

RamCompare: What do the results mean for Texel sheep?

Preliminary results by Samuel Boon

RamCompare is the national progeny test for terminal sires. Over two years, 70 rams have produced nearly 8,000 lambs across six commercial farms. Data from these lambs has been analysed to assess the genetic merit of these rams for traits of economic importance. Whilst not all breeds submitted their best individuals, there are some general observations that can be observed about the rams tested to date.



The Texel rams tested expressed the following characteristics:

- The Texel sired progeny assessed had fairly good genes for early growth rate to 8 weeks although in general the growth rates measured on-farm were not as high as some of the rams from other breeds. Likewise muscling across the loin at scanning time tended to be a bit lower, this may have been because lambs were smaller.
- Carcase weights were higher than might be expected given their live weight at scanning time and carcase conformation was consistently high. The combination of these two attributes lead to several rams achieving high overall indexes for carcase merit. Texel sired carcasses were consistently leaner than those produced by other breeds.

Standardised breeding values for the ten leading Texel sires – ranked by Carcase Merit Index

For on-farm traits 100=2010 average within the Combined Breed Analysis and for the carcase traits 100=2017 average.

Flockbook Number	Name	AI/NS	Progeny /Farms	Carcase records so far	Eight Week Weight EBV	Scan Weight EBV	Muscle Depth EBV	Fat Depth EBV	Carcase Weight EBV	Carcase Conformation EBV	Carcase Fat Class EBV	Carcase Merit Index
PRH1500573	HANDBANK	NS	67 / 1	58	137	124	135	101	151	137	89	155
EJR1101108	ROXBURGH SHOT GUN WILLIE	AI	142 / 3	67	120	113	109	83	130	145	82	141
PAP1501802	PENYGELLI	NS	67 / 1	29	116	113	117	96	123	138	80	133
YDP1500991	STONEDGE WALLYKAZAM	NS	157 / 1	112	97	110	124	81	108	141	66	123
PAP1401307	PENYGELLI	NS	104 / 1	82	87	99	121	84	113	110	81	116
HME1501742	ELKSTONE	NS	57 / 1	41	112	109	114	103	99	147	104	113
WPS1400599	STAINTON VANTAGE II	AI	59 / 2	43	122	115	115	60	102	123	64	113
MDY1400927	TYNEWYDD	NS	149 / 1	112	121	118	110	105	105	113	87	110
CMG06129	GAYNES MAJOR	AI	181 / 3	132	118	111	116	104	103	113	79	109
JER1505263	RUGLEY	NS	100 / 1	65	126	120	113	100	106	102	81	107

* Higher values for fat traits mean fatter genetics, lower values mean leaner genetics. Please note HTW1501312 has not had any carcase records evaluated yet.