

Flock Profile

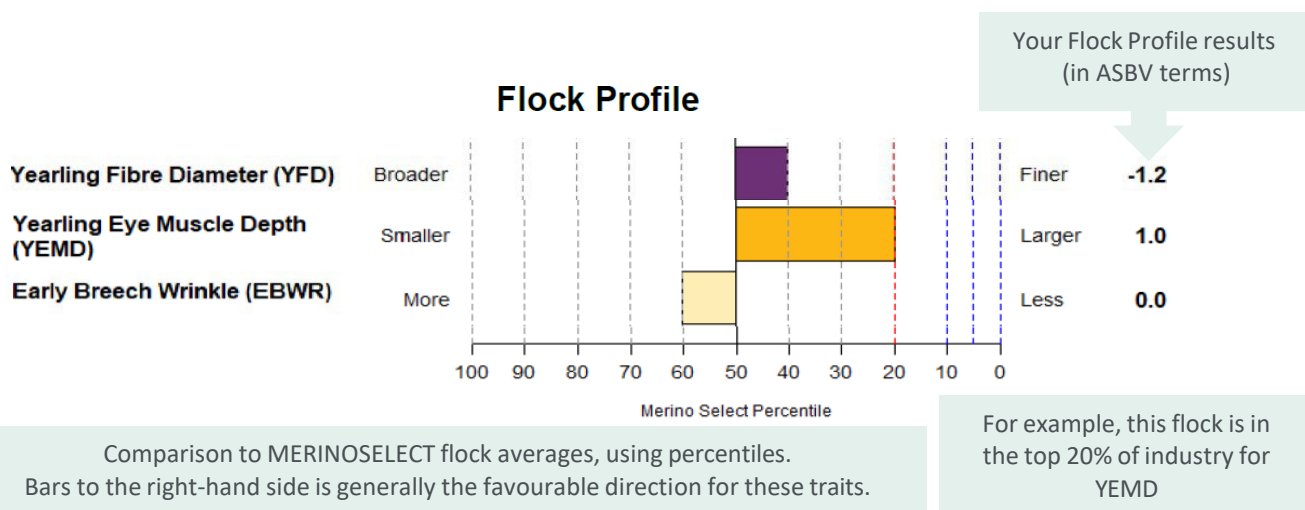
Flock Profile provides commercial Merino producers with a genetic benchmark of how their flock compares to industry.

The Flock Profile test provides you with a flock average breeding values comparable to the Sheep Genetics database. You can use Flock Profile results to track genetic progress and help inform ram purchasing decisions.

Flock Profiling involves genotyping 20 animals, selected randomly, from the current drop of lambs. To Flock Profile, contact one of the genotyping providers found at: sheepgenetics.org.au/resources/genomics/

The results provide flock average breeding values for a suite of Australian Sheep Breeding Value (ASBV) traits. In the report, your flock breeding values are compared to the average breeding values of MERINOSELECT flocks, with percentiles. Use these percentile bands to determine where your flock sits compared to flocks in MERINOSELECT. A score on the 10th percentile indicates your flock is in the top 10% of flocks for that trait.

Understanding the report



Using these results

A breeding objective describes the future direction for your flock. Setting a breeding objective involves identifying traits that are important to your flock. These will include consideration of your profit drivers, as well as management and environment considerations.

These Flock Profile results can be used to inform your ram purchasing decisions. You now have a genetic benchmark which is directly comparable to MERINOSELECT ASBVs.

Three selection indexes are also reported (MP, DP and FP), which combine a range of traits into a single ranking value. These indexes are each based on a different production system, with more information on each available at: sheepgenetics.org.au/Getting-started/ASBVs-and-Indexes.

Use these ASBV and Index values to buy rams that will take you forward for the traits in your breeding objective.

The Sheep Genetics search site is a valuable resource where you can search for appropriate rams. The site has the capability to search:

- Individual animals, if there are certain animals of interest
- By criteria, where you can enter specific values as minimum or maximum ASBVs to find rams that match your breeding objective.

The Sheep Genetics site can be accessed at: <https://search.sheepgenetics.org.au/search/dashboard>

You can further track your progress by ram team monitoring. This involves keeping a record of sires you use each year, and averaging their ASBVs, to track how your sire team is performing. The only information you need to do this, is the ID of the animal.

Trait definitions

Trait	Units	Interpretation
Yearling clean fleece weight (YCFW)	%	Flocks with higher clean fleece weight values will on average genetically cut more wool than flocks with lower values.
Yearling fibre diameter (YFD)	µm	Flocks with lower fibre diameter values will on average be genetically finer than flocks with higher values.
Yearling coefficient of variation of fibre diameter (YDCV)	%	Flocks with a lower value for YDCV on average have genetically less variation in fibre diameter than flocks with a higher value.
Yearling curvature (YCURV)	degrees/mm	Flocks with lower curvature values will on average have genetically lower fibre curvature than flocks with a higher value.
Yearling staple length (YSL)	mm	Flocks with higher staple length values will have on average a genetically longer staple length than flocks with a lower value.
Post weaning weight (PWT)	kg	Flocks with higher post weaning weight values will on average be genetically faster growing than flocks with lower values.
Yearling weight (YWT)	kg	Flocks with higher yearling weight values will on average be genetically faster growing than flocks with lower values.
Fat depth (YFAT)	mm	Flocks with higher fat values will on average be genetically fatter than flocks with lower values.
Yearling eye muscle depth (YEMD)	mm	Flocks with higher values for eye muscle depth will on average have genetically thicker-muscled animals that will produce more lean meat than flocks with lower values.
Early breech wrinkle (EBWR)	score	Flocks with a lower breech wrinkle value will on average be genetically less wrinkly than flocks with higher values.
Post weaning worm egg count (PWEC)	%	Flocks with lower worm egg count will on average have genetically better worm resistance than flocks with higher values.
Fine Wool (FW)	Index	The Fine Wool index focuses on breeding finer wool.
Wool Production (WP)	Index	The Wool Production index focuses on increased wool production.
Sustainable Merino (SM)	Index	The Sustainable Merino index focuses on a balance of meat and wool production with a focus on welfare
Merino Lamb (ML)	Index	The Merino Lamb index focuses on prime lamb production from Merino ewes
Weaning Rate (WR)	Number of lambs	Flocks with a higher weaning rate will wean more lambs per ewe joined than a flock with lower values.
Condition Score (CS)		Flocks with a higher condition score will have ewes that are in better condition at joining than a flock with lower values.