

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

G€N€ IR€LAND – Developments for 2007

Open Dairy Farmer Meetings
January 2007.

Why GEN IRELAND?

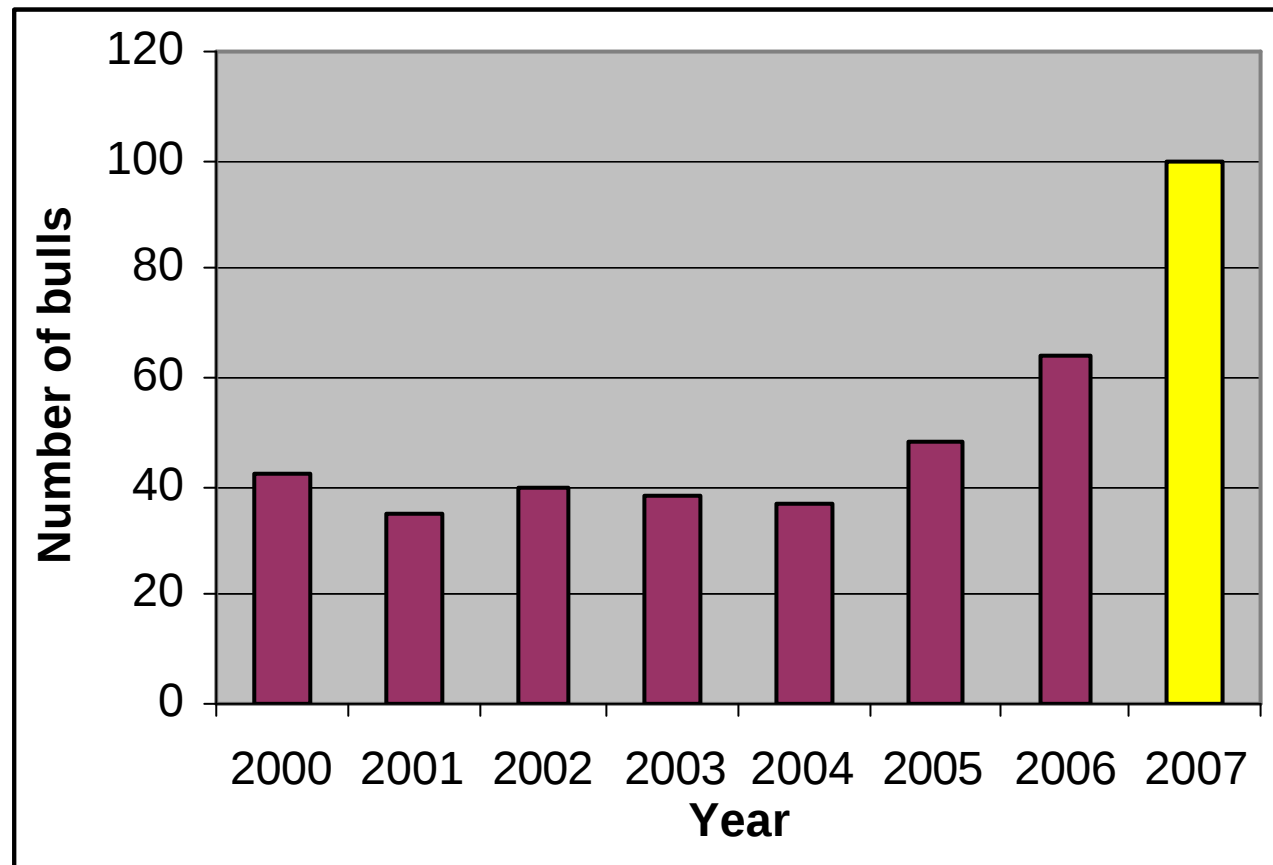
- Farmers need a new top bull each year.
 - How quickly do we want to make progress?
 - Optimal gain = €23/cow/year (currently @ €5)
 - 5-6 years or 20 years?
 - More progress = more top bulls.
- Program focused on EBI (€ profit)
- Launched in Spring 2005.
- First bulls due for proofs Spring 2008.

GENE IRELAND – Objectives.

1. Increase scale of progeny test program
 - 100 bulls each with 100 daughters.
2. Increase EBI of young bulls.
 - New “top 10” bull each year.
3. Increase efficiencies of progeny test.
 - Targeted herd approach.

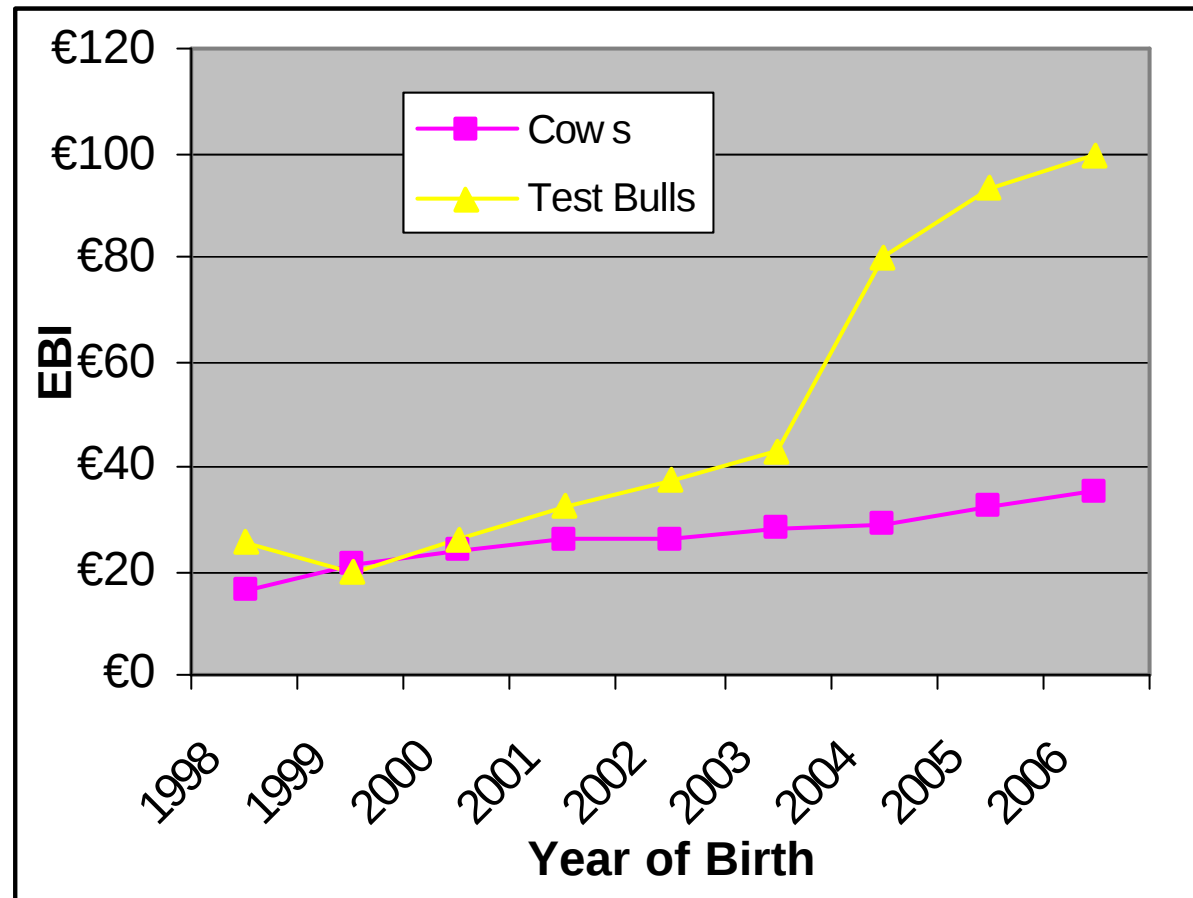
1. Scale of program.

- Scale is increasing.
- 60 bulls in 2006.
- 100 bulls in 2007.



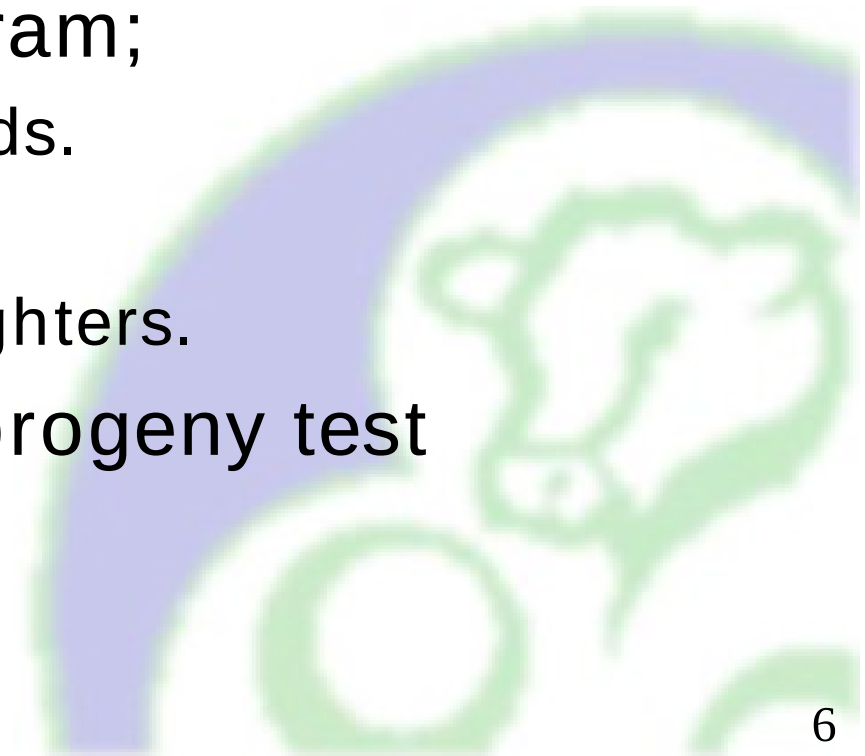
2. Average EBI of young bulls.

- Average EBI of young bulls has doubled.
- Chances of finding a new “top bull” have doubled
- Average = €90 [$\pm$ €70] – new top bull = €160?



3. Efficiency of program

- Targeted herd approach = fewer herds & greater efficiency.
- For example, 2006 program;
 - 60 bulls tested in 600 herds.
 - 7 straws/heifer calf.
 - All bulls with 50 – 80 daughters.
- Major improvements in progeny test efficiency.



Developments for 2007.

- 100 bulls for testing in 2007.
- 700 straws/bull dispatched.
- Average EBI of €100.
- Need to;
 - Increase herds in progeny testing (1,500 herds in Spring 2007).
 - Improve efficiency of test bull usage.

Increasing herds & efficiency?

- Cash payment for each test heifer milk recorded.
 - Program open to all herds (minimum number of straws = 25 straws).
- Other incentives; FBD prize for top “data-recording” herds, high EBI young bulls, future bull mothers, increased genetic gain..

High EBI bull mothers.

- You have bull mothers @ home.
 - EBI of >€70.
 - 3 generations of known ancestry.
 - Good functional type.
- Mate to “bulls of interest”
- Additional income opportunity.
 - Calves (@ 3 wks) or young bulls.

G€N€ IR€ - Summary

- G€N€ IR€LAND – future of dairy industry.
- All farmers can and should become involved.
 - Excellent incentives for farmers.
- First bulls due proofs next year.