

# ARWERTHIANT HYRDDOD MYNYDD WEDI RECORDIO DOLGELLAU



For information about the Prohill breeding group

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## ABOUT THE GROUP

Hill farming is crucial to the economy, culture and society of rural Wales. To sustain these areas, this group of progressive hill ram breeders are working to strengthen the Welsh sheep sector.

With the help of the HCC Red Meat Development Programmes' Welsh Hill Ram Scheme, ProHill (previously the Welsh Mountain Breeding Group) are improving the genetic merit of their flocks and continuing to improve the viability of their own, and their customers hill farms. Initial work was undertaken by five flocks that have recorded performance over a number of years, 6 new leader flocks have joined recently with more joining year on year.

Using the latest technology available, the group record their sheep in commercially managed hill flocks. Data gathered is sent to Signet to calculate the Hill Index - an overall score that balances breeding values for maternal ability and carcass traits, that can be used as a tool to identify the best performing sheep and monitor progress.

The results are rams proven to perform, siring lambs that meet market requirements and replacement ewes with improved maternal ability for UK hill farmers.

For the 9th year running, the sale offers purchasers a selection of high index Signet recorded rams from this group of progressive breeders. These tups have established a reputation for quality and performance; all those offered for sale will have figures placing them in the top 50% of the breed with several falling within the top 5% or even higher.

In the biggest collaborative breeding project of its kind in Wales, Welsh Mountain sheep producers from different parts of the country have joined forces to raise the commercial standard of the regional types of hill sheep. The aim is to supply purebred, high index rams that will:

- produce earlier finishing lambs
- improve carcass weights and grades
- breed flock replacements with exceptional maternal ability

The tups offered for sale are all assessed using the Welsh Index which identifies hill sheep with superior breeding potential for maternal ability, lamb growth and carcass quality. The index encompasses two breeding targets, which are weighted equally:

- Maternal Traits - assessed by looking at lambing percentages, maternal ability and mature ewe size
- Carcass Traits - assessed through the measurement of 8 week and 20 week weights together with muscle and back fat scanning.

# WHAT IS PERFORMANCE RECORDING?

**Recording the performance of ewes and lambs in hill flocks for commercially important traits. The outcome is a prediction of how a rams progeny will perform, which in turn, impacts on your profits.**

To calculate the EBVs, Prohill are recording

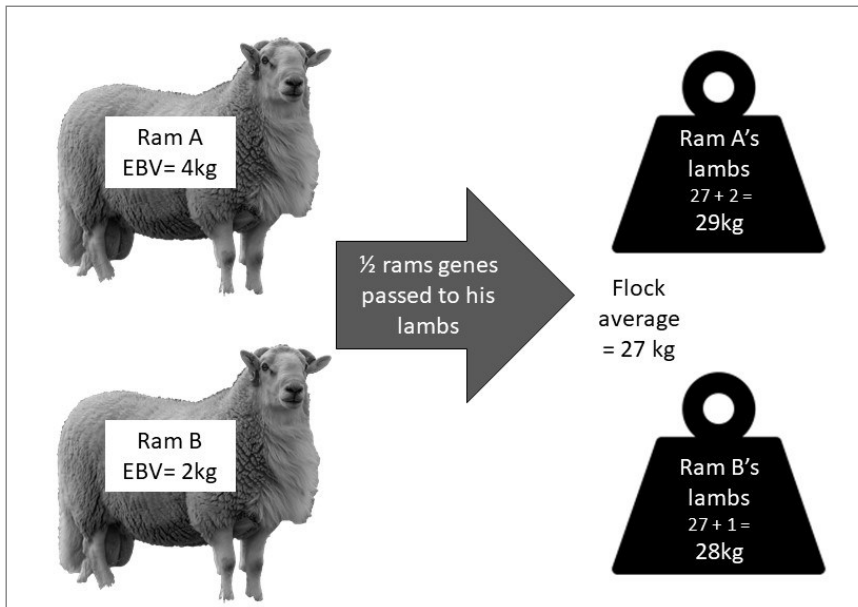
- flock mating information
- scanning results
- lambing ease and vigour
- 8 week weights
- backfat scanning at 20 weeks.

The data is analysed and used to create the Hill Index which identifies sheep with superior breeding potential for meat and maternal traits, predicting the value of each ram to your flock.

EBVs are expressed in the same units as the recorded trait (e.g. kg for eight week weight) and they relate to a common baseline. This baseline of zero relates to the average breeding value of lambs born in the year in 2015.

You can use the estimated breeding values to pick rams that will improve the performance of their lambs and their daughters that come in to your flock.

Keep in mind that the lambs will inherit half of their genes influencing the traits from the ram and the other half from the ewe as shown in the following example which compares the potential gain from two rams on the weight of a lamb group that currently averages 27kg.



## DO YOU KNOW A GOOD RAM WHEN YOU SEE ONE?

These two rams are a very similar type and were both purchased for four-figure sums and unrecorded at the time of purchase.



After joining a performance recorded flock, EBVs were calculated from the performance of the rams progeny. Ram As lambs were mainly sold as store lambs and failed to make any significant growth. In comparison ram B produced fast finishing lambs that graded well. Ram As EBVs were found to be below average on most traits, ram Bs however have been proven above average for most traits, as shown below.



Performance recording allows you to make informed decisions about the rams, estimating their potential and the future performance of your hill flock.

**BUYING PERFORMANCE RECORDED RAMS = LESS RISK**

## WHAT DO ALL THE NUMBERS MEAN?

EBVs for carcase traits will show the growth and finishing potential of the rams' offspring.

EBVs for ewe traits will show the maternal potential of the rams ' daughters.

<b>8 week weight</b>	Lamb growth from birth to 8 weeks.
<b>Scan Weight</b>	Lamb growth rate to 21 weeks. High scan weight EBVs result in heavier carcasses.
<b>Muscle Depth</b>	High muscle depth indicates high lamb muscularity and lean meat yield.
<b>Fat Depth</b>	Negative values indicate animals with low fat content, producing leaner carcasses
<b>Litter Size</b>	Higher EBVs will result in increased prolificacy.
<b>Maternal Ability</b>	Higher figures indicate that the daughters will perform well as mothers (milkiness)
<b>Mature Size</b>	The mature weight of the future replacement ewes sired from the ram.
<b>Index</b>	The overall figure highlighting superior breeding stock.

# HYRDDOD PARLLA ISAF RAMS

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Ear No	Index
UK 0 704512 02945	165
UK 0 704512 02946	82
UK 0 704512 02949	177
UK 0 704512 02950	97
UK 0 704512 02953	143

LOT:

**PARLLA ISAF**

FBN: UK 0 704512 02945

Sire: PARLLA ISAF

UK 0 704512 00715

DOB: 30/03/2020

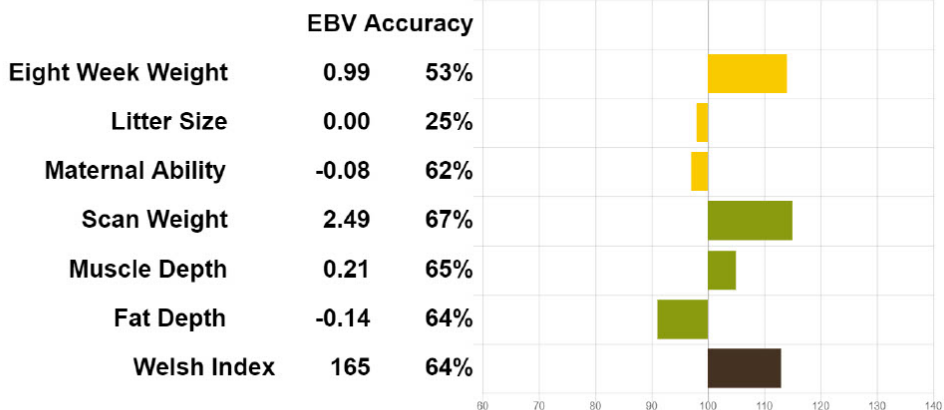
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Dam: PARLLA ISAF


UK 0 704512 00630

**Signet**   
BREEDING SERVICES

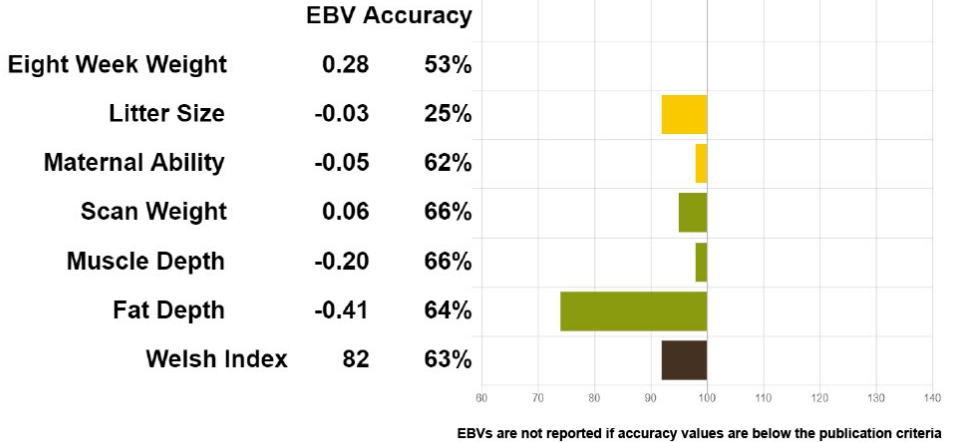
Analysis date: 14/09/2021




EBVs are not reported if accuracy values are below the publication criteria

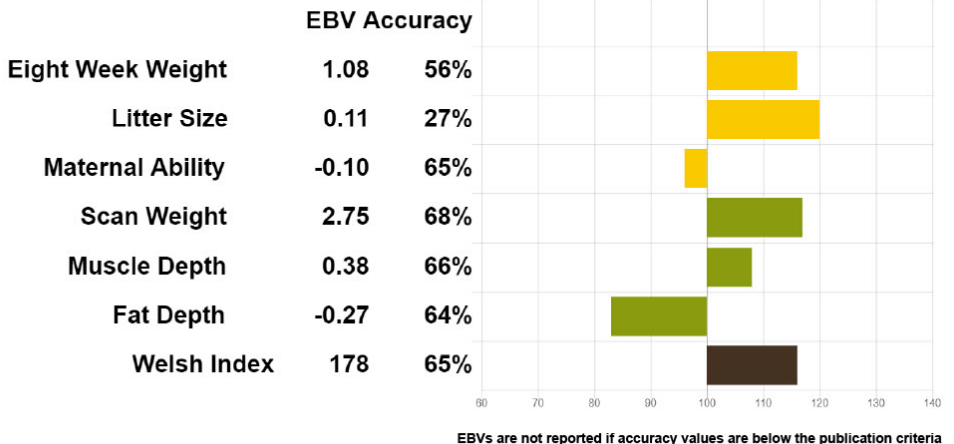
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



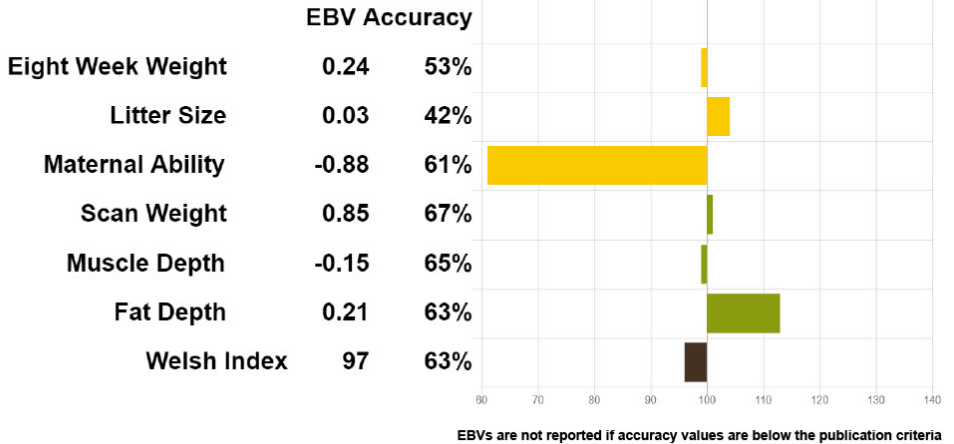
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



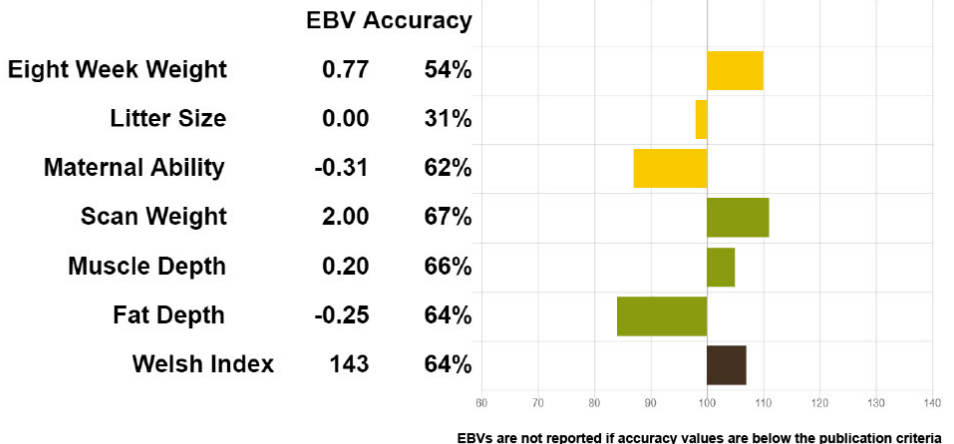
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



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Analysis date: 14/09/2021





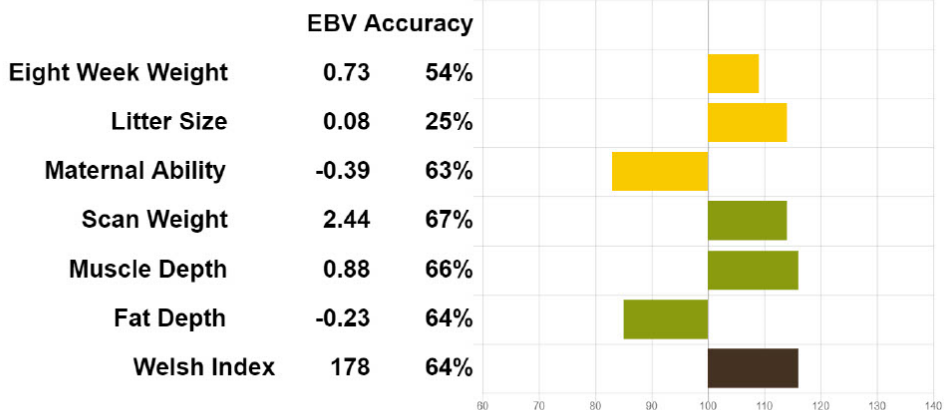
# HYRDDOD PARLLA ISAF RAMS

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Ear No	Index
UK 0 704512 02941	178
UK 0 704512 02948	177
UK 0 704512 02952	148
UK 0 704512 02999	157

LOT:	<b>PARLLA ISAF</b> FBN: UK 0 704512 03100 Sire: PARLLA ISAF UK 0 704512 00715	DOB: 30/03/2020 Scanned: Y Dam: PARLLA ISAF UK 0 704512 00533	
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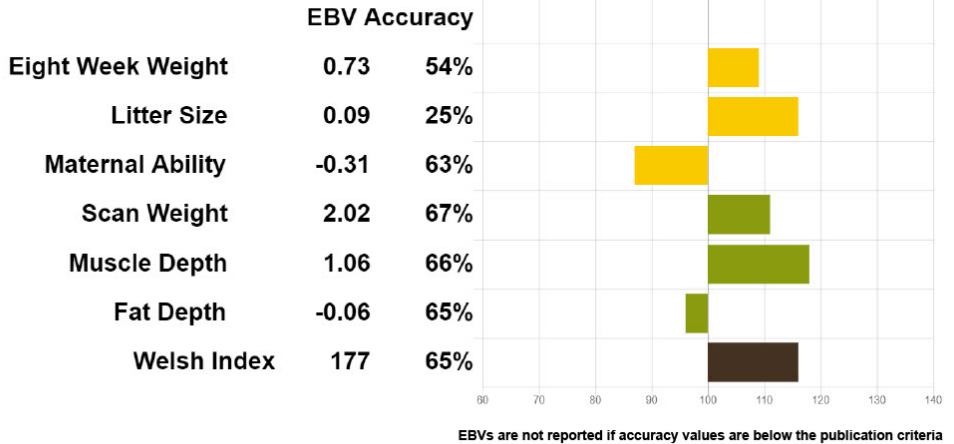
Analysis date: 14/09/2021




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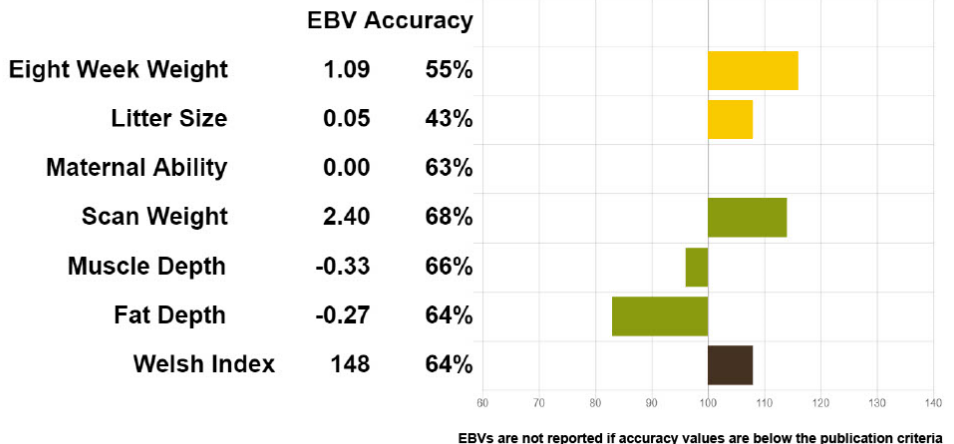
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	Sire: PARLLA ISAF	Dam: PARLLA ISAF	
	UK 0 704512 00715	UK 0 704512 02321	

Analysis date: 14/09/2021



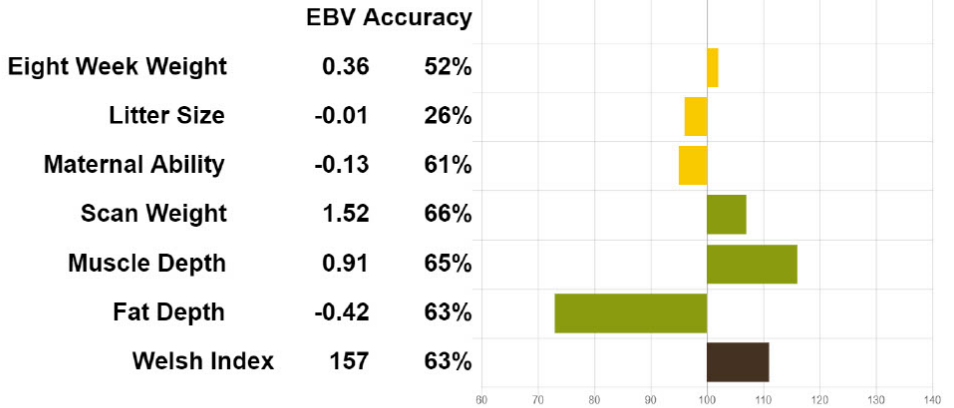
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	Sire:	Dam: PARLLA ISAF	
	UK 0 702444 06639	UK 0 704512 02364	

Analysis date: 14/09/2021



LOT:	<b>PARLLA ISAF</b>	DOB: 30/03/2020	<b>Signet</b> BREEDING SERVICES
	FBN: UK 0 704512 02999	Scanned: Y	
	Sire: PARLLA ISAF	Dam: PARLLA ISAF	
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021




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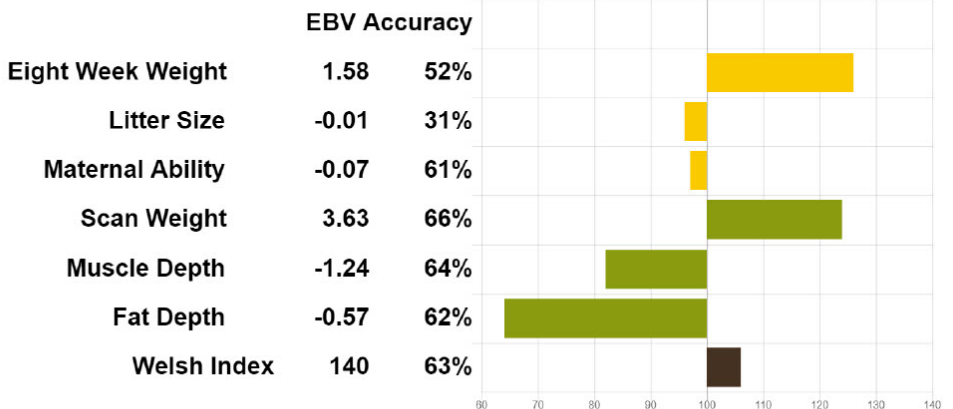
# HYRDDOD PLAS UCHAF RAMS

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Ear No	Index
UK 0 704373 04246	140
UK 0 704373 04314	84
UK 0 704373 04360	191
UK 0 704373 04228	193
UK 0 704373 04327	173
UK 0 704373 04325	182

LOT:	<b>PLAS UCHAF</b>	DOB: 02/03/2020	
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	UK 0 709531 05581	UK 0 704373 03337	

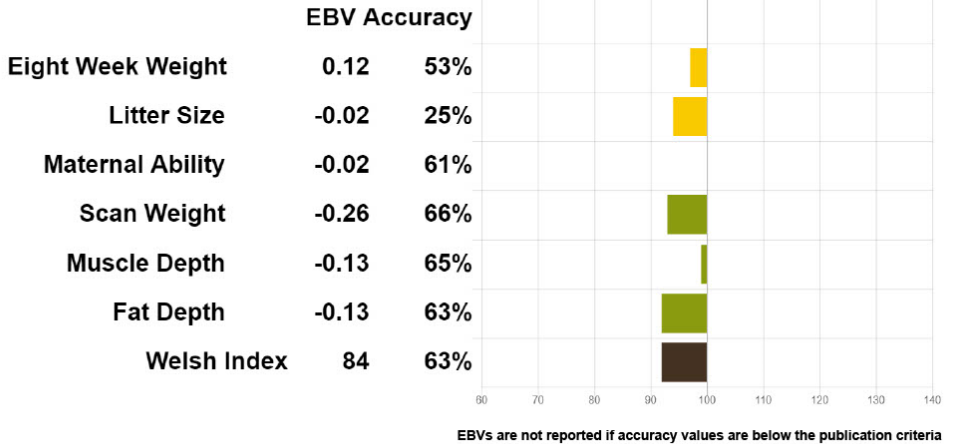
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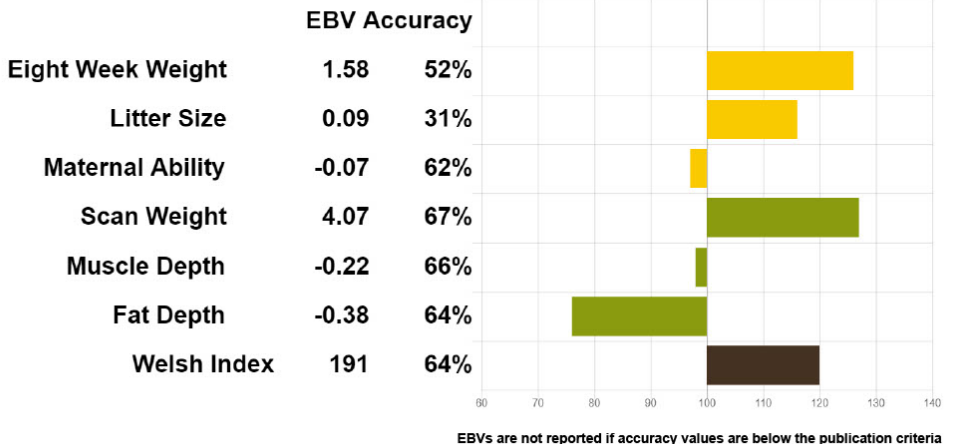
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



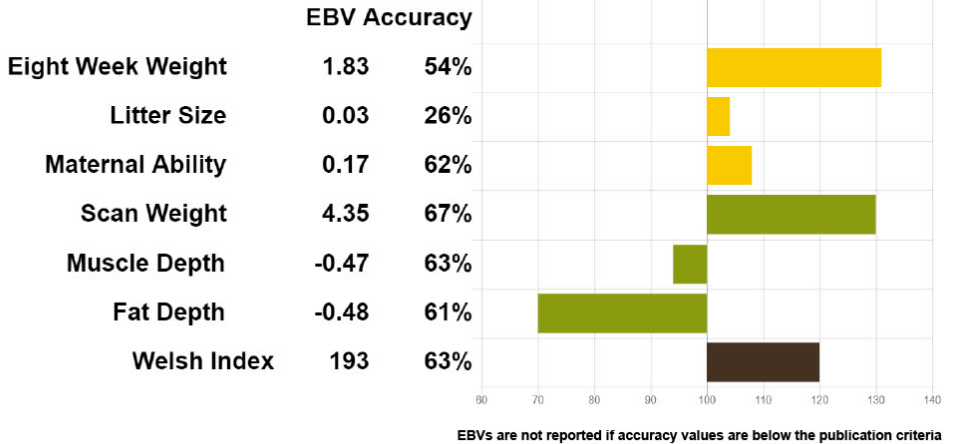
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



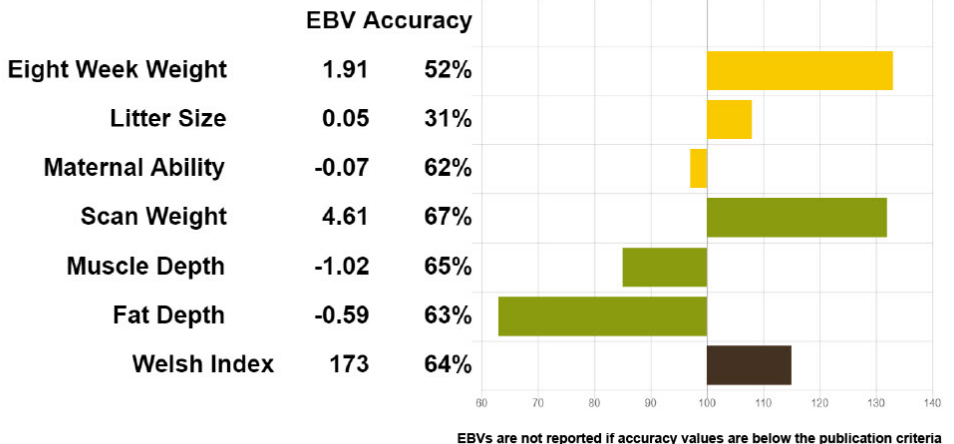
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



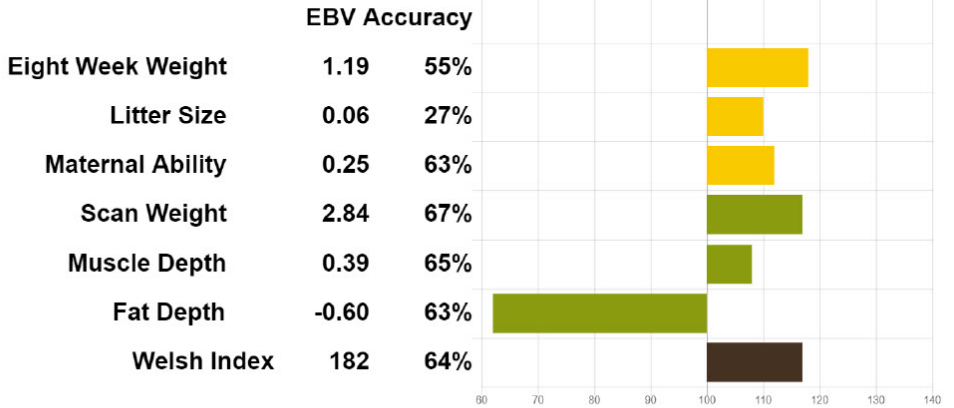
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



LOT:	<b>PLAS UCHAF</b>	DOB: 09/04/2020	<b>Signet</b> BREEDING SERVICES
	FBN: UK 0 704373 04325	Scanned: Y	
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021




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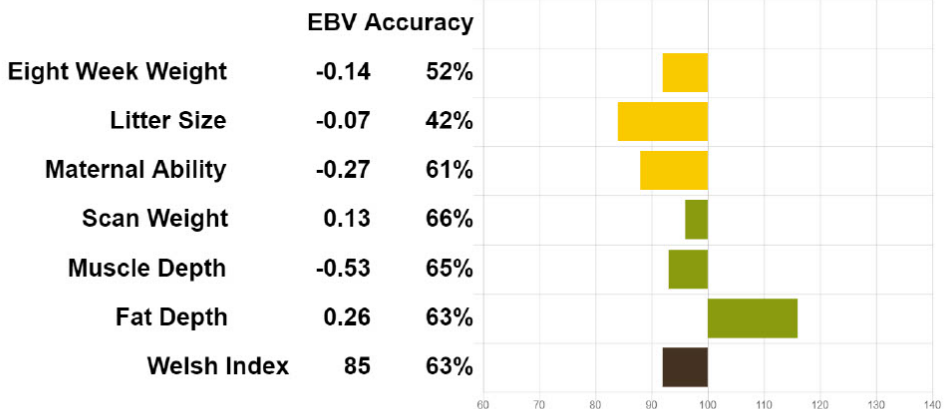
# HYRDDOD PLAS UCHAF RAMS

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Ear No	Index
UK 0 704373 04270	85
UK 0 704373 04426	142
UK 0 704373 04218	137
UK 0 704373 04523	112

LOT:	<b>PLAS UCHAF</b> FBN: UK 0 704373 04270 Sire: PLAS UCHAF UK 0 704373 04102	DOB: 09/04/2020 Scanned: Y Dam: PLAS UCHAF UK 0 704373 02696	
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021

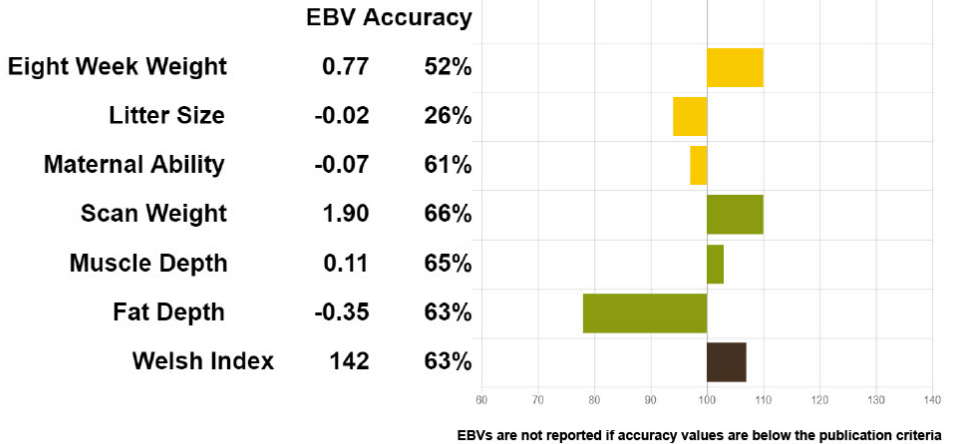



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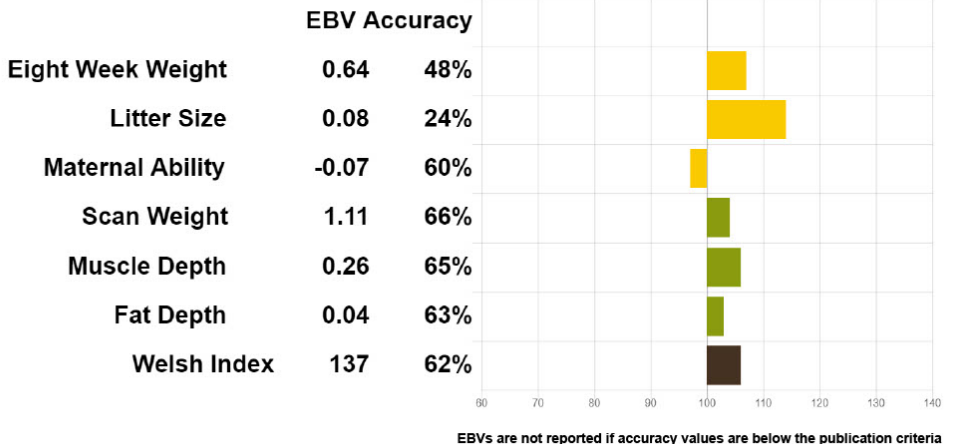
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



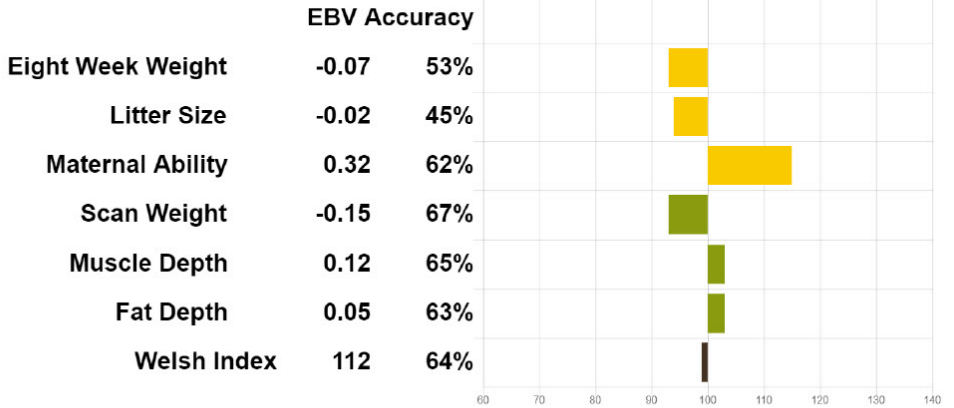
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	UK 0 704373 04103	UK 0 704373 01766	

Analysis date: 14/09/2021



LOT:	<b>PLAS UCHAF</b>	DOB: 09/04/2020	<b>Signet</b> BREEDING SERVICES
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021




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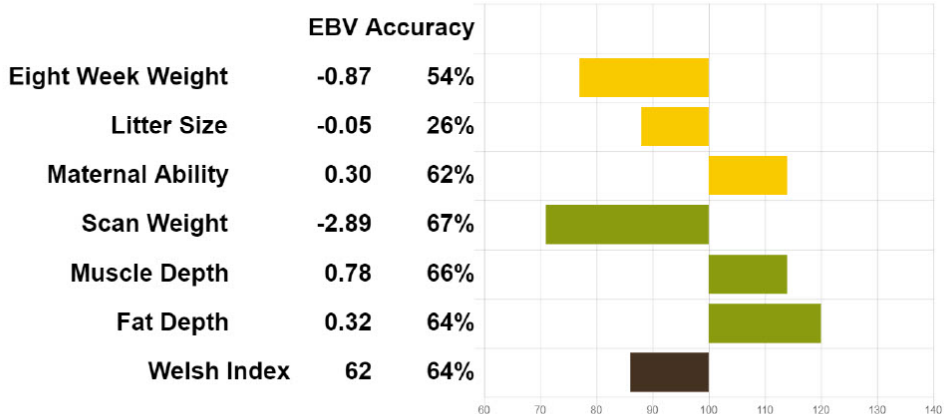
# HYRDDOD CAE POETH RAMS

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Ear No	Index
UK 0 711096 02727	62
UK 0 711096 02506	146
UK 0 711096 02405	161
UK 0 711096 02711	147
UK 0 711096 02620	117
UK 0 711096 02470	77
UK 0 711096 02381	122
UK 0 711096 02645	107

LOT:	<b>CAEPOETH</b> FBN: UK 0 711096 02727 Sire: UK 0 704711 02548	DOB: 14/04/2020 Scanned: Y Dam: CAEPOETH UK 0 711096 01730	
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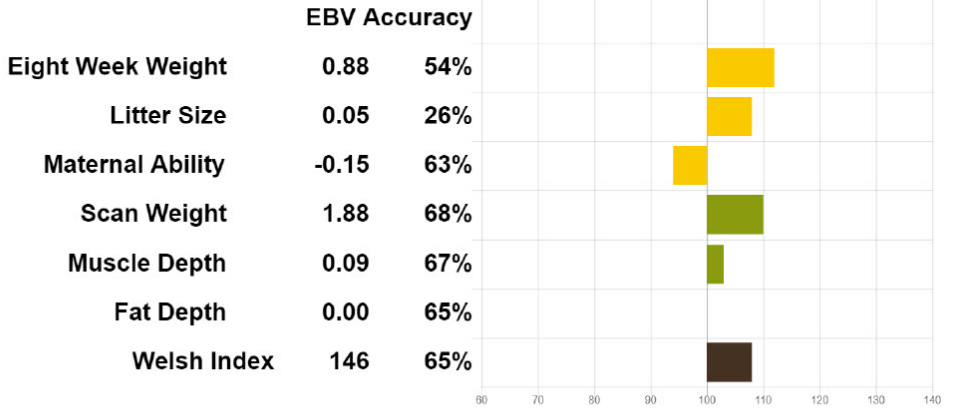
Analysis date: 14/09/2021




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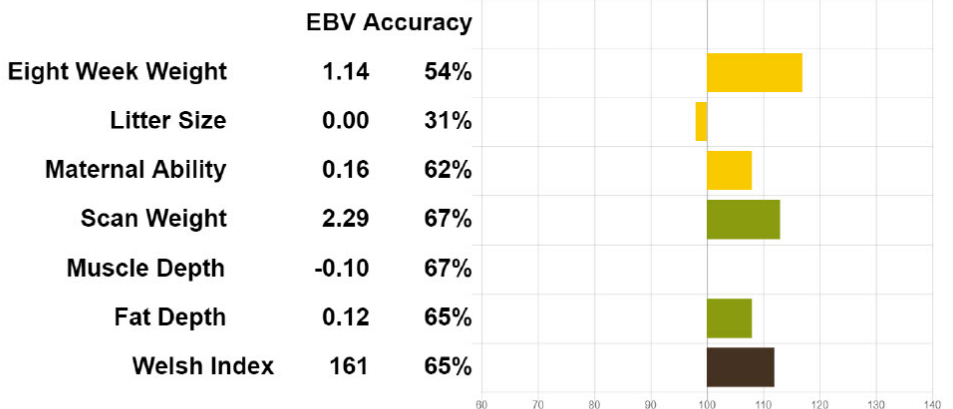
Analysis date: 14/09/2021




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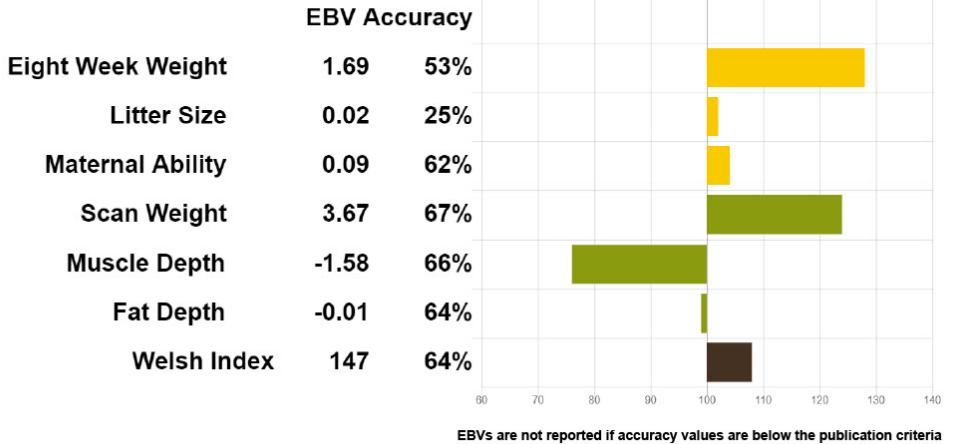
Analysis date: 14/09/2021



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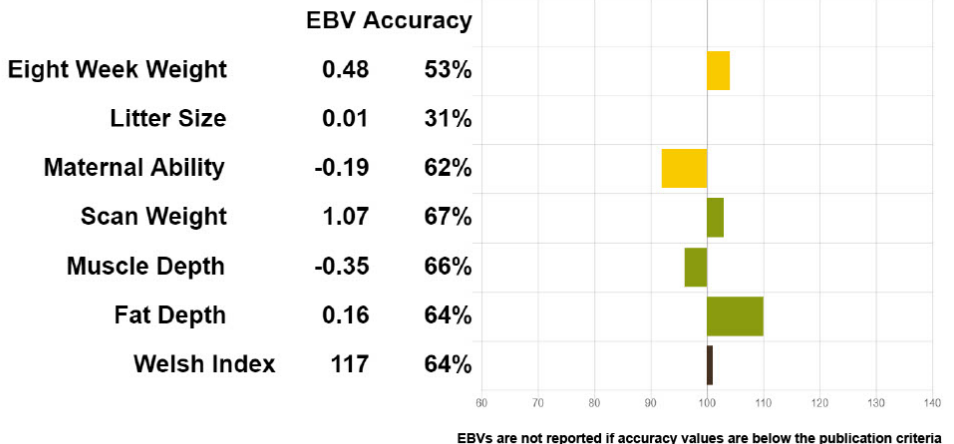
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



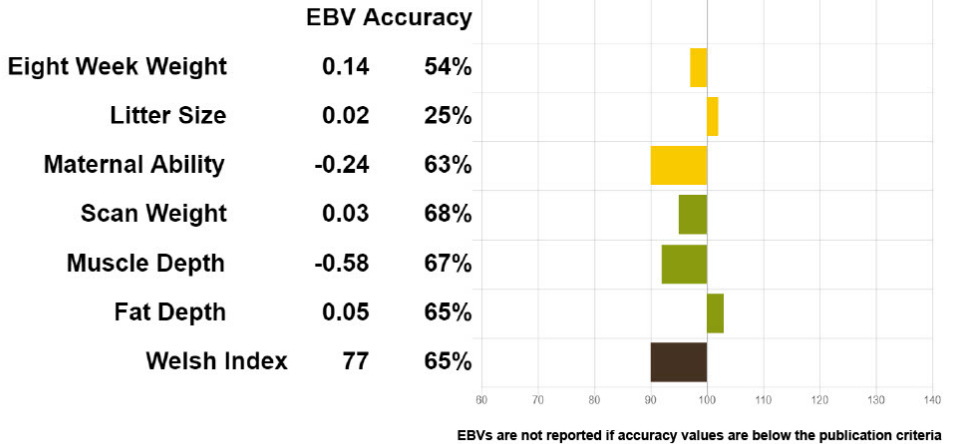
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



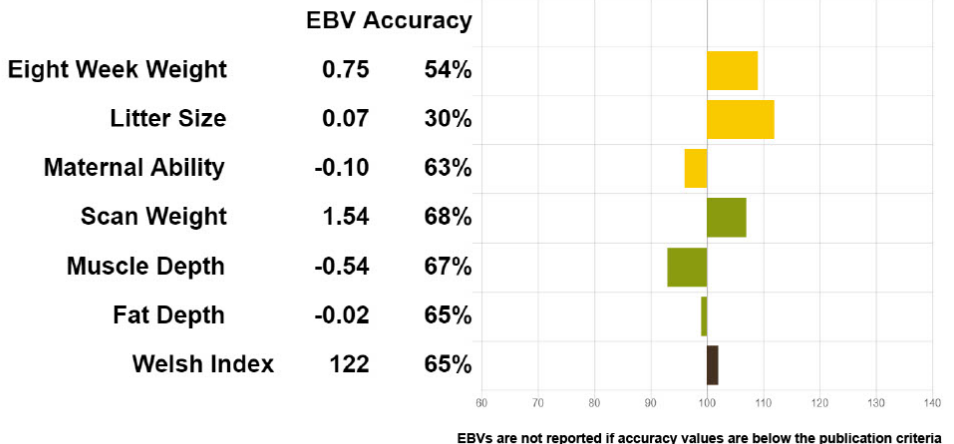
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



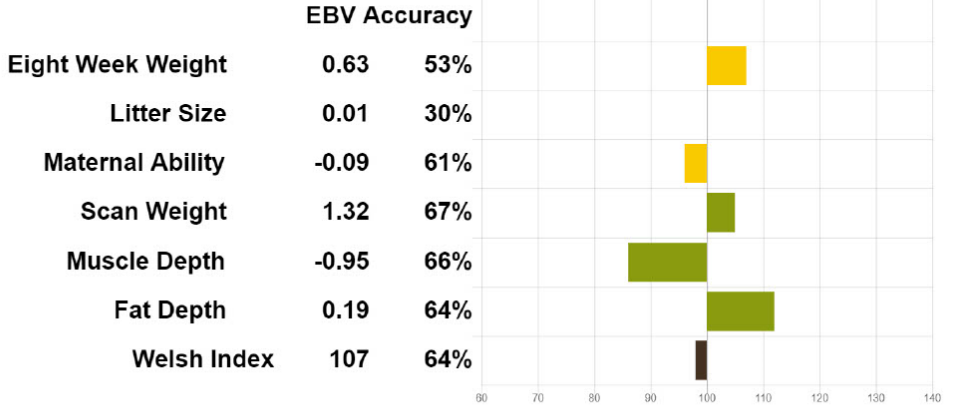
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



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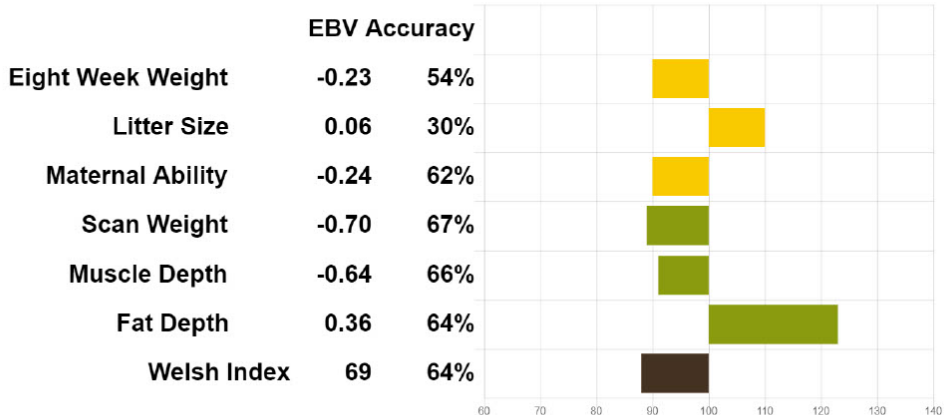
# HYRDDOD CAE POETH RAMS

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Ear No	Index
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UK 0 711096 02453	152
UK 0 711096 02471	75
UK 0 711096 02516	57
UK 0 711096 02684	145
UK 0 711096 02560	110


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	Sire:	Dam: CAEPOETH	
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021

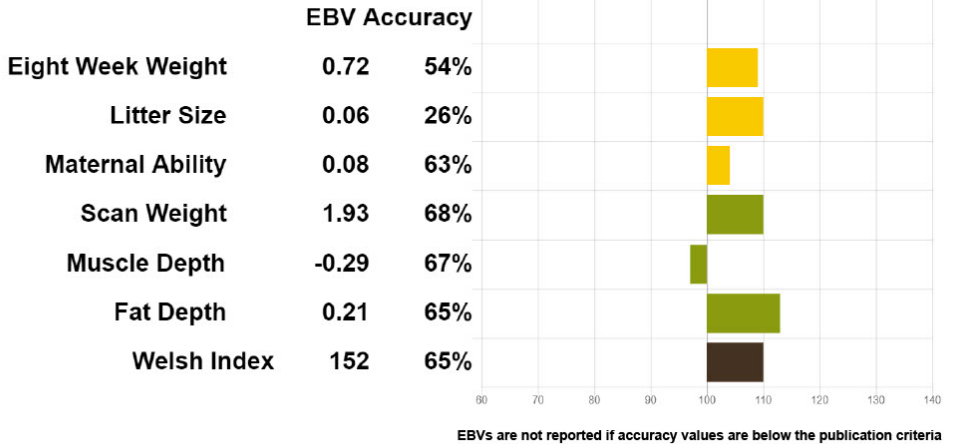



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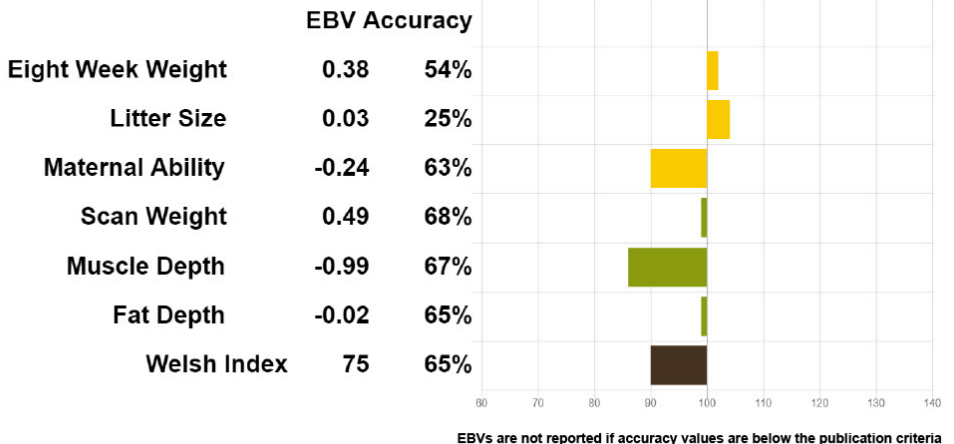
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



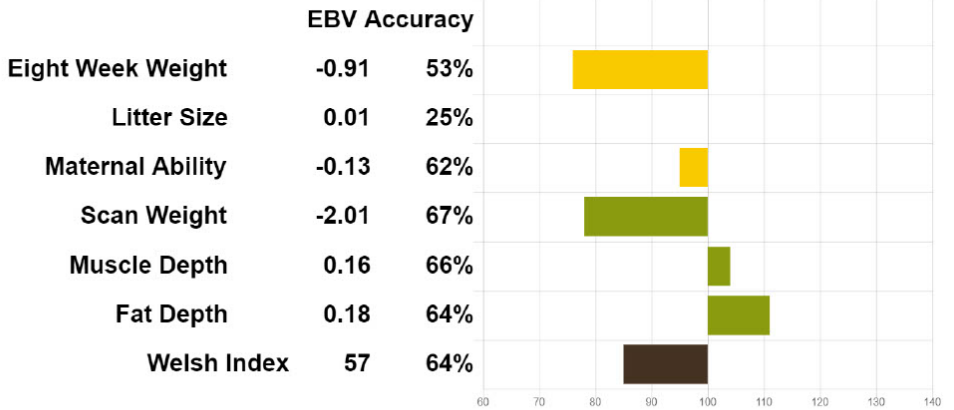
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	Sire: CAEPOETH	Dam: CAEPOETH	
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Analysis date: 14/09/2021



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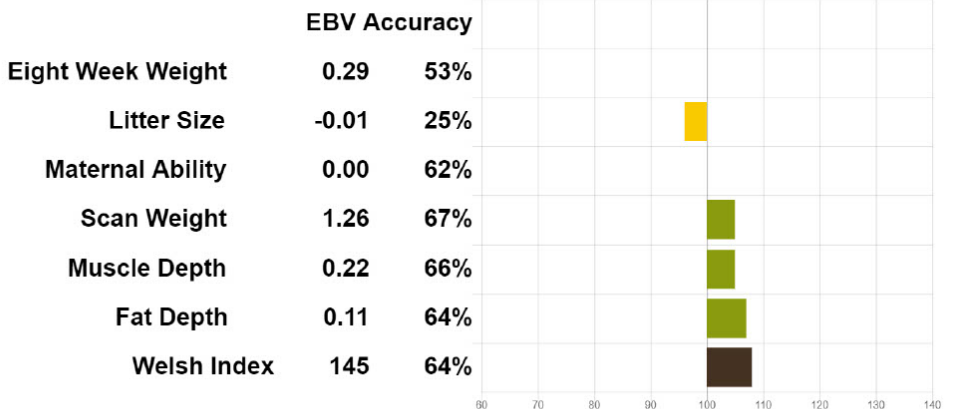
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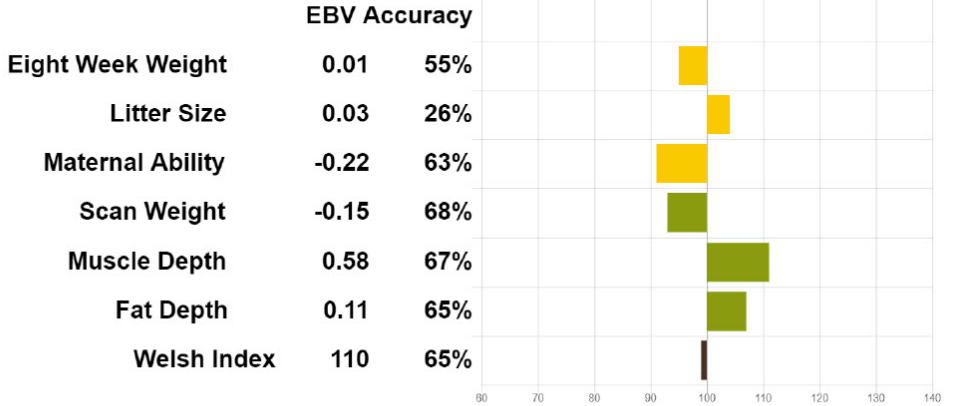
Analysis date: 14/09/2021



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	Sire:	Dam: CAEPOETH	
	UK 0 704711 02548	UK 0 711096 01256	

Analysis date: 14/09/2021



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