

Understanding Selection Values

The simplification of the Bonsmara Catalogue has brought about Selection Values. Each value is a combination of the animal's breeding values for selection of animals to meet specific breeding goals.

Selection Values.

Calving Ease. An indication of the ease with which the calves will be born. Calculated with a formula to which both Birth Direct and Birth Maternal values contribute.

Weaner Calf Value. A combination of the calf's wean weight and cow's milk in order to select for the optimal weaner calf. (Calf growth and maternal characteristics)

Values include, Wean Direct 58%, Birth Direct 16%, Wean Maternal 11%, Birth mass 5%, Maintenance 10%.

A value to select for:

- Heavier weaner weights. (Wean Direct indicating calf growth)
- Milk (Sufficient milk will wean a heavy calf)
- Average birth weights with good calf growth.

Fertility Value. A selection for replacement heifers. The fertility value combines the fertility (ICP), heifer fertility (Age at first calving), longevity (Retention of progeny) and scrotum circumference as building blocks. Fertility and retention of cows and heifers.

Cow Value. The cow value is for selection of the ideal profitable cow. This is an important value when selecting top genetics. The bull will always breed back to the maternal line whether it be the dam or grand dam.

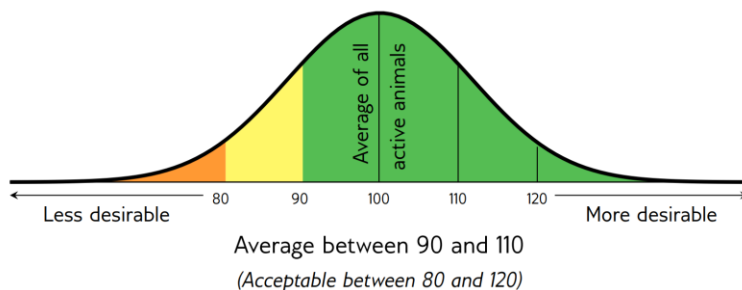
This value comprises of numerous values which indicates the essence of a highly reproductive and economical cow.

The Cow Value comprises of: Wean direct 32%, Wean Maternal 14%, Birth direct 14%, Mature weight 11%, Heifer fertility 9%, Cow fertility 9%, Longevity 8%, Birth mass 3%.

Growth Value. This value is a post wean growth evaluation taking into account growth tests results. The post wean value is directly associated with adaptability. An animal with a good post wean value will adapt to most conditions in SA.

The Growth Value is for selection of efficient growers on veld and in feedlots. NB an animal with a high growth value is not necessary a tall animal, but rather growth in length, width and capacity. A heavy animal which is short on the leg.

INTERPRETATION OF BREEDING VALUE INDICES



Most importantly, the bull must be pleasing to the eye, as like breeds like, and must have suitable visual traits to improve herd qualities, to make a difference in genetic progress and profitability.