GÊNE IRÊLAND® - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

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Content

• Why are we meeting
• Past to present – EBI trends
• Genetic gain - every generation is better
• What is GENÈ IRÈLAND®
• Who benefits
• What does it cost and who pays
Why are we meeting?

World class cattle breeding requires:

- Database ✨
- Genetic Evaluation 😊
- Breeding scheme ?

GENE IRELAND®
Three Key Issues

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

Averages by year of birth for Holstein Friesian sires registered for AI use.
Genetic Trends

![Genetic Trends Graph]

Milk PTA (kg)

-300 -200 -100 0 100 200 300 400

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
Genetic gain is cumulative

AI is the key to increasing the EBI of dairy cattle

Progeny testing is required to identify the best bulls

Optimum for Ireland - 100 bulls with 100 daughters
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® - 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)