. Breeders who are using these methods followed by a backup natural joining are strongly encouraged to submit details of their AI programs to assist in this research.

Recording Requirements

Breeders interested in the Days to Calving EBV need to record all events associated with the mating of their females from the start of mating period in each breeding season through to calving, regardless of whether this results in a successful mating, if a calf is born, or if the female is culled for infertility reasons.

This includes:

- Recording the joining bull, the date the female was joined (bull in date) and the date the bull was taken out. These dates are critical for analyzing the days to calving trait.
- All joining details of all females mated within the herd, whether this was the successful joining or not.
- Details of all females removed from the herd, especially those present

at joining who were no longer with the herd by calving due to infertility, using the BREEDPLAN specific codes to record why they were removed.

- Details of all calves (born dead or alive) that are born as a result of these joinings to ensure the highest level of accuracy for the Days to Calving EBV.

NOTE: disposal recorded via your ADLs are not included in the Days to Calving analysis, so you will need to complete the days to calving disposals separately via the Excel template.

How do we record this information?

This information is recorded across four excel templates, available in the help centre of the BREEDPLAN website by searching days to calving: BREEDPLAN - Help Centre (une.edu.au) **OR** Herds that use a software programme (e.g. HerdMASTER or Stockbook) can extract the data and submit straight to Registry.

Culled or sold:

CODE	DESCRIPTION
A	Cast for age
B	Sold surplus breeding female –but not code J or F
C	Calving incident (e.g. dystocia, prolapsed)
D	Disease (e.g. pesti, bloat)
E	Eyes (e.g. pigment, hooding)
F	Not in calf (i.e. failed preg test or did not calve)
G	Genetic condition (e.g. carrier of genetic condition)
H	Horns
J	Culled unjoined heifer surplus to requirements
K	Coat type

CODE	DESCRIPTION
P	Poor Performance (e.g. poor milking, low body condition)
Q	Appearance (e.g. type, colour, markings, Breed Society standards)
R	Reproductive abnormality (e.g. freemartin, mal-formed uterus, small pelvic area)
S	Structural problem (e.g. feet, legs, navel)
T	Poor temperament
U	Udder or teat problems
V	Poor EBVs
W	Calved but failed to rear calf to weaning
X	Susceptible to parasites (e.g. ticks, buffalo, fly, worms)

Died or missing:

CODE	DESCRIPTION
C	Calving incident (e.g. dystocia, prolapsed)
D	Disease (e.g. pesti, bloat)
M	Missing assumed dead
X	Susceptible to parasites (e.g. ticks, buffalo, fly, worms)
Y	Unknown cause
Z	Accident (e.g. injury, drowned, poisoned)

