BREEDPLAN Tips

Namibian Brahman Selection Indexes

There is currently only one selection index calculated for Namibian Brahman animals. This is the Extensive Range Grazing Index.

The **Extensive Range Grazing Index** estimates genetic differences between animals in net profitability for commercial herds that breed and supply steers to the 30 month (460-500 kg live weight) South African and European Union export market. These herds also retain females for breeding, so the index balances commercial return while considering the cow herd to optimize herd profitability.

All selection indexes are reported as an EBV, in units of relative earning capacity (Rand) for a given production/market scenario. They reflect both the short term profit generated by a sire through the sale of his progeny, and the longer term profit generated by his daughters in a self replacing cow herd.

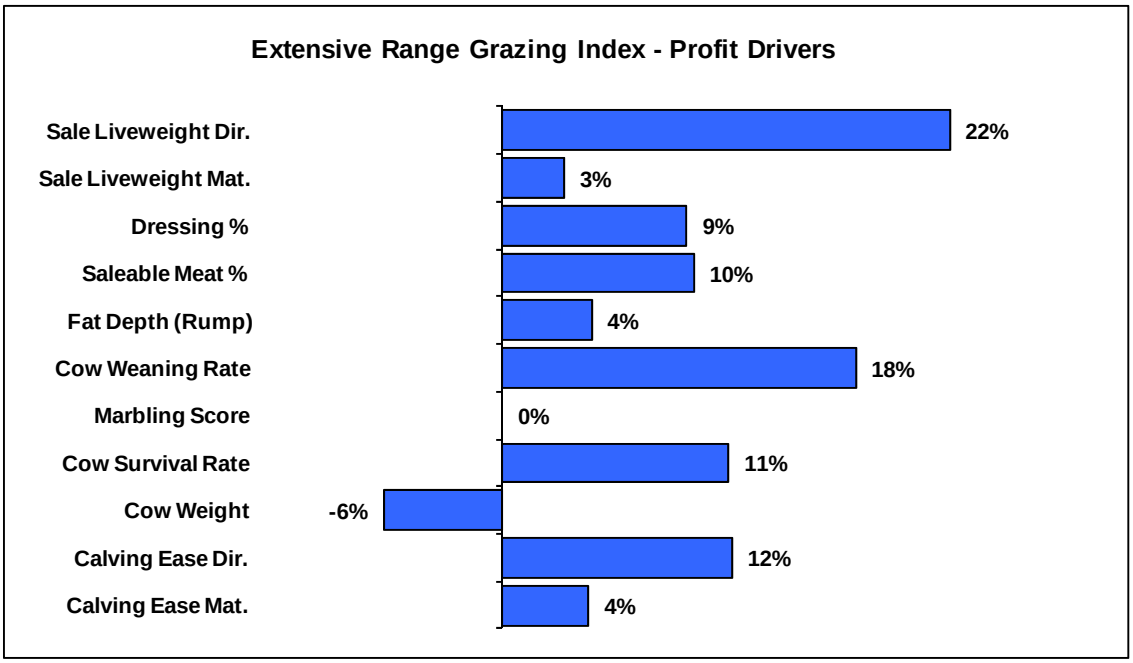
All selection index values have been derived using BreedObject technology. More detailed information regarding this selection index is provided on the following page. Further information is also available in the Tip Sheet titled "Selection Indexes – A General Introduction".

If you have any further queries regarding Namibian Brahman Selection Indexes, please do not hesitate to contact staff at the Brahman Cattle Breeders Society.

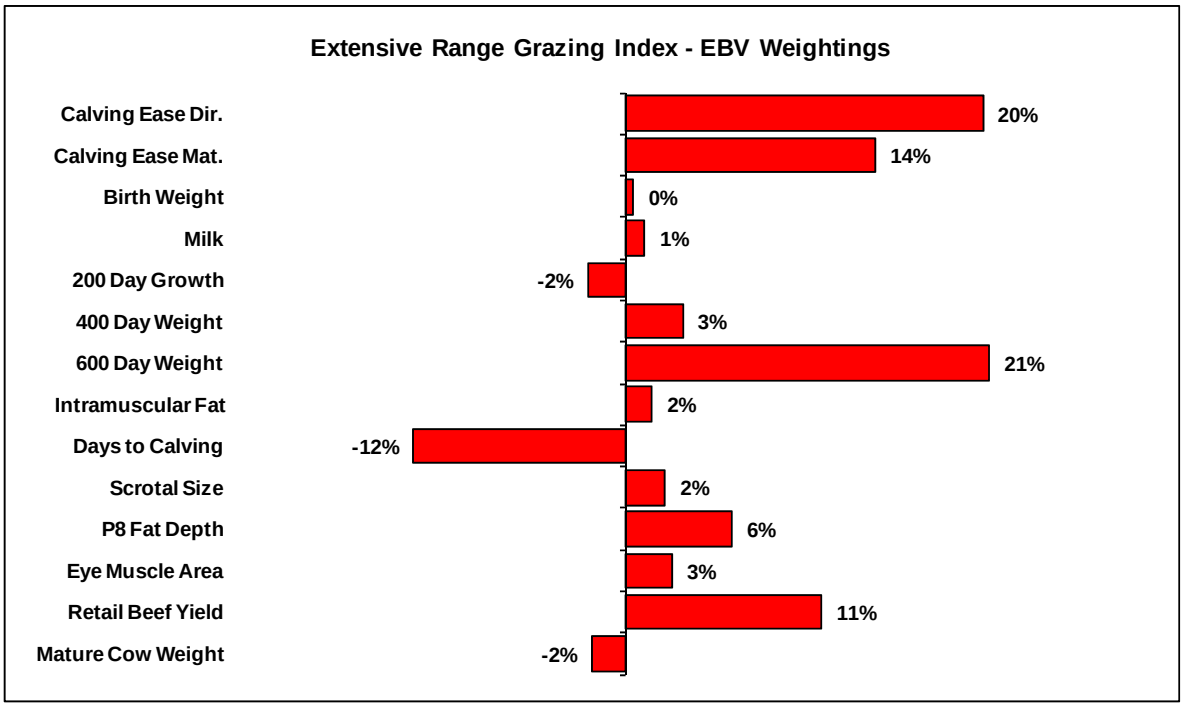
Brahman Extensive Range Grazing Index

The **Extensive Range Grazing Index** estimates genetic differences between animals in net profitability for commercial herds that breed and supply steers to the 30 month (460-500 kg live weight) South African and European Union export market. These herds also retain females for breeding, so the index balances commercial return while considering the cow herd to optimize herd profitability.

The following bar graph shows the key economic traits that are important in this selection index. The different trait emphases reflect the underlying profit drivers in a commercial operation targeting this production system and market.



Considering the genetic relationship between the key profit drivers and the EBVs that are available, this transposes to the following EBV emphases. The sign indicates the direction of the emphasis. For example, greater 600 Day Weight EBVs and shorter Days to Calving EBVs are favoured.



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While the graphs on the previous page show the different profit drivers and emphases that have been placed on each EBV within the Extensive Range Grazing Selection Index, they do not illustrate the likely change that will occur to each individual trait if producers select animals using this selection index. The response to selection will also be influenced by such factors as the genetic relationship between traits and the animals that are available for selection. For example, while there is a slight negative weighting on 200 Day Weight in this selection index, it would be expected that growth to 200 days would increase considerably as there is a large weighting on 600 Day Weight.

The following bar graph provides an indication of the relative change that would be expected in each individual trait if producers select animals using the Extensive Range Grazing Selection Index. The graph reflects the relative change if the Brahman Published Sires (at the 2011 Namibian Brahman GROUP BREEDPLAN analysis) were ranked on this selection index and the Top 10% selected for use within a breeding program. The response to selection may differ if a different group of animals were available for selection.