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TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation

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## MSA Marbling

**RESEARCH BREEDING VALUES**

**MID JUNE 2024**

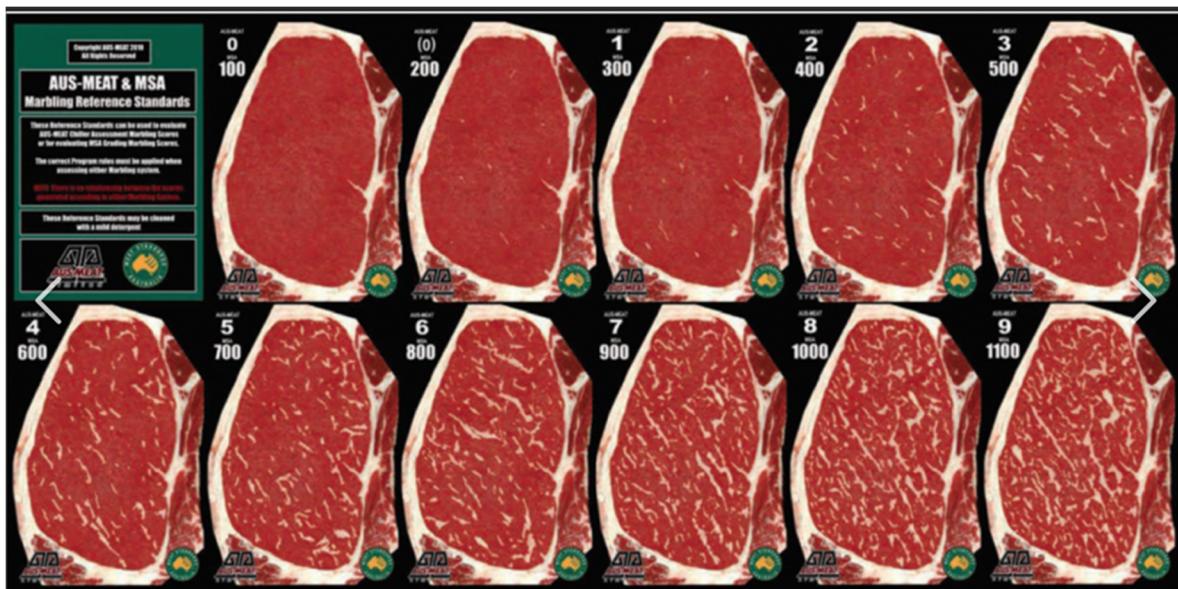
## BACKGROUND

Angus Australia has partnered with the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) and the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) to undertake research into the genetics Meat Standards Australia (MSA) Marbling Score in Australian Angus Cattle.

MSA Marbling Score, being the subjective visual assessment of intramuscular fat at the chilled carcass grading site, has been identified as a trait of importance, particularly as it is related to Angus carcass value and consumer eating experience. It is also the commercially recognised method for describing marbling in the national grading system, MSA.

As a result of this collaborative research, MSA Marbling Score RBVs are now routinely analyzed every two weeks in the TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation (TACE). To underpin this analysis, MSA marbling scores are utilised from both member collected data and from progeny in the Angus Sire Benchmarking Program. Angus animals, mostly steers, that are MSA graded between 300 and 1000 days of age at slaughter are included in the analysis.

MSA Marbling scores are collected using the industry standard 100 – 1100 scoring system (with increments of 10 score unit). A score of 100 indicates no/minimal marbling and a score of 1100 indicates abundant marbling. Along with the amount of marbling, the scores also take into account distribution and size of fleck (i.e. coarse or fine marbling).



Study of the Angus Australia data by AGBU has demonstrated that a significant portion of the differences in the MSA marbling score of individual animals can be attributed to genetics, having a high **heritability of 0.54**. The study also estimated the genetic correlation between MSA marbling score and a wide range of production traits included in the multi-trait analysis model utilized in TACE (from the BREEDPLAN program). As expected, the genetic correlations with carcass IMF, bull ultrasound scan IMF and heifer ultrasound scan IMF had the strongest relationship of 0.80, 0.35 and 0.35 respectively.

From this collaborative research it is now possible to generate breeding values for MSA Marbling Score and select animals for use within Angus breeding programs with desirable genetics for this trait. This is underpinned by a large and growing reference population of MSA Marbling Scores ( $n>10,000$  as of May 2023), coupled with genomic and pedigree data.

## **UNDERSTANDING THE RESEARCH BREEDING VALUES**

MSA Marbling Research Breeding Values (RBVs) are provided in this publication for sires with (i) at least 50% accuracy for their MSA Marbling RBV, and (ii) one or more progeny born in the last two years.

MSA Marbling Score (MMS) RBVs are estimates of genetic differences between animals in MSA marbling score at the 12/13<sup>th</sup> rib grading site in a 400 kg steer carcase.

MMS RBVs are calculated from MSA marbling scores (taken by a trained/accredited carcase grader), pedigree, genomics and correlated traits (e.g. Carcase IMF, bull and heifer ultrasound scan IMF). MMS EBVs are expressed in MSA marbling score units.

**Higher, more positive MMS RBVs** indicate the animal is expected to produce progeny with higher marbling scores in a 400 kg steer carcase.

## **USING THE RESEARCH BREEDING VALUES IN SELECTION**

The Research Breeding Values in this publication enable Angus breeders to select animals with desirable genetics for MSA marbling score, balanced with selection for other traits of importance within their breeding objective.

It is important to note that the Research Breeding Values are subject to greater potential change than EBVs routinely reported as part of the TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation (TACE) and should be used with caution in animal selection decisions.

Research Breeding Values may change as improvements are made to the analytical models that are used, and as additional performance information is collected.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Angus Australia gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) and the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI), and in particular, Dr Gilbert Jeyaruban, Dr Steve Miller, Dr Natalie Connors, Dr Andrew Swan, Dr David Johnston and Dr Brad Crook, in the calculation of the Research Breeding Values that are included in this publication.

Angus Australia also acknowledges Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for the related R&D funding supplied to AGBU and Angus Australia for the ASBP. Also, for overseeing the MSA grading system, including the collection of MSA marbling scores in the ASBP, particularly through the grading by Janie Lau.

## **DISCLAIMER**

The Research Breeding Values contained within this publication were calculated from data supplied to Angus Australia by members and/or third parties. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data, Angus Australia, its officers and employees, assume no responsibility for the accuracy of the RBVs, nor the outcome (including consequential loss) of an action taken based on the information presented in this publication.



























# Angus Australia - MSA Marbling Research Breeding Values

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Ident	Name					Performance Traits																							
Sire	Dam	Reg.		MSA MBL	RBV	Calv-Ease		Birth		Growth			Maternal		Fert		Carcase						Feed	Temp	Structural			Selection Index	
Dir	Dtrs	GL	BW	200	400	600	MCW	Milk	SS	DC	CW	EMA	Rib	P8	RBY	IMF	NFI-F	Doc	Claw	Angle	Leg	\$A	\$A-L						
<b>BSCF73</b>	<b>WAITARA PIO FEDERAL F73</b> <sup>SV</sup>		+24		+4.6	+5.0	-4.3	+1.6	+56	+104	+135	+93	+25	+2.6	-2.8	+88	+5.7	-0.3	+0.1	+0.2	+1.5	+0.30	+12	+1.36	+1.20	+0.96	\$215	\$362	
USA15688392	HBR		93%		90%	77%	98%	98%	97%	98%	97%	96%	96%	97%	70%	95%	94%	94%	94%	89%	94%	88%	96%	95%	95%	92%			
BSCZ66			86		29	29	52	9	25	18	18	65	6	32	87	7	57	53	41	66	69	60	84	99	91	28	36	39	
<b>BSCP90</b>	<b>WAITARA PRINCETON P90</b> <sup>PV</sup>		+108		+0.4	+5.1	-2.1	+3.7	+48	+93	+124	+77	+24	+2.4	-3.9	+80	+7.1	-0.1	+0.1	-0.2	+3.8	+0.63	+34	+0.60	+0.82	+1.08	\$214	\$340	
GTNM6	HBR		88%		73%	62%	96%	95%	95%	95%	94%	91%	84%	92%	56%	89%	88%	87%	88%	80%	90%	81%	92%	92%	92%	89%			
BSCJ2			26		67	28	83	43	64	46	39	85	8	39	67	18	40	48	41	84	16	87	9	9	16	66	38	57	
<b>LEJ21S102</b>	<b>WALLAWONG SAFE &amp; SOUND</b>		+136		+6.0	+3.8	-6.2	+4.6	+49	+87	+111	+93	+18	+2.0	-2.9	+64	+6.8	-1.3	-1.3	+0.7	+4.0	+0.40	+15	+0.58	+0.76	+1.14	\$211	\$351	
NJWN498	HBR		70%		72%	60%	92%	90%	89%	85%	85%	82%	76%	80%	44%	75%	70%	71%	72%	63%	74%	62%	84%	68%	68%	66%			
ASHL24			12		18	43	23	64	61	64	68	64	40	54	86	61	43	75	67	35	13	70	74	7	9	81	41	49	
<b>QKBP29</b>	<b>WARRAWEE PATROL P29</b> <sup>PV</sup>		+44		+6.7	+10.9	-12.0	+3.0	+55	+104	+139	+132	+19	+2.2	-9.3	+99	+9.1	+3.4	+1.8	+0.4	+1.8	+0.74	+28	+0.84	+1.22	+1.00	\$267	\$477	
SMPG357	HBR		84%		79%	70%	96%	94%	93%	91%	90%	88%	82%	87%	64%	86%	84%	84%	85%	78%	86%	78%	88%	77%	78%	73%			
QKBM01			73		13	1	1	28	31	18	13	13	34	47	1	2	20	3	17	54	61	92	21	49	93	40	3	1	
<b>NWPG188</b>	<b>WATTLETOP FRANKLIN G188</b> <sup>SV</sup>		+10		+4.0	+5.9	-4.4	+2.3	+64	+109	+141	+116	+25	+3.8	-3.4	+82	+1.3	-1.5	-2.2	-0.1	+0.5	-1.20	+33	+1.10	+0.96	+0.94	\$192	\$355	
USA15462648	HBR		93%		96%	87%	99%	99%	98%	98%	98%	97%	98%	77%	96%	95%	95%	95%	93%	94%	88%	97%	96%	96%	94%				
NWPE295			92		34	20	50	17	6	10	12	28	7	8	78	13	94	79	80	81	90	1	10	91	47	23	63	45	
<b>CWDJ17</b>	<b>WEATHERLY JAMES J17</b> <sup>SV</sup>		+124		-3.9	-3.5	-3.3	+6.0	+49	+83	+109	+117	+2	+1.5	-4.3	+65	+8.5	+1.2	+2.3	+1.1	+3.4	-0.02	+5	+0.86	+1.24	+1.04	\$197	\$331	
BNAD145	HBR		90%		79%	72%	93%	93%	92%	92%	93%	89%	87%	86%	67%	90%	89%	89%	89%	85%	91%	84%	87%	87%	87%	81%			
CWDF14			17		89	94	68	87	60	76	71	27	99	72	58	57	25	22	13	16	22	25	96	53	94	53	57	64	
<b>CWDM5</b>	<b>WEATHERLY MOXY M5</b> <sup>SV</sup>		+52		+3.6	+7.6	-4.7	+4.0	+56	+98	+131	+113	+28	+2.6	-5.6	+89	+7.2	+2.3	-0.6	+0.6	+2.4	+0.19	+20	+0.98	+1.06	+0.94	\$232	\$399	
SMPG357	HBR		80%		79%	69%	93%	95%	94%	93%	94%	92%	89%	89%	60%	85%	83%	84%	84%	79%	84%	72%	91%	91%	91%	82%			
CWDJ15			66		38	8	45	50	28	33	26	33	3	32	27	6	39	9	54	41	44	47	50	76	70	23	19	14	
<b>Breed Average EBVs</b>		+75.	+1.7	+2.7	-4.4	+4.0	+51	+92	+119	+102	+17	+2.2	-4.6	+67	+6.4	-0.1	-0.3	+0.5	+2.3	+0.22	+21	+0.84	+0.97	+1.02	+200	+345			

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