

Index Options

A breeding index combines multiple Flock Breeding Values into a single value that reflects a certain emphasis on these traits. It is important that you use an index that best matches the breeding objective and production system of the flock you are selecting for.

It is recommended that the performance of individual Flock Breeding Values and visually assessed traits is used in conjunction with an index as selection indexes assist in making balanced selection decisions.

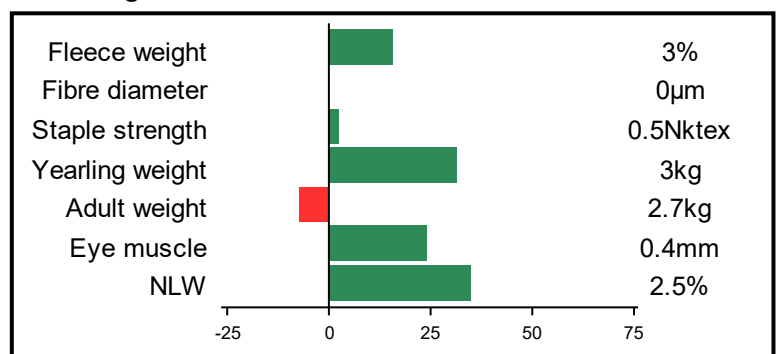
The indexes on the following page are the DP+; MP+; FP+ and WP+. The first 3 of these indexes are the same as MERINOSELECT indexes of that name but account for the fact that direct reproduction records have not yet been recorded on the progeny. The WP+ index is unique to AMSEA.

Charts shown display the percentage contribution that each trait makes to economic gain in a commercial flock that uses an index for sire selection. Additionally, included for each index are the likely within-flock responses from using an index for 10 years. These responses are based on a ram breeding flock with a standard breeding program, no introduction of outside genetics and applying 35% of their selection emphasis on traits that are not in the index (such as visually assessed performance).

Dual Purpose Plus (DP+)

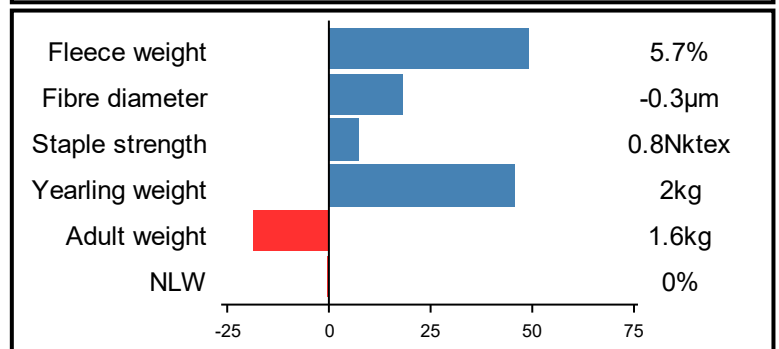
Based on a meat focused production system where surplus progeny are sold as lambs and a portion of ewes are joined to terminal sires. Large increase in body weight and carcass traits. Moderate increase in fleece weight. Maintain fibre diameter and staple strength.

Percentage Contribution to Economic Gain



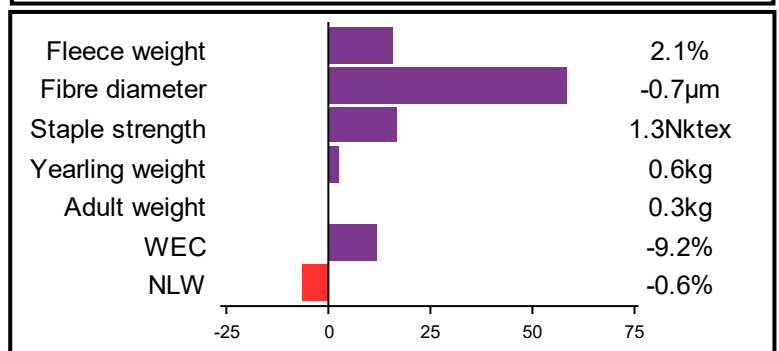
Merino Production Plus (MP+)

Based on a balanced wool and meat production system where surplus progeny are sold as hoggets. Balanced emphasis on increasing fleece weight and reduction in fibre diameter. Moderate increase in body weight, with little change in reproduction.



Fibre Production Plus (FP+)

Based on a wool production system where wethers are retained, operating in an environment where worms cause economic losses. Large reduction in fibre diameter. Moderate increase in staple strength. Small reduction in WEC (if measured in the breeding program). Small increase in fleece weight. Little change in body weight and reproduction.



Wool Production Plus (WP+)

Based on the MP+ production system with a greater emphasis on increasing fleece weight, while maintaining fibre diameter and a moderate emphasis on increasing body weight.

