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- **Beef Active Bull Lists & AI Sire Features.**
- **Tully & G€N€ Ireland articles.**
- **Interviews with farmers who own '5 Star' Stockbulls.**
- **Overview of Beef Herdplus with farmer's opinions of the Service.**
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Cover Photo: Suckler Herd of David & Elizabeth Ross & family, Rockmount, Drimoleague, Co.Cork. David is a member of Beef Herdplus. He has also used 100% AI with the G€N€ Ireland program since it began in 2005 in order to breed replacements in his herd. He also partakes in GROW and gets his weanlings linear scored and weighed every year.



Foreword

Cattle breeding is one of the tools available to the Irish beef industry to improve profitability. Over the last 10 years, since the formation of ICBF (the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc.Ltd), our industry has embarked on a major infrastructure redevelopment. Developments include the establishment of a national cattle breeding database which now meets the information needs of our breeding industry.

Breeding Objectives and genetic evaluation systems have been reviewed and redeveloped. Our Current focus is on establishing breeding schemes to deliver near optimal rates of genetic improvement for each breed in Ireland using the best available technologies. Fortunately, we are part of an international community which takes a scientific approach to cattle breeding and is innovative in the use of new knowledge and technologies. Our progress in the last few years is a reflection of the benefits that arise from the knowledge sharing.



Brian Wickham

Chief Executive ICBF



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of our new Beef Herdplus Journal. This publication is a product of our campaign to increase the number of Suckler farmers that avail of Herdplus as a source of information on their beef cattle, so as to help them make better breeding decisions.

Inside, there are articles describing what is available for a farmer that is in Herdplus together with reports from Beef Herdplus Farmers as to how they find the service.

It contains a section explaining the €uro-Star system and all the terminology that goes with it. Again it also includes interviews with farmers that have had the experience of using high genetic merit AI & Stockbulls from a wide variety of breeds. It also contains articles on G€N€ Ireland, Tully, Beef Genomics & the BETTER Beef Farms Program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that contributed material to this Journal;



Beef Herdplus Team: (left to right) Ross Evans, Martina Moran, Marianna Kowalczyk, Mary Murphy, Pat Donnellan

This is the first Beef Herdplus Journal to be published. We hope you enjoy it.

Pat Donnellan
Beef Herdplus

€uro-Stars Explanation

Pat Donnellan & Ross Evans ICBF

The ICBF (Irish Cattle Breeding Federation) calculates and publishes the €uro-Star evaluations for beef cattle in Ireland. The ICBF database contains **Performance Data** (calving surveys, weights, deaths, movements etc) and **Ancestry Records** (Sires, Dams, relatives). **Economic Values** have also been calculated for all the traits and are stored in the database.

1. How are €uro-Stars calculated?

The €uro-Stars are the end result of a series of routine steps otherwise known as a 'Genetic Evaluation Run'. Without going into too much detail, a genetic evaluation run will identify all of the relatives of a Stockbull/ AI Sire and compares their performance records to those of their herdmates. It then applies the economic values to the data, as some traits are more valuable than others e.g. 'Liveweight' is a more valuable trait than 'Coat Colour'.

It then expresses the results (Breeding values) of this calculation in €uro's as ultimately this whole process is describing how profitable (or not) progeny of a Bull are. The actual €uro-Stars make these €uro values visually easy to understand. The better the €uro value the more stars the Bull will have.



The table below shows the different data sources, how the various traits are grouped together, what their economic values are and what their % emphasis is in the overall make-up of the Suckler Beef Value.

Beef €uro-Star Flow Diagram 2011									
Source		Traits	Economic Values	Traits % Weighting		Sub - Index	% Weighting		★
Animal Events	➡	Calving Difficulty	-2.96	62%	➡	Calving	7%	➡	★
AI Handheld & Web		Gestation Length	-2.12	28%					★
DAF-AIM		Calf Mortality	-5.34	10%					★
Marts & On-Farm	➡	Weaning Weight	1.55	34%	➡	Weanling Export	14%	➡	Overall Suckler Beef Value
Linear Scores SCWS		Calf Quality	2.58	66%					
Marts & On-Farm	➡	Weaning Weight	1.29	8%	➡	Beef Carcass	52%	➡	
Factories		Carcass Weight	2.5	30%					
		Carcass Conformation	14.77	9%					
		Carcass Fat	-7.86	5%					
Tully		Feed Intake	-0.1	48%					
DAF-AIM	➡	Cow Survival	16.19	12%	➡	Daughter Fertility	20%	➡	★
Animal Events		Calving Interval	-7.51	49%					★
		Age at First Calving	-1.38	16%					★
		Maternal Calving Difficulty	-9.98	23%					★
On-Farm Weights	➡	Maternal Weaning Weight	9.9	100%	➡	Daughter Milk	7%	➡	

€uro-star Suckler beef Value (SBV)

SBV measures Overall profit measure per calf born to a bull

Based on national average for Suckler calves

- 15% are exported as weanlings
- 62% are slaughtered in Irish factories
- 23% are kept as replacements



2. What does 'Heritability' mean?

Heritability is an estimation of the extent to which offspring resemble their parents for a specific trait. It is expressed as a percentage figure. The higher the heritability the less the environment influences the performance of the animal and vice versa for lower heritability traits.

For example, a trait with a high heritability such as 'Coat Colour' (Heritability of 90-100%) is almost completely controlled by genes and not the environment and is passed directly to their offspring.

For a trait with a medium heritability such as 'Liveweight' (Heritability of 30-40%), a Bull's own liveweight record can be a good indication of his genetic merit for that trait & how much of his superiority for this trait he will pass on to his offspring.

However, for a lowly heritable trait such as 'Survival', a cow's own survival record is much less useful in predicting her genetic merit for this trait as the environment/management has such a large effect on how long she survives.

Traits of low heritability such as Maternal traits (Fertility, Survival etc) can still be selected for successfully as there is a lot of genetic variation for these traits. However the number of progeny records in the genetic evaluation has to be much higher in order to obtain the same reliability as a trait with a higher heritability rating.

3. What does the reliability % figure mean?

As more information is included in a Bull's genetic evaluation the reliability % of his genetic evaluation results will increase – in other words the level of certainty over the genetic evaluation results increases.

4. How important are the reliability figures?

The reliability % figures are crucial in understanding how much confidence can be put in a Bull's Indexes. The following guide could be used as a rule of thumb with the reliability figures:

Reliability % Guide		
Range		Description
0-20%	Low	Very Low - Euro-Stars mostly based on Ancestry data.
20-50%	Low - Medium	Increasingly useful. Bull's own performance affecting figures. Linear Scores & Weights could affect a Bull's figures at this stage if they are collected when animal is 150-300 days old and in a group of at least 5 animals.
50%	Medium	Best you will see in a young Bull with no progeny.
50-95%	Medium - High	Euro-Stars increasingly based on progeny records. This can be a period where most change is seen in a Bull's figures as records from new progeny are included in his evaluations.
>95%	High	Euro-Stars completely based on progeny records. Little change seen in Bull's evaluation figures.

Example 1.

Q: I used a 5 Star Bull on my Pedigree Cow and now I am trying to sell the resulting Bull and he only has 2 Stars. Why is this?

A: When Pedigree Breeder's are selecting a Bull to use on a Pedigree Cow they MUST look at the 'Reliability %' figures associated with that Bull's figures. Regardless of what a Brochure or promotional flier may display, this data will ALWAYS be displayed on the ICBF Bull Search (www.icbf.com).

Checking the 'Reliability %' at the time of insemination is crucial, as if a Bull is being sold at 15 months old, it is 2 years since his dam was inseminated for that mating. Over those 2 years, the sire would have gone through about 6 evaluation runs. He would have had new progeny included in these evaluations over that time. If he had a 'Reliability %' figure of less than 95% at the time of the insemination then these new progeny could have caused his evaluation figures to reduce – thus having the knock on effect of the young bull for sale's figures also being reduced.

This can be the scenario for a Testbull or high profile bull that has had a high sale price or successful show career himself without having yet had many (if any) progeny on the ground. His Euro-Stars at that stage will be very much based on his own backpedigree. Again, his 'Reliability %' figures will show what the chances of his Euro-Stars changing in the future will be. The flipside of this is that many of these bull's Euro-Star figures will also improve and in order to bring in new bloodlines such bulls are very important.

So the general rule of thumb advice with such bulls is to use a number of them (teams of 5 bulls are used by Dairy farmers), thus spreading the risk of ending up with a lot of progeny out one particular bull whose figures have fallen.



5. What do all the figures on a €uro-Star Catalogue page mean?

Sub-Index Headings

Weanling Export: Genetic merit of a Bull to produce profitable Weanlings.
Beef Carcass: Genetic merit of a Bull to produce profitable Carcasses.
Daughter Fertility: Genetic merit of a Bull to produce daughters with good fertility.
Daughter Milk: Genetic merit of a Bull to produce daughters with good milk production.

Bull Details

Bull Registration,
Owner & Ancestry
details.

Lot 52 Stonelake Billy			Breed:		
IE123456770211			DOB: 09-Oct-2010		
Owner: John Farmer - Bandon, Co.Cork			Male		
Sire:		Lancelot	SBV = €123 (60%)	Steve	
Brefni		Cecelia	SBV = €43 (23%)	Gaufrette	
LM8177132385 SBV = €120 (40%)				Sylvio	
				Leontine	
Dam:		Jimmy-Dollar	SBV = €97 (60%)	Martine	
StoneLake Sabina		Lucinda	SBV = €45 (22%)	Uberta	
VHB245978 SBV = €80 (40%)				Kilboy Tom	
				Abbey Jennifer	
Euro-Star Indexes					
Rank %	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability	Relative Data Reliability comment
81	★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€108	37%	Medium
90	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€80	41%	Medium
88	★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€100	42%	Medium
50	★★★★	Daughter Fertility	€20	10%	Low
57	★★★	Daughter Milk	€15	12%	Low
Other Key Traits					
75	★★★★	Calving Difficulty	5%	36%	Medium
35	★★★	Gestation Length		37%	Medium
90	★★★★★	Dolcility		35%	Medium
GROW Linear Score Evaluation (Within-Breed Percentiles)			BLUP Composites (Within Breed)		
Animal Scored. Linear Scores and weaning weights in evaluations					
Width at withers	Narrow			Data Reliability	Rank %
Width Behind withers	Narrow			Muscle	110 80% 65
Loin Development	Thin			Skeletal	99 80% 49
Dev Hind quarter	Low			Function	95 40% 45
Thigh width	Narrow			Comments	
Height at withers	Small				
Length of back	Short			Bull is full brother to Hollycham Lisa, Champion female at Society Premier Show & Sale, August 2008. Sold for €5,700.	
Length of pelvis	Short				
Width at hips	Narrow				
Locomotion	Poor				
breed percentile					
Feet and Leg descriptions					
Hind leg side view	straight				
Hind leg rear view	Toes out				
Fore leg front view	Toes out				

Suckler Beef Value (SBV)

Measure of the Overall Beef Value of an animal – combines Sub-Indices together.

BLUP

Linear scoring traits compressed into Overall Muscle, Skeletal & Functional figures.

Rank %

Shows in detail where a bull ranks for each trait. E.g. This Bull is placed in the top 10% for Docility.

Bar Graph

This shows how a Bull is expected to breed for various visual traits e.g. Length of Back etc

€uro-Value & €uro-Stars

The **€uro-Value** is the expected profit/loss expected from each calf for different categories of traits.

€uro-Stars give a quick visual guide to show where a Bull is ranked:

- 5 Stars = Top 20%
- 4 Stars = Top 40%
- 3 Stars = Breed Average
- 2 Stars = Bottom 40%
- 1 Star = Bottom 20%

Reliability %

This is an indication of how much confidence can be placed in the evaluations.

- 0 - 20% Very Low - €uro-Stars mostly based on Ancestry data.
- 20 - 50% Increasingly useful. Bull's own performance affecting figures.
- 50% Best you will see in a young Bull with no progeny.
- 50 - 95% €uro-Stars increasingly based on progeny records.
- >95% €uro-Stars completely based on progeny records.

6. Why are the reliability % figures of the Maternal traits of my Stockbull much lower than his reliabilities for the other traits?

The heritability of maternal traits are much lower than that of the calving and growth traits. Therefore it is more difficult to account for how much of an animal's maternal performance is genetic and how much is environmental. This impacts on the speed with which the 'Reliability %' figure rises.

Also, the data used to generate the €uro-Star evaluations for 'Calving', 'Weanling Export' & 'Beef Carcass' are based on his direct progeny (sons & daughters) so this data is easily recorded (weights, calving surveys etc) and is available in large volumes (Animal Events, Marts, Factories).

However, the data used to calculate the maternal indexes is based on his grandprogeny through his own daughters. This data is either in short supply (on-farm weaning weights) or is not quickly available (e.g. survival data). That said, maternal traits do have a genetic component, however small, and are also economically very important to Suckler farmers and so, are more than worthwhile pursuing.

7. What is a 'Contemporary Group'?

As explained previously, for a 'Breeding Value' to be calculated for an animal, its own performance must be compared against the performance of other animals in the same herd, grazing the same grass, drinking from the same trough, exposed to the same weather etc. So a 'Contemporary Group' is the term used to describe a group of animals that:

- Are in the same herd.
- Are approximately the same age.
- Are receiving the same management (housing, dosing, feeding etc).
- Do not have individuals pulled out for preferential treatment.

An animal's performance in one 'Contemporary Group' in one herd can be compared to another animal's performance in another herd through pedigree links i.e. relatives in two different herds.

8. Why do the €uro-Star evaluations on a Bull change?

New data records are constantly being added to the ICBF database, such as new calving survey scores from Animal Events sheets, carcass grades from factories etc.

The main reasons for a Bull's evaluation to change are one or a combination of the following reasons:

1. New Data records on the Bull himself & his herdmates, eg. Liveweight or linear scoring.
2. New Data records on his progeny in your herd or on progeny sold to other herds.
3. New Data records on any known relatives of your Bull (that you might not know about). e.g. Full brother's progeny or his Sire's progeny in another herd etc.
4. Change to how the Index is calculated e.g. Change to economic values for particular traits. From September 2011 onwards most of the development work on the index will be largely completed.
5. Changes to a genetic evaluation such as the addition of new traits or new improved ways of evaluating an existing trait.

9. When do the €uro-Stars stop changing on an animal?

Typically the indexes of an animal whose reliability % is over 95% can be expected to remain the same. At that stage so much data will have already been recorded on an animal's progeny that the addition of new data will not have a huge effect on an animal's indexes.

As a Bull's first crops of calves start to be born and his reliability % figure starts moving up from around 50% up to 90%, as he gets older, is typically when the biggest shifts start to be seen in his figures. Changes to a Bull's

As a Bull's first crops of calves start to be born and start going through Marts and Factories his reliability % figure will start moving from around 50% up to 90%. This is typically when the biggest shifts start to be seen in his figures. Changes to a Bull's figures are often seen as being unexpected by his owner if progeny of that bull are born in other herds. This is because, due to the ICBF database being able to track virtually all progeny of a Bull (and his relatives) – the performance of his progeny in other herds will affect his own Euro-Star figures.

10. How often are the Euro-Stars updated?

The database is updated with new data and ancestry information every day from various sources. ICBF extracts all of this data and performs:

- The Euro-Star & Linear evaluations for all animals 3 times a year:
 - o January, April & August
- The Euro-Star & Linear evaluations for animals scored within 30 days of the scoring:
 - o Monthly

11. What does the '% Rank' figure mean?

Each 'Star' that a bull has accounts for 20% on the scale. 5 Stars is the most a Bull can have. So, 1 Star places a Bull in the bottom 20% and 5 Stars places him in the top 20%. However the '% Rank' goes further than this. It shows exactly how high or low a Bull is ranked for any trait. It will allow a farmer to decide between two 5 Star Bulls – one of which is barely in the top 20% (81% rank) with 5 stars and the other which is in the top 1% (99% rank) of the breed.

12. What is the easiest way to read the figures – should somebody look at the Stars or the actual Index figures?

The Euro-Stars should be looked at first to quickly see how a bull ranks for a trait that interests you. After that the '% Rank' figure should be looked at to see exactly where a Bull ranks.

Then the index figure can be looked at so as to understand what that ranking means in terms of Euro's of profit for that animal.

13. If an animal (Live import, semen, embryos) is imported, what figures does that animal start with?

If the animal is imported from the UK or France then certain types of data from either of these countries Genetic Evaluation Centres will be requested by ICBF for inclusion in the next ICBF genetic evaluation run. The following table shows what foreign data is currently used.



Foreign data included in Euro-Stars						
	France				GBR	
	Direct Weaning Weight	Maternal Weaning Weight	Muscle (Linear Scores)	Skeletal (Linear Scores)	Direct Weaning Weight	Maternal Weaning Weight
Angus					Yes	Yes
Aubrac	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Belgian Blue					Yes	
Blonde	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Charolais	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Hereford					Yes	Yes
Limousin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maine Anjou	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Parthenaise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Salers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Simmental					Yes	Yes
Euro-Star Indexes Affected	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
	Beef Carcass & Weanling Export	Daughter Milk	Beef Carcass & Weanling Export	Beef Carcass & Weanling Export	Beef Carcass & Weanling Export	Daughter Milk

As always, the 'reliability %' figures must be taken into account when looking at the Euro-Star figures of an imported animal as there may not be much foreign data behind the Euro-Stars. Also, if the animal has an outcross pedigree and doesn't have many (if any) relatives here this will also be indicated by way of low 'reliability %' figures.

Anyone importing animals, semen or embryos from foreign countries should always:

1. Contact the relevant Breed Society here to ensure that the proper foreign ID and ancestry data is on the Irish database.
2. Contact ICBF to ensure that the relevant foreign breeding data (in the table above) will be included in that animal's Euro-Star figures.
3. Ensure that the imported animal, or its progeny, is performance recorded (Weighed, Scored, Progeny tested etc) in Ireland so as the 'reliability %' figures increase as quickly as possible leaving the animal with as accurate an evaluation as possible.
4. The impact of a Bull's foreign figures on its Irish figures depends on:
 - A. The reliability % of the foreign figures (Higher reliability % = Bigger impact).
 - B. The amount of Irish data available on the animal. (The lower the amount of Irish data that's available – the greater the impact of the foreign data).
 - C. The relationship between the trait measured in the foreign country and the Irish traits.

€uro-Stars in action

The aim of the €uro-Star SBV Indexes is that they are an objective assessment of the genetic merit of animals after removing the environmental effects of different types of management (feeding, housing, dosing etc).

However the differences in indexes between animals must be reflected on-farm otherwise there is no value in using them. In other words it is expected that the progeny from high genetic merit (5 Star) bulls, on average, will perform better than the progeny out of Bulls of lower genetic merit.

In order to test this out, the performance of animals sired by '5 Star' bulls across breed for various Indexes, and those sired by '1 Star' across breed bulls for the same indexes in 2010 were analysed. They had their performance records (calving ease surveys, weaning weights, calving intervals etc) extracted from the ICBF database, and compared against each other.

The following tables show the results of that analysis:

Calving Difficulty Index		
AI Sires with greater than 50 Progeny		
Across Breed Star Rating	★	★★★★★
Number of AI Bulls	221	132
Average Nbr of Progeny	861	888
Actual Calving Difficulty %	9%	4%
Actual Herdmate Difficulty %	6%	5%

Calves sired by '5 Star' Bulls for 'Calving Difficulty' had, on average, **5% less** Calving Difficulty than calves sired by '1 Star' Bulls.

Gestation Index		
AI Sires with greater than 50 Progeny		
Across Breed Star Rating	★	★★★★★
Number of AI Bulls	60	112
Average Nbr of Progeny	355	89
Actual Gestation (days)	291	284

Calves sired by '5 Star' Bulls for 'Gestation Length' were born, on average, **1 week earlier** than calves sired by '1 Star' Bulls.

Weanling Export Index		
AI Sires with greater than 10 Progeny sold at Marts		
Across Breed Star Rating	★	★★★★★
Number of AI Bulls	34	81
Average Nbr of Progeny	63	259
Average Age at Sale	227 days	228 days
Average Weaning Weight	269 Kgs	319 Kgs
Average Herdmate Weight	280 Kgs	314 Kgs
Average price per kg	€1.58	€1.89
Average herdmate price per Kg	€1.75	€1.85

Weanlings sired by '5 Star' Bulls for 'Weanling Export' were, on average, **50 Kg Heavier at sale time & made 31 cents/Kg more** than weanlings sired by '1 Star' Bulls.

Beef Carcass Index		
AI Sires with greater than 10 Progeny Slaughtered		
Across Breed Star Rating	★	★★★★★
Number of AI Bulls	25	91
Average Nbr of Progeny	52	309
Average Age at Slaughter	724 days	693 days
Average Carcass Weight	322 Kgs	391 Kgs
Average Herdmate Carcass Weight	339 Kgs	372 Kgs
Average Conformation	R-	R+
Average Herdmate Conformation	R-	R+

Carcasses sired by '5 Star' Bulls for 'Beef Carcass' were, on average, **1 month younger, 69 Kgs heavier & 2 points better on the EUROP scale**, than carcasses sired by '1 Star' Bulls.

Daughter Milk Index		
AI Sires with greater than 20 daughters with progeny		
Across Breed Star Rating	★	★★★★★
Number of AI Bulls	53	52
Average Nbr of Grandprogeny	104	68
Average Nbr of Herdmates	7	3
Average Weight of Grandprogeny	317 Kgs	325 Kgs
Average Weight of Herdmates	320 Kgs	317 Kgs

Daughters of '5 Star' Bulls for 'Daughter Milk' reared calves that were, on average, **8 Kgs heavier at weaning** than calves out of daughters of '1 Star' Bulls.

Daughter Fertility Index		
AI Sires with greater than 20 daughters with progeny		
Across Breed Star Rating	★	★★★★★
Number of AI Bulls	134	152
Average Nbr of progeny	176	103
Age at 1st Calving	948 days	907 days
Maternal Calving Difficulty (%)	7%	4%
Herdmate Maternal Calving Diff (%)	6%	4%
Calving Interval	408 days	389 days
Herdmate Calving Interval	400 days	393 days
Survival %	81%	87%
Herdmate Survival	82%	83%

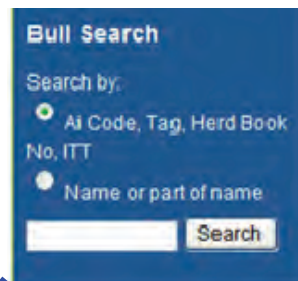
Daughters of '5 Star' Bulls for 'Daughter Fertility' had, on average, **Lower ages at first calving, less calving problems, shorter calving intervals and better survival rates** than daughters of '1 Star' Bulls.



ICBF Bull Search

If you would like to see Genetic Evaluation information on any Beef (or Dairy) Bull then:

1. Go to www.icbf.com
2. Enter Bull's Tag, AI Code or Name & click search.



3. The most recent evaluations are then displayed

Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)						
AI Code:	CF52	Breed:	C1 (100%)	Site:	HERMES / HME	
Animal Name:	DOONALY NEW	Owner:	NATIONAL CATTLE BREEDING CNTR	Date:	INTRUSE / 7193100567	
Date of Birth:	18-JAN-1987	Date of Evaluation:	Apr 2011	MGS:	CAMPAGNARD / 1687109938	
National ID:	CHI FRAM007197126708	Euro-star Index:	Calving Traits	Weaning	Beef Carcass	Milk
International ID:		Linear Type	Pedigree	Fertility	Prev Eval	
% Rank	Star Rating (within breed)	Index and Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability	Star Rating (across breeds)	% Rank
89%	★★★★★	Seckler Beef Value (SBV)	€108	99%	★★★★★	90%
97%	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€105	99%	★★★★★	93%
99%	★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€158	99%	★★★★★	97%
1%	★	Daughter Fertility	€-131	94%	★	1%
2%	★	Daughter Milk	€-07	98%	★	~%
Other Key Traits						
13%	★	Calving Difficulty (% S or 4)	11.20%	99%	★	0%
99%	★★★★★	Gestation Length (Days)	89 Days	99%	★★★★★	73%
92%	★★★★★	Docility (1-5 score)	0.14	99%	★★★★★	92%
Data Reliability: 40% - 65% - Average 20 - 40% - Below Average < 20% - Poor						

4. Extra information is available under each button

The detailed information 'buttons' show the actual progeny data that goes into making up the €uro-Star Indices together with the same data for the progeny's herd mates for comparison. The breed profile of the dam's the progeny are out of is also shown.

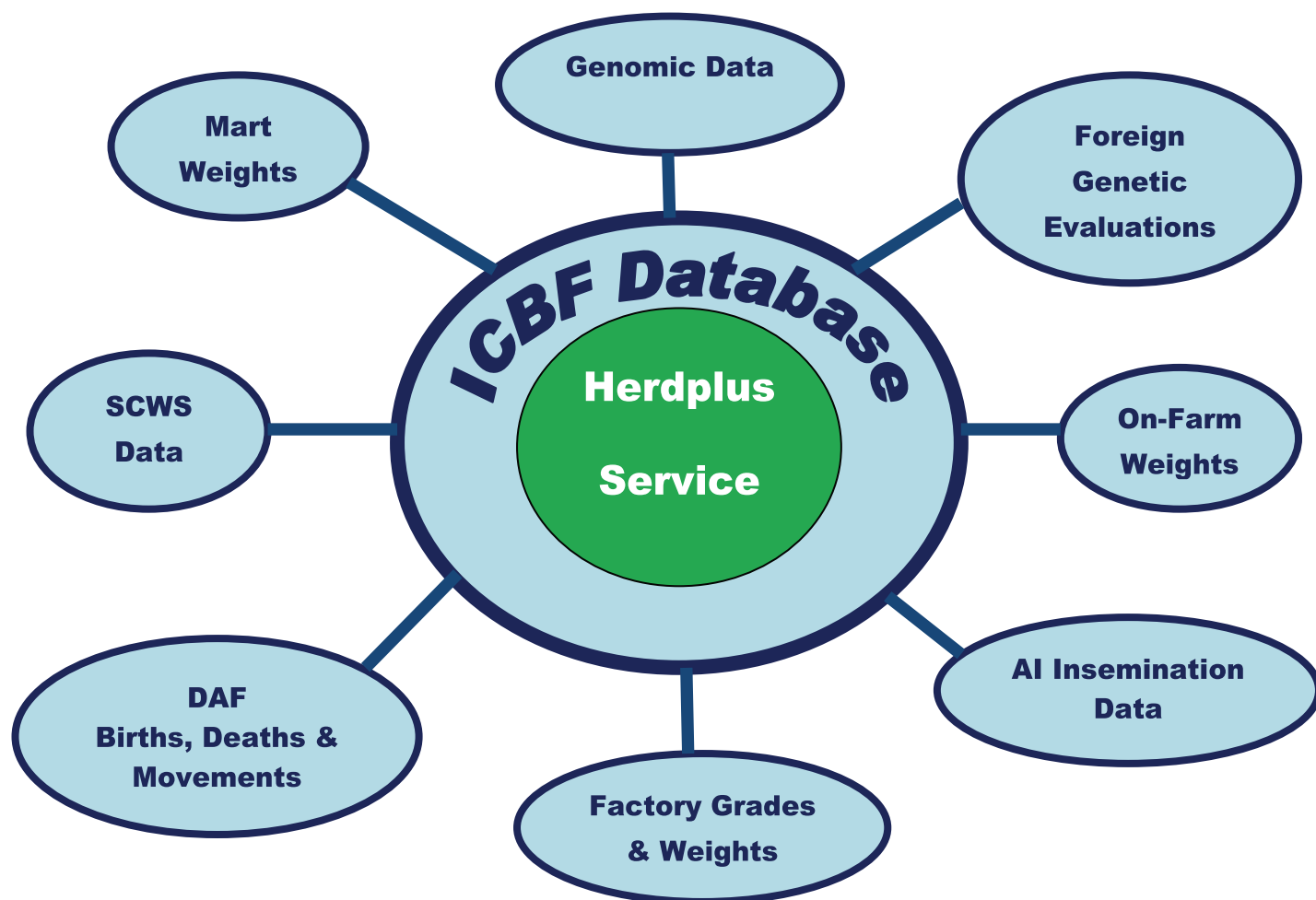
Button	Content
€uro-Star Index	€uro-STAR indices including & Rank, Reliability % & Across Breed figures are shown.
Calving Traits	% of calves born easily, with difficulty or with extreme difficulty. Gestation & Calf Mortality stats are also included.
Weanling	Progeny Weanling Weight & Calf Quality data.
Beef Carcass	Progeny Feed Intake, Carcass Weight, Conformation & Fat data.
Milk	Average Weanling weight of progeny out of daughters.
Fertility	Daughter averages for Age at first Calving, Maternal Calving Difficulty, Calving Interval & Survival %.
Linear Type	BLUP figures together with individual type traits are shown.
Pedigree	Bull's Ancestry details.
Prev Eval	Results from previous 7 evaluations.

Beef Herdplus Explanation

Pat Donnellan ICBF

Beef Herdplus is a Beef Cattle Breeding Information Service which contains facts & figures about animals in your herd, covering all aspects of performance from calving to slaughter. The information that is used is stored in the ICBF Cattle Breeding Database.

The database is extremely well connected with Ireland's Cattle Breeding Industry, as the diagram below shows. Beef Herdplus benefits greatly from this as it is at the centre of a very powerful database with very deep banks of animal breeding data behind it.



Irish Suckler Farmers engage with many different Organisations over the course of an animal's lifetime on their farm. Like any business, Farmers are continually trying to track the progress of their herd so as they can make the best possible decisions.

You will have recorded a certain amount of information on your own animals throughout the year e.g. Calf Registration, Weight Recording, Insemination data etc. Your cattle will also have data recorded on them by other people, all of which again will have been stored in the ICBF database, e.g. Insemination records.

The Herdplus program has pulled all of this information together for you and has produced easy to follow reports from which you can easily gauge how your animals have performed and compare your herd's stats to national average figures. Joining Herdplus gives you access to these reports & web screens.

Herplus Products	
Section	Description
Calving	The Calving Report summarises a herd's performance for key performance indicators (Calving Interval, Calves/Cow/Year etc) & compares your herd to National Average Figures. Cows with the highest Calving Intervals are also listed.
Weighing	The Weighing Report gives a breakdown of your animals growth performances including their Sire & Dam details.
Slaughter	The Post Slaughter Report analyses your slaughter details - the distribution of the grades and a listing of all animals slaughtered. An Online Slaughter Profile is also available.
€uro-Star	The €uro-Star report shows all of the €uro-Star values for all animals in the herd as well as showing how the herd is progressing compared to National Average figures. An Online €uro-Star Profile is also available.
Suckler Cow Report	This report combines all of the information for each suckler cow in the herd - including Ancestry & €uro-Stars but most of all it lists all progeny in the herd with their calving & performance information
Inbreeding Checker	This program allows a Herdowner to check how closely related a Bull is to the cows in his herd.
Stock Report	This program produces a list of births, deaths, sales, purchases each month divided by animal category.
Nitrates Report	This program calculates your Stock Nitrates Levels on a monthly basis.

Each report also has an 'Action List' which ranks animals based on their performance e.g. Cows with highest Calving Interval are at the top of the list.

*Suckler Cow and calves
on the farm of Sean
Evans, Ballinrath,
Edenderry, Co.Offaly.
Both calves are sired by
his Tully Performance
Tested Simmental Bull
'Anatrim Sunshine'*



How to Use Herdplus

Step 1: Logging In

In order to Log in to your Herdplus Account you must first enter www.icbf.com into your internet browser bar. You then need to enter your Username & Password as shown below, and then click on 'Log In'.

If you don't know your Password you can get it texted to your phone by texting the word 'Pass' to 51101.

The screenshot shows the ICBF website with the following layout:

- Header:** Irish Cattle Breeding Federation logo and tagline: "Striving to achieve the greatest possible genetic improvement in the national cattle herd for the benefit of Irish farmers, the dairy and beef industries and members. [Learn more about ICBF.](#)"
- Navigation Bar:** Home, Services, News & Publications, About ICBF
- Services Section:**
 - HerdPlus [Sign-up](#)
 - GENE IRELAND
 - Genetic Evaluations
 - [Farm Software Bull Files](#)
 - [Active Bull Lists](#)
 - Genomic Selection
 - Beef
 - Dairy
 - Tully Beef Centre
 - GROW
 - Milk Recording
 - Herdbook Services
 - Suckler Scheme
- Publications Section:**
 - [This Week's Report \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Past Weekly Reports](#)
 - [Cattle Statistics](#)
 - [National Statistics](#)
 - [Annual Reports](#)
 - [Academic Papers](#)
 - [Glossary](#)
- Learn more about ICBF:**
 - [Contact Information](#)
 - [Costs and Benefits](#)
 - [The Database](#)
 - [Members](#)
 - [Structure](#)
 - [International Representation](#)
 - [Legal and Privacy](#)
- Footer:**
 - Sheep Ireland www.sheep.ie
 - AHI Animal Health Ireland www.ahi.ie
 - [Discussion Group Competition Sign Up Form](#)
 - [ICBF Sign Up Form](#)

HerdPlus Login Section:

- HerdPlus Profit through Science**
- Online Services**
 - User name:
 - Password:
 - [Log In](#)
 - [Where do I get my username and password?](#)
 - [Experiencing problems - Click Here](#)
 - [Register your Organisation](#)
- Bull Search**
 - Search by:
 - ☒ AI Code, Tag, Herd Book No, ITT
 - ☐ Name or part of name
 - [Search](#)
- [Active Bull Lists](#)

Annotations:

- 1** Enter your Username
This is your herd designator – first seven digits of animal tag including the IE e.g. 'IE1234567'.
- 2** Enter your Password
This is a six digit number.
- 3** Click 'Log in'

Step 2: Accessing your Herdplus Data

The Herdplus menu screen below is the next screen that you will see after you log in.

It is made up of;

Information buttons: Containing various Reports and Profiles for animals in your herd (explained below).

Herdplus News Section: Tells you about the latest developments in Herdplus.

Home – Herdplus: Always brings you back to the home page

Contact Support: Allows you to send a Query or Comment to the Herdplus team.

The screenshot shows the Herdplus web application interface. At the top, it says "ICBF Web Application" and "Logged in at 02-Mar-2011". Below this is a navigation bar with buttons for "HOME - HerdPlus", "CONTACT SUPPORT", and "LOG OUT". The main heading is "Beef HerdPlus - Profit through Science". On the left, there is a vertical menu with buttons: "HERD INFO", "RECORD EVENTS", "CALVING", "FERTILITY", "REPORTS", and "STOCK REPORTS". In the center, the "HerdPlus News" section displays several articles, including "GENE IRELAND - Now Signing for the Spring Programme", "Euro-Star Report", "Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme", and "HerdPlus Reports". On the right, there is a "HerdPlus DAIRY Page >>" section with a weather forecast for Ireland and a "ICBF Bull Search" form. Arrows from the text descriptions point to these specific elements on the screen.

Dairy Page: Option to switch to your Dairy Herd information if you have a Dual Beef & Dairy herd.

Weather Forecast: Gives today's weather forecast from Met Eireann.

ICBF Bull Search: Allows you to search for the Euro-Star data on an AI Bull, Stockbull or Young Bull.

Active Bull Lists: Lists all available AI Sires together with their Supplier, Availability & Price details.

HERD INFO

This section shows your contact details (Name, Address, Landline, Mobile, Email).

It shows listings of your commercial and pedigree animals (Basic & Pedigree Herd Profiles).

It also allows you to:

- Change your Password.
- View & Change your Data Permissions.
- Generate a Sales Catalogue for animals in your herd.
- Download a Data file from your farm software package.
- Enter missing Sire AI Codes or Stockbull Tag numbers.

RECORD EVENTS

This section allows you to record different types of data on your animals;

AI/Natural Service Data

Pregnancy Diagnosis Data

Health Event Data

Culling Data

Liveweight Data

Missing Sires Data

Missing Slaughter Data

Suckler Cow Survey Data

Jumbo Tags

CALVING

- **New Report:** Allows you to enter your own Calving start date and run a new report for your herd.
- **Your most recent Beef Calving report** is also displayed in this section.

Calving Report Action List

Beef Calving Report - Section A								
Cows calved more than once (ordered by last Calving Interval)								
Note: Attention should be given to those cows with high Calving Intervals (>390) - They may have reproductive problems and should be investigated further.								
Jumbo	Animal Number	Breed	Age	* No of Calvings	Age at First Calving (mths)	Last Calving	Avg. Calv Interval	Last Calv Interval
	IE211063470565	LM	10y 1m	8	24	04-Apr-10	373	441
1218	IE211063481218	SIX	5y 0m	3	24	02-Apr-10	391	432
	IE211063430917	SIX	7y 1m	5	25	28-Feb-10	367	404
984	IE211063450984	CHX	7y 11m	5	23	13-Mar-10	371	394

Cows are ranked on 'Calving Intervals' so those with very high 'Calving Intervals' are easily identified.

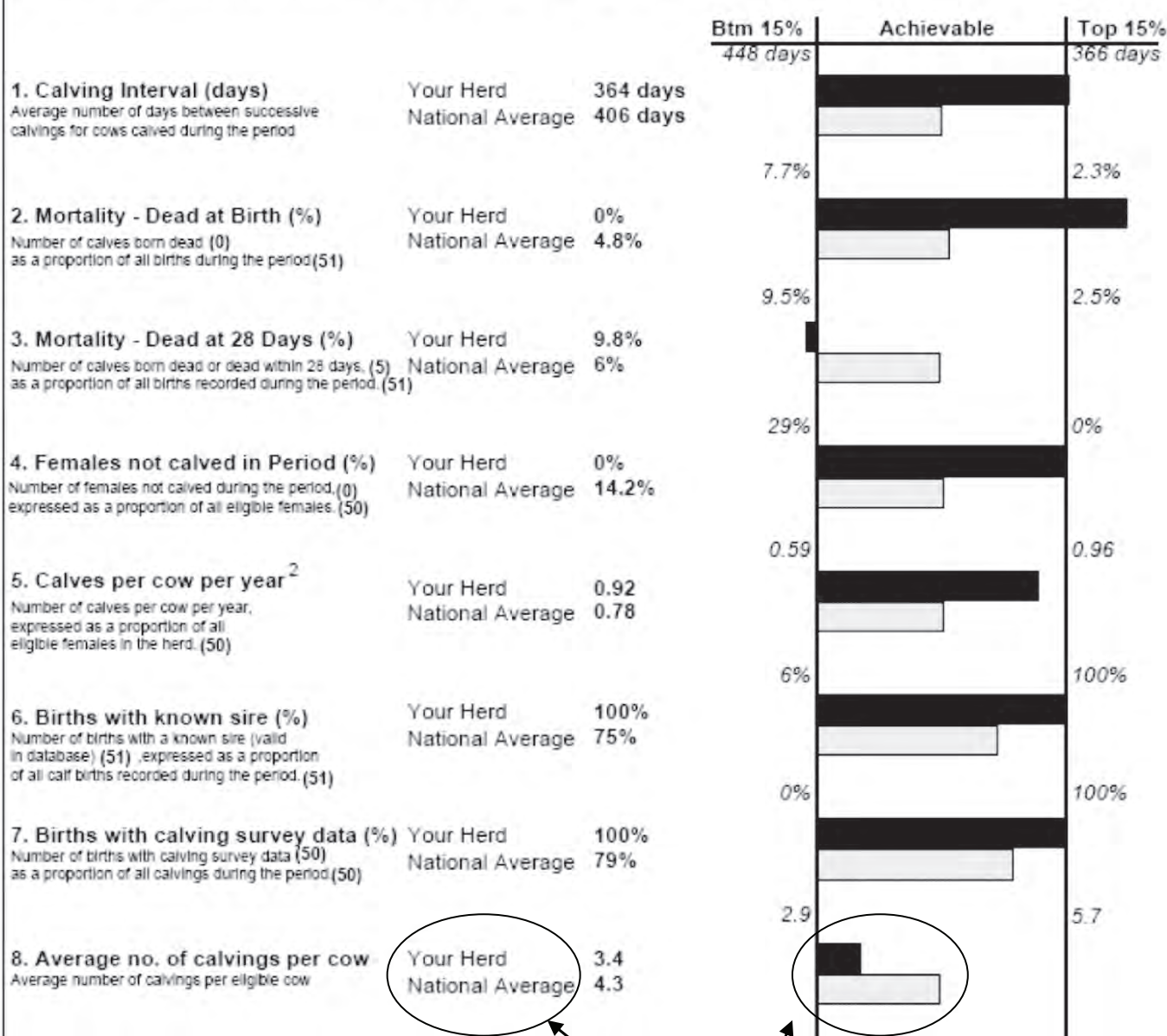
Calving Report Front Page

1. Summary Data

Report is based on beef cows with a calving record in the cattle breeding database and where the calving date is between 01/07/2009 and 30/06/2010

	All	Heifers		All
Total Calvings	50	19	No. of Cows not calved	0
No. of Calves - Live at Birth	51	19	No. of Calves - Live at 28 days	46
No. Calves - Dead at Birth	0	0	No. of eligible females ¹	50
No. Male Calves - Live at Birth	24	9		
No. Female Calves - Live at Birth	27	10	Average age at calving	Cows 6y 0m Heifers 2y 3m

2. Performance Statistics - relative to all beef herds in the database



Immediately obvious how your herd compares to National Average figures.

FERTILITY

- **Record Serves:** Allows you record AI/Natural Service records for your females.
- **Pregnancy Check:** Shows the pregnancy status of all females in the herd.
- **Fertility Profile:** Shows Mating, Pregnancy & Expected Calving Date data for all females.
- **Due 1st Serve Profile:** List of females calved more than 30 days that have not been mated.
- **Due Repeat Profile:** List of females calved more than 30 days & eligible for a repeat Service.
- **Breeding Chart:** Chart to allow you record up to 5 serves for each female.

REPORTS

All of the various Herdplus reports are gathered together here from the various sections;

- **5 Year Trend Report:** Tracks your herd's progress for important traits over the past 5 years.
- **Beef Calving Report:** Analyses your herd's calving performance & compares it with National Figures.
- **Beef Euro-Star Report:** Shows your Euro-Star Breeding Values & compares them to National Figures.
- **Scoring & Weighing Report:** Shows the Linear Scores & weights given for animals in your herd.
- **Post Slaughter Performance Report:** Analyses your herds Slaughter data at herd & animal level.
- **Suckler Cow Report:** Euro-Stars & Progeny Performance of all cows in your herd displayed.



*Suckler Cows at
Nicholastown Castle Stud,
Grange, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary*

STOCK REPORTS

- **Stock Reports:** Calculates the average number of animals in the herd each month.
- **Nitrates Report:** Calculates the Kgs of Nitrogen & Phosphorus produced in the herd

Stock Report:

Example Herd - Monthly Stock Report - 2010													
Animal Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Dairy Cows - Milking	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dairy Cows - Dry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dairy Cows - Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Suckler Cows	74	74	76	77	77	77	76	74	78	84	84	86	78.1
Total Cattle 0- 6mths	39	40	48	50	40	40	33	30	26	23	29	33	35.9
Total Cattle 6- 12mths	29	29	22	26	32	29	35	36	38	44	36	36	32.7
Total Cattle 12- 24mths	40	37	38	47	45	47	45	46	43	53	54	50	45.4
Total Cattle 24+ mths	26	29	33	33	36	36	34	34	29	23	27	29	30.8
Total	209	210	218	234	231	230	224	221	215	228	231	235	223.8

This report calculates the number of animals in the herd on the last day of each month

Accurate Stock Numbers & Nitrate Totals calculated by month for your herd.

Nitrates Report:

Example Herd - Nitrates Report - 2010														N		P	
Animal Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	kg/hd	Total	kg/hd	Total
Dairy Cows	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	85	85	13	13
Suckler Cows	78	74	75	77	77	77	77	74	74	83	85	84	78	65	5070	10	780
Total Cattle 0- 12 mths	68	68	70	73	74	69	69	66	64	69	67	66	68.6	24	1646	3	206
Total Cattle 12- 24 mths	54	40	37	46	45	47	46	46	44	51	57	51	47	57	2679	8	376
Total Cattle 24+ mths	32	26	29	34	35	36	35	34	33	24	23	30	30.9	65	2009	10	309
Total	233	209	212	231	232	230	228	221	216	228	233	232	225.5		11489		1684

This report calculates the average number of animals in the herd each month and calculates the Kgs of Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) produced in the herd based on these figures.

EURO STAR

- **€uro-Star Profile:** Lists animals €uro-Stars that may be sorted on any column heading or downloaded.
- **Weights Summary:** Lists all animals weighed and displays daily gains from birth & between weighings.
- **Missing Sires:** Allows missing Sire AI Codes or Stockbull Tag numbers to be entered.
- **€uro-Star Report & Suckler Cow Report** are also displayed in this section.

€uro - Star Report Summary Page:

Easy to identify the Overall Strengths & Weaknesses of your herd.

1. Beef €uro-Star Herd Summary - Cows

Average beef €uro-Star values for Commercial cows on your farm. Only animals with a sire are included in the report.

Suckler Beef Value										
Commercial		Beef Value		↓	Replacement			Additional Traits		
Group	No.	Weanling Export	Beef Carcass		Daughter Fertility	Daughter Milk	Calf Diff	Gestation Length	Docility	Muscle Skeletal
		Within Across	Within Across		Within Across	Within Across	Within Across	Within Across	Within Across	
All cows	46	€ 67	€ 80	€ 111	€ 42	€ 42	5.2	2.2	-0.03	
		*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	***	**		
		****	****	*****	*****	*****	***	***		
1st calving	18	€ 66	€ 81	€ 100	€ 23	€ 33	5.2	2.3	-0.02	
		*****	*****	*****	**	***	***	**		
		****	****	*****	*****	*****	***	***		
2nd calving	7	€ 61	€ 69	€ 104	€ 46	€ 63	4.9	2	-0.05	
		*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	***	***		
		****	***	*****	*****	*****	***	*****		
3rd calving+	21	€ 70	€ 83	€ 122	€ 58	€ 43	5.3	2	-0.03	
		*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	***	***		
		****	****	*****	*****	*****	***	*****		

2. Beef €uro-Star Herd Summary - Female Young-stock.

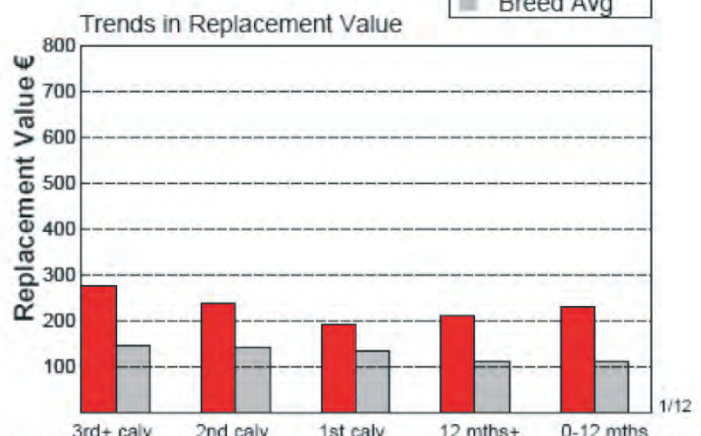
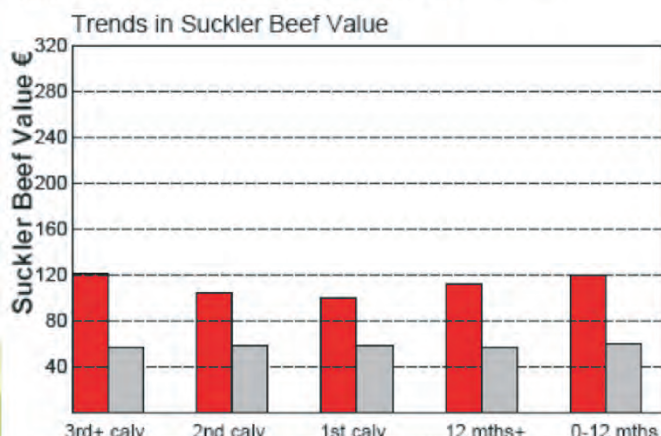
Average beef €uro-Star values for Commercial young-stock on your farm.

>12 months	10	€ 74	€ 96	€ 112	€ 17	€ 34	6.6	2.3	-0.02	
		*****	*****	*****	***	*	*****	**		
		*****	****	*****	*****	***	*****	***		
0-12 months	22	€ 76	€ 100	€ 119	€ 34	€ 12	6.1	2.8	-0.02	
		*****	*****	*****	**	***	*****	*		
		*****	*****	*****	***	****	*****	**		

3. Beef €uro-Star Herd Summary - Genetic trends

Genetic trends for Commercial females on your farm.

■ Your herd
■ Breed Avg



€uro-Star Report Animal Page:

Suckler Beef Value										
1. Commercial Cows		Beef Value		↓ Within Across	Replacement Value			Additional Traits		
Jumbo ID	DOB	Weanling Export (Rel %)	Beef Carcass (Rel %)		Daughter Fertility (Rel %)	Daught Milk (Rel %)	Calv Diff % (Rel %)	Gestation Length % (Rel %)	Docility (Rel %)	Muscle Skeletal (Rel %)
Animal tag	Dam ID				Within Across	Within Across	Within Across	Within Across	Within Across	
Animal name	Sire ID									
Breed	Mat GSire ID									
332	11/02/99	€ 51	€ 36	€ 79	€ 53	€ 78	4.1	1.3		
IE211063450332	WPA203672	(48%)	(56%)	(44%)		(48%)	(44%)	(26%)		
	HTA	****	***	****	****	****	****	***		
LM (50%),HO (25%)		***	**	****	****	****	****	****		
334	11/02/99	€ 72	€ 100	€ 176	€ 119	€ 78	5.4	1.4	-0.02	
IE211063470334	WPA203728	(44%)	(51%)	(39%)		(44%)	(43%)	(24%)	(27%)	
	DDI	*****	*****	*****	*****	****	**	***	***	
SI (50%),LM (22%)		****	****	*****	*****	****	***	****	***	
338	17/02/99	€ 60	€ 27	€ 79	€ 60	€ 99	4.7	1	0.04	
IE211063420338	WNA397196	(47%)	(51%)	(43%)		(49%)	(49%)	(29%)	(31%)	
	HTA	*****	**	****	****	****	***	****	****	
LM (50%),FR (25%)	WRT	****	**	****	*****	****	****	****	****	
397	13/04/99	€ 57	€ 51	€ 115	€ 96	€ 83	3.5	1.4	-0.16	
IE211063440397	WRA231111	(44%)	(44%)	(38%)		(44%)	(46%)	(28%)	(29%)	
	BHJ	*****	****	*****	*****	****	****	***	*	
LM (50%),FR (25%)	DAY	***	**	*****	*****	****	****	****	*	

€uro-Star details 'Within' & 'Across' breed printed for all animals.

Suckler Cow Report:

All available Registration, Ancestry, €uro-Star & Progeny data is displayed.

Animal Details			Ancestry Details			€uro-Star Index			
Jumbo:	565		Sire's Sire:	8790005592		Within Breed	Index	Rel%	Across Breed
Official Tag:	IE211063470565			FIDELE		*****	Suckler Beef Value	€ 138	44%
Animal Name:			Sire's Dam:	5687000466					*****
Date of Birth:	20/02/2001			COLOMBE					
Breed:	LM (71.88%), UN (28.13%)		Sire:	HTA					
Herdbook:				HORTENSIA					
Scored:			Dam:	WPA203728					
Weighed:	22/11/2001								
BLUP Index (Reliability 32%)			Dam's Sire:						
MUSCLE	SKELETAL	DOCILITY							
102	109	-0.02	Dam's Dam:						
Calving & Fertility Performance					Weanling & Carcass Performance				
Calving Date	Tag Number	Calving Survey	Calving Interval	Sex	Current Status	Sire	Age days	Weight Kgs	Growth Kg/Day*
1	11/02/2003	IE211063410808	Normal	M	Dead	DDI	SI	248	0.76
2	05/03/2004	IE211063420949	Normal	M	Dead	0011Y	LM	306	1.1
3	20/02/2005	IE211063491078	S. Assis	M	Dead	90346	CH	300	0.99
4	15/01/2006	IE211063491144	Normal	M	Dead	90346	CH		
5	22/01/2007	IE211063441288	Normal	F	In herd	HKG	SI	192	1.09
6	27/01/2008	IE211063411475	Normal	M	Dead	HKG	SI	185	0.77
7	17/01/2009	IE211063481572	Normal	M	In herd	HKG	SI	244	1.1
8	04/04/2010	IE211063431873	Normal	F	In herd	80073	CH		

Example of a page from a Suckler Cow Report for a cow in Kildalton Agricultural College

The Suckler Cow Report is the main Beef Herdplus report. It is a booklet which devotes a page for each Suckler Cow in your herd. Each cow's: Registration, Ancestry & €uro-Star information is displayed. It is designed to give Suckler Farmers a reference book that they could go to before making a culling or breeding decision about any cow in the herd.

SLAUGHTER

- **Slaughter Profile:** Lists animals slaughtered that may be sorted on any column heading or downloaded.
- **Record Slaughter Data:** Missing Slaughter data can be keyed into the database here also.
- **Post Slaughter Performance Report** is also displayed in this section.

Post Slaughter Report:

Table 1. Summary Data - Based on all Home Bred Heifers slaughtered in the period (progeny of suckler beef cows)

Animal Details					Factory performance			KPI	
No. of animals	Average Euro-Star Carcass Index (€)	Average Age (months)	Range in Age (months)	Average days on farm	Average Cold Weight (kg)	Cents per kg Cold Weight	Overall Average Price/hd (€)	Average Daily Gain (ADG Kg)	Lifetime Value per day (€)
109	€ 25	22	15 - 35	672	312	€ 3.02	€ 944	0.67	€ 1.43

Table 2. Quality Payment System Grid (Home Bred Heifers)

	E	U+	U=	U-	R+	R=	R-	O+	O=	O-	P
1											
2-											
2=				1		2					
2+				1							
3-		1			1	1					
3=				2	2	2	5	1			
3+				2	11	3	1		1		
4- (L)			2	5	4	6	1		1		
4=			1	1	8	7	1	2			
4+ (H)			3	3	8	6	2				
5				1	6	4					

Table 3. Your Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) vs National Statistics (Home Bred Heifers)

	Your Herd	Nat Avg	Bottom 10%	20%	40%	60%	80%	Top 10%
1. Carcass weight (kg) The average cold carcass weight for these slaughtered animals in the period	312 kg	293 kg	236 kg					367 kg
2. Average Daily Gain (kg/day) The average carcass weight gain from birth to slaughter (assume 40kg if birthweight unknown)	0.67 kg/day	0.60 kg/day	0.45 kg/day					0.75 kg/day
3. Average Price per Head (€) The average factory price received for these slaughtered animals in the period	€ 944 (€ 3.02/kg)	€ 834 (€ 2.92/kg)	€ 582					€ 1113
4. Lifetime Value / day (€/day) Birth to Factory - Average Sale Price divided by age in days at time of slaughter	€ 1.43 /day	€ 1.11 /day	€ 0.65 /day					€ 1.57 /day
5. Carcass Quality (% of carcasses achieving high price grades, E2+, E3, E4, U2+, U3, U4L, R+2+, R+3, R+4L shaded area)	28%	21%	4%					54%

Visually easy to see how your cattle are performing at slaughter for important criteria.



INBREEDING

- **Inbreeding Checker:** You can check how closely related certain AI Sires or Stockbulls are to your herd.

Any Bull that is closely related to any of your cows is clearly identified.

Beef Herdplus - Inbreeding Checker												
Jumbo	Animal Number	Date of Birth	BYU (BB)	CF52 (CH)	HKG (SI)	HTA (LM)	90346 (CH)	LVN (HE)	LSC (AA)	MBU (LM)	SEV (SI)	UNI (PT)
1438	IE391063451438	10/01/08	OK	OK	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	25	OK	OK
1448	IE391063471448	19/01/08	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	25	OK	OK
1450	IE391063411450	19/01/08	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	25	OK	OK
1482	IE391063491482	01/02/08	OK	25	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1485	IE391063431485	03/02/08	OK	OK	OK	OK	28.13	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1509	IE391063411509	08/02/08	OK	OK	OK	OK	25	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1511	IE391063441511	10/02/08	OK	OK	OK	OK	14.06	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1512	IE391063451512	10/02/08	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1519	IE391063431519	14/02/08	OK	OK	OK	OK	37.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1548	IE391063481548	16/03/08	OK	OK	OK	OK	25	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1565	IE391063491565	23/01/09	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	25	OK	OK
1566	IE391063411566	11/01/09	OK	OK	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1568	IE391063431568	17/01/09	OK	OK	25	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1573	IE391063491573	19/01/09	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1597	IE391063481597	24/01/09	OK	OK	12.5	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1598	IE391063491598	16/02/09	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	25	OK	OK
1627	IE391063441627	16/02/09	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1671	IE391063481671	14/02/09	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	25	OK	OK
1675	IE391063431675	02/03/09	OK	25	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
1680	IE391063491680	23/03/09	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
6.25% or greater has been set as the cut-off for inbreeding. A mating resulting in inbreeding below this is allowed. This figure is a generally accepted 'rule of thumb' for the maximum level of inbreeding												

Inbreeding Table	
6.25%	Two Common Grandparents
12.5%	Half Brother - Half Sister mating
12.5%	Grandfather - Granddaughter mating
25%	Full Brother - Full Sister mating



G€N€ IRELAND

- **Sign Up Details:** Shows what Bulls have been requested and when their straws were dispatched.
- **Bull Details:** Shows the Breeding Values of the Bulls you have been allocated.
- **Inseminations:** Shows the G€N€ IRELAND inseminations that have been recorded against your cows.
- **Calvings:** Shows what G€N€ Ireland sired calves have been born in your herd.



SUCKLER SCHEME

- **SCWS Data:** Allows you record required SCWS data and send it to DAF.
- **SCWS Overview:** Gives you a colour coded overview of what data you need to record.

Gerry & Anthony Mulligan, Rooskeynamona, Mohill, Co. Leitrim

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We have 35 Suckler cows made up of a mixture of Charolais, Limousin, Simmental, Angus, Saler and Belgian Blue breeding. We sell our weanlings in October.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

Last year we kept eight replacement heifers of our own. This year we bought in 13 replacement heifers (Simmental & B.Blue crosses).

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

Yes, we use it to make replacement decisions.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

We check the Euro-Star report to see what animals are rating the best.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

We culled 11 cows last year and 2 this year. We also kept 8 of our own replacements on the back of their Euro-Star values.



Gerry Mulligan

Anthony Mulligan



Gerard Rochford, Newtown, Clearistown, Co.Wexford

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

Limousin & Simmental cross cows out of British Friesian cows. All progeny finished on farm and sent to the factory.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

We buy all our replacements from British Friesian herds. As we are heading for Autumn calving we need milk in our cows.

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

When I received the first report I was amazed at all the information it had on our herd.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

All of the information is of great value to anyone that is serious about suckler beef farming. For me the Suckler Cow Report which shows the slaughter value of my animals including their ages, grades and kill-out weights is the most important information I receive.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

I have culled cows as a result of the information I was given. I was able to improve my calving intervals which then allowed me to operate a more efficient beef system.

I think Beef Herdplus is a great innovation for a Suckler Beef Farmer. The information received is of the highest standard in every way. We certainly have the edge on the rest of the world with Herdplus.



Gerard Rochford

Michael & Sean Dowling, Rockview, Dunamaise, Portlaoise, Co.Laois

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We run a suckler to beef system. We have a commercial suckler herd, consisting of Simmental, Limousin & Charolais cross cows. We have recently got into pedigree cattle i.e. Simmental, Limousin & Belgian Blue calves from embryo transfer.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

We breed all our own replacements for the commercial herd. I purchased some pedigree Simmentals to get started in pedigree breeding. The pedigree Belgian Blues are embryo transfers.

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

Yes. Herdplus shows me the strengths and weaknesses of my enterprise and also gives me targets to aim for.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

Each report from the 'Suckler Cow Report' right through to the 'Slaughter Report' gives me a profile of each stage of production and shows me where I can improve.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

Improving the quality of my livestock is always a priority. Over the past year we have culled a number of cows that would not go back in calf, due to difficult calvings. I also culled the Stock Bull. This autumn 2010 and Spring 2011 calves are all from AI bulls. At least half of the bulls will be GENE IRELAND bulls and the remainder are from Dovea AI.

My plan for future breeding is to use all five star bulls on the mature cows and blonde bulls on the heifers. The recently launched breeding heifer programme has great potential for any farmer prepared to go down the road of quality.

Overall, Herdplus has proved very helpful. It has provided a focus to my herd management and has had a significant impact on the quality of my herd. It has allowed for effective planning and a scientific method of achieving results.



Michael Dowling

Sean Dowling



Ger Dineen, Knockroe, Kilnamartyra, Macroom, Co. Cork.

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We calved 43 cows (Limousins & Simmental) in 2010. Breeding heifers are sold at 1 year old. Some bulls are sold to Italy while the rest are either finished at home or sold to finishers.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

I breed all of my own replacements – mostly Simmental sired with some limousins used on my heifers.

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

Yes, it gives me lots of information on how my cows are doing.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

The Weighing report helps me pick out weanling heifers that are good for breeding. The slaughter report – for bulls that I sell, I get information back on how they killed out.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

All of my breeding heifers are picked from information I got back from the reports. I get information back on all of the AI Bulls that I use. I also use the information to help me cull cows out of the herd – such as hard calvings, low weanling performances & bad kill outs when slaughtered. It tells me what bulls go well on my cows.

It also pulls all of the information together so it is easy to use. I also use some bulls in the G€N€ Ireland program. I find the Bull Search very useful as I check out all of the AI Bulls I use. I find some of the data on maternal traits very useful.



AI Bred cattle in Gerd Dineens herd

Ger Dineen



Vincent Connolly, Tristernagh, Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We have a suckler herd of 45-50 cows. They are Charolais, Limousin & Simmental cross cows running with a Charolais Bull. We sell all our weanlings at the mart every year.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

We both buy in and breed our own replacements.

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

Yes. Particularly in terms of helping us decide on what heifers to keep as replacements.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

The Stock reports and Nitrates reports are very useful. The Suckler Cow report is also very helpful as it gives us the details on the quality of calves from each cow.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

Beef Herdplus has helped us decide on what heifers we want to keep as replacements. It also shows us what cows should be culled and which ones should be kept.



G&N IRELAND Bull Arita Ben (FL21) used by Vincent Connolly



Cows & Calves in Vincent's herd.

Robert Hutchinson, Gulladuff, Moville, Co. Donegal

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We have 25 Suckler Cows made up of a mixture of breeds (Salers, Limousin, Simmental, Shorthorn & Angus crosses).

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

We breed our own replacements. The 6 heifers in the photo are this year's replacements which will be calving this Spring (22-24 Months old). All AI bred, 2 are by MBV, 3 are by IS4 and one is by FL24.

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

I find it both helpful and interesting. I like to see how I compare to National Average figures.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

I probably find the Euro-Star Report and Beef Calving Stats most useful. I would use them when selecting cows to breed replacements from.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

When breeding replacements & deciding to cull a cow I would use Herdplus information to help me. Most cows are culled because:

- Not being in calf.
- Old age
- Mastitis/Bad Feet etc

Normally if a cow isn't in calf after 3 inseminations I cull her.

Robert Hutchinson with his AI bred replacement heifers.



Joseph O'Connell, Moy, Lahinch, Co. Clare.

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

I have 20 Suckler Cows from a mixture of breeds: SH, SA, HE, SI, CH, LM. They are all AI bred. I sell some weanlings and keep some others until they are 1 and a half years old.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

I breed my own replacements. I have 3 heifers calving in March and more to inseminate during the year.

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

Yes.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

The Suckler Cow Report is very useful. About now I decide on what heifers from what cows I would keep as replacements.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

Calving interval is something I am always watching. I find it difficult to improve because I use AI and find that I get repeats after cows that are good milkers. They can often go a while before going in calf. You could have some very good calves after AI Bulls but you could also have some empty cows and while the calf is suckling it is hard to catch cows in heat.

Herdplus is most important in choosing heifers as replacements. It also gives information on my cows in general. It is good value for what it costs.



Limousin AI Sire 'Palmares used by Joseph O'Connell



Thomas Connolly, Rea, Kilmichael, Co. Cork

1. Describe your Beef Production System

I have 40 Suckler Cows. They are all a mixture of Limousin & Simmentals out of British Friesian Cows. I sell weanling Bulls and keep some weanling heifers as replacements.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

All of the replacements are bred here at home.

3. Do you find Beef Herdplus helpful?

Yes.

4. What report(s) have you found the most useful and why?

The Euro-Star & Suckler Cow Reports are useful – particularly for picking replacements with as they show me how they rate for 'milk' and 'docility' as well as all of the other Star ratings.

5. Can you give examples of decisions you made because of Beef Herdplus?

Cows were culled as a result of information seen on Herdplus. I also selected my replacements as a result of information I received. I also found the information on my Stockbull very good as a guide to how my weanlings (his stock) grade in the factory and how many of them are exported. He has excellent Euro-Star figures and I have found both him and his stock to be very quiet animals to work with.



Thomas Connolly

*Thomas's 5 Star Limousin Stockbull
'Bunratty Cyril'*



Tully Bull Performance Test Centre & GENE IRELAND®

Pat Donnellan, Niall Kilrane & Stephen Conroy ICBF

Tully Test Centre Explained

The current policy at Tully is to get in the very best Bulls for testing and to then provide elite genetics along with high health status to the beef industry. The GENE IRELAND® beef breeding program takes the very best of these Bulls that go into AI and progeny tests them – with the main focus being that these bulls are strong for the Maternal Traits (e.g. Milk & Fertility).

Initially, bulls are identified based on their Euro-star values (Suckler Beef Value (SBV) and Milk & Fertility) and age criteria (7 to 12 months) followed by a high health status.

Performance testing at Tully involves exposing selected beef bulls to uniform feeding, housing and management conditions. This testing establishes the genetic potential of all bulls, in terms of feed conversion efficiency and growth efficiency.

Once the best young bulls are identified they are then eligible for progeny testing (through GENE IRELAND) and from there they can go into active AI.

Getting your bull into Tully

Bulls need to be between 7 – 12 months old.

Step 1. Application form: Breeders receive notification, including an application form, by mail if they have animal(s) that are eligible for entry to Tully. Eligible bulls will have met a certain level on Euro-Stars for that particular breed.

Step 2. Bull inspections: Breeders, who wish to apply, send application forms to Tully, at which time an inspection of the bulls by ICBF and the Breed Society begins. This involves a linear scorer calling to the farm to assess the bull for muscular, skeletal and functionality traits.

Step 3. Health testing: Breeders who own bulls that have passed inspection are notified by mail of this. Notification of on-farm health testing is then sent to the breeder and their veterinary surgeon which includes instructions on testing required.

Only herds with a high health status are selected for Tully. A herd's health status is established by health testing a number of animals (max 19) in the herd (in addition to the candidate animal) for IBR, BVD, Johne's and EBL, thereby building up a profile of the health status of the whole herd. On the basis of these health tests, the candidate bull(s) is then accepted into Tully where he will be isolated for a further 30 day period, during which time further health testing takes place and the animal is built up to ad-lib concentrates (the acclimatization period). The ICBF covers the cost of analysis of bloods taken on-farm with the exception of the candidate and his dam.

Step 4. Performance test and measurements:

The final stage is then the actual performance test, where the bull is evaluated against other contemporary animals (same age and breed) for a period of 90 days. During the performance test, bulls are weighed every 21 days and bull owners and breed societies are updated by post or e-mail after each weighing. Performance and health testing allow us to accurately identify the bulls that are truly superior in both health status and also key profits traits such as weight for age, conformation and feed efficiency.

Measurements taken at Tully include:

- **Average daily gain (kg/day):** A key indicator of growth rate, which is an important factor in all aspects of beef production.
- **Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG):** The ratio describing the amount of feed consumed per unit of production. It is important to identify animals that are efficient users of feed.
- **Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm):** These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield.
- **Scrotal circumference (cm):** Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality. It also has a favourable relationship with female fertility in daughters produced.

Tully Bull Reports**Andrew Hornall – Falleninch Farm, Dunbarton Road, Stirling, Scotland.**

Andrew Hornall purchased the Charolais Bull 'Prime Andrew' on completion of his Performance Test at Tully in 2006. He had a daily liveweight gain of 2.52 kg per day while on test. He also had the highest Feed Conversion Efficiency of all bulls. He was bred by Benny Keating, College Hill, Templemore, Co.Tipperary,

'He was out of Prime Noelle who has an incredible pedigree and show record. She is out of the great breeding cow 'Knockane Cynthia'. This is a great breeding female line. He is by 'Derryharney Outstanding', sold at Perth for 18,000gns and has produced several high priced bulls including 'Pedr Thumper' 32,000gns and prize winners at National shows.

I only used him on a few cows. I got 6 calves- 3 bulls and 3 females. I sold one bull to a breeder at Perth for 3500 gns.

I sold another bull privately to a commercial breeder and the last bull hurt his leg and I slaughtered him. The females were sold as calves at foot when I had a reduction. All the calves were good, tall and long. They were a slower maturing type of animal, but would make good cows.

I sold him to one of my best friends – the main reason being that his bull went infertile and I gave him 'Andrew' for a loan but after he got him he wouldn't give him back to me because he liked him so much!! So he bought him off me!

But the exciting part for him was that he increased his suckle calf price by over £200 per calf when he sold them at only 6/7 months old!

The next year he won champion calf at the local sale in October at the Caledonian Mart and sold for £1000 at 6 month old! The same day he won the group of 4 and group of 8. They were all sired by Andrew. The bad news is that Andrew slipped during the bad weather and had to be put down.'

On the evidence on how well he has bred, for my mate, from very mediocre hill cows, I bought his half brother – Prime Colombo (same dam Prime Noelle), by 'Cottage Scott'. I have just had the first crop of calves off him and although they are still young they look good!'



Prime Andrew - seen here in his working clothes at 5 year, having just served 50 cows !

In 2010 Andrew Hornall's 20 cow pedigree herd was recognised for making the greatest genetic progress in Scotland during the previous 12 months with the Harman Charolais Genetic Improvement Award 2010. His herd also achieved the biggest improvement of the four herds located throughout the UK's four home countries which were recognised by the Harman family, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, one of the founding members of the breed society.



Ben Harman presents Andrew Hornall with the Harman Genetic Improvement Award. L-R Ian Millar(Chairman BCCS), Andrew Hornall (Falleninch) and Ben Harman(Chesham)

Geoff Lawn – None-Go-Bye Farm, Grassington Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Geoff Lawn purchased the Angus Bull 'Lisduff Dandy C399' on completion of his Performance Test at Tully in 2004. He had a daily liveweight gain of 1.97 kg per day while on test. He also had the highest Feed Conversion Efficiency of all Angus bulls on test and also had the highest 400 day weight at 733 Kgs. He was sired by 'Dalrene Cruz' out of a 'TLA Northern Samurai' cow. He was bred by Leo McEnroe, Maghera, Virginia, Co.Cavan.

'Here at None-go-bye farm the land starts 220 meters above sea level to just over 300 meters, the farm has all grass and the cattle are not pushed on too much. No creep feeding of calves takes place, but even allowing for this we had no problem at all getting Dandys bullocks to weigh 380-400kgs dead at 20 month to 2years old at U.and OR. grades.

We don't really bother too much with the bull trade but the few bulls we have sold by Dandy were easily moved and done a great job for the people who bought them. We intended in retaining a son of Dandy, Crookrise Panther and we did use him and he left some really good calves but we were persuaded to part with him on the understanding we can still have the use of him.



Dandy has done a really good job for us. His cows are easily calved and his offspring have plenty of get up and go and can grow, he has left his mark in the herd with his daughters being great big fleshing natural doing cattle.'

Lisduff Dandy with Leo McEnroe at Tully

KBS Genetics, France

Livestock Consultant Dick Bradley and KBS Genetics purchased the Saler Bull 'Lataster Eric' on completion of his Performance Test at Tully in 2006. He was the highest performing Salers Bull on his test. He was bred by Brendan Clarke, Lataster, Lisgrey, Virginia, Co. Cavan.

Irish bred 'Lataster Eric' has proven to be one of the top Saler bulls here in France. We in KBS GENETIC had organised a syndicate of buyers with some of the best breeders of the Salers Breed: Gaec de Solignac, Gaec Trin, Earl Fournet Yves, Julien Fau, Gaec Crevecoeur, Pascl Trapenat, Gaec de Combelles and SCEA d'Arses. Dick Bradley first noticed Eric as a calf on the Clarke farm and recognised that he was something special and drew him to our attention in France. Lataster Eric was the All Ireland Champion at the National Ploughing Championships in 2005 and went on to become the highest Performing Salers Bull in Tully Test Station' In France, he has been used in many different herds and on many different bloodlines. He brings a lot of growth, length and size every time to his progeny. Those who have used him in France are convinced that he will stamp the breed through his daughters.



Lataster Eric in Tully



Lataster Eric in France (4 years old)



Lataster Eric Daughter in France



Lataster Eric Son in France

G€N€ IR€LAND explained

G€N€ IR€LAND® is the National Progeny Test program for Beef Bulls. It is the progeny test program through which the top performing Tully Bulls that are purchased by AI Companies are progeny tested. Other top quality Bulls which did not go through Tully are also permitted into G€N€ Ireland. It is a joint venture involving ICBF, AI Companies and the various Breed Societies. Additional funding is also provided by the National Development Plan (NDP) and FBD Trust.

The program is focused on **Maternal Traits**, with young bulls being selected on the basis of genetic potential for:

- Good milk & fertility (in their daughters).
- Good growth & conformation (in calves from these daughters).

The key points from the program include:

- Bulls are selected for the program on the basis of the new Euro-Star indexes for maternal beef replacement value (milk & fertility + calf quality). Details of the bulls are available on our website – www.icbf.com
- Breeds that are usually available include Charolais, Hereford, Limousin, Simmental, Angus, Blonde, Belgian Blue, Parthenaise, Shorthorn & Saler. Additional breeds may be added to the program during the year.
- Farmers can choose what Bulls they would like to use themselves. They can pick bulls from one breed or from a mixture of breeds.
- The target minimum usage is 10 – 25 straws (min 2 bulls x 5 straws each). However, this will be influenced by the number of bulls available for certain breeds.
- Straws will be charged at €5/straw.



G€N€ IR€LAND Progress

Since it commenced in 2007 G€N€ Ireland has dispatched the target number of straws (700) for 39 Beef Bulls from 7 different breeds. 10 of these bulls had been performance tested at Tully.

G€N€ IR€LAND Bulls Progeny Tested (2007-2011)

Code	Name	Breed	Owner	Origin	Calves	Inseminations	Wean Wgts	Daughters Calved	Daughters Calves Weighed
RWB	Rawburn Lord Rocket	AA	Dovea AI	Ireland	481	1411	37	0	0
WOA	Courtwood Aidan	BA	BA Society	Ireland	170	372	40	0	0
ANX	Ross Anon	BB	NCBC	Ireland	333	893	120	0	0
RSA	Ross A	BB	Private	Ireland	225	451	93	0	0
SEU	Sauveur de Monin Chapelle	BB	NCBC	Belgium	112	467	0	0	0
EVG	Evergreen Chestnut	BB	NCBC	Ireland - Tully	35	262	0	0	0
STQ	Sultan	BB	NCBC	Belgium	0	133	0	0	0
CF61	Alex	CH	NCBC	France	489	999	128	7	0
CF71	Balthazar	CH	NCBC	France	404	517	106	0	0
CF85	Balthazar	CH	NCBC	France	1779	2970	232	9	2
MVO	Mandela Veron	CH	NCBC	Ireland	2651	3109	469	43	16
AZA	Dovea Alcazar	CH	Dovea AI	France	821	791	160	0	0
KLU	Kilbline Cupidon	CH	NCBC	Ireland - Tully	685	1364	134	0	0
RHI	Roundhill Doc	CH	Dovea AI	Ireland	527	1158	69	0	0
CWB	Cottstown Brendan	CH	NCBC	Ireland	162	410	25	0	0
VHC	Celtic Vichy	CH	Private	Ireland	101	283	40	4	4
DEZ	Cottage Devon	CH	NCBC	Ireland	12	1474	2	0	0
AIZ	Arti	LM	Dovea AI	France	609	514	149	20	5
CVV	Castlevew Virulent	LM	NCBC	Ireland - Tully	1152	2949	215	11	1
MBV	Milbrook Vic	LM	Eurogene	Ireland - Tully	604	547	155	35	18
FL21	Arita - Ben	LM	NCBC	France	924	1592	186	15	2
FL23	Ambiteux	LM	NCBC	France	511	608	104	0	0
FL24	Bilbao	LM	NCBC	France	519	524	153	4	4
FL29	Chouchou	LM	NCBC	France	125	619	5	0	0
RBU	Roundhill Botan	LM	NCBC	Ireland - Tully	427	949	166	0	0
CWI	Castlevew Casino	LM	Dovea AI	Ireland - Tully	792	1360	102	0	0
RHF	Roundhill Dara	LM	Dovea AI	Ireland	496	1079	35	0	0
MBP	Milbrook Dartangan	LM	Dovea AI	Ireland - Tully	52	753	0	0	0
ADX	Ardlea Dan	LM	NCBC	Ireland	0	0	0	0	0
NHL	Netherhall Epic	LM	NCBC	UK	0	216	0	0	0
KCP	Kyle Chap	PT	Dovea AI	Ireland - Tully	201	488	25	0	0
CZB	Creaga Dice	SH	Dovea AI	Ireland	495	753	41	0	0
RKZ	Celtic Rock	SI	Private	Ireland	371	530	148	20	6
DRU	Derrough Samual	SI	Dovea AI	Ireland - Tully	1872	2310	314	49	8
IS4	Seepa Tee Jay	SI	NCBC	Ireland	1684	2715	296	2	0
SEV	Seaview Tommy	SI	Dovea AI	Ireland	1119	1461	207	3	3
RWV	Raceview Van Halen	SI	Dovea AI	Ireland	221	577	9	0	0
HSY	Hillcrest Sylvester	SI	Private	Ireland	55	370	0	0	0
SKU	Celtic Starbuck	SI	Private	Ireland - Tully	265	467	95	1	0



Belgian Blue - Evergrange Chestnut - EVG



Charolais – Kilblin Cupidon - KLU



Limousin – Milbrook Dartagnan – MBP



Parthenaise – Kyle Chap - KCP



Simmental – Derrough Samuel – DRU



Angus – Rawburn Lord Rocket F609 - RWB



Blonde – Courtwood Aidan – WOA



Shorthorn – Creaga Dice - CZB



Salers – Ballymackeogh Hugh - BHU

G€N€ Ireland Farmer Focus – David Ross, Rockmount, Drimoleague, Co. Cork.

David & Elizabeth Ross and their family are the third generation of the family to farm in the picturesque countryside of West Cork at “The Top of the Rock” outside the village of Drimoleague. The farm follows along the Ilen River and also runs parallel to part of the Sheeps Head Walk Way which will be well known to walkers around the country.

The farming enterprise is based on approximately 115 acres of owned and leased land. The herd consists of 43 cows which are mainly Simmental x Friesian. The main calving occurs in July/August with calves kept over the first winter and sold as strong weanlings the following April.

This herd is 100% AI since 2005 and 4 crushes are positioned around the farm to facilitate this. David has signed up to every G€N€ IRELAND program since it started in 2007 and currently has 25 heifers in the herd which are out of G€N€ IRELAND bulls. These heifers have been fitted with the green tags provided by ICBF and David is planning on organising a special sale in Skibbereen mart in the Autumn for some of these maternally bred heifers to cash in on the demand for suitable breeding females.

As part of the program David has had about 70 weanlings weighed and scored free of charge by ICBF over the last few years and finds the information provided by these visits invaluable in making breeding decisions and identifying high index bulls that work well on his farm.

Some of the bulls he has used through the program which stand out are the following: KLU, CWB, SEV, SKU, CF85 and WOA.

Code	Name	Breed	Daughter Fertility (Apr'11)	Daughter Milk (Apr'11)
WOA	Courtwood Aidan	BA	★★	★★★★★
KLU	Kilbline 1 Cupidon	CH	★★★★★	★★★
CWB	Cottstown Brendan	CH	★★★★★	★★★★★
CF85	Balthazar	CH	★★★★★	★
SEV	Seaview Tommy	SI	★★★★★	★★★★★
SKU	Celtic Starbuck	SI	★★★★★	★★



G€N€ IRELAND Heifer tagged with 'Green Tag'.

Every G€N€ Ireland heifer is uniquely identified with a second 'Green Tag' so as she can be quickly identified by the Herdowner, especially when he is selecting what females to keep as replacements.

G€N€ Ireland Heifers		Weanling Export	Beef Carcass	Suckler Beef Value	Daughter Fertility	Daughter Milk
777	Index (Apr'11)	€56	€60	€134	€66	€166
	Reliability%	39%	33%	31%	3%	7%
	Stars Within Breed	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
	Stars Across Breed	★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
774	Index	€51	€54	€122	€107	€154
	Reliability% (Apr'11)	38%	32%	33%	3%	6%
	Stars Within Breed	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
	Stars Across Breed	★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★



'SEV' sired G€N€ IRELAND Heifers

They were both born in July 2009 (18 mths old in photo) & were both recently inseminated with the G€N€ Ireland Limousin Bull 'Netherhall Epic' (NHL)

This herd is also signed up to HerdPlus and David finds the Suckler Cow Report extremely useful in identifying the top (and bottom) performing cows in the herd.

If you are interested in participating in the G€N€ IRELAND® Beef program, or have any questions in relation to the program, please contact ICBF (045 521573 or 1850 600 900 or email nkilrane@icbf.com or text the word BULL Beef to 51101), or alternatively contact your local semen sales advisor.



NETHERHALL EPIC NHL
SYMPA x LASSO (DAUPHIN)



Seaview Tommy

Beef AI

ICBF Active AI Bull Lists

If you would like to see the most up-to-date listings of any Beef (or Dairy) AI Bulls then:

1. **Select 'Active Bull Lists'**: This will take you to the full listings of all Beef & Dairy AI Bulls with their price & availability details which is updated by the various AI Organisations.

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

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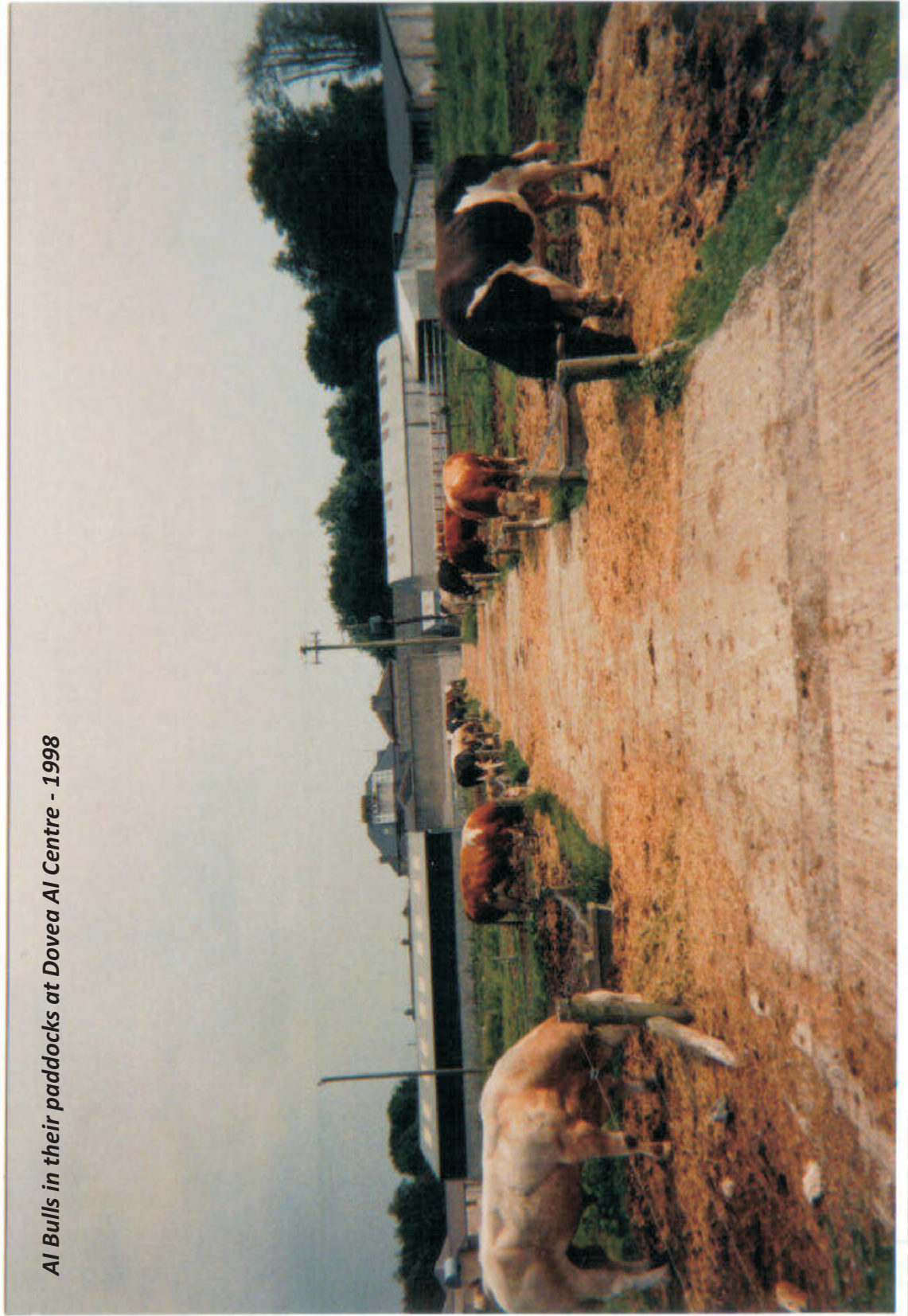
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ACTIVE BULL LIST

APRIL 2011

AI Bulls in their paddocks at Dovea AI Centre - 1998



Angus																												
Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility		Availability Details		
AI	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Supplier	Price Avail.			
Code																												
RWB	RAWBURN LORD ROCKET F609	AA	€96	74%	*****	€7	78%	****	€4	68%	****	€311	13%	*****	6	96%	*	-1.79	95%	****	0.07	81%	****	Dovea	€8	High		
FIW	FRIARSTOWN EDITION G028	AA	€87	71%	*****	€35	84%	*****	€31	64%	*****	€139	14%	*****	3.6	96%	*	-0.17	82%	****	-0.05	86%	**	NCBC	€10	High		
LZE	LANIGAN RED BLAZE ET	AA	€77	82%	*****	€18	91%	*****	€38	83%	*****	€125	8%	*****	8.9	97%	*	-0.87	95%	*****	0.15	91%	*****	NCBC	€10	High		
JRM	JERUSALEM FARADAY C071	AA	€72	73%	*****	€3	67%	****	€17	77%	*****	€176	25%	*****	3.1	92%	*	1.8	81%	*	-0.05	74%	**	NCBC	€20	High		
CYI	CONEYISLAND LEGEND E112	AA	€71	82%	*****	€12	82%	*****	€45	87%	*****	€4	19%	****	2.7	96%	**	-0.44	90%	****	0.02	87%	***	Dovea	€30	High		
LFG	LUDDENMORE FIONN G441	AA	€71	54%	*****	€14	62%	*****	€7	35%	*****	€112	4%	****	2.2	92%	***	-1.64	84%	*****	-0.08	66%	*	Dovea	€8	High		
GIP	GOULDING PHILIP H339	AA	€67	50%	*****	€21	42%	*****	€13	33%	**	€192	13%	*****	1.6	87%	*****	-1.51	92%	*****	0.04	31%	****	NCBC	€8	High		
AYR	AYNHQ ROSSITER ERIC B125	AA	€63	64%	*****	€25	71%	*****	€19	63%	**	€258	36%	*****	2.6	87%	**	-0.27	82%	****	0.04	72%	****	NCBC	€45	High		
ERW	CHEEKLAWEIRWYN D165	AA	€50	89%	*****	€14	83%	*	€8	93%	***	€65	10%	*****	1.8	98%	****	0.41	98%	*	-0.04	93%	**	Eurogene	€10	High		
PBO	PROUD BOY OF DUNLEVER	AA	€33	94%	***	€15	95%	*	€21	97%	**	€129	91%	*****	1	98%	*****	-2.36	97%	****	-0.08	90%	*	NCBC	€8	Medium		
LSC	LISS MIRT C476	AA	€27	94%	***	€14	94%	*	€10	97%	***	€26	37%	*	€78	41%	*	-0.32	99%	****	0.06	96%	****	Dovea	€10	High		
VPI	IDVIES PARIS B102	AA	€18	65%	**	€24	57%	*****	€18	70%	**	€49	23%	*	2.8	86%	**	0.48	66%	*	0.14	64%	*****	Eurogene	€40	Medium		
DVE	DRUMDEEVIN DANCER	AA	€14	97%	**	€16	97%	*	€13	98%	***	€93	93%	***	2.2	99%	***	0.68	98%	*	0.03	97%	****	NCBC	€8	Medium		
MOD	MANCINI OF DRUMLISTER	AA	€10	76%	*	€5	71%	**	€13	86%	**	€77	21%	*****	4.4	91%	*	1.37	79%	*	-0.08	79%	*	Eurogene	€9	Low		
ANZ	CLOONCOLLIGAN AMAZING	AA	€5	92%	*	€22	91%	*	€34	96%	*	€83	5%	**	3	99%	*	0.67	98%	*	0.03	96%	****	NCBC	€8	Medium		
PTN	PRIESTTOWN TORNADO	AA	€15	95%	*	€15	91%	*	€32	97%	*	€90	74%	**	3.8	99%	*	0.7	98%	*	0.04	93%	****	NCBC	€8	High		
KDU	KILKELLY DUKE	AA	€17	66%	*	€0	70%	***	€32	52%	*	€87	8%	**	4.9	95%	*	-0.33	96%	****	-0.06	72%	**	NCBC	€10	High		

Aubrac																													
Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility		Availability Details			
AI	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro- Stars	Supplier	Price Avail.				
Code																													
TIN	TURIN	AU	€101	53%	*****	€70	60%	*****	€80	55%	*****	€49	17%	*	€40	22%	***	5.7	71%	*	1.5	65%	*	0.01	56%	****	NCBC	€16	Medium
PRZ	PERLOU	AU	€78	86%	***	€67	87%	*****	€49	94%	***	€89	41%	**	€85	32%	*	5.4	96%	*	0.07	94%	*****	0	86%	****	NCBC	€10	High
RLU	ROCKHILL URBANO	AU	€76	69%	***	€51	69%	*****	€43	77%	**	€140	26%	*****	€48	20%	**	2.4	87%	****	1.77	77%	*	0.05	68%	****	NCBC	€10	Medium

Blonde d'Aquitaine																													
Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value		Weanling Export		Beef Carcass		Fertility		Milk		Calving Difficulty		Gestation Length		Dociity		Availability Details										
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price Avail.				
WTI	WIVETON INDIANA	BA	€112	76%	****	€89	79%	****	€137	82%	****	-€49	28%	**	-€107	17%	*	4.8	93%	****	5.15	86%	*	-0.07	83%	***	Eurogene	€10	Medium
GWJ	GANAWAY JASPER	BA	€73	83%	****	€79	87%	****	€123	89%	****	-€88	43%	*	-€74	49%	****	6.1	95%	**	5.83	85%	*	-0.05	85%	****	Eurogene	€10	Medium
OXY	ONYX	BA	€65	72%	****	€62	78%	****	€125	78%	****	-€31	17%	***	-€133	48%	*	7	92%	**	4.57	68%	**	-0.15	79%	*	Dovea	€10	High
APX	ARDCLONE PYXIS	BA	€61	90%	****	€55	92%	****	€85	95%	***	€46	58%	****	-€69	64%	****	5.7	97%	***	6.07	94%	*	-0.21	93%	*	Dovea	€8	High
DRP	DROP	BA	€39	67%	***	€51	77%	***	€90	79%	***	-€11	22%	****	-€64	56%	****	10.2	85%	*	5.44	34%	*	-0.22	69%	*	Dovea	€19	Low
WOA	COURTWOOD AIDAN	BA	€37	65%	***	€29	80%	*	€94	57%	****	-€52	2%	**	-€85	17%	****	6.2	91%	**	3.59	90%	****	-0.06	84%	***	Eurogene	€14	Medium
NIL	NIELSEN	BA	-€22	82%	*	€57	87%	****	€43	88%	*	€2	36%	****	-€104	57%	**	10.5	94%	*	6.09	85%	*	-0.13	88%	**	NCBC	€13	Medium
Belgian Blue																													
Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value		Weanling Export		Beef Carcass		Fertility		Milk		Calving Difficulty		Gestation Length		Dociity		Availability Details										
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price Avail.				
RYP	ROCKY DU PONT DE MESSE	BB	€141	95%	****	€112	99%	****	€135	98%	****	-€8	52%	****	€44	43%	****	11.2	99%	***	-1.7	98%	****	0.25	99%	****	Dovea	€15	Low
AZL	ROSS ALO (ET)	BB	€138	78%	****	€109	92%	****	€143	73%	****	€3	11%	****	€25	12%	**	9.5	96%	****	-0.94	91%	****	0.22	90%	****	NCBC	€10	High
RFC	RINGFORT CORMAC ET	BB	€123	55%	****	€83	68%	***	€106	42%	**	-€12	5%	****	€46	2%	****	6.7	88%	****	-1.18	75%	****	0.26	50%	****	Dovea	€8	High
KTN	KILLANETIG NOBEL	BB	€118	83%	****	€89	84%	****	€118	94%	****	-€11	38%	****	€53	37%	****	10.4	93%	****	0.54	88%	*	0.16	80%	**	NCBC	€10	Low
DEP	DESPOTE DE L'EAU D'EPPE	BB	€108	94%	****	€133	99%	****	€151	97%	****	-€40	43%	**	€34	35%	***	20.6	99%	*	-1.84	97%	****	0.29	98%	****	NCBC	€14	High
BBQ	BALLYFIN BORAT (ET)	BB	€103	79%	****	€86	96%	***	€111	65%	***	-€8	6%	****	€27	9%	**	9.4	99%	****	0.36	98%	*	0.29	95%	****	Dovea	€8	High
CGG	CABARET 7788 GRIGEOULE	BB	€97	85%	****	€82	87%	***	€98	89%	**	€3	12%	****	€40	5%	****	6.3	97%	****	-0.68	97%	****	0.23	85%	****	NCBC	€10	Medium
FHZ	FAKIR DE L'HEZ KERNAI	BB	€94	89%	****	€101	96%	****	€131	90%	****	-€87	22%	*	€11	11%	*	11.1	99%	****	1.27	97%	*	0.24	94%	****	NCBC	€14	High
AVD	AMOR 1843 VD LAFELDERBERG	BB	€93	85%	****	€77	88%	**	€89	83%	*	€6	8%	****	€40	3%	****	10.6	98%	****	-0.63	99%	****	0.1	86%	*	NCBC	€10	Low
SPX	CAJOLEUR DE SENONCHAMPS	BB	€87	83%	***	€74	88%	**	€99	88%	**	-€18	10%	****	€23	10%	**	9.8	96%	****	-1.8	92%	****	0.31	83%	****	Eurogene	€10	Medium
CGF	CASTLECUFF BRADLEY	BB	€81	72%	***	€87	91%	***	€110	59%	***	-€54	2%	*	€16	6%	*	13.4	97%	***	-0.79	93%	****	0.1	90%	*	Dovea	€8	High
RSA	ROSS A	BB	€78	69%	**	€65	89%	*	€88	63%	*	-€2	1%	****	€41	5%	****	9.2	93%	****	0.5	92%	*	0.08	86%	*	Eurogene	€14	Medium
CEQ	COLOSSE ET DES TOURELLE	BB	€75	88%	**	€75	93%	**	€116	94%	***	-€20	34%	****	€32	33%	***	16.6	97%	**	0.02	92%	**	0.3	92%	****	Eurogene	€10	High
SHZ	CONDOR DE SENONCHAMPS	BB	€72	92%	**	€80	92%	**	€95	95%	**	-€62	38%	*	€57	29%	****	8.6	99%	****	-1.53	98%	****	0.19	93%	***	Eurogene	€10	High
FDI	FERMENT 9709 DES TIENNES	BB	€64	85%	**	€93	88%	****	€90	89%	*	-€94	13%	*	€34	18%	***	7.3	96%	****	-1.57	97%	****	0.11	79%	*	NCBC	€10	Medium
BLQ	BOHERARD BULLSEYE (ET)	BB	€51	68%	*	€88	86%	****	€86	60%	*	-€11	2%	****	€49	2%	****	18.1	94%	**	0.3	80%	*	0.12	81%	*	Dovea	€8	High
VAP	VALENTIN 2235 PAPILLON	BB	€37	96%	*	€86	97%	***	€105	97%	**	-€120	72%	*	€48	62%	****	11.5	99%	****	0.48	99%	*	0.17	93%	***	NCBC	€10	High
ANX	ROSS ANON (ET)	BB	€34	73%	*	€104	91%	****	€115	68%	***	-€67	1%	*	-€2	16%	*	21.6	94%	*	0.54	94%	*	0.25	87%	****	NCBC	€10	Medium

Charolais

Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility			Availability Details		
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	Supplier	Price Avail.		
SDA	MAERDY SINNDAR	CH	€159	68%	****	€119	79%	****	€176	77%	****	-€9	23%	***	-€90	30%	*	13	84%	*	1.86	52%	****	0.31	79%	****	NCBC	€55	Medium
CF61	ALEX	CH	€154	85%	****	€97	91%	****	€151	92%	****	€25	12%	****	-€24	16%	****	8.1	96%	***	2.79	94%	*	0.02	90%	***	NCBC	€12	High
TUT	THRUNTONT NOSTRADAMUS	CH	€141	71%	****	€77	74%	***	€131	81%	****	€66	20%	****	-€49	17%	****	6.2	91%	****	2.06	66%	****	0.12	69%	****	Eurogene	€10	Low
CF85	BALTHAZAR	CH	€132	90%	****	€104	96%	****	€134	95%	****	€46	11%	****	-€82	11%	*	10.6	98%	*	2.36	96%	***	0.18	96%	****	NCBC	€14	High
MY1	MAERDY IMPECCABLE	CH	€129	78%	****	€100	85%	****	€150	88%	****	-€76	25%	*	-€35	43%	****	11.4	90%	*	2.05	61%	****	-0.07	78%	*	NCBC	€99	High
IGO	IGLOO	CH	€128	75%	****	€98	80%	****	€142	83%	****	-€35	18%	**	-€130	51%	*	9.3	88%	**	1.23	64%	****	0.07	78%	****	NCBC	€50	Medium
PNZ	PANAMA	CH	€122	59%	****	€91	76%	****	€157	65%	****	-€24	7%	**	-€112	38%	*	12.7	84%	*	2.06	28%	****	-0.09	73%	*	Dovea	€99	High
TOH	TROPHEE	CH	€121	91%	****	€119	97%	****	€154	97%	****	-€23	39%	**	-€79	49%	**	14.6	98%	*	2.14	90%	****	0.07	94%	****	NCBC	€10	Medium
PTE	PIRATE	CH	€119	98%	****	€83	99%	****	€119	98%	****	€52	83%	****	-€73	88%	***	7.8	99%	****	2.36	99%	***	0	99%	**	NCBC	€10	Medium
HWN	HOLLOWTREE NICKOLAS	CH	€119	97%	****	€97	99%	****	€136	98%	****	€8	76%	****	-€52	80%	****	8.6	99%	***	1.83	99%	****	0.09	99%	****	NCBC	€12	Medium
KLU	KILBLINE_1 CUPIDON (ET)	CH	€114	79%	****	€102	94%	****	€140	74%	****	€36	10%	****	-€72	20%	***	12.8	97%	*	3.3	95%	*	0.08	93%	****	NCBC	€10	High
CF57	DOONALLY OLIVETO	CH	€111	96%	****	€97	99%	****	€126	98%	****	€26	71%	****	-€70	86%	***	12.6	99%	*	1.94	93%	****	0.09	97%	****	NCBC	€10	High
ADA	CLOQUILITY ANDRAEMON (ET)	CH	€109	65%	****	€123	70%	****	€134	69%	****	€46	10%	****	-€74	21%	***	13.6	87%	*	3.43	58%	*	0.13	72%	****	Dovea	€45	High
RHI	ROUNDHILL DOC 1068 (ET)	CH	€108	78%	****	€91	91%	****	€128	72%	****	-€88	9%	*	-€61	21%	****	8.6	96%	***	0.97	94%	****	0.16	92%	****	Dovea	€8	High
ODI	ORGANDI	CH	€107	97%	****	€92	99%	****	€147	98%	****	-€21	79%	***	-€112	88%	*	12.2	99%	*	2.31	97%	***	0.13	99%	****	NCBC	€10	High
PNY	PINAY	CH	€106	67%	****	€81	77%	***	€83	68%	*	€32	8%	****	-€10	36%	****	3.3	88%	****	0.76	77%	****	0.19	73%	****	NCBC	€38	High
TZA	LYONSEMESNE TZAR	CH	€105	96%	****	€99	99%	****	€118	98%	****	€65	63%	****	-€68	68%	***	12.1	99%	*	1.95	97%	****	0.03	99%	***	Dovea	€18	Low
PIC	P.T.I PRINCE	CH	€105	83%	****	€93	89%	****	€146	91%	****	-€43	38%	*	-€108	61%	*	11.1	93%	*	3.4	65%	*	0	88%	**	NCBC	€75	Medium
PCO	ENFIELD PICASSO	CH	€104	94%	****	€89	98%	****	€110	98%	****	€13	53%	****	-€117	63%	*	7.2	98%	****	0.64	95%	****	-0.06	96%	*	NCBC	€8	Medium
PBT	PRIME ROBERTO	CH	€99	96%	****	€94	99%	****	€146	98%	****	-€71	70%	*	-€93	74%	*	11	99%	*	2.74	97%	*	0.09	98%	****	Dovea	€8	High
NWK	ENFIELD NEWLOOK	CH	€98	97%	****	€90	99%	****	€108	98%	****	€87	76%	****	-€71	86%	***	12.1	99%	*	4.35	97%	*	0.07	98%	****	NCBC	€10	High
LAO	LIVAROT	CH	€96	76%	****	€114	92%	****	€148	89%	****	-€15	21%	***	-€68	19%	***	22.1	92%	*	1.23	56%	****	0.14	82%	****	Eurogene	€15	Low
OSC	OSCAR	CH	€95	94%	****	€103	96%	****	€122	97%	****	€51	62%	****	-€93	76%	*	13.3	98%	*	3.72	90%	*	0.06	96%	****	Dovea	€70	Low
MDO	MOGADOR	CH	€93	98%	****	€100	99%	****	€122	98%	****	-€34	83%	**	-€91	91%	*	11.2	99%	*	1.63	98%	****	0.04	99%	***	NCBC	€10	High
PIX	PHENIX	CH	€91	84%	****	€95	91%	****	€112	93%	****	€24	35%	****	-€13	36%	****	15.3	95%	*	2.32	80%	***	0.03	87%	***	NCBC	€8	Medium
NAP	NAPOLEON	CH	€85	90%	****	€82	95%	***	€133	96%	****	€14	48%	****	-€122	58%	*	12.3	97%	*	3.42	92%	*	0.07	93%	****	Dovea	€8	High
CF71	BALTHAZAR	CH	€83	79%	***	€123	85%	****	€126	85%	****	€56	5%	****	-€56	5%	****	19	95%	*	5.02	89%	*	-0.02	88%	**	NCBC	€10	High
MVO	MANDELA VERON (ET)	CH	€80	93%	***	€100	98%	****	€115	97%	****	€56	35%	****	-€93	41%	*	12.3	99%	*	3.2	97%	*	0.13	98%	****	NCBC	€12	High
DLJ	DRUMLONE JUSTTHEJOB	CH	€77	72%	***	€66	79%	*	€86	88%	*	€53	17%	****	-€28	11%	****	12.4	92%	*	3.77	40%	*	0.02	76%	***	Eurogene	€10	Low
PIO	DOVEA PINOCCHIO	CH	€76	96%	***	€92	99%	****	€114	98%	****	-€39	74%	**	-€69	84%	***	12.7	99%	*	1.97	96%	****	0.11	98%	****	Dovea	€8	High
PHX	PANORAMIX	CH	€76	55%	***	€115	71%	****	€135	57%	****	-€75	15%	*	-€50	44%	****	17.2	68%	*	1.58	56%	****	0.11	65%	****	NCBC	€65	Medium
VHC	CELTIC VICHY (ET)	CH	€71	70%	**	€93	75%	****	€126	75%	****	-€13	9%	***	-€32	19%	****	19.5	86%	*	3.77	77%	*	0.1	75%	****	Celtic Sires	€20	Low
OSI	OLDGRANGE SINDURAIN	CH	€70	97%	**	€67	99%	*	€76	98%	*	€32	64%	****	-€85	62%	*	5.5	99%	****	3.03	99%	*	0.13	99%	****	Dovea	€8	High

Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Dociity			Availability Details		
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price Avail.	
AZA	DOVEA ALCAZAR	CH	€70	84%	**	€88	93%	****	€111	85%	****	-€27	10%	**	-€101	20%	*	11.1	97%	*	2.48	92%	**	-0.06	94%	*	Dovea	€8	High
SAI	SAPHIR	CH	€68	91%	**	€84	96%	****	€102	95%	***	-€76	33%	*	-€107	40%	*	7.4	98%	****	1.54	96%	****	0	95%	**	NCBC	€8	Medium
BKZ	BLAKESTOWN TRUSTEE	CH	€68	72%	**	€80	75%	***	€104	84%	***	-€51	22%	*	-€81	31%	**	8.2	85%	***	3.03	66%	*	-0.01	69%	**	Sligo AI	€10	Medium
PID	PICADOR	CH	€68	60%	**	€92	75%	*****	€93	73%	**	€5	7%	****	-€154	42%	*	7.1	75%	****	1.79	24%	****	0	61%	**	NCBC	€99	Medium
KIB	LIMKILN BOSCO	CH	€64	90%	**	€102	97%	*****	€128	92%	*****	-€73	24%	*	-€81	29%	**	14.7	99%	*	1.65	94%	*****	0.1	97%	*****	NCBC	€14	High
VGO	VAGABOND	CH	€61	90%	**	€79	97%	***	€101	96%	***	€28	22%	*****	-€97	17%	*	12.2	98%	*	3.38	88%	*	0.12	97%	*****	Dovea	€8	High
ALU	ANNESKEAGH ULYSSES	CH	€61	76%	**	€93	88%	*****	€127	87%	*****	€4	6%	****	-€73	10%	***	19.7	94%	*	3.83	60%	*	0.18	88%	*****	Eurogene	€10	Medium
NEX	NELSON	CH	€60	89%	**	€86	93%	****	€92	92%	**	-€146	37%	*	-€68	64%	***	6.6	97%	*****	0.89	92%	****	-0.03	91%	**	NCBC	€38	Medium
MQI	MARQUIS	CH	€58	82%	**	€81	91%	***	€102	92%	***	-€18	33%	***	-€63	44%	****	13.2	94%	*	1	67%	****	-0.07	78%	*	Eurogene	€15	Medium
CF60	LTINTIN	CH	€57	91%	**	€98	97%	*****	€119	97%	****	-€27	25%	**	-€64	21%	****	15.6	98%	*	2.66	86%	*	0.17	97%	*****	NCBC	€8	High
UNV	COOLNASLEE UNIVERSE	CH	€52	83%	*	€77	87%	***	€99	91%	***	-€9	17%	***	-€55	8%	*****	14.7	96%	*	2.83	82%	*	0	91%	**	Eurogene	€10	Medium

Hereford																													
Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility			Availability Details		
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	Supplier	Price Avail.		
RSL	RH STAR BURST LAD 7G	HE	€49	90%	****	€7	80%	**	€7	95%	****	-€2	52%	*	€146	30%	****	5.2	98%	*	-0.33	97%	****	0.14	84%	****	NCBC	€10	High
RRI	BOR RED ROBIN 2ND (X)	HE	€47	51%	****	€14	33%	****	€22	51%	****	-€39	12%	*	€124	14%	****	5.3	75%	*	1.53	69%	*	0.01	32%	*	Eurogene	€25	Low
LTX	LISPACE LIBERATOR IV	HE	€33	78%	****	€29	58%	****	€0	83%	****	€53	10%	****	€96	8%	*	5.7	96%	*	1.01	95%	***	0.1	70%	***	Eurogene	€10	High
BXD	BANNER DANDY	HE	€26	86%	***	€3	80%	*	-€1	93%	****	€25	22%	**	€126	11%	****	5.7	96%	*	2.35	97%	*	-0.04	87%	*	Dovea	€8	High
WVG	WOODVIEW SERGEANT	HE	€22	83%	***	€19	70%	****	-€9	90%	***	€38	30%	****	€93	18%	*	4.1	95%	***	0.82	95%	****	0.11	76%	***	Sligo AI	€10	Medium
GDS	GOLDENFIELD 1 SUPERSTAR (P)	HE	€18	92%	***	€25	87%	****	€15	96%	****	-€101	59%	*	€108	56%	**	5.9	98%	*	2.2	97%	*	0.17	88%	****	NCBC	€12	Medium
FEA	DUNSINANE FREEMAN	HE	€12	68%	**	€11	57%	***	-€6	60%	****	€38	6%	****	€100	13%	*	8.6	94%	*	-0.25	96%	****	0.13	62%	****	NCBC	€8	High
TIB	TRILLICK BEST	HE	€8	96%	**	€17	92%	****	-€13	98%	***	-€7	73%	*	€113	56%	***	5.7	99%	*	1.51	99%	*	0.15	95%	****	NCBC	€10	Medium
GSQ	GLASLOUGH ESQUIRE	HE	-€12	87%	*	-€6	83%	*	-€39	91%	*	€28	15%	***	€117	10%	****	3.9	98%	****	-0.41	98%	****	0.27	91%	****	Dovea	€10	High

Limousin

Limousin

Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility			Availability Details		
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price	Avail.
RHN	ROUNDHILL SATURN ET	LM	€163	73%	*****	€88	81%	*****	€119	81%	*****	€47	24%	*****	€32	41%	*****	3.8	86%	*****	2.91	54%	*****	-0.02	82%	*****	NCBC	€14	Low
GUB	GRAHAMS UNBEATABLE	LM	€155	69%	*****	€77	77%	*****	€123	72%	*****	€30	28%	*****	€30	28%	*****	4.6	89%	*****	4.16	68%	**	0.15	82%	*****	NCBC	€50	Low
SYF	SYMPA	LM	€152	80%	*****	€98	85%	*****	€128	79%	*****	€6	38%	*****	€6	38%	*	5.8	96%	**	4.3	91%	**	0.12	90%	*****	Powerful	€85	High
PCH	PACHA 08	LM	€152	81%	*****	€49	84%	***	€118	87%	*****	€97	35%	*****	€97	35%	*****	4	94%	*****	3.05	79%	*****	-0.03	87%	*****	Dovea	€30	High
GTZ	GOLDIES TERENCE	LM	€147	58%	*****	€86	70%	*****	€114	54%	*****	€59	44%	*****	€59	44%	*****	4.9	79%	*****	3.85	69%	**	-0.06	60%	*****	NCBC	€50	Low
SVZ	SAMY	LM	€146	58%	*****	€83	72%	*****	€146	63%	*****	€18	17%	**	€18	17%	*	9.2	79%	*	3.46	53%	*****	-0.08	77%	***	Powerful	€80	High
VDT	BROOKMILL VINDICATOR (ET)	LM	€145	71%	*****	€71	73%	*****	€120	75%	*****	€9	21%	***	€9	21%	**	4.7	88%	*****	2.95	85%	*****	-0.09	79%	***	NCBC	€20	Medium
NLO	NELSON	LM	€144	67%	*****	€66	74%	*****	€101	73%	*****	€28	45%	*****	€28	45%	*****	5.5	84%	***	2.6	67%	*****	-0.13	70%	**	NCBC	€40	Low
CWI	CASTLEVIEW CASINO (ET)	LM	€143	82%	*****	€57	92%	*****	€117	78%	*****	€67	28%	*****	€67	28%	*****	8.2	98%	*	2.87	96%	*****	-0.05	93%	*****	Dovea	€8	High
TTU	TISTOU	LM	€123	68%	*****	€72	76%	*****	€129	73%	*****	€51	21%	***	€51	21%	*****	8.5	87%	*	4.94	66%	*	0.13	83%	*****	NCBC	€50	Medium
FL24	BILBAO	LM	€119	82%	*****	€75	90%	*****	€102	89%	*****	€40	6%	*****	€40	6%	*****	8	95%	*	3.94	93%	***	-0.12	90%	**	NCBC	€10	Low
SVG	SAUVIGNON	LM	€119	70%	*****	€66	79%	*****	€108	72%	*****	€38	13%	*****	€38	13%	*****	5.7	92%	**	4.99	68%	*	0.06	83%	*****	Dovea	€25	High
FL29	CHOUCHOU	LM	€119	53%	*****	€88	50%	*****	€101	33%	*****	€59	9%	***	€59	9%	*****	8.2	92%	*	4.05	90%	***	-0.02	21%	*****	NCBC	€10	Medium
FL22	ARCHIBEAU	LM	€118	89%	*****	€43	95%	**	€88	90%	***	€77	14%	*****	€30	12%	*****	3.7	99%	*****	2.29	98%	*****	-0.23	96%	*	NCBC	€8	High
AIZ	ARTI	LM	€118	86%	*****	€67	92%	*****	€103	93%	*****	€85	22%	*****	€26	20%	*	8.5	96%	*	3.46	93%	*****	-0.22	92%	*	Dovea	€8	High
JOZ	JOCKEY	LM	€118	72%	*****	€77	80%	*****	€111	80%	*****	€20	28%	**	€35	35%	*	5	88%	***	2.84	57%	*****	0.01	77%	*****	Powerful	€80	Medium
FL21	ARITA - BEN	LM	€116	88%	*****	€70	94%	*****	€89	93%	*****	€76	25%	*****	€30	20%	*****	7.5	97%	*	3.23	96%	*****	-0.11	94%	**	NCBC	€10	High
CVV	CASTLEVIEW VIRULENT (ET)	LM	€113	90%	*****	€60	94%	*****	€107	94%	*****	€66	25%	*****	€14	29%	*****	6.4	98%	**	4.92	96%	*	-0.02	95%	*****	NCBC	€12	Medium
TKO	MILBROOK TANKO	LM	€109	96%	*****	€66	99%	*****	€108	98%	*****	€8	57%	*****	€8	57%	**	7.1	99%	*	4.71	99%	*	-0.08	99%	***	NCBC	€15	High
MBP	MILBROOK DARTANGAN ET	LM	€109	59%	*****	€66	50%	*****	€117	45%	*****	€5	21%	*****	€5	21%	*	11.8	92%	*	1.74	91%	*****	0.12	50%	*****	Dovea	€8	High
GRX	GRAHAMS SAMSON	LM	€106	85%	*****	€65	90%	*****	€90	92%	*****	€45	64%	*****	€45	64%	*****	5.9	94%	**	3.8	78%	*****	-0.08	89%	***	Powerful	€75	High
AIA	AMPERTAINE ABRACADABRA	LM	€103	66%	*****	€63	80%	*****	€90	64%	*****	€37	7%	*****	€1	11%	*	2.4	87%	*****	3.65	78%	***	0.1	82%	*****	Powerful	€25	Low
ROX	ROCKY	LM	€100	98%	*****	€79	99%	*****	€119	99%	*****	€2	88%	***	€4	92%	*	9.1	99%	*	5.07	99%	*	-0.01	99%	*****	NCBC	€14	Medium
PDA	PANDA	LM	€98	50%	*****	€69	66%	*****	€104	52%	*****	€43	21%	*	€43	21%	*****	9.7	71%	*	3.2	48%	*****	-0.09	63%	***	NCBC	€14	Medium
RMX	RAMSES	LM	€97	86%	*****	€70	89%	*****	€89	90%	*****	€52	58%	*****	€52	58%	*****	6.1	96%	**	3.68	89%	*****	-0.04	91%	*****	NCBC	€40	Medium
NEU	NEWTOWN BUNTY 1 (ET)	LM	€95	65%	*****	€77	72%	*****	€102	61%	*****	€32	28%	*****	€32	28%	*****	9.6	87%	*	4.1	76%	**	0.03	76%	*****	Dovea	€12	High
SIX	SIAM	LM	€93	92%	*****	€84	97%	*****	€95	96%	*****	€15	57%	*****	€15	57%	**	10.7	98%	*	3.04	95%	*****	-0.05	96%	*****	NCBC	€8	Low
OCX	OCEAN	LM	€92	78%	*****	€72	83%	*****	€84	83%	*****	€47	39%	*****	€47	39%	*****	6	92%	**	4.16	76%	**	-0.1	85%	***	Powerful	€60	Low
FL26	CELESTIN	LM	€90	50%	*****	€66	61%	*****	€106	47%	*****	€29	4%	*****	€29	4%	*****	10.2	76%	*	5.21	59%	*	-0.36	49%	*	NCBC	€8	Low
VZN	VISON	LM	€89	74%	*****	€56	76%	*****	€81	77%	*****	€14	13%	*****	€37	15%	*****	6.5	93%	**	3.99	85%	***	0	82%	*****	NCBC	€10	Medium
NSQ	NESQUICK	LM	€86	97%	****	€52	99%	****	€101	98%	****	€66	80%	*	€37	86%	*****	6.6	99%	*	3.75	99%	****	-0.13	99%	**	NCBC	€12	Low
RHF	ROUNDHILL DARA 1069	LM	€82	76%	****	€50	88%	***	€67	68%	**	€15	12%	*****	€62	22%	*****	5.6	97%	***	2.39	95%	*****	-0.42	87%	*	Dovea	€8	High
NIN	NINO	LM	€80	97%	****	€53	99%	****	€80	98%	****	€38	79%	*	€29	86%	*****	5.7	99%	**	3.03	99%	*****	-0.14	99%	**	NCBC	€8	Low
MBV	MILBROOK VIC	LM	€80	87%	****	€58	92%	****	€85	93%	****	€20	37%	*****	€10	40%	*****	7	96%	*	3.38	94%	*****	-0.16	91%	*	Eurogene	€15	High
FL23	AMBITIEUX	LM	€80	78%	****	€59	88%	****	€71	79%	****	€66	9%	*****	€66	9%	*****	6.4	95%	**	3.5	92%	*****	-0.05	90%	****	NCBC	€10	Low
LNO	LINO	LM	€79	96%	****	€29	97%	*	€81	98%	****	€51	85%	*****	€51	85%	*****	5.2	99%	***	5.69	95%	*	-0.11	96%	**	NCBC	€45	High
ABI	AMPERTAINE BRIGADEER	LM	€77	77%	****	€69	85%	****	€90	76%	****	€48	8%	*****	€8	16%	*	11.6	95%	*	4.58	90%	*	-0.08	84%	***	Eurogene	€12	High
LLX	LOGANBURN STIRLING	LM	€74	93%	****	€44	96%	**	€60	96%	**	€6	42%	***	€90	40%	*****	6	99%	**	3.04	96%	*****	-0.19	97%	*	Eurogene	€10	High
HUI	HALTCLIFFE HERCULES	LM	€73	76%	****	€30	81%	*	€75	81%	***	€11	25%	*****	€8	37%	**	5.3	91%	***	3.13	76%	*****	-0.11	84%	**	Powerful	€50	Low
PAM	PALMARES	LM	€71	98%	***	€49	99%	***	€82	98%	***	€45	87%	*	€13	92%	**	5.8	99%	**	2.87	99%	*****	-0.1	99%	***	Dovea	€8	High
TXE	TEDDY	LM	€65	56%	***	€55	70%	****	€56	53%	*	€3	1%	***	€27	8%	****	4	83%	*****	2.36	70%	*****	-0.1	72%	***	Powerful	€20	High

Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility			Availability Details		
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price	Avail.
FL25	BUT	LM	€61	73%	***	€63	80%	****	€68	76%	**	€9	2%	***	€33	10%	****	7.6	93%	*	4.09	83%	***	-0.15	77%	*	NCBC	€10	High
OMA	OMAR	LM	€60	97%	**	€45	99%	**	€54	98%	*	-€2	76%	***	€56	80%	****	4.7	99%	****	3.65	99%	***	-0.11	98%	**	NCBC	€8	Low
UBN	UTILE-BEN	LM	€59	93%	**	€52	99%	***	€75	97%	***	€7	27%	****	€35	13%	****	9.8	99%	*	3.71	97%	****	-0.07	98%	***	Dovea	€8	High
RUR	RAHONEY UMAR	LM	€56	85%	**	€61	92%	****	€85	92%	****	€12	16%	****	-€55	22%	*	10.6	96%	*	3.17	87%	****	-0.17	90%	*	Eurogene	€10	High
RUZ	RUBIS	LM	€53	95%	**	€64	97%	****	€93	98%	****	-€42	72%	*	-€25	79%	*	7.2	98%	*	4.94	94%	*	-0.21	98%	*	NCBC	€8	Medium
SCI	SOUICI	LM	€53	77%	**	€61	78%	****	€60	87%	**	-€8	23%	***	€46	27%	****	10.3	92%	*	4.55	71%	*	-0.12	81%	**	Eurogene	€12	Low
UBI	URBINO	LM	€49	90%	**	€53	96%	***	€74	96%	***	-€2	21%	***	€32	14%	****	10	98%	*	4.64	91%	*	-0.13	98%	**	Dovea	€8	High
FL27	BONUS	LM	€48	58%	**	€32	62%	*	€47	54%	*	-€1	2%	***	€33	6%	****	3.3	87%	****	3.41	74%	****	-0.08	65%	***	NCBC	€8	Low
OEI	OELLET	LM	€36	98%	*	€57	99%	****	€66	98%	**	-€105	85%	*	€17	89%	***	5.7	99%	**	3.42	99%	****	-0.27	99%	*	NCBC	€8	Medium
ZEN	BENZENE	LM	€36	64%	*	€53	74%	****	€55	60%	*	€27	11%	****	€36	17%	****	14.2	91%	*	2.93	68%	****	0.07	65%	****	Dovea	€8	High
POP	PELLETSTOWN POMPERNEL ET	LM	€28	91%	*	€43	94%	**	€82	96%	****	-€111	58%	*	€13	67%	**	10.1	97%	*	4.9	85%	*	-0.18	93%	*	Eurogene	€15	Medium
RUA	RUTABAGA	LM	€17	94%	*	€58	98%	***	€60	97%	**	-€76	53%	*	-€18	62%	*	6.3	99%	**	4.94	97%	*	-0.17	97%	*	NCBC	€8	Medium

Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility			Availability Details		
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price	Avail.
IRX	SIREX	PT	€112	72%	****	€51	73%	***	€89	71%	****	€128	6%	****	-€15	15%	****	5.9	94%	**	1.56	87%	*	0.12	79%	****	NCBC	€15	Medium
UNI	UNIVERSEL	PT	€111	90%	****	€63	94%	****	€120	95%	****	€90	42%	**	-€72	33%	*	10.6	97%	*	1.33	95%	*	-0.09	93%	*	NCBC/Dovea	€12	High
KCP	KYLE CHAP	PT	€91	68%	***	€56	75%	****	€91	62%	****	€99	2%	****	-€68	6%	*	7.5	93%	*	2.32	91%	*	-0.06	84%	*	Dovea	€8	High
SNX	SANSONNET	PT	€39	57%	*	€27	72%	*	€61	59%	***	€112	6%	****	-€75	10%	*	14.7	82%	*	1.59	52%	*	-0.1	56%	*	Eurogene/Dovea	€25	Low

Bull Details			Suckler Beef Value			Weanling Export			Beef Carcass			Fertility			Milk			Calving Difficulty			Gestation Length			Docility			Availability Details		
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price	Avail.
LZR	LATASTER ERIC	SA	€85	79%	****	€43	85%	****	€50	86%	****	€149	14%	****	-€51	18%	**	5.7	94%	*	0.53	88%	****	-0.06	87%	****	NCBC	€10	Medium
BHU	BALLYMACKEOGH HUGH	SA	€71	54%	****	€34	51%	***	€55	40%	****	€62	5%	*	-€32	9%	****	3.3	89%	***	1.59	85%	*	0.07	57%	****	Dovea	€8	High
RIO	RIO	SA	€63	96%	***	€20	97%	*	€39	98%	***	€103	74%	***	-€41	78%	****	2.6	99%	****	-0.24	98%	****	-0.05	97%	****	NCBC	€8	High
ARZ	AMIRAL (FR 05)	SA	€57	77%	**	€28	82%	**	€33	87%	**	€131	12%	****	-€53	7%	**	2.7	92%	****	2.03	84%	*	-0.15	84%	**	Dovea	€8	High
OUR	CORLURGAN OURSON (FR 02)	SA	€32	88%	*	€39	87%	****	€34	94%	**	€55	55%	*	-€63	49%	*	3.9	97%	**	2.32	91%	*	-0.12	90%	***	NCBC	€10	High

Shorthorn																																							
Bull Details				Suckler Beef Value				Weanling Export				Beef Carcass				Fertility				Milk				Calving Difficulty				Gestation Length				Dociity				Availability Details			
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price Avail.								
MCK	MOYDRUMCASTLE KING	SH	€75	87%	*****	€19	90%	***	€14	93%	*****	€97	67%	**	€161	87	*****	4.8	96%	*	1.36	87%	*	-0.02	84%	**	NCBC	€8	Medium										
CZB	CREAGA DICE (P)(ROAN)	SH	€65	69%	*****	€22	82%	*****	€9	58%	*****	€135	7%	*****	€119	4	***	6.6	96%	*	1.33	90%	*	0.09	86%	****	Dovea	€8	High										
SZD	STONMOUR THUNDER CLOUD (P)	SH	€64	75%	*****	€8	78%	*	€0	84%	****	€148	14%	*****	€116	3	**	2.9	94%	****	1.73	70%	*	-0.06	84%	*	NCBC	€14	Medium										
RAN	RANSBORO BARRINGTON DANDY	SH	€44	75%	***	€13	54%	***	€-17	81%	***	€112	34%	***	€143	43	*****	2.5	93%	*****	0.8	90%	****	0.04	34%	***	Eurogene	€17	Low										
KVG	KILFRUSH VANTAGE 2ND	SH	€37	95%	***	€3	96%	*	€7	97%	*****	€93	78%	*	€75	85	*	6.3	99%	*	2.09	97%	*	0.01	96%	**	NCBC	€10	Medium										
KKJ	KILKELLY MAJOR	SH	€37	90%	***	€13	91%	***	€4	95%	*****	€101	67%	**	€117	80	***	7.1	97%	*	1.4	91%	*	0.06	90%	****	NCBC	€10	High										
LTY	CHAPELTON LIBERTY	SH	€28	73%	**	€-1	73%	*	€3	79%	*****	€127	36%	****	€31	39	*	4.4	90%	**	1.24	77%	*	0.08	74%	****	Eurogene	€10	Low										
CSI	CASTLETROY BERTIE	SH	€27	87%	**	€16	87%	****	€19	92%	*****	€44	55%	*	€130	72	*****	9.6	96%	*	2.12	89%	*	0.18	87%	*****	Dovea	€8	High										
DJM	DOVEA SIR JAMES 2ND	SH	€16	89%	*	€-3	90%	*	€-18	94%	***	€100	58%	**	€97	66	*	4.6	97%	*	0.71	92%	*****	0.09	91%	****	Dovea	€8	High										
SBU	SLIABHBHUI PRINCE 2ND	SH	€4	68%	*	€3	61%	*	€-43	79%	*	€110	17%	***	€114	14	**	2.7	87%	*****	1.68	69%	*	0.24	65%	*****	NCBC	€10	High										

Simmental

Bull Details				Suckler Beef Value				Weanling Export				Beef Carcass				Fertility				Milk				Calving Difficulty				Gestation Length				Dociity				Availability Details			
AI Code	Bull Name	Breed	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Index	Rel %	€uro-Stars	Supplier	Price Avail.								
CQA	CURAHEEN VIO (ET)	SI	€270	57%	*****	€124	67%	*****	€170	58%	*****	€79	14%	*****	€121	26%	****	5.7	75%	***	2.29	55%	***	0.32	74%	*****	Eurogene	€22	High										
GfY	GLEBEFARM TYSON	SI	€200	63%	*****	€94	69%	*****	€121	67%	*****	€115	5%	*****	€67	7%	*	4.2	84%	****	1.51	80%	*****	0.08	76%	****	Celtic Sires	€50	Low										
KfY	KILBRIDE FARM NEWRY	SI	€172	91%	*****	€57	92%	****	€87	96%	*****	€70	48%	****	€210	55%	*****	6	98%	***	2.32	96%	***	0.1	94%	*****	Eurogene	€12	High										
RKZ	CELTIC ROCK (ET)	SI	€170	85%	*****	€74	87%	*****	€117	92%	*****	€90	29%	*****	€122	37%	****	7.9	95%	*	2.53	94%	**	0.1	89%	*****	Celtic Sires	€20	Medium										
DRU	DERROUGH SAMUAL	SI	€169	92%	*****	€47	96%	**	€111	96%	*****	€120	45%	*****	€105	43%	***	7.4	98%	**	2.59	97%	**	0.08	96%	****	Dovea	€8	High										
SEV	SEAVIEW TOMMY	SI	€166	87%	*****	€70	94%	*****	€93	90%	*****	€78	12%	****	€182	19%	*****	8	98%	*	1.43	97%	*****	-0.02	95%	**	Dovea	€8	High										
Tso	CURAHEEN TYSON (ET)	SI	€165	70%	*****	€101	77%	*****	€107	72%	*****	€80	17%	*****	€121	26%	****	10.1	88%	*	3.71	76%	*	0.29	83%	*****	Celtic Sires	€50	Medium										
HUR	HAUER	SI	€162	70%	*****	€64	64%	*****	€77	81%	*****	€137	30%	*****	€136	50%	*****	5.4	86%	***	2	73%	****	-0.03	50%	**	Dovea	€8	Low										
MfU	MILNAFUA GRADUATE	SI	€154	73%	*****	€57	74%	****	€70	83%	****	€100	29%	*****	€192	47%	*****	5.9	90%	***	2.55	60%	**	0.3	76%	*****	Eurogene	€30	Low										
HUZ	HARUM	SI	€148	69%	*****	€51	70%	***	€72	81%	****	€105	21%	*****	€114	13%	***	3.2	85%	*****	1.03	74%	*****	0.19	68%	*****	Dovea	€8	High										
IS4	SEEP4 TEE JAY	SI	€146	90%	*****	€47	96%	**	€96	94%	*****	€105	13%	*****	€106	21%	***	7.9	98%	*	2.23	97%	***	0.22	97%	*****	NCBC	€12	Medium										
HKG	HILLCREST KING	SI	€133	98%	*****	€50	99%	***	€94	99%	*****	€38	91%	*	€111	95%	***	6.9	99%	**	2.58	99%	**	0.02	99%	***	NCBC	€10	High										
CUF	CAMUS FRONTIER	SI	€129	91%	*****	€70	91%	*****	€81	96%	*****	€80	51%	*****	€93	67%	*	8.8	97%	*	2.11	92%	****	0.04	91%	****	Eurogene	€10	High										
RWV	RACEVIEW VAN HALEN	SI	€121	70%	****	€65	73%	*****	€84	62%	*****	€82	14%	*****	€132	23%	*****	12.1	94%	*	2.07	93%	****	0.18	79%	*****	Dovea	€8	High										
SKU	CELTIC STARBUCK	SI	€115	74%	****	€76	87%	*****	€68	73%	****	€97	3%	*****	€103	12%	**	9.6	93%	*	3.47	93%	*	0.16	88%	*****	Celtic Sires	€45	Low										
DBO	DRUMNEIL BOLERO	SI	€112	84%	****	€59	85%	*****	€58	94%	***	€98	59%	*****	€63	78%	*	5.5	92%	***	1.3	83%	*****	0.21	76%	*****	NCBC	€8	High										
ROE	MONESS ROSCOE	SI	€110	92%	****	€52	95%	***	€58	96%	***	€82	38%	*****	€99	40%	**	5.6	98%	***	2.51	95%	**	0.18	96%	*****	Dovea	€8	High										
HTY	HILLCREST NAUGHTY	SI	€60	96%	*	€46	99%	**	€46	98%	**	€51	81%	**	€59	88%	*	8.6	99%	*	3.83	97%	*	-0.06	98%	*	NCBC	€10	High										

Bulls eligible for the Active Beef Bull List: Suckler Beef Value >= 50% reliability & Calving Ease >= 50% reliability & Price Details are updated by the relevant AI Company.

Ken Power, Longford, Mountbellew, Co. Galway

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

My system is geared towards producing top quality weanlings for the export market. I have 100 cows, 90% of which are limousin, the remainder being a mix of blue cross and 2 blonde cows. The Limousin cows are 3/4 bred or more. I stay away from half bred Lim/Friesian cows as i find that they produce a very good bull calf but just an average heifer calf. The more beef bred the cow the better the calf.

Another reason why I like this type of cow is the fact that I can use easier calving bulls on them as i work off farm and I don't want high mortality. I am almost all Autumn calving and by next year I will have no cow calving after Christmas. I find the spring calves are not bringing in the money the same as the Autumn calves.

I prefer not to feed any meal at grass until i am weaning the calves. Why? you ask. Well no point in having a cow that is not able to rear her calf off grass in my mind. Why invest in top quality genetics and top quality grass if you are going to have a feeder at their heads. The only time i break this rule is with the Spring born calves to get the weight on to push up my average price but this all costs money. A cow has to be kept for 12 months, I only take 2 weeks off any year, I don't see why they should get any more than me!. I think a cow should be rearing a calf for between 10 and 11 months.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

I buy almost all my replacements, preferably from known sources but in any event i would find out what they are either by way of the ICBF Herdplus or ringing the man that bred them. I tend to buy all in-calf heifers as I rent a lot of my land. If I was to breed my own it would require renting more land and also the loss between having some limousin bulls for selling and selling blue bulls would be another difference in gross margin. When put on paper the outlay between buying weanlings and buying in calf heifers I find it is very similar.

I have a lot of AI bred cows, they are the better cows in the herd. I find 'PAM' cows very good, they are easily fed, easily maintained, and are good average sized cows. The best cow in the herd is by Nino, she breeds an 'E' grade bull or heifer for top prices every year. She is a genuine 3/4 bred Limo off a British Friesian dam. Some say 3/4 breeds lack milk but i have never culled a Limo for lack of milk. I put mastitis tubes in all cows at weaning time to limit mastitis problems, thus trying to keep down replacement rates. All culling so far has been to upgrade the cows to produce all 'E' grades. It has taken time as every cow does not work out as planned but i would be averaging near the €1000 per weanling. I'm not there yet but maybe this year I will hit it.

3. How do you heat detect the cows for A.I.?

I start AI on the 15th of November, not the 14th. One has to be sure to set a date otherwise calving goes all over the place. AI will cease on the 15th of March and whats not in calf will be fattened and killed next October. When you set the date for starting heat detection it is easy as there will be a number of cows on every day. After 3 weeks of AI I let in a vasectomised bull. As the cows start to go in calf there will be less activity so a vasectomised bull is very useful for heat detection.

I don't find it any hassle as i would be in the yard in any event and i would be keeping a good watch on changes in activity in the cows such as a lot of walking or bawling or sniffing other cows. I have locking barriers in the yard so when feeding the cows i would have a look at all their tail heads to check for dirt or marks. I would always be keeping records in the 3 weeks before starting AI in relation to cows coming in heat.

4. What has been your impression of the A.I bred stock?

AI is not for everyone. Some people have very good Stock bulls and fragmented land, but it is for me. I started first using AI about 8 years ago when i put a few cows in calf. Those animals commanded £150 a head more when sold, i needed no more convincing!.

The choice of sires is unlimited and also it gives me a variety of bulls to suit each cow in the herd. I would use almost all Dovea bulls. I am a big user of the bull 'BBQ'. I have excellent potential 'E' grades on the ground from him. 'CGF' is another bull i rate highly, excellent calves and tends to be generally shorter gestation than 'BBQ'.

I have also used some G€N€ Ireland bulls on some of the older cows. As my cows are quite muscular i am wary of using bulls with poor reliability for calving ease.

Ken Power - G€N€ Ireland Bulls Used					
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)		Supplier
DEZ	Cottage Devon	CH	€132	★★★★★	NCBC
CBQ	Cambridge	PT	€60	★★★★★	NCBC
KYR	Kubitus de Bray	BB	Awaiting Proof		NCBC
STQ	Sultan 0580	BB	Awaiting Proof		NCBC

I have started to use Parthenise bulls on the blue cows as the limo calves are a bit far behind when compared to the blue calves in terms of price. There was roughly an 80 cent/kilo difference, so in a 400kg bull thats €320 per animal. I am hoping that the Parthenise calves will bridge the gap in some way.

Bulls that I have used and am using in the present season include BBQ, CGF, RFC, S659, UNI, CBQ, KCP, PAM, HDX, RHF, SFL, VDC, RYP, MNZ, S656, BBQ, S527 & PYR (in any bought in maiden heifers).

I rate 'BBQ' and 'CGF' very highly. All my calves from these bulls made top dollar last year and this year's calves look very promising. I feel that their Euro-Star SBV figures do not currently do them justice.

'BBQ' is a bull leaving very good cattle with excellent weight for age on the ground. He is also an easy calving Bull. 'RYP' without doubt in my mind was the best bull that i ever used. Easily calved, his progeny had tremendous shape and great weight for age. I also have one heifer calf from the Parthenise bull 'UNI', she would be in my top 5 calves and that is why i am using more of the breed. I have some 'REQ' calves from some heifers that i bought in calf. They are nice calves but docility is a bit of a problem in the few i have. I have seen calves from the bull 'Giga' (S659) which have impressed me with their calving ease and their growth rates. I have used him on some of my cows for next year. 'HDX' is a bull to watch, he is All Ireland calf champion and his sire 'Heros' has excellent progeny on the ground. I am using him on the last of my cows that are left to be served.

Ken Power - Proven Bulls Used					
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)		Supplier
RHF	Roundhill Dara 1069	LM	€50	★★★★	Dovea
VDC	Victorieux d'Au Chene	BB	€104	★★★★★	Dovea
RYP	Rocky du Pont de Messe	BB	€112	★★★★★	Dovea
MNZ	Magnolia 0103 de Somme	BB	€110	★★★★★	Dovea
S659	Giga du Bois Remont	BB	€92	★★★★	Dovea
UNI	Universel	PT	€63	★★★★★	Dovea
KCP	Kyle Chap	PT	€56	★★★★	Dovea
HDX	Heatherview Don ET	BB	€95	★★★★	Dovea
S656	Barbier	BB	€93	★★★★	Dovea
SFL	Du Stordeur Flaneur	BB	€77	★★	Bova
BBQ	Ballyfin Borat	BB	€86	★★★★	Dovea
CGF	Castlecuff Bradley	BB	€87	★★★★	Dovea



NCBC Parthenaise Bull 'Cambridge'

Dovea
AI Belgian Blue
Bull
'Ballyfin Borat'



Philip Dunne, Carngarive, Baileboro, Co.Cavan.

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

I have a herd of 35 pedigree Limousin Cows.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

Nearly all replacements are home bred. One new female might be bought every year or so. When breeding replacements I will select a Sire that has good maternal qualities but which also has shape. 'Dauphin' is a good maternal bull. 'Cloughead Lord' daughters are poor for milk on their first lactation but improve greatly after that. 'Sympa' has good milk and shape. Both 'Ronick Hawk' & 'Ionesco' daughters also have milk.

3. How do you heat detect the cows for A.I.?

They are observed 3 times daily. 6-8 weeks after calving I would get them scanned to make sure there are no problems. If after 8 weeks they are not in calf I would synchronise them. They get AI'd twice and then the Stockbull mops up.

4. What has been your impression of the A.I bred stock?

As a Pedigree Breeder, AI gives me the advantage of new genetics and different bloodlines. When your selling pedigree stock the first question you are asked is – 'Is the bull AI bred?!'. It does'nt always work out that way but the perception is that AI bred stock are better than Stockbull bred stock.

It is important though to look at the reliability % of the Euro-Stars of the bulls you are using. As more progeny come into a Bull's proof his figures could go up or down. This will in turn affect any progeny that you have of him in your own herd. So, as a Pedigree Breeder this has to be kept in mind when selecting what AI Sires to use. I find it is important not to use too much of any one Bull with low reliability figures – given that if his figures decrease and all of your stock are by him you will have a tough time selling them as Euro-Stars are a major factor for a Commercial Suckler Farmer when buying from you.

I am also using some of the GEN€ Ireland Testbulls and am very happy with them.

Philip Dunne - Proven Bulls Used					
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)		Supplier
VTI	W.Vantatstic	LM	€90	★★★★★	Powerful Genetics
SVG	Sauvignon	LM	€66	★★★★★	Powerful Genetics
RKH	Ronick Hawk	LM	€69	★★★★★	Powerful Genetics
S511	Fieldson Alfy	LM	€77	★★★★★	ABS
SYP	Sympa	LM	€98	★★★★★	Powerful Genetics
WTA	Wilodge Tonka	LM	€73	★★★★★	Eurogene
CGZ	Cloughead Lord	LM	€57	★★★★	Powerful Genetics
AIA	A.Abracababra	LM	€63	★★★★★	Powerful Genetics

Philip Dunne - GEN€ Ireland Bulls Used					
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)		Supplier
CZH	Carmorn Dauphin	LM	Awaiting Proof		ABS
ADX	Ardlea Dan	LM	€76	★★★★★	NCBC
NHL	Netherhall Epic	LM	€74	★★★★★	NCBC



**Powerful Genetics Limousin Bull
– Wilodge Vantastic - VTI**

Jimmy Payne, Ballymoe, Co. Galway

1. Describe your Beef Production System

120 Suckler cows – mostly Limousin x Friesian & Angus crosses. The aim is to produce quality weanlings for the live shipping trade to Italy.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

All of the replacements are bought in from marts in the west.

3. How do you heat detect the cows for A.I.?

Three teaser bulls, fitted with chinballs are used. The Vet vasectomises them for us and we find they do an excellent job.

4. What has been your impression of the A.I bred stock?

We had always gone out to buy only the best Belgian Blue Stockbulls over the past 20 years and only found 2 of them to be able to sire really super calves. One was bred by Vaughan's in Wexford and out of 20 cattle for the factory he would always be able to get about 12 'E' grades. He was hard calved but threw brilliant cattle. The other was a white imported Belgian Blue from Belgium. We once went out to Belgium and purchased 2 bulls that were reckoned to be of AI standard however their calves were only average.

We have just found far more consistency with AI than with the Stockbulls. Knowing that you will get consistent quality calves is the huge advantage the AI bull has over the Stockbull.

We have found that since we started using AI we have had less caesarean sections and a big improvement in quality. The Belgian Blue bull 'BYU' is a bull we have used a lot of and are very happy with his stock. You would want a cow with a little bit of white colouring for him. When put on a real black Limousin type cow the calves don't have the same shape but overall he is typical of the consistent quality that AI brings.

I am not surprised that the Bulls, BYU in particular, that I have got on very well with have also received very good Euro-Star ratings from ICBF.

Jimmy Payne - Proven Bulls Used					
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)		Supplier
BYU	Blak 5075 Baty Eprave	BB	€122	★★★★★	NCBC
OVO	Ober Van Het Hubkeshof	BB	€135	★★★★★	NCBC
MNZ	Magnolia 0103 de Somme	BB	€110	★★★★★	Dovea
DEP	Despote de L'eau D'eppe	BB	€133	★★★★★	NCBC
FHZ	Fakir de L'Hez Kernai	BB	€101	★★★★★	NCBC



NCBC Belgian Blue Bull - BYU

Tom Jackson, Quitrent, Kildorrery, Co. Cork

1. Describe your Beef Production System

I have 25 Suckler cows. 10 of these are pedigree Limousins and the other 15 are mostly 7/8's bred limousins. I also have a Saler X cow that I am very happy with. My target markets are weanling sales, usually in Kilmallock or Fermoy.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

I breed my own replacements. I know what cows in my herd have bred well for me and try and hold onto any heifers that they have. The bulk of my cows would have been first cross Limousins out of the dairy herd. I have one cow that is 16 years old and still going strong. I would target the likes of her to try and get a heifer out of.

3. How do you heat detect the cows for A.I.?

When I was working for a local Dairygold Factory I found AI hard to do as I would'nt be there to watch them during the day. So I used coil the cows & have them synchronised so as I could AI them at the weekends when I would be there.

I am now operating as an AI technician myself so I have more flexibility to see them bulling. That said, my herd is Autumn calving, all the cows are in the slatted shed and my best heat detection aids are 3 September born bulls in with the cows. They don't miss a trick and will catch a cow about to come bulling about 2 or 3 days in advance. I would look at them in the evening time and again at night but those young bulls are always on the job. I use 100% AI. I currently have 24 cows calved and have 23 of them back in calf to AI.

4. What has been your impression of the A.I bred stock?

Fantastic. I have used good Stockbulls in the past but have found that there is no comparison between their stock and AI bred animals. I need to use Bulls that will sire quality weanlings.

I use the G€N€ Ireland Beef Testbulls and have got excellent results also. I have some commercial 'FL21' heifers from when he was a Testbull, calving in September and they are outstanding heifers, even better than my pedigrees. I have also got some very good calves from the new Belgian Blue bull RBX (Rutabaga Beauffeux).

Other G€N€ Ireland bulls that I have got on very well with include: CVV, SEU & BHU. In fact, I am hoping to show one of my 'SEU' calves this year (pictured below), such is his quality. I have also had a smashing set of twins from the Saler bull 'BHU'. CVV is also a bull that has thrown exceptional weanlings for me.

I must also add that I get great help from my local Teagasc advisor from the Newmarket Office – James Fleming.

Tom Jackson - Proven Bulls Used				
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)	Supplier
ABI	Ampertaine Brigadier	LM	€69 ★★★★★	Eurogene
RUR	Rahoney Umar	LM	€61 ★★★★★	Eurogene
FL21	Arita Ben	LM	€70 ★★★★★	NCBC

Tom Jackson - G€N€ Ireland Bulls Used				
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)	Supplier
CVV	Castlevire Virulent	LM	€60 ★★★★★	NCBC
SEU	Sauveur de Monin Chapelle	BB	Awaiting Proof	NCBC
BHU	Ballymackeogh Hugh	SA	€34 ★★★	Dovea

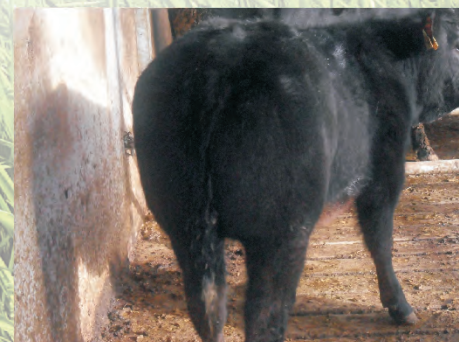
Eurogene Limousin Bull 'Rahoney Umar' - RUR



FL29 calf



SEU calf



Gerry Lenehan, Rathlee, Easkey, Co. Sligo.

1. Describe your Beef Production System

I run 40 head of stock on my farm. Half the herd is made up of pedigree Simmentals and the rest are Commercial crossbred cows. I breed the Pedigree Simmentals for the pedigree sales and also produce in-calf replacement heifers for the replacement heifer sale that is held in Ballymote mart every October.

2. Replacements – do you breed or buy them?

I would breed most of my own Replacements. Any that are bought in are from known sources.

3. How do you heat detect the cows for A.I.?

I would observe the cows around 4 times per day. My next door neighbour is a Progressive Genetics Technician, so he does the AI for me. I also vaccinate for BVD & Lepto and include minerals in the diet.

4. What has been your impression of the A.I bred stock?

In general AI bred stock command higher prices than those out of Stockbulls. I have found this to be particularly true for Replacement Heifers sold at the Ballymote Xbred heifer sale. If they are in-calf to Stockbulls they won't attract the same demand than when they are in calf to a top quality AI Sire.

On my own farm I have used a lot of the 2 'Celtic Sires' Bulls 'Glebefarm Tyson' and 'Curaheen Tyson'. 'Glebefarm Tyson' needs to be used on taller cows but he throws good quality calves with a lot of muscle. 'Curaheen Tyson' consistently puts good calves on the ground with muscle, size & shape. I have also found the NCBC Bull 'IS4' to be very easy calving and suitable for heifers.

Gerry Lenehan - Proven Bulls Used					
Code	Name	Breed	Weanling Export (Apr'11)		Supplier
TSO	Curaheen Tyson	SI	€101	★★★★★	Celtic Sires
GFY	Glebefarm Tyson	SI	€94	★★★★★	Celtic Sires
IS4	Seepa Tee Jay	SI	€47	★★	NCBC
ORP	Omorga Prince	SI	€57	★★★	NCBC
CYI	Coneyisland Legend E112	AA	€12	★★★★★	Dovea



Celtic Sires Simmental Bull "Glebefarm Tyson"

Progeny Testing Beef AI Sires in Ireland

Pat Donnellan

Centralised Progeny Testing

The Progeny Testing of Beef Bulls in Ireland up until the early 2000's was carried out by each AI Station here in Ireland, usually on the farmland surrounding their AI Stud where their bulls were housed. It was called the 'Centralised Progeny Test' program and was overseen by DAF Liaison Officers.

Farmers were surveyed to find out how easily (or not) the first calves from the new Progeny Test Bulls were born. The AI Stations would then purchase between 10-20 calves from their new Beef & Dairy Testbulls. These calves were always out of dairy cows. They would also purchase calves from well proven Beef and Holstein bulls so as they would have animals to compare their Testbull's progeny against. They would rear all of these calves together, weighing them regularly before finally slaughtering them and recording their carcass data.

It was a system that served the Irish AI Industry well and was a method through which many top Beef AI Sires were identified. That said, like any process it had its areas that could be improved. Two of which are the following:

1. First Breeding Values never updated

Each Testbull got one set of genetic evaluation figures based solely on those calves purchased for the 'Centralised Progeny Test' and they would then remain the same, with no new data ever being recorded on their progeny. Like any assessment process, the more information you have, the more confidence you will also have on which to draw your conclusions. New progeny being constantly included in a Bull's proof ensures that the estimation of what his genetic strengths & weaknesses may be are getting continuously more accurate.

2. Progeny Test Results limited to Bulls in AI Stations only

It was also only those young Beef Bulls purchased by and standing in AI Stations that were progeny tested. It was only their calves that were purchased. Stockbulls or Imported AI Sires never had the opportunity to have their progeny compared against the progeny of these AI Station owned AI Bulls.

ICBF Database – a new era

The establishment of the 'Animal Events' on-farm data recording system and the ICBF database allowed the Progeny testing of Bulls to move to an 'On-Farm' approach.

This meant that AI Stations no longer had to safeguard the recording of data on their new TestBulls by purchasing progeny off them and rearing them through to slaughter. It also meant that with fresh data being constantly recorded, a Bull is effectively always on 'Progeny Test' with his breeding values constantly moving until such time as so many of his progeny have had data recorded on them that his figures don't move any more.



Genetic Evaluations		
Date	Calving Difficulty %	Reliability %
Apr 2011	9.40	99%
Jan 2011	8.07	98%
Aug 2010	7.19	97%
April 2010	7.87	85%
Jan 2010	4.51	66%
Aug 2009	6.00	32%

Number of Progeny Records		
Date	Calving Difficulty	Gestation
Apr 2011	2411	532
Jan 2011	1042	203
Aug 2010	687	168
April 2010	138	30
Jan 2010	28	4
Aug 2009	2	0

As the number of calving survey records recorded through 'Animal Events' increases over time – the 'Reliability %' figure also increases. How a bull's Genetic Evaluation results are progressing over time can be seen by:

1. Go to www.icbf.com
2. Enter the Bull you are interested in's Tag number, AI Code or Name into the 'Bull Search'.
3. Click on the 'Prev Eval' button.

The On-farm approach also meant that there was now a level playing pitch and that all Sires regardless of whether they were in AI Stations, Imported in Straws or were Stockbulls on farm, would all be evaluated in the same way.

Breeder's can often be heard saying that 'certain Stock bulls can be every bit as good as what is available in AI'. Granted the AI Sire will of course have the opportunity to have more progeny on the ground across more herds. However, over time a farmer filling in the Animal Events book, selling breeding bulls and in-calf heifers can quickly build up a lot of progeny data on a particular Stockbull.



Limousin Stockbull turned top AI Sire 'Roundhill Saturn'.

An Example of this is 'Roundhill Saturn' which is a Limousin Bull that is owned by Ray Carolan. He was bred by Tim & Doreen Corridan in the well-known 'Roundhill' Herd.

Born on the 15th December 2001, he is sired by 'Ideal 23' and out of a 'Geant' cow 'Roundhill Meridian'. He will be 10 years old later this year. Ray has been recording all of his progeny (mostly pedigree) through Animal Events over the years. The Calving, linear score, weight and carcass data that has been recorded on his progeny and Grand progeny have caused his Euro-Star ratings to rank him up above most AI Sires.

Roundhill Saturn - RHN				
€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	€uro- Value	Data Reliability
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€163	73%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€88	81%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€119	81%
98%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€47	24%
80%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Milk	€32	41%
Other Key Traits				
89%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	3.75%	86%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	2.91 Days	54%
72%	★ ★ ★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	-0.02	82%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

This Bull is a prime example of how the ICBF database allows a Bull to demonstrate his genetic merit while still being an on-farm Stockbull and then make the transition straight over to being an AI Sire – appearing alongside the top ranking Beef AI Sires.

His semen is now available from NCBC.

5 Star Beef Stockbull Reports

Pat Donnellan ICBF

A fair question to ask of a 5 Star Bull is – What does '5 Stars' really mean in terms of the actual impact such a Bull could have on my herd?

To help answer this question we contacted some herdowners who have 5 Star Stockbulls (for either Overall Suckler Beef Value or one of the Sub-Indexes) from a range of breeds to get their opinions on the stock they have sired. Following are a series of articles about 5 star beef Stockbulls from a range of breeds.

The data tables in each article are taken from the ICBF 'Bull Search' at www.icbf.com. The Bull Search allows the Euro-Star and background data on any bull to be checked.

In order to fully understand the impact that a well proven 5 Star Bull can have from an on-farm practical viewpoint each owner kindly answered some questions which further explain the difference a high genetic merit bull can make.



Angus – Denis Large, Urlingford, Co.Kilkenny

The Angus Bull 'Liss Pete F786' (IE281074220786) is owned by Denis Large, Urlingford, Co.Kilkenny and was bred by John McEnroe, Liss, Oldcastle, Co.Meath. He is sired by 'Tonroe Lord James D214' out of a 'Ebon Hill Extra Gold 15' daughter 'Liss Peach D598'.

Liss Pete F786 - IE281074220786				
Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability
74%	★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€48	53%
91%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€16	44%
72%	★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€1	69%
88%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€82	5%
29%	★ ★	Daughter Milk	€86	10%
Other Key Traits				
97%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	1.06%	78%
16%	★	Gestation Length (Days)	0.45 Days	17%
95%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Docity (1-5 score)	0.16	75%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	22	590 Days	349 Kgs	R+	3
Herdmates	136	673 Days	400 Kgs	U-	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny						
AA	CH	FR	HE	HO	LM	SI
3%	2%	1%	3%	18%	48%	10%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We have 150 Suckler Cows, half calving in the Autumn & half in the Spring. All finished as beef.
 Spring herd: Heifers sold to factory at 20 months averaging 320kgs, Steers sold at 26 months averaging 420kgs, 50% grading 'R' & 50% grading 'U'.
 Autumn herd: Heifers sold @ 20 months averaging 320kg, Males sold as bulls @18-20 months averaging 485kgs – all U's & E's.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

They are a mixture of Limousin x Friesian, Limousin x Simmental and $\frac{3}{4}$ bred Limousin cows. Replacements are currently bought into the herd.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

He was bought from John Tait in Cork on-farm based on his looks and history.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

He is easy calving. His cattle have good conformation & weight gain and are all 'R' & 'U' bulls. His progeny also have very good length.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Yes. Better grading and higher dead weights were observed. Carcasses were on average 40 Kgs lighter compared to continental breeds but lower total costs were also incurred in comparison to continental breeds.

Angus heifers had an average dead weight of 297Kgs grading all R's & U's. The Angus Bulls had an average dead weight of 450Kgs grading all U's. There was no problem getting heifers back in calf, he is a very active bull. Also, once the heifers themselves had calved to him they cycled normally and had no problems going back in calf.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

Ease of Calving for heifers but there was still a quality animal to sell afterwards.



5 Star Angus Stock Bull – 'Liss Pete'.

Aubrac – Michael McCauliffe, Castleisland, Co. Kerry

The Aubrac Bull 'Raynaldy Ulysses' (FR1203033321) is owned by Mike McCauliffe, Castleisland, Co.Kerry. Imported from France, he was sired by 'Mourgues Rude' out of a 'Lioran' sired dam.

Raynaldy Ulysses - FR1203033321				
Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability
98%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€120	59%
81%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€50	32%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€87	73%
82%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€112	13%
25%	★ ★	Daughter Milk	-€52	4%
Other Key Traits				
96%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	2.57%	89%
1%	★	Gestation Length (Days)	1.63 Day(s)	28%
70%	★ ★ ★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	0.01	39%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	32	746 Days	387 kgs	U	2+
Herdmates	99	709 Days	370 kgs	R+	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny		
AU	CH	HE
70%	16%	2%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We run a birth to slaughter system. It is a commercial herd with a handful of calves pedigree registered.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

It is a 120 Cow Suckler herd of mostly Aubrac & Salers cows with some Charolais also. The Aubracs and Salers were imported from France together with the Stockbull.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

He was bought on-farm in France. I also had used his sire on our herd as well.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

He is easy calving, but yet his progeny are able to get 'E' grades in the factory. About 25 female herdmates were also picked from the same herd that he came out of in France. They are all also very quiet cattle.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Yes. He sires all U grade cattle and a certain amount of E's. He does stand out in that he is siring more 'E' grade cattle than previous bulls have. A Bull sired by him in Tully had a daily gain of 2.8kilos a day.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

I have found the Aubrac breed to be easy calving, docile, and easy to fatten. I have Salers also but they are a taller animal – more of a dam line – they need a culard Charolais crossed on them. Aubracs have their milk but they also have better conformation.



5 Star Aubrac Stock Bull – 'Raynaldy Ulysses'.

Blonde d'Aquitaine – Connie Costigan, Toher, Templetuohy, Co. Tipperary

The Blonde Bull 'Ardglare Vinny' (IE151519770499) is owned by Connie Costigan, Toher, Templetuohy, Co. Tipperary and was bred by Edward Quinlan, Ardglare, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. He is sired by 'Knapogue Simon' (by Gullit) out of a 'Ballymartle Iris' daughter 'Mitchelstown Sylvia'.

Ardglare Vinny - IE151519770499				
Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€102	67%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€92	70%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€132	86%
42%	★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	-€38	26%
36%	★ ★	Daughter Milk	-€100	13%
Other Key Traits				
18%	★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	7.43%	92%
12%	★	Gestation Length (Days)	4.92 Days	6%
94%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	0.05	80%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	39	601 Days	420Kgs	U-	2+
Herdmates	296	642 Days	420Kgs	U-	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % of Dams of progeny						
AA	BA	BB	FR	HO	LM	SI
2%	27%	3%	4%	41%	4%	1%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We retain about 60 suckler cows every year (80:20 Autumn:spring calving), going 100% autumn calving for management reasons this year. All males are sold as weanlings, females are retained or sold on for breeding, the poorest are fattened and sold to the factory. The Blonde bull is also used to clean up the British Friesian dairy herd after 8 weeks of Friesian AI. These males are sold as calves or weanlings. The females again are either retained or sold for breeding.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

We started in Autumn 2005 by purchasing mainly half bred BA heifers out of Br Fr cows and retaining our own Blonde cross heifers. So the majority of cows are half bred BA x Br Fr cows, and now by retaining their calves we will have an increasing number of ¾ BA, ¼ FR cows. Replacements are coming from within the suckler herd and from the dairy herd.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

The Bull was purchased from the Blonde D'Aquitaine stand at the Ploughing in Autumn 2005. He was picked from a group of bulls, selected on appearance firstly, then the pedigree information got from the society on the stand. No Euro-Star figures were available on him at that stage. We were told his pedigree suggested early maturing, muscled animals.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

He doesn't throw big calves but they grow quickly into long animals with very good muscle, not tall cattle but they have good power and thickness.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

We have definitely seen extra profits with his progeny compared to other bulls that we have used and when bulls qualify for the QPS scheme the difference will be even greater as there is a high proportion of U and E grade bulls from him with high carcass weights.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

Well I married a blonde and always had a thing for Blondes!!!. With the blondes they virtually all calve themselves, the calves are hardy, no pampering required, small vet bills and still the cattle have very high growth rates and the bulls will grade U's and some E's. The other advantage is that the females are in demand for breeding stock, they make excellent Suckler dams with good docility and milk. Also, the bulls, when finished running with the Sucklers can be left off with the dairy cows to clean up the tail end with no calving problems. We also then have the prospect of having breeding females for sale from those dairy cows. We had continental bulls from the other two big breeds but had docility issues with one breed and calving difficulty with other breed, that was just our experience!.



'Gullit' – Grandsire of 'Ardglare Vinny'



Weanling by Vinny out of a Br.Fr cow

Belgian Blue – Hugh Doyle, Curraghtown, Summerhill, Co. Meath

The Belgian Blue Bull 'Samarkand Wonder' (IE371492990113) is owned by Hugh Doyle, Curraghtown, Summerhill, Co.Meath and was bred by the late John Vaughan, Gorey, Co.Wexford. He is sired by 'Samarkand Rightman' and out of a 'Samarkand Hibiscus' dam, 'Samarkand Quamquam'.

Samarkand Wonder - IE371492990113				
Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€175	59%
64%	★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€89	48%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€166	78%
60%	★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	-€24	5%
94%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Milk	€48	9%
Other Key Traits				
91%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	7.54%	88%
55%	★ ★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	-0.2 Day(s)	0%
72%	★ ★ ★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	0.21	24%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	32	669 Days	390 Kgs	U-	3
Herdmates	490	634 Days	345 Kgs	R+	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny						
AA	BB	CH	HE	HO	LM	SI
8%	3%	8%	8%	17%	26%	11%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We keep 250 cows. The live shipping trade is the target market and accounts for 97% of cattle produced. Some heifers are kept for breeding, some are also sold for breeding, with the remainder being fattened as the live shipping price would not be high enough to justify exporting them.

2. Describe your Suckler Cows?

50-60% of the herd is made up of ¾ bred Limousin cows. 25% of the herd is made up of black Limousins out of dairy cows. The remainder is made up Simmental & Charolais crosses. A Belgian Blue sired heifer would be considered for holding onto as a replacement but only if the dam had a lot of Friesian blood in her.

Bull Background.**1. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

He was bought at a sale in the Performance Test Centre at Tully in 2006. He had sound feet and legs and his Feed Conversion and overall performance results in Tully were what interested me about him. He was bought for €4600.

2. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

His calves are small at birth but this would also be influenced by the cows being cut back on feed before calving.

3. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

He sires cattle with good conformation – I would'nt put him in the top 1% of Bulls on par with AI Sires but he is a bull worthy of being in the top 20% alright.

This may sound harsh but high standards have to be achieved in order to realise profits. He is also in with stiff competition with 7 Stockbulls working on the farm. For example one of the Limousin Bull's on the farm 'Baltra Limousins Alanzo' (IE281604280498) would be a bull whose progeny would definitely be considered as being as good if not better than any AI bred stock on the farm.

He was bred by Dessie O'Donohue, Oldcastle, Co.Meath and was bought on-farm. He was sired by a 'Ferry' son – 'Clonadrum Tip Top'. He sires exceptional stock, all of which are very docile, including the bull himself. Some of his daughters out of Simmental cross cows are also being kept as replacements.

4. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

This Belgian Blue bull is capable of producing cattle that are getting an extra €100/head so across 50 cows that's €5000. In order to remain in business, certain bottom line target figures have to be met – this Bull's progeny are achieving those targets and that's the basic requirement met in terms of 'liking' a breed.



5 Star Belgian Blue Stock Bull – 'Samarkand Wonder'.



5 Star Limousin Stock Bull – 'Baltra Limousins Alanzo'.

Charolais – Christy Comerford, Castlewarren, Co. Kilkenny

The Charolais Bull 'Prime Usher' (IE331308870127) is owned by Christy Comerford, Castlewarren, Co. Kilkenny and was bred by Michael B. Keating, Templemore, Co. Tipperary. He is sired by 'Hermes' out of the well-known 'Indurain' daughter 'Prime Ruby'.

Prime Usher - IE331308870127				
Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability
90%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€110	72%
98%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€111	72%
95%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€137	87%
10%	★	Daughter Fertility	-€53	27%
1%	★	Daughter Milk	-€101	27%
Other Key Traits				
63%	★ ★ ★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	7.69%	93%
75%	★ ★ ★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	2 Days	24%
66%	★ ★ ★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	0.06	57%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	85	742 Days	396 Kgs	R+	3+
Herdmates	1101	778 Days	401 Kgs	R+	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny							
AA	BA	BB	CH	HE	HO	LM	SI
2%	1%	1%	18%	7%	9%	22%	19%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We have a 125 Cow Suckler Herd. We sell all progeny as weanlings (bullocks & heifers). We also run a 50 cow pedigree Charolais suckler herd. The Pedigree herd calves in the Autumn with the Commercials calving in the Spring.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

The Commercial herd is a mixture of Limousin, Simmental & Charolais cross cows. Replacements are a mixture of both bought in and homebred animals.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

'Prime Usher' was originally seen as a calf & I thought he had a super head & very strong presence, one of the best calves I had ever seen. He had quality in abundance. He was also a half brother to CF52 & his mother was a full sister to 'Prime Roberto' (PBT) in Dovea.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

He is easy calving & his daughters have good milk & good conformation. He sires superb stock.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Yes, his progeny definitely achieve the top prices for me. He was bought originally for Pedigree & Commercial use. He has proven to breed exactly as I thought he would – breeding exceptionally well across both Pedigrees & Commercials. In 2006 he won National Senior Charolais Bull Champion in Carrick on Shannon. His Commercial Weanlings have won numerous prizes at Cillin Hill Mart Kilkenny. His pedigree stock continues to be sought after with a share of his 2008 & 2009 weanling bullocks being sold for export. The rest were sold to Beef Finishers in Laois, Kilkenny & Wexford.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

The Charolais breed has size, power & weight. I always had a love for Charolais cattle as they always seem to top the sales. They always weighed & paid! In any mart around Ireland they are the most sought after breed by any beef finisher as they grow into big weights at a young age Standing on good feet with good legs to carry the weight. In my opinion a Charolais cross cow is a very good suckler dam & has a higher cull value than other breeds.



5 Star Charolais Stock Bull – 'Prime Usher'.



Prizewinning 'Prime Usher' progeny at Kilkenny Mart .

Hereford – Francis Scott, Knockfinn, Rathdowney, Co. Laois

The Hereford Bull 'Forteregal Wright (X)' (IE141831570080) is owned by Francis Scott, Knockfinn, Rathdowney, Co.Laois and was bred by Gerard Lucey, Coachford, Co.Cork. He is sired by 'Cross Gap' out of an 'Inniscarra Healy' sired dam.

Forteregal Wright (X) - IE141831570080				
€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability
96%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€65	74%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€39	70%
94%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€15	87%
18%	★	Daughter Fertility	€13	31%
11%	★	Daughter Milk	€102	6%
Other Key Traits				
76%	★ ★ ★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	3.47%	93%
97%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	0.04 Days	43%
72%	★ ★ ★ ★	Docity (1-5 score)	0.15	82%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	44	756 Days	342 Kgs	R	3+
Herdmates	60	816 Days	377 Kgs	R	3+
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny					
AA	CH	HE	HO	LM	SI
9%	21%	25%	5%	14%	12%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

We have 50 pedigree Hereford cows and 25 crossbred cows. Pedigree bulls are sold at 12 - 24 months old. Pedigree Hereford heifers are either kept for breeding or sold for breeding. Crossbred bullocks are killed at around 24 months old through Hereford Prime and crossbred heifers are killed at around 18 months old through Hereford Prime.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

The commercial cows are a mixture of crossbred Limousin, Charolais and Simmentals. We buy the crossbred replacements in local marts and look for cows with some dairy influence for milk. Purebred replacements are bred within the herd. They are very fertile with good milk.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

He was bought at the Hereford Breed Society Sale in Kilmallock mart. We bought him because he was a very long deep bull with excellent conformation and his back pedigree was very good.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

He's easy calving with a short gestation with nice sized lively calves at birth. His progeny are good long deep cattle with excellent conformation. They have very good carcass weights and grade well in the factory with a recent son of his weighing 437 kilos carcass weight in the factory and graded a U+3.

They are easy thrivers and are very quiet. His daughters are very fertile, have good milk and are great mothers.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

His progeny have better conformation and depth, they also grade better and have higher carcass weights than previous bulls.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

We like Hereford cattle because they are easy calving with a short gestation and the calves are hardy. They are easy thrivers with high growth rates and they can be easily fattened off grass at 18 -24 months old.

We find that we can carry more Herefords per acre than other breeds and still get very good carcass weights. This means they have a low carbon footprint compared to other breeds. We can also get a 16 cent a kilo bonus for them in the factory through the Hereford prime scheme. They are also very quiet cattle.

So basically for us that means less work calving cows, culling cows (that are not in calf or who lost a calf), drawing meal and we can still get very good carcase weights and a 16 cent per kilo bonus for them in factory which means more money in our pocket at the end of the day."

5 Star Hereford Stock Bull – 'Forteregal Wright'.

Calves by Forteregal Wright out of Continental Cows.

Limousin – Damien McDonald, Ballyhaise Ag. College, Co. Cavan.

The Limousin Bull 'Carwin Vicount' (IE121133350143) is owned by Ballyhaise Agricultural College in Cavan and was bred by Ray Carolan, Co.Cavan. He is sired by 'Roundhill Saturn' and out of a 'Genial' dam 'Carwin Pura'.
Pura'.

Carwin Vicount - IE121133350143				
€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€195	71%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€124	67%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€161	81%
91%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€28	17%
5%	★	Daughter Milk	-€6	30%
Other Key Traits				
2%	★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	9.88%	84%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	2.34 Day(s)	75%
35%	★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	-0.11	75%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	21	681 Days	362 Kgs	R+	3
Herdmates	96	701 Days	320 Kgs	O+	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny							
AA	BB	CH	FR	HE	HO	LM	SI
5%	7%	16%	5%	2%	12%	14%	32%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

At Ballyhaise, we keep 60 suckler cows. All progeny are finished as beef cattle with the heifers finishing at 22 months and steers finishing at 24 months. Any heifers suitable for breeding are kept as replacements for the herd.

2. Describe your Suckler Cows?

Our cows are mostly crossbred Limousins & Simmentals. All of the replacements for the herd come from the suckler herd. Heifers kept this year have an average Suckler Beef Value of €189. They will calve next spring at 2 years of age.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

The bull was purchased from Raymond Carolan, Co Cavan. We wanted a bull that we could keep replacement heifers from. Most of the heifers entering the herd have been bred from him. He has also produced excellent beef cattle that have been easy to finish and have graded well.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

We have used him on limousin, Simmental & Angus cows. Because he is easy calving we have used him on heifers that are not related to him. The male calves are easy to finish as bulls or steers and graded well.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Yes, there is no doubt about the quality of the cattle he has produced. All of his progeny have been well shaped and well muscled. Many of them have graded 'U' and had Carcass kill-outs of 57-58%. We have kept many of his heifers and they are now in the herd.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

This limousin bull was bought with the intention of keeping his females offspring as replacements thus improving the quality of our suckler cows. The limousin cow is easily maintained and when crossed with SI and AA/FR type cows will produce replacement heifers that have plenty of milk to rear a calf.



5 Star Limousin Stock Bull – 'Carwin Vicount'.

Parthenaise – Niall Stoddart, Ballycrissane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

The Parthenaise Bull 'Tafia' (FR7922661107) is owned by Niall Stoddart, Ballycrissane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Imported from France he is sired by 'Napoleon' out of a 'Lampion' sired daughter.

Tafia - FR7922661107				
Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability
94%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€124	61%
84%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€61	78%
98%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€103	75%
51%	★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€96	14%
37%	★ ★	Daughter Milk	-€54	14%
Other Key Traits				
4%	★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	9.53%	87%
12%	★	Gestation Length (Days)	1.04 Day(s)	5%
59%	★ ★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	0.05	68%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	12	678 Days	416 Kgs	R+	2+
Herdmates	250	591 Days	383 Kgs	U-	2+
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny							
AA	CH	FR	HE	HO	LM	PT	SI
19%	11%	1%	18%	9%	14%	8%	3%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

It is a Suckler herd with 40 cows. 32 commercials & 8 purebreds. It is a Spring calving herd, calving between January - April. Weanling Bulls are sold at the end of October and heifers are sold later at 13 months old. All weanlings are sold for €2/Kilo.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

The Suckler Cows are mainly Limousin X Simmental and Limousin X Parthenaise crosses – All homebred. Two Angus Cross cows were also bought in 3 years ago.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

The bull 'Tafia' was borrowed off Laurie Harney to bull purebreds. I liked him so I sold my other Parthenaise Bull and bought him instead.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

He is easy calving with average birthweights of 38-42 Kgs. His calves are lively with liveweight gains at weaning of 1.3Kgs/day for bulls and 1.1 Kgs/day for heifers. His daughters are good and framey and I am looking forward to them calving down in December.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Yes, I can see extra profit from having a much more even batch of calves. Mid - January born bulls were on average 307Kgs at the beginning of September and heifers were 275Kgs. Bulls made €2/Kg in October 2009 and heifers made €2/Kg the following Spring as replacements and there was huge demand for them.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

I like the Parthenaise breed for its docility, easily born healthy calves and most of all – calves that are small at birth but within 6 months show the muscle that generates great demand for them.



5 Star Parthenaise Stock Bull – 'Tafia'.

Piedmontese – John Commins, Two-Mile-Borris, Co. Tipperary

The Piedmontese Bull 'Labbro' (IT004990072492) is owned by John Commins, Two-Mile-Borris, Co. Tipperary. Imported from Italy, he is Sired by 'Delano' and out of a 'Taglio' sired dam.

Labbro - IT004990072492				
€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability
94%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€108	63%
89%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€54	69%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€97	81%
8%	★	Daughter Fertility	€57	24%
4%	★	Daughter Milk	-€69	13%
Other Key Traits				
87%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	3.93%	89%
57%	★ ★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	0.81 Day(s)	2%
33%	★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	-0.03	74%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	23	556 Days	329 Kgs	R+	2+
Herdmates	73	644 Days	321 Kgs	R	3+
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny						
BB	CH	HE	HO	LM	PI	SI
3%	12%	2%	3%	41%	4%	15%

Farm Background.

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

70 – 80 cows, we sell most calves as weanlings and send a small percentage to the factory. The herd is mostly autumn calving with about 20% Spring Calving. The farm is made up of 45 hectares some of which is very heavy land.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

All replacements are sourced within the herd. There are about 40 pure Piedmontese, 20 Piedmontese crosses and the rest are either pure or three quarter bred limousins that will be crossed with a Belgian Blue & Piedmontese Bull.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

'Labbro' was bought in an AI Station in Italy. He was selected based on his maternal breeding values with a view to using him across my pedigree Piedmontese cows to build up numbers of pedigree females.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

His calving ease is very good as he also runs with heifers! Conformation is also excellent as there is no problem selling into Italy for export with top prices. His daughters have good milk yield and are very good to rear their calves. Weight gain of his calves is a little less than Charolais & Limousin but is more than offset with the price attained.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Because he is a maternal Bull his daughters are very valuable. His calving ease also means very few losses at birth. The factory grades of his progeny are very good but I find the live export more lucrative.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

I find Piedmontese cattle very docile and easy to work with. Because it is a double muscled breed there are always options about what market to target i.e. Live export, finishing or store trade. There is also growing interest in the consumption of lean meat, so they are also a breed that can tick that box.

The new grid system suits the Piedmontese breed very well as it is a well muscled breed with light bone and can be finished at a young age. Young Bulls have a killout out of 70%. A lot of heifers are now sold locally to local butchers as the meat is very tender & healthy with lower cholesterol than chicken and most fish.



5 Star Piedmontese Stock Bull – 'Labbro'.



Progeny of 'Labbro'.



Salers – Alfred & Conor Melvin, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15

The Saler Bull 'Volcan' (FR6340864030) is owned by Alfred and Conor Melvin, Ashbury Herd, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. Imported from France, he is sired by 'Ocean' and is out of a 'Mickey' sired dam.

Volcan - FR6340864030				
€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability
84%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€89	63%
87%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€49	61%
86%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€58	82%
56%	★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€105	16%
94%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Milk	-€21	10%
Other Key Traits				
25%	★ ★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	3.97%	90%
79%	★ ★ ★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	0.4 Days	3%
49%	★ ★ ★	Docity (1-5 score)	-0.11	67%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	33	641 Days	412 Kgs	R+	2+
Herdmates	128	678 Days	372 Kgs	R+	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny				
AA	CH	LM	SA	SI
3%	18%	7%	51%	6%

Farm Background.

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

Generally bulls are finished before 22 months for top E.U. markets, mainly through Kepak to Italy with the better bulls being sold as breeding stock bulls. However, we are now switching to a more intensive system and opting to slaughter at 18 months. Heifers are either retained ourselves or sold for breeding. The Herd comprises of approximately 15 commercial cows and 30 purebred saler dams, with the herd split equally between autumn and spring calving.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

They have a large Saler influence with Simmental, Charolais and Limousin crosses also mixed through the herd. We normally breed our own replacements, but to utilize our stock bull 'Volcan', we may buy in more heifers, following essential disease screening of course. Cows have decent size and depth, with the majority being 750kgs plus, all grading U's & R's. The Suckler Cows having milk is of most importance. This is achieved by the Saler x cow, which produces a rich quality milk, high in solids thus relieving ourselves having to resort to a dairy influence in our dams, as is the case with other muscled continental breeds, which has a substantial negative impact on progeny conformation.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

We purchased our bull privately on farm, in France, August 2005, from a reputable Saler breeder. We were impressed by the herd's females style, structure, milking ability and temperament. But also on the bull's conformation, size, correctness, length and docility. We chose 'Volcan' from 7 farm visits and with over 30 bulls presented to ourselves. With price not an issue if the said animal merited it, well within reason of course.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

His calves are remarkably easily calved, with practically no assistance apart from a malpresentation etc. Such calving ease is mainly due to their low birth weight of 38-40 kgs and also the suitability of the dams. Although the calves have a low birthweight, they are lively, hardy and rise to suckle within minutes. Daily growth rates of in excess of 1.5 kgs are often seen, but it is Volcan's progeny's length, style and conformation which we're really pleased with.

Over 70% of his calves grade 'U' with the remaining 30% getting 'R' grades, all of which is most importantly achieved with an extremely low calf mortality. His calves, have a dense, mahogany coloured hair, which protects them from the harsh elements leading to little incidence of respiratory diseases. Volcan's progeny are ideal finishing cattle and are very lean, with low carcass fat deposition, with very good kill out percentages of often over 63% K.O.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Of course, but Volcan as with all imported Stockbulls, initially had a low Suckler Beef Value (SBV), with a very low reliability, as neither him or any of his relatives already existed on the ICBF database, thus it has been 'Volcan's' progeny's performance's to date which have proven him, and given rise to his current SBV, which is based on actual kill sheets, performances etc and not predicted values.

His progeny have very good conversion ratios thus reducing meal and forage bills. Their top quality carcass grades commanding higher prices, combined with reduced veterinary expense from calving, fertility, replacement value and hardiness all increase profit margins.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

Salers are low maintenance easily managed cattle without compromising on quality. The breed's calving ease is unrivalled with their remarkable pelvic structure, contributing to their longevity, many of our cows are 7th, 8th & 9th calvers with great maternal qualities. Salers require lower capital investment than other breeds, one of the shortest gestation lengths, and are very docile, which I must emphasize, as there are many misconceptions out there of the breeds temperament, through poor stockmanship and hearsay. As any competent stockman who has worked with Salers will know, they have a pleasant nature. Also to note are the feet and legs of the stock, which require little maintenance due to the strong black hoof of the Saler.

The breeds finishing capability has been overlooked to date with the breed matching, if not outperforming other continental breeds. In the recent Tully Test of Spring 2010 the breed's beef merits were highlighted, with the top performing bull of all breeds, on live weight gain and feed efficiency being a 'Volcan' sired Saler bull.

The objective of any suckling enterprise is a live, saleable quality calf per cow per year, with calving ease and fertility of most importance.



5 Star Salers Stock Bull – 'Volcan'.



Tully Performance Tested 'Volcan' Son – 'Ashbury Jupiter'.

Shorthorn – Michael & Oliver Flanagan, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

The Shorthorn Bull 'Moydrum Castle King' (MCK) is owned by NCBC. He was bred by Michael & Oliver Flanagan, Athlone Co. Westmeath. He is sired by 'Glounlea Leader' and is out of a 'Highfield Improver 2nd' sired dam – 'Highfield Kildysart 6th'.

Moydrum Castle King - MCK				
Euro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	Euro-Value	Data Reliability
92%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€75	87%
72%	★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€19	90%
92%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€14	93%
23%	★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€97	67%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Daughter Milk	€161	87%
Other Key Traits				
17%	★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	4.75%	96%
10%	★	Gestation Length (Days)	1.36 Day(s)	87%
26%	★ ★	Dolality (1-5 score)	-0.02	84%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	58	786 Days	366 kgs	R-	3+
Herdmates	910	779 Days	366 kgs	R	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny								
AA	BB	CH	FR	HE	HO	LM	SH	SI
9%	2%	6%	1%	3%	15%	5%	32%	8%

Although not a Stockbull, 'MCK' is the highest ranking Beef Shorthorn AI bull on Euro-Stars (Apr 2011). **Michael Flanagan briefly explained some more about his background;**

I had a shorthorn bull for sale in 1995 and I contacted Sligo AI Station to know if they were interested. Two gentlemen called to see the bull, Cormac Monaghan and his father in law.

They figured the bull's breeding was not what they were looking for, but spotted a young shorthorn calf in the yard and asked about his breeding. This was MCK and they requested me to contact them when he was twelve months old. As they say "the rest is history".

Sligo's top shorthorn bull at the time was 'Annaly Leo' (ALO). This was a roan coloured bull that produced some great beef shorthorn cattle both pedigree and commercial.

MCK crossed on an 'Annaly Leo' female was a super cross and lots of breeding females exist mainly in the west of Ireland at present producing great cattle.

5 Star Shorthorn AI Bull – 'Moydrum Castle King'.



Simmental – Raymond O'Malley, Purcellstown House, Ardee, Co. Louth

The Simmental Bull 'Barnattin Robbie' (IE261003510381) is owned by Raymond O'Malley, Purcellstown House, Ardee, Co.Louth and was bred by Derek Costelloe, Killineer, Co.Louth. Performance tested in Tully, he is sired by 'Barnattin Major' out of a 'Gretnahouse Supersonic' daughter 'Barnattin Jill'.

Barnattin Robbie - IE261003510381				
€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Apr 2011)				
% Rank	Star Rating (Within Breed)	Index and Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability
97%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€162	59%
87%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Weanling Export	€69	50%
99%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Beef Carcass	€117	70%
40%	★ ★ ★	Daughter Fertility	€53	20%
49%	★ ★ ★	Daughter Milk	€109	19%
Other Key Traits				
8%	★	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	8.66%	89%
25%	★ ★	Gestation Length (Days)	2.7 Day(s)	16%
88%	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Docility (1-5 score)	0.12	55%
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search				

Progeny Carcass Summary - Apr 2011					
	Nbr	Age	Weight	Conf	Fat
Progeny	15	603 Days	418 Kgs	R+	3-
Herdmates	394	610 Days	344 Kgs	R+	3
Source: www.icbf.com - Bull Search - 'Beef Carcass Section' section					

Average known breed % in Dams of progeny				
AA	CH	HO	LM	SI
1%	1%	5%	7%	69%

Farm Background

1. Describe your Beef Production System?

I farm with my brother Edward. We keep about 160 cows. The herd is 50% autumn calving. Bull calves are sold as bulls at 12 months. In the past, most of them were exported to Italy and UK. Some went for further feeding, finishing in Kepak farms. Heifers are kept for breeding. Substantial numbers are sold as 2 year old in-calf heifers. Prices range from €1500 - €2000. Old and unsatisfactory cows are fattened to be slaughtered at peak cow beef market price in May & June.

2. Describe your suckler cows?

The herd is made up of mostly Simmental cross cows – home produced. Occasionally we buy some replacements from people we know with a high genetic merit Simmental bull with the herd also having a high health status. In the past we have experimented with heifers of other breeds such as Charolais Limousin, Blonde D'Aquitaine & Belgian Blue. None were as good as our own Simmentals.

Bull Background.**3. Where & why did you buy your bull?**

We Bought 'Barnattin Robbie' at the Tully Bull sale in 2006. He had the highest weight gain at 2.7kg/day. I like to source good Stock Bull's from the Performance Test station in Tully as information is good and accurate and hence valuable. I have bought other Tully bulls over the past 30 years. Also good temperament is a quality I highly value and the temperament of "Robbie" and his progeny is superb.

4. Describe the type of cattle he sires?

He sires fast growing progeny, very good bull calves and exceptional heifers for breeding. Calves are tall & long. Only 1 in 15 needs assistance at birth.

5. He is a high genetic merit bull, are you seeing extra profits from his progeny compared to the progeny of the other bulls you have used?

Yes. He is getting us fast growing calves. His male calves are of export quality and his females are making exceptional cows. All his cattle have excellent temperament.

6. Breed of your Bull: What do you like about that particular breed?

A good Simmental bull can achieve export quality bulls and very valuable females for breeding. This is the business that I'm in and for me, a top class Simmental Bull is essential.



*5 Star Simmental Bull
– Barnattin Robbie*

Progeny of 'Barnattin Robbie'.



Genomic selection for Irish beef cattle - the basics

Donagh Berry Teagasc

Background

A new method of identifying genetically elite animals was launched by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation this Spring for dairy cattle. The new method is called "genomic selection" and has the whole breeding world excited by its potential benefits. The current method of genetic evaluation (BLUP) in beef cattle uses information on progeny and other relatives, such as carcass weights from the factory, to estimate the genetic merit of a sire. Because of the necessity to wait for a sire's progeny to be slaughtered, bulls are usually at least 4 to 5 years of age before they can achieve moderate to high reliability for traits such as carcass weight. Imagine the genetic gain achievable if we could accurately predict an animal's genetic merit at only a few weeks! This is the basis behind the new technology of genomic selection and animals selected using this method are said to be "genomically selected".

Genomic Selection explained

Genomic selection involves analysing the DNA of an animal. DNA is the building blocks of genes and it is the genes that determine whether an animal will grow fast or be a difficult calver etc. DNA is present in all cells and remains the same throughout an animal's life; in other words the DNA of a calf taken at one day of age is the same as that animal's DNA several years later. Apart from identical twins, each animal has a different "DNA signature". The same principles hold for humans and this is what forensic scientists use to catch criminals; however, we can use this principle for animal breeding. We can get DNA from blood, hair or tissue samples.

New Terminology

In practice, genomic selection involves taking a biological sample, such as a hair sample, from an animal and sending it to a laboratory to determine the animal's "DNA signature". The technology is currently available to look at variations at 54,001 locations across an animal's DNA but this number is likely to increase considerably in the coming years. These tiny changes in the DNA sequence of an animal are commonly called SNPs (pronounced "snips") and the platform used to determine the DNA signature of an animal is referred to as a SNPchip (pronounced "snip-chip"). If we know the good DNA signature for carcass weight or conformation, or for any other trait evaluated by the ICBF, then we can determine if the DNA signature of our sampled calf is good, or in other words will it make a good sire? The same principles can be applied to a heifer calf; will the DNA of the heifer calf translate to a good cow? The cost at the moment to determine the DNA signature of an animal is approximately €210 per animal although research will soon start on developing methodology to hopefully reduce the cost substantially without a large decrease in accuracy.

The main difficulty in the application of genomic selection is to determine what is a good DNA signature? This is what the research in Ireland has focused on for the past few months, albeit in dairy cattle. Published research results to date from Ireland and abroad are on dairy cattle, but the general conclusion is that genomic selection will increase the accuracy in which we can select animals. And because DNA is available at a young age, we can achieve moderate reliability at a very young age.

Increasing Reliability%

As a very general rule of thumb, to estimate the effects of the different locations in the DNA signature, one needs the DNA signature of at least 1,000 animals with a moderate to high reliability for the traits evaluated by the ICBF. In Ireland, the DNA signatures of over 1,000 Holstein-Friesian dairy AI sires is used in the genomic evaluations and we are observing increases in reliability of up to 18 percentage units for some traits. This means that young bulls that previously had reliability figures of 30 to 32% now have reliability figures of approximately 50% after we include their DNA information. With this higher reliability comes lower risk of fluctuations with subsequent genetic evaluation runs or in other words more confidence that the published values of a bull will translate into progeny performance. Given this increase in reliability, a 50% increase in genetic gain is possible.

Genomic selection for Irish beef cattle - the basics

Higher gains in reliability from using genomic selection in dairy cattle are being reported in other countries but they have larger populations to estimate the best DNA signature. The population used to estimate the best DNA signature is commonly referred to as the “training population” or the “reference population”. The more animals in this population the greater will be the benefit of genomic selection. We, as a country, need to set ourselves a goal of having biological samples (semen, blood or hair) of over 1,000 beef animals. These animals need to be proven under Irish production systems.

Genomic selection may require modification of our national beef breeding program (GENE IRELAND®). Rather than costing several thousand euros to test individual beef bulls, thereby limiting the number of bulls that can be tested, genomic selection can be used to screen several thousands of beef bulls at the cost of only a few hundred euros per animal. The genetically elite bulls can then be used in Irish herds. Another breeding program may genotype a large number of potential bull dams, contract mate these dams and then purchase and genomically test the resulting calves. The advantage of this approach is that the elite dams can be used over several years without the necessity for multiple genotyping. Genomic selection also facilitates the more accurate identification of genetically superior stock bulls, but one would expect that with genomic selection the superiority of AI beef bulls over stock bulls should increase considerably. Genomic selection can be undertaken on all traits as long as the data is in the ICBF database.

Summary

In summary, the new technology called genomic selection will increase the reliability of genetic proofs generated by the ICBF. Increases in reliability of 10 to 20 percentage units should be achievable. This achievable increase in reliability means greater confidence that the published values of a given animal will translate into progeny performance. As an industry we need to invest in this technology to ensure sustainable genetic gain for the Irish beef industry.

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BETTER Beef Farm Experience

Adam Woods & Shane McHugh

Teagasc, Grange, Co. Meath

The BETTER Farm Experience

At the beginning of the Teagasc/Irish Farmers Journal BETTER farm programme the management team set out some core objectives for each of the farms in relation to addressing low levels of output, improving grassland management, *breeding efficiency and fertility* and animal health on the farm. Breeding efficiency was one of the first items to be addressed. The first step was that the farmer had to join HerdPlus, operated by ICBF. This was an invaluable tool in assessing the current state of play on the farm in relation to calving interval, calving spread, suckler cow breeding performance, past progeny performance, etc.

Summary

- Breeding and fertility is one of the most important aspects of running an efficient suckler system.
- Cow condition score, bull fertility, the incidence of difficult calving and herd health are the main factors that affect fertility. Poor herd fertility has a major impact on farm output and income.
- An outbreak of disease causing poor conception rates or an infertile bull can have a devastating impact on the bottom line for many years after the problem starts. It has been observed from the BETTER farm programme that having a written plan in place is essential in improving breeding efficiencies at farm level.
- Defining the calving period and setting down clear objectives for calving interval and mortality and working towards achievable targets over a 3 year period in a simple action plan has worked. It is important not to try and achieve these targets in one year as having too many empty cows in one year could put pressure on cash flow for the following year.
- With a disciplined approach to breeding, real progress can be made at farm level which in turn will have a positive effect on profitability.

A Case Study: Cathal Crean, Woodpark, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Cathal Crean farms just south of Gorey in Co. Wexford. There are currently 85 suckler cows on the farm with the aim of going to 100 suckler cows over the next 2 years. His beef system consists of finishing continental heifers off grass at 18-20 months and finishing bulls at 18 months indoors on ad-lib meal after grazing for the 2nd spring and summer. Breeding performance had fallen in recent years and in 2008 his calving interval was 411 days and he was calving cows for 9 months of the year in a nominally spring calving herd (Table 1). On entry to the BETTER farm programme, one of the first decisions made was to fix a defined calving period. This was decided to be Jan/Feb/Mar, based on turnout date and finishing dates for stock. Cathal then went through all his cows visually and identified any poor performers.

The **ICBF suckler cow report** was used in this process to identify repeat poor performers in terms of calving interval and calf performance. Most of the cows that had slipped to the summer months had poor fertility and were identified for culling. Because of the vigorous culling (23 cows) it was decided that instead of buying in maiden heifers and taking a hit on output for two years, some cows and calves would be purchased to avoid a reduction in output... Cows that calved in April and May were kept as a group and fed 2 kg meal at grass to make sure they resumed cycling quickly. The 15th of June was identified as the date the bull was to be removed as this would mean calving would be finished by end of March. Replacement heifers were bred in March to calve in December, one month before the main herd, to give them extra time, as first calvers, to go back in calf. Dry cow minerals are fed pre- calving and early calving cows get 2 kg ration post- calving to keep the BCS on target. A Limousin bull with good maternal traits was purchased with a view to breeding replacements from within the herd.

BETTER Beef Farm Experience

Table 1. Calving data from Cathal Crean's herd over past 3 years

Cathal Crean	07/08	08/09	09/10	Target	Nat Av.
Live calves at birth	58	80	65	100	
Calving Interval (CI, Days)	422	375	394	365	406
Calves per cow per year	0.75	0.94	0.86	0.95	0.78
% females not calved	12	2	5	0	14.2
% dead at birth	1.7	0	1.2	2.5	4.8
% dead at 28 days	3.4	2.5	1.5	2.5	6
Months calving (calving spread)	5	9	4	4	

Nat Av. = National Average figures (source: Herdplus)



5 Star Limousin Bull for 'Daughter Milk' & 'Daughter Fertility Cwmpedran Dan the King' purchased by Cathal Crean at the Irish Limousin Society's sale in December 2009 at Tullow.

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Beef Herdplus

Beef Herdplus® is the ICBF Cattle Breeding Information Service for Beef Farmers. Herdplus® uses Cattle Breeding Information to generate valuable reports for your herd. These reports will allow you to analyse your own herd's performance as well as allowing you compare your results to National Average Figures.



Calving Report



€uro-Star Report



Weighing Report



Slaughter Report



Stock Report



Nitrates Report



Inbreeding Checker



Suckler Cow Report

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