

New EPDs arrived December 2017!

The CHA launched new EPDs in mid-December 2017 . These EPDs are calculated **using a new system of analysis called “BOLT” Single Step technology**, which along with the best calculations possible, greatly enhances the time it takes to complete an EPD run, better incorporates genomic data and resulting in more accurate accuracies! These changes keep us in line with the changes that are taking place at the AHA, and reap the benefits of a system sought by all of the large breed associations in US and Canada.

Four Key Points that will drive change in AHA/CHA EPDs

- BOLT handles Genomics Better
 - BOLT incorporates Genomics into the evaluation in a more correct fashion when compared to how we utilized Genomics in the past
- BOLT separates Traits
 - In the past other traits had influence over the trait of interest through correlations but now individual traits have been separated to allow for better selection on the trait of interest
- BOLT Uses a Data Cut Off to Remove Bias
 - Performance data has been cutoff at 2001, any data recorded before that date has been removed from the evaluation
 - This will have an effect on the accuracy of old bulls and potentially their EPDS, if they have no progeny born since 2001
 - This did not change the ranking of bulls, however it removes potential bias that could be seen in the data, before whole herd reporting began
- BOLT Calculates Accuracy Differently
 - In the past, our genetic models could only estimate accuracy, this was the best tool at the time, however with BOLT accuracy can be calculated and not estimated

Most Noticeable Changes

- Largest changes you will notice are in CE and MCE; this change is due to 2 things:
 - We are using **MORE** calving observations:
 - In the past if a calf crop was all scored as Unassisted, the data could not be used in the evaluation, because the evaluation needed variation to determine a deviation from average
 - BOLT used a different method and can use all data, even data that is uniform across a calf crop
- Accuracies have seen a more significant change as in the case of older, currently unused bulls, some (and possibly all) of their progeny records have been removed from the analysis, however the change in accuracy on a population basis has been quite small.

New traits released! **SCF (Sustained Cow Fertility)** replaces the old STAY EPD and **Udder & Teat** EPDs are also now available.

Increased efficiency of the evaluation itself means **New EPDs will be published WEEKLY** from this point forward. Check the website every Monday for the latest up-to-date EPDs. Keep in mind this could create some variance from printed resources.

PACE (Pan American Cattle Evaluation) **is not dead!** While these new EPDs are only directly comparable with the AHA EPDs, our South American partners (Uruguay & Argentina) will join the new BOLT evaluation hopefully very soon.

MPI & FMI are temporarily unavailable, along with **the lists of MPI & FMI leaders** usually published here. MPI & FMI are being revamped in order to account for the changes in the model from previous to now. Watch for their return in the near future.

See online at www.hereford.ca for more complete details.