How to Interpret EPD Percentile Rankings

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Expected progeny differences (EPD) are the most accurate and effective tool available for comparing genetic values. EPD should be used as a comparison tool. In using EPD, the difference between two animals' EPD represents the unit difference expected in the performance of their progeny. Percentile rankings can be used to compare an animal's EPD to the rest of a specific population. Percentile rankings for ASA are calculated based on the current generation of animals and available at Herdbook.org. The table below provides the interpretation, or expected directional change in performance, when selecting animals toward the indicated EPD percentile ranking.

Trait	Abr	Percentile Ranking	Interpretation	Percentile Ranking	Interpretation
Calving Ease Direct	CE	1%	more unassisted births	99%	fewer unassisted births
Birth Weight	BW	1%	lighter weight at birth	99%	heavier weight at birth
Weaning Weight	WW	1%	heavier weight at weaning	99%	lighter weight at weaning
Yearling Weight	YW	1%	heavier weught at yearling	99%	lighter weight at yearling
Average Daily Gain	ADG	1%	greater daily gain	99%	less daily gain
Dry Matter Intake	DMI	1%	consume less feed	99%	consume more feed
Dollar Gain economic subindex	$GN	1%	more $ per head per day	99%	less $ per head per day
Maternal Calving Ease	MCE	1%	more unassisted births	99%	fewer unassisted births
Milk	MILK	1%	heavier WW due to milk	99%	lighter WW due to milk
Maternal Weaning Weight	MWW	1%	heavier WW due to milk and growth	99%	lighter WW due to milk and growth
Stayability	STAY	1%	daughters more likely to remain in herd until six years old	99%	daughters less likely to remain in herd until six years old
Mature Weight	MW	1%	heavier mature weight	99%	lighter mature weight
Cow Energy Requirement	CER	1%	fewer energy requirements	99%	more energy requirements
Docility	DOC	1%	more docile	99%	less docile
Carcass Weight	CW	1%	heavier carcass weight	99%	lighter carcass weight
Yield Grade	YG	1%	lower values = leaner carcass with more saleable beef	99%	higher values = fatter carcass with less saleable beef
Marbling	MARB	1%	more marbling	99%	less marbling
Backfat	BF	1%	leaner carcass	99%	fatter carcass
Ribeye Area	REA	1%	larger ribeye area	99%	smaller ribeye area
Pulmonary Arterial Pressure	PAP	1%	lower PAP score	99%	higher PAP score
All-Purpose economic index	$API	1%	more profit ($)	99%	less profit ($)
Terminal economic index	$TI	1%	more profit ($)	99%	less profit ($)