Breeding for expansion

George Ramsbottom
Teagasc Oak Park
1. Purchased the wrong cow

2. Not enough heifers reared in early years

3. KNOWLEDGE IS KING
1. The wrong cow

Moorepark – 490 kg MS/cow
National – 340 kg MS/cow

Milk solids per day

Early
**Profit Monitor Analysis - Profit per cow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herd EBI</td>
<td>+ €3.60 profit/cow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Index (€)</td>
<td>No effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility Index (€)</td>
<td>+ €3.60 profit/cow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Teagasc Target** = Lift herd EBI by €5 p.a.
Economic impact of EBI increase
- 100 cow herd

Year 0 Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6 Year 7 Year 8 Year 9 Year 10

- €4 increase pa
- €8 increase pa

€0 €5,000 €10,000 €15,000 €20,000 €25,000 €20,000 €15,000 €10,000 €5,000 €0

€88,800

€44,400
2. Not enough replacements

5.5 straws per heifer in the parlour

Heifers milking 10
Heifers bred 11
Live heifers 12
Heifers born 13
Calves born 26
Inseminations 55
EBI €100 group competition

- **2007**
  - 10,800 cows
  - 16,200 inseminations (1.5 straws per cow)

- **2008**
  - 3,700 live heifer calves (8% mortality)

- **2010**
  - 3,100 heifers in milk (84% make the parlour)
  - Less 2,150 culls

- **950 heifers for expansion – 9% increase**
## Straw use and herd expansion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Straws used per cow (2008)</th>
<th>Herd size change 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>+14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>+18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Knowledge is king

- Profit Monitor - track your cost
- Calving Report - 80% calved in 6 weeks
- Fertility Report - 90% submitted in 3 weeks
- Active Bull List - pick 5 sires
- Milk Recording - culling strategy
- EBI Report - Milk vs fertility
- Milk Recording - Summary Farm Report
- Calving Report - 80% calved in 6 weeks
- Calving submission patterns, Spring 2007

3.3. Knowledge is king
Summary

- Breed the right cow
  - EBI €100 : Milk index €40+ Fertility index €50

- Use enough AI
  - 1.5 straws per cow for 10% expansion

- Use the reports available
  - To plan
  - To monitor
  - To analyse