



# CENTRAL PERFORMANCE TEST REPORT FOR BEEF BULLS

March 2002

Attached are performance test results for the group of beef bulls which completed central performance test on 13 March 2002 at the beef performance testing station at Tully, Co Kildare.

## Performance testing

Central performance testing is a central part of the national programme for the genetic improvement of beef cattle in Ireland and provides very useful information for selecting bulls for entry into AI. The testing is organised by I C B F, the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation in conjunction with DAFRD and the Herdbook Associations who organise the selection of the bulls. Performance testing involves the evaluation of selected beef bulls of various beef breeds from many herds for a number of important economic traits. It is the only way by which economically important feed conversion efficiency trait can be accurately evaluated. Pedigree bulls are evaluated under uniform conditions of feeding, housing and management in order to identify the genetically superior bulls. Central performance testing enables more accurate estimates of breeding values to be obtained very early in a bulls breeding life in contrast to an on-farm or a progeny test which takes significantly longer and does not evaluate feed efficiency.

Bulls enter the test station at approximately 6 months of age and remain on test for a further 6 months. They are fed to appetite on a high quality diet. Feed intakes are individually recorded to facilitate the estimation of feed efficiency.

## Traits Measured and Evaluated

Many traits including Growth Rate, Feed Conversion Efficiency, Carcass Merit and Withers Height are recorded. Carcass merit is evaluated by recording eye muscle area and fat area using ultrasound-scanning equipment.

The recorded traits are combined to give three sub-indices as follows:-

- Growth Index which is calculated primarily from the adjusted final weight and withers height of the bull;

- Feed Conversion Index;
- Carcass Merit Index which is calculated from the eye-muscle area, fat area and visual muscling score of the bull;

Finally these sub-indices are combined to give an overall index of merit called the BEEF MERIT INDEX. Approximately equal weightings are given to each sub-index in the calculation of this overall index.

## The interpretation of these Indices

The breed means for the beef merit index and the sub-indices are set to 100. The standard deviations of the indices are set to 10. Bulls scoring 110 or greater in any indices are expected to come from the top 15% of the national population and bulls scoring 90 or less are expected to come from the bottom 15% of the population for that index.

By choosing a bull from the top of its breed for genetic merit, a beef producer can expect to increase overall profitability by either reducing production costs or increasing carcass value.

## Current Developments

ICBF is currently reviewing the operation of the central performance test station in conjunction with the breed associations, the AI industry and the wider beef industry. The full benefits of the valuable facility at Tully can only be achieved by ensuring that only the best available bulls are tested and from which only the top animals are selected for use in AI. Towards this end Breed Societies have now agreed to be more closely involved in the selecting and approval of bulls for central testing. Potential applicants should now apply through their breed Association to have a bull performance tested.

## Linear scoring

Linear scoring is now becoming a widely used tool in the evaluation of beef breeding animals. It has long been used in the dairy industry to describe type traits in dairy animals. As more breed Associations are

now incorporating the tool into their breeding strategies, it is now appropriate that the BLUP linear scoring evaluation system be used in place of the visual assessment procedure used in the past at the central performance test station. The linear scoring procedure is being adapted to harmonise with ICAR guidelines. Historically a single overall visual assessment score was given to each bull upon completion of the test. Such a single figure failed to describe the various physical or anatomical characteristics of the animal. Good traits could compensate for poorer traits. Linear scoring in contrast describes an animal by assigning a score to a range of anatomical sites on the animal. These sites are grouped into the categories of muscular, skeletal, functional and other. The scoring system is designed to cover the biological range expected when describing animals in a particular age range. Muscular traits are assigned scores, which will range from 1 to 15 while the remainder are assigned scores in the range 1 to 10. Again in conjunction with the various breed Associations, a number of linear scorers are being approved to provide a linear scoring service. These linear scorers will be required to regularly come together and jointly score animals in order to ensure that common standards are being applied.

The linear scoring procedure is also being incorporated into the AI beef bull progeny test programme. Linear score BLUP breeding values are calculated on a routine basis for the participating breeds.

ICBF is also involved in a programme of research work with Teagasc, the objective of which is to fine-tune the linear scoring technique as a predictor of carcass value.

*Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development in conjunction with the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation*

*Web Address for further details on ICBF activities*

[www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)



*Beef Bull Performance Test Centre at Tully, Kildare*

SUMMARY REPORT OF PERFORMANCE TEST RESULTS FOR BULLS ENDING TEST ON 13/3/2002

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NAME OF BULL	BULL NO.	AGE at start	ADG pre test (kg)	ADG on test (kg)	ADJUSTED FINAL WEIGHT 400 days	WITHERS HEIGHT 365 days (cm)	ADJUSTED FEED CONV	EYE MUSCLE AREA (sq. cm)	FAT AREA (cm)	GENETIC INDICES FOR			OVERALL BEEF MERIT INDEX
										GROWTH RATE	FEED EFFIC- IENCY	CARCASE MERIT	
ANGUS													
THORNHILL THOR	P1586	223	.96	1.11	446	115	8.95	87	5.8	86	71	107	81
THORNHILL TRUMBLE	P1660	174	1.17	1.49	565	123	7.01	88	3.9	107	102	112	107
LAVALLY TROOPER	P8086	193	1.30	1.23	541	119	7.15	87	3.8	102	100	110	103
SIODA TRISTAN	P8263	217	1.19	1.23	528	116	7.66	85	4.0	99	92	108	97
AUBRAC													
CALVERSTOWN SULTAN	P3276	212	.99	1.67	543	123	5.54	109	1.9	102	122	123	115
WESTFIELD SATCHMO	P5075	184	1.51	1.48	624	127	6.11	112	1.9	117	112	129	121
CHAROLAIS													
TWILIGHT SUN	P1134	178	1.63	1.88	756	131	6.07	108	1.5	125	106	114	119
DUNBELL STAN	P1175	222	1.53	1.58	646	129	6.29	109	1.7	105	102	114	106
GARSHUEY STEPTOE	P4014	197	1.30	1.60	605	124	6.36	105	1.9	96	101	108	99
HEATHVALE SIDNEY	P4036	212	1.41	1.89	687	127	5.68	105	1.4	112	113	111	114
LISCALLY STRONGBOW	P5128	216	1.47	1.52	627	132	6.57	105	2.4	103	98	109	102
KILNAGROSS SHANE	P6048	194	1.44	1.25	572	128	6.87	96	1.1	92	92	98	90
COSBY SCIPIO	P6060	165	1.58	1.34	648	128	6.17	105	1.3	105	105	108	106
DRIMULRA SENOR	P7077	219	1.15	1.55	574	122	6.09	96	.2	90	106	103	97
WINDMILL SAM	P9133	205	1.56	1.77	679	133	5.68	104	3.4	112	113	103	112
HEREFORD													
WTK 55Y	P4390	165	1.29	1.56	616	127	6.11	89	5.4	112	112	104	111
LIMOUSIN													
ARDNACRUSHA SAM	P1185	184	1.19	1.74	644	128	5.87	110	1.0	121	110	118	119
ARDOONE SIRPRIZE	P2020	212	1.27	1.50	581	126	5.91	104	2.3	107	109	107	108
CURRAGHREE SUPERSTAR	P2062	221	1.42	1.46	598	130	5.50	106	1.1	112	116	113	116
LOUGHATARRIFF SETANTA	P3042	205	1.14	1.39	544	126	6.18	102	1.0	99	104	105	101
SPRING BRIDGE SEXTON	P3175	232	1.19	1.50	553	128	5.99	108	1.8	102	108	114	107
CORNAGHER SUPER	P3218	201	1.27	1.64	599	128	5.32	105	1.2	112	119	111	116
PELLETSTOWN SABRE	P3386	204	1.35	1.45	577	127	5.57	104	2.4	106	115	104	110
PELLETSTOWN SAILOR	P3394	204	1.31	1.46	573	128	5.90	105	2.0	106	109	109	109
CORNAGHER SONIC	P4219	186	1.38	1.57	622	130	5.59	100	1.6	117	115	102	115
PELLETSTOWN SAUL	P5388	208	1.23	1.26	523	130	6.56	110	1.1	96	98	114	99
ARD NA CAITHNE SAM	P6132	195	1.34	1.37	558	124	6.00	101	2.0	101	108	101	103
MEEELICK SAILOR	P8087	219	1.11	1.61	569	129	5.64	103	1.0	105	114	106	109
SALER													
KILLASSER BATT	P2169	179	1.46	1.61	630	135	6.02	83	1.3	119	112	100	114
SLIGO BRUCE	P2189	197	1.32	1.54	623	128	6.64	87	3.6	116	101	97	107
GLENARD BACTITIA	P5076	239	1.04	1.90	565	130	5.30	85	1.5	106	124	104	113
GLENARD BITANE	P5084	204	.81	1.23	455	125	7.87	87	2.4	85	80	98	82
MOYGARA BONANZA	P5204	209	1.24	1.38	574	130	6.43	86	1.7	108	105	105	106
GLENARD BEGUNE	P6077	227	1.02	1.39	506	129	6.51	87	2.5	96	103	101	98
SLIGO BONO	P6184	198	1.43	1.30	593	134	6.32	88	2.0	112	107	107	110
MOYGARA BRAZIL	P6236	185	1.32	1.37	589	129	6.80	99	1.6	110	98	125	111
MOYGARA BOUBOULE	P7247	178	1.28	1.40	580	130	6.62	96	2.9	109	101	112	107
KILLASSER BILL	P9175	176	1.01	1.11	475	124	6.78	93	3.2	89	99	103	93
MOYGARA BANCO	P9232	182	1.09	1.57	550	128	6.83	99	3.1	103	98	117	104
SIMMENTAL													
RATHLEE MARTY	P2066	187	1.39	1.70	653	129	6.41	98	1.4	107	105	107	107
ANATRIM MACHA	P2187	221	1.58	1.66	658	130	5.82	104	2.1	108	115	113	113
KILLARD MASTER	P3030	195	1.77	1.40	669	128	7.00	99	2.4	110	95	107	104
RATHLEE MITCH	P4068	181	1.51	1.59	652	132	6.52	93	1.8	108	103	101	105
CUMMER MICHAEL	P4183	176	1.20	1.57	592	127	7.10	96	1.7	96	94	103	95
ANATRIM MAJOR	P4197	185	1.58	1.61	663	129	6.10	98	1.7	109	110	109	110
CORRIB MASTER	P8178	215	1.32	1.70	619	124	6.36	95	1.3	100	106	105	102

Beef Bull Central Performance Test - Breeding Details

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Bull No.	Breed	Bull Name	Earmark	Date of Birth	Sire name H.B. No.	Dam name H.B. No.	MGS name H.B. No.	Owner
P1586	AA	THORNHILL THOR	241084110586	01/02/2001	RATHRA RASCAL 1999-1734	MURIEL 5TH OF KNOCK JAR/S30/30	PRINCE WILLIEBOY OF DUNLRBID/M19/13	JOHN O'SULLIVAN THORNHILL LAWN, MITCHELSTOWN, CORK
P1660	AA	THORNHILL TRUMBLE	241084110660	22/03/2001	RATHRA RASCAL 1999-1734	MELISSA OF THORNHILL OTH/S06/30	DOLCO OF CULLEN TAC/P12/16	JOHN O'SULLIVAN THORNHILL LAWN, MITCHELSTOWN, CORK
P8086	AA	LAVALLY TROOPER	311346380086	03/03/2001	LOFTY OF LAWSONS FORD SML/X9	LAVALLY EMMA ILY/E01/22	IWN ROOSE ULAH IWN/U01/16	JOHN MULLOOLY CLOONFREE, STROKESTOWN, ROSCOMMON
P8263	AA	SIODA TRISTAN	301442780263	07/02/2001	DRUMDEEVIN DANCER IMH/D04/22	BOHEY PANDORA IRM/P14/32	BOHEY MAGUM IRM/M16/30	JOHN SHEEDY CLASHAGAD, ROSCREA, TIPPERARY
P3276	AU	CALVERSTOWN SULTAN	KMC-01-016	12/02/2001	J.C.RAMON NEMROD (98-FR) 1297009954	M.LAURENT LUCKNOW 1295022560	M.BESSIERE FLOT 1290017571	MICHAEL MCCALL CALVERSTOWN, KILCULLEN, KILDARE
P5075	AU	WESTFIELD SATCHMO	WES-01-004	12/03/2001	WESTFIELD PERROS 1999-00 90	A.VALADIER LILLY 12950-15-574	DELRIEU GUIRAL 129101-9720	SUZETTE PHELAN WESTFIELD, ABBEYLEIX, LAOIS
P1134	CH	TWILIGHT SUN	NEE-01-003	18/03/2001	INDURAIN 8593104581	LOTOMORE FIONA FF0013064	HIABBEY DIEGO FF0009650	PAT O'BRIEN CLONNAUGHTA, CRANNY, KILRUSH, CLARE
P1175	CH	DUNBELL STAN	RMC-01-001	02/02/2001	INDURAIN 8593104581	FOYLEMARNELL LINDA BOH-L-001-G	GIN TONIC 5891110102	EDMOND MULROONEY DUNBELL, KILKENNY, CO KILKENNY.
P4014	CH	GARSHUEY STEPTOE	HRR-01-005	27/02/2001	INDURAIN 8593104581	GARSHUEY MATILDA HRR-M-002	JOSHUA HM-J-008	COLIN CRAIG NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM, LIFFORD, DONEGAL
P4036	CH	HEATHVALE SIDNEY	PAK-01-002ET	12/02/2001	HERMES 6092102162	LISCALLY FAIRY FF0011675	TIR O NEILL COLM FF0008102	M. & S. MCGREAL DRUMMINABOO, WESTPORT, MAYO.
P5128	CH	LISCALLY STRONGBOW	GJR-01-005-E	08/02/2001	HERMES 6092102162	LISCALLY FAIRY GJR-F-002	COLM GP-C-010	JOHN REGAN TAWLEY, CASTLEGAL, LEITRIM.
P6048	CH	KILNAGROSS SHANE	UA-01-001	02/03/2001	FAKIR 8590100634	KILNAGROSS IRENE FF0018418	EXCELLENT 5889116676	JOHN MCKEON GLEBE ST., MOHILL, LEITRIM
P6060	CH	COSBY SCIPIO	GFU-01-002	31/03/2001	HERMES 6092102162	COSBY NELL GWYN GFU-N-004	HAMLET MJ-H-014	DAVID A COSBY BALLYCREEN HSE, AUGHRIM, WICKLOW
P7077	CH	DRIMULRA SENOR	KML-01-002	05/02/2001	INDURAIN 8593104581	BALLYKILTY ILMORE FF0019134	ASHREE GOROON FF0013475	ANTHONY MAYOCK. DRIMULRA, NEWPORT, MAYO
P9133	CH	WINDMILL SAM	LNМ-01-003	19/02/2001	INDURAIN 8593104581	LAGHEY MARINA GR-M-009	FABUS 8590100065	MICHAEL NERNEY CHAPEL STREET, ELPHIN, ROSCOMMON

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Bull No.	Breed	Bull Name	Earmark	Date of Birth	Sire name H.B. No.	Dam name H.B. No.	MGS name H.B. No.	Owner
P4390	HH	WTK 55Y	XIGL U60	31/03/2001	DOON BIDDIE HUSTLER GEW/R51/30	UDEL 1 H48 LOVELY QUANT XIGL/P63/29	WTK55Y BOND 75A 130987OCHR	DAVID CARROLL COOLE, CAMPILE, NEW ROSS, WEXFORD.
P1185	LM	ARDNACRUSHA SAM	HRWS-185	12/03/2001	IDEAL 86 92 050 517	NADIA B 86 97 111 951	HORION 87 92 050 517	DONAL MOLONEY ROO WEST, ARDNACRUSHA, CLARE
P2020	LM	ARDOONE SIRPRIZE	ADOS-020	12/02/2001	BARNHILL HARRY BARH-001	KNOCKANURE ICEMEN KNEI-008	EARL REVE-004	LIAM LAVELLE ARDOONE, BELMULLET, BALLINA, MAYO
P2062	LM	CURRAGHREE SUPERSTAR	RCES-062	03/02/2001	ESPOIR 87 89 003 720	LUTTRELLSTOWN LISA LUTL-007	HANDSOME MILH-006	PATRICK PHELAN CURRAGHTOWN, DRUMREE, MEATH
P3042	LM	LOUGHATARRIFF SETANTA	LTFS-042	19/02/2001	HORTENSIA 56 92 060 816	LOUGHATARRIFF NIKITA LTFN-001	LYS 19 95 007 368	AMANDA BOURKE DEVLEASH WEST, AYLE, WESTPORT, MAYO
P3175	LM	SPRING BRIDGE SEXTON	SPBS-175	23/01/2001	GAMIN 19 91 010 955	TULLY IDEAL TLYI-015	GILBERT TLYG-004	THOMAS WHELAN BARMONEY, BALLYHOGUE, ENNISCORTHY, WEXFORD
P3218	LM	CORNAGHER SUPER	CAES-218	23/02/2001	ROUNDHILL NAVIGATOR ROUN-016-FOT	CORNAGHER NUALA CAEN-001	EPSON 87 89 003 682	PATRICK BEIRNE KILLEIGHTER, KILCOCK, KILDARE
P3386	LM	PELLETSTOWN SABRE	PELS-386	20/02/2001	NICHOLAS 36 97 008 636	PELLETSTOWN MODEL PELM-173	LONGLEUR 19 94 007 673	ROGER MCCARRICK PELLETSTOWN, DRUMREE, MEATH
P3394	LM	PELLETSTOWN SAILOR	PELS-394-FOT	20/02/2001	IDEAL 23 93 045 394	PELLETSTOWN ESTELLE PELE-011	BUCCANEER PELB-019	ROGER MCCARRICK PELLETSTOWN, DRUMREE, MEATH
P4219	LM	CORNAGHER SONIC	CAES-219	10/03/2001	ROUNDHILL NAVIGATOR ROUN-016-FOT	CORNAGHER NITA CAEN-003	FERRY 19 90003 045	PATRICK BEIRNE KILLEIGHTER KILCOCK KILDARE
P5388	LM	PELLETSTOWN SAUL	PELS-388	16/02/2001	OBJECTIF 23 99 057 941	MAJORQUE 87 96 009 528	HYPER 23 92 014 650	ROGER MCCARRICK PELLETSTOWN, DRUMREE, MEATH
P6132	LM	ARD NA CAITHNE SAM	SRKS-132	01/03/2001	DAUPHIN 1988 004 715	ARD NA CAITHNE LIOLA SRKL-003	DIMITRI 87 88 007 553	SEAN POL OCINNEIDE ARD NA CAITHNE BAILE AN FEIRTEARAIGH
P8087	LM	MEELICK SAILOR	MIKS-087	05/02/2001	ESPOIR 87 90 002 131	MEELICK MARION MIKM-002	FAIGNANT 87 90 002 131	TRALI CIARRAI MICHAEL MURPHY ARDHOOME, MEELICK SWINFORD, MAYO.
P2169	SA	KILLASSER BATT	JMK011	17/03/2001	KILLASSER NATION IMP98090	JUSTINE IMP97038	GAMIN 1591039242	JOHN MALONEY TIERANEY, KILLASSER, MAYO.
P2189	SA	SLIGO BRUCE	BDH016	27/02/2001	HUGUENOT 1592079434	MARIE IMP98017	GARDIEN 1591039904	BERNARD HUNT LISBALEELY, GURTEEN, SLIGO

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P5076	SA	GLENARD BACTITIA	CMG011	16/01/2001	MARC IMP97009	MOYGARA LAETITIA MMK96002	FUJI YAMA IMP94037	MERYL GILLESPIE LR. MAIN STREET, CLOUGHJORDAN, TIPPERARY
P5084	SA	GLENARD BITANE	CMG015	20/02/2001	NOMADE 1497003185	OCCITANE (FR 00) IM00037	LIORAN 6327472636	MERYL GILLESPIE LR MAIN STREET, CLOUGHJORDAN, TIPPERARY
P5204	SA	MOYGARA BONANZA	MMK017	15/02/2001	HUGUENOT 1592079434	KILLYGORDON LULA IJR94002	BRUNO 172F638051716	MICHAEL MCKEON MOYGARA, GURTEEN, SLIGO
P6077	SA	GLENARD BEGUNE	CMG012	28/01/2001	MARC IMP97009	LAGUNE IMP98028	DINTRAN 1588060454	MERYL GILLESPIE LR. MAIN STREET, CLOUGHJORDAN, TIPPERARY
P6184	SA	SLIGO BONO	BDH015	26/02/2001	SLIGO ENZO BDH99002	MARTINIQUE IMP98016	GARDIEN 1591039904	BERNARD HUNT LISBALEELY, GURTEEN, SLIGO.
P6236	SA	MOYGARA BRAZIL	MMK01004	11/03/2001	HERVE 1592082004	IRLANDE IMP97018	FORAIN 1590066903	MICHAEL MCKEON MOYGARA, GURTEEN, SLIGO
P7247	SA	MOYGARA BOUBOULE	MMK01008	18/03/2001	HUGUENOT 1592079434	JASMINE IMP97015	FOX 1590066745	MICHAEL MCKEON MOYGARA, GURTEEN, SLIGO
P9175	SA	KILLASSER BILL	JMK014	20/03/2001	KILLASSER NATION IMP98090	KILLASSER MARY JMK96001	DOMINO 324F4688016097	JOHN MALONEY TIERANEY, KILLASSER, MAYO.
P9232	SA	MOYGARA BANCO	MMK01003	14/03/2001	ODEON 1598064476	OLIVIA IM00041	POUMELLE 1587023018	MICHAEL MCKEON MOYGARA, GURTEEN, SLIGO
P2066	ST	RATHLEE MARTY	GPL-M-002	09/03/2001	CARNKERN TITAN 2005	RATHLEE EMERALD GPL-E-001	GRETHNAHOUSE SUPERSONIC 1063	GERARD LENEHAN RATHLEE P.O.EASKEY BALLINA, MAYO
P2187	ST	ANATRIM MACHA	BFT-M-005	03/02/2001	CELTIC HIGHFLYER CTC-H-003	ANATRIM FAN BFT-F-006	EUREKA 91.9101	DAITHI O'BRICLI COOLRAIN, PORTLACOISE, LAOIS
P3030	ST	KILLARD MASTER	ADD-M-002	01/03/2001	HILLCREST CHAMPION 92.3123 ET	AKATARAWA DAPHNEY 93.2950	FREIGHDUFF BRENDAN 91.0372	MRS. B. DILLON GRAIGUE, KNOCKNAHUR, SLIGO
P4068	ST	RATHLEE MITCH	GPL-M-003	15/03/2001	PANZER 178	RATHLEE EMMA GPL-E-002	DIRNANEAN NUGGET 1062	GERARD LENEHAN RATHLEE P.O.EASKEY BALLINA, MAYO
P4183	ST	CUMMER MICHAEL	RVA-M-002	20/03/2001	SIEGFRIED 489	HILLCREST JEANETTE PMM-J-024	HILLCREST FAME PMM-F-006	MICHAEL RYAN (G) CUMMERMOLOUGHNEY, THURLES, TIPPERARY
P4197	ST	ANATRIM MAJOR	BFT-M-014	11/03/2001	ANATRIM JACOB BFT-J-027	ANATRIM CAROL BFT-C-010	EUREKA 91.9101	DAITHI O'BRICLI COOLRAIN, PORTLACOISE, LAOIS
P8178	ST	CORRIB MASTER	MPE-M-004	09/02/2001	MONADUFF JACOB ARM-J-001	CORRIB FAITH MPE-F-011	COLUMBUD ABH-C-013	MARTIN REGAN CLOONFAD EAST, BALLYHAUNIS, ROSCOMMON