





# ICAR

# Technical Tour Booklet



# ICAR 2012 Conference

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2012

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Conference 2012 ICAR Technical Tour Booklet

Dear ICAR guest.

On behalf of the organizing committee I would like to welcome you to our dairy, beef and sheep technical tours.

The objective of each tour is to demonstrate how Irish dairy, beef and sheep farmers are using data and information to improve the profitability of their farming enterprises.

Each of the farmers involved are using a range of data and information services from the ICBF database. Some of these services are provided directly by ICBF and Sheep Ireland (e.g., ICBF HerdPlus and LambPlus) whilst others are provided by shareholders of ICBF (e.g., Al, milk recording and herdbook registrations).

In the course of the each visit, we will give a review of the particular farm that we are visiting, followed by a summary of the key data and information services being used on that farm. We will also aim to highlight how the range of data recording services being used on the farm, are helping to improve the profitability of the farm business. In your respective countries, we hope to provide you, our ICAR guests, with some valuable insights which may prove useful as you endeavor to roll out similar data recording and information systems in your respective countries.

In facilitating farm visits, we are delighted to have the support of the Teagasc Business and Technology (B&T) advisors, who are a key component of our data, knowledge and profitability message at farm level. In addition Munster Cattle Breeding group will join us for the dairy technical tours to demonstrate Electronic DIY milk recording and capture of recording of data through AI handhelds.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of our host farmers, who have kindly allowed us to visit their farms, as part of the ICAR conference program and for participating in the discussion on the farm.

Regards

John

John O'Sullivan, Chairman of the ICAR organizing committee.

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# Dairy **Technical Tours**

Thursday 31st May 2012

Dairy Tours to the farms of

John O'Sullivan, Michael Downing, Teddy Cashman & Kevin McSweeney



# Visit to the farm of John and Teresa O'Sullivan & family Lisduff, Whitechurch, Cork



Management Team at Lisduff: John O'Sullivan, David McGrath, John Jnr. O'Sullivan, Victor O'Sullivan & Baxter

The O'Sullivan's have been farming in Whitechurch since the present owner's grandfather returned from the USA in 1918 and bought a holding that forms part of the main farm today. In 1943 the adjoining farm was purchased and the late Sean O'Sullivan started the LISDUFF Herd of pedigree Holstein-Friesians on this farm in 1953. In 1996 both farms were united to form the present home base of 170 acres for the milking herd.

The enterprise has expanded over the years and is currently managed by John O'Sullivan and his sons John and Victor with the assistance of David McGrath. The Herd now consists of 250 cows, with 200 of these on the farm at Lisduff and 50 on another farm 9 kilometres away where milk production commenced in 2011. ICAR visitors will visit the home farm and see the facilities, including the new 32-unit fully automated milking parlour. Production is based on grass supplemented with maize and wheat whole-crop silage and purchased concentrates. All females and some males are registered with the Irish Holstein Friesian Association and the sale of both female and male breeding stock make up a substantial portion of the farms income. The main aims of the enterprise can be summarised as follows:

- The ongoing aim of producing high value milk as economically and profitably as possible by growing the maximum amount of high quality grass and utilising it effectively.
- 2. To improve female fertility which is necessary to achieve aim no. 1.
- 3. To continue to produce high type animals that classify VG or EX
- 4. To breed animals that are compatible with aims no. 1, 2 and 3 and that have appeal to most other dairy producers and can command high value sales in the market place.
- 5. To grow the business to maximum (efficient) output after the abolition of quotas in 2015.

We look forward to your visit and hope that you have a pleasant and informative afternoon.

John and Teresa O'Sullivan and Family.

# Objectives of visit to O'Sullivan Farm

Overall objective

To establish how the O'Sullivan farm is using data and information to improve the profitability of their farming business.

# Components of the farm visit

- > To get an overview of the O'Sullivan farm, based on key performance figures.
- > To understand how data and technology are improving the profitability of this farm.
  - Overview of key performance figures, including reports.
    - Co-op performance report Identify strengths & weaknesses.
  - Calving reports Female fertility. Particular focus on this farm.
  - Milk recording reports Data for

- breeding, culling & stock sales.
- IHFA catalogue Selling breeding stock.
- New milking parlour.
- Demonstration of EDIY milk recording & Al.
- > To identify the breeding objectives for the O'Sullivan farm and establish how bull and cow selection are contributing to herd profitability.
- EBI reports Improving the next generation. Bull Selection for 2012.
- Milk solids + female fertility + functional type.
- Role of genomics on this farm.
- Comparison of selected Lisduff cows (including bull mothers and potential bull mothers) with herd average.
- > Summary of farm visit.

# Key performance figures for Lisduff Farm.

Holstein Cows						
2012			2	2011		
Farm size (Ha)		142	Milk yield (li	tres/cow)		7566
Milking platform, grass Area (	Ha)	54	Annual Fat S	%		3.83
Annual Protein %						3.37
Dairy Cows in milk		175	Milk yield (k	g MS/cow)		562
0-1 y.o replacements		138	SCC ('000 a	cells/ml)		176
1-2 y.o replacements		138	Concentrate	es per cow. (Kg/a	cow/year)	1440
2+ Years Replacements		45				
Other stock (LU)		50	Grass utilise	ed (Tonne DM/H	a)	9.5
Stocking rate (LU/ha)		2.90	Grazing Sec	ason Days		265
Milk quota (litres)		1.4M	% cows Spri	ng Calving		60
Current herd milk performa	ance and feedi	ng				
Milk yield (litres/cow)		26	Target DM I	ntake (Kgs)		20 +
Fat %		3.90	Concentrate	e feeding (kgs/ca	ow/day)	3.75
Protein %		3.40				
Milk yield (kg MS/cow)		1.95	Grass - % o	f diet		81
SCC ('000 cells/ml)		100	Silages - %	of diet		0
Herd Fertility Performance:	2011 and 201	2 to date				
2011			2012			
Median Calving Date		23/2/11	Start of calv		1/1/12	
3 week submission rate (%)		32	6 week calv	ing rate (%)		57
6 week in-calf rate (%)1		41	Median cal	ving date		10/2/12
Breeding season length (days)		104	% calved be	fore April 1st		43
Empty rate (%)		15	Heat detecti	on aids used		Tail Paint
Teagasc Profit Monitor 201	1. Costs and Pi	rofits				
		(C/L)				(C/L)
Milk Price		36.8	Overhead (	Costs		10.08
Purchased feed		7.6	Total Costs			24.61
Vet and breeding (A.I.)		2.35	Net Margin			14.85
Total variable Costs		14.52	Target Marg	jin		15.0
Genetics for Profit (Farm EB	I Report)					
(from latest EBI report)		Cows	Breeding h	eifers		2012 Calves
EBI (€)		€51	€80			€87
Milk SI (€)		€50	€55			€63
Fertility SI (€)		€0	€19			€16
Bull Selection 2012						
Al code EBI (€)	Milk SI (€)	Fertility SI (€)	Milk Kgs	Fat%	Prot %	Kgs Solids
Wght Avg €131	€84	€33	451	01	.04	32.8



# **Dairy Herd Performance Report**

## Jan - Dec 2011

Herd Owner: JOHN J O'SULLIVAN
Designator: IE1510112 / D269039X
Supplier Number: 550170 / Liquid



LoCall 1850 800 900

Table 3: Dairygold/ICBF Performance Score Card

		Your Hero	Dairygold Average	Dairygold Top 10%	Your Rank. out of 100	Your Star Ratio		
Milk performance for	2011 (Jan - Dec) based on D	airygold data						
Fat + Protein (Kg/cow		516	421	491	94%	****		
Litres per Cow per Da Avg litres of Milk per co	y n/ from Jan - Dec 2011	19,06	15.15	18.3	97%	****		
Fat % to end Decemb Weighted average Fat	er 2011 % from Jan - Dec 2011	3,83	3.97	4,14	23%	* *		
Protein % to end Dece Weighted average Prot	ember 2011 ein % from Jan - Dec 2011	3.37	3.4	.3,51	40%	**		
Average Milk Price (c) Average milk price reco	sived from Jan - Dec 2011.	38.8	38.6	37.7	93%	****		
SCC (,000 cells/ml) The weighted average Sc Jan - Dec 2011	ametic Cell Sount for	176	n/a-	140	77%	****		
Fertility & Calving dat	ta based on HerdPlus 2011 C	alving Report			-			
Calving Interval (days Average number of days to calvings for cows calved of	petween successive	438	413	381	23%	**		
Days to calve 50% of Start 02/01/2011 - Med	cows en 23/02/2011	63	54	30	53%	* **		
Total Dairy Replacem Dairy Females born in the as a proportion of eligible	period (95)	.53%	33%	48%	97%	****		
etalgie lo notrogarq a sa	e period from delry Al (95) cows (178)	\$3%	20%	43%	100%	****		
EBI Statistics based of	on the latest HerdPlus EBI re	port 2012						
Herd EBI (2012) Average EBI for Cours (2) with EBI data	47)	€37	E77	€ 102	18%	*		
Yearly EBI Gain (2012 Gain in Herd EBI based of replacement rate	(2013) At 0-1yr old 1-2yr dig & 22%	£10	651	€8	94%	* * * * *		
EBI of 2011 Inseminat Weighted Average EBI of recorded in Spring 201	dairy Al bulls	€137	€187	6217	12%	*		
Table of Terms		-						
Dairygold Average	The average performance of	Participating D	airygold Liquid	Suppliers				
Dairygold Top 10%	The top 10% out off point of Participating Dainygold Liquid Suppliers							
	Your performance expressed eg. 1% - Bottom Supplier, 50	% = Average S	Supplier 100%					
Your Star Rating	Your performance is displayed	ACTION AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED IN		20% and 5.3	stars = top Zt	We .		
Eligible Cows	Number of dairy dows in the h	nera on Decem	ner 2011					



# Dairy Calving Statistics (01/07/2011 --- 02/05/2012)

LoCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: JOHN J O'SULLIVAN

Herd Number IE1510112
Print Date: 02/05/2012
Page: 1(3)

(a). Summary Data - Report is based on dairy come that colved between \$1/97/2011 and 02/05/2012 (Smorpo out as excluded)

Spring Calving Dates

	design a contain?	mount carring	mean moreting	Selening Farious	wed was ones
Cows	01/01/2012	08/02/2012	23/04/2012	16 weeks = 1 days	5y 8m
Heifers	02/01/2012	01/02/2012	14/04/2012	14 weeks - 6 days	24 4m

		All		
	Total	Male	Female	
Total Caives born	250	94	156	
Calves Live at Birth	231	88	143	
Caluse Dead at Stells	90	8	13	

_	Hellers	
Total	Male	Pemale
89	20	69
82	19	63
7	1	6

Bligible Cows 221
Total Dairy Calvings 245

(b). Top 5 Key Performance Indica	b). Top 5 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)				Top 5%
The state of the s	Your Herd	Nat Avg	464 days		364 days
1. Calving Interval (days) heigh pather of days habover subseque colonies for most pubmit stress file petros (187).	441 days	403 days	10,000		301000
2. Spring 6 Week Calving Rate Number of tops coped with the Most weeks [71] as a composition of all rooks dailed during the Spring [121]	59%	52%	19%		91%
3. Calves per cow per year 1 tamber of the cases of 20 days (147) red were born to good tools (221)	0.67	0.85	0.63		f caive per coil
4. Females not calved in Period harder receive in the tend on 92/05/2012 had be not have a parent group (49) as an example of the parent (49).	22%	61%	26%		0%
5. Current Replacements rate families of tal opens are 02/05/2012/054/ or agreed the Children cows (221)	29%	25%		Not Applicable	Target 18-22%

## **Explanatory Notes**

- 1: Median Calving Date: Date on which 50% of your cows have paived
- 2. Eligible Cows: Number of dairy cows in the herd on 02/05/2012
- 3. Calves per cow per year: Number of calves born to eligible cows & live at 28 days / eligible cows.

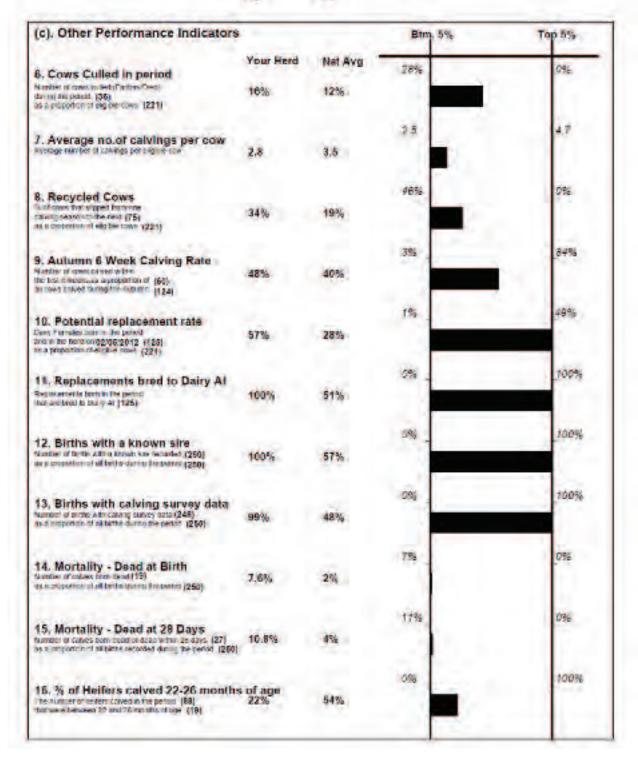


# Dairy Calving Statistics (01/07/2011 --- 02/05/2012)

LoCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: JOHN J O'SULLIVAN

Herd Number: IE1510112 Print Date: 02/05/2012 Page 2(3)



# Milk Recording Annual Farm Report

PROGRESSIVE GENETICS

KYLEMORE ROAD

BLUEBELL

DUBLIN 01/4502142 Herd Owner: JOHN J O'SULLIVAN

Herd No

IE1510112

Print date: 27-MAR-12

Report Period: 01-JAN-2011 - 31-DEC-2011

## 1. Production Summaries - Valid Lactations

Only animals that have had a valid factation are included in these summaries. A valid factation is one that was : (1) completed on the farm during the 12 month period (ii) has a valid factation end reason (i.e. either dried off or completed 305 days) and (iii) has a minimum factation length of 150 days.

	No. of	Average			Comp	leted La	ctations ()	nly		100	100
Group	bows	cays in	N Kg	M Gal	P%.	P16-	FKg	PKg	F-P Kg	acc	E .
Overall	188	385	10985	2342	4.01	3,45	440	378	819	153	37
		306	9185	1862	3.96	3.38	354	211	575		
		CI: 438									
18! Lactation	57	422	10630	2279	3.94	3.43	421	366	767	94	48
			8197	1751	3,86	3,34	\$17	273	590		
2nd Lactation	53	362	10353	2214	3,92	3.45	407	287	764	76	31
		CI: 420	9/12	2010	0.90	3.41	367	221	186		
3rd Lactation	24	404	11913	2546	4.20	3.61		418	922	134	41
	-	01:487	10029	2142	4.16	3,44	417	345	762		
4+ Lactation	52	407	11455	2445	4.07	3:44	467	394	865	293	10
		CI: 443	9643	2DEA	4.03	3.37	389	325	714		
Winter	- 61	418	11905	2642	4.02	3,43	479	409	390	126	35
		CHAN	9733	2079	3.96	3.30	385	326	m		
Spring	110	382	10385	2218	4.01	3.46	415	359	776	172	38
		CI, 436	8848	1890	3.97	3.41	351	201	952		

# **FOSS**



LOT 1						His	Mr.	FULL PED	IGREE	HO (Book)	Femnie	
2000	Mary	68 EBI 6	212					22 Nov-20	110.	IE1510112	23063 (3063)	
Overall In	lexes	EB1 €212	EB1	2.72	Milk esi	Festi € 125		Calving € 35	Beef -E11	Health	Maintenat 63	
Mik Tran		Milk Kg 280	Fat I		Prot Kg	Fat 4		Prot %			-2.0	
Perality To	nzile:	C1 -7.2(days)	Surv	ivai								
Type Trans		Overall 1 10		Legs	Udder 0.81							
Onner Brooder		J O'Sulliva J O'Sulliva	n. Lisch		itechurch.							
Stre	11000	2 17 2111111			and the same of							
Radon (R.	DO) e I	130				by	Ramo	s (RXO)				
Alum:												
Lisduff M	ary 36	EX 90 IE1	510112	52241	(1426) € 13	st by	O Be	Manfred	Justice	(OJI)		
Milk Kgs	BF%	PRIS	BIKgs	PrKg					g Dale			
8896	3.91	3.28	348	292	49	305	1	04-10				
6346	3.67	3 25	395	391		305	2.0	01-11				
G Dam	411	2.40	201	330	21	100	3	01711	.11			
				W-11-70		4.0		D. 7				
		VG 86 RI		1.000	The same	by	A NEW A	hlin Store	100	LO)		
Milk Kgs 7680	8F%		BIKgs	PrKg		Days 305	Lact		g Dale			
7865	1.89	3.59	361	276	160	305	2	02-03				
8121	4.50	3.38	365	275	262	249	3	14-0				
9719	1.66	3.52	453	342	96	305	4	01-0				
9655	4.29	3.45	462	533	228	305	*	16-04	1-06			
3rd Dan												
Lisduif M	ary 5 L	T GP 84 0	108853	835 (9)	19)	by	Besne	Buck (BE	EF)			
Milk Kgs	100			PrKg		Days		-	g Date			
8795	4.68	3.45	412	303	379	305	1	01-01				
89.53	1.62	3.59	414	371	73	290	2	02-01				
19054	1.73	3.49	172	350	66	303	3	01-01				
8795 9524	4.77	3.30	396 435	362 344	82 118	298 305	4	07-02				
9150	451	3 28	4)8	300		305	5	25-03				
8449	4.71	2.43	398	292		291	8	01-05				
4m Dum												
	T 35 1	1 VG 85 I	108180	1179		by	Penns	prings Mi	e mes	6		
Milk Kgs	BF%	PR%	BIKgs	Prika	\$ 500		Lact	-	g Date	.,		
7311	1.12	3.57	323	261	95	305	1	18-01				
7419	5.08	2.34	377	263	138	303	2	11-02				
8299	3.40	3.43	448	284	338	305	3	01-07	-96			
9016	5.24	3.32	472	317	790	305	4	15-08				
10675	4.89	3.22	522	344	176	305	3	22-11				
8575	4.93	3.50	423	300	655	305	6	02-05				
7241	4.55	3 58	725	259	2017	305	7	05-03	-01			

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# Economic Breeding Index (EBI) Herd Summary April 2012

LoCall 1850 800 900

Herd Owner: JOHN J O'SULLIVAN

Herd Number: IE1510112 Data Extracted: 27/02/2012

## 1. EBI Herd Summary

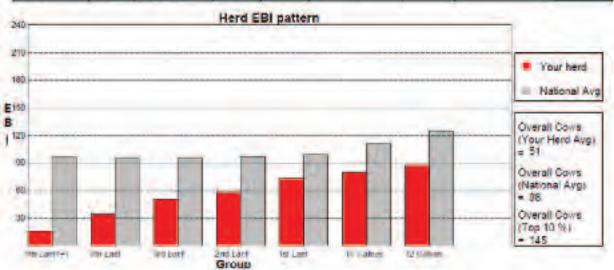
Average EBI for all dairy costs with, (i) a known size for milk recorded progeny with a known size) and (ii) are currently on your farm.

"Nomes of annuals has my massing on "Alexand"

Ar Imal Group	Num of Cows	Milk K Fat Prot	g N	Surviv CI Days	Milk III Contrib	Fertility % Contrib	Calving % Contrib	Beaf % Contrib	Mainten.	Health & Contrib	EBI €
Cows with EBI	221	381	77.70	-	€ 50.2	€ -0.2	€ 16.7	€ -8.8	€ -8.1	€ 1.5	-
Missing EBI* Total Coxs	22	10.2	-0.07	0.9	58.7%	4.2%	19.5%	-10.3%	-9.5%	1.8%	€ 51
1st Lectation	71	328	-4/41	0.0	€ 46.7	€ 23.1	€ 19.1	€ -12	€ -7.1	€ 3.4	
		9.0	-0.06	1.2	41.9%	20.7%	17.1%	-10.8%	-8.4%	3.1%	€ 73
2nd Lactation	48	389	<b>BUTT</b>	10000	€ 52.4	€ 1.4	€ 18.5	€ -8.2	€ -8.1	€ 2.1	€ 58
		10.5	-0.07	0,0	57.8%	1,5%	20.4%	-9%	-8.9%	2,3%	
3rd Lactation	38	418	23.95	1000	€ 54.2	€ -5.4	€ 16.9	€ -6.5	€ -9.9	€ 1.4	200
		10.5	-0.09	1.3	57.5%	-5.7%	17.0%	-6.9%	-10.5%	1.5%	€ 51
4th Lactation	25	433	-	100	€ 57.8	€ -20.5	€ 12.8	€ -6.6	€ -9.5	€-0.2	4 40
		12.8	-0.06	2.5	53.8%	-19.1%	11.0%	-6.1%	-8.6%	-0.2%	€ 34
5th Lactation (+)	39	397	SQR.	155	€ 45.2	€ -26.3	€ 12.4	¢ -7:1	¢ -7.3	€ -1.3	27-12
		10.3	-0.08 +0.03	D.3 2,6	45.4%	-26.4%	12.4%	-7.1%	-7,3%	-1.8%	€ 16

# 2. Dairy Youngstock

12 Calves	65	416		100	€ 63.1	€ 16.2	€ 22.2	€ -10.6	€ -7.8	€ 4.1	1000
Missing EBI* Total Calves	56	12.2	-0.07	-0.2	53.9%	13.1%	17.9%	-8.5%	-6.3%	8.5%	€ 87
11 Calves	123	303	Title.	1300	€ 54.9	€ 19.6	€ 20.5	€ -9.7	€ -8.9	€ 3.8	13100
Missing EBIT Total Calves	123	10.6	-0.06	1.2	45.8%	16.7%	17.5%	-8.3%	-7.6%	3.2%	€ 80



		nomic E	valuation	Report				
Jumbo	2692				Lact. No			
Tag	IE15101122	2692			Sex	F		
Name	LISBUFF LE	TALE 15 ET			Sire	OJI (£251)		
DOB	10-Aug-200	9 ly Sm			Dam	(E1510112	82013 JE 12	(2)
Breed	HO (100%)				Dam's Sire	BUU VE NO	1)	
Date of Evaluation	18-May-201	1						
index	Official Genomic Evaluation	Reliability	Weighting on Genomics	DNA Velue	Parent Average Evaluation	Reliability	Diff.from Parent Avg	increase in Reliabilit
EBIC	219	64%	45%	207	185	35%	+33	29%
Milk Sub Index 6	85	71%	52%	71	94	40%	-	31%
Fertility Sub Index E	107	58%	38%	108	65	32%	+42	26%
Carving Sub Index 6	35	64%	45%	34	38	36%	- 4	28%
Beef Sub Index E	-10	59%	40%	-8	1 4	33%	-8	26%
Maintenance Sub Incex E	-3	58%	40%	-3	-3	31%	+5	27%
Health Sub Index €	5	68%	52%	ı é	3	34%	+2	34%
Milk Sub Index								
Milk (Kg)	338	71%	52%	278	499	40%	-161	31%
Fat (Kg)	17.8	71%	52%	15.8	18:3	40%	-0.5	31%
Protein (Kg)	15.6	71%	52%	12.9	19.3	40%	-3.7	31%
Fat (%)	0.09	71%	52%	0.1	+8.01	40%	+0.1	31%
Protein (%)	0.08	71%	52%	0.07	0.03	4000	+0.05	31%
Fertility Sub Index	1747							
Cary Int (Days)	-5.71	59%	39%	-5.83	-3,13	32%	-2,58	27%
Survival (%)	3.26	56%	36%	3,23	2.32	32%	+0.94	24%
Calving Sub Index								
Bir.Calv Diff (%)	1.86	87%	43%	2.12	1.49	37%	+0.37	30%
Mat.Calv Diff (%)	9.06	61%	38%	8,72	8.46	36%	+0.6	25%
Gest Len (Days)	-3.07	65%	48%	-2.98	-29	35%	-0.17	30%
Call Mort(%)	-0.91	53%	30%	-0.85	-1.08	32%	40,17	21%
Beef Sub Index	123-		1000		100			
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	1.89	58%	40%	1.88	5.55	3/%	-3,00	27%
Carcass Weight (Kg)	×1.76	60%	41%	-128	1.78	33%	-3.52	27%
Carcase Conf (Grade)	-0.81	60%	41%	-0.77	-0.75	33%	+0.08	27%
Carcass Fat (%)	-0.02	58%	37%	0	-0.08	33%	+0.08	26%
Maintenance Sub Index	The same							
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	1.89	58%	40%	1.88	.5,55	31%	-3,68	27%
Health Sub Index								
Lameness (Locomotion)	-0.17	52%	27%	0	-0.45	24%	+0.28	28%
Udder (SCC)	-0.09	70%	53%	-0.1	40.08	35%	-2.03	35%

# Explanatory Notes:

Official Senomic Evaluation = the new official index based on combining the DNA information with the parental average information, DNA Value = the index based on DNA information only.

Weighting on Genomics a the percentage of the official evaluation that is based on DNA information.

For more information on Genomics terminology see attached sheet or on relevant section of our website www.icbf.com

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# Visit to the farm of Michael & Kevin Downing

# Whitechurch, Cork



The Downing Farm has a proud history of achievement in dairy farming and assisting the development of the dairy farming industry. They have been part of their co-op's monitor farm program and have won many milk quality and farming awards.

Kevin farms in partnership with his father Michael and are ably assisted on the farm by herd manager Tom Carr who has been with the Downings for almost 30 years. The farm comprising of 70.4 hectares, is situated 10 km north of Cork city at an altitude of 600 feet above sea level. They also farm 19.6 hectares of rented land, which is 1 km from the home farm.

The herd has just completed the transition from split calving (60/40 Spring/Autumn) to 100% Spring calving. There are currently 124 cows milking in the herd and 100% Dairy Al is used each year with a focus on improving herd fertility while maintaining the current high milk constituents.

All females are reared as replacements with the top EBI heifers kept each year to achieve a replacement rate of  $\sim\!20\%$  with surplus stock sold as in-calf heifers. Bull calves are sold at 2-3 weeks of age with the top EBI male calves reared each year for sale as stock bulls.

The main aims of the farm are to

- Improve grassland productivity through improved conversion of grass dry matter into milk solids.
- 2. Improve the calving pattern on farm to achieve 80% calving in the first 6 weeks.
- 3. To continue to produce the best quality and profitable breeding stock.
- 4. Plan for future expansion post 2015.

Wishing all the ICAR delegates a happy and memorable stay in Ireland

Slán agus go n-éirí an t-ádh leat.

Kevin & Michael.

# Objectives of visit to Downing Farm

Overall objective
To establish how the Downing farm
is using data and information to
improve the profitability of their
farming business.

# Components of the farm visit.

- To get an overview of the Downing farm, based on key performance figures.
- To understand how data and technology are improving the profitability of the farm.
  - Overview of key performance figures, including reports.
    - Co-op performance report Identifying strengths & weaknesses.
    - Calving reports & female fertility. Particular focus on this farm.
    - Breeding charts.
  - Grass budgeting.
- ➤ To identify the breeding objectives for the Downing farm and establish how bull and cow selection are contributing to herd profitability.

- EBI reports Improving the next generation. Bull Selection for 2012.
  - Breeding Objective: Female fertility + Milk solids.
- Role of genomics on this farm.

- Comparison of selected Parkduv cows (including bull mothers and potential bull mothers) with herd average.
- > Summary of farm visit.

# Key performance figures for the Downing Farm

Farm Details:	Spring Milk p	roduction, fron	n 124Holstein	Cows.			
2012				2	011		
Farm size (Ha)	(Rented)	90 Ha	(19.6 Rented)	Milk yield (litre	es/cow) (Co-op +0	Calves	6293
				/Av No Cows)			
Milking platfor	m, grass Area (ŀ	На)	70Ha	Annual Fat %			4.34
			(62Ha,′12)	Annual Proteir	1 %		3.57
Dairy Cows in	milk		124	Milk yield (kg	MS/cow)		513
0-1 y.o replace	ements		52	SCC ('000 ce	lls/ml)		131
1-2 y.o replace	ements		53	Concentrates	per cow. (Kg/cow/	'year)	420
Other stock (LI	U)		10	Grass utilised		10.5	
Stocking rate (	LU/ha)		2.3 LU/Ha	Grazing Seaso	on Days		280
Milk quota (litr	res)		800,000	% cows Spring	, Calving		100
Current herd	milk performa	nce and feedir	ng.				
Milk yield (litre	s/cow)		30	Target DM Into	ake (Kgs)		18
Fat %			3.95	Concentrate fe	ed (kgs/cow/day)		3.0
Protein %			3.31				
Milk yield (kg /	MS/cow)		2.25	Grass - % of c	liet		83
SCC (cells/ml)	·		62,000	Silages - % of	diet		0
Herd Fertility	Performance:	2011 and 201	2 to date				
2011/12				2012			
Start Breeding			12/4/12	Start of calving	9		14/1/12
3 week submis	ssion rate (%)		83	6 week calving	g rate (%)		58
6 week in-calf	rate 2011 (%)		60	Median calving date			19/2/12
Breeding seaso	on length (days)		91	% calved before April 1st			90
Empty rate 20	11 (%)		12	Heat detection	n aids used		Tail Paint
Teagasc Profi	t Monitor 2011	l. Costs and Pr	ofits				
			(C/L)				(C/L)
Milk Price			38.60	Overhead Co.	sts		12.5
Concentrates			1.70	Total Costs			20.74
Vet and breedi	ing (A.I.)		1.61	Net Margin			19.34
Total variable	Costs		8.24	TARGET COS	TS		20.00
Genetics for	Profit (Farm EB	l Report)					
(from latest E	BI report)		Cows	Breeding hei	fers		2012 Calves
EBI (€)			€137	€158			€166
Milk SI (€)			€51	€54			€59
Fertility SI (€)			€74	€94			€94
Bull Selection	2012						
Al code	EBI (€)	Milk SI (€)	Fertility SI (€)	Milk Kgs	Fat%	Prot %	Kgs Solids
Wght Avg	€229	€75	€131	163	0.18%	0.12%	32.2
D.II. I. I. I		E)	DEV Delledeniele Anie	! (IDE) !	1 (IDE)		

Bulls used include;. Parkduv Mark (IRE), Lauragh Evert (IRE), Ballybride Aristotle (IRE), Lauragh Lance (IRE), Moorepark Horan (IRE), Fowlerstan Stan (IRE).



# **Dairy Herd Performance Report**

# Jan - Dec 2011

Herd Owner: KEVIN DOWNING Designator: IE1510137 / D2690749

Supplier Number: 550049 / Winter



LoCall 1850 600 900

Table 3:	Datrygol	<b>ATCRE</b>	Per formance	Score Card
A 12 (2.2)	ALCOHOL: NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.		A CALL OF A SHARE OF A CALL	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE

		Your Herd	Dairygold Average	Dairygold Top 10%	Your Rank out of 100	Your Star Ratin			
Hills markermanne for	2011 (Jan - Dec) based on D.		Personal	100.001		Tom State Family			
Fat + Protein IKg/cow	the Real Property lies and the Personal Property lies and the	airygoid data							
	seld per con for your hero	512	448	527	81%	****			
Litres per Cow per Da	y from Jan - Dec 2011	17.24	16.02	19	62%	****			
					-				
Fat % to end Decembe Weighted average Fat	% from Jan - Dec 2011	4.34	3.99	4.19	100%	****			
Protein % to end Dece	ember 2011		100	1.50					
Weighted average Prot	ein % from Jan - Dec 2011	3,57	3.46	3.57	95%	* * * *			
Average Milk Price (c) Average milk price reco (includes Bonuses Penalt	eived from Jan - Dec 2011.	38.6	37.3	39.1	81%	****			
SCC (,000 cells/mt) The weighted average Go Jan - Dec 2011	meter Cell Count for	131	n.a	128	90%	* * * * *			
Fertility & Calving dat	a based on HerdPlus 2011 C	alving Report			1				
Calving Interval (days			7.4		1	200			
Average number of days to callings for cows calling of		434	427	400	43%	* * *			
Days to calve 50% of- Start 21/01/2011 - Medi		39	48	28	81%	***			
Total Dairy Replacem		500	0.11		620	THE WORLD			
Dairy Females born in the as a procomon of eligible	count (131)	40%	39%	52%	52%	* * *			
%Al bred replacement Memale caives born in the as a proportion of edgice	e-period from dairy At [53]	40%	28%	40%	93%	****			
EBI Statistics based o	on the latest HerdPlus EBI re	port 2012							
Herd EBI (2012) Average EBI for Coms (1) with EBI data	12)	€121	671	€100	95%	****			
Yearly EBI Gain (2012	2013) n; 0-1yr old 1-2yr old 8 22%	66	645	69	75%	* * * *			
EBI of 2011 Inseminat Weighted Average EBI of recorded in Spring 201	daily Al buils	6201	€ 186	€ 207	87%	****			
Table of Terms		-							
Dairygold Average	The average performance of								
Dairygold Top 10%	The top 18% out off point of Participating Darrygold Winter Suppliers								
Your Rank out of 100	Control of the Contro								
Your Star Rating		Your performance is displayed in stars e.g. 1 star is bottom 20% and 5 stars = top 20%							
Eligible Cows	Number of dairy cows in the I	end on Decemb	or 2011						

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# Weekly Fertility Report Spring 2012

LoCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: KEVIN DOWNING Herd Number: IE1510137

Mating Start Date (MSD): 12/04/2012 12/04/2012 Report Date: 21/05/2012 Heilers Cows

(a). Calving Summary Data - Report is based on dairy cows that calved from 14/01/2012

	Spring Dairy	Spring Dairy Calving Dates									
	Start Calving	Median Calving									
Cows	14/01/2012	19/02/2012	(37 days)								
Helfers	07/01/2012	21/01/2012	(15 days)								
Herd	07/01/2012	11/02/2012	(36 days)								
4.0	Balan Calulana	*24	22.23								

Total Dairy Calvings	124
Total Dairy Calves Born	126

Week 2

	Spring D	airy Calving	Pattern		
	Num Cal	(%)	Top 15%		
Week 3	20	(16%)	45%		
Week 6	72	(58%)	73%		
Week 9	67	(78%)	88%		

20 10

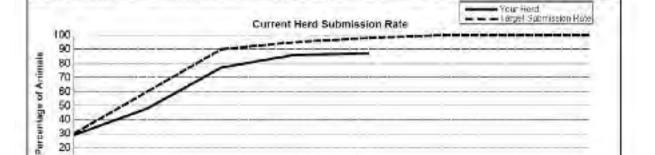
Week 1

Explanatory Notes

The Median Calving: Date on which 50% of cows/helfers have calved as a percentage of cows/helfers calved on report date:

(b). Current Herd Submission Rate - Report is based on dairy cows that calved from 14/01/2012

Week 3



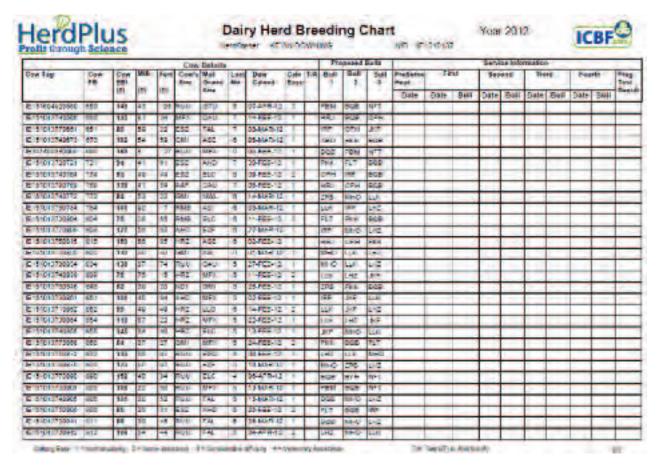
Week 5 Week 5 Week E land by Cows Submitted During

(c). Key Performance Indicat	ors (KPI	s)	Con	WS	Maiden	Heifers
Days since Mating Start Date:	49	40	Your Herd	Top 15%	Your Herd	Top 15%
21-day Submission rate     Covaruitra submited formatro with 27 days as a percentage calved up to 27 days and Meq.			77%	76%	92%	92%
2. 42-day Submission rate Owners standed for neing where to day as a percentage calved up to 45 days often 680	CHMSD	- 1		91%		99%
<ol> <li>Cows calved &gt;30 days and not feld cost calved gester than 30 days of MSO (a and manys) exemples with 21 days of MSO page.</li> </ol>	10)		13%	1356		
4. 6 Week Repeat rate Constructes with more than one sensi- as a percentage of construction lists used to the list.	ý vyenka:			40% *		30%

This is a target figure as many tarmers do not record stock out serves, therefore the top 15% would not be accurate.

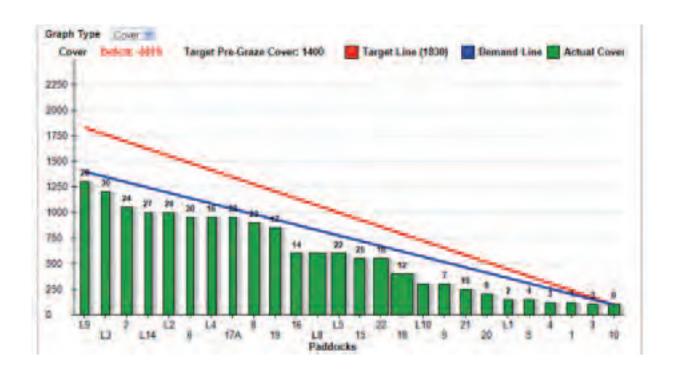
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Top 15%: This figure relates to the National Top 15% of Spring Calving Dairy Hercs.

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# Milk Recording **Annual Farm Report**

Herd Owner: KEVIN DOWNING

Hers No: Print date:

IE1510137 16-JAN-12

Report Period: 01-JAN-2011 - 31-DEC-2011



Only animals that have had a valid lactation are included in these summaries. A valid lactation is one that was ; (1) completed on the farm during the 12 month period (ii) has a valid factation end reason (i.e. either dried off or completed 305 days) and full has a minimum lactation length of 150 day.

Ar.	No. of	Average			Domp	ioted La	ctations O	nişi		1900	
Group co	coms	days in	MKg	M Gal	FM	PW	FKg	FKg	FIFK	SCC	€B
Overall	113	315	7688	1642	2,77	3.55	367	273	840	123	111
	305	305 CI: 431	7502	1603	+77	3.55	358	265	623		
at Lactation	25	342	-5835	1460	4.98	3.55	341	242	683	137	120
			5283	1942	4.96	3.61	311	221	631		
Ind Lactation	28	316	7777	1561	4,81	3.07	274	278	E01	91	13
		CH: 430	7517	1608	1.80	3.55	361	268	629		
3rd Lactation	- 20	317	8221	1756	4.70	3.57		294	680	114	12
		CI: 425	8040	1716	4.87	3.55	375	286	661	+1	
4+ Lactation	40	296	7897	1685	4.66	8.84	368	279	647	143	10
		Ol: 435	7983	1705	4.70	3.55	376	283	109		
Winter	25	387	9374	2003	4.78	3.58	446	236	782	118	11
	CI: 491	8205	1753	4.65	3.52	385	289	674			
Spring	87	294	7184	1536	4.77	8.64	343	265	597	125	11
		CI: 413	7291	1558	4.79	3.55	349	259	608		



# Economic Breeding Index (EBI) Herd Summary April 2012

LoCall 1850 500 900

Herd Owner: KEVIN DOWNING Herd Number: IE1510137 Data Extracted: 27/02/2012

## 1. EBI Herd Summary

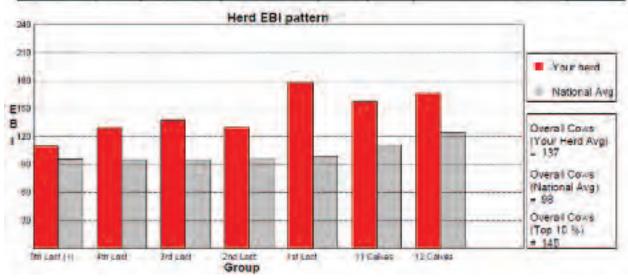
Average ESI for all dairy cows with: 3) a known size for milk recorded properly with a known size) and (iii) are currently on your farm

\* Number of animals that are missing an EEI result.

Animal Group	Num of Cows	Milk K Fat Prot	9 %	Surys C) Days	Milk % Contrib	Fertility % Contrib	Calving % Contrib	Beef % Contrib	Mainten.	Health N Contrib	EBI€
Cows with EBI	124	175	-		€ 50.8	€ 74.8	€ 21.3	€ -3	€ -0.5	€ -1.5	4. 4.44
Missing EBI* Total Cows	124	10,6	0.08	-3.9	32.4%	47.7%	13.6%	-5.1%	-0.3%	-1%-	€ 137
1st Lactation	26	157		-	€ 61.5	€ 105.1	€ 24.4	€ -17	€ 7	€ -2.7	€ 178
		13.0	0.12	3.0 -5.8	28.2%	48.3%	11.2%	-7.8%	8.2%	2.2%	
2nd Lactation	21	174	100	and the last	€ 49.1	C 69.2	€ 22.1	C-7.1	€ -1.4	C-1.4	€ 130
		11.3	0.09	2.3	32.7%	46%	14.7%	4.7%	-0.9%	-0.9%	
3rd Lactation	27	170	100	1000	€ 45.9	€ 75.2	€ 24.5	€ -2.2	€ -5.1	€ -0.5	W. Alex
		7.9	0.09	3.6	29.9%	49%	16%	51.4%	-0.3%	-0.3%	€ 138
4th Lactation	20	186	1500	10000	€ 47.8	€ 70.6	€ 19.9	€-4.7	€ -3.3	€ -1.6	40000
		8.6	0.03	-3.7	32.3%	47.7%	13.5%	3.2%	-22%	# A%	€ 129
5th Lactation (+)	30	187		Villa	€ 49	€ 54.9	€ 15.9	€ -8.1	€ -0.5	€ -1.5	€ 110
		9.1	0.03	1.8	37.7%	42.3%	12.2%	4.2%	0.4%	4.2%	

# 2. Dairy Youngstock

12 Calves	55	179		1	€ 58.2	€ 93.7	€ 25.7	€ -10.4	€ -0.6	€ -0.1	
Missing ESI* Total Calves	55	9.8	0.11	2.9 -1.9				-5.5%		-0.1%	€ 167
11 Calves	43	116	1700	100	€ 53.7	€ 93.5	€ 22.8	€ -15.3	€ 3.6	€ -0.5	
Total Calyes	43	10.8 8.5	0.12	-5.5	28.4%	49.4%	12%	4.1%	1.9%	10,3%.	€ 158



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	Ge	nomic E	valuation	Report					
Jumbo	1588	-			Lact. No				
Tag	(E15101378	1568			Sex	64			
Name	-				Sire	50K (€ 257)			
DOB	15-Feb-201	2 Oy Im			Dam	IE1510137	60948 (€ 16	5)	
	STORAGE TO	-				er in terres			
Breed	HO (81%)				Dam's Sire	RUU (6'152)			
Date of Evaluation	23-Mar-201	2							
Index	Official Genomic Evaluation	Reliability	Weighting on Genomics	DNA Value	Parent Average Evaluation	Reliability	Diff.from Parent Avp	Increase In Reliabilit	
EBI-E	290	45%	29%	274	211	27%	+78	18%	
Milk Sub Index 6	93	53%	38%	92	63	30%	+30	23%	
Fertility Sub-Index 6	162	38%	23%	148	117	21%	+48	15%	
Calving Sub Index €	40	50%	24%	39	32	35%	8	15%	
Beef Sub Index 6	0	44%	21%	-1	- 4	20%	- +1	15%	
Maintenance Sub Index 6	-7	39%	20%	.7	4	25%	-3	14%	
Health Sub Index 6	2	19%	27%	2	4	25%	-1	24%	
Milk Sub Index								1	
Milk (Kg)	225	53%	38%	310	142	30%	+83	23%	
Fat (Kg)	18.8	53%	38%	187	12.5	30%	+6.3	23%	
Protein (Kg)	15	53%	38%	15.2	10.2	30%	+4.8	25%	
Fat (%)	0.18	53%	38%	0.13	0.13	30%	+0.05	23%	
Protein (%)	0.14	53%	38%	0.11	0.11	30%	+0.03	23%	
Fertility Sub Index	1000		-						
Calv Int (Days)	-8.74	37%	25%	-8.01	-6.58	22%	-2.16	15%	
Survival Till	4.86	33%	21%	4.4	3:24	20%	11:62	13%	
Calving Sub Index									
Dir.Caly Diff (No	0.33	52%	24%	0.54	1.77	36%	+1.44	16%	
Mat Calv Diff (%)	9.95	41%	20%	9.81	8.8	28%	+1.35	15%	
Gest Len (Days)	-3.24	54%	28%	-3.18	-2.63	38%	-0.71	18%	
Calf Mort(%)	-0.88	39%	10%	-0.9	-0.82	32%	-0.08	73	
Beef Sub Index									
Oul Cov-Weight (Kg)	4.38	39%	20%	4.72	2.47	25%	+1.91	14%	
Caroass Weight (Kg)	1.86	45%	22%	1:51	2.12	30%	-0.26	15%	
Carcass Conf (Grade)	-0.52	45%	22%	-0.48	-0.55	30%	40.03	15%	
Caroass Fat (%)	-0.15	42%	20%	-0.13	-0.11	27%	-0.04	15%	
Maintenance Sub Index		200			-		100	100	
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	4.38	39%	20%	4.72	2.47	28%	+1.91	14%	
Health Sub Index									
Lameness (Locomotion)	-0.2	31%	21%	-0.2					
Udder (SCC)	-0.04	51%	39%	-0.04	-0.07	26%	+0.03	25%	

# Explanatory Notes:

Official Genomic Evaluation = the new official Index based on combining the DNA information with the parental average information, DNA Value = the index based on DNA information only.

Weighting on Genomics = the percentage of the official evaluation that is based on DNA information

Formore information on Genomics terminology see attached sheet or on relevant section of our website www.inot.com

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# Visit to the farm of Teddy & Donie Cashman

Coole, Whites Cross, Cork



Teddy and Donie Cashman farm at Coole, Whites Cross, about 10 km from Cork city. Teddy is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of Cashmans on the farm. Together they operate a specialist dairy farm, of approximately 100 hectares, milking 140 cows. They provide milk into the liquid milk business in Cork city.

Whilst the farm is a high input and high output dairy farm (relative to other dairy farms in Ireland), the farm has a very strong focus on grass and grassland managements. To ensure good labour efficiency and grassland management, Teddy operates a split block calving system with 60% of the herd calving in the Autumn (September/October) and the remainder calving in the Spring (February/March). The herd is fully pedigree registered with IHFA (the Coolehouse prefix).

Teddy is married to Joan and they have 3 teenage daughters. His father Donie is still actively involved in the farm and they have one full time employee.

Teddy is currently chairman of the IFA National liquid milk committee.

Key objectives of the Cashman farm are;

- 1. To have a profitable and sustainable farming business.
- 2. To breed fertile cows that produce high quality milk from grazed grass and grass silage.
- 3. To expand the business, with a target of 200 cows post 2015.

Teddy.

# Objectives of visit to the Cashman Farm

Overall objective

To establish how the Cashman farm is using data and information to improve the profitability of their farming business.

# Components of the farm visit.

- To get an overview of the Cashman farm, based on key performance figures.
- To understand how data and technology are improving the profitability of the farm.
  - Overview of key performance figures, including reports.
    - Co-op performance report Identify strengths & weaknesses.
    - Calving reports Female fertility. Particular focus on this farm.
    - Milk recording reports Data for breeding, culling & stock sales.
    - IHFA catalogue Selling breeding stock.
  - Grassland Management on the farm.
- To identify the breeding objectives for the Cashman farm and establish how bull and cow selection are contributing to herd profitability.
  - EBI reports Improving the next generation. Bull Selection for 2012.
    - Milk solids + female fertility + functional type.
  - Comparison of high and low EBI cow, including selection of cows from the Coolehouse herd.
- > Summary of farm visit.

# Key performance figures for the Cashman Farm.

Holstein Cow	rs.								
2012							2011		
Farm size (Ha)			109	Milk yield (li	itres/cow)		7932		
Milking platfor	m, grass Area (	Ha)	105	Annual Fat	3.81				
				Annual Prot	ein %		3.47		
Dairy Cows in	milk		135	Milk yield (k	g MS/cow)		595		
0-1 y.o replace	ements		65	SCC ('000	CC ('000 cells/ml)				
1-2 y.o replace	ements		65	Concentrates per cow. (Kg/cow/year)					
Other stock (LI	J)		1	Grass utilise	ed (Tonne DM/F	Ha)	10		
Stocking rate (	LU/ha)		1.95	Grazing Sec	ason Days		290		
Milk quota (litr	res)		1,1m	% cows Spri	ng Calving		40		
Current herd	milk performe	ance and feed	ing.						
Milk yield (litre	s/cow)		29	Target DM I	20+				
Fat %			3.82	Concentrate	e fed (kgs/cow/	day)	4.0		
Protein %			3.48						
Milk yield (kg /	MS/cow)		2.18	Grass - % o	80				
SCC ('000 cel	ls/ml)		158	Silages - % of diet					
Herd Fertility	Performance:	2011 and 20	12 to date						
2011				2012					
Median Calving	g Date		10/2/11	Start of calv	ing		14/1/12		
3 week submiss	sion rate (%)		54	6 week calv	ing rate (%)		74		
6 week in-calf	rate (%)¹		42	Median cal	ving date		10/2/12		
Breeding seaso	n length (days)		96	% calved be	efore April 1st		42		
Annual Empty r	ate (%)		18	Heat detect	ion aids used	Tail Paint	Scratch Cards		
Teagasc Profi	t Monitor 201	1. Costs and P	rofits						
			(C/L)				(C/L)		
Milk Price			36.7	Overhead (	Costs		13.77		
Purchased Fee	d		4.17	Total Costs	25.27				
Vet and breedi	ng (A.I.)		1.92	Net Margin 12					
Total variable	Costs		11.50	Target Costs 24.0					
Genetics for P	rofit (Farm EB	l Report)							
(from latest E	BI report)		Cows	Breeding heifers 2012 Calves					
EBI (€)			€74	€105			€110		
Milk SI (€)			€51	€60			€60		
Fertility SI (€)			€19	€36 €3					
<b>Bull Selection</b>	2012								
Al code	EBI (€)	Milk SI (€)	Fertility SI (€)	Milk Kgs	Fat%	Prot %	Kgs Solids		
Wght Avg	€143	€78	€47	419	03	.04	30.6		
5 11 1 1	1 0 /5								

Bulls used include; Guarine (DEU). Gran J Oman McCormick (USA),

Gormez Lee (IRE), Bob Bay Amateur (USA), Regan ALH G Derren (USA), Huddlestone Spooky (GBR).



# **Dairy Herd Performance Report**

# Jan - Dec 2011

Herd Owner: TIMOTHY CASHMAN
Designator: #E1510162 / D2700329
Supplier Number: 550072 / Liquid



		Your Herd	Dairygold Average	Dairygold Top 10%	Your Rank out of 100	Your Star Rating
Milk performance for	2011 (Jan - Dec) based on D	airygold data				
Fat + Protein (Kg/cow Average Fat and Protein	577	421	421 491		****	
Litres per Cow per Da Avg litres of Milk per co	21:08	15.18	18.3	100%	****	
Fat % to end Decemb Weighted average Fat	3,84	3.97	4,14	20%	*	
Protein % to end Dec Weighted average From	3,47	3.4	3.51	83%	* * * * *	
Average Milk Price (c Average milk price rec includes Echuses Penal	erved from Jan - Dec 2011,	36.7	36.8	37.7	59h	****
SCC (.000 cells/ml) The neighted average 2d Jan - Dec 2011	224	n/a	140	51%	***	
Fertility & Calving da	ta based on HerdPlus 2011 0	aiving Report		-	-	
Calving Interval (days	1	77			1.1	F. Link
Average number of days convings for collis callied a		412	413	391	51%	* * *
Days to calve 50% of Start 15/01/2011 - Med		27	54	30	100%	* * * * *
Total Dairy Replacem Dairy Females from in the as-a proportion of eligible	period (63)	45%	23%	48%	89%	* * * * *
%Al bred replacement lifemate calves som in the as a proportion of eligible	ne pence from stainy A. (63)	45%	20%	43%	97%	* * * * *
EBI Statistics based of	on the latest HerdPlus EBI re	port 2012			20-	
Herd EBI (2012) Average EBI for Colus (1	341	€85	€77	€ 102	28%	* *
Yearly EBI Gain (2012	2-2013) in: 0-1yr old2yr old & 22%	€8	€5.7	es	91%	****
EBI of 2011 Insemina Weighted Average EBI of recorded in Spring 201	daily at trule	€ 161	€187	€217	20%	*
Table of Terms						
Dairygold Average	The average performance of	Participating Da	irygold Liquid	Supplers		
Dairygold Top 10%	The top 10% cut off point of F	articipating Dai	rygold Liquid	Suppliers		
Your Rank out of 100	Your performance expressed eg. 1% = Bottom Supplier, 50			- Top Supple	er	
Your Star Rating	Your performance is displayed	c in stars e g 1	star is botton	n 20% and 5 t	stars = top 20	69
Eligible Cows	Number of dairy cows in the	nerd on Decemb	er 2011			

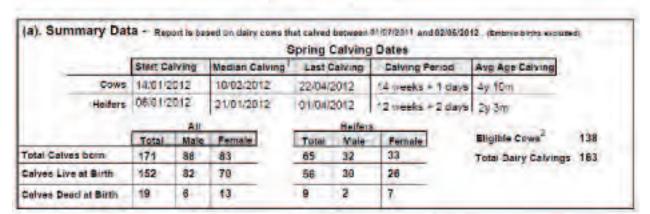


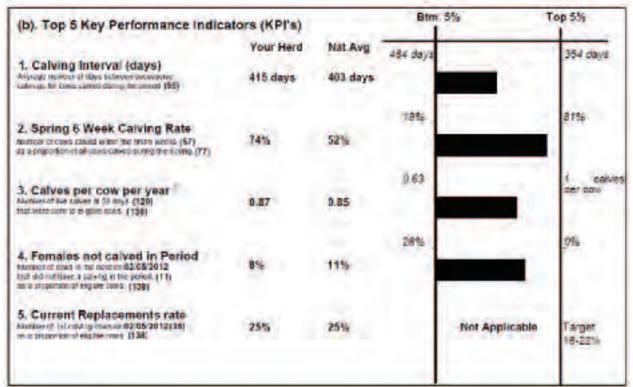
# Dairy Calving Statistics (01/07/2011 --- 02/05/2012)

LoCall 1850 800 900

Herd Owner: TIMOTHY CASHMAN

Herd Number: 161510162 Print Date: 02/05/2012 Page: 1(3)





## **Explanatory Notes**

- 1 Median Calving Date: Date on which 50% of your cows have calved.
- 2. Eligible Cows: Number of dairy cows in the herd on 02/05/2012
- 3. Calves per cow per year: Number of calves born to eligible cows 8 live at 28 days | eligible cows

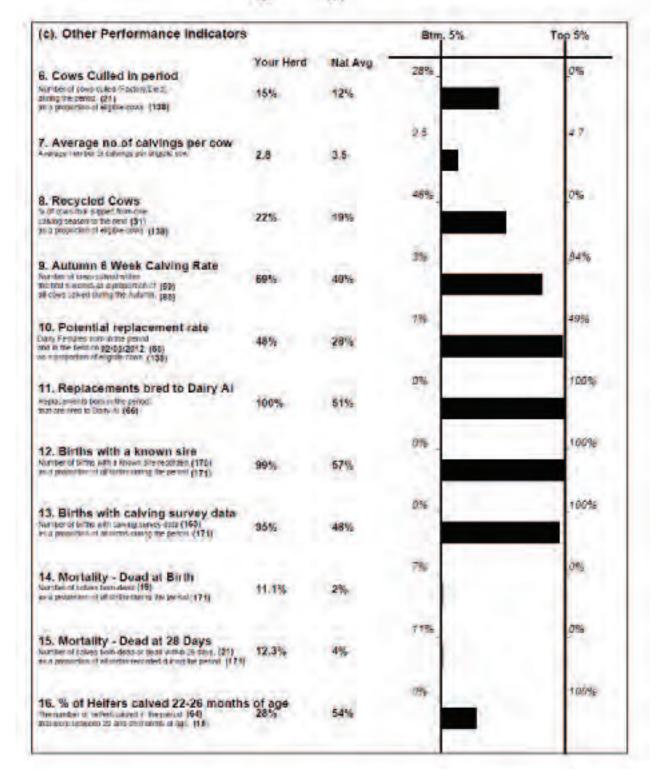


# Dairy Calving Statistics (01/07/2011 --- 02/05/2012)

LeCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: TIMOTHY CASHMAN

Herd Number: IE1510102 Print Date: 02/05/2012 Page: 2(3)





# Weekly Fertility Report Spring 2012

LoCall 1850 600 900

4, 6 Week Repeat rate

Containe feet with more than presented as in processing of constructing service in the 101,0 whomas

Herd Owner:

Herd Number: IE1510162

Mating	Start Date (MS	D): 06/04/201 Cows	(2: 08/04/2012 Heifers	Report Date: 16/05/2012					
(a). Cal	ving Summary	Data - Rep	ort is based on da	ary cows that	calved from	14/01/2	012		
	Spring Dairy	Calving Dates		Spring Dairy Calving Pattern					
-	Start Calving	Median C	Median Calving		Num: Calved	(%)	Top 15	5%	
Cows	14/01/2012	10/02/2012	(28 days)	Wask 3	38 14	(ank)	45%		
Heifers	05/01/2012	21/01/2012	(17 days)	Mank 7	-10	2710	74.0		
Herd	05/01/2012	26/01/2012	(24 days)	Week 6	58 (7	200	73%	J	
Total	Dairy Calvings	77	- 1	Heen y		- 101			
	iry Calves Born	79		Week 9	62 18	17%)	981		
100	rent Herd Subi	mission Rat	Current Herd				n 14/01/20 Your Hard Target Submit	July and	
100 80 70 80 70 40 30 10 0	/		Current Herd	Submission R	ate		Your Herd Target Subme	Esson Rato	
100 80 70 80 70 40 30 10 0	av 1 Wook 2		Current Herd				Your Hard Target Subme	Total I	
\$00 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0	/	Waak	Current Herd  Wook 4  Cows Su	Wook 5	ate		Your Herd Target Subme	Wook 5 and c	
100 80 80 70 80 40 30 0 West	ok 1 Wook 2	wook Indicators (	Current Herd  Wook 4  Cows Su	Wook 5	Webs 6		Your Hard Target Submit Target Submit	Wook 5 and c	
1000 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0	Performance	Indicators (	Current Herd  Week 4 Cows Su  KPI's)  41  W8 Heifers	Week 5	Webs 6	You	Your Hard Target Submit	Wook 8 and a	
100. Spenie 80 70 40 80 40 30 40 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 10 0 10 10	Performance	Mook Indicators ( Date: 41 Con this 31 man of Man yellow May 184 res	Current Herd  Wook 4 Cows Su  KPI's)  41  We Heifers  (35 5005) 32 remark)  my herers • 11 mas (7)	Week 5 emitted During Co Your Herd	ws Top 15%	You	Your Hard Target Submit Wices 7 Malden I ur Herd	Weak 8 (and a	

This is a family fining as many farmers do not recommende out carries that after the long FAS, would not be accurate

40% 1

30% 1

# Milk Recording Annual Farm Report

Herd Gwner TIMOTHY CASHMAN

Herd No.

E1510162

Print date: J4-MAR-12

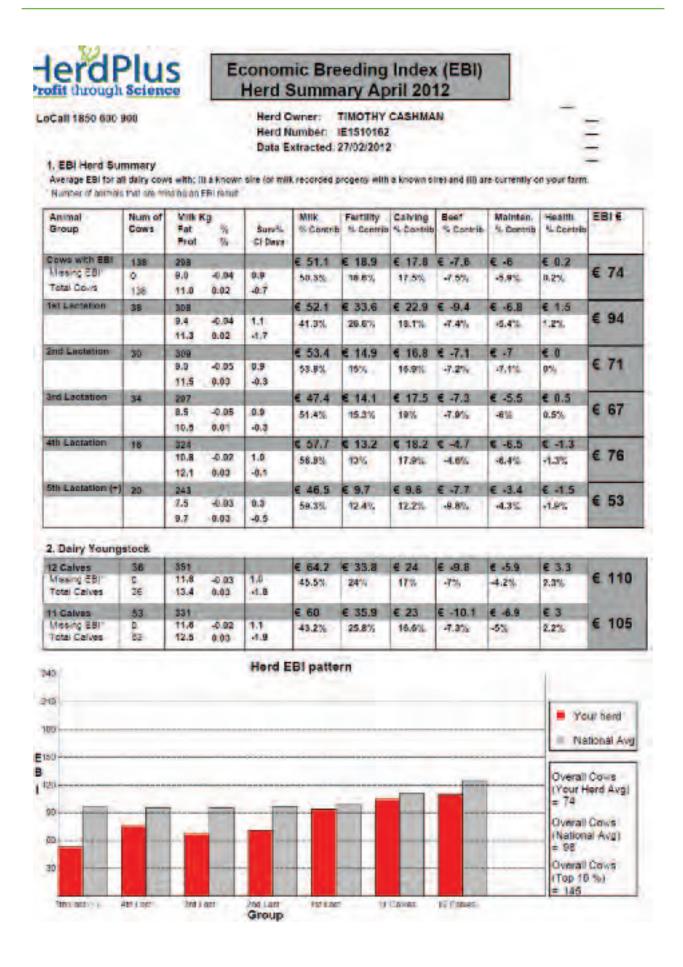
Report Period: 01-JAN-2011 - 31-DEC-2011

# 1. Production Summaries - Valid Lactations

Only animals that have had a valid lactation are included in these summaries. A valid lactation is one that was : (1) completed on the farm during the 12 month period (ii) has a valid lactation end reason (i.e. either dried off or completed 305 days) and (iii) has a minimum lactation length of 150 days.

	No of	Average			Comp	leted La	ctations D				
Group	cows	days in milk	MKg	Al Gall	FS	PN	FKg	₽ Кө	E4P Kg	scc	€
Overall	tir	342	10420	2225	3.92	3.51	409	365	775	192	64
		306 CI-408	9602	2051	3.90	8.47	375	383	706		
1st Lactation	29	339	8634	1844	391	3.48	338	301	635	129	67
			7888	1885	3.89	3.46	307	273	579		
2nd Lactation	40	343	10485	2240	3.88	3.51	404	368	772	179	56
		01:404	9677	2067	3.83	3.47	871	335	706		
3rd Lactation	17	340	11492	2488	3.93	3.86		409	851	213	79
		DI:409	10758	2293	3.92	3.53	421	379	801		
4 - Lactation	25	344	11657	2490	4.04	3.49	471	408	880	251	82
		CI: 412	10503	2283	4.01	3.45	426	569	797		
Winter	81	334	10525	22/48	3.97	3.51	416	370	787	200	85
		DI: 421	9885	29 12	3.98	3,49	390	345	738		
Spring	50	351	10291	2198	3.87	3.50	398	360	760	183	62
		CI: 354	9257	1978	3.84	3,45	356	320	675		

LOT 2						lini	1477	FULL PEC	IGREE	HO (94%) F	R (6%) Ferm
Coolehor	use Gi	ran Nanc	y EBI	€ 176	4			28-Feb-20	11	IE1510162	62266 (2266
Deptali In	leves	EBI €178	EBI 30%		Milk 660	Ferti E91	Hry	Calving €32	Beef -69	Health 68	Maintena -E7
Milk Don		Milk Kg 319	Fat 1	100	Prot Kg 11.5	Fat 9	ú	Prot % 0.01			
Fertility Tr	rifes	CI -5.2idays	Surv 2.5/9								
1) py Truni		Overall 1.15	Feet. 0.33	Legs	Udder 1.24						
Lhverer Reveder		thy Cashan thy Cashan									
Sire Gran-J Or	man M	ccormick)	GJM) (	183		by	O-De	r Manfred	Justice	(OII)	
Dam											
Coolehous (1597) € 1		Nancy2 \	G 87 II	E15101	6251597	by	Rund	22 (RUU)			
Milk Kgs 6832	4.05	PR% 3.43	Btkgs	PrKg 234	51	Days 299	Lact	02-02			
9499	4.12	3.40	368	319	65 75	305	2	28.00			
10621	4.80	3.38	510	359	-55	303	4		-12 (proj	)	
O Dom									-		
Coolehous	e Ingo	Namey Vo	1 85 RI	095878	82 (339)	by	Aghig	h Sights F	ls Ingot	ASTI	
Milk Kgs 7083	BF% 4.07	PR% 3.29	BfKgs 288	PrKg 233	44	Days 292	Lact	Calvin 03-10	g Date		
30196	3.95	3.27	404	333	32	305	2	13-06			
10632	1.13	3.32	110	354	52	305	-	10-01			
11025	4.00	3.09	421	324	78	305 305	4	05-0			
10473	3.82	3.09	483	323		305	10	22-11			
3rd Daw	- 1	101	- 1	-	120	3.16		-			
Coolchous	e Bowi	Namey G	78 01 08	546297	(2879)	by	Etazo	a Bowl (E	ZB)		
Milk Kgs		PRIN	Bikgs	PrKg		Days	Lact		g Date		
8085	3.48	3.18	181	257	38	305	1	20-10	-96		
8170	9.52	9.25	288	266	38	278	2	05-11			
8522	4.01	3.43	141	292	102	305	3	21-09			
9336	3 64	3 13	341	291	67	291	4	25-11			
9174	3.97	3,24	364	291	29	305	5	17-10			
7631	3.97	3.81	383	260	38	276	6	19-10			
9153	3.71	3.17	354	290	70 241	305 293	8	1000			
8418	387		336	271		283	9				
5403	2.01	9.14	2.781	-	101	203	9	12-10	- 04		



Conference 2012 ICAR Technical Tour Booklet

# Visit to the farm of Kevin McSweeney

Killard, Blarney, Co. Cork



Kevin farms at Killard, about 10 km west of Cork city, beside the famous Blarney Castle. He started milking on the present farm in 1995, with 70 cows and has built the herd up steadily to now include 150 cows and 150 dairy replacements. His goal is to milk 180 cow's post 2015, on the present farm (80 hectares).

The farm is a typical spring calving Irish dairy farm, with a heavy focus on grazed grass as a key part of the cow diet. The herd is pedigree registered with Irish Holstein Friesian Association under the Sunnybank prefix. The herd is a mixture of Holstein and Friesian, with Kevin often intercrossing these two breeds to maximise hybrid vigour.

Kevin is also involved in the  $G \in \mathbb{N} \in \mathbb{R} \in \mathbb{L}$ AND program as both a progeny test and bull breeder herd. Indeed a bull from the herd (SOK – Sunnybank Oman) has the distinction of being one of the highest EBI bulls progeny tested through the  $G \in \mathbb{N} \in \mathbb{R} \in \mathbb{L}$ AND progeny test program to date, with an EBI of  $\in 229$ .

Kevin is married to Grainne and they have 2 boys and 2 girls.

Objectives for the McSweeney farm are:

- 1. To operate a profitable dairy farm
- 2. To breed a functional, easy care cow, that will produce high volumes of quality milk, in a grass based system.

# Objectives of visit to McSweeney Farm.

Overall objective.

To establish how the McSweeney farm is using data and information to improve the profitability of their farming business.

# Components of the farm visit.

- To get an overview of the McSweeney farm, based on key performance figures.
- > To understand how data and technology are improving the profitability of the farm.
  - Overview of key performance figures, including reports.
  - Co-op performance report Identifying strengths & weaknesses.
  - Calving reports, female fertility & breeding chart.
  - Milk recording reports Data for breeding, culling & stock sales.
  - Demonstration of EDIY milk recording & Al.
- To identify the breeding objectives for the McSweeney farm and establish how bull and cow selection are contributing to herd profitability.
  - EBI reports Improving the next generation. Bull Selection for 2012.
    - Breeding Objective: Female fertility + Milk solids.
  - Role of genomics on this farm.
  - Comparison of selected Sunnybank cows (including bull mothers and potential bull mothers) with herd average.
- > Summary of farm visit.

# Farm Details: Spring Milk production, 142 Friesian and Holstein Cows.

2012					2011				
Farm size (Ha)			80	Milk yield (l	itres/cow)		6133		
Milking platfor	m, grass Area (	Ha)	49	Annual Fat	%		4.00		
				Annual Prot	ein %		3.49		
Dairy Cows in	milk		142	Milk yield (k	(g MS/cow)		473		
0-1 y.o replace	ements		88	SCC ('000	cells/ml)		191		
1-2 y.o replace	ements		59	Concentrate	cow/year)	800			
Other stock (LI	U)		40	Grass utilise	Ha)	10.4			
Stocking rate (	LU/ha)		2.85	Grazing Sea	ason Days		290		
Milk quota (litr	res)		730,000	% Spring Co	alving		100		
Current herd	milk performo	ance and feed	ing.						
Milk yield (litre	s/cow)		24	Target DM I	ntake (Kgs)		18 Kgs/day		
Fat %			3.87	Concentrate	e feeding (kgs/c	:ow/day)	3.0		
Protein %			3.29						
Milk yield (kg /	MS/cow)		1.76	Grass - % c	of diet		90		
SCC ('000 cel	ls/ml)		158	Silages - %	of diet		0		
Herd Fertility	Performance:	2011 and 20	12 to date						
2011				2012					
Median Calvir	ng Date		21/2/11	Start of calving			19/1		
3 week submis	ssion rate (%)		85	6 week calv	ring rate (%)		70		
6 week in-calf	rate (%)		60	Median cal	ving date		17/2		
A.I. Breeding s	season (days)		60	% calved be	efore April 1st		87		
Empty rate (%)			13	Heat detect	ion aids used		Tail Paint		
Teagasc Profi	t Monitor 201	1; Costs and F	Profits Analysis						
			(C/L)				(C/L)		
Milk Price			34.5	Overhead (	Costs		11.98		
Purchased Fee	d Cost		4.44	Total Costs			22.07		
Vet and breedi	ing (A.I.)		1.04	Net Margin 13.8					
Total Variable (	Costs		10.09	Target cost 21					
Genetics for	Profit (Farm EB	BI Report)							
(from latest E	BI report)		Cows	Breeding h	eifers		2012 Calves		
EBI (€)			€120	€127			€141		
Milk SI (€) €36				€41 €49					
Fertility SI (€)			€77	€77			€81		
Bull Selection	2012								
Al code	EBI (€)	Milk SI (€)	Fertility SI (€)	Milk Kgs	Fat%	Prot %	Kgs Solids		
Wght Avg	€202	€68	€113	96	0.25	0.12	26.0		

Bulls used include; Ballybride Aristotle (IRE), Highmount Kenny (IRE), Barrowvale Martell (IRE), Piet Adema (IRE) & G€N€ IR€LAND young bulls.



# Dairy Herd Performance Report

# Jan - Dec 2011

Herd Owner: KEVIN MCSWEENEY
Designator: IE1510002 / D2610044

Supplier Number: 550413 / Manufacturing



LoCall 1850 600 900

# Table 3: Dairygold/ICBF Performance Score Card

		Your Hard	Dairygold Average	Dairygold Top 18%	Your Rank out of 100	Your Star Rating
Milk performance for	2011 (Jan - Dec) based on D	airygold data				
Fat + Protein (Kg/cow everage Fat and Protein )	) yeld per sow for your nerd	414	367	440	78%	****
Litres per Cow per Da Avg litres of Milk per co	14.7	13:22	15.9	78%	****	
Fat % to end Decemb Weighted average Fat	4	3.95	4:16	6319	****	
Protein % to end Deci Weighted average Prot	3.49	3 44	3 66	73%	***	
Average Milk Price (c) Average milk price reco includes Bonuses Penalt	eived from Jan - Dec 2011	34.5	36.1	37.6	11%	*
SCC (,000 cells/ml) The reignted average Bo Jan - Dec 2011	omatic Deli Count for	191	ne	138	60%	***
Fertility & Calving dat	ta based on HerdPlus 2011 C	alving Report				
Calving Interval (days Average number of days ) calvings for colve calved of	netwaen successive	398	394	368	35%	**
Days to calve 50% of Start 23/01/2011 - Medi		31	38	21	83%	****
Total Dairy Replacem Dairy Females bom in the as a proportion of eligible	period (59)	40%	29%	46%	90%	****
%Al bred replacement ofense calves been in the as a proportion of eligible	e period from dairy 41 (35)	23%	20%	38%	58%	***
EBI Statistics based of	on the latest HerdPlus EBI re	part 2012				
Herd EBI (2012) Average EBI for Co-s (1- -th EBI data	421	6116	695	€117	90%	* * * * *
Yearly ESI Gain (2012 Gain in Hert EBI based of replacement rate	-2013) n 0-1yr nit, 1-2yr sid 6 22%	€1	€ 3,6	67	20%	*
EBI of 2011 Inseminat Weighted Average EBI of recorded in Spring 201	dairy At buile	tila	€ 190	<b>6217</b>	n/e	
Table of Terms					-	
Dairygold Average	The average performance of	Participating Da	rygold Mamir	facturing Sup	pliers	
Dairygold Fop 10% Your Rank out of 100	The top 10% out off point of P Your performance expressed eg. 1% = Bottom Supplier 50	across all Dairy	gold herds	and the same		
Your Star Rating	Your performance is displaye		-			Ni.
Eligible Cows	Number of dairy cows in the t					



# Dairy Calving Statistics (01/07/2011 --- 02/05/2012)

LeCall 1850 600 900

Calves Dead at Birth

Herd Owner: KEVIN MCSWEENEY

Hard Number: IE1510002

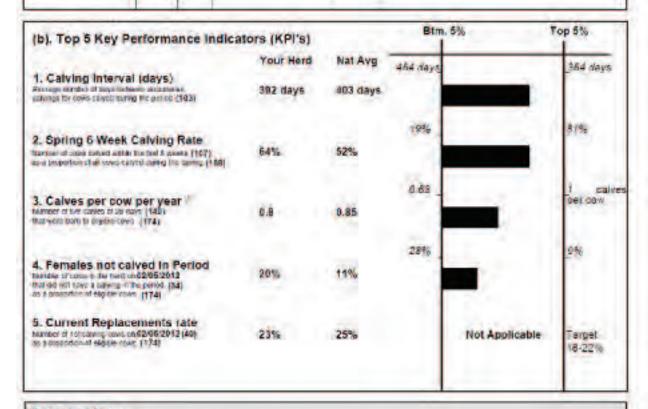
Print Date: 02/05/2012 Page: 1(3)

(a). Summary Data - Report is based on pary cows that calved between 01/07/2011 and 02/05/2012 . Embryo brins excluded: **Spring Calving Dates** Start Calving Median Calving Last Calving Calving Period Avg Age Calving: 10/01/2012 Cowe 17/02/2012 19/04/2012 14 weeks + 2 days 5v 9m Helfers 12/01/2012 11/04/2012 12 weeks + 6 days by 11m 03/02/2012 Eligible Cows" 174 Female Total Total Male Female Male 171 Total Calves born 87 32 84 67 35 **Total Dairy Calvings 168** Calves Live at Birth 186 80 86 62 31 31

5

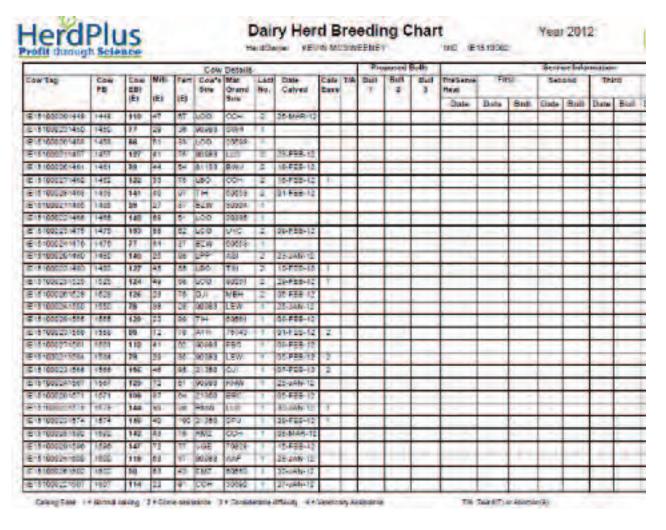
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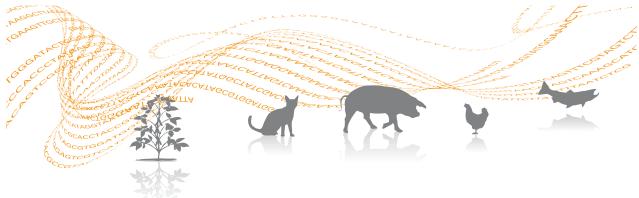
4



## **Explanatory Notes**

- 1. Median Calving Date: Date on which 50% of your cows have calved.
- 2. Eligible Cows: Number of dairy cows in the herd on 02/05/2012
- 3. Calves per cow per year: Number of calves born to eligible cows & live at 28 days / eligible cows.





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#### Milk Recording Annual Farm Report

Herd Owner: KEVIN MCSWEENEY

Herd No: Print date: 14-MAR-12

Repor Period: 01-JAPA-2011 - 31-DEC-2011



#### 1. Production Summaries - Valid Lactations

Only animals that have had a valid lactation are included in these summaries. A valid lactation is one that was : (1) completed on the farm during the 12 month period (ii) has a valid lactation end reason (i.e. either dried off or completed 305 days) and (iii) has a minimum lactation length of 150 days.

	No. of	Average	1		Comp	lated La	clasions O	ny.			
Group	cons	mile mile	M Kg	M Gal	Fil.	200	FKg	PKg	FHP Kg	scc	€B
Cverali	138	332	6839	1480	3.98	3.57	272	244	920	146	116
		308 Ol: 358	6343	355	3.95	3.56	25	225	478		
1st Laciation	-48	2.5	5864	1253	3.98	3.52	234	205	443	187	118
			5681	1214	3,98-	3.52	226	200	426		
2nd Lactation	16	331	6997	1495	3,84	3.54	269	245	523	102	115
		CI: 301	0587	1407	3.79	3.5	250	231	491		
3rd Lactation	18	336	6941	1483	4.13	3.54		263	545	2111	1D
	-	OI: 401	6365	350	4.08	\$,\$	259	237	488		
4+ Lactation	59	345	7463	1596	3.98	3.6	297	269	558	173	1 313
		CH 382	6703	143	3.95	3.55	266	240	506		
Winter	2	403	T281	851	4.69	4.00	356	291	646	182	138
		CI 488	5845	249	4.73	3.93	277	233	508		
Spring	134	331	6830	1459	3.97	3.57	27	244	519	147	171
		CI 387	8351	357	3.84	3.54	250	225	478		





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#### Economic Breeding Index (EBI) Herd Summary April 2012

LoCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: KEVIN MCSWEENEY

Herd Number: IE1510002 Data Extracted: 27/02/2012

#### 1. EBI Herd Summary

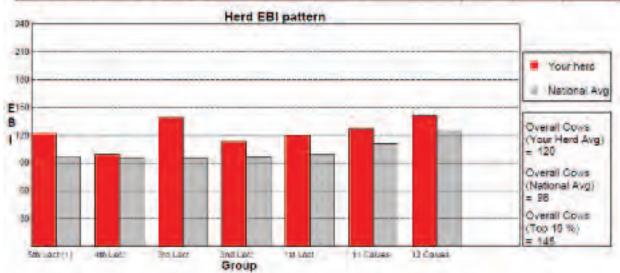
Average ESI for all dairy cows with: (i) a known sire for milk recorded progeny with a known sire) and (ii) are currently on your farm

Number of primate that are missing on CSI result

Animal Group	Num of Cows	Milk K Fat Prot	Q 14	Survis Cl Days	Milk % Contrib	Fertility is Contrib	Calving S Contrib	Beet Is Contrib	Veinteri. % Contrib	Health & Contrib	EBIC
Cows with EDI	173	90	-	-	€ 36.2	€ 77.2	€ 17.6	€ -11.8	€ 3.7	€ -2.6	2 120
Missing EBI	1	6.2	0.06	1.8	24.3%	51.8%	31,8%	-7.9%	2.5%	4.7%	€ 120
Total Covs	174	6.1	0.06	47		100					
1st Lactation	45	97			€ 39.7	€ 73.8	€ 19.7	€ -12.2	€ 2.9	€ -3.8	2.70
		7.6	0.08	1,6	26,5%	48.5%	13%	-8%	1,9%	-2.5%	€ 120
		6.5	0.07	4.6	York	74.		17.	Table 1	460	200
2nd Lactation	33	109		2000	€ 41.1	€ 66.6	€ 16.3	€ -11.4	€ 3.5	€ -3.2	4.000
		6,9	0.05	1.6	28.9%	46.9%	11.5%	-8%	2.5%	-2.3%	€ 113
		7.0	0.07	4.0				100	177		
3rd Lactation	23	179		1000	€ 47.5	€ 80.5	€ 20.9	€ -11.1	€ 2.7	€ -1.7	
		11.1	0.03	1.9	28.9%	49%	12.7%	-6.8%	1.8%	415	€ 139
	4	8.3	0.06	4.8					100		1
4th Lactation	13	32	THE	100	€ 29.2	€ 70.6	€ 12.3	€ -13.9	€ 3.7	€ -2.5	4000
1		5.7	0.09	1.6	22.1%	53.4%	9.3%	-10.5%	2.8%	-1.9%	€ 99
		4.2	0.06	43	133 34		111111111111111111111111111111111111111	Lane	77.22		
5th Lactation (+)	59	54	90	117	€ 27.8	€ 86	€ 16.5	€ -11.5	€ 4.8	€ -1.9	Mark.
		4.1	0.04	2.1	18.7%	57.9%	11.1%	-7.7%	3.2%	-1.3%	€ 122
	1	4.0	0.00	-5.1	-			and the same of	100		4

#### 2. Dairy Youngstock

12 Calves	86	166			€ 48.8	8.08	€ 21.9	€ -12.5	€ 2.9	C -0.5	-
Missing EBI Total Calves	10	8.6	0.05	2.0 -4.8				-7.5%	1.7%	C -0.5	€ 141
11 Calves	58	117	F-CO C	100	€ 40.6	€ 76.9	€ 21.1	€ -14	€ 3.7	€ -1.1	1000
Missing EB: Total Calves	58	8,7	0.09	1,9		48.9%			2.4%	-0.7%	€ 127



	Ge	nomic E	valuation	Report	-			
Jumbo	1854				Lact. No			
Tag	IE15100022	1854			Sex	F		
Name	SUNNYBAN	IK BEACH 18	854		Sire	IE1610002	51480 (€14	18)
DOB	16-May-201	1 0y 10m			Dam	JE 1610002	71322 /E19	di.
	TI. TALLED	Total Control			3000	to a book		-
Breed	HO (78%), F	R (22%)		_	Dam's Sire	OJI (€ 232)		
Date of Evaluation	08-Mar-201	2						
Index	Official Genomic Evaluation	Reliability	Weighting on Genomics	DNA Value	Parent Average Evaluation	Reliability	Diff.from Parent Avg	Increase In Reliabilit
EBI €	207	41%	28%	184	170	20%	+37	21%
Milk Sub Index E	55	51%	33%	57	67	25%	-12	28%
Fert ity Sub Index E	132	32%	19%	111	7≨	16%	+53	189
Cawing Sub Index E	34	39%	28%	31-	38	17%	-3	22%
Beef Sub Index €	-19	37%	18%	-20	415	23%	4	34%
Maintenance Sub Index 6	3	33%	17%	3	7	19%	4	1455
Health Sub Index €	2	47%	34%	2	. 1	19%	- 1	28%
Milk Sub Index				399		100		
Milk (Kg)	143	51%	35%	151	250	25%	-107	26%
Fat (Kg)	11.4	51%	35%	12	14.4	25%	-3	25%
Protein (Kg)	9	51%	35%	9.4	12	25%	- 3	28%
Fat (%)	0.11	51%	23%	0.12	0.09	25%	+0.02	28%
Protein (%)	0.08	51%	35%	0.08	0.07	25%	+0.01	28%
Fertility Sub Index	15.75	-3.13.7				1000	1000	777
Calv Int (Days)	-8.34	33%	20%	7.08	4.56	16%	-3.78	17%
Survival (%)	2.73	30%	1891	2.24	2.0€	16%	+0.87	1361
Calving Sub Index								
Dir.Calv.Diff.(%)	1.08	40%	24%	1,58	1.98	21%	40.9	19%
Mat.Calv DI/T(%)	9.07	32%	17%	8.6	8.9	18%	+0.17	14%
Gest Len (Days)	-2.64	42%	32%	-23	-2.64	15%	0	27%
Call Mont(%)	-0.93	21%	3%	-08	-0.7	12%	40.23	74
Seef Sub Index					1		Sec.	1
Cull Cov Weight (Kg)	-2.11	33%	17%	-22	448	19%	+2.38	14%
Carcass Weight (Kg)	-7.78	38%	18%	8.58	-8.54	24%	-2.24	14%
Carcass Conf (Grade)	-0.92	39%	18%	0.91	-0.84	25%	0.28	14%
Carcass Fat (%)	-0.12	33%	17%	-0.1	-0.02	20"	-0.1	13%
Maintenance Sub Index								
Cull Cow Weight (Kg)	-2.11	33%	17%	-2.2	-1.49	19%	+2.38	14%
Health Sub Index								
Lameness (Locomotion)	-0.75	24%	159	-0.84				
Udder (SCC)	-0.05	49%	36%	40.0	-0.02	20%	-0.03	29%

#### Explanatory Notes:

Official Genomic Evaluation = the new official index based on combining the DNA information with the parental average information. DNA Value = the index based on DNA information only.

Weighting on Genomics - the percentage of the official evaluation that is based on DNA information.

For more information on Genomics terminology see attached sheet or on relevant section of our mebsile w/www.abf.com

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## ICAR Technical Tour Booklet

## Beef Technical Tour

Thursday 31st May 2012

Beef Tours to the farms of

Jim & Audrey Parkinson and Ben & Elaine Ryall



## Beef Technical Tour Overview

The goal of the Technical tours is to 'demonstrate how Irish dairy, beef & sheep farmers are using breeding and management information to maximise farm profitability'.

The Beef Technical Tour will be visiting two beef herds:

#### **Beef Herd 1**

Name: Jim & Audrey Parkinson.

**Location:** Marlhill, New Inn, Cashel, Co.Tipperary.

Distance from Rochestown Hotel: 90Kms

Travel Time: 1 Hour

**System:** Suckler Beef Herd with a beef finishing

enterprise.



#### **Beef Herd 2**

Name: Ben & Elaine Ryall.

**Location**: Fellfort, Watergrasshill, Co.Cork.

Distance from Beef Herd 1: 66Kms

Travel Time: 50mins.

System: Pedigree Angus Beef Breeder





## Visit to the farm of Jim & Audrey Parkinson

Marlhill, New Inn, Cashel, Co. Tipperary



#### **Beef Herd 1**

#### Farm Overview

- Farming 77 ha (57 ha owned and 20 ha rented).
- Registered 104 calves in 2011. They have 35
  pedigree Limousin cows and heifers. They also
  have approximately 65 commercial Limousin
  suckler cows.
- The Cork-Dublin motorway has contributed to the story of this farm. It was built in 2006. At the time Jim had been milking 60/65 dairy cows and had been running a pedigree Limousin herd alongside this. In 2007 he sold the dairy cows and expanded the suckler herd.
- In the commercial herd offspring are sold to maximise profit. This may mean selling weanlings or grazing some spring bulls for their second season, housing them at the start of Aug, putting them on adlib ration, and slaughtering them in the first week of October.
- Replacement Strategy: Ideally Jim would like to be able to breed replacements from his own herd. He will attempt to breed ¾ bred heifers from his ½ bred black Limousin cows. He may also have to purchase some ½ bred heifers. The future Maternal Index will prove useful to Jim as he will be able to breed more directly for increased milk in his herd.
- Business attitude: Being organized & being efficient at managing his time is very important to him. There has been a weighing scales on the farm for 28 years. This has been mostly used on the Commercial Herd to check that animals are thriving.

#### Calving Pattern & Breeding Replacements

- At the moment Jim is calving his cows in both the spring and the autumn (Sept-Mar). His plan is to move to an all autumn calving season. He is allowing the later spring calving cows to "slip" into
- Calving Interval a National Issue. While Jim had a
  problem with a sub clinically infertile bull last year,
  he is taking measures to improve calving interval.
  His experience is that a cow that repeats may well
  breed a heifer that will repeat herself, so these are
  not the ladies to be selecting as replacement
  heifers
- Record keeping on this farm is excellent and Jim is aware of what the market requires and also what will lead to an easily managed system for himself and Audrey. (i.e. easy calving). So he keeps honest and accurate information on calving difficulty. Pedigree herds can have a big impact in this area. Because he is delivering bulls that are performing well in commercial herds he has a number of repeat buyers. There is no need to advertise as word of mouth does the selling for him.

#### **Growing & Grazing Grass for profit**

- Current stocking rate (approx)
  - -100 cows at 600kg
  - -83 calves at 200kg
  - -25 bulls at 520 kg
  - -20 heifers at 420 ka
  - -3 stock bulls.

20 ha closed for silage so 100,000kg of beef on 57 ha, or 1750kg/ha. This is equivalent to a grazing demand of 35kg DM/Ha. Some stock were housed at the beginning of May to cope with low growth rates, with 12 days of growth ahead. Growth of 30kg or more in the following week was anticipated, which would bring things back on track.

Jim walks his farm every week to monitor grass supply. He also uses a group of heifers and cull cows to clean off paddocks. He implements a rotational closing of paddocks in the autumn. In 2011 he commenced closing paddocks from Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. This spring he started turnout on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> with calved cows and later calving cows turned out as they

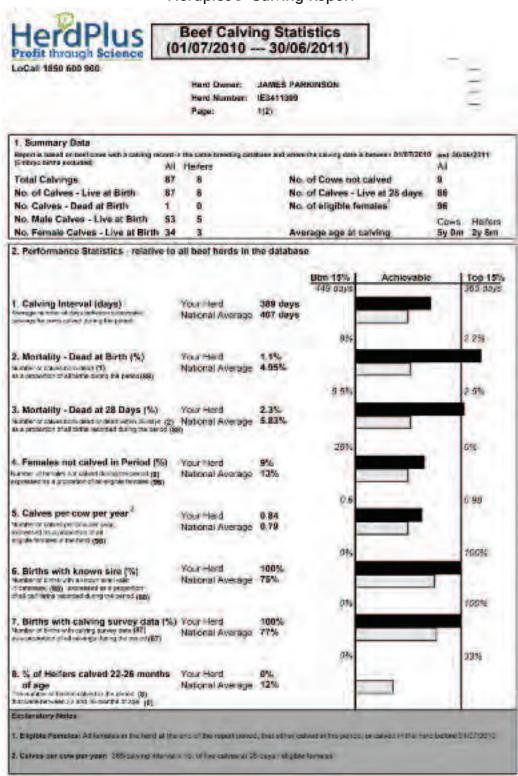
calved. Feb  $10^{\text{th}}$  was exceptionally early for Jim, due to the good weather conditions. Turnout would usually not occur until early March.

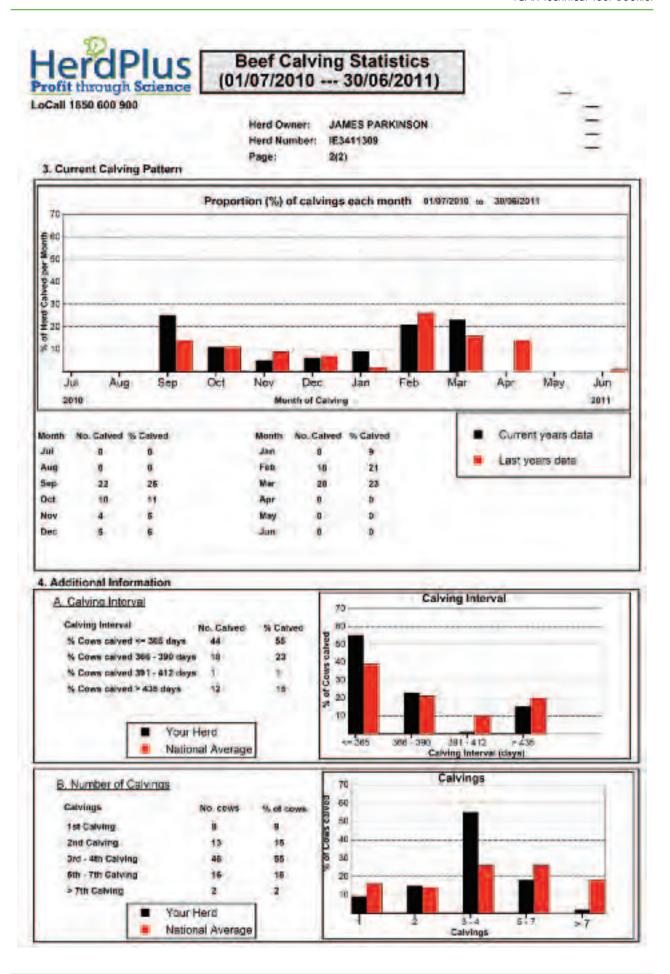
Reseeding is only carried out where necessary as

perennial ryegrasses are persisting well in the swards due to the stocking rate and due to good management.

## **Calving Pattern**

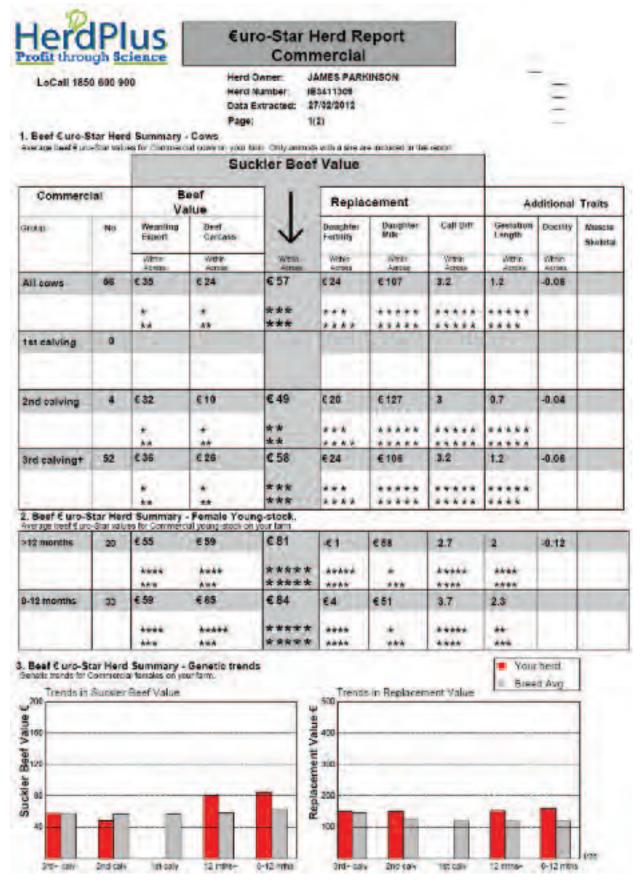
Herdplus® Calving Report



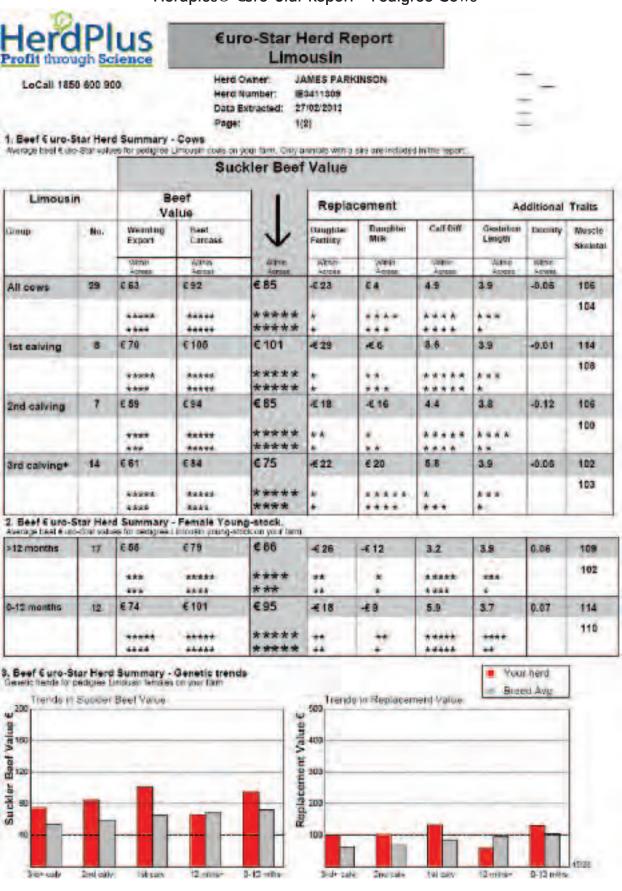


## **Breeding Replacements**

Herdplus® €uro-Star Report – Commercial Cows



#### Herdplus® €uro-Star Report – Pedigree Cows



## High v Low Maternal Index Demonstration

		High	Mate	rnal Index Co	ws			
Tag	Age	Daughter Fertility	Rel%	Daughter Milk	Rei%	New Maternal Index	Age at first Calving	Calving Interval
(E3/12/99/80 <b>333</b>	9yrs & 8 mths old	***	38%	****	71%	****	26 Miths	372 Days
(1341130910 <b>943</b>	Ayrs 8.2 mths old	****	33%	****	37%	****	30 Mths	379 Days
(E341130970 <b>742</b>	Syrs & 3 mths old	***	26%	****	28%	****	31 Mths	350 Days
Group Ave	rage	***	32%	****	45%	****	29 Mths	370 Days

		Low	Mate	rnal Index Co	ws			
Tag	Age	Daughter Fertility	Rel%	Daughter Milk	Ref%	New Maternal Index	Age at first Calving	Calving Interval
IC341130960 <b>642</b>	7yrs & 5 mths old	*	34%	****	24%	*	28 Milhs	392 Days
E341130920 <b>465</b>	9yrs 8.9 mths old	*	47%	***	71%	*	28 Mths	441 Days
(E341130910 <b>761</b>	Gyrs & 4 mths old	*	3756	****	51%	**	31 Withs	426 Days
Group Ave	rage	*	39%	****	49%	*	29 Withs	420 Days

## **High Maternal Index Cows**

Cow Tag ending: **333** 

		mimal Details				- 1	Anci	estry	Deta	aile.			Cure	o-Star I	ndex		
Am	10: 3	to:				Sale	1568	100088				With Breed			Index Re	etti Ass	ton Bree
one	laf Tag: E	341200780303			20	ni s Sine	1	050				****	State of Book	Value	E125 90	1 11	***
Anix	w Name II	ERRY TUDDE				0.00	1987	0013331					Ber	of Value			
				М	84	n's Dan	DAI	YPSO.				*****	Wearing Ex	port	CTG -40	B	
Cone	of Dinte	- 1			100	No.					_	and the second named in column 2 is not	Bool Carcass		E118 4	0 4	
Eree	m 0.1	N (100-8)		Sire		Lincol					-	OF SUB.	P	eners Va		-	2 4 (0).
		A STATE OF THE STATE OF			-	EBB1183					-	2.6.1.1	Basillo Fo				-
		edigine Rigginsensi		Dam:				-			-			-		-	
Stor	7.	HISAUNGOO.			10.4	LAME	SER I	SERIE			_	****	Desgitter Mil			9 1	* *
Water	ited:				-	m's Sine	BBL				-	1		Key Triets	6		
nu	Pindex #	defiability 47%)		3.3			BEN	BLUSE	NOW	RILE		****	Mat Careng	Dib.#	6,58 60	100	***
1/8	SCLE	SKELETAL	DOCALITY		On	ers Dans	HER	1007		ANT II		*****	Geratro Le	ngti	20 0	19 1	+
	116	115	0.08	1			BAL	MAP	ERE	MMA		***	Dool ty		368 4	B	
		Calving &	Fertility	Perfor	man	ce					V	Veanling &	Carcass	Perfor	mance		
	Calving Date	Tag Nambar		Calaing Interval 5		urrent Satus	Sire	Sina Separa	Age		31	€ make	Call	Docum	Agent	Carcus	Carrae
+	15H 25000	IIE THE CONSTRUCTOR	TERMS	- 11	110	out 1	W.86	100				_	_		1.0	-	-
2	05/04/2005	IE041190920713	Nonral	300 8		127		UA							29	1.0	307
1	02/02/2007	IE341130968616	Normal	380 Y	VI C	600		UA							59	E J=	662
4	04/02/2005	IE341130979662	Nontral	386 1			07:8	UII	245	399	1.42		V Goos	Dutes			
5	01/02/2009	IE341130951012	Normal	361 1			0404	LW	227	392	1.27		Excellent.	Dulet			
+	19/02/2010	JE341130921100	Normal	354 7	W S	olo 2	(14)14	LW	231	333	3.27		Average	0.665			
1	10/02/2011	E341130921200	Normal	356	W SI	Ma S	(4)4	DW	235	478	1.48		Arrange	Quego.			
	0102201	(E341130931250	Normal	399 V	10	Bett 1	0018	LM									

### Cow Tag ending: 943

		Animal Detail	5				Anc	estry	Det	rils			€uro	-Star	index	X.		
Jato	but;	943			_	VINCE THE	m	V.				With a Bread			poles.	RAS	Acres	a Siye
oho	out Tags	EFERTHER)				Sin's Sin	2		DAY!	ITWMN	14	****	Sucker Bitel	Volum	6112	26.74	**	***
Aim	on Narma	MARCHILLINGER	FROM:			300's Ox	JE35	P.51504	41204				Des	Évicus				
	of mate.	23/03/2008		11-		3/62/01	PEL	LEFET	OWN :	REE		****	Websites For	oc I	des.	BS.	***	k
7/15				Sine		(E281023)	407					****	Seef Cittains		6101	42%	**	4.4
Brue	d.	DW(1953)		244	•	PER ETSO	CON N	ADO A	5				Replace	er and Va	lie	- 1		
Rend	mont:	Persona Registere		Dan		(E341) 320	4045					*****	Dingstear i or	tite	925	33%	**	**
8400	n ti	S00011140	100		MARIHU	TWE	18				****	Descripe No-	,	9.10	27%	***	*	
Wald	too:	DAM (15000)		91		Dam's Sim	198						CIME	Gry Train	5			
PLO	OF HIGH	(RELIGION (NES)			Dates and		FR.				*	Nor Calving D	Set for	7,23	38%	**		
14	BCLE	SHELCTAL	DOCLITY			Dam's Dan	n Vitte	174145		1.15		***	Geratoria	120	310	12%	*	
	114	101	4.35			12-17	444	SHIF	BOLD	Lucies		****	DataVa		4.05	48%	**	
		Calving &	Fertlity	Perfo	rim	ance					V	reanting i	& Carcass	Perio	rotan	ce		
	Caten Date	138	Calving			Diamen	Strii	-Siro Drekri	days days	WHICH NO	Genach Kei Day		Car On Hoy	Per Derring	Age Simon		O. O. L. L.	moreh
T		ए <u>मध्या प्रकार</u>	V 2-V W. V	1 m m	1	Sold .	20-0		325	SW.	1.05		Extragal	Our				
2	180,000	1 1/241 1/2014/26	I - Statist	472	150	In heart	Hein	DATE		0	1		1				- 3.0	

<sup>\*</sup> Sirthers, To: 40kgs is secured and a southerful from the Victoring Programmen as a sing Chevit Rigiday.

\*\*Doct to: If a single is theen Stoned than this value is difficult indeed of the Stoken Cov Wetter Botteme value.

#### Cow Tag ending: **742**

	- 1	Animal Details	-				Ano	estry	Deta	nils		TOTAL ST	€ure	Star I	ndex	-	
Juni	100 7	42		_		Sec. Se	FC	7	-			Within Bread			neles B	N. Acr	nes Breed
Dette	chill Tagt III	E3414300T0742				Sha's Sin		TE POP	SIET			****	Sucktor Book	Value !	123 2	> 10	***
Anie	ral Name:							77434				-	BH	rf Value	-		
	of Birth	narrant.				Size o Des	MAG	FLHIL	GOLD	LOCKS		*****	Wearling By	por l	664 22	ds +	*
-	10.00		minute in the	-		E3411505	10547	,		_		****	Best Caronio		971 25	S + 4	*
Bres	od:	10 IZBAG, LW (BOA)	UN ISSUE	Sin	**	MARILL							Regisco	ment Val	ue		
Hero	dbook			Dat		VIS882165	50					***	Desphares	tite: It	178 31	75 45	**
Buo	rodi			-		-						*****	Daugher Ma	6	e 147 - 20	(b)	***
Wei !	gred					Danie Sre	200						Other	Key Traits			-
SU	P Indiex	Reliability 1950				Din K Se	ET/	ZON F	99949	i i			Mal Carvege	DETAIL S	8 95 34	*	
M	USCLE	SKELETAL	DOCI.ITY			Dam > Dar	10					****	Gestation Les	nggr	79 11	S. **	**
	18	112		-		17.30							Dod #				
		Calving &	Fertility	Perfe	m	ance					v	Veanling 8	Carcass	Perfor	mance	-	
	Calving Date		Cal-ing Survey	Carring		Carrent	Sire	Sire Breed	Agir		Granth Egritay		Coll	Docitiy	Age at Staught promise		Cars Ass Welght
-	03/03/4/03	[ [IESATTSO/BESSE]	Normal		И	Doub	न्द्रशास	LIN					9.Good	Quel	10	Union	453
2	22509/2003	115311150811050	Normal	383	F	Dead	3046	IM					V Good	Daigt	27	1874-	359
1	08/08/2019	11341130841147	Norma	328	-	Sod	CMB	LM	315	436	1.25		9 Good	Astropo			
4	23/08/201	1 11341 13097 1237	Norma	580	T	in herd	30404	LIN									

### **Low Maternal Index Cows**

Cow Tag ending: **642** 

		<b>Animal Details</b>					And	estry	Deta	ails			€uro	o-Star	Inde	X	- London
Juni	dec:	642		_		and the last	Ter	-	-	_		Within Breed	-	- State of the last	Inches.	Ref %	Across Sn
one	coal Tacc	IE341130900E42				Sire's Sin	100	IAIRID					Sucklide Boot	Volue	**	30%	*
Anin	nat Name					and a	106	303848	4				Bei	of Victor			
	at Water	somtizens				Sire's Our	ni	MININE				**	Westriking Exp	500	# 12	28%	**
-		Auto City Control		120		NA.	-						Boof Cetters			38%	*
Shee	id:	HO (40 62%), LW (50 (5.38%)	MOUNTY.	Sin		NAVARIN					- 1		Regiace	ment Va	lue		
-	trook	Inches or				ETCYMO	eres.						Daughterhan		1-21	34%	
800				Down	W.	10.12							Oxughter Min	-	e ste	24%	****
West	ghodt					1000								Hey Trait	_	-	1344
BLU	Plades (Reliability 29%)					Dam's Sin	1					****	Wed Carring D	on s	6.76	485	***
_	Plades (Reliability 29'5)  ISOLE SHELETAL DOCULTY					Dam's Dan	100	A82810	0			***	Gestation Le	nath	1.87	48%	****
	0.0	406	40.00										Donity		0.07	Mes	**
		Calving &	Fertility	Perfe	rm	ance					V	Veanling &	Carcass	Perfo	rman	ice	
	Galven Date	Tag Kumber		Calving		Cur-unt Status	Sim	Sire Broad			Gruwth KpsBay	€ truskib	Cost Country	Doctif	Age Slave	n C	reass out, Garci
1	05/05/20	O	Normal		N.	Dead	5045	T AA							1.21	118	2 796
7	овонов	6 E241 C250953	S Asses	338	Ė.	Frod .	3073	110					V Goru	Difficul	30	R	2 274
7.	11/03/20	GE 1571 (7594103)	Normal	-341	М	Dead.	1040	LW.	S S F AS	-51	-			16.	1 0		
1	5000050	Name and Address of the Owner, which the	Normal	370	M	Doord	*****	3 LM	300	366	1.98		yvisabe	yvassi	14	- 10	-5 3bi
9-	435-15-20	E341130961243	Normal	023	-	In hera	1091	d The						-	1		

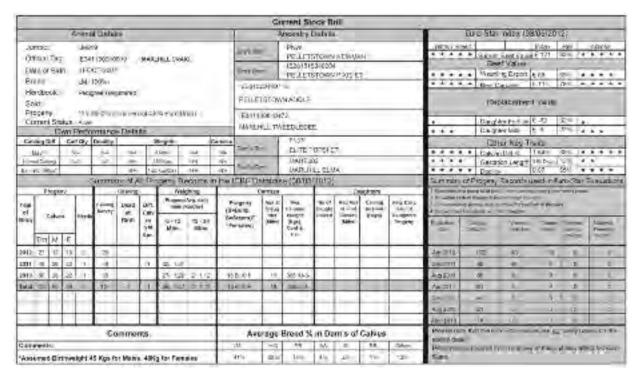
Cow Tag ending: **465** 

	- A	mimal Details				Anc	estry	Deta	ails	-		€uro	-Star I	nde			
him	h0: 3	65			100	Took	-				Wittin Bennd	-		lidex	flats	Agre	au Örens
Offic	on they: Of	341130920465			Sire's Sire:		939			_	**	Buckler Beet	Varioe	654	485	**	
Anin	na Namorii	ARIHIT WHIRE			Acres 1	129	111500	2				Sec	1 Value				
-		description.			Sins's Dam	GEV	CIELLS	E			***	West Ing For	od -	eat	SIN.	**	*
	of Birth: 3	-			TON	-						Beel Carono		€82	215	**	**
Bree	d: U	VI (100%)		Birs:	MESON.					-		Replace			-	100	-
		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF			(E3412300)	- CP CO C	_			_	_	1000			100	-	_
*****	MILITARY TO THE PARTY OF THE PA	edgree Recistmed		Dam:								Daugran har		6-81		*	
Book	-	40879003			MARLHUL	1	-			_	***	Designer Mid-			77%	**	*
Wele	thed: (I)	3/05/2003			Corr/s Sire	BAG	1			-	10000		es Traite		-	1	0 0 0
BLU	Findex (F	Resistints 91%)	200			0.4	PHN				****	Mat Calory 2	16.2	5.55	345	**	***
M	USCLE	SHELETAL	вроиту		Danis Dan	VER	474030				**	Gestation Len	offi	12	34%		
	107	10	0,08		12500	100	a mi	RENE			****	Descrity		0.08	33%	**	**
		Calving &	Fertility	Perform	ance				-	V	reanling A	& Carcass	Perfor	man	De .		
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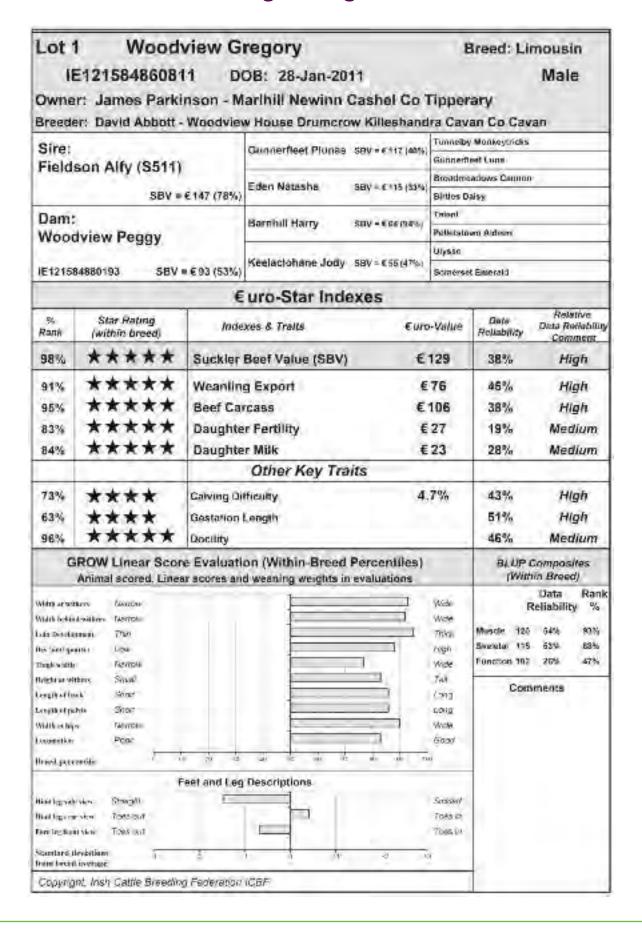
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## Herdplus Bull Tracker Report – Current Stockbull



### Bull Sale Catalogue Page – New Stockbull



## Growing and Grazing Grass for Profit TEAGASC

Grazed Grass Costs Vs. Other feed – Source: Finneran (2010)									
	Total Costs (€/t UDM)	€/1000 UFL	Relative to grazed grass						
Grass (80% utilised)	75	73	1						
Silage	185	230	3.15						
Rolled Barley	188	162	2.22						

#### Potential of Grass on Beef Farms

Grazed grass is the cheapest feed on beef farms and offers the most potential to increase profitability.

#### How can the potential of grass be harnessed in beef systems?

In the future, the main technical efficiency that can be increased on beef farms is the conversion of grass into meat. While we have been used to direct payments in the past two decades, by 2015 we will almost certainly see a reduction in these payments and a move towards higher stocking rate beef systems, something which has been restricted by environmental schemes, etc. in recent years.

#### Increasing grass utilisation

Beef farms currently have low stocking rates. The top third National Farm Survey (NFS) cattle farms are stocked at 1.7 livestock units (LU)/ ha with the top third of eProfit monitor cattle farms stocked at 1.95 LU/ ha. Nationally cattle farms are stocked at 1.1 LU/ha. Within these stocking rates there is considerable scope to increase the proportion of grass in the grazing animal's diet.

While there are a variety of beef systems practised commercially, overall grass utilisation is low nationally at approximately 4.8 t DM/ha. The target should be to move towards 10t DM/ha. To begin examining how grass utilisation can be increased, the grazing season must be broken into the three main grazing periods - spring, summer and autumn.

#### Spring grass utilisation

Early spring grazing has beneficial effects on animal and sward performance. Turning animals out to grass early can substantially reduce the overall concentrate and grass silage feed budget. There are a number of important benefits to grazing animals in early spring:

- Reduced feed costs
- Reduced labour input
- Reduced slurry accumulation
- Increased animal performance

Using the **Spring Rotation Planner** is the best way to ensure adequate grass supply and to allow recovery for the second rotation.

- Spring Rotation Planner
- Calculate area to be grazed in the spring (include silage ground if grazing)
- Graze 20% by March 1st
- Graze further 20% by March 17th
- Graze a further 60% by Magic Day (end of 1st week of April – normally!)

On Jim's farm turnout started on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> with calved cows. Later calving cows were turned out as they calved. Feb 10<sup>th</sup> was exceptionally early for Jim, due to the good weather conditions; turnout would normally be early March. Because of exceptionally poor grass growths this April some cattle were rehoused. This is the key to spring grazing in that a flexible approach is always required.

#### Mid season grazing Management

The target here is to keep quality grass with high leaf content ahead of stock:

- Keep rotation length at 20/21 days.
- Target pre-grazing yields of 1300-1500kg DM/Ha
- Skip heavy covers and remove as round bales

The most important thing to do is to walk the farm and get a handle on the amount of grass ahead of stock. Jim walks his farm weekly to assess the grass supply. To maintain a rotation length of 21 days 10-12 days grass supply ahead is adequate.

#### **Autumn Grassland Management**

There are two key periods in autumn: (i) the period of autumn grass build up and (ii) managing the final rotation.

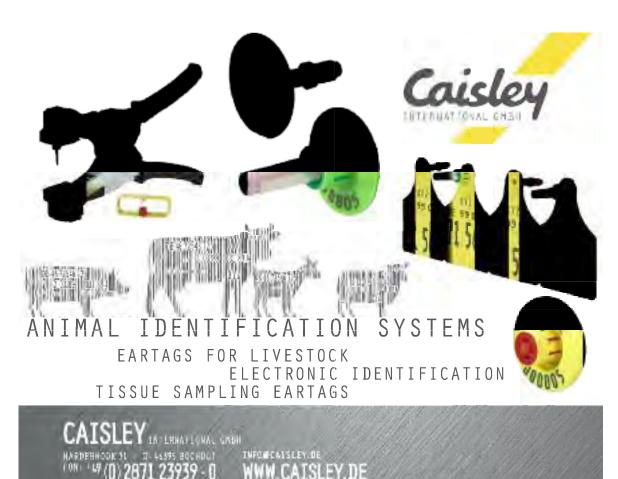
The targets are:

- Stretch out grazing rotation by 30 days by end of September
- Use the Autumn Planner for closing Paddocks, 60% of the grazing area should be grazed and closed by Nov 1st.

Jim implements a rotational closing system in the autumn. In 2011 he commenced closing paddocks from Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. This allowed Jim to turnout cattle on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> this spring.

#### **Summary**

Grazing management can be summarised by saying that you need to "Hope for the best and prepare for the worst!" It means putting faith in systems and coming up with ways to tweak the systems to suit your own farm and the weather conditions. It's about finding ways to get more, better quality grass into cattle, after all "Is Feidir Linn!"



## Visit to the farm of Ben & Elaine Ryall

Fellfort, Watergrasshill, Co. Cork



#### **Beef Herd 2**

#### Farm Overview

- Farming 78 ha, 50 ha grass and 28 ha tillage.
   Straw used on farm. Most of the grain is sold.
   The soil type is mixed with some exceptionally good ground and some wet land.
- They are running a 70 cow pedigree Aberdeen Angus herd. They have been gradually expanding over the years by about 5 cows pa. The calving pattern is split between spring and autumn. They will continue with this as so as they will have bulls for sale at different ages. It also means that their Stockbull can be used to cover more cows. Ben had operated a number of cattle systems previous to the Single Farm Payment which included buying weanlings for slaughter. However, there had always been a pedigree Aberdeen Angus Herd on the farm. It was decided with the introduction of the SFP to fully concentrate on the pedigree herd.

#### **Breeding Pedigree Bulls**

- The bulls are all sold out of the yard, mostly to dairy farmers. The idea is that the farmer gets a fit working bull and that inputs are kept low on the farm. The main driver on the farm is profit (and profit is driven by the average of the herd, not just the top performers) and Jim and Elaine would see that the pedigree herd adds value to their product as does the Angus Scheme for slaughtered cattle. Heifers not selected as replacements are either exported or are fattened for slaughter (current heifers will be slaughtered with a carcass weight of about 230kg.)
- Calving Ease is a key requirement for the dairy

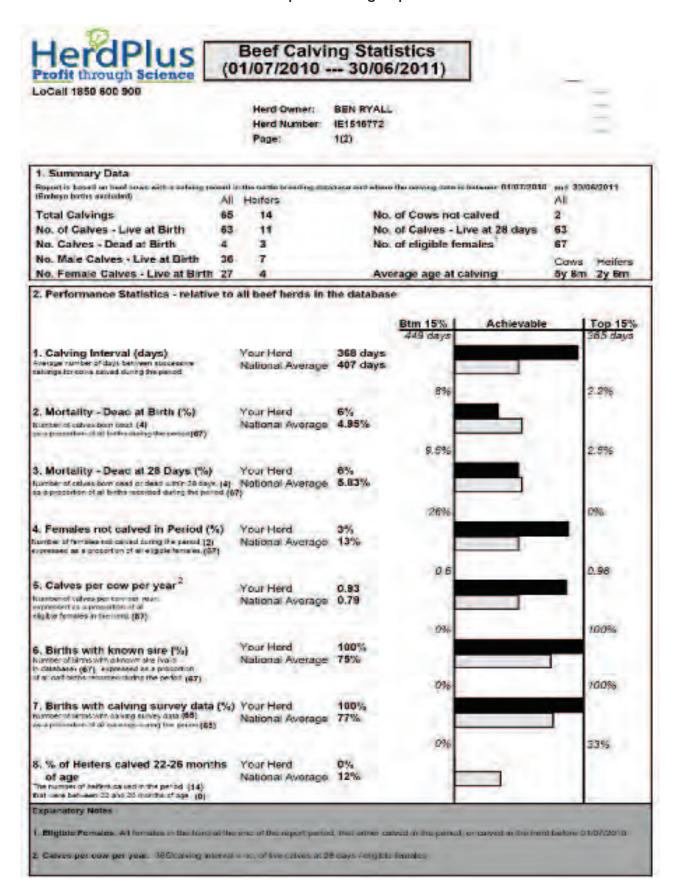
farmer and any Stockbull's purchased for breeding must be 5 stars for calving ease. Ben has noticed that there has been an increase in the number of farmers who will base a decision on bull purchase on ICBF figures. This trend is particularly noticeable with younger farmers.

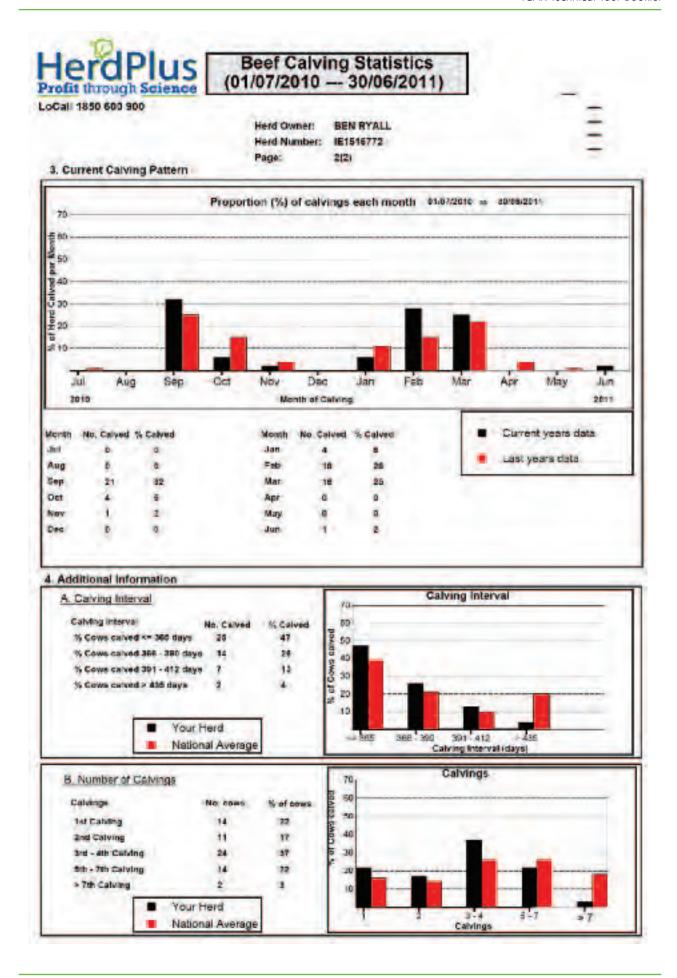
#### Sustainable Beef Production

- The herd is a completely closed herd. The only animals being introduced to the herd are Stockbull's and these bulls are isolated from the main herd and must pass all of the relevant health tests before being allowed join the main herd.
- Disease issues luckily the motorway and local roads provide a natural barrier so there is no nose-nose contact with stock from neighbouring farms. BVD testing has been carried out for a number of years. Bulls are tested for BVD before arriving on the farm. On arrival they are quarantined and tested for IBR. IBR vaccination is not carried out on the farm.
- As part of BQAS, a carbon footprint has been completed for the farm. This is a requirement under the BQAS
- One of the key selling points of Irish beef lies in the sustainability of its production. Bord Bia is planning to launch a new 'umbrella brand' initiative for Irish food this summer, which will encompass beef. Sustainability will be at the core of this programme. which will aim to build awareness of Irish food across all of the main target markets. It is well documented that Irish agriculture is among the very best performers in Europe in terms of the carbon footprint of its dairy, beef, pork and other meat sectors. Building further on this reputation, members of Bord Bia's Quality Assurance Scheme for beef now undergo a sustainability survey at the time of completing their farm audit. While each farm's results are confidential, producers receive feedback to allow them to further improve their environmental performance. Because Quality Assured producers account for almost 80% of total cattle supplies, the positive results coming out of these surveys tell a very good story about Irish beef as a whole, and form an integral part of Bord Bia's promotion and communication with customers.

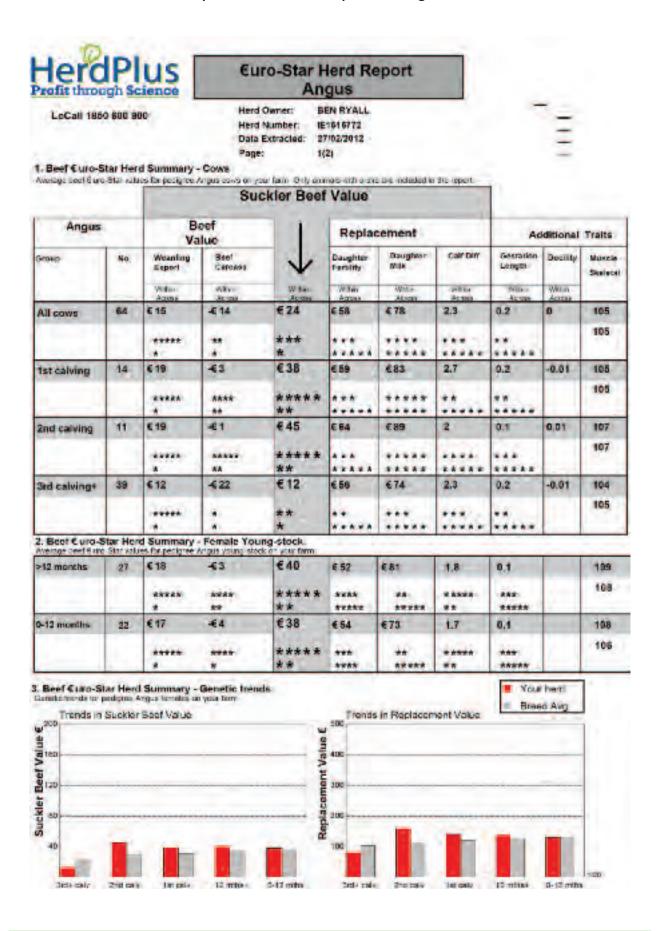
### **Breeding Pedigree Bulls**

Herdplus Calving Report





#### Herdplus® €uro-Star Report – Pedigree Cows

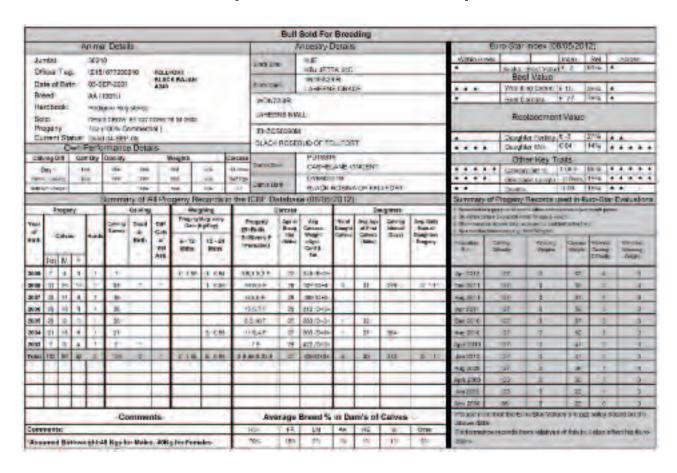


## Herdplus Suckler Cow Report

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## Herdplus Bull Tracker Report



#### **ICBF Bull Search**





## WEATHERBYS Ireland

DNA LABORATORY

#### very latest in DNA technology

Our Laboratory is now offering the very latest in DNA technology for parentage verification in Cattle, Sheep, Horses and Dogs and is now recognised globally as the leading laboratory in Ireland and Britain in animal identification.

As a consequence of the wide range of data now accumulated on our database the laboratory is establishing the potential for a national traceability programme in cattle identification which is a major development in the livestock industry.

The laboratory has just commenced Genotyping with the LD, 54K and 770K (HD) Bovine Chip adding a new dimension of Genomic enhancement to EBI values and the opportunity in the investigation of Genome wide association studies for disease and beneficial traits in cattle.

Our laboratory has been selected to screen for Beta casein A1 & A2 in Irish and UK Dairy Herds.

For further details contact our laboratory at: Irish Equine Centre, Johnstown, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland Fax: +353 (0) 45 875787

www.weatherbys.co.uk

+353 (0)45 875521 dnalab@weatherbys.ie



## PROVING IRELAND'S SUSTAINABLE BEEF STATUS





#### THE CASE FOR MEASURING SUSTAINABLE IRISH BEEF PRODUCTION



#### What is it?

For beef, the carbon footprint is calculated on the basis of the emissions associated with producing 1kg of beef. In Ireland, we want to highlight the fact that our beef is produced with due care for the surrounding environment, with as low a carbon footprint as possible.

#### Why now?

Increasing numbers of customers are insisting that their beef is produced in a sustainable manner and that suppliers can prove that fact. Sustainability measurement is at an early stage of development, especially in beef production, but Bord Bia has already put in place a programme designed to establish the sustainability of Quality Assured beef farms. In 2010, 200 Quality Assured beef producers participated in a Carbon Footprint Measurement Pilot Programme.

Their reaction was very positive and the programme is being extended to include all farms participating in the Quality Assurance Scheme but in a simplified format.

#### What's involved for the producer?

The 32,000 beef farmers in the Bord Bia Quality
Assurance Scheme account for more than 70% of Ireland's annual cattle production. The environmental performance of the farms participating in the Scheme will be tracked on an ongoing basis by carrying out a Sustainability Survey as part of the general audit already in place. The survey will add approximately 10 minutes to the audit time, this is the only cost to the farmer. This data will provide clear information that can be used to help reduce the carbon footprint and to build credibility in the marketplace.

After the Sustainability Survey is completed and the information analysed, Bord Bia will provide each farmer with feedback to help them lower emissions and outline cost savings opportunities identified in the survey.

The survey is voluntary and will not affect the producer's eligibility under the Quality Assurance Scheme. Data collected will remain confidential.



#### WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS?

By completing this survey, Ireland will improve its position compared to its competitors, and lock in customers for our beef on longer term purchasing contracts. In addition, it will help highlight opportunities to lower production costs on cattle farms while reducing carbon emissions.

Bord Bia's new beef carbon footprint calculation model, developed with Teagasc and the Carbon Trust, is fully accredited and has the ability to demonstrate our performance conclusively. If enough farmers participate we will be able to provide comprehensive information outlining the sustainable nature of Irish beef production that cannot be matched by any other beef supplier across the world!

Ireland exports 500,000 tonnes of beef, worth about €1.6 billion, every year. That's 90% of our total production. Half of our beef goes to Britain, while most of the remainder is delivered to 75 retail customers across Europe. Bord Bia research shows that leading customers for Irish beef in Britain and Europe are committed to sourcing sustainable food products in the years ahead. This issue will continue to grow in importance and we must ensure that our beef is produced with a low carbon footprint and that we can prove that fact. Together with traceability, animal welfare and high quality, proof of sustainable production will be of huge importance in marketing Irish beef in the years ahead.

Bord Bia and Irish beef suppliers are now in a position to present the initiative to customers and impress on them the fact that our beef is produced in a sustainable manner in Ireland's already clean, green and natural environment



#### WHAT THE CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING:

**McDonald's:** Irish farmers are the biggest suppliers by far of beef to McDonald's restaurants across Europe. "Over time, our suppliers will only use agricultural raw materials that originate from sustainably managed farms". This is the policy adopted recently by McDonald's in its Sustainable Land Management Commitment (SLMC), to ensure the food served in McDonald's restaurants around the world is sourced from certified sustainable sources.

**Unilever:** In 2009 Unilever launched its Sustainable Living Plan. The stated aim is to help one billion people take action to improve their health and well-being and source 100% of their food raw materials sustainably. "By 2020 we will halve the environmental footprint of our products".

**Sainsbury's:** "We are working with farmers to reduce their carbon footprint". Last December Sainsbury's won an award for helping their farmer suppliers reduce their carbon footprint and make cost savings. The company is working with farmers in a range of sectors including beef, lamb and milk.





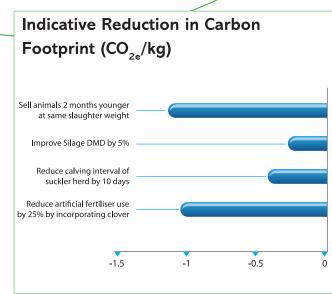
#### **FARMER BENEFITS**

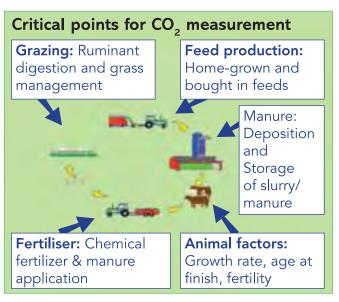
Developments at farm level which increase productivity and profitability tend to reduce the associated carbon footprint.

More efficient farming uses fewer resources and is better for the environment. This includes better grass management, better use of feed, better genetics and better fertility. Feed, fertiliser and contractor charges account for over 70% of variable costs on Irish cattle farms.

Lowering these costs per unit of production increases profitability and reduces carbon output.

Not only do these initiatives reduce carbon use, they also lift farm profit by cutting costs and improving performance and output. Sward quality and output improves, animal live weight gain/day goes up and more cattle can be produced and sold off the farm at lower production costs per unit.

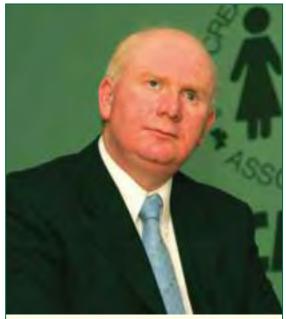






#### **SAYS WHO?**

Some leading players in the agri-food and business sectors comment on the benefits of a sustainable beef status for Ireland.



Jackie Cahill, President ICMSA: "Evidence of our sustainable beef production will enable us to build more long term markets for our beef".



Michael Doran, Chairman **IFA Livestock Committee Chairman and beef farmer** in the pilot programme: "This sustainability programme can benefit beef farmers in a real way by positioning Irish quality beef ahead of our competitors and helping to secure a premium price in the marketplace which must be passed back to producers. The Quality Assurance standards will remain the same".



Professor David Bell and Mary Shelman of the Harvard Business School: "Ireland is at an enviable starting point in the race to produce exactly the type of food that a growing number of consumers are demanding". (Also pictured, Aidan Cotter, Chief Executive Bord Bia).



John Bryan,
President
IFA: "This is
a great way
of proving to
customers that
lrish farmers
are among the
very best in
the world at
caring for their
environment
and their
livestock".

## PROVING IRELAND'S SUSTAINABLE BEEF STATUS





# ICAR Technical Tour Booklet

## Sheep Technical Tour

Thursday 31st May 2012

Sheep Tours to the farms of

John Large & John Renehan

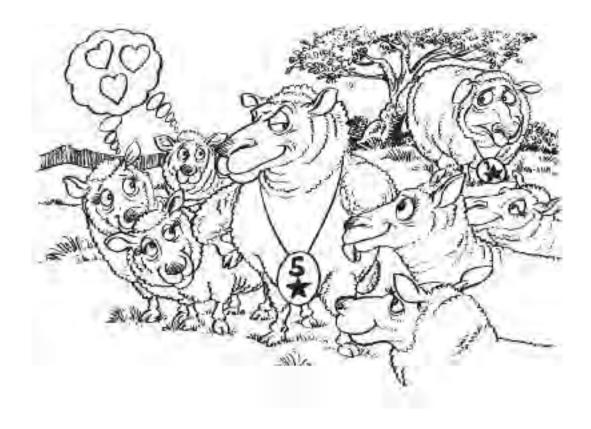


## Sheep Ireland

Sheep Irelands overall breed improvement program consists of three main components:

- LambPlus Pedigree flock recording service. Both John Large (farm 1) and John Renehan (farm 2) are members of Lambplus.
- Maternal Lamb Producers Group (MALP) 18 Commercial farms, recording and demonstrating to the wider industry. John Renehan (farm 2) is also involved in the MALP program.
- Central Progeny Test (CPT) 4 commercial flocks being used to improve linkages within our ram population for the benefit of the Sheep Ireland €uro-Star evaluations. John Large (farm 1) is also one of the four flocks involved in the Central Progeny Test (CPT) program.

This technical tour will explore and discuss all elements of these three individual programmes, hopefully providing attendees with a deep understanding of the theory and practicalities of the Sheep Ireland breed improvement program.



## Visit to the farm of John Large

#### Gortnahoe, Thurles, Co Tipperary. Central progeny test farm



#### Objectives of visit to the Large Farm

Overall objective.

To establish how John is using data and information to improve the profitability of his farming business.

#### Background to the farm

- Participant in Sheep Ireland Central Progeny Test program (CPT).
- Farming 80 hectares.
- > 600 mid-season lambing ewes.
- > 150 ewe lambs lambed down each year.
- Predominately grass based system.
- > Limited meal input.
- All lambs except replacements sold to slaughter.
- Quality assured Farm.
- 30 limousine cross cows. Autumn calving. Progeny sold to butcher.
- > 12-14 slaughters per year
- Average carcass weight 20kg
- ➤ Replacement rate 23%
- Pregnancy Scan rate 1.76
- ➤ Weaning rate 1.5

#### Involvement as a central progeny test farm

- Past Experience of recording.
- Frustration of buying rams unable to perform on grass system.
- Access to better rams.
- ➤ Belief that LambPlus €uro-Stars are better allround evaluation for rams.

#### Central Progeny Test - CPT

#### Objective:

To assess the progeny of Rams that are well related within their own breed and link this information to an even wider number of animals throughout that Breed's pedigree system.

#### CPT 2012 Program

- 30 Rams
- 6 Breeds
- 2100 Ewes
- Laparascopic Al 4 Flocks
- / days
- CPT is not a Breed Comparison more a Ram & Trait comparison.
- Focussed on identifying the best genetics regardless of Breed.
- Intention to evaluate as many new Rams each year as possible whilst maintaining linkages through Breed ancestry systems.

#### Role of Technology

Crucial component of CPT. Electronic Identification used on all lambs from birth. Handheld to database link up

- Mating information
- Pregnancy scans
- Birth information birth weight, lambing difficulty.
- Weight information
- Faecal Egg counts
- Replacement ewe selection
- Feet problems
- Dag scores (Dirty back ends)



#### Farmer Feedback from CPT.

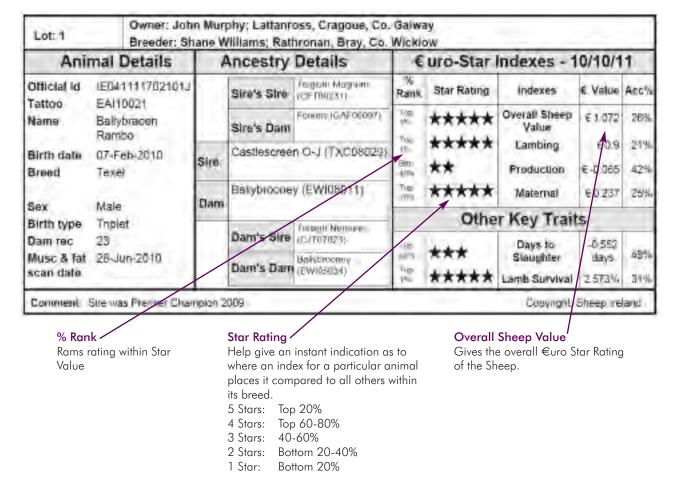
- More lambs sold earlier.
- Would have had particular views about certain breeds maternal qualities. Anecdotally see's little difference between breeds from maternal aspect since joining CPT.
- · Selection decision on replacements combines



own experience of selecting females in conjunction with figures which is ideal.

 After initial trepidation of AI and workload from compacted lambing period in year one is much more relaxed about scheme now. Having an open mind at start was a definite pre-requisite.

#### The end product



## Visit to the farm of John Renehan

Violethill, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny. Maternal Lamb producer (MALP) farm



- Aims to sell 50 pedigree rams from farm this year.
- Sells commercial lambs to Wholesale butcher and Meat Processor

## Involvement in Sheep Ireland breed improvement program

- Commercial flock is participating in Sheep Irelands MALP programme
- Pedigree flock is performance recorded through Sheep Irelands LambPlus programme.

#### Flock 2

#### Objectives of visit to Renehan Farm

#### Overall objective.

To establish how John is using data and information to improve the profitability of his farming business.

#### Background to farm.

- ➤ Participant in Sheep Ireland MALP programme for past four years.
- > 350 early to mid lambing ewes.
- 70-80 replacement commercial ewe lambs kept.
- > 100 pedigree ewes 60 belclare/40 Texel.
- ➤ 50 replacement pedigree ewe lambs kept each year.
- Predominately Grass based system.
- > Limited meal input.
- ➤ All commercial lambs except replacements sold to slaughter.
- Pedigree Belclare lamb early January.
- Pedigree Texel lamb late February early March.
- Commercial ewes lamb late February early March.

## Maternal Lamb Producers Group – MALP

#### Objective:

Allow Sheep Ireland demonstrate to all involved in the Irish sheep industry the potential merits of using genetic evaluation information when making ram selection decisions.

#### MALP 2012:

- 18 commercial flocks
- Rams used sourced from LambPlus recorded pedigree flocks

#### MALP so far on the Renehan farm

- Participant in Kilkenny MALP group with 7 other farmers.
- Used older linked rams from Lambplus flocks in the first 3 years of MALP.
- Swapped these rams within their groups to build up linkages.
- In 2012 rams were swapped between groups to increase linkages between groups.

#### Practicalities of being a MALP farmer.

- Lambs are colour coded at birth for birth date.
- Incidents of Lambing difficulty are recorded. (Scale1-5)
- Fosters and Adoptions are recorded.
- Deaths are recorded.
- All recording done through Sheep Ireland handheld devices.
- Parentage assigned by DNA.
- Lamb weights collected by Sheep Ireland using Pratley system.
- Farmer records incidences of foot rot and dag score throughout year.
- Farmer records slaughter weights of all animals leaving farm.
- Farmer records deaths throughout year.

#### DNA - Future?

 DNA results from John Renehen's farm are 83% lambs matched to Sire and 71% matched to Dam for 2011.

#### Cost of MALP program

- Farmer fee: €6 per ewe in scheme.
- Supplement for purchasing rams €500 per flock owner.
- EID/DNA tags: €4.00.
- Labour: variable from year to year
- DNA Profiling: €10.08 per sample.

#### MALP 2012:18 flocks.

- 3500 ewes.
- 5000 lambs.
- 5 groups.

#### LambPlus

Currently 250 pedigree breeders performance recording their flocks, in the LambPlus programme. In 2011 this figure was 150.

#### Reasons for growing numbers

- Optimism across the industry due to improved lamb prices.
- Strong promotion of the €uro-Star evaluation within the industry – Teagasc (Irish farm advisory body), Media, Agricultural colleges.
- Strong promotion by Sheep Ireland.
  - ➤ Success of Beef €uro-Stars is having a positive effect.
  - Farmers are seeing strong results from MALP farms.
  - ➤ LambPlus sales. First sale held in 2011. The objective of these sales will be to establish them as elite ram sales, where pedigree and commercial farmers can source the highest genetic merit rams in Ireland.

The offering of excellent flock book services to breed societies at a low cost will facilitate breeders joining LambPlus with greater ease in future.

We are currently providing flockbook services to two of the major Irish pedigree societies; Belclare and Texel.

We hope that in time when other societies see the high quality of service these societies receive that more societies may follow.

Sheep Ireland now provide the Irish Texel Sheep Society with an on-line animal search facility. The first Irish system of its kind. Go raibh maith agaibh as páirt a ghlacadh sa turas tá súil againn gur bhain sibh taitneamh as.

Thank you for partaking in the tour – we hope you enjoyed it.



## Beef HerdPlus





**Beef Cattle Breeding Information for your Herd** 

**€**60 per Year

(€20 for the first year if paying by Direct Debit)

Dial 1850 - 600 - 900

