



# BRAHMAN CATTLE EPD GUIDE

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR  
EXPECTED PROGENY DIFFERENCES (EPD)  
IN BRAHMAN CATTLE



# BW

## BIRTH WEIGHT EPD

The Birth Weight EPD tells you how much a bull's calves are likely to weigh at birth compared to calves from other bulls. It's measured in pounds.

You generally want a lower number here because lighter calves are easier for cows to give birth to.

# WW

## WEANING WEIGHT EPD

The Weaning Weight EPD predicts how much a bull's calves will weigh when they're weaned compared to calves from other bulls. It's measured in pounds.

A higher number is better because heavier calves are usually worth more money.

# YW

## YEARLING WEIGHT EPD

The Yearling Weight EPD estimates how much a bull's calves will weigh when they're a year old, compared to calves from other bulls. It's measured in pounds.

Higher numbers are better, because heavier yearlings are typically more valuable.

# FS

## FRAME SCORE EPD

The Frame Score EPD predicts the mature size of a bull's calves based on their height. Higher numbers mean taller, larger-framed cattle

The ideal frame score depends on your breeding goals and environment.

# REA

## RIB EYE AREA EPD

The Rib Eye Area EPD (also known as the Retail Product EPD) predicts the difference in the size of the rib eye muscle in a bull's calves compared to calves from other bulls, measured in square inches.

Higher numbers are better because a larger rib eye means more high-value meat.

# TEND

## TENDERNESS EPD

This EPD combines data from meat tenderness tests and DNA tests to predict how tender a bull's calves' meat will be.

A lower number means more tender meat, which is more desirable.

# MILK

## MILK EPD

The milk EPD predicts how much milk a bull's daughters will produce compared to the daughters of other bulls. It's an indicator of mothering ability.

You don't necessarily want the highest number here because cows with very high milk production need more feed to maintain their body condition.

# CEM

## CALVING EASE MATERNAL EPD

The Calving Ease Maternal EPD predicts how easily a bull's daughters will give birth when they become mothers, compared to daughters of other bulls.

Higher numbers are better because they mean the daughters will have fewer problems calving.

# CED

## CALVING EASE DIRECT EPD

The Calving Ease Direct EPD predicts how easily a bull's calves will be born to first-calf heifers compared to calves from other bulls. It's based on calving scores and birth weights.

Higher numbers are better because they mean fewer problems when heifers are calving.

# SC

## SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE EPD

The Scrotal Circumference EPD predicts the difference in testicle size between a bull's sons and sons of other bulls. Bulls with larger scrotal circumference EPDs are expected to have daughters that reach puberty earlier. Scrotal circumference also indicates how much semen a bull produces.

Higher numbers are better.

# % IMF

## INTRAMUSCULAR FAT PERCENTAGE EPD

The % IMF EPD (also known as the Marbling EPD) predicts the difference in the percentage of intramuscular fat in a bull's calves compared to calves from other bulls. It's based on measurements of the carcasses of a bull's harvested offspring.

Higher numbers are better because more marbling leads to higher USDA quality grades, like Choice or Prime, which are more desirable to consumers and can bring a higher price.

# DOC

## DOCILITY EPD

The Docility EPD predicts how calm and easy to handle a bull's calves will be. It's based on scores assigned to the calves' behavior in the chute and in the pasture.

Higher numbers are better because calmer cattle are easier and safer to work with.

# FAT

## FAT THICKNESS EPD

The Fat Thickness EPD predicts the difference in the amount of fat on a bull's calves' carcasses compared to calves from other bulls. It's measured in inches, and it affects the USDA yield grade of the carcass.

Lower numbers are better because less fat means a higher yield of meat.

# CWT

## CARCASS WEIGHT EPD

The Carcass Weight EPD predicts the difference in the hanging weight of a bull's calves' carcasses compared to calves from other bulls. It's measured in pounds.

Higher numbers are usually better because heavier carcasses are worth more.