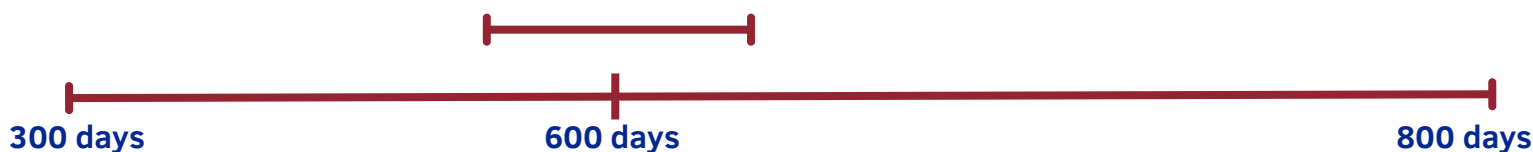


Real-Time Ultrasound Scanning Timeline

Majority of animals scanned



What are Carcass Traits?

- Includes Real-time Ultrasound (RTU) scanning data and abattoir carcass data.
- Live animal carcass traits (eye muscle area, subcutaneous and intramuscular fat) are measured using RTU scanning.
- Carcass traits are an indication of the actual carcass yield and quality.

Real-time Ultrasound Scanning

- Highly correlated with actual carcass traits after slaughter.
- Non-invasive technology.
- Used to quantify traits on a live animal.
- More animals can be measured.

Why Record Carcass Traits?

- Recording and submitting carcass trait data enables BREEDPLAN to calculate carcass trait EBVs.
- Carcass trait EBVs allow identification and selection based on carcass merit.
- Carcass traits are moderate to highly heritable, thus selection for carcass traits can contribute to relatively fast genetic improvement in these traits.

Requirements for RTU Scanning

- RTU data can be recorded on animals that are between 300 – 800 days of age when measured.
- Most animals are scanned around 600 days of age.
- Scanning data must be recorded by a BREEDPLAN accredited ultrasound scanning technician.
- Bulls and heifers (scan all animals as far as possible).
- Animals must be scanned within a contemporary group.
- Animals must be in good condition, to pick up the variation in measurements between the animals (usually from March to June).
- Minimum of 10 animals per farm.

Carcass EBVs

- Eye muscle area (EMA):
 - Estimate of genetic difference between animals in eye muscle area at 12/13th rib site in a standard weight steer carcass.
 - Expressed in square centimetres (cm²).
- Rib fat:
 - Estimate of genetic difference between animals in fat depth at the 12/13th rib site in a standard weight steer carcass.
 - Rib Fat EBVs are expressed in millimetres (mm).
- Rump fat:
 - Estimate of the genetic difference between animals in fat depth at the P8 rump site in a standard weight steer carcass.
 - Expressed in millimetres (mm).
- Intramuscular fat (IMF):
 - Estimate of genetic difference between animals in intramuscular fat (marbling) at the 12/13 rib site in a standard weight steer carcass.
 - Expressed as differences in percentage (%) IMF.

More Information

Scan the QR codes below for the BREEDPLAN Tip Sheets or click [here](#) for the BREEDPLAN Help Centre.



Scan the QR code below or click [here](#) for the LRF RTU scanning services.

