

## Buying a recorded Suffolk



### Why invest in Signet-recorded rams?

Investing in rams with superior genetics can be worth an extra £800 over their lifetime.


With potential gains of £4 per lamb, commercial producers should source Signet-recorded rams with high estimated breeding values (EBVs) for traits of importance to their flock.

### Interpreting EBVs when buying a ram

EBVs can be presented on Order of Merit sale cards that report the main traits, or on a breeding chart.

Accuracy values indicate how much is known about an animal for a specific trait and the degree to which EBVs might change over time.

**BETTERRETURNS**



**Order of Merit**

This is to certify that this animal has a Breeding Index within the top 10% of the breed

Ear No.

Lot

|                  | Estimated breeding values (EBVs) | Accuracy values      |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Scan weight EBV  | <input type="text"/> kg          | <input type="text"/> |
| Muscle depth EBV | <input type="text"/> mm          | <input type="text"/> |
| Fat depth EBV    | <input type="text"/> mm          | <input type="text"/> |
| Index            | <input type="text"/>             | <input type="text"/> |

For more details on the Better Returns Programme, call 020 7488 8834, email [brp@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:brp@ahdb.org.uk) or visit [beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk](http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk)




Table 1. Suffolk breed benchmark for 2018

| Estimated breeding value | Average | Top 25% | Top 10% |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 8-week weight            | 3.39    | 4.26    | 5.04    |
| Litter size              | 0.05    | 0.08    | 0.11    |
| Maternal ability         | 2.00    | 2.72    | 3.36    |
| Scan weight              | 7.07    | 8.71    | 10.19   |
| Muscle depth             | 1.69    | 2.66    | 3.54    |
| Fat depth                | 0.11    | 0.32    | 0.51    |
| Lean weight              | 2.09    | 2.69    | 3.23    |
| Fat weight               | 1.04    | 1.40    | 1.73    |
| Gigot                    | 0.87    | 1.70    | 2.45    |
| Maternal index           | 155     | 191     | 223     |
| Terminal sire index      | 2.07    | 2.84    | 3.53    |

## Breeding charts

Breeding charts are more informative, showing where a ram's genetic potential sits within the breed for a range of traits.

The centre line indicates the average for that breed. Bars to the right of the centre indicate above-average breeding values, meaning progeny are likely to have faster growth rates, more muscling and be fatter. Bars to the left indicate a below-average value for those traits and leaner progeny.

## Finding information

Sale charts for animals can be viewed and printed from the BASCO database, accessed via the 'EBV Search' section of the Signet website ([www.signetfbc.co.uk](http://www.signetfbc.co.uk)).

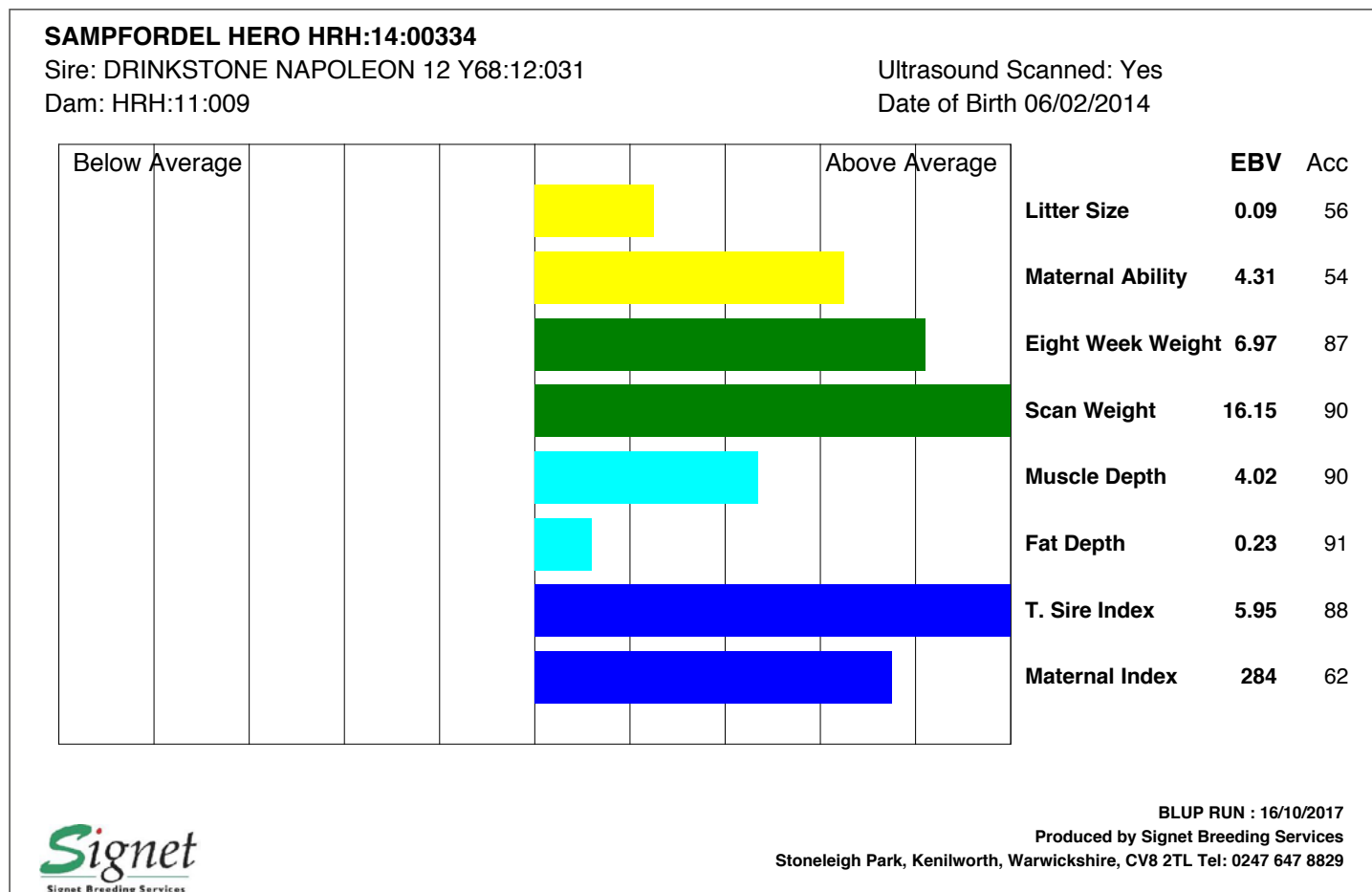


Figure 1. Suffolk EBV chart

Produced for you by:

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