

# Australian South Devon Selection Indexes: Technical Specifications



The South Devon Cattle Society of Australia Inc. currently reports two different selection indexes. These are the:

- Local Trade Index
- Export Maternal Index

All of the selection indexes described above have been derived using [BreedObject](#) software. The BreedObject selection index development process involves four major steps. These steps are:

1. A detailed description of the input costs and value generation of the commercial herd and target production system.
2. Once the target production system is described, the BreedObject software evaluates how each trait influences profitability and the economic value of improving each trait.
3. The BreedObject software then assesses what emphasis needs to be applied to each Estimated Breeding Value (EBV) trait to achieve the maximum profitability in the production system and for the market end point for which that index was designed. This step includes evaluating the selection response expected from direct selection on the individual EBVs and the correlated responses expected from selection on related EBVs.
4. The importance placed on each EBV results in the selection index value that is calculated for each animal.

Each selection index describes a different production system/market scenario and relates to a typical commercial herd using South Devon bulls. As is the case for EBVs, each selection index can be used to rank and compare animals on their genetic merit. Producers are advised to use the selection index that most closely aligns to their production system. See the [Using Australian South Devon Selection Indexes](#) tip sheet, available in the [Help Centre](#) on the BREEDPLAN website, for further information on the identification and utilisation of the most applicable selection index for your herd.

All selection indexes are reported in units of net profitability per cow mated (\$) for the production system/market scenario they describe. Selection indexes account for both sides of the profit equation (costs as well as income), and also reflect the relative short and long term profit associated with possible selection decisions. For example, short term profit can be generated by a bull through the sale of his progeny, and the longer term profit generated by his daughters in a self-replacing cow herd.

Each of the selection indexes are focused on efficient beef production while also targeting the following specifications:

**Local Trade Index** - Estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for a typical self-replacing commercial herd targeting the local trade. Selected heifers are retained for breeding and so maternal traits are of importance. Steers target 450 kg live weight (240 kg carcass weight) at 12 months of age. In response to industry feedback, positive emphasis has been placed on carcass quality traits.

**Export Maternal Index** - Estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for a typical self-replacing commercial herd targeting the export market. Selected heifers are retained for breeding and so maternal traits are of importance. Steers target 600 kg live weight (325 kg carcass weight and 16 mm fat depth) at 24 months of age. In response to industry feedback, positive emphasis has been placed on carcass quality traits. This selection index is also suitable to select sires for a northern cross breeding production system.

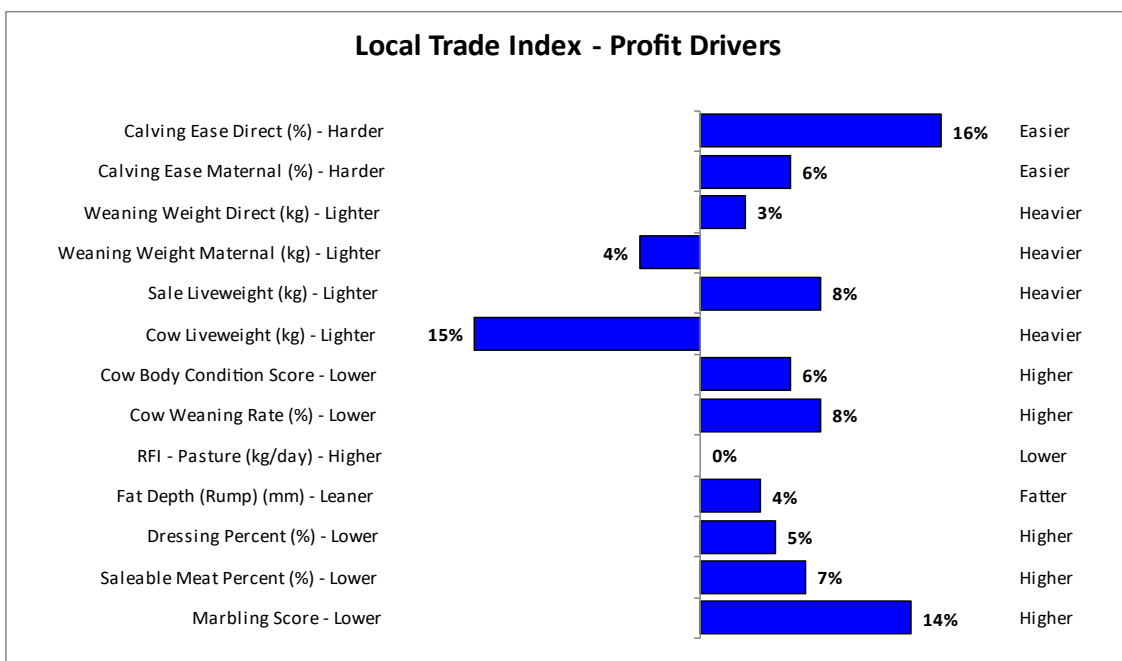
More detailed information regarding each selection index is provided on the following pages.

**If you have any further queries regarding the South Devon Selection Indexes, please do not hesitate to contact staff at your BREEDPLAN processing centre.**

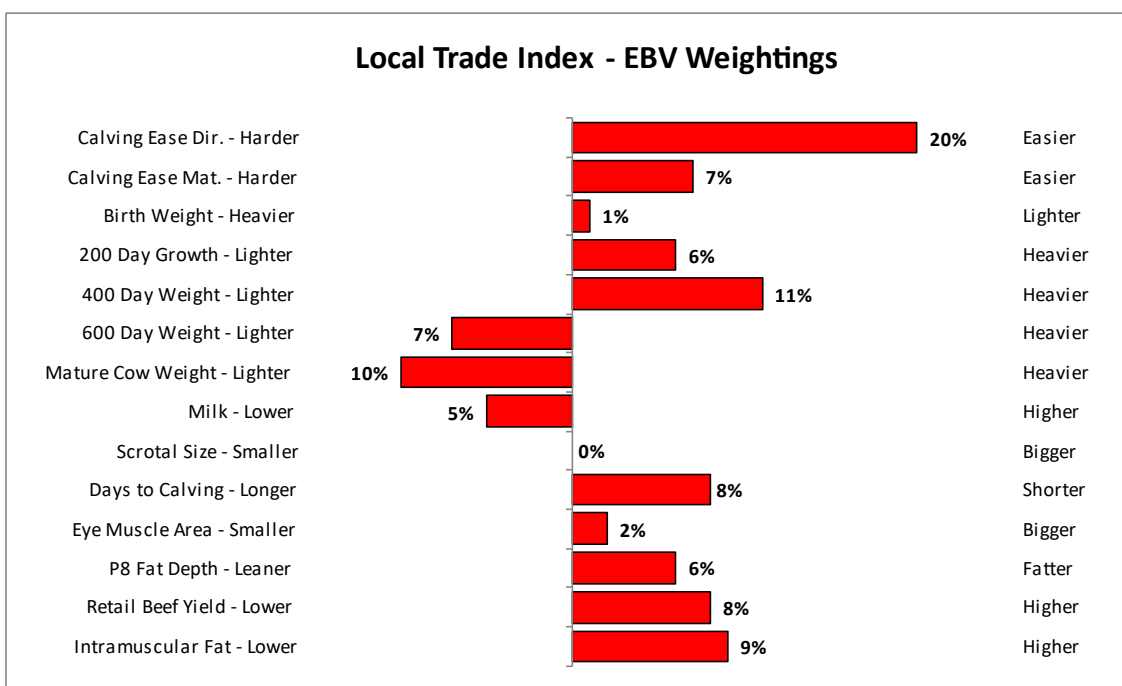


## Local Trade Index

The following bar graph shows the **key economic traits**, as determined by the BreedObject software, that are important in this selection index. The different trait emphases reflect the **underlying profit drivers in a commercial operation** targeting the described production system/market.

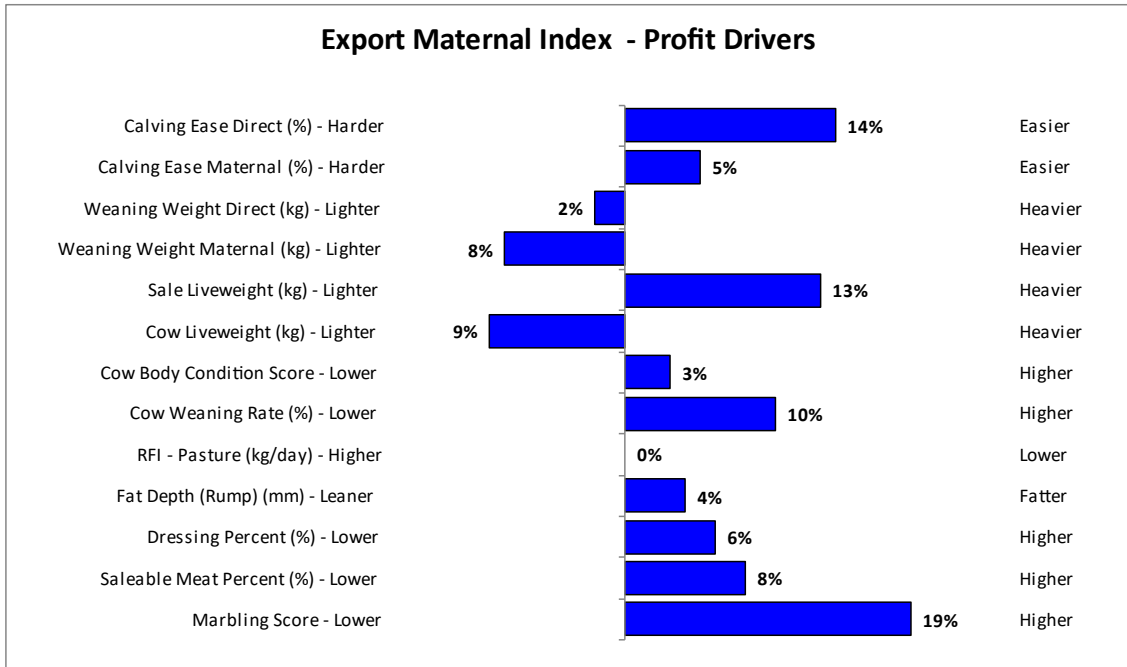


The bar graph below illustrates the magnitude and direction of emphasis that has been placed on each **BREEDPLAN EBV** within this selection index. These weightings represent the **most profitable combination of EBVs**, as determined by the BreedObject software, for the described production system/market.



## Export Maternal Index

The following bar graph shows the **key economic traits**, as determined by the BreedObject software, that are important in this selection index. The different trait emphases reflect the **underlying profit drivers in a commercial operation** targeting the described production system/market.



The bar graph below illustrates the magnitude and direction of emphasis that has been placed on each **BREEDPLAN EBV** within this selection index. These weightings represent the **most profitable combination of EBVs**, as determined by the BreedObject software, for the described production system/market.

