Interpreting Santa Gertrudis Selection Indexes

There are currently two different selection indexes calculated for Australian Santa Gertrudis animals. These are:

- Domestic Production Index
- Export Production Index

Each selection index describes a different production/market scenario and relates to a typical, self replacing Santa Gertrudis herd targeting the following specifications.

**Domestic Production Index** - Estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for an example self replacing commercial herd (run in a temperate environment) producing steers for the domestic trade. This Index assumes that the steer progeny are pasture grown and finished and marketed at 500 kg live weight (280 kg HSCW and 12 mm P8 fat depth) at 16 months of age. Daughters are retained for breeding.

**Export Production Index** - Estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for an example commercial herd (run in a sub-tropical environment) producing steers for the export trade. This Index assumes that the steer progeny are pasture grown and finished and are marketed at 620 kg live weight (340 kg HSCW and 15 mm P8 fat depth) at 28 months of age. Daughters are retained for breeding.

All selection indexes are reported as an EBV, in units of relative earning capacity ($) for a given production/market scenario. They reflect both the short term profit generated by a sire through the sale of his progeny, and the longer term profit generated by his daughters in a self replacing cow herd.

All selection index values have been derived using BreedObject technology. More detailed information regarding each selection index is provided on the following pages. Further information is also available in the Tip Sheet titled “Selection Indexes – A General Introduction”.

If you have any further queries regarding Santa Gertrudis Selection Indexes, please do not hesitate to contact staff at BREEDPLAN.
Santa Gertrudis Domestic Production Index

The Santa Gertrudis Domestic Production Index estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for an example self replacing commercial herd (run in a temperate environment) producing steers for the domestic trade. This Index assumes that the steer progeny are pasture grown and finished and marketed at 500 kg live weight (280 kg HSCW and 12 mm P8 fat depth) at 16 months of age. Daughters are retained for breeding.

The following bar graph shows the key economic traits that are important in this selection index. The different trait emphases reflect the underlying profit drivers in a commercial operation targeting the production of steers for the domestic trade.

Considering the genetic relationship between the key profit drivers and the EBVs that are available, this transposes to the following EBV emphases. The sign indicates the direction of the emphasis. For example, greater 400-Day Weight EBVs and shorter Days to Calving EBVs are favoured.
Santa Gertrudis Export Production Index

The Santa Gertrudis Export Production Index estimates the genetic differences between animals in net profitability per cow joined for an example commercial herd (run in a sub-tropical environment) producing steers for the export trade. This Index assumes that the steer progeny are pasture grown and finished and are marketed at 620 kg live weight (340 kg HSCW and 15 mm P8 fat depth) at 28 months of age. Daughters are retained for breeding.

The following bar graph shows the key economic traits that are important in this selection index. The different trait emphases reflect the underlying profit drivers in a commercial operation targeting export markets.

Considering the genetic relationship between the key profit drivers and the EBVs that are available, this transposes to the following EBV emphases. The sign indicates the direction of the emphasis. For example, greater 600 Day Weight EBVs and shorter Days to Calving EBVs are favoured.