



# INTRODUCING

## THE NEW CANADIAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION'S CANADIAN BALANCED INDEX

**EPDs for new traits that are economically relevant are being developed and introduced to Canadian Angus members continuously.**

Applying EPDs for all these traits into selection and breeding decisions can be challenging. Therefore, the Canadian Angus Association has worked to develop an Economic Selection Index that includes the EPDs for all traits. Traits are weighted in the index based on their economic impact on the Canadian commercial operation.

Basically, indexes help producers use EPDs to balance traits. Balancing traits can be complex. Not all traits make an equal contribution to profitability, and some traits counteract each other (e.g. post-weaning growth and cow size/feed requirements). Other traits are important to a certain threshold, then there is less benefit in going any further (e.g. calving ease) or even a direct cost (e.g. milk production).

A well-constructed index can help streamline the process of selecting cattle for breeding. It is not intended to replace individual trait EPDs (which will still be available) or to tell breeders how to breed. An index can help breeders focus on cattle that will tend to be more profitable under Canadian production systems and markets.

For the commercial producer—who likely purchases bulls and thinks about EPDs on only one day of the year—it is a useful overall guide that simplifies the complexity of multiple EPDs.

The Canadian Balanced Index will officially be launched later this year.

The index is expressed in terms of Canadian dollars and reflects the expected difference in profits between bulls' progeny.

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For example:

Bull A CBI = \$250  
Bull B CBI = \$150

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On average, progeny from Bull A will be \$100 more profitable in a Canadian commercial operation than the progeny from Bull B.

If you have any questions about the new Canadian Angus Association Balanced Index please do not hesitate to contact CAA's Director of Science and Technology, Kajal Devani at [kdevani@cdnangus.ca](mailto:kdevani@cdnangus.ca) or 403-537-5604.

### WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE CANADIAN BALANCED INDEX:

#### GROWTH TRAITS

- Birth Weight EPD
- Weaning Weight EPD
- Milk EPD
- Yearling Weight EPD
- Residual Daily Gain EPD

#### MATERNAL TRAITS

- Calving Ease Direct EPD
- Calving Ease Maternal EPD
- Heifer Pregnancy EPD
- Docility EPD
- Mature Weight EPD
- Foot Angle EPD
- Foot Claw EPD

#### CARCASS TRAITS

- Marbling EPD
- Rib Eye Area EPD
- Back Fat EPD