

Timeline



What is Net Feed Intake?

- The difference between the expected and actual feed intake.
- How much feed an animal actually consumed compared to how much feed it is expected to consume at a given phase of production.

Why Record Net Feed Intake?

- Net Feed Intake (NFI) is a great way to measure feed efficiency.
- More feed efficient animals consume less feed for the same level of production.
- Feed efficiency is an economically important production trait.

Net Feed Intake EBVs

- Estimate of the genetic difference between animals in feed intake at a standard weight and rate of weight gain when animals are at a specific phase of production.
- BREEDPLAN produces two EBVs related to feed efficiency:
 - Net Feed Intake (Post Weaning) - 200 days of age or older.
 - Net Feed Intake (Feedlot Finishing).
- Both NFI EBVs are calculated from information collected in feed efficiency trials, the animals are just tested at different ages.
- Expressed as kg of feed per day (kg/day).

Eligibility for Testing

- Age:
 - Between 210 and 700 days (at start of test period).
- Sex:
 - Bulls, steers or heifers can be tested.
 - Different sex groups should be separated.
- Animal group requirements:
 - Minimum of five animals bred from a minimum of two sires with a minimum of two progeny per sire.
- Test station:
 - Data must be collected from a test station accredited by the LRF.

Interpreting Net Feed Intake EBVs

- Lower, or more negative, NFI EBVs are more favourable.
- For example:
 - A bull with a -0.7 kg/day NFI EBV would be expected to produce progeny that eat less feed per day than the progeny from a bull that has a +0.5 kg/day NFI EBV (when the progeny are of similar weight, growing at a similar rate, and are in a growing phase).

More Information

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

