

Name: _____

Date: _____

Common EPDs in Livestock



What are EPDs? EPD stands for Expected Progeny Difference. EPDs are numbers that help predict how an animal's offspring will perform compared to others. They are based on the animal's genetics, how it has performed, and how its relatives and offspring have performed. Breeders use EPDs to choose animals that will pass on good traits like growth, muscle, or good milk production. Different animals have different EPD traits depending on their species—like birth weight and weaning weight in cattle or number born alive in pigs. EPDs help improve herds or flocks over time by making smart breeding decisions. Below are some common EPDs for cattle, sheep, and swine. Conduct your own research to determine what the EPD abbreviation stands for the following abbreviations.

Cattle

1. _____ (BW)
2. _____ (CE)
3. _____ (FT)
4. _____ (MARB)
5. _____ (MILK)
6. _____ (REA)
7. _____ (SC)
8. _____ (WW)
9. _____ (YW)

Sheep

1. _____ (120-DW)
2. _____ (60-DW)
3. _____ (90-DW)
4. _____ (CFW)
5. _____ (NLB)
6. _____ (PLW)
7. _____ (SL)

Swine

1. _____ (LWT)
2. _____ (BF)
3. _____ (DAYS)
4. _____ (LEA)
5. _____ (NBA)
6. _____ (PL)



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ANSWER KEY

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Cattle

1. Birth Weight (BW)
2. Calving Ease (CE)
3. Fat Thickness (FT)
4. Marbling (MARB)
5. Milk Production (MILK)
6. Rib Eye Area (REA)
7. Scrotal Circumference (SC)
8. Weaning Weight (WW)
9. Yearling Weight (YW)

Sheep

1. 120-Day Weight (120-DW)
2. 60-Day Weight (60-DW)
3. 90-Day Weight (90-DW)
4. Clean Fleece Weight (CFW)
5. Number of Lambs Born (NLB)
6. Pounds of Lamb Weaned (PLW)
7. Staple Length (SL)

Swine

1. 21-Day Litter Weight (LWT)
2. Back Fat (BF)
3. Days to 250 (DAYS)
4. Loin Eye Area (LEA)
5. Number Born Alive (NBA)
6. Pounds to Lean (PL)



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