

Percentile Scores for BEP End of Evaluation Reports

EPDs, ABCs and Selection Indexes are designed to rank bulls in a group based on their genetic merit, or what they will pass on to their offspring. To make selection easier and help understand where a bull's EPD, ABC or Selection Index ranks, a Percentile Score for each EPD and ABC for each trait is provided to help you to determine where a bull may rank.

How Percentile Scores Work:

- ◆ A Percentile Score for an EPD, ABC or Selection Index is a number between 1 and 99.
- ◆ Shows you how high or low a bull would rank compared with all of the bulls evaluated over the past 3 years for that trait.
- ◆ A bull that has a percentile score of 99 (or 99th percentile) is in the top 1% of all bulls evaluated for that trait or index.
- ◆ A bull in the 80th percentile would be in the top 20%, etc.

Percentile Scores: Bigger is ALWAYS Better

The percentiles are calculated in the *direction of desired change*. For example, the Percentile Score for Birth Weight is greater for lower birth weights while the Percentile Score for Weaning Gain is greater for larger weaning weights. Table 1 below shows how the ABCs for five traits would score.

Table 1. Rankings of Evaluated Bulls by ABCs

Percentile Score	BW (lbs.)	WG (lbs.)	BF (mm)	Feed Conv.	REA (sq. in)
99th percentile (Top 1%)	-5.0	54	1.75	-0.47	1.21
90th percentile (Top 10%)	-3.0	42	0.98	-0.23	0.52
50th percentile (Top 50%)	0.0	30	0.0	0.0	0.00

Percentile Scores Can Help

When the best sires are known, genetic improvement can be achieved by using the top sires to produce next year's calves.