



EPDs and Classification: How Do They Relate?

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Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) and classification: how do they relate? Good question! Let's start with an explanation of EPDs. They are about a male's ability to pass on a specific heritable trait to his progeny (offspring). Let's say I have a male with fantastic luster and I want to know how likely it is for his superior luster to get passed on to the next generation. This would be valuable information to know when deciding which females to settle with this male. This is where EPDs come in handy, as a way to take some of the "guesswork" out of sire selection. If we measure the luster of our male and compare it to that of his progeny, EPDs can calculate the positive or negative genetic impact our male had on his offspring's luster.

Luster, like all traits we see in our alpacas, is influenced not only by genetics but also by the environment. In determining the genetic merits of our male, it is therefore important to

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