



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

# GENE IRELAND® - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

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# Content

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- **Why are we meeting**
- **Past to present – EBI trends**
- **Genetic gain - every generation is better**
- **What is GENE IRELAND®**
- **Who benefits**
- **What does it cost and who pays**

# Why are we meeting?

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World class cattle breeding requires:

- ❖ Database ☺
- ❖ Genetic Evaluation ☺
- ❖ Breeding scheme ?

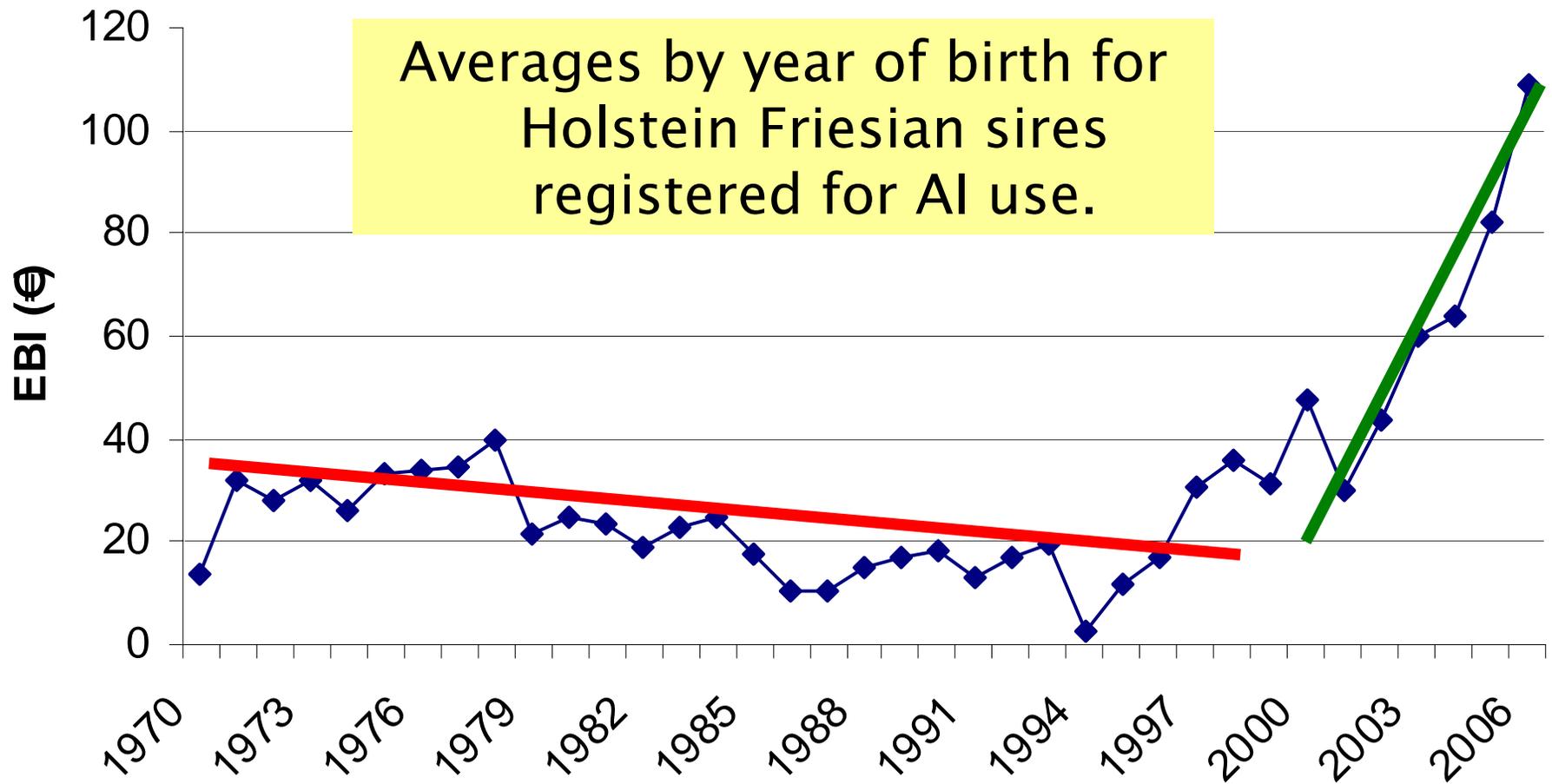
**GENEIRELAND®**

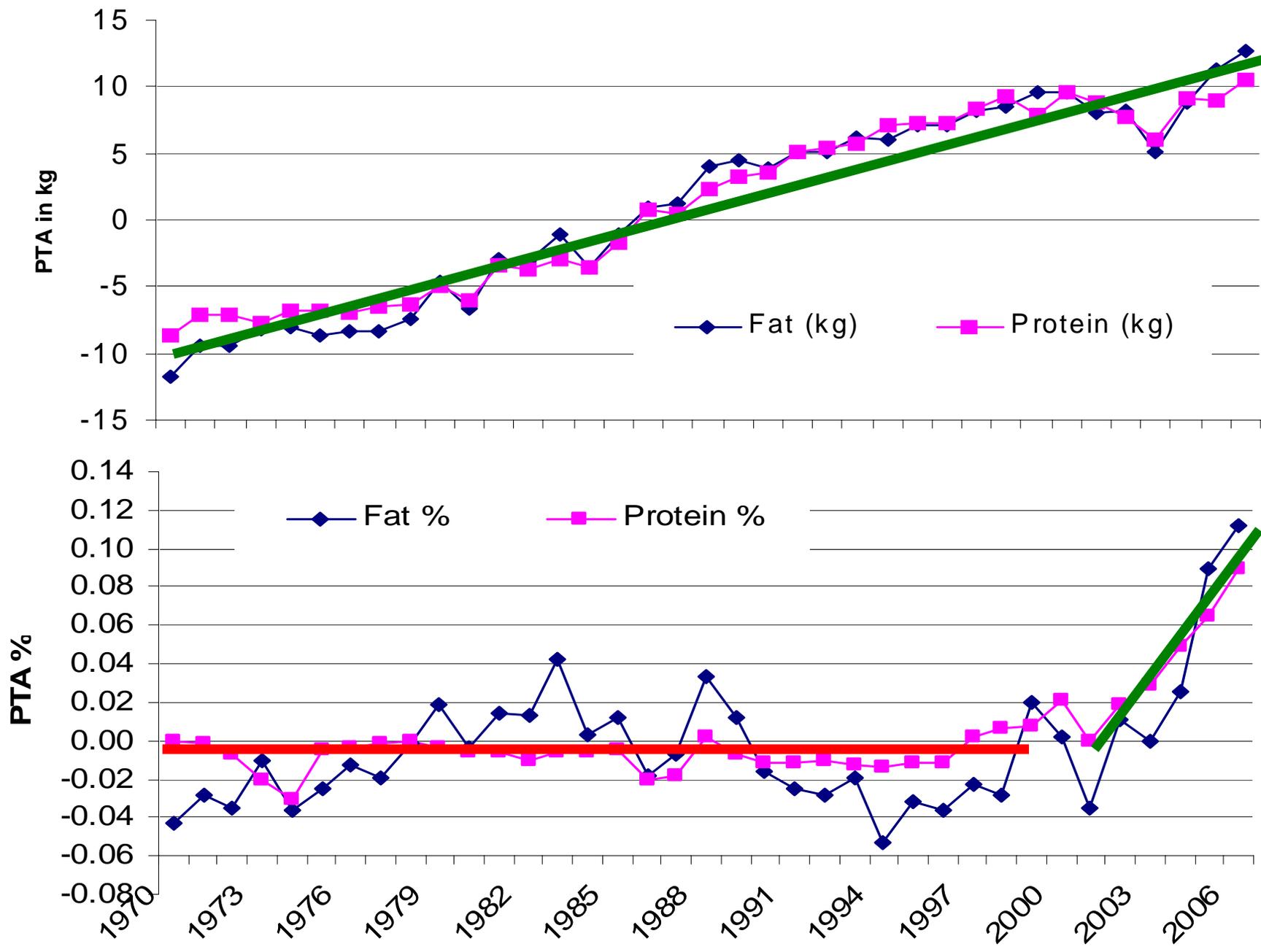
# Three Key Issues

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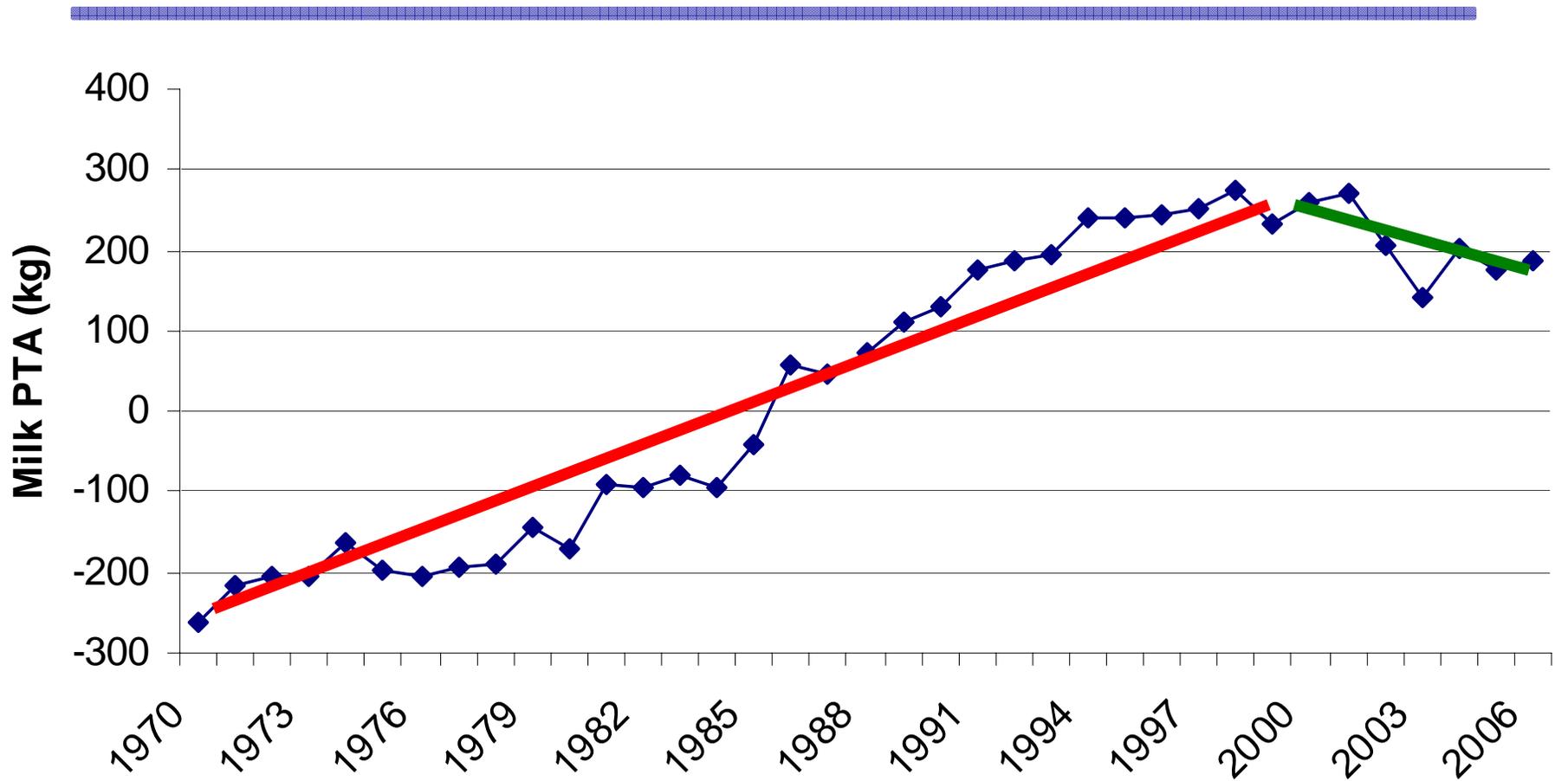
- Increase progeny test herds - 1,200
- Increase EBI of test bulls
- Establish funding for future

# Genetic Trends

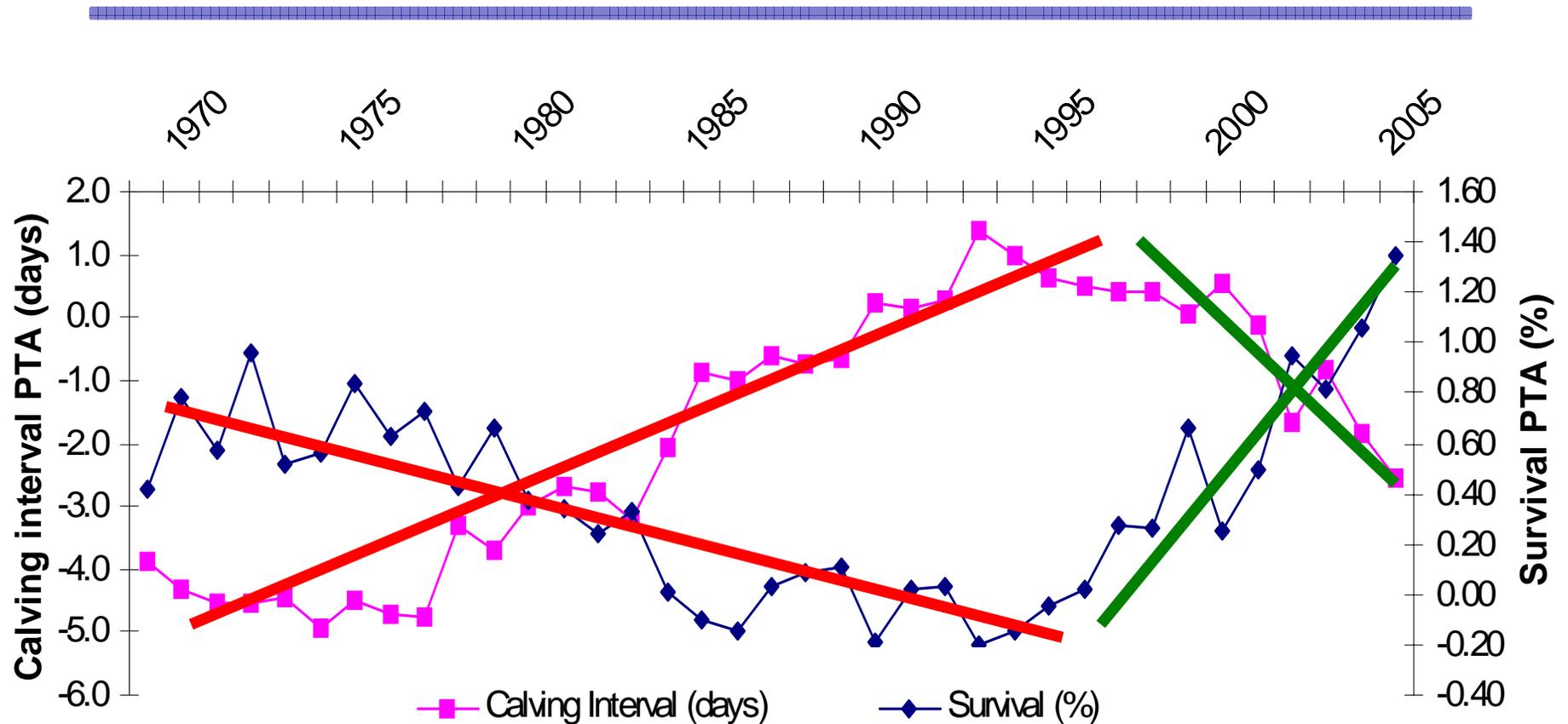


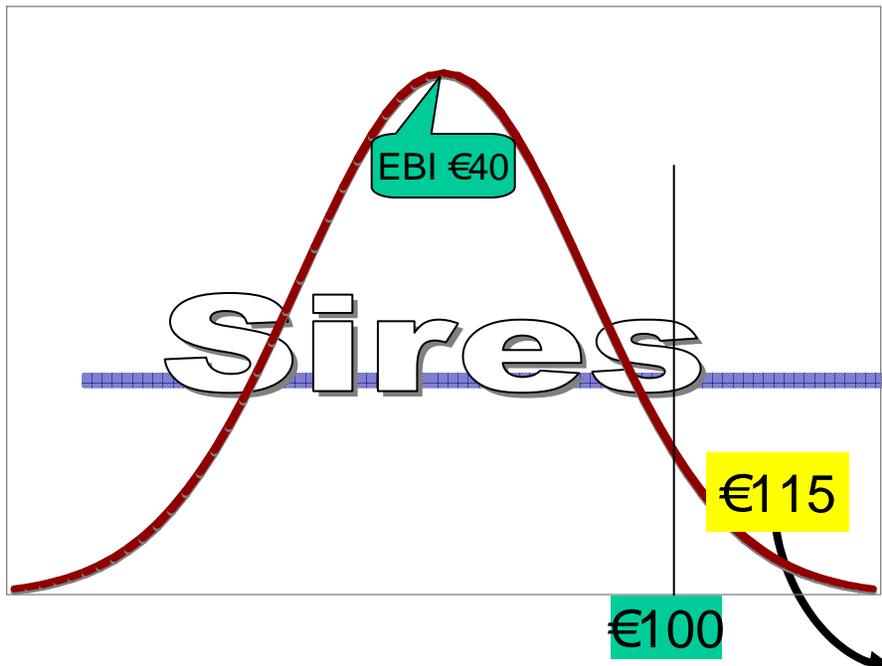


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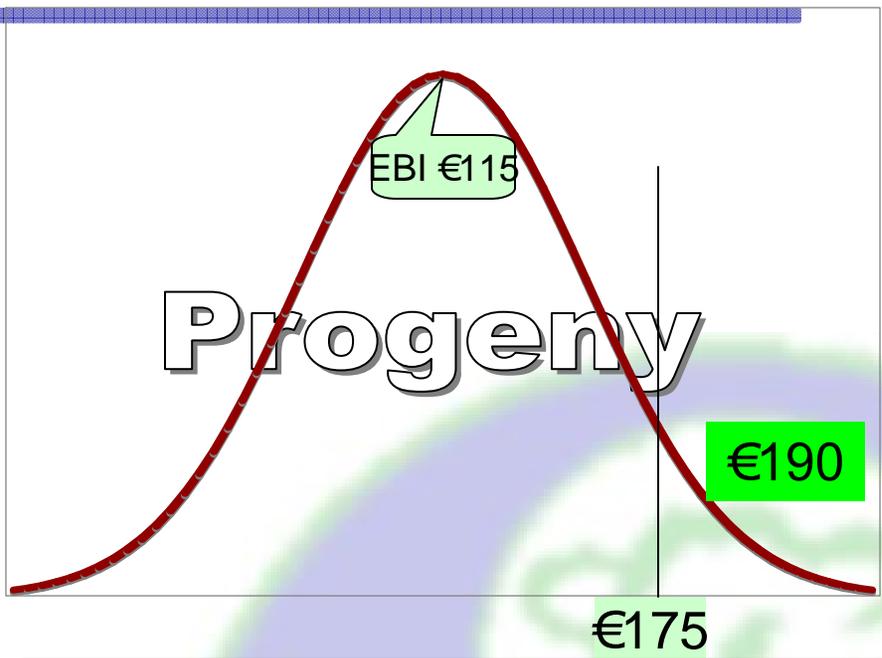
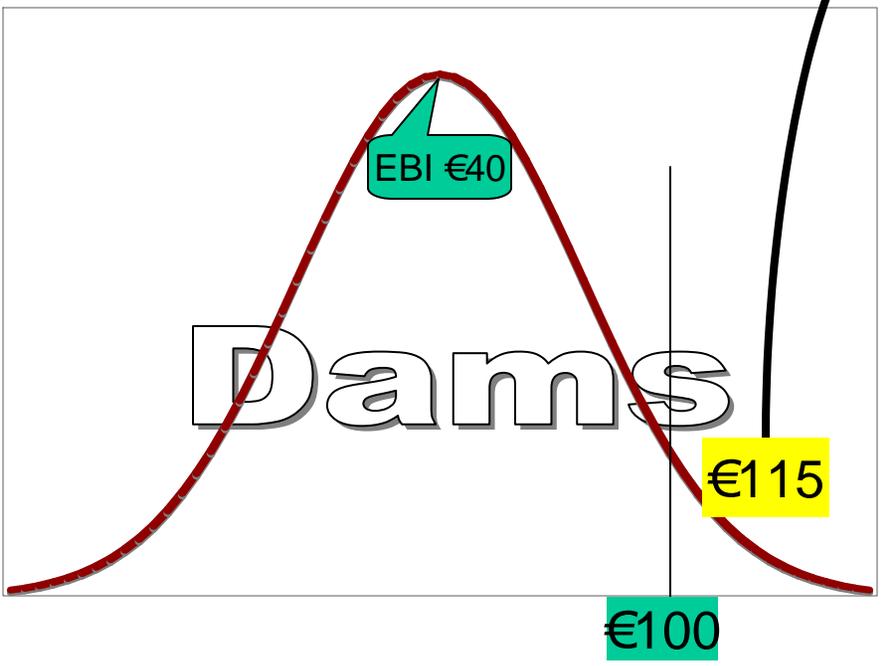


# Genetic Trends



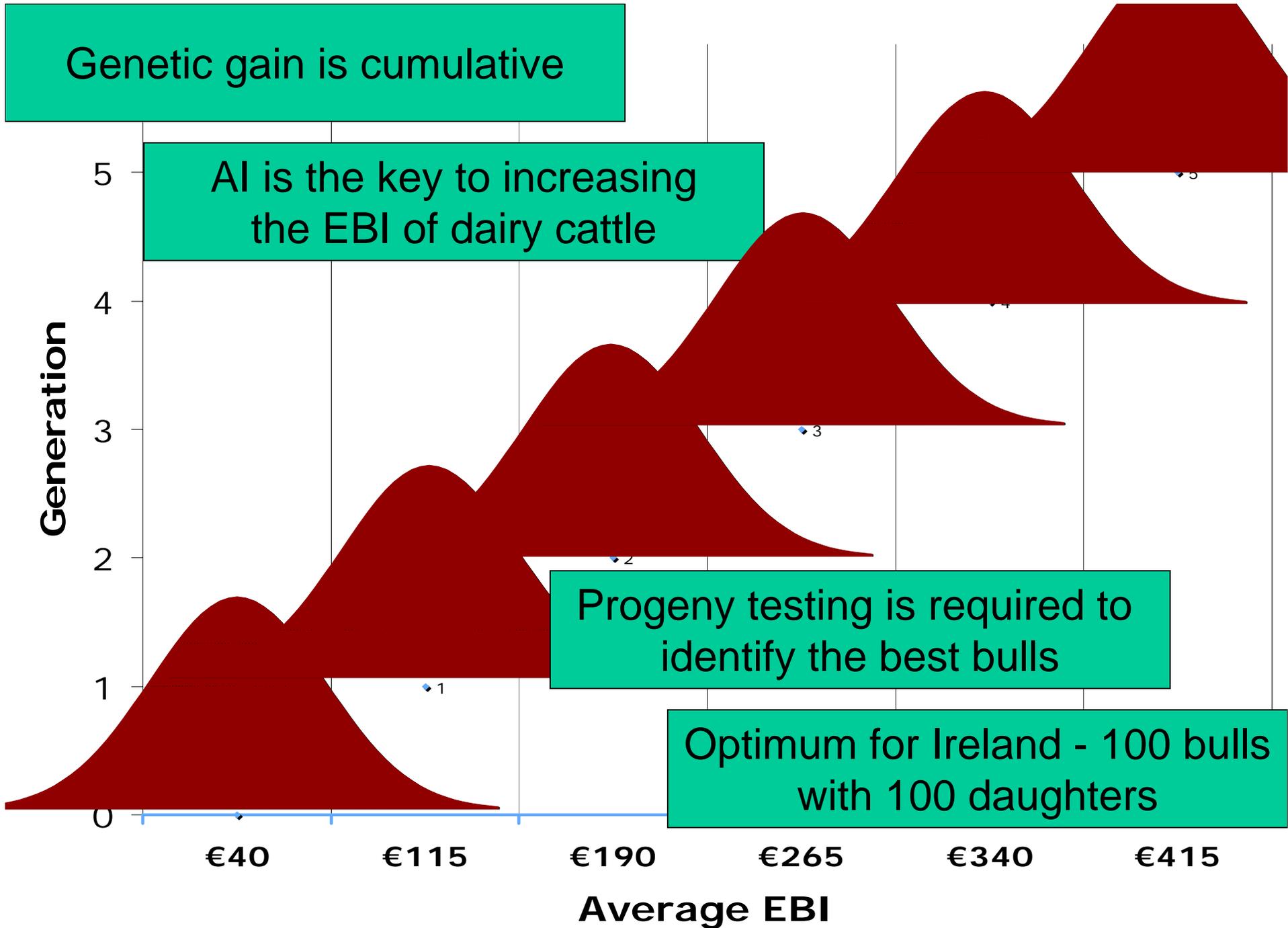


On average - EBI of progeny equals EBI of parents



EBI of progeny varies considerably

Progeny test is needed to determine EBI of bulls



# GENE IRELAND®

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**GENE IRELAND® is a service provided by ICBF to AI Organisations and farmers to maximise the rate of increase in the EBI of the national herd by:**

- ❖ Providing information to **breed and locate the best bulls to progeny test**, and
- ❖ Organising an **efficient and accurate progeny test**.

# GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> - Funding

- **Objective** - fair and equitable with beneficiaries paying:
- **What Costs** (€1.03 million/yr)
  - Administration (13%)
  - Reimbursement of progeny test herds (87%)
- **Who Benefits**
  - Identification of high EBI bulls for use in AI (AI Co. & Farmers)
  - Extensive collection of valuable research data (Wider Community, Breeding Industry, Farmers)