

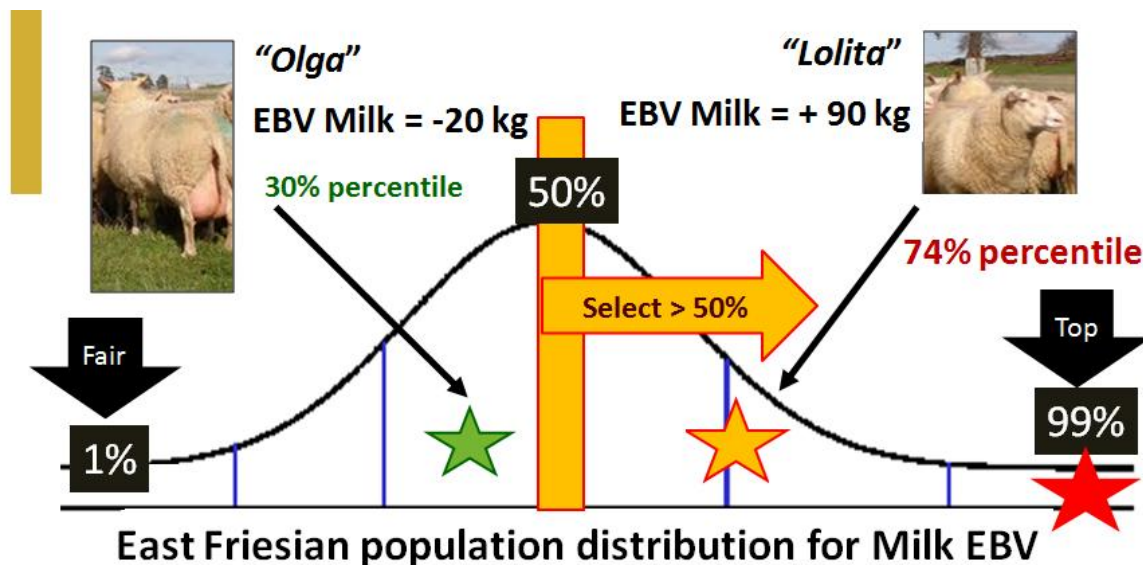
# How can you tell if a ewe is superior or inferior by looking at her EBV values?

An EBV value will indicate the genetic potential of an animal when compared to its population. How can you tell if an animal is superior or inferior to its population by looking at this number?

To assist you, percentiles are used to rank animals within their breed. The percentile is a value from 1 to 99 expressed in %.

- <50% : below the average of the breed (inferior)
- 50% : this is the breed average
- >50%: above the average of the breed (superior)

Let's look at Olga and Lolita, two East Friesian ewes. Olga has an EBV milk of -20 kg and Lolita has an EBV milk of +90 kg. Olga ranks 30% within the breed for the EBV milk and Lolita ranks 74%.



**Olga** is 30% for milk quantity: this means she is **below the average of the breed (below 50%)** so **inferior** for that trait.

**Lolita** is 74% for milk quantity: this means she is **above the average of the breed (above 50%)** so **superior** for that trait.

Within a flock, the animals that will rank higher (closer to 99%) have better potential to produce high quality progeny.

**To improve the genetic potential of your animals, select the ones that have a 50%, or greater, percentile (better than the average of the breed).**

