



# GoatGenetics.Ca G n tiqueCaprine.Ca

*Your Online Resource for Canadian Goat Genetic Improvement*

## ESTIMATED BREEDING VALUES

### What is an EBV?

An EBV (Estimated Breeding Value) is an estimation of the genetic value of an animal. It indicates its value as a parent. EBVs are effective selection tools. Individuals with the best EBVs for a given trait have the highest probability of producing superior progeny for that trait. Since only half of an animal's genes are passed on to progeny, the expected contribution from a parent to its progeny is one half of its EBV.



### How are EBVs expressed?

EBVs are expressed in the same units that the trait is measured in. For example, EBVs for milk production per lactation are expressed in kilograms. It is important to be aware that EBVs are expressed in relative terms and are not absolute. EBVs indicate how much better (or worse) the progeny of one animal is expected to be compared to progeny of another animal when raised under the same conditions. EBVs are adjusted to a base which reflects the current population for each breed. The current base includes all probed goats born in the last five years. EBVs for all animals are expressed against this base group. For example, an Alpine doe with EBVs of +50 kg milk, 1 kg Protein and 1 kg Fat is estimated to produce genetically 50kg more milk, 1 kg more protein and 1 kg more fat than the average Alpine goat born in the last 5 years.

### Which traits are evaluated under the Canadian Dairy Goat Improvement Program ?

In total 11 traits are evaluated under the Canadian Dairy Goat Improvement Program. This includes 3 milk production traits and 8 type traits. The table on the next page lists the specific traits evaluated in the program.





# GoatGenetics.Ca G n tiqueCaprine.Ca

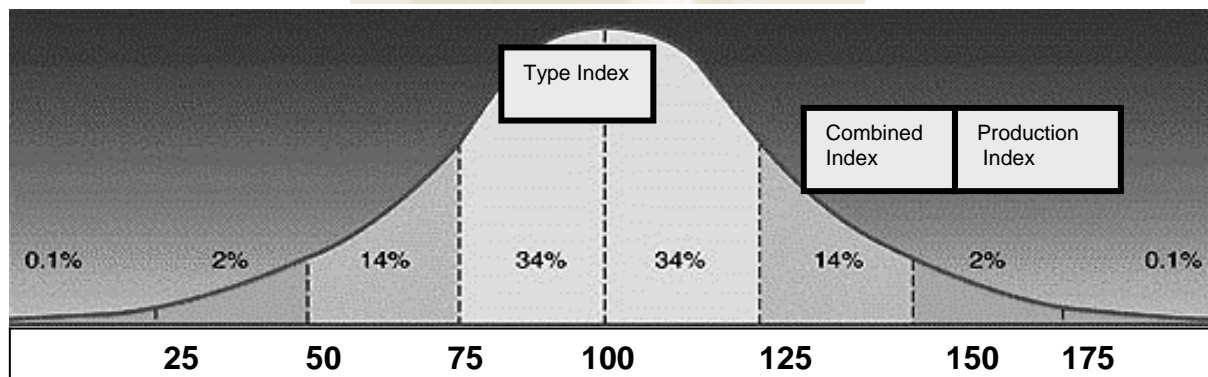
Your Online Resource for Canadian Goat Genetic Improvement

## ESTIMATED BREEDING VALUES

	EBV code	Units	Description	Breed average
<b>Production</b>	Milk	Kg	EBV for milk protein production in kg per lactation	0
	Prot	Kg	EBV for protein yield, in Kg per lactation	0
	Fat	Kg	EBV for butter fat yield, given in Kg per lactation	0
<b>Type</b>	S/R	Points	Structure and Rump	5
	SL	Points	Suspensory Ligament	5
	RU	Points	Rear Udder	5
	FU	Points	Fore Udder	5
	DC	Points	Dairy Character	5
	TE	Points	Teat	5
	BC	Points	Body Capacity	5
	FL	Points	Feet and Legs	5
<b>Indexes</b>	PINDX	Points	Production Index based on milk production EBVs	100
	TINDX	Points	Type Index based on type EBVs	100
	CINDX	Points	Combined Index based on production (60%) and type (40%) indexes	100

A goat's selection indexes are shown in the table below. The subsequent diagram indicates how the goat's selection indexes are comparable to other goats of the same breed.

Trait	Index/EBV	Unit	Date
Combined Index	145	pts	Aug-08-2008
Production Index	162	pts	Aug-08-2008
Type Index	92	pts	Aug-08-2008



Bottom % of Breed

Top % of Breed

For more information on the Canadian Dairy Goat Improvement Program, EBVs and traits included in genetic evaluations, do not hesitate to contact us at [info@GoatGenetics.Ca](mailto:info@GoatGenetics.Ca).