

# A new breeding index for Charollais sheep



In 2015 a new breeding index will be launched for the Charollais breed to highlight **faster growth rates** and **easier finishing**, whilst continuing to **enhance carcase conformation**

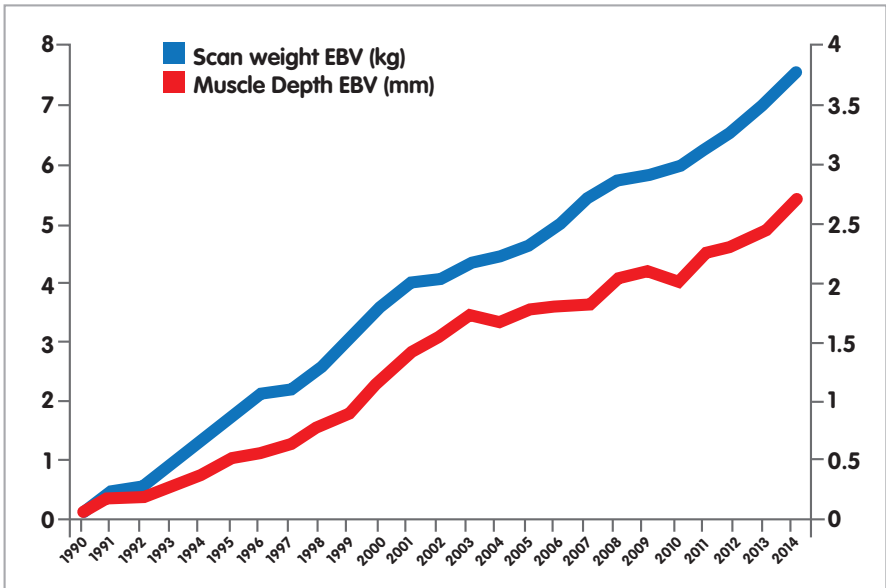


CHAROLLAIS  
SHEEP  
SOCIETY

# Charollais Recording: Progress to be proud of

Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) and Breeding Indexes provide a proven way to enhance commercial sheep production.

The Charollais breed is a pioneer of progressive breeding. The use of performance records, ultrasound scanning and computed tomography has helped breeders to identify elite terminal sires.



**25 years after the launch of the Charollais Sire Reference Scheme, the breed can justifiably take pride in the rates of genetic gain achieved in commercially important traits.**



## The new Charollais Index: A commercial win-win

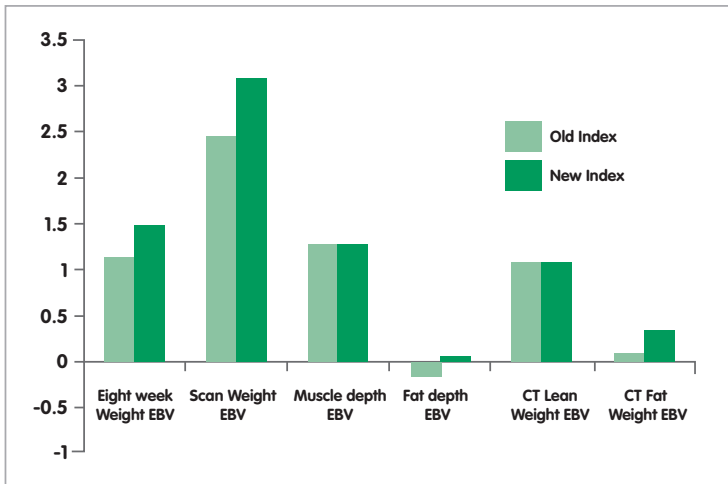
The progeny of performance recorded Charollais rams are well placed to hit the carcass requirements of the market.

Genetic improvements in growth rate and muscling mean Charollais sired lambs have the potential to optimise carcass weights at the right level of finish and less focus needs to be placed on avoiding fatter breeding lines.

Taking these advances into account a new Charollais Breeding index has been developed that places less of a penalty on fatter breeding lines – while continuing to penalise those deemed excessively lean. These changes will also mean slightly faster growing Charollais will be rewarded through index selection – without detriment to muscling across the loin or within the carcass.

### Relative genetic change

Top 10% of population vs. average



**The new Charollais index is a win-win for the selection and promotion of fast finishing, well fleshed Charollais sheep.**



## The commercial application of performance records

Commercial trials show the financial benefit of choosing the right recorded ram can exceed £1000 over its working lifetime.

Performance records are available at Society sales and lists of recorded breeders and leading rams can be accessed via the Signet website [www.signetfbc.co.uk](http://www.signetfbc.co.uk) The Signet website also provides open access to the EBVs of all Signet recorded sheep.

### When buying rams remember:

- **Recording does not replace the role of the stockman. Rams should be assessed for structural soundness, fitness and fertility**
- **The index is a useful indicator of genetic merit. Producers are always encouraged to select rams with the right balance of EBVs for their production system**

For information about performance recording contact:

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