



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

# Kilmallock Breeding Event



Chris Daly  
ICBF



National Development Plan

Transforming Ireland

# What's it all about?

***Increase the rate of genetic gain in the national suckler herd***

- Currently at  $\frac{1}{4}$  the rate of the dairy herd.
- Not enough Index based breeding decisions.

## Goal?

***To increase profitability for suckler farmers***

# How?

## Reduce calving difficulty

*less vet bills, mortality & labour*



# How?

## Increase fertility

*better calving interval & more calves/cow/year*



# How?

## Increase milk yield

*heavier calves at weaning, less meal*



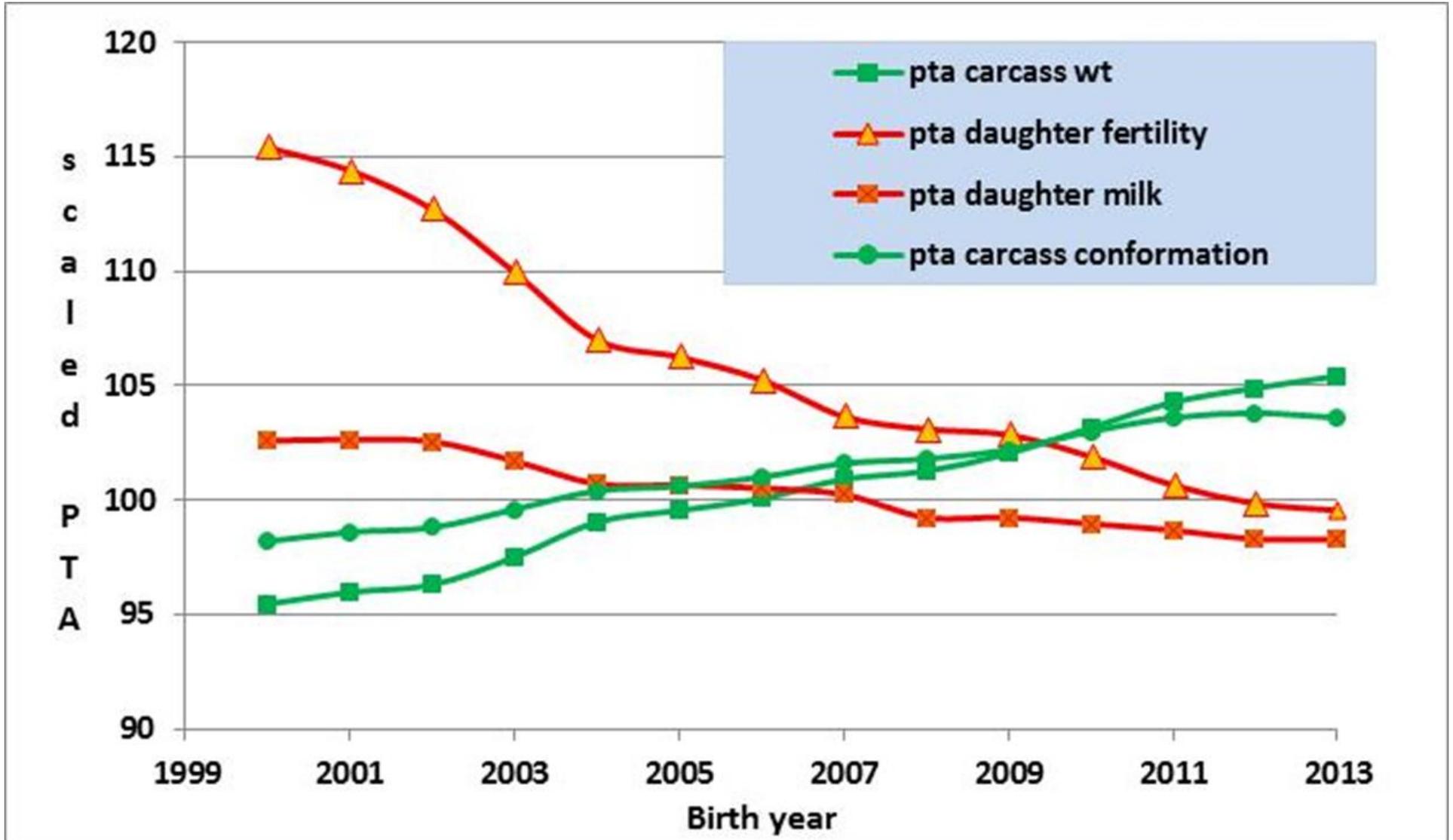
# How?

## Improve carcass traits

*(better prices @ marts & factories)*



# What is the problem now?



# The Modern Irish Suckler Cow

Calves for first time at 32 months old.

Has a Replacement Index of €111  
(Top 5% €200 +)

Calves once every 412 days  
(13 ½ months)

Producing 0.79 calves per year.

Failing to wean 50% of own body weight

**Is that a fit for purpose, profitable cow?!?!**

# Calving Stats

## Beef Calving Statistics (National Averages)

Key Performance Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Average Calving Interval (days)	406	407	396	395	412
Dead at Birth (%)	4.8	4.95	5	4.7	4.5
Dead at 28 days (%)	6	5.83	6.12	6.1	5.6
Calves per Cow per Year	0.78	0.79	0.85	0.83	0.79
Heifers calved 22-26 months of age (%)	N/A	12	16	16	17
Females not Calved in period (%)	14.2	13	8	10	13
Cows Culled (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21
Recycled Cows (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26
Avg. No. Calvings per cow	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.4
Births with Known Sire (%)	75	75	72	61	63
Births with Calving Survey Data (%)	79	77	75	61	64
Births with a Difficult Calving (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.9	3.3
AI Bred Calves (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	23

*N/A = Stats not generated for these years*

# Calving Interval

## Calving Interval (Days)



# €uro-Stars in Action

## Ger Dineen's Herd Profile:

- 49 cows
- Average Rep. Index €206 (5 stars, Top 5%)
- Top cow €351 (Top 1%)
- 43/49 cows are 4 stars or better

	No. Cows	Avg. Age (Years)	Avg. Replacement Index €	Avg Calv Int (Days)	ADG Progeny (Kgs)	Avg. Age Slaughter Progeny (Days)	Avg. Slaughter Wgt Progeny (Kgs)
Top 1/2	24	4.75	246	372	1.32	516	404
Bottom 1/2	25	5.1	167	375	1.29	521	389
Difference		-0.35	79	-3	0.03	-5	15

Based on Aug 2014 evaluation run.

## Higher Index cows have:

- Better calving intervals.
- Progeny slaughtered younger.
- Better ADG's in progeny.
- With higher carcass weights (+15Kgs)

**@ €4 Kg beef price = €60 extra from high index cows**

# Breeding v Feeding?



**Poor Management**



**But, Lots of  
Poor Breeding**



# How did we get here?

- Main focus of Irish beef breeding was on terminal traits.
- Reflected through AI companies and pedigree herds.
- Commercial breeding heifers became a by product of terminal breeding.



**Everybody wanted  
these fellas**

# What can be done?

## More Index based breeding decisions

28

Irish Farmers Journal 23 August 2014

### Pedigree News

ALL IRELAND LIMOUSIN HEIFER FINALS

#### Hillery wins senior heifer championship

**NATHAN TUFFY**  
WESTERN LIVESTOCK SPECIALIST  
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The British Insurance All-Ireland Limousin Heifer Finals took place at Cappanuree last Saturday.

The Judge for the finals was Bantleigh breeder Jim Quill, owner of the esteemed Lording herd. Pauline Power of Zurich Insurance presented the prizes to the winners. It was noted that all the heifers competing for these classes were of a very high standard. The finals are divided into three classes: senior, intermediate and junior. The senior heifer class was for heifers born on or between 1 January 2012 and 31 August 2013 and was won by Rosemead Karna 263.



Dan Tyson and Pauline Power with Carlin Hillery.



Edward Tyson, Freddie Vanette, Pauline Power and Jim Quill with Eile Heffernan, winner of the intermediate heifer class.



Darren Corrigan and Freddie Vanette with Rosemead Karna 263, winner of the junior heifer class.



#### Suffolk show and sale

On Mon 25 August, the Suffolk sheep society held its pedigree ram show and sale in Athney Park. The judge will be Andrew Wilson from the Castlealea flock from Donegal. The show starts at noon while the sale starts at 1.30pm. Many of the lambs taking part are STAP eligible.

#### Rosemead Karna completes hat-trick

At Mullin Show Rosemead Karna 263 won the Distinct All-Ireland Angus Championship trophy for the third year in a row.

The bull is owned by Albert and Jennifer De Cogan, Castlemaartyr, Co. Cork. It was bred by Englishman Angus Scoull, sired by the Elin Erroscree C30 son Rosemead Tenure F85, and is bred from Rosemead Karkota P63.

The bull was the supreme champion at Tullamore in 2012 and 2013, supreme champion at Ballinacorney and reserve champion at Tullamore in 2014.

The reserve senior and reserve supreme all-Ireland title was won by the seven-year-old near Old Glenmot Black Heifer cow from James Packer's herd, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

The cow, owned by Miss McElduff, was the Ballinacorney champion in 2008, and is backed by two generations of home-bred dams going back to Black Birnie of Gilbey. The cow was accompanied by her March born heifer calf Glenmot Black Bantle P96, a daughter of the stock bull The Moss Gables.

The junior championship went to the November 2013 born heifer Lascrovia K86. She was sired by Martin and Geraldine Gurney, Hill Street, Carrick on Shannon.

The heifer was sired by Motheran Mr Bourdain B37, and is out of the home-bred Lascrovia Hills, the 2012 all-Ireland junior champion. The cow was reserve bred champion of Ballina Show.

Runners up in the junior championship in Ireland were: Gaulting Lancer, a seven-year-old near Old Glenmot Black Heifer cow from James Packer's herd, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

The cow, owned by Miss McElduff, was the Ballinacorney champion in 2008, and is backed by two generations of home-bred dams going back to Black Birnie of Gilbey.

# Vs

Star Rating (within Limousin breed)	Economic Indexes	€uro value per progeny	Index reliability	Star Rating (across all beef breeds)
★★★★★	Replacement Maternal Cow Traits Maternal Progeny Traits	€294 €46 €248	85% (V High) 79% 91%	★★★★★
★★★★★	Terminal	€152	90% (V High)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Dairy Beef	€	% (N/A)	★★★★★

Star Rating (within Limousin breed)	Key profit traits	Index value	Trait reliability	Star Rating (across all beef breeds)
Expected progeny performance				
★★★★★	Calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 4.95%, All breeds ave: 5.09%	5.10%	96% (V High)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Docility (1-5 scale) Breed ave: -0.06, All breeds ave: 0.00	-0.02 scale	94% (V High)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Carcass weight (kg) Breed ave: 23.38kg, All breeds ave: 22.38kg	32kg	96% (V High)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Carcass conformation (1-15 scale) Breed ave: 2.10, All breeds ave: 1.84	2.27 scale	96% (V High)	★★★★★

Expected daughter breeding performance				
★★★★★	Daughter calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 4.60%, All breeds ave: 5.19%	3%	74% (High)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Daughter milk (kg) Breed ave: -0.63kg, All breeds ave: 0.52kg	9.06kg	85% (V High)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Daughter calving interval (days) Breed ave: 1.02 days, All breeds ave: -0.48 days	.76days	74% (High)	★★★★★

**ATTENTION FARMERS & STOCKBREEDERS**

Inspection of Electric Fences will be carried out by Helicopter between **25th August - 3rd October**

Detailed information regarding the inspection can be obtained from Executive Helicopters at: **0909 749 764**

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**THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- ALL TRADITIONAL BRISTOL HORSE FESTIVAL CLASSES
- ALL LEISURE HORSE CLASSES
- HORSE & PONY SHOWBUMPING, POULTRY CLASSES

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup>**

- HECEN HUNTER CLASSES - ALL PONY CLASSES
- CATTLE, SHEEP & GOAT CLASSES
- INNOVATION CENTRE - PET DOG SHOW - LIVE MUSIC

ARTS, CRAFTS, COOKERY, PHOTOGRAPHY AND HISTORICAL TOYS BOTH DAYS

RAILY ENTERTAINMENT, COOKERY DEMOS, NATIONAL MOTOR RACE DISPLAYS, TRADE STANDS, HOT DRINKS, REALITY SET CORNERS, PUN FARE - BOTH DAYS - RESTAURANTS & BARS

Admission €10 Adults, 5 Adults under 17 Free - Students & OAP V.45

www.irishsheepshow.com | E: info@irishsheepshow.com | T: 0845 333288

**IRISH VENDEEN SHEEP SOCIETY SALES 2014**

Venue	Category	Date	Contact
Downman	Males	Saturday 19th August	MR. MC. LE
Tullane	Males	Tuesday 2nd September	E. O'Brien
Colm	Males	Wednesday 3rd September	E. O'Brien
Ballinacorney	Males	Thursday 10th September	John O'Brien
Ballinacorney	Males	Friday 12th September	P. Fitzgerald
Trillick	Males	Monday 15th September	E. O'Brien
Power Barlow	Males	Saturday 20th September	L. O'Leary
Downman	Males	Wednesday 24th September	E. O'Brien
Ballinacorney	Females	Wednesday 24th October	MR. MC. LE

Contact: Ann Forder Honorary Secretary on 086 0137724 or Fax on 0122 25379 / 666 2985139  
E-mail: info@irishsheepshow.com Web: www.irishsheepshow.com

# What can be done?

## Stop stereotyping breeds

- Calving Ease



**EBY - 2%**

- Big, well muscled carcass



**TSO – 5★  
within & across**

- Milk



**TZW – 5★  
within & across**

# What can be done?

## Sign up to Gene Ireland Beef

- If AI is an option for you.
- And you want to breed top quality replacements.
- Gene Ireland aims to test the highest index beef bulls each year.



# What can be done?

## Embrace the schemes

- Beef Data Programme (Data is the lifeblood)
- Beef Genomics (Breeding's Crystal Ball)
- Will take some of the risk out of breeding.



Which ones  
will I keep?!?!



# What can be done?

## Use your HerdPlus reports

- Calving Report – Assess calving performance
- Euro-Stars – Genetic makeup of your herd
- Suckler Cow Report – Assess individual cows
- If not in HerdPlus – Signup asap.

## Talk to your advisor



*Pat Blackwell is ready to  
take your call*

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# Thank You