

# Days to Calving

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The Days to Calving EBV represents the interval between the day the bull is first exposed to the female and her subsequent calving date. While research is being done into the effects of AI, this EBV is solely used to depict a natural mating.

Using a bull with a negative or lower Days to Calving will produce daughters genetically more likely to reach sexual maturity quicker and conceive earlier within the joining. This results in an earlier calving and a longer recovery period between birth and the subsequent re-joining. Essentially, this gives the bull's progeny a greater opportunity to reach optimal mating condition to get back in-calf next season. When utilized alongside good management and culling strategies, the Days to Calving EBV is a valuable tool for genetic gain in the way of herd fertility and production.

To generate a Days to Calving EBV, you need to record:

- Joining details: this includes sire information and a 'bull in' and 'bull out' date for all females that are mated naturally for the season. If a female is exposed to multiple bulls throughout the mating period, ensure to record the above details for each introduction of a new sire. Additionally, it's important to note any non-genetic factors that may have affected the fertility of the herd or an individual animal before or during the mating period, for example, differential nutrition, sickness or injury.
- Females removed from the herd: any females present at joining but removed prior to calving must be recorded and accounted for. A fate/disposal code will be allocated to each animal depicting the reason for removal.

Calving details: any calves (dead and alive) born out of the joining must be recorded and accounted for.