

## Sheep Genetics 2019 Analysis Changes

### The new Terminal Carcase Production (TCP) Index and the phasing out for Carcase Plus and LAMB2020

**Breed/Analysis Affected:** Terminal.

#### **Key Points:**

- Carcase Plus and Lamb2020 indexes were designed to select solely for lean meat yield and as a result are reducing eating quality. Carcase Plus, when used with genomics declines eating quality at a faster rate.
- Carcase Plus and Lamb2020 are over 15 years old and now out of date indexes.
- Terminal Carcase Production is the new index that focuses on improving the key production traits of growth and muscle whilst simultaneously maintaining eating quality.
- LAMB2020 no longer exists, whilst Carcase Plus will be available for this year only to assist in the transition period .
- Resources will be available to assist breeders adapt to the changes.

#### **Detail:**

The TCP index continues to deliver genetic gain that reflects the current supply chain price signals. The predicted response for muscling and growth will continue to increase, however overall consumer liking will cease to decline. The emphasis on each trait is balanced by its relative economic value to a terminal lamb production system, making Terminal Carcase Production an economic index.

It is worth noting that TCP is in different units to Carcase Plus. This means that the average index values and the variation between animals will be different. Therefore, it is important that both ram breeders and commercial ram clients re-benchmark themselves using the new index.

Sheep Genetics recognises that phasing out Carcase Plus will be a significant change for the industry. Therefore, for the period between April 2019 and April 2020 Carcase Plus will still be available. TCP will replace Carcase Plus as the primary index on reports but it will still be available this year for ram sale catalogues and to assist in the transition to TCP. It is strongly encouraged that ram breeders begin working with their ram clients this year whilst both indexes are available to transition to the new index, as it will not be available for the 2020 ram selling season. Furthermore, we will be providing resources for industry to use. These include:

- Flyer for stud breeders – outlining the changes in greater detail.
- Flyer for commercial ram buyers where changes are outlined that breeders can use in their communication.
- Updated commercial ram buyer index documentation so that the indexes available are more clearly outlined (please see point 6 for more detail).
- Webinar – this video will be available online as a resource that clients can be referred to.