

ICBF Active Dairy Bull List – Spring 2010

Pat Donnellan

ICBF

Guide to reading the Table.

- 1) **Bull Details;** Rank, AI Code, Name, Status in Herdbook ,Sire, Holstein % or Breed.
- 2) **EBI & Proof Details;** EBI, Economic Breeding Index (€); Indicates expected profit/lactation for a bull's progeny compared to an average animal. **Rel%**; Reliability of EBI proof. This indicates the reliability of the proof. The higher this value, the more reliable the proof. **Range;** The upper and lower EBI limit for the bull's proof, based on EBI reliability. **Proof;** The status of the Bull proof. **DP-IRL;** Daughter Proven based on milk recorded daughters in Ireland. **DP-INT;** Daughter Proven, based on foreign milk recorded daughters. **GS;** Genomically Selected.
- 3) **EBI Sub Indices; Milk, Fertility, Calving, Beef, Maintenance & Health;** Sub Indices of the overall EBI. Added together these give the overall EBI figure. The 'Maintenance' Sub-Index (Maint) is a new development in 2010. Positive values for a Bull indicates lower maintenance costs for his daughters.
- 4) **Key Profit Traits; M Kg** Predicted Difference (PD) for milk yield. Bulls with + values for milk yield will increase milk yield. Positive values for **F Kg** (Fat Kg), **P Kg** (Protein Kg), **F %** (Fat %), **P %** (Protein %) will also increase each of the constituent traits. **CI** = Calving Interval (Days). Bulls with negative values for CI will reduce calving interval. **SU** = Survival %. Bulls with positive values will increase survival (longevity/herdlife).
- 5) **Calving; CD%;** Calving Difficulty . Increasing % CD indicates increased incidence of difficult calvings e.g. % CD of 5% means that 5% of this Bulls calves will result in difficult calvings. **GL;** Gestation Length PD. Positive values indicates increased gestation length. **Loc;** Locomotion. Bulls with positive values are better for this type trait.
- 6) **Semen Details;** Price, availability and supplier details of each bull are also included. This ensures that only bulls with at least 2000 straws available are included on the list. **L** = 2000-4000 straws available. **M** = 4000 – 6000, **H** = >6000 straws available. These details are provided by each AI Company for their own Bulls.

Active Bull List 2010

Introduction

The EBI details of the 75 bulls on the list is based on the February 2010 genetic evaluations computed by ICBF. The list contains Bulls whose semen is available and they themselves are;

1. Daughter proven, (Irish & international) where the EBI reliability is **>=35%**.
2. Genomically selected bulls, where the bulls have an EBI based on Irish genomic data, an EBI reliability of **>=35%** and a calving difficulty evaluation in the country of 1st origin of **>=50%**.

The 75 Bulls have breeding values for EBI and the 6 Sub Indices together with trait information on 10 Key Profit Traits . None of the Bulls on the list are carriers of genetic defects e.g CVM or BLAD.

Greening up of the Irish Dairy AI Bull List!

2010 is the tenth year that ICBF has published the Spring Active Bull List and a striking feature of this years list is the number of Irish Bred Bulls that it contains – 27 in total (See Table 1). In 2001 there were just 2 Bulls on the list bred here in Ireland with the vast majority coming from Holland, France and America (See Table 2). For years, Bulls bred in other countries have always outnumbered the Irish bred Bulls.

Source of Irish	
County	Bulls
Cork	18
Waterford	2
Kerry	2
Tipperary	2
Limerick	2
Louth	1

Table 1: Source of Irish Bred Bulls

Source of Top Dairy AI Sires 2001 v 2010					
2001			2010		
Rk	Country	Bulls	Rk	Country	Bulls
1	Holland	27	1	Ireland	27
2	France	15	2	USA	20
3	USA	13	3	New Zealand	11
4	Germany	7	4	Holland	6
5	New Zealand	2	5	Denmark	4
6	Australia	2	6	France	2
7	Ireland	2	7	Germany	4
8	Italy	1	8	Czech	1

Table 2: Bull Country of origin comparison 2001 v 2010

The G€N€Ireland® progeny test program combined with the arrival of Genomic Selection technology are the reasons behind this huge increase in native Bulls making it onto the list. Following research work by ICBF in 2005 which identified that the best young bulls based on EBI for progeny testing were located in dairy herds here in Ireland - G€N€Ireland® was born. It is a National Dairy Progeny Test program which in conjunction with participating AI Organisations, acquires, collects & distributes the semen from these young Bulls in a targeted & efficient manner to milk recording dairy Farmers.

The result has been a higher number of high EBI dairy Bulls coming off progeny test together than was the case before the program existed. The added advantage of these Bulls being ‘Genomically Selected’ has also allowed extra information to be known about their Genetic profile earlier in their lives than was ever the case before this. Top Bull Lists from different countries around the world are largely dominated by Bulls from those countries. The fact that the Irish Top Bull List is starting to be dominated by Irish Bulls should not be a surprise – it is a consequence of a National Progeny Test Program.

Irish Breeder's of Bulls in Top 30			
Rk	Code	Name of Bull	Breeder
2	SOK	(IG) SUNNYBANK OMAN	Kevin McSweeney, Killard, Blarney, Co.Cork
3	MJI	MORRISHEEN OJI FRANK	Denis Downing, Ballymorrisheen, Grenagh, Co.Cork
4	KOZ	KEVINSFORT OJI HAZE	Michael Kinane, Kevinsfort, Littleton, Co.Tipperary
5	BHZ	BALLYBROOK ASHLING JUSTICE	Maureen Horan, Ballydeague, Ballyhooley, Co.Cork
8	BZR	BALLYBRIDE DANO	Patrick O'Leary, Ballybride Upper, Conna, Mallow, Co.Cork
13	BYJ	BALLYDEHOB JUSTICE	Robert Shannon, Gurteenakilla, Ballydehob, Co.Cork
23	DZG	BALLYBRIDE DANGLE PIPER	Patrick O'Leary, Ballybride Upper, Conna, Mallow, Co.Cork
24	LDU	LISDUFF MANFRED ET	John O'Sullivan, Lisduff, Whitchurch, Co.Cork
27	RXR	MONAMORE ROMERO ET	Tom Kelly, Ballymakenny, Drogheda, Co.Louth
28	EDV	EEDY DIVA OMAN	R&S Helen, Lisroe, Lyre, Clonakilty, Co.Cork

Table 3: Irish Breeders of Bulls ranked in the top 30 of ICBF Active Bull List.

Sires of Sons

The fact that ‘OJI’ is having such a big impact on the list with 41 sons (Table 4) is not something that Farmers should be worried about for 2 reasons:

1. ‘OJI’ semen has always been in very limited supply here in Ireland and so he would’nt have large numbers of daughters spread across herds throughout the country. Therefore his sons will not cause the inbreeding difficulties that one might expect.
2. G€N€Ireland is moving away from selecting more sons of ‘OJI’. This is one of the many benefits of a National progeny Test program in that such issues can be managed and avoided in time.

Sires of Sons 2010 List	
Sire	Sons
OJI	41
BWZ	5
HZO	5
OKU	4
RUU	3
RXO	2
UYC	2
13 other AI Sires	1

Table 4: Sire of Sons list for 2010 Active Bull List

Top 75 Bulls

Average of Proofs for Top 75 Active Bulls																		
EBI		EBI & Proof Details						Key Profit Traits										
EBI	Rel%	Milk	Fert	Calv	Beef	Maint	Hlth	M kg	F kg	P kg	F %	P %	CI	SU%	CD%	GL	Loc	
€196	54%	€73	€96	€28	-€10	€6	€3	280	15.8	13.1	0.10	0.07	-4.7	3.4	1.9	-2.2	0.05	

Table 4: Average of proofs for top 75 Active Dairy Bulls.

The 75 Bulls on the list have a healthy average EBI of €196. They range from €280 down to €65. It is important for Farmers to remember this when selecting Bulls in 2010. The question asked every year is ‘what is a good EBI for a Bull?’. This year, over €165 is the answer. This list should be every dairy farmer’s first port of call when selecting AI Sires for their Dairy herd in 2010.

Important Advice

It is important to note the source of a Bull’s proof when choosing sires from the list. A Bull may have received his proof based on data recorded on his own daughters performance (Milk Records, Calving Fertility & Health data). Or he may be a ‘Genomically Selected’ Bull. ‘Genomically Selected’ means that the Bull’s DNA profile has been analysed and the figures that you see are based on those findings. Farmers should pay particular attention to the ‘Reliability’ and ‘Range’ of a Bull’s proof. In order to be able to balance the risk of using a Bull with low reliability together with the tremendous genetic gains that could be achieved by using such a Bull.

Farmers are strongly urged to use a minimum of 5 AI bulls from the list.

Bulls with ‘Low’ availability are not included in the ICBF Sire Advice Programme as large quantities of straws cannot be guaranteed. Farmers should note that AI Companies have a limited amount of straws available for these Bulls and should order straws early so as to avoid disappointment.

What Bulls should I pick from the List?

There are many answers to this question but 4 simple tips that will help you pick the right Sires for your herd are the following;

1. Identify which EBI Sub-Indices your herd is low in. This Herd Sub-Index information is available on the Herdplus EBI report that ICBF generates for every herd that is signed up to Herdplus (1850 600 900).
2. Pick an initial panel of Bulls that are strong in the Sub-Indices that your herd is weak in.
3. Refine your list of Bulls taking other factors into account e.g. ; Calving Ease, Inbreeding, Price, Availability.
4. Finalise your team of Bulls by picking at least 5 Bulls to use in equal amounts across your herd. The **ICBF Sire Advice program (1850 600 900)** can complete this step for you and also allocate the chosen Bulls to your cows in such a way that inbreeding is avoided.

Availability of List

The 2010 Active Bull List is available on the ICBF Website (www.icbf.com). This list shows the top 75 Active AI Sires. The total list of Active AI Sires together with their Supplier, Availability & Price details is also available at the above website.