

BRAHMAN PERFORMANCE RECORDING

Why is Performance Recording so important? To identify animals carrying the genetics needed to supply a specific product to our various markets. In order to find these animals, we need to know the genetic merit of each animal. EBVs (Estimated Breeding Values) are expressions of this genetic merit for each trait of an animal. Follow the guidelines below to accumulate the necessary information for each animal in order to obtain EBVs.

WHEN	WHAT to MEASURE	HOW	WHY	EBV- Estimated Breeding Value
Conception	Matings: Natural, AI (synchronized or not), ET, In Vitro.	Submit Mating Information via Days to Calving spreadsheet.	Provides EBVs for Gestation Length and Days to Calving – estimations of fertility.	DC – Days to Calving GL – Gestation Length
Birth of Calf	Birth Weight: weigh calf within 24 hours after birth.	Submit complete birth notification, add Schedule O form if by Embryo Transfer or In Vitro. Use Excel spreadsheet, On-Line, Birth Notification Book, HerdMaster.	This information constitutes the Animal Record, to which all other information is linked. Provides BW EBV.	BW – Birth Weight
Weaning weight at 200 days (refers to weight, not removal from dam)	Wean Weight: 80 to 300 days, normally around 7 months. Score Docility, Sheath/Navel.	Submit weights of calf and dam, Docility and Sheath/Navel scores. Use Weights & Traits spreadsheet, Office Weigh Form, HerdMaster.	Provides EBVs for WW, Doc. Information for Sheath/Navel (SH) is still being accumulated.	WW – Wean Weight Doc – Docility SH – Sheath/Navel – no EBV yet
Dam weight	Take Dam weight.		Provides EBVs for MCW.	MCW – Mature Cow Weight
Yearling weight at 400 days	Yearling Weight: 301 to 500 days, normally around 12 months. Take Scrotal Size (300 to 700 days) for bulls, as well as Hip Height for bulls and heifers.	Submit weight, Scrotal Size measurement and Hip Height. Use Weights & Traits spreadsheet, Office weigh form, HerdMaster.	Provides EBVs for YW, SC. Information for Hip Height (HH) is still being accumulated.	YW – Yearling weight SC – Scrotal Circumference HH – Hip Height – no EBV yet
Ultrasound Scanning	Animals can be scanned for Carcass traits (300 to 800 days).	For Ultrasound scanning, contact the Office to schedule a visit.	Provides EBVs for CW, EMA, Rib-, Rump fat, RBY% & IMF%.	CW – Carcass Weight EMA – Eye Muscle Area Rib-fat Rump-fat RBY – Retail Beef Yield IMF% - Intra Muscular Fat%
Final Weight at 600 days	Final Weight: 500 to 900 days, normally around 18 months, measure Scrotal Size if not taken with Yearling weight.	Submit weight, Scrotal Size measurement. Use Weights & Traits spreadsheet.	Provides EBVs for FW and SC.	FW – Final Weight

RFI Tests - Take note that Net Feed is not included here. This is an “off-farm” action and has to be coordinated via the Office. Included here are the test dates of the ARC testing facilities for your information, as well as test protocol.

Carcass Information – in order to gain information for Shear Force (meat tenderness), we request members to let us know if you are sending groups of animals to the Abattoir. This test can only be done on a small sample of meat (15cm section of the loin muscle in the region of the last 3 ribs) and the calculation of a **Meat Tenderness** EBV is dependent on sufficient numbers of tested samples. Please contact the Office for more information regarding this.

*# **Genotypes** are particularly important, as we strive to collect enough information to enable a combined evaluation with Australia and Namibia in order to produce GEBVs. As the use of Microsatellites are becoming redundant, the transition to genotyping will become necessary very soon. Please contact the Office for more information regarding this.*

Completeness of Performance – all the above information contributes to your star rating. Each herd receives a star rating on a 0 - 5 scale (including half stars) that summarizes the “completeness” of their performance information, instantly identifying gaps in recording.

WHERE TO FIND Excel Templates for Submission of Data:

(Alternative submission methods – HerdMaster, Birth Notification (BN) Book, Office Weigh Form (on request))

- Excel spreadsheet for Birth Notifications: Brahman Web (www.brahman.co.za) Homepage / Birth Notifications.
- Excel Spreadsheet for Weights & Traits: Brahman Web / Breed Information /Breed Improvement / Templates
- Excel spreadsheet for Mating Information: Brahman Web / Breed Information / Breed Improvement / Templates

Also use **HerdMaster** – A complete Farm Management program, fully compatible with the Society Registration System, capable of sending all formats to the Office. Contact Jeanine at 012 – 667 5258 for information.

For information / purchase of scales, branding irons, immobilizers, etc. contact **Tal-Tec** (telephone 012 250 2188, email jenny@taltec.co.za).

Contact the Office with any Questions you may have regarding Performance Recording: info@brahman.co.za / 051-446 4619