

Quick Reference to ASA EPD and \$ Indexes

Expected Progeny Differences (EPD)

EPD are the most effective tool in comparing the genetic merit of a single trait between individuals. In using EPD, the difference between two sires' EPD

represents the unit difference expected in the performance of their progeny. The units that ASA EPD are expressed in are listed below.

Calving Ease (CE)

Percent of unassisted births out of first-calf heifers.

Birth Weight (BW)

Pounds of birth weight.

Weaning Weight (WW)

Pounds of weaning weight.

Yearling Weight (YW)

Pounds of yearling weight.

Average Daily Gain (ADG)

Post-weaning pounds gained on a daily basis.

Dry Matter Intake (DMI)

Pounds of daily dry matter intake.

Dollar Gain economic subindex (\$GN):

Dollars per head per day during the post-weaning period.

Maternal Calving Ease (MCE)

Percent of unassisted births in first-calving daughters.

Milk (MILK)

Pounds of weaning weight due to milk.

Maternal Weaning Weight (MWW)

Pounds of weaning weight due to milk and growth.

Stayability (STAY)

Percent of daughters remaining in the cow herd at six years of age, given they calved as a two-year-old.

Mature Weight (MW)

Pounds of cow body weight at six years of age and body condition score of 5.

Cow Energy Requirements (CER)

Annual pounds of total digestible nutrients required for a six-year-old cow.

Docility (DOC)

Probability that yearling-age progeny will be scored as a 1, rather than 2–6 on the docility scale.

Carcass Weight (CW)

Pounds of carcass weight.

Yield Grade (YG)

USDA yield grade score (1–5).

Marbling (MARB)

Marbling score.

Backfat (BF)

Inches of external backfat at the 12th and 13th rib.

Ribeye Area (REA)

Square inches of ribeye area between the 12th and 13th rib.

Pulmonary Arterial Pressure (PAP)

Millimeters of Mercury (mmHG)

Economic (\$) Indexes

\$ Indexes blend EPD for economically relevant traits and the economics associated with cattle production into a single value. \$ Indexes estimate an animal's overall impact on your bottom line.

If you're keeping replacement females, use \$API. If not, then use \$TI.

All-Purpose Index (\$API)

Expressed as dollars per cow exposed under an all-purpose-sire scenario. Evaluates sires for use on the entire cow herd (bred to both Angus first-calf heifers and mature cows) with the portion of their daughters required to maintain herd size retained and the remaining heifers and steers put on feed and sold on a grid (grade and yield).

Terminal Index (\$TI)

Expressed as dollars per cow exposed under a terminal-sire scenario. Evaluates sire for use on mature Angus cows with all offspring put on feed and sold on a grid (grade and yield).

A percentile-ranking chart is required to determine where an animal's EPD and \$ Indexes rank relative to other animals in the breed. For percentile rankings or

more detailed information about EPD and \$ Indexes visit www.simmental.org. 