



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

Review of Programs to date

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Content

- Review of programs;
 - Scale
 - Efficiency
 - EBI
- Farmer Survey
- Areas of improvement.

Targets.

1. Scale

- 100 bulls tested per year each with 100 daughters in MR

2. Efficiency

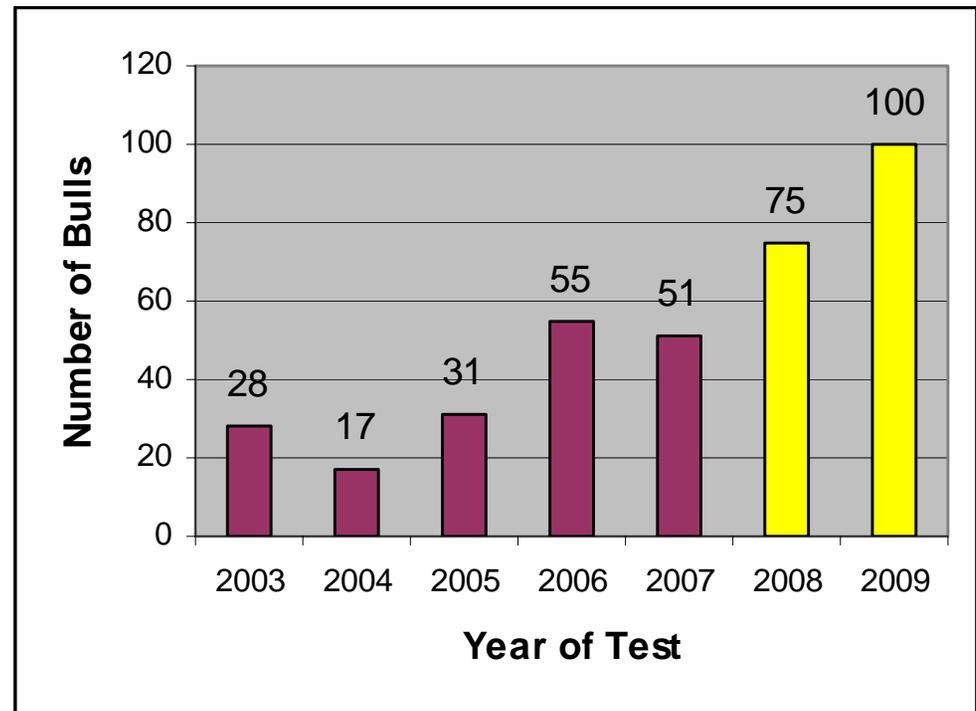
- 7 straws per heifers returned into milk recording.

3. EBI.

- High EBI young bulls (€100+)

1. Scale of Program (i)

- Target is 100 bulls & 100 daughters.
- Size of program has doubled.
- 51 bulls in 2007.
 - Late launch.
- 70 bulls in Spring 2008
 - 1200 herds



1. Scale of Program (ii)

Year	Bulls	Total Daughters	Year 1 Daughters
2003	28	213	99
2004	17	121	47
2005	31	83	78
2006	55	87*	87
2007	51	100**	100
2008	75	100	100
2009	100	100	100

* Based on Spring 2007 births only.

** To get 100 MR daughters need 120 heifers in Year 1

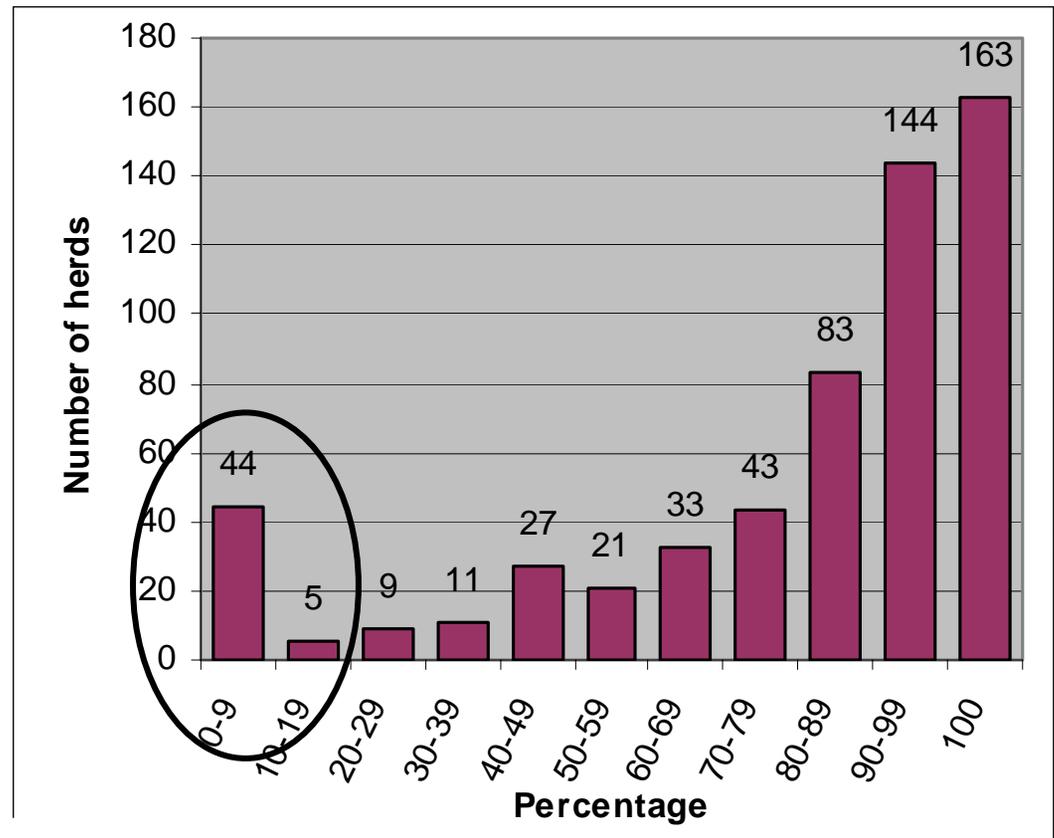
- Target 100 daughters per bull in Year 1.
- Need 120 females to get 100 MR daughters

2. Efficiency (i)

- Target; 7 straws per heifer returned into milk recording.
- 700 straws dispatched per bull.
 - ~ 560 inseminations (80%).
 - ~ 245 calvings (i.e., 45% calvings per straw).
 - ~ 120 heifer calves
 - ~ 100 daughters in milk recording.

2. Efficiency (ii)

- Excellent progress on efficiency
 - 81% recorded inseminations in 2007
 - *On target to achieve 7 straws/heifer.*
- No diff between tech & DIY AI
 - 83% versus 79%



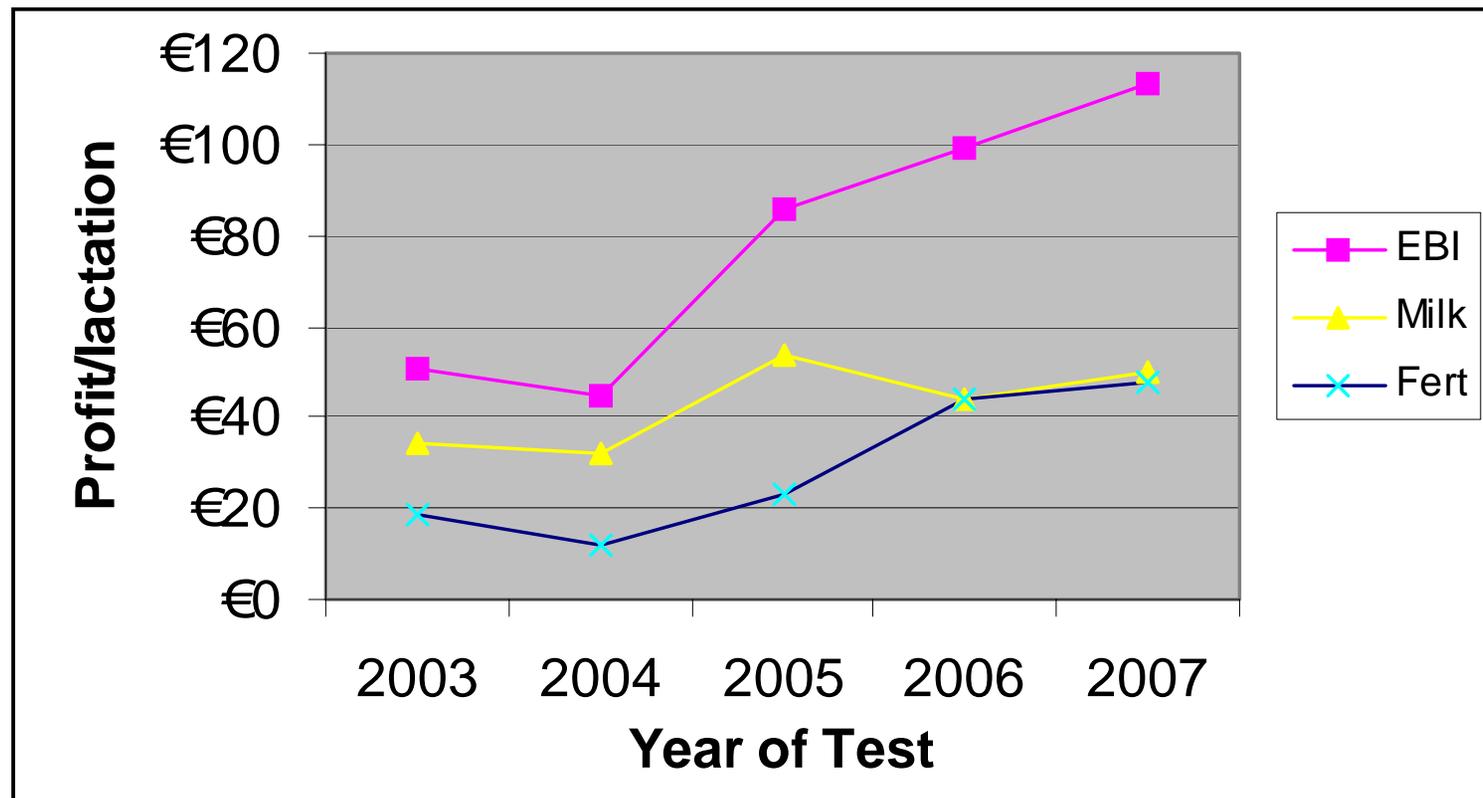
Problem Herds

3. EBI Index (i)

- Target; High EBI young bulls (€100+).

Year	Bulls	EBI	Milk SI	Fert SI	Max EBI
2003	28	€51	€35	€19	€136
2004	17	€45	€32	€12	€79
2005	31	€86	€54	€23	€159
2006	55	€99	€44	€44	€163
2007	51	€113	€50	€48	€157

3. EBI (ii)



- Positive trend upwards.

Other trends; Spring Programs

Programme	No Herds	No Bulls	Straws dispatched	Herds remaining from previous year
2005	150	21	8,375	-
2006 - HOFR	444	40	23,480	
2006 - Fri	46	5	1,565	
2006 – Total	485	45	25,045	105 (70%)
2007 - HOFR	640	40	26,582	
2007 - Multi	57	4	2,051	
2007 – Total	697	44	28,633	315 (65%)

- Good progress on 3 benchmarks but;
 - ~65-70% retention rate across programs
 - 2007 vs. 2006; Same number of bulls tested (~45) but in 212 more herds!

GENE IRELAND Survey

- Why are we losing 35% of herds?
- ~270 users surveyed.
- Key reasons;
 1. Young bulls from higher EBI dams.
 2. Earlier semen delivery
- *We must keep improving the program for the farmer.*

EBI – looking more closely.

- Overall;
 - 139 sires tested
 - Average EBI = €100
 - 50 by RUU & OJI; EBI of €130
 - EBI of the bull dams?

Sons of;	No.	EBI	MILK	FERT
RUU	32	€129.9	€45.7	€60.5
OJI	18	€130.6	€68.0	€39.8
AXA	8	€82.0	€49.5	€30.0
UYC	8	€89.6	€52.2	€43.7
LCX	6	€69.4	€53.7	€3.6
BWZ	5	€108.4	€53.9	€44.1
DXD	5	€74.8	€45.7	€21.7
GMI	5	€96.4	€52.7	€32.4
NHS	4	€74.5	€62.8	€2.7
TIH	4	€121.5	€33.5	€80.9
Overall	139	€100.5	€47.1	€41.3

Trends in Bull Dams

Year Test	No. Bulls	Average Dam EBI	Top 2000 >€113	Top 1% >€107	Top 5% >€89
2005	31	€79	3 (10%)	5 (16%)	12 (39%)
2006	55	€76	5 (10%)	6 (11%)	14 (25%)
2007	51	€85	11 (21%)	11 (21%)	22 (43%)
2008*	102	€112	49 (48%)	61 (60%)	95 (93%)

* Potential bulls for 2008

- Very positive trends in bull dams.
- Spring 2008 bulls; majority of bulls will be from top 1% cows.
- 2008+; Topic for later discussion.

Earlier Semen Delivery

- Earlier Program Start Date – Today!
- Semen collection has started.
 - Priority bulls.
 - Weekly targets & monitoring.
- Delivery of semen from January 2008
- Target; 1200 herds signed up & all semen delivered by 1st April.

Other Changes for 2008

- Additional breed packs;
 - HF, FR, (HF & JE) & Multi (including Reds)
- Additional pack sizes.
 - 35, 50, 70, 100....
- Same financial incentives.
 - €5/insem, €10/calf & €25 per heifer
- New DNA Tag “pilot project”.
- FBD Awards
 - Top recording herds & bull breeders (later today)

Summary

- Improvements in scale, EBI & efficiency.
 - Target efficiency achieved.
- Problems identified by farmers are being addressed;
 - Improvements in EBI (bull mothers) & semen availability.
 - Further improvements in the future (2008+).