

The Commercial Beef Value (CBV) is a tool for non-breeding beef farmers which will give them a better insight into an animal's genetic merit. It comprises five traits from the Terminal Index that are important to a non-breeding beef (drystock) enterprise:

- Carcass weight
- Carcass conformation
- Carcass fat
- Docility
- Feed intake

The CBV is expressed as a € value like the Replacement and Terminal Indexes, with both 'within breed type' and 'across breed' star ratings. There are three 'within breed type' categories:

- Suckler (beef sire and beef dam)
- Dairy x Beef (one dairy parent and one beef parent)
- Dairy x Dairy (dairy sire and dairy dam)

The 'within breed type' star rating will rank animals within that breed type. Farmers often have a set enterprise in terms of the type of animal they buy e.g. continental suckler weanlings, dairy x beef store heifers, Friesian bull calves, etc. The 'within breed type' star rating will help farmers to identify the highest genetic merit animals within the breed type of interest to them.

Figures in red

Index and trait (PTA) values which are in red denote a value that is the wrong side of 0. This may be a positive or negative figure depending on the trait (see figure 1). Carcass weight, for example, is a trait where a positive figure (>0) is desirable as a higher carcass weight will result in a higher price at slaughter. Feed intake on the other hand, is a trait where a negative figure (<0) is desirable as less feed consumed will mean less feed costs.

Carcass Weight (kg) ^	Carcass Conformation (1-15 scale) ^	Carcass Fat (1-15 scale) ^	Feed Intake (kg DM/day) ^	Docility (1-5 scale) ^
34.5	1.44	-0.73	0.16	0.10

Figure 1. Example of colour coding of trait values. Feed Intake figure is in red as a positive figure means the animal will eat more, resulting in more feed costs.

Breakdown of star ratings

The 'across breed' stars rank all animals against each other regardless of breed type. The 'within breed type' stars are specific to the animal's breed type depending on the parentage e.g. where an animal has a beef sire and beef dam then it is categorised as a 'Suckler' animal and the 'within breed type' stars will rank the animal against other suckler animals only. The star rating percentiles or 'cut-offs' will be very different depending on breed type. Table 1 gives a breakdown of the different star rating 'cut-offs'. *Note: these 'cut-offs' will change after each evaluation.*

icbf	CBV Star-rating Percentiles*				
	★★	★★★	Average	★★★★	★★★★★
Across Breed	-40	4	64	116	187
Suckler	98	148	167	185	222
Dairy x Beef	-34	-17	-8	1	47
Dairy X Dairy	-77	-59	-53	-47	-33

* Based on the Nov 2021 evaluation

Table 1. Breakdown of the CBV star-rating percentiles (cut-offs) across all breeds and within the three breed types based on the Nov 2021 evaluation.