



WANTISDEN HALL FARMS

The role of the pedigree in commercial systems – using performance data to guide management decisions

Tim Pratt - SBRT Conference 2022



Wantisden Hall Farms

- ▶ Wantisden Hall farms comprises of approximately 785 ha of which 540 ha is cropped. The remainder of the land is split between 100 ha of woodland/firbelts and 65 ha of permanent pasture and lakes.
- ▶ Wantisden also contract farm three additional farms making a total area of 1651ha

▶ Cropping -	Potatoes	250 ha
▶	Onions	98 ha
▶	Carrots	40 ha
▶	Asparagus	40 ha
▶	Maize	211 ha
▶	Outdoor pigs	60 ha (approx. 2000 sows)
▶	Spring Cereals	120 ha
▶	OSR	130 ha
▶	Vining Peas	50 ha
▶	Sugar Beet	190 ha
▶	Winter Cereals	470 ha
▶	Let land	25 ha
▶	Swedes / Sprouts	18 ha
▶	Sheep	400 ewes

Carrot & Onion harvesting





Wantisden Hall Farms - Environmental stewardship



ELS and HLS since 2011 following a Countryside stewardship scheme



SSSI woodland (Staverton)



Area of SAC (Special area of conservation)



Catchment Sensitive Farming (Fencing and Sprayer building)



50 Acres of lakes constructed in 1972-74 for both irrigation purposes and wildlife conservation.



Leaf Demonstration farm for around 15 years

Wantisden Hall Farms - Rotations



INTENSIVE CROP
PRODUCTION BASED
AROUND POTATOES,
CARROTS AND ONIONS.



LOW ORGANIC MATTER
- VERY LIGHT AND
SANDY SOILS



INCREASING DISEASE
AND PEST PROBLEMS -
POTATO CYST
NEMATODE (PCN)
BEING THE MAIN
WORRY.



WINTER BARLEY BEING
A LOW YIELDING AND
POOR PRICED BREAK
CROP.



SPRING BASED
CROPPING LEADING TO
LOTS OF BARE LAND
OVER THE WINTER
MONTHS.



CONCLUSION -
LIVESTOCK NEED TO BE
BROUGHT INTO THE
ROTATION.



LEAF - INTEGRATED
CROP MANAGEMENT



Livestock in the rotation -



Sheep

- ▶ Currently 400 Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset ewes - plan to keep growing up to around 500
- ▶ 55% Poll Dorsets 45% Dorset Horns (native breed supplement - HLS)
- ▶ Lamb outdoors in September - Helps with workload and fodder availability
- ▶ Most lambs marketed and sold by Mid March - Waitrose Contract
- ▶ Breeding stock sold throughout the year at various sales
- ▶ Ewes and lambs utilise a lot of green cover crops as well as by passed crops of spring greens.





Graham Cubitt
PHOTOGRAPHY

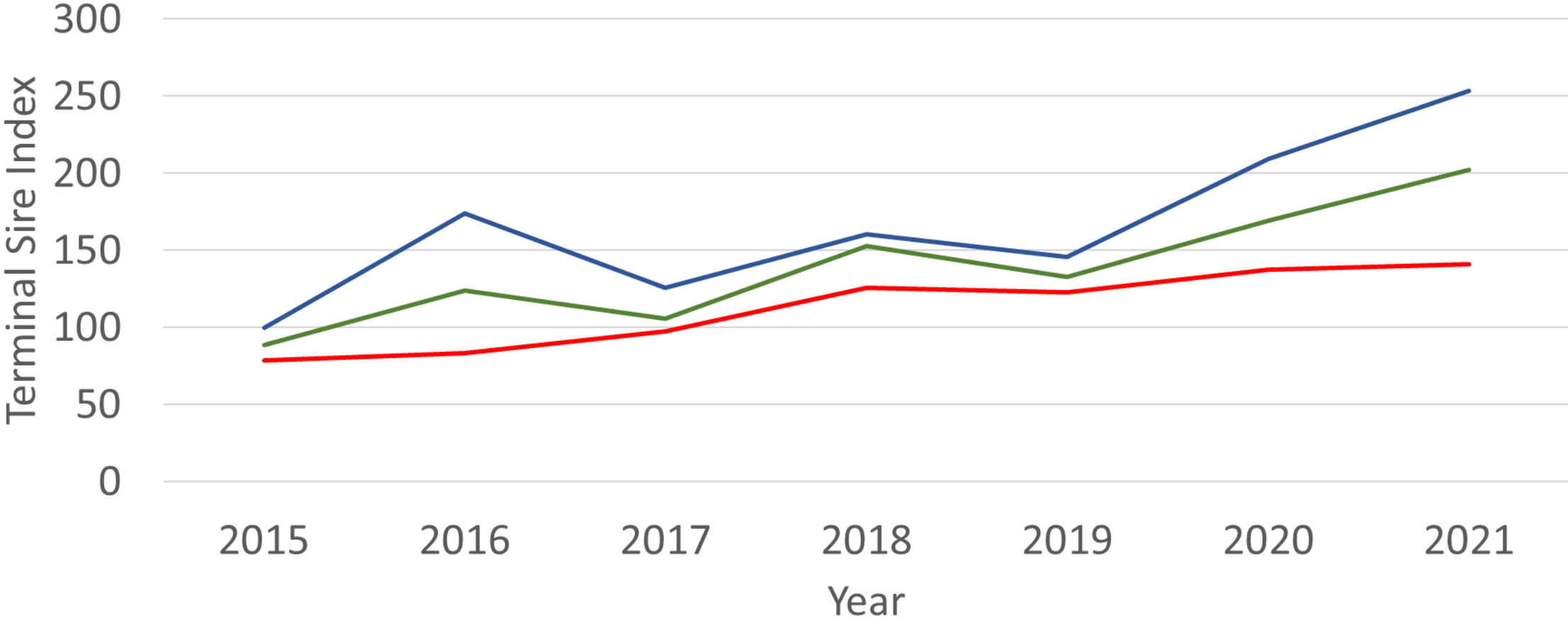
Why Pedigree?

- ▶ Always had an interest in pedigree breeding
- ▶ Smaller numbers
- ▶ Adding value - Currently selling around 15 rams a year plus as many female I have spare!

Signet 
BREEDING SERVICES



Terminal Sire Index Trends for Deben Flock (U39)

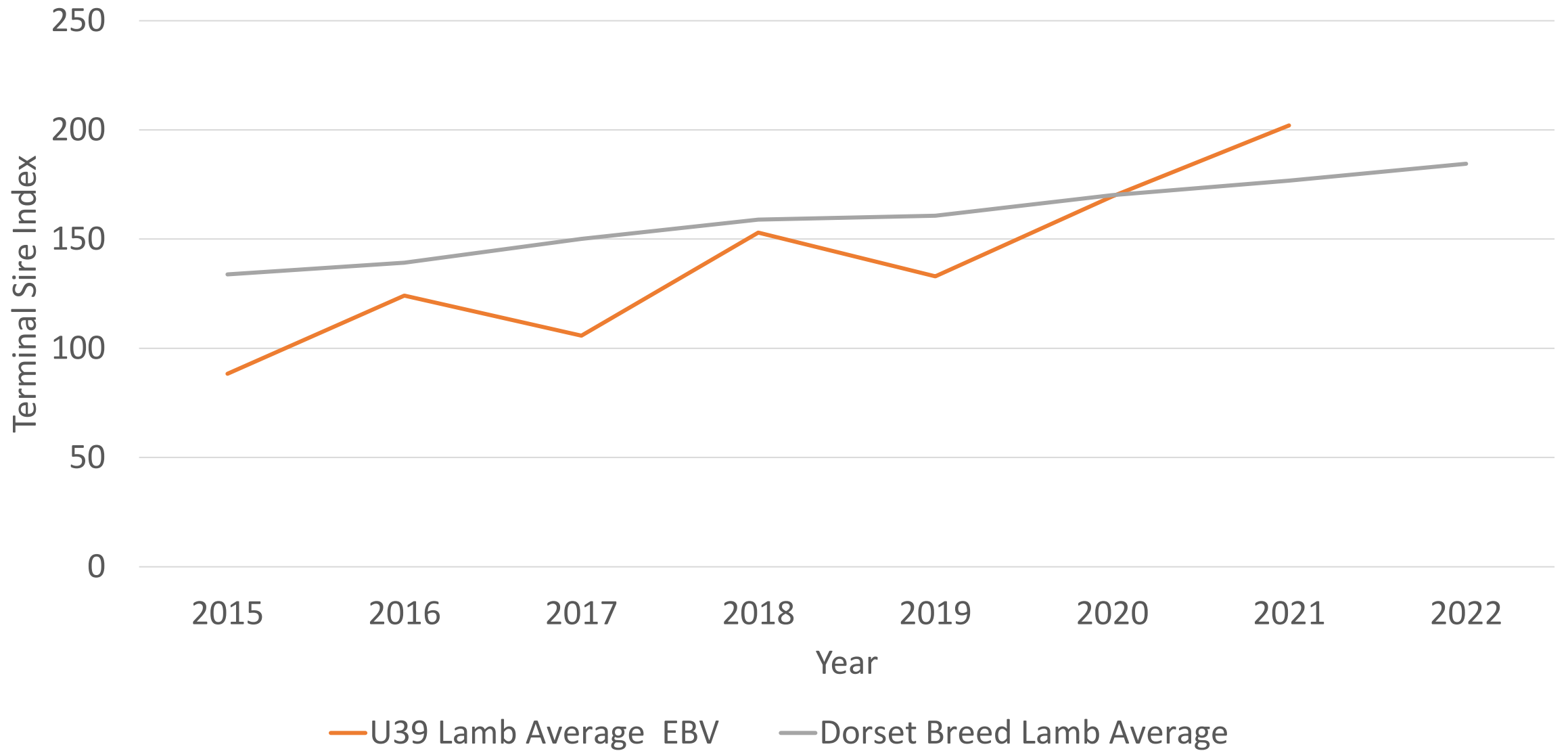


— Lamb Average EBV

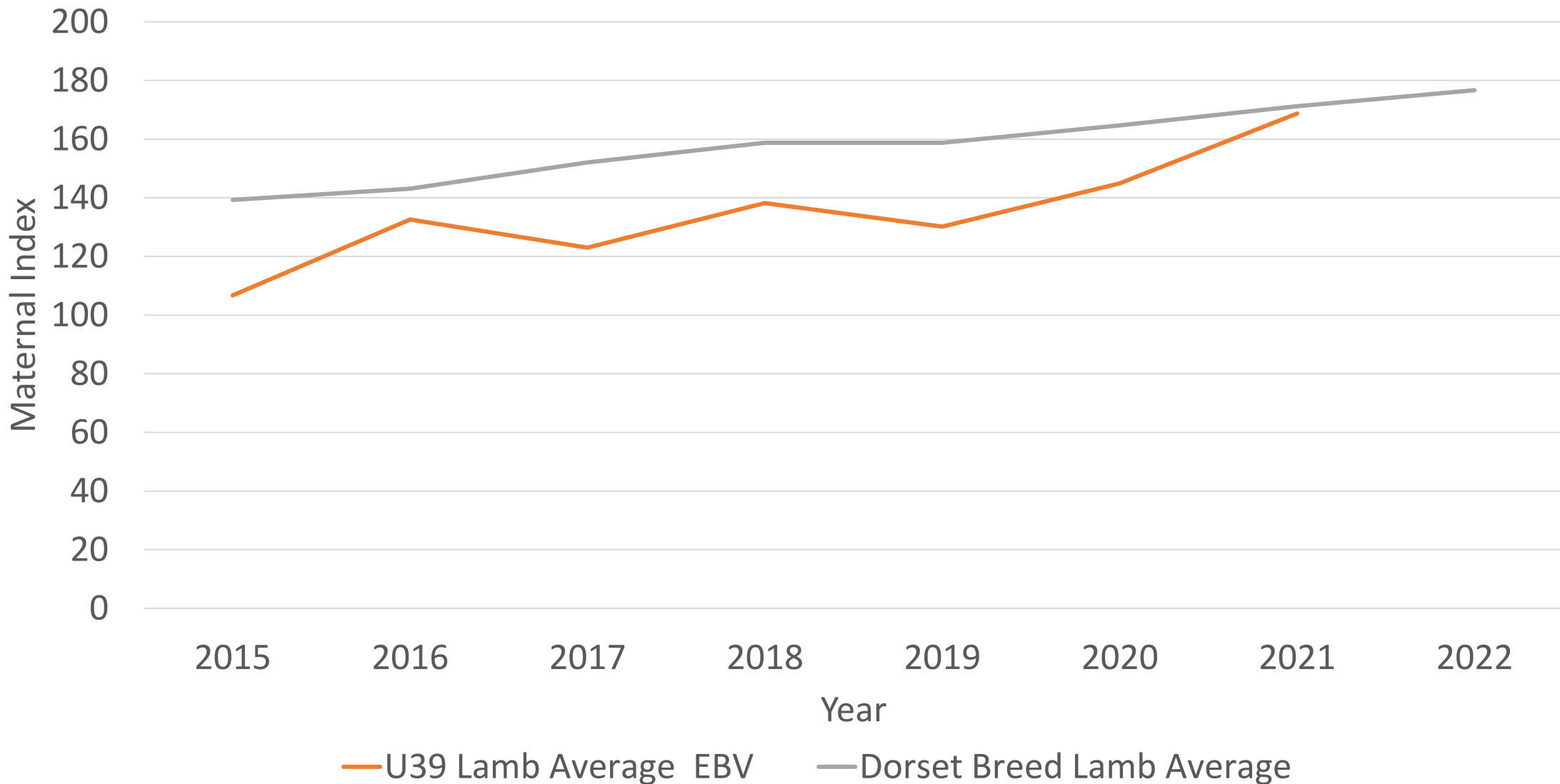
— Sire Average EBV

— Dam Average EBV

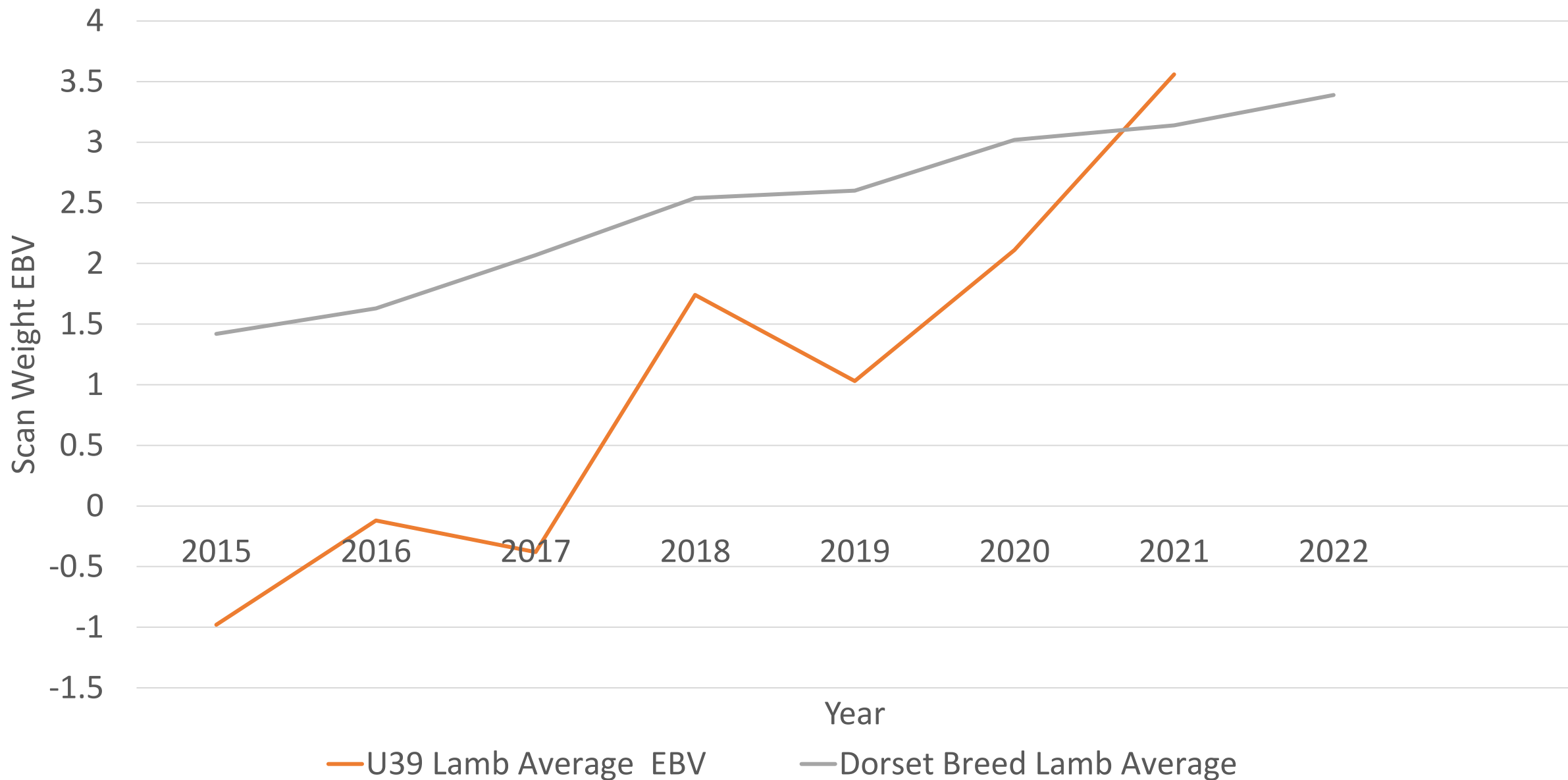
Genetic Trends for Terminal Sire Index



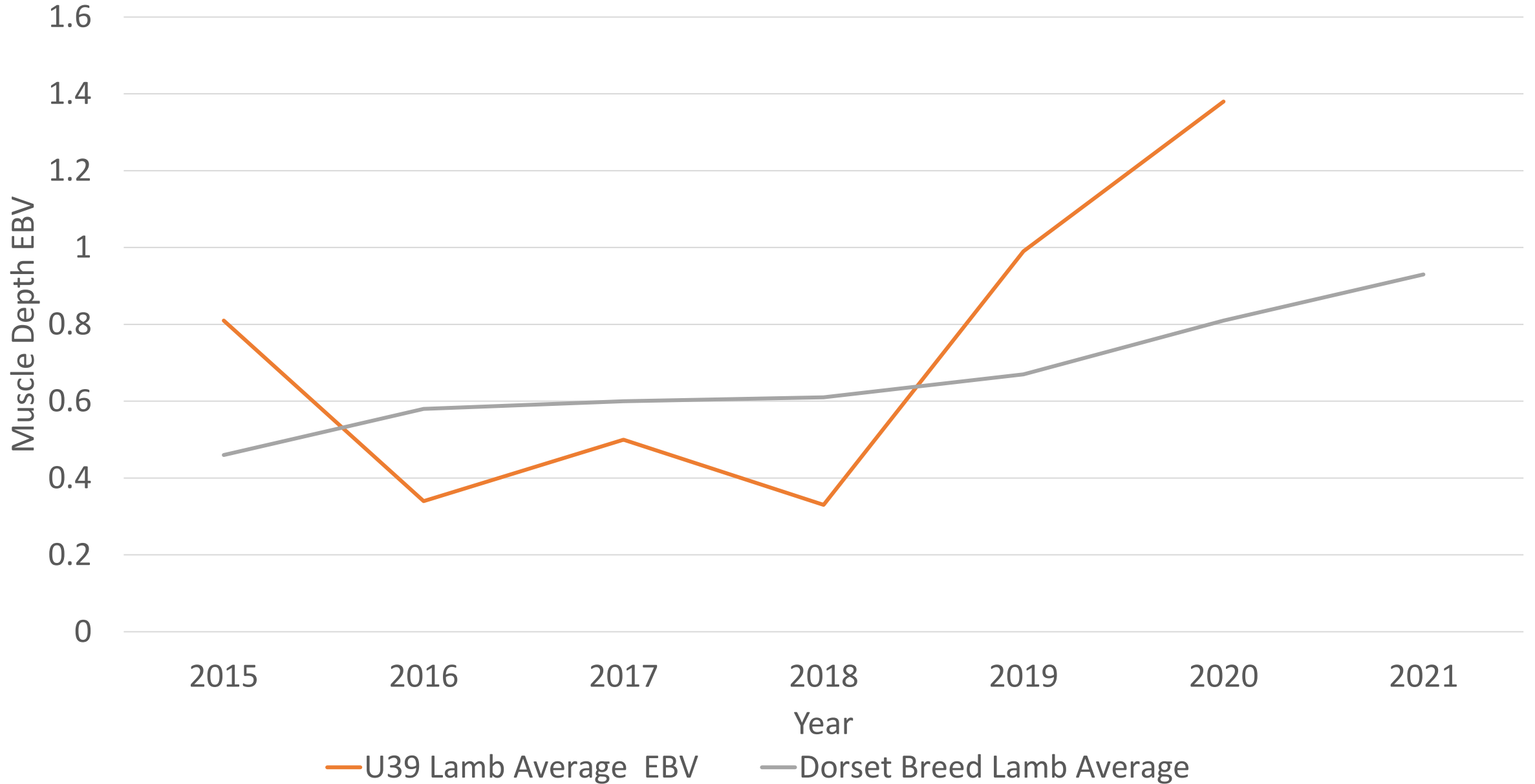
Genetic Trends for Maternal Index



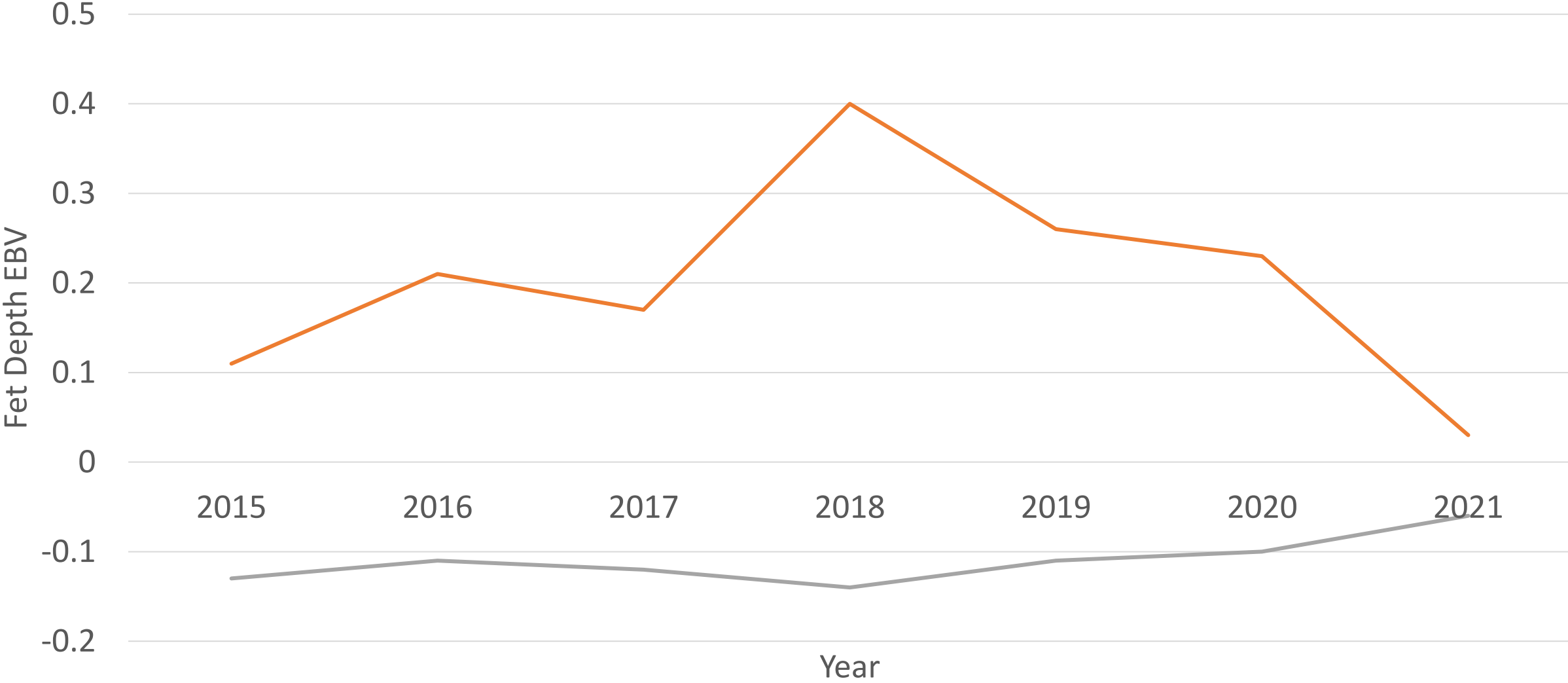
Genetic Trends for Scan Weight



Genetic Trends for Muscle Depth



Genetic Trends for Fat Depth



— U39 Lamb Average EBV — Dorset Breed Lamb Average



Questions -