

TRAITS TO COLLECT	
BIRTH TRAITS	
CALVING EASE - DIRECT	Use the IGS Calving Ease Scores to record the correct Calving Ease for each animal born.
GESTATION LENGTH	Only calculated from AI records. Record the AI date for each AI calf and ShorGene will use the subsequent calving date to measure the Gestation Length.
BIRTHWEIGHT	Only submit birth weights if you have actually recorded them. Birth weight is one of the hardest traits to estimate and under or over estimating will have a negative effect on other traits.
WEANING TRAITS	
WEANING WEIGHT	Record Weaning weights when the contemporary is between 160 - 250 days of age. Weaning weights are also used to calculate Pre Weaning Gain.
DOCILITY	ShorGene will only accept docility scores from weaners. This is important to ensure that handling hasn't changed behaviour too much. Record within a month of weaning using docility codes.
MATURE COW WEIGHT - DAM	Mature Weight is an indicator trait for maternal efficiency. Collect Mature Cow Weights by weighing the dam when weaning the calf.
BODY CONDITION SCORE - DAM	Body Condition Scores are important to collect when measuring Mature Cow Weights. Use the Australian BCS scoring codes (1-5) when weighing the cows at weaning.
YEARLING TO MATURE COW TRAITS	
YEARLING WEIGHT	Record Yearling weights when the contemporary is between 330 - 440 days of age. Yearling weights are also used to calculate Post Weaning Gain.
ULTRASOUND REA	Ultrasound measurements need to be conducted by a registered Ultrasound technician. Try to ensure that yearling cattle have at least 5 mm of subcutaneous fat prior to measurement.
ULTRASOUND IMF%	Ultrasound measurements need to be conducted by a registered Ultrasound technician. Try to ensure that yearling cattle have at least 5 mm of subcutaneous fat prior to measurement.
ULTRASOUND FAT	Ultrasound measurements need to be conducted by a registered Ultrasound technician. Try to ensure that yearling cattle have at least 5 mm of subcutaneous fat prior to measurement.
HEIFER EXPOSED	Record all heifers in the joining group, not just those that calved. Heifer exposed is used to calculate Heifer Pregnancy %.
CALVING EASE - MATERNAL	Recording Calving Ease scores assists in calculation of the Calving Ease - Maternal EPD. Use the IGS Calving Ease Scores to record the correct Calving Ease for each animal born.
CALF FATE CODES	Record all calves born, even the were born dead or you don't think they are good enough to make breeders. Calf fate codes are used for the calculation of Stayability and Heifer Pregnant %.
WEANING WEIGHT - MATERNAL	Maternal Weaning Weight is different to Weaning Weight as it applies to the daughters not the direct animal. Collect weaning weights of the calf to measure this trait.

CALVING EASE SCORES

1	Born Unassisted
2	Easy Pull
3	Hard Pull
4	Cesarean
5	Abnormal Presentation
6	Dead on Arrival
7	Premature

CALVING EASE SCORES

This code indicates how easily a calf was born. Every calf should have a primary code. In some cases 2 codes may apply; report a primary code first followed by another primary code or a secondary code.

If a calf's birth was unobserved, use a 1 as the primary code.

If a calf was dead on arrival, report the appropriate primary code followed by a 6 for dead on arrival.

Examples: Use 36 to indicate a hard pull and dead on arrival.

Use a 52 to indicate an abnormal presentation and easy pull.

BODY CONDITION SCORES

Body condition scores (BCS) are taken when recording the Mature Cow Weights at weaning. There is a standardised measurement scale for BCS in Australia which is different to USA BCS scores. However, breeders should record BCS in Australian scores and use the below conversion chart to USA BCS scores when entering the BCS measurements into IGS.

BODY CONDITION SCORES - (BCS)

IGS CODE	AUS CODE	DESCRIPTION
	0	Short ribs very prominent and easy to see individually, muscle wastage obvious over whole body, tail bones easily felt, rump and leg muscles deeply concave, lacking energy and unresponsive.
1	1	The individual spinous processes are sharp to the touch, no fat at the head of the tail. Hip bones and ribs are prominent.
2	1.5	Half score between Australian Standard BSC Scores 1 & 2.
3	2	The individual processes can be felt easily, but feel rounded rather than sharp. There is some tissue cover around the tail head. Individual ribs are no longer visually obvious.
4	2.5	Half score between Australian Standard BSC Scores 2 & 3.
5	3	The short ribs can be felt only with firm thumb pressure. Areas either side of the tail head have fat cover that can be felt easily.
6	3.5	Half score between Australian Standard BSC Scores 3 & 4.
7	4	The processes cannot be felt and fat cover around the tail head is easily seen as slight mounds, soft to touch. Folds of fat are beginning to develop over the ribs and thighs.
8	4.5	Half score between Australian Standard BSC Scores 4 & 5.
9	5	The bone structure of the animal is no longer noticeable and the tail head is almost completely buried in fatty tissue.

USING FATE CODES

Correct fate codes are an important part of the registration process.

Stayability calculations currently use calf records, so ensuring that all calves are recorded correctly will improve Stayability EPD's for your herd.

In the future, female fate codes will also be used to further refine the Stayability calculations.

Please ensure that the correct fate codes are used when filling in your online inventory.

CODE	CALF
1	Born alive, died before weaning – disease
2	Born alive, died before weaning – Weather event, accident, or injury
3	Calf sold <90 days old
4	Died at birth – Defect
5	Died at birth – Calving difficulty
7	Stillborn, Carried full term
CODE	WEANER, YEARLING AND MATURE CATTLE
8	Culled – Aborted
9	Culled – Age
10	Culled – Appearance
11	Culled – Calf died
12	Culled – Temperament
13	Culled – Exposed but failed to conceive
14	Culled – Genetic defect status
15	Culled – Herd reduction
17	Culled – Hoof condition
18	Culled – Injury or accident
19	Culled – Production/performance
20	Culled – Prolapse
21	Culled – Sickness or disease
22	Culled – Structural soundness
23	Culled – Udder quality
24	Died – Calving
25	Died – Sickness or disease
26	Died – Weather event, accident, or injury
27	Sold – Pregnant - not transferred
CODE	REASON FOR NO CALF REPORTED
28	Aborted/premature calf
29	Calf stillborn
30	Cow calved – calf not found intact or at all (e.g., predator)
31	ET donor
32	ET recipient
33	Exposed and failed to conceive – moved to next season
34	Exposed and failed to conceive – moved to next year

IGS STANDARD BREED CODES

IGS is a multibreed evaluation and will use breed data from many common crosses in the genetic evaluation.

Ensure that crossbred or composite cattle are registered with the correct breed codes to ensure the accuracy of EPD's on your cattle.

STANDARD BREED CODES

AA	ABERDEEN ANGUS	SH	HIGHLAND
BB	BELGIAN BLUE	JE	JERSEY
BG	BELTED GALLOWAY	LO	LOWLINE
BD	BLONDE d'AQUITAINE	LM	LIMOUSIN
NS	BONSMARA	LR	LINCOLN RED
BO	BRAFORD	MA	MAINE ANJOU
BR	BRAHMAN	MS	MURRAY GREY
BN	BRANGUS	PI	PIEDMONTESE
BU	BRAUNVIEH	PZ	PINZGAUER
CB	CHARBRAY	AR	RED ANGUS
CH	CHAROLAIS	RP	RED POLL
CA	CHIANINA	RN	ROMAGNOLA
MS	DAIRY SHORTHORN	SA	SALERS
DE	DEVON	SG	SANTA GERTRUDIS
DR	DEXTER	SE	SENEPOL
FL	FLECKVIEH	SS	SHORTHORN
HO	FRIESIAN	SI	SIMBRAH
GA	GALLOWAY	SM	SIMMENTAL
GE	GELBVIEH	DS	SOUTH DEVON
HH	HEREFORD - HORNED	SK	SPECKLE PARK
HP	HEREFORD - POLLED	KB	WAGYU

WEANER DOCILITY SCORES

1. DOCILE	Mild disposition, gentle and easily handled, stands and moves slowly during handling undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull, does not pull on headgate when in crush, exits crush calmly.
2. RESTLESS	Quiet but slightly restless, may be stubborn during processing. May try to backout of chute or pull back on headgate. Some flicking of tail. Exits chute promptly.
3. NERVOUS	Typical temperament is manageable, but nervous and impatient. A moderate amount of struggling, movement and tail flicking. Repeated pushing and pulling on headgate. Exits chute briskly.
4. FLIGHTY	Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently. May bellow and froth at the mouth. Continuous tail flicking. Defecates and urinates during processing. Frantically runs fence line and may jump when penned individually. Exhibits long flight distance and exits chute wildly.
5. AGGRESSIVE	Maybe similar to score 4, but with added aggressive behavior, fearfulness, extreme agitation, and continuous movement which may include jumping and bellowing while in chute. Exits chute frantically and may exhibit attack behavior when handled alone.
6. VERY AGGRESSIVE	Extremely aggressive temperament. Thrashes about or attacks wildly when confined in small, tight places. Pronounced attack behavior.

MULTIPLE BIRTH CODES

CODE	DESCRIPTION
1	Single
2	Twins - Same sex
3	Triplets
4	Twins - Opposite sexes
6	Frozen Embryo implanted
7	ET - Twins - Same sex
8	ET - Twins - Opposite sexes
9	ET - Fresh Embryo implanted

WEANING DATA CODES

Standard age window for contemporary grouping.

Weaning age outside 160 - 250 days of age will not be included in the genetic evaluation.

MANAGEMENT CODE

(Pre-Weaning)

Indicates any supplementary feeding

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Raised on dam only |
| 2 | Raised on dam with creep feeding |
| 3 | Without dam, bucket fed |
| 4 | Twin or Foster dam |

PASTURE UNIT (PU) - (CONTEMPORARY GROUPING)

1 digit number used to designate calves managed in different environments.

For example: if one group of calves were raised on better pastures than another.

WEANING CALF SEX

- | | |
|---|---|
| H | Heifer |
| M | Bull |
| S | Steer - Only designate as a steer at weaning if castration date was prior to weaning. |

VISUAL HORN STATUS

- | | |
|---|---------|
| H | Horned |
| P | Polled |
| S | Scurred |

YEARLING DATA CODES

Standard age window for contemporary grouping.

Yearling age outside 330 - 440 days of age will not be included in the genetic evaluation.

FEEDING UNIT (FU) - (CONTEMPORARY GROUPING)

1 digit number used to designate calves managed in different environments after weaning.

For example: if one group of yearlings were run on supplementary feeding and another wasn't.

YEARLING SEX

- | | |
|---|--|
| H | Heifer |
| M | Bull |
| S | Steer - Change to steer if castrated after weaning date. |