Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)

BEEF BREEDING IN IRELAND

An occasional publication to coincide with;
ICBF HerdPlus & G€N€ IR€LAND Event, 8th Oct 2010
& International Beef Expo, 10th Oct 2010

ICBF.com

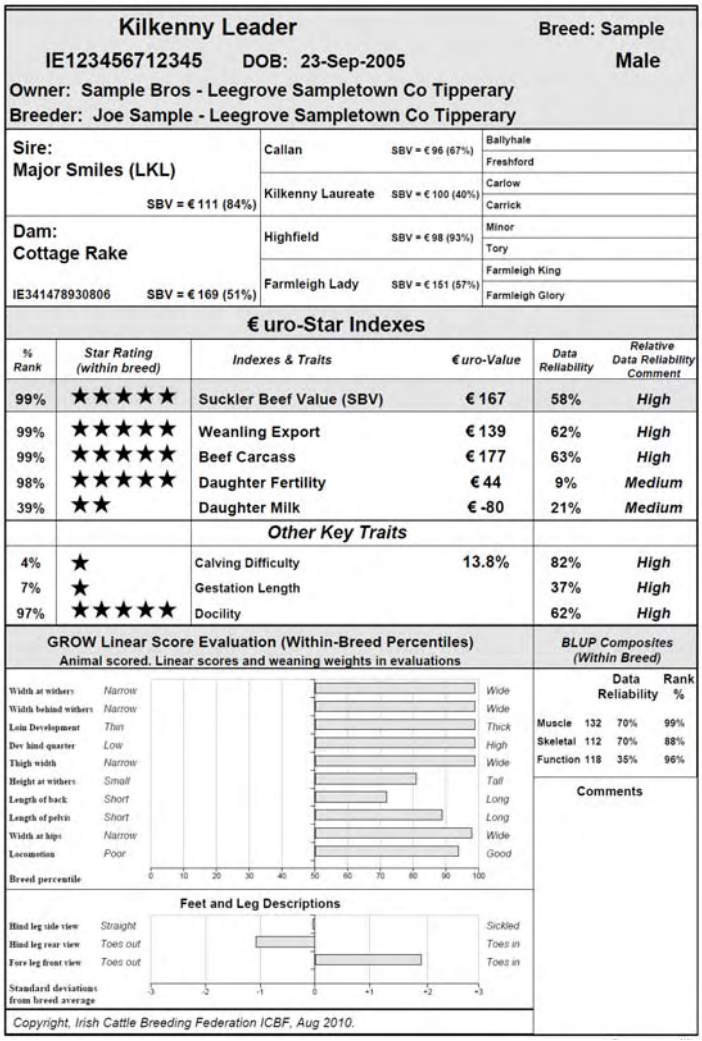
HerdPlus® Profit through Science

FBD Trust

NDP NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

New €uro-Star Catalogue Service Launched

€uro-Star catalogues are now available for every beef breeding animal sold, for all sales, public and private. Have your breed society generate it for you, or do it yourself on-line.



Kilkenny Leader — **Breed: Sample**

IE123456712345 DOB: 23-Sep-2005 — **Male**

Owner: Sample Bros - Leegrove Sampletown Co Tipperary

Breeder: Joe Sample - Leegrove Sampletown Co Tipperary

Sire: Major Smiles (LKL) SBV = € 111 (84%)	Callan	SBV = € 96 (67%)	Ballyhale	Freshford
	Kilkenny Laureate	SBV = € 100 (40%)	Carlow	Carrick
Dam: Cottage Rake IE341478930806 SBV = € 169 (51%)	Highfield	SBV = € 98 (93%)	Minor	Tory
	Farmleigh Lady	SBV = € 151 (57%)	Farmleigh King	Farmleigh Glory

€ uro-Star Indexes

% Rank	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	€ uro-Value	Data Reliability	Relative Data Reliability Comment
99%	★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€ 167	58%	High
99%	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€ 139	62%	High
99%	★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€ 177	63%	High
98%	★★★★★	Daughter Fertility	€ 44	9%	Medium
39%	★★	Daughter Milk	€ -80	21%	Medium
		Other Key Traits			
4%	★	Calving Difficulty	13.8%	82%	High
7%	★	Gestation Length		37%	High
97%	★★★★★	Docility		62%	High

GROW Linear Score Evaluation (Within-Breed Percentiles)

Animal scored. Linear scores and weaning weights in evaluations

Width at withers	Narrow	Wide
Width behind withers	Narrow	Wide
Loin Development	Thin	Thick
Dev hind quarter	Low	High
Thigh width	Narrow	Wide
Height at withers	Small	Tall
Length of back	Short	Long
Length of pelvis	Short	Long
Width at hips	Narrow	Wide
Locomotion	Poor	Good

Breed percentile: 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Feet and Leg Descriptions

Hind leg side view	Straight	Sickled
Hind leg rear view	Toes out	Toes in
Fore leg front view	Toes out	Toes in

Standard deviations from breed average: -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

BLUP Composites (Within Breed)

		Data Reliability	Rank %
Muscle	132	70%	99%
Skeletal	112	70%	88%
Function	118	35%	96%

Comments

For more information, contact your herd-book office, your herd-book website or www.icbf.com (1850-600-900)

Introduction

Cattle breeding is one of the tools available to the Irish beef industry to improve profitability. Over the last 10 years, since the formation of ICBF (the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd), our industry has embarked on a major infrastructure redevelopment. Developments include the establishment of a national cattle breeding database which now meets the information needs of our breeding industry.

Breeding objectives and genetic evaluation systems have been reviewed and redeveloped. Our current focus is on establishing breeding schemes to deliver near optimal rates of genetic improvement for each breed in Ireland using the best available technologies. Fortunately, we are part of an international community which takes a scientific approach to cattle breeding and is innovative in the use of new knowledge and technologies. Our progress in the last few years is a reflection of the benefits that arise from the knowledge sharing.

We have compiled this booklet to provide you with an insight into our industry as it exists in 2010. It provides a snapshot of each of the main breeds in Ireland, including information on their phenotypic performance, genetic merit for important traits and various trends over time. In addition we have included various summary information regarding beef breeding in Ireland and a listing of animals entered for this years International Beef expo, together with their relevant €uro-Star index data.

We trust you will enjoy the booklet and we look forward to meeting and interacting with you during the course of the weekend's activities.

Brian Wickham

Chief Executive, ICBF

Understanding ICBF Beef €uro-Star Evaluations.

€uro-Stars – What do they mean?

The €uro-Star Index indicates the expected profit (€) per progeny from a breeding animal (male or female). Within the €uro-Star evaluations there is one overall index (the Suckler Beef Index) and various sub-indexes.

Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	A measure of the overall beef value of an animal. It is made up of a number of sub-indexes, including;
Weanling Export	The ability to produce profitable weanlings.
Beef Carcass	The ability to produce profitable carcasses.
Daughter Fertility	The ability to produce daughters with good fertility.
Daughter Milk	The ability to produce daughters with good milk production.

€uro-Stars – Where does the information come from?

Index	**Information Source**
Weanling Export	1. Individual on-farm and mart weanling weights (150-300 days old). 2. Individual weanling price/kg from mart sales. 3. Linear scoring information recorded by ICBF trained scorers. 4. Calf Quality recorded by farmer through the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme.
Beef Carcass	1. Carcass weight, conformation and fat data from Irish abattoirs. 2. Feed intake measured at the Tully bull performance test centre. 3. Linear scoring information recorded by ICBF trained scorers. 4. Weaning weight and live weight information.
Daughter Fertility	1. Daughter age at first calving from calf birth records. 2. Daughter calving difficulty recorded through Animal Events. 3. Daughter calving interval (days) from calf birth records. 4. Daughter survival (% surviving 1st to 2nd parity) from calf birth records.
Daughter Milk	1. On farm and mart weaning weights (150-300 days old).
Other Key Traits	**Calving Difficulty%**: recorded at calving time through Animal Events. **Gestation Length Days:** Data from females with mating and calving dates recorded through Animal Events. **Docility:** Docility recorded through Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme (SCWS) by farmer and docility recorded by linear scorers.
Reliability %	An indication of how much confidence can be placed in the evaluations.
NA	€uro-Star Indexes are sometimes not available due to the reliability % for that index being too low.
GROW Charts	**GROW** (Genetic Recording of Weanlings) bar graphs show how an animal is expected to breed for various traits.
BLUP Figures	BLUP composite figures compress the individual scored traits into muscle, skeletal and functional composite figures.
€uro – Stars ★★★★★	5 Stars = Top 20% of the Breed. 4 Stars = Between Top 40% & Top 20% of the Breed. 3 Stars = Breed Average. 2 Stars = Between Bottom 40% & Bottom 20% of the Breed. 1 Star = Bottom 20% of the Breed.

€uro-Star Indexes and their relationship with farm profit.

Background.
The availability of SBV beef indexes, sub-indexes and individual trait genetic information is still a relatively new development for Irish pedigree breeders and commercial farmers. However, the ICBF database is a powerful resource that is now providing vast amounts of objective information which will help to rapidly increase the reliability of these indexes in the coming years. The introduction of the AWRBS or more commonly known as the Suckler cow welfare scheme (SCWS) has had a tremendous impact on the amount of useable information that is now been returned to the database. In particular the amount of useful carcass information has seen a rapid increase in the last 2-3 years. Much of this is due to increased sire identification, from less than 15% in 2007 to 80-90% in the subsequent 3 years. The majority of the extra information available is from crossbred commercial animals so the industry is fortunate to have in place an across breed evaluation which uses all this crossbred information and also allows breeds to be compared within and against each other.

In the next section of this publication, we will describe the amount of information per trait and per breed from the August 2010 evaluation *(see Breed Fact Sheets)*. The breed with the largest amount of calving information is the Charolais followed by the Limousin, Angus, Hereford, Belgian Blue and Simmental with a large proportion of Hereford and Angus information coming from the dairy herd. The Charolais is also the breed with the most weaning weight, liveweight and mart price per kg information in the evaluations. These three sources of information come mainly from livestock marts. The Angus breed has the most carcass information available. However 64% of the 125,570 records came from dairy herds compared to only 14% of the 102,390 carcass records from Charolais sired animals coming from dairy herds. So the majority of Charolais carcass information is from Irish Suckler herds. In terms of linear scored animals the 3 breeds traditionally focused on linear scoring were the Limousin, Charolais and Simmental and hence these 3 make up the majority of scores available for analysis. Looking at the maternal traits it is obvious that the numbers of records available for maternal traits is much smaller relative to calving and beef performance related traits. Increasing the level of information for these traits is the big challenge in the next few years.

€uro-star Suckler Beef Value (SBV)
The SBV combines all of the indexes for both terminal and maternal characteristics into an overall profit index. The SBV is weighted for each of the sub-indexes in line with the average percentage of animals born from a sire which end up in the various segments i.e. based on the percentage of animals which are either 1) sold for export (15%), 2) slaughtered in Ireland (62%) or 3) end up as replacements back in the Suckler herds (23%). However some sires are used specifically and almost exclusively for certain markets such as the export market or the Irish finishing market and therefore the purchaser will want to choose a sire to transmit the traits which will deliver profit in these markets. Nevertheless, it is important to note that failure to take cognisance of calving difficulty and maternal traits could result in a significant deterioration in these traits over time, if an antagonistic relationship exists between these traits and growth or muscle traits. This in turn will affect overall farm profit through increased costs of production. Traits like growth rate, weight and conformation are highly heritable and change can take place rapidly. Traits like maternal milk and fertility however are less heritable and require more time to make improvements but nonetheless the importance of these traits at farm level justifies their inclusion in the overall index. The widespread use of genetic indexes and a breeding programme based on these indexes will increase gain in economically important traits and ultimately profitability on suckler farms.

The introduction of new indexes can often fail to capture the imagination of breeders and farmers as the link between the index and profitability has not been proven. AI bulls will often have a good deal of information through their progeny and a farmer is likely to pick a bull based on the available indexes as he rarely gets to see the AI bull in the flesh. However, farmers who use stock bulls will more often buy a bull based on how the bull looks with scant regard to any performance related information. However, more often than not what looks to be a very good bull at a sale turns out to breed average or poor progeny. The €uro-Star indexes try to assess objectively how good a bull will be at breeding progeny based on what kind of progeny his sire and his dam bred. It tries to use all available information on the performance of the animal itself (weaning weight, linear scores etc) and the performance of its relatives (sire, dam, siblings etc) to build up a picture of how good the bull is likely to breed himself. Information is now available on the merits of using the €uro-Star indexes to boost profit on commercial farms. A recent analysis of 10,783 weanlings sold in the months of August, September and October 2009, through marts involved in the ICBF database performance has indicated that 5 star weanlings command €175 more at the time of sale, when compared with 1 star weanling's (Table 2). The higher prices were due to a combination of both better weight gain (an additional 60 kg at the point of sale) and better quality (an additional 25 cents/kg), resulting in much higher overall returns for farmers. These are remarkable differences and indicate the profit potential that can be generated from better beef breeding.

Looking more closely at data from Table 1 indicates little difference in age at sale between the various groups of animals (on average all animals were sold at 225 days), but large difference in both weight and price at sale. Furthermore the differences were consistent for both male and female weanlings, indicating that buyers will pay for weight and quality, regardless of the sex of the animal. Another interesting point to note from Table 1 is the fact that the differences were fairly consistent across all star categories, with a steady increase in weight and price at sale, as the star rating of the animal increased.

Table 1. Summary of weanling performance, based on €uro-Star ratings within commercial animals.

Sex	Data	1 star	2 star	3 star	4 star	5 star
Male Weanlings	Age at sale (days)	226	226	222	225	226
	Weight at sale (kg)	294	309	319	333	354
	Price (€/animal)	€485.0	€534.8	€570.4	€604.8	€669.5
	Price (€/kg)	€1.65	€1.74	€1.79	€1.82	€1.89
	Average SBV	€20.1	€43.1	€58.5	€74.2	€99.4
Female Weanlings	Age at sale (days)	227	227	226	226	231
	Weight at sale (kg)	258	276	282	295	316
	Price (€/animal)	€377.6	€424.3	€446.8	€467.9	€543.4
	Price (€/kg)	€1.46	€1.61	€1.58	€1.59	€1.72
	Average SBV	€21.3	€43.1	€58.6	€74.0	€98.8

Another analysis looked at slaughter records from the ICBF database, for animals that met the following criterion; (i) slaughtered during February 2010, (ii) were progeny from the Suckler herd, (iii) had a known sire, and (iv) were less than 30 months at the time of slaughter (for steers, bulls & heifers). From an initial slaughter extract of over 120k record, this resulted in some 24,731 records for analysis. ICBF expects this figure to improve considerably over the coming months, as the impact of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme becomes more apparent (i.e., the scheme was first launched in January 2008, with the first animals only now being slaughtered from the scheme).

So how did the 5 star animals compare with the 1 star animals based on slaughter performance? Looking at data from Table 2 indicates that across each category of animal (steers, young bulls, heifers and cows), 5 star animals commanded premiums of €136, €94, €106 and €186

respectively, resulting in an overall premium for 5 star animals of €131 for each of the 4 groups. Across 20 animals (the average size of our National beef herd), this represents an overall gain of €2,620/year.

Table 2. Summary of slaughter performance, based on €uro-Star ratings.

Category	Criterion	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS
STEERS	Carcass weight (kg)	354.3	375.4	382.4	386.5	396.7
	Price/kg	€2.86	€2.88	€2.89	€2.90	€2.90
	Carcass value	€1,016	€1,085	€1,109	€1,123	€1,152
	Age at slaughter (mths)	23.1	23.1	23.1	23.2	23.3
	Suckler Beef Value	€19	€42	€58	€74	€99
YOUNG BULLS	Carcass weight (kg)	393.2	403.3	409.5	417.2	423.8
	Price/kg	€2.89	€2.90	€2.90	€2.91	€2.91
	Carcass value	€1,138	€1,171	€1,190	€1,215	€1,232
	Age at slaughter (mths)	21.7	21.8	21.8	21.7	21.6
	Suckler Beef Value	€21	€42	€58	€74	€100
HEIFERS	Carcass weight (kg)	293.3	305	310.1	316.8	324.7
	Price/kg	€2.89	€2.92	€2.92	€2.93	€2.94
	Carcass value	€850	€892	€909	€931	€956
	Age at slaughter (mths)	22.4	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.8
	Suckler Beef Value	€20	€42	€58	€74	€98
COWS	Carcass weight (kg)	342.4	358.4	372	385.7	402
	Price/kg	€2.34	€2.38	€2.41	€2.43	€2.46
	Carcass value	€807	€859	€901	€941	€993
	Age at slaughter (mths)	99.7	91.6	89.3	83.5	80.4
	Suckler Beef Value	€17	€42	€59	€74	€104

Looking more closely at data from Table 2 indicates that most of the differences in performance were due to weight for age, with the 5 star animals being slaughtered at heavier weights (+41 kg), and similar slaughter ages. In addition, there were some differences in carcass quality, with the 5 star animals commanding a 6 cent/kg premium across each of the four categories of animals. Similar work by Teagasc Grange in 2009 showed that increasing the Beef Carcass subindex increased carcass weight and conformation and decreased carcass fat, but had no effect on weaning weight or dry matter intake. The study showed that for each extra 1kg difference in the genetic merit for carcass it resulted in a 1.3kg more carcass weight at slaughter.

While it has been shown that selection on the beef and weanling sub-indexes clearly shows a profit, more work needs to be done to focus on the benefits of improving the maternal traits in the suckler herd. Milk and fertility are key profit drivers on suckler farms but are often ignored in the pursuit of very high value weanlings. The result is that some of these weanling heifers go on to become replacements although they are utterly unsuited to the job. Ideally farmers should have a bull selected specifically for breeding replacements or use an AI bull with proven maternal traits on some cows for breeding future replacements. While the information on milk through maternal weaning weights is low, it is improving all the time. Farmers should look closely at the milk and fertility indexes when choosing an AI or a stock bull with the intention of keeping replacements.

Genetic Trends

Genetic trends by year of birth for various profit indexes and traits give an indication as to the direction the breed is moving in as a result of selection decisions made by all facets related to that breed i.e. AI companies, herdbooks, pedigree breeders and commercial purchasers. Table 3 below gives an indication as to the number of pedigree animals from each breed in the genetic trend comparisons below. As expected the larger breeds (Charolais and Limousin) have many more animals compared to breeds such as the Belgian Blue.

Table 3. Numbers of pedigree males and females with indexes in each breed for the 6 numerically most prevalent breeds used to determine genetic trends (see relevant section).

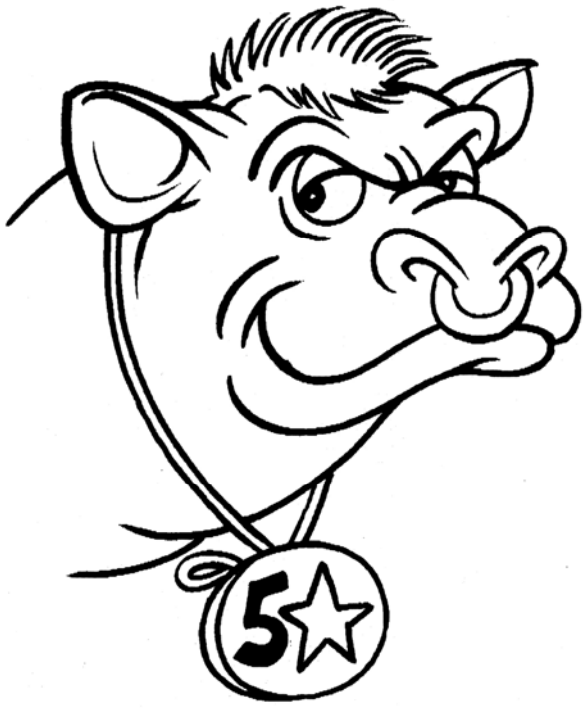
Birth year	CH	LM	SI	AA	HE	BB
2000	10,074	5,646	5,065	2,865	2,769	638
2001	11,182	6,306	4,959	3,043	2,604	720
2002	11,583	6,926	4,698	3,191	2,598	547
2003	10,800	7,317	4,554	3,415	2,605	354
2004	11,815	8,267	5,373	3,854	3,123	424
2005	11,895	9,077	4,927	4,518	3,293	383
2006	11,797	9,831	4,046	5,043	3,523	466
2007	11,425	10,155	3,923	4,124	3,521	540
2008	14,751	13,076	4,446	5,783	4,174	705
2009	12,460	11,527	3,505	4,635	3,861	603

Looking at the genetic trends in SBV there is a small but steady improvement in overall SBV in each of the 6 numerically predominant breeds (See Genetic Trends Section from within this publication). All the breeds seem to have improved mainly in the beef performance traits when assessed by examining the Weanling Export, Beef Carcass, BLUP Muscle and Skeletal indexes. However for some of the breeds this improvement seems to have come at the cost of some deterioration in another trait such as calving difficulty and functionality in the Belgian Blue and milkability in the case of the Charolais. It is very important when choosing selection candidates for the next generation that cognisance is taken of these less obvious traits such as calving difficulty and milk and fertility. Progress can still be made in the terminal traits while at the same time halting the decline in the maternal traits. One point to note about the comparisons above is the large difference in the number of animals compared for each of the breeds with 20 times more pedigree male and female selection candidates available in the Charolais breed compared to the Belgian Blue breed. The luxury of a larger population base to select from is that there are better odds of identifying more superior animals each generation to make genetic progress. Nevertheless there still remains large differences in profit/progeny within all of the main beef breeds (*see breed fact sheets*), amounting to some €100 per animal.

Conclusions

The €uro-Star indexes are proving to be an effective tool to increase the profitability of commercial beef farmers whether the farmer is selling weanlings, or finishing cattle for slaughter as is evident in the mart and factory comparisons above. The improvement in reliability for the maternal traits is the next big challenge but hopefully the additional sire recording on the current generation of commercial suckler replacements will help to address the low level of data available. Trials such as the Grange suckler trial will be important in helping to validate these maternal traits. Enhancement and refinements will continue to be made as more data and traits become available, and the economic values will be routinely assessed to ensure their validity into the future. It is important that farmers and breeders use these figures as much as possible to help their breeding decisions. In reality a farmer should use the €uro-Stars to help him select a bull for superior weanlings and visual assessment to ensure the bull is functional and has no obvious defects so he will last in the herd for a long time. If the bull has been linear scored then the Functional Index and individual feet and leg traits will also provide independent additional information on correctness of feet and locomotion.

Individual Breed Fact Sheets.



Breed Fact Sheet: Angus

- First imported into Ireland from Great Britain in 1843.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Angus.	237,400
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Angus.	125,657
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Angus (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	35,575

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Data – Irish Angus & Aberdeen Angus Herdbooks*.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	2,328
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	7,071

** Live cows on ICBF database (and in either herdbook) with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	446,036	3.9%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	84,094	283.4
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean=228 days*	5,760	275.2
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale=227 days.*	2,761	154.4
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15)	2,794	7.3
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter=757 days. 60% of carcasses from dairy dams.*	147,367	306.7
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	147,367	O+
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	147,367	3+
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	227	10.2
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	23,663	29.2
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	14,665	390.8
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	20,075	82.0%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	3,131	299.6
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	10,810	206.0

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	-€17	€5	€15	€34	€53	€65	€92
Calving	-€1	€5	€6	€9	€11	€12	€15
Weanling Export	-€30	-€21	-€17	-€9	€1	€6	€20
Beef Carcass	-€44	-€27	-€19	-€5	€7	€14	€33
Daughter Fertility	€8	€29	€39	€56	€73	€81	€102
Daughter Milk	€36	€70	€79	€92	€105	€114	€139

** Based on 17,740 pedigree Angus animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Aubrac

- First imported into Ireland from France in 1992.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Aubrac.	4,858
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Aubrac.	2,045
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Aubrac (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	1,232

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Aubrac Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	581
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	1,231

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	12,422	3.6%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	524	285.6
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean=231 days*	923	292.3
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale=221 days*	139	151.8
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15)	1,193	7.9
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter=691 days & 24% records from dairy dams.*	2,437	338.7
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	2,437	R
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	2,437	3
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	45	8.9
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	1,333	32.7
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	878	391.6
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	1,077	87.1%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	613	292.8
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	227	240.6

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	€14	€45	€55	€74	€91	€100	€126
Calving	-€16	-€3	-€1	€2	€4	€5	€10
Weanling Export	€2	€15	€20	€29	€37	€41	€54
Beef Carcass	€12	€33	€39	€51	€64	€72	€91
Daughter Fertility	€43	€66	€75	€90	€107	€117	€146
Daughter Milk	-€73	-€60	-€56	-€47	-€37	-€31	-€4

Based on 2627 Aubrac animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.

Breed Fact Sheet: Blonde d'Aquitaine

- First imported into Ireland from France in 1974.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Blonde d'Aquitaine.	10,709
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Blonde d'Aquitaine.	8,201
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam are Blonde d'Aquitaine. (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	2,216

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Blonde d'Aquitaine Breed Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	337
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	1,002

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	28,881	4.5%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	1,424	290.7
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean=228 days*	1,892	302.5
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale=230 days*	820	183.1
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	1,196	7.9
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter=674 days & 21% carcass records from dairy dams.*	5,309	366.5
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	5,309	R+
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	5,309	3-
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	97	8.9
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	2,397	30.4
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	1,285	406.2
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	1,751	78.9%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	533	287.1
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	480	294.9

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	-€7	€23	€34	€53	€72	€83	€110
Calving	-€29	-€21	-€17	-€13	-€9	-€8	-€4
Weanling Export	€23	€40	€45	€53	€61	€65	€77
Beef Carcass	€42	€71	€81	€99	€113	€122	€145
Daughter Fertility	-€108	-€76	-€62	-€38	-€20	-€12	€14
Daughter Milk	-€131	-€112	-€107	-€98	-€88	-€80	-€41

** Based on 1,963 Blonde d'Aquitaine animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Belgian Blue

- First imported into Ireland from Belguim in 1980.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Belgian Blue.	80,127
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Belgian Blue.	52,562
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Belgian Blue (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	7,031

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Belgian Blue Cattle Breeding Socie

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	607
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	762

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	177,456	8.0%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	43,437	284.5
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean=230 kg*	12,761	320.9
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale=229 days*	8,076	196.4
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	4,851	8.6
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter=769 days & 30% carcass records from dairy dams.*	51,527	350.7
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	51,527	R
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	51,527	3
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	83	8.8
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	11,738	28.9
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	7,152	398.8
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	10,052	79.7%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	2,308	317.3
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	5,608	260.0

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	€21	€70	€83	€104	€124	€135	€171
Calving	-€56	-€43	-€36	-€20	-€11	-€7	€3
Weanling Export	€45	€67	€74	€87	€99	€105	€121
Beef Carcass	€63	€97	€110	€131	€151	€160	€177
Daughter Fertility	-€103	-€73	-€60	-€37	-€19	-€12	€2
Daughter Milk	-€6	€0	€4	€25	€35	€40	€57

** Based on 2400 Belgian Blue animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Charolais

- First imported into Ireland from France in 1964.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Charolais.	404,540
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Charolais.	241,841
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Charolais (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	145,173

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Charolais Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	9,000
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	23,367

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	831,848	4.8%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	23,642	288.4
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean=225 days.*	71,466	316.2
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale=224 days.*	39,206	183.4
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	42,608	8.5
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 693 days & 14% carcass records from dairy dams.*	154,963	366.0
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	154,963	R+
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	154,963	3
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	850	9.6
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	31,374	30.2
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	18,107	400.1
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	24,901	81.0%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	20,462	322.1
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	12,627	299.8

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	€30	€61	€74	€96	€116	€126	€156
Calving	-€38	-€25	-€21	-€16	-€12	-€9	-€4
Weanling Export	€40	€57	€63	€75	€85	€91	€107
Beef Carcass	€65	€91	€101	€119	€136	€144	€166
Daughter Fertility	-€80	-€52	-€40	-€16	€7	€20	€50
Daughter Milk	-€115	-€99	-€91	-€75	-€57	-€45	-€1

** Based on 47,615 Charolais animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Hereford

- First imported into Ireland from Great Britain in 1775.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Hereford.	152,141
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Hereford.	109,360
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Hereford (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	20,696

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382. Based on data from AIM statistics repo*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Hereford Breed Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	3,278
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	6,494

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	219,742	4.3%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	33,489	286.0
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean= 229 days.*	3,208	280.4
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale= 224 days.*	682	152.7
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	2,997	7.8
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 769 days & 62 % carcass records from dairy dams.*	71,731	310.5
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	71,731	O+
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	71,731	3+
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	163	10.0
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	13,826	29.8
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	8,553	388.6
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	11,707	81.9%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	2,181	294.0
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	5,842	206.7

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	-€9	€15	€25	€42	€59	€69	€97
Calving	-€12	-€5	-€2	€1	€3	€5	€8
Weanling Export	-€9	€2	€6	€13	€20	€24	€36
Beef Carcass	-€34	-€17	-€10	€2	€14	€21	€40
Daughter Fertility	-€18	€18	€27	€44	€60	€70	€94
Daughter Milk	€51	€97	€101	€108	€115	€119	€131

** Based on 14,242 Hereford animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Limousin

- First imported into Ireland from France in 1972.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Limousin	395,707
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Limousin.	289,786
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Limousin (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	141,276

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Limousin Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	8,485
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	15,312

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	778,308	3.6%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	42,490	289.5
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean= 229 days.*	52,196	300.6
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale= 228 days.*	27,500	178.1
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	54,268	8.6
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 721 days & 22% carcass records from dairy dams.*	143,509	350.6
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	143,509	R
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	143,509	3
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	1,286	8.9
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	48,201	30.5
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	29,643	400.9
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	38,967	83.6%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	21,177	301.7
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	13,238	261.3

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	€23	€50	€60	€79	€99	€110	€141
Calving	-€25	-€17	-€15	-€11	-€8	-€6	-€2
Weanling Export	€14	€28	€33	€42	€52	€58	€73
Beef Carcass	€41	€62	€69	€84	€99	€106	€125
Daughter Fertility	-€77	-€40	-€28	-€9	€11	€21	€47
Daughter Milk	-€19	-€2	€1	€15	€27	€34	€52

** Based on 45,115 Limousin animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Piemontese

- First imported into Ireland from Italy in 1982

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Pietmontese.	1,528
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Pietmontese.	820
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Pietmontese (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	313

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Pietmontese Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	174
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	361

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	4,750	6.6%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	305	286.7
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean= 232 days.*	335	275.2
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale= 225 days.*	70	175.8
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	442	8.4
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 707 days & 26% carcass records from dairy dams.*	729	363.2
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	729	R+
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	729	3-
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	12	9.5
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	507	29.0
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	257	401.7
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	412	73.4%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	150	252.7
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	68	246.3

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	-€22	€27	€39	€58	€80	€92	€123
Calving	-€28	-€12	-€8	-€2	€1	€2	€6
Weanling Export	€1	€19	€23	€32	€39	€44	€56
Beef Carcass	-€6	€23	€30	€47	€65	€73	€99
Daughter Fertility	€17	€53	€69	€90	€107	€117	€142
Daughter Milk	-€84	-€62	-€58	-€51	-€44	-€25	-€17

** Based on 778 animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Parthenaise

- First imported into Ireland from France in 1997.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Parthenaise	2,682
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Parthenaise	717
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Parthenaise (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	399

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Parthenaise Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	201
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	413

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	6,989	7.1%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	394	287.5
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean= 233 days.*	389	313.1
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale= 239 days.*	128	189.0
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	344	8.8
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 666 days & 18% carcass records from dairy dams.*	822	387.5
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	822	R+
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	822	3-
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	22	10.5
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	513	32.0
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	208	407.9
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	353	70.4%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	135	296.8
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	92	313.5

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	€12	€40	€51	€73	€100	€112	€135
Calving	-€17	-€8	-€5	€0	€3	€4	€8
Weanling Export	€12	€23	€28	€37	€48	€54	€62
Beef Carcass	€10	€26	€34	€52	€74	€86	€107
Daughter Fertility	€40	€69	€77	€90	€102	€109	€131
Daughter Milk	-€75	-€62	-€58	-€49	-€38	-€31	-€3

** Based on 885 Parthenaise animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Saler

- First imported into Ireland from France in 1997.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Saler.	13,199
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Saler.	11,473
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Saler (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	3,037

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Saler Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	657
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	1,961

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	30,535	1.5%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	2,024	286.2
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean= 235 days.*	1,443	302.7
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale= 232 days.*	662	176.5
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	1,108	7.9
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 711 days & 17% carcass records from dairy dams.*	5,230	356.2
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	5,230	R
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	5,230	3
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	77	9.5
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	3,347	30.2
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	1,978	388.1
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	2,403	88.1%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	778	302.8
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	429	258.2

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	€16	€43	€52	€68	€86	€96	€125
Calving	-€3	€1	€2	€4	€6	€7	€10
Weanling Export	-€2	€11	€15	€23	€31	€35	€48
Beef Carcass	€9	€27	€34	€46	€59	€67	€87
Daughter Fertility	€43	€68	€77	€97	€117	€126	€153
Daughter Milk	-€76	-€61	-€57	-€48	-€39	-€33	-€8

** Based on 3,314 Sale animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Shorthorn

- First imported into Ireland from Great Britain in 1882.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Shorthorn.	16,842
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Shorthorn.	33,788
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Shorthorn (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	7,361

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Shorthorn Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	1,316
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	4,811

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	28,826	3.4%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	2,269	286.1
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean= 224 days.*	1,010	277.5
Weanling Price (€ cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale= 223 days.*	581	165.5
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	416	7.1
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 765 days & 19% carcass records from dairy dams.*	3,609	332.0
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	3,609	R-
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	3,609	3
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	20	10.6
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	5,590	29.8
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	3,603	388.9
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	4,564	86.9%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	1,015	292.1
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	863	207.0

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	-€15	€13	€23	€42	€61	€72	€102
Calving	-€12	-€4	-€1	€2	€4	€6	€10
Weanling Export	-€16	-€6	-€2	€6	€12	€17	€27
Beef Carcass	-€53	-€32	-€23	-€9	€5	€12	€34
Daughter Fertility	€48	€77	€88	€105	€122	€131	€155
Daughter Milk	€63	€99	€106	€116	€123	€128	€142

** Based on 5,106 Shorthorn animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Breed Fact Sheet: Simmental

- First imported into Ireland from Austria in 1971.

Table 1. National Birth Registrations Data (2009)*

	Records
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire of calf is Simmental.	82,744
Number of 2009 calf births, where dam of calf is Simmental.	133,621
Number of 2009 calf births, where sire & dam of calf are Simmental (i.e., ¾ bred or more)	26,256

** Total calf births in Ireland in 2009 = 2,035,382.*

** Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, AIM Statistics Report 2009.*

Table 2. Herdbook Registration Data – Irish Simmental Cattle Society.

	Records
Number of 2009 pedigree calf births	2,232
Number of "active" pedigree females in ICBF database*	7,133

** Live cows on ICBF database with 1 or more calving since 1st January 2008.*

Table 3. ICBF Performance Data (based on records in €uro-Star evaluations).

	Records	**Mean**
Calving Traits.		
Calving Difficulty (% calving's scored 3 or 4)	166,126	4.2%
Gestation Length (days from insemination to birth)	11,689	288.1
Beef Performance Traits.		
Weaning Weight (Kg); *Ave age@wean= 228 days.*	13,219	323.1
Weanling Price (Cents/Kg); *Ave age@wean sale= 227 days.*	4,151	168.3
Linear Score - Loin Development (1-15).	11,985	8.5
Carcass Weight Kg (Cold); *Ave age@slaughter= 720 days & 27% carcass records from dairy dams.*	39,316	348.4
Carcass Grade (EUROP)	39,316	R
Carcass Fat Score (1-5)	39,316	3
Feed Intake (Kg/DM/Day on Performance Test).	936	9.8
Maternal Traits.		
Age at first Calving (Months)	20,013	29.2
Calving Interval (Interval in days between 1st & 2nd Parity).	12,112	393.0
Cow Survival (% Females Surviving from 1st & 2nd Parity)	16,070	84.3%
Maternal Weaning Weight Kg (150-300 days)	8,459	327.9
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	4,135	250.1

Table 4. ICBF Genetic Index Data*

Indexes & Sub-Indexes.	**Btm 1%**	**Btm 10%**	**Btm 20% (1 star)**	**Mean (3 stars)**	**Top 20% (5 stars)**	**Top 10%**	**Top 1%**
Suckler Beef Value	€41	€57	€64	€106	€138	€153	€188
Calving	-€23	-€14	-€11	-€6	€5	€7	€11
Weanling Export	€7	€15	€20	€45	€57	€64	€83
Beef Carcass	€3	€15	€21	€64	€86	€97	€121
Daughter Fertility	-€1	€25	€34	€50	€70	€82	€107
Daughter Milk	€0	€40	€52	€98	€117	€126	€148

** Based on 16,201 animals born since 1st January 2006 & with €uro-Star Index data.*

Genetic Trends for Main Beef Breeds.

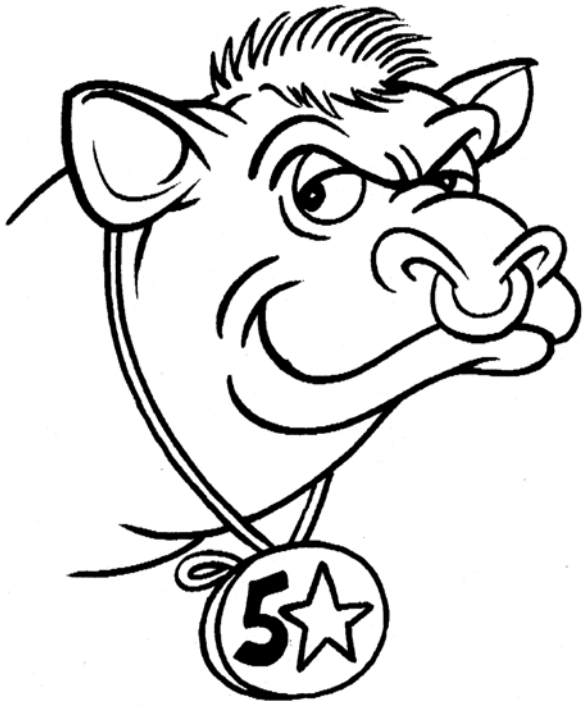


Figure 1. Genetic Trends for Suckler Beef Value (€) for Main Beef Breeds.

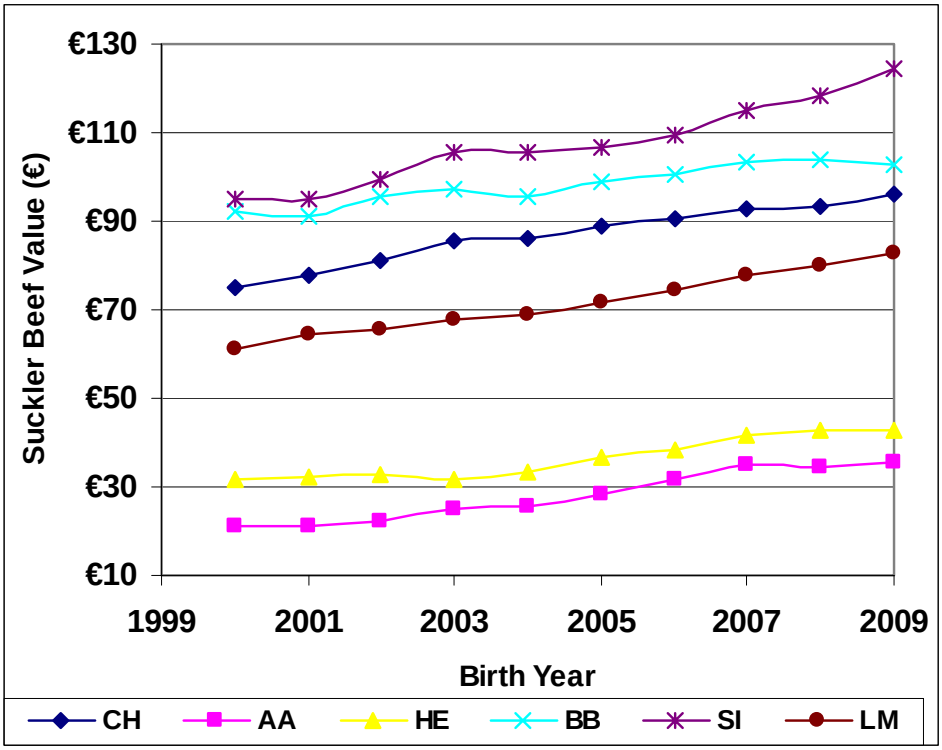


Figure 2. Genetic Trends for Weanling Export Value (€) for Main Beef Breeds.

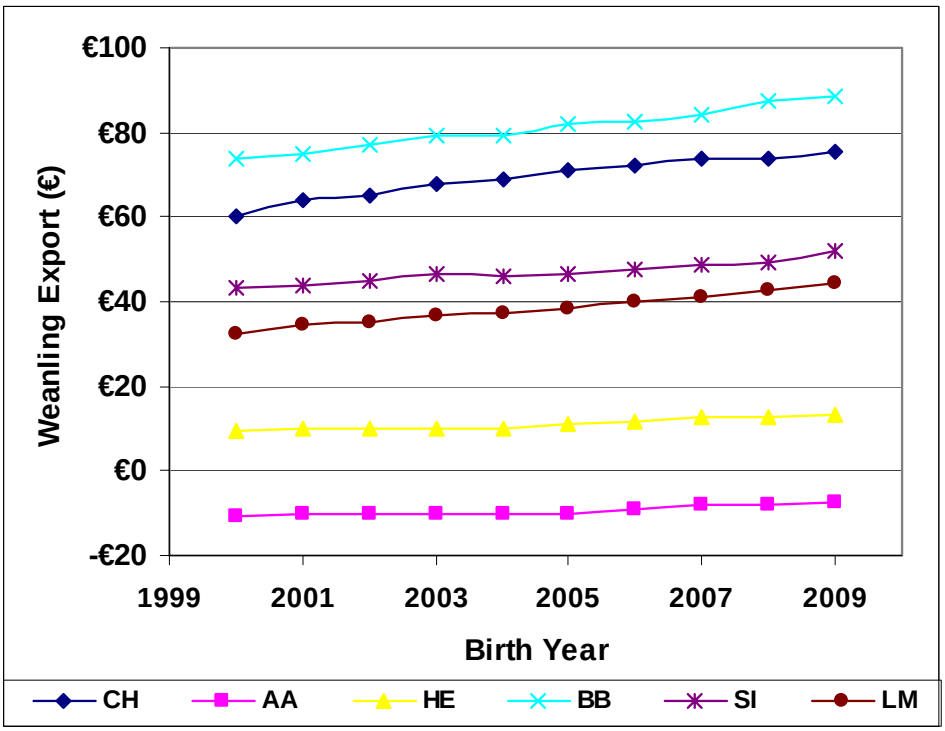


Figure 3. Genetic Trends for Beef Carcass Value (€) for Main Beef Breeds.

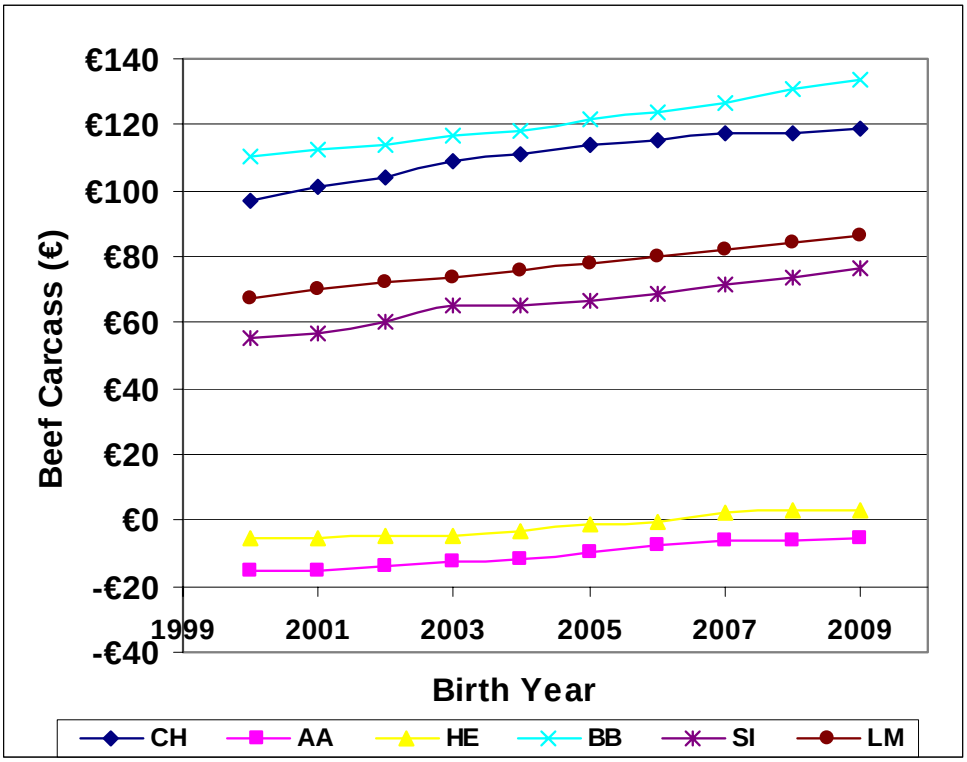


Figure 4. Genetic Trends for Daughter Fertility Value (€) for Main Beef Breeds.

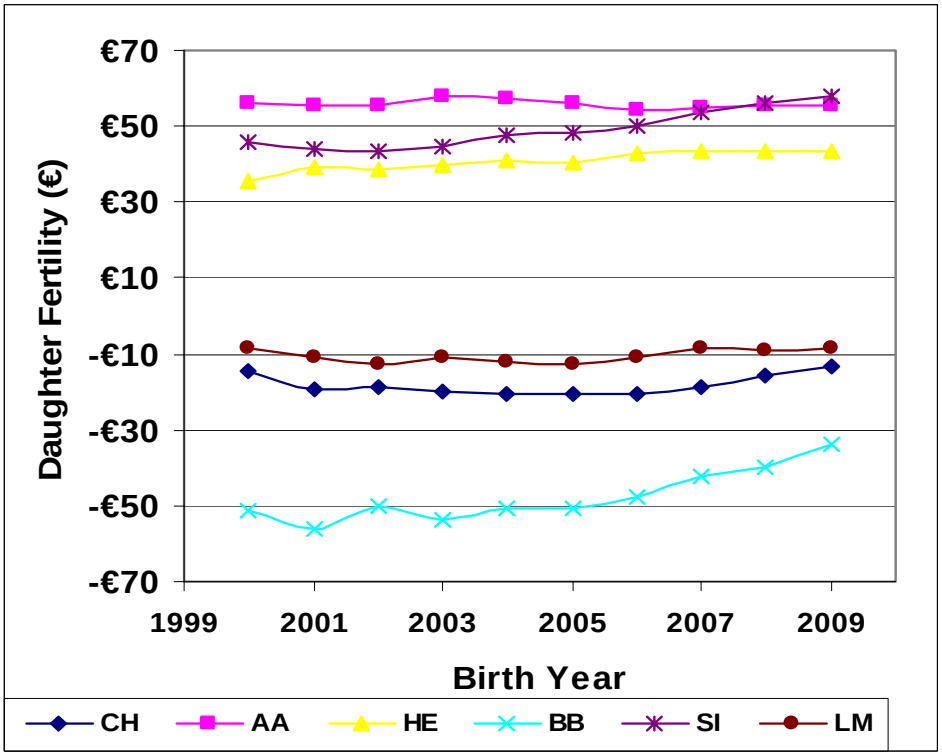


Figure 5. Genetic Trends for Daughter Milk Value (€) for Main Beef Breeds.

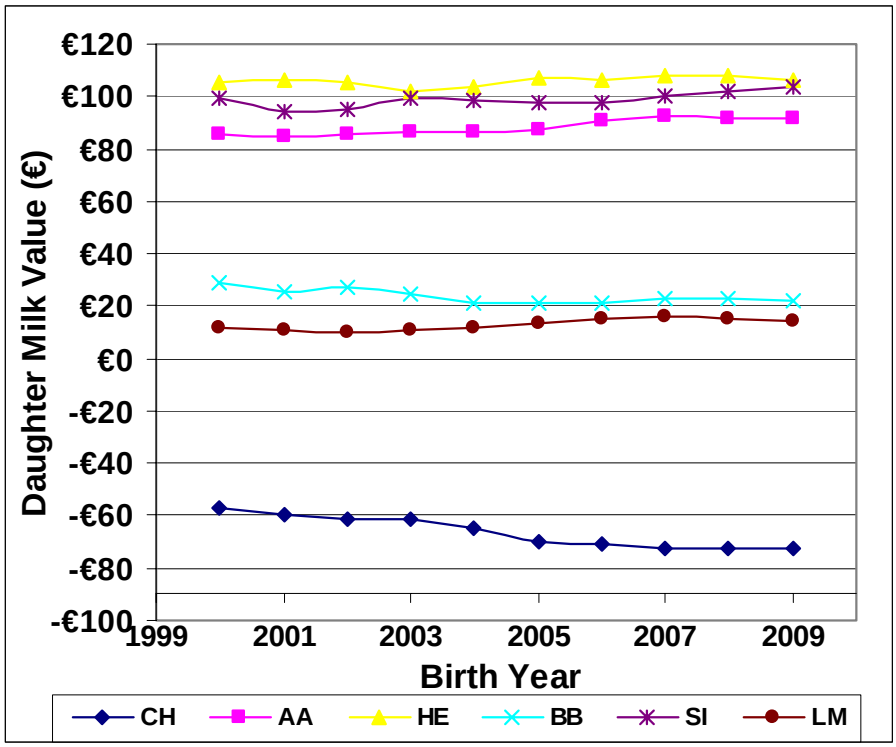


Figure 6. Genetic Trends for Calving Difficulty (%) for Main Beef Breeds.

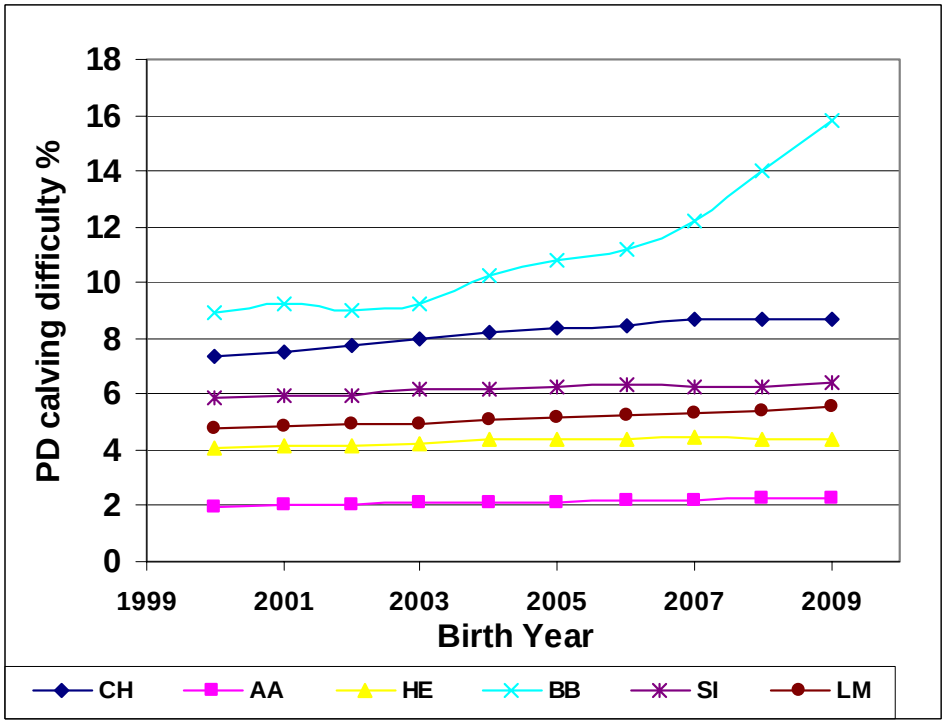


Figure 7. Genetic Trends for BLUP Muscle for Main Beef Breeds.

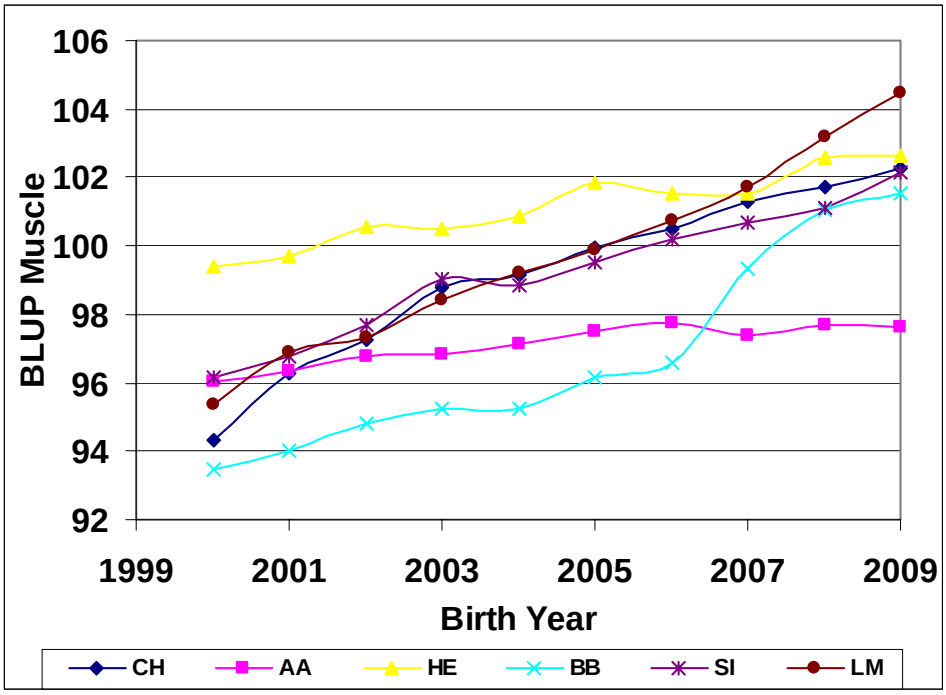


Figure 8. Genetic Trends for BLUP Skeletal for Main Beef Breeds.

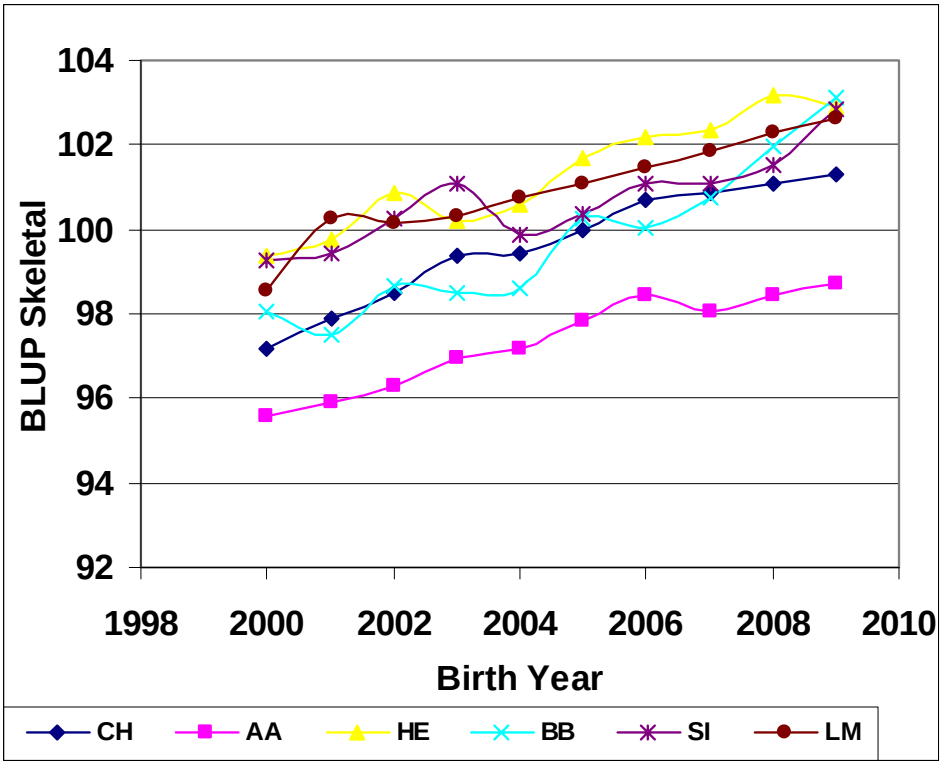
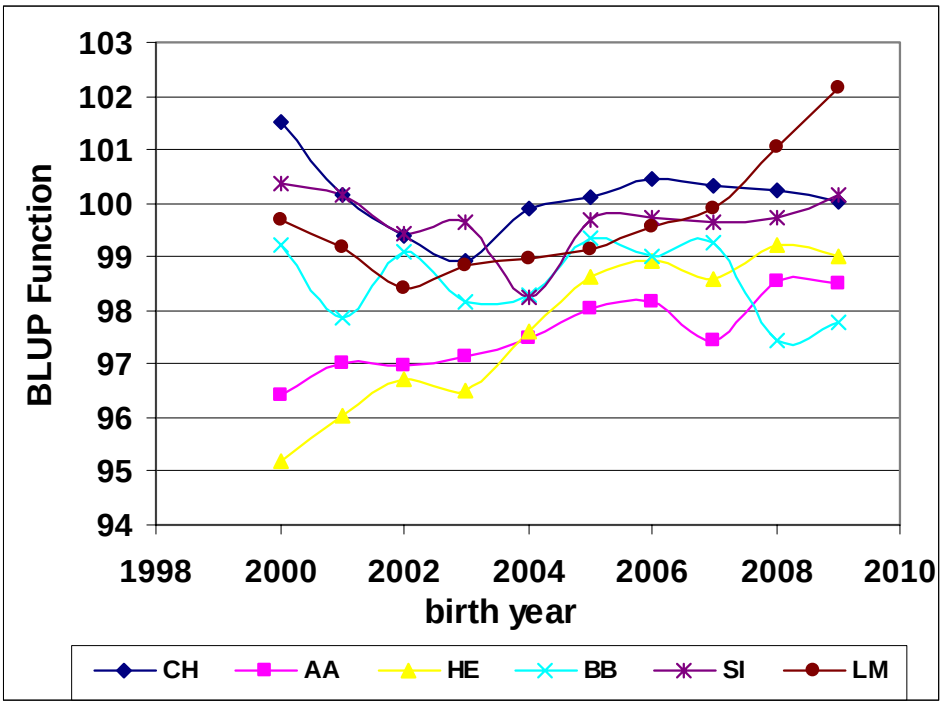
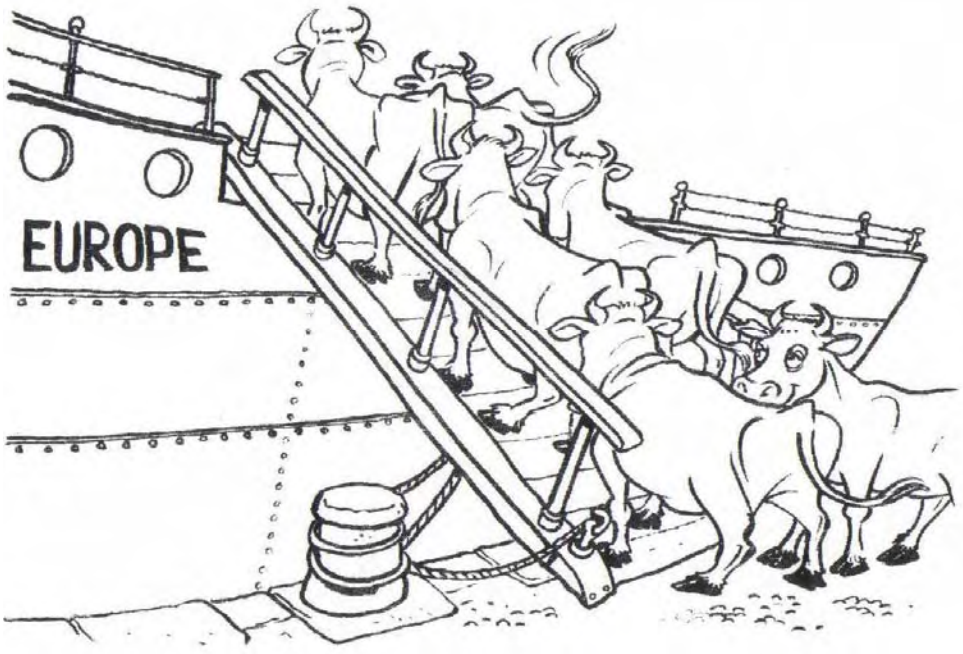


Figure 9. Genetic Trends for BLUP Functionality for Main Beef Breeds.





New €uro-Star Catalogue Service Launched

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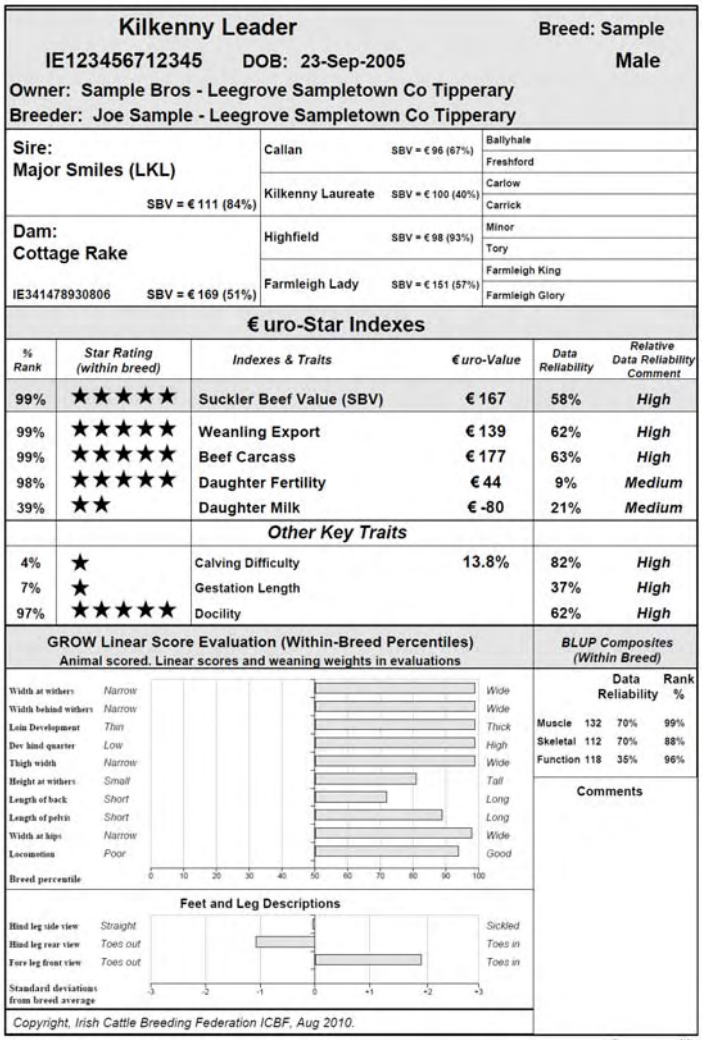

Kilkenny Leader — **Breed: Sample**

IE123456712345 DOB: 23-Sep-2005 — **Male**

Owner: Sample Bros - Leegrove Sampletown Co Tipperary

Breeder: Joe Sample - Leegrove Sampletown Co Tipperary

Sire: Major Smiles (LKL) SBV = € 111 (84%)	Callan	SBV = € 96 (67%)	Ballyhale	Freshford
	Kilkenny Laureate	SBV = € 100 (40%)	Carlow	Carrick
Dam: Cottage Rake IE341478930806 SBV = € 169 (51%)	Highfield	SBV = € 98 (93%)	Minor	Tory
	Farmleigh Lady	SBV = € 151 (57%)	Farmleigh King	Farmleigh Glory

€ uro-Star Indexes

% Rank	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	€ uro-Value	Data Reliability	Relative Data Reliability Comment
99%	★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€ 167	58%	High
99%	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€ 139	62%	High
99%	★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€ 177	63%	High
98%	★★★★★	Daughter Fertility	€ 44	9%	Medium
39%	★★	Daughter Milk	€ -80	21%	Medium
		Other Key Traits			
4%	★	Calving Difficulty	13.8%	82%	High
7%	★	Gestation Length		37%	High
97%	★★★★★	Docility		62%	High

GROW Linear Score Evaluation (Within-Breed Percentiles)

Animal scored. Linear scores and weaning weights in evaluations

Width at withers	Narrow	Wide
Width behind withers	Narrow	Wide
Loin Development	Thin	Thick
Dev hind quarter	Low	High
Thigh width	Narrow	Wide
Height at withers	Small	Tall
Length of back	Short	Long
Length of pelvis	Short	Long
Width at hips	Narrow	Wide
Locomotion	Poor	Good

Breed percentile: 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Feet and Leg Descriptions

Hind leg side view	Straight	Sickled
Hind leg rear view	Toes out	Toes in
Fore leg front view	Toes out	Toes in

Standard deviations from breed average: -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

BLUP Composites (Within Breed)

		Data Reliability	Rank %
Muscle	132	70%	99%
Skeletal	112	70%	88%
Function	118	35%	96%

Comments

For more information, contact your herd-book office, your herd-book website or www.icbf.com (1850-600-900)

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