



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

PG Technicians Tully Visit

24th/25th Oct 2017



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

Agenda

- Euro-Star indexes
- GENE IRELAND
- Tully
- View the cattle on site

Euro-Star Indexes

Where do they come from?



Euro-Star Indexes

Every calf starts with a parent average



Sire



+



Dam



÷ 2

=



**Parent
Average**

Euro-Star Indexes

As the animal gets older – Commercial Animals



Euro-Star Indexes

As the animal gets older – Breeding Animals

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 7.65%, All breeds ave: 4.99% | i 9.80% | 99% (V High) |
| Docility (1-5 scale) Breed ave: 0.04, All breeds ave: 0.00 | 0.15 scale | 99% (V High) |
| Carcass weight (kg) Breed ave: 32.63kg, All breeds ave: 22.88kg | 42kg | 99% (V High) |
| Carcass conformation (1-15 scale) Breed ave: 1.92, All breeds ave: 1.84 | 2.16 scale | 99% (V High) |
| Daughter calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 4.98%, All breeds ave: 5.19% | 4.7% | 99% (V High) |
| Daughter milk (kg) Breed ave: -6.65kg, All breeds ave: 0.15kg | -9.18kg | 99% (V High) |
| Daughter calving interval (days) Breed ave: 0.11 days, All breeds ave: -0.41 days | 5.83days | 98% (V High) |

Genomics

A tool for improved selection



Which ones
will I keep?!?!

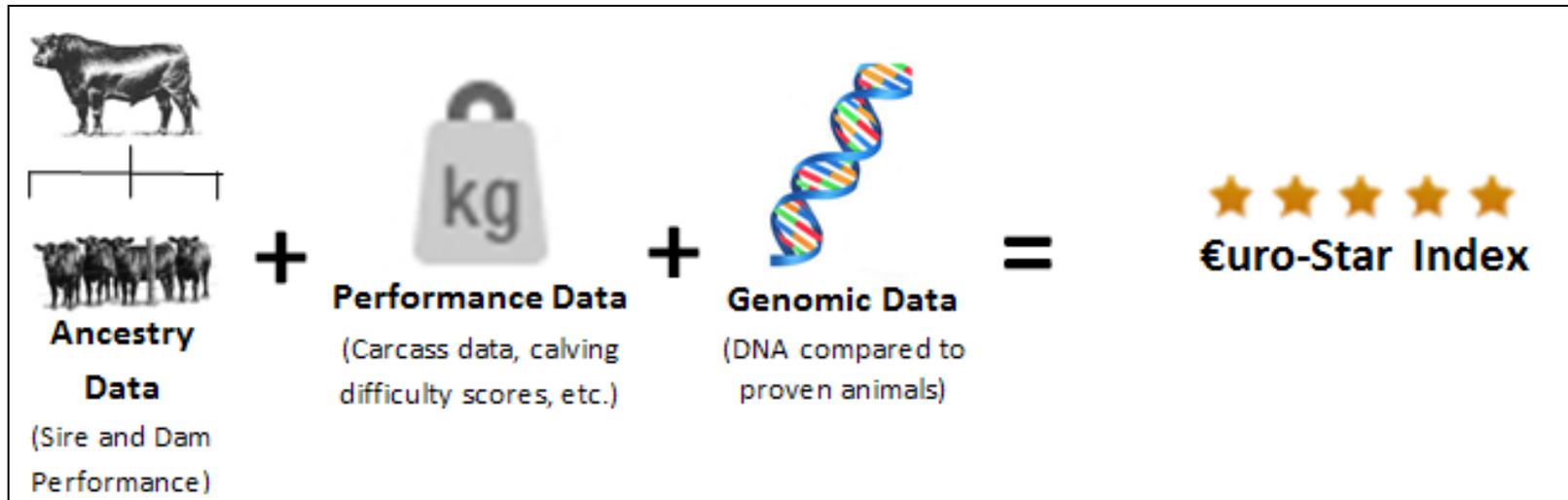


- Higher reliabilities on young animals → less risk
- Confirm parentage & prevent inbreeding.
- Identify genetic defects

Euro-Star Index

What is it?

- Index is a tool for selection.
- Estimation of an animal's genetic potential.
- Based on data collected on an animal + relatives.
- The more data available – the higher the reliability.



Euro-Star Indexes

What is reliability?

| | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| Calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 4.99%, All breeds ave: 4.49% |  4.70% | 97% (V High) |
| Docility (1-5 scale) Breed ave: 0.05, All breeds ave: 0.01 | 0.09 scale | 95% (V High) |
| Carcass weight (kg) Breed ave: 19.88kg, All breeds ave: 14.99kg | 31kg | 62% (High) |
| Carcass conformation (1-15 scale) Breed ave: 1.28, All breeds ave: 1.33 | 1.67 scale | 53% (Average) |

The confidence that a trait will not change significantly as more data is recorded.

| Trait | Approx. Number of Progeny Records Required to Reach 90% Reliability |
|--------------------|---|
| Calving Difficulty | 350 |
| Carcass Weight | 90 |
| Milk | 90 |
| Calving Interval | 1200 |

Euro-Star Indexes

How to minimize risk?

- Don't overuse low reliability bulls
 - ZAG 10,916 calves born in 2016
 - ADX 5,241 calves born in 2016
 - FTY 3,449 calves born in 2016
- Record as much data as possible
- Ensure animals are genotyped
- Record weights on suckler calves

Euro-Star Indexes

Better Farm Phase II herds (2012-2016)

| Cow Performance by Euro-Star Rating | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Star Rating | No. Cows | Avg. Rep Index (€) | Age 1st Calving (Days) | Avg Calving Int. (Days) | ADG of Progeny (kg) |
| 5 Star | 1218 | 134 | 866 | 379 | 1.25 |
| 4 Star | 579 | 86 | 892 | 384 | 1.17 |
| 3 Star | 428 | 64 | 903 | 386 | 1.14 |
| 2 Star | 449 | 44 | 908 | 385 | 1.13 |
| 1 Star | 495 | 8 | 941 | 387 | 1.05 |
| Difference 1-5 Star | | €126 | -75 Days | -8 Days | +0.2 kg |

But maybe the 5 star cows were mated to better bulls?

Euro-Star Indexes

Better Farm Phase II herds (2012-2016)

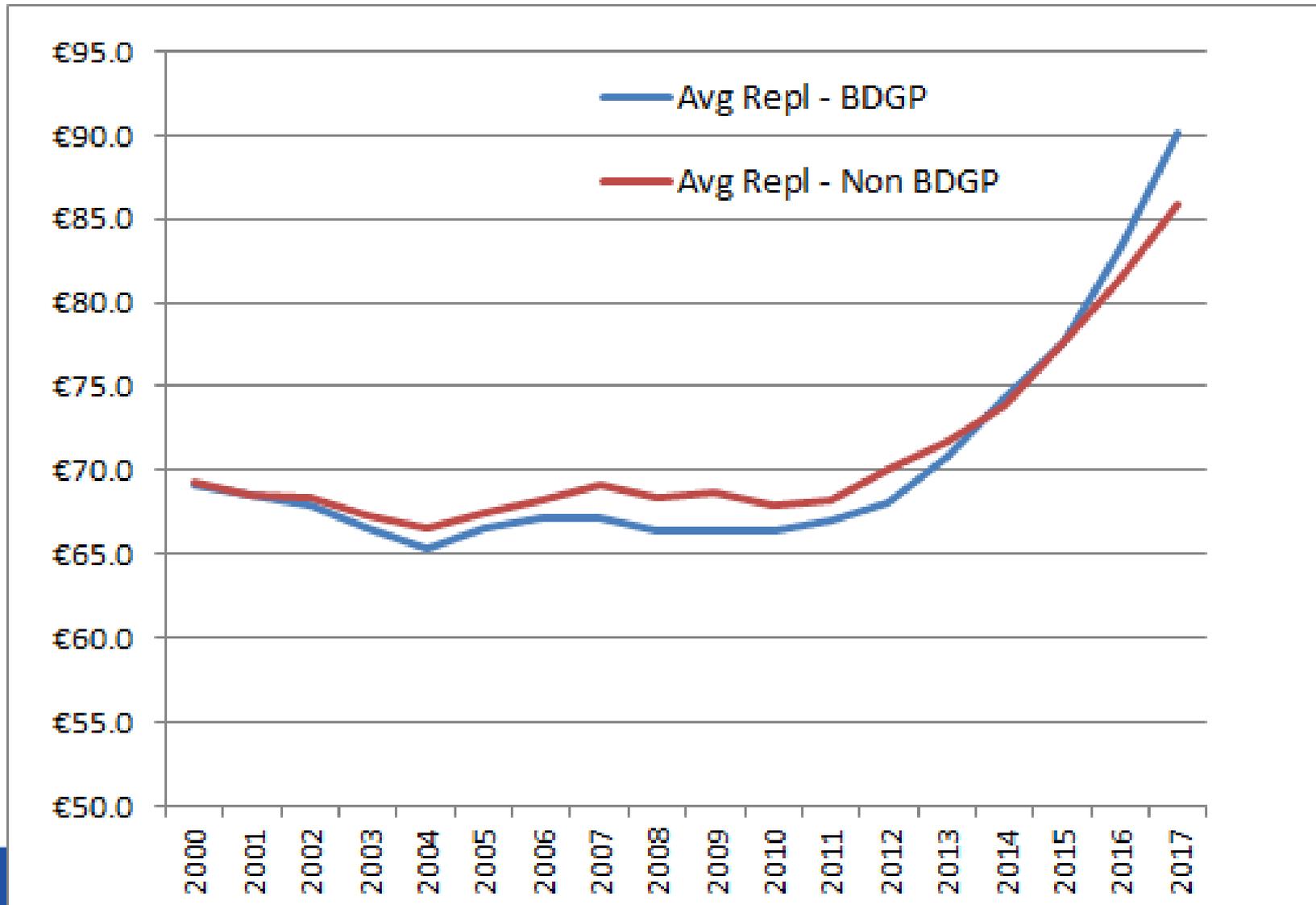
Dam & Sire Terminal Index & Carcass Merit

| Progeny Details | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Dam Star Rating | ADG of Progeny (kg) | Dam Terminal Index (€) | Dam Carcass PTA (kg) | Sire Terminal Index (€) | Sire Carcass PTA (kg) | Carcass Weight (kg) | Age at Slaughter (months) |
| 5 | 1.24 | 62 | 12 | 118 | 29 | 377 | 20.9 |
| 4 | 1.16 | 63 | 11 | 118 | 29 | 370 | 21.5 |
| 3 | 1.13 | 65 | 12 | 118 | 30 | 362 | 21.3 |
| 2 | 1.1 | 64 | 13 | 115 | 28 | 360 | 21.4 |
| 1 | 1.03 | 66 | 14 | 119 | 30 | 367 | 21.7 |
| Diff | +0.21 kg | -4 | -2 | -1 | -1 | +10 | -0.8 |

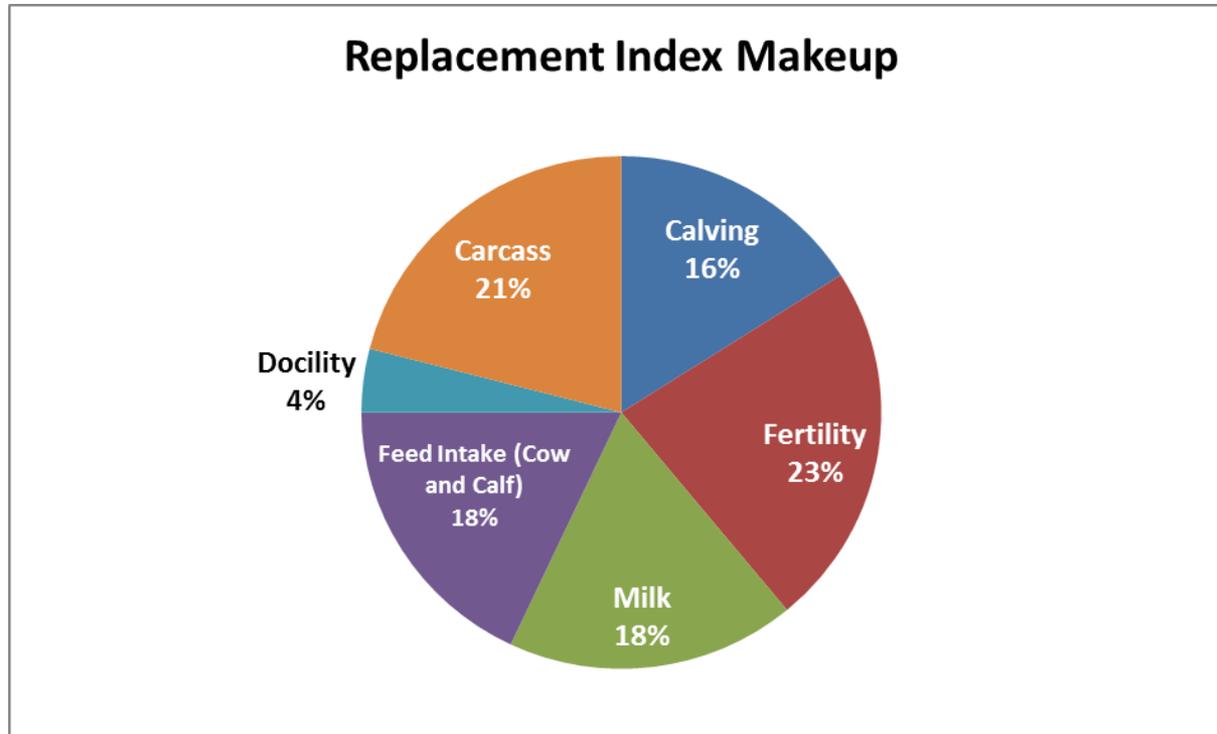
- 5 star cows were not mated to higher growth merit sires
- Progeny slaughtered younger with heavier carcass weights
- Replacement Index driving performance

Euro-Star Indexes

Genetic trends

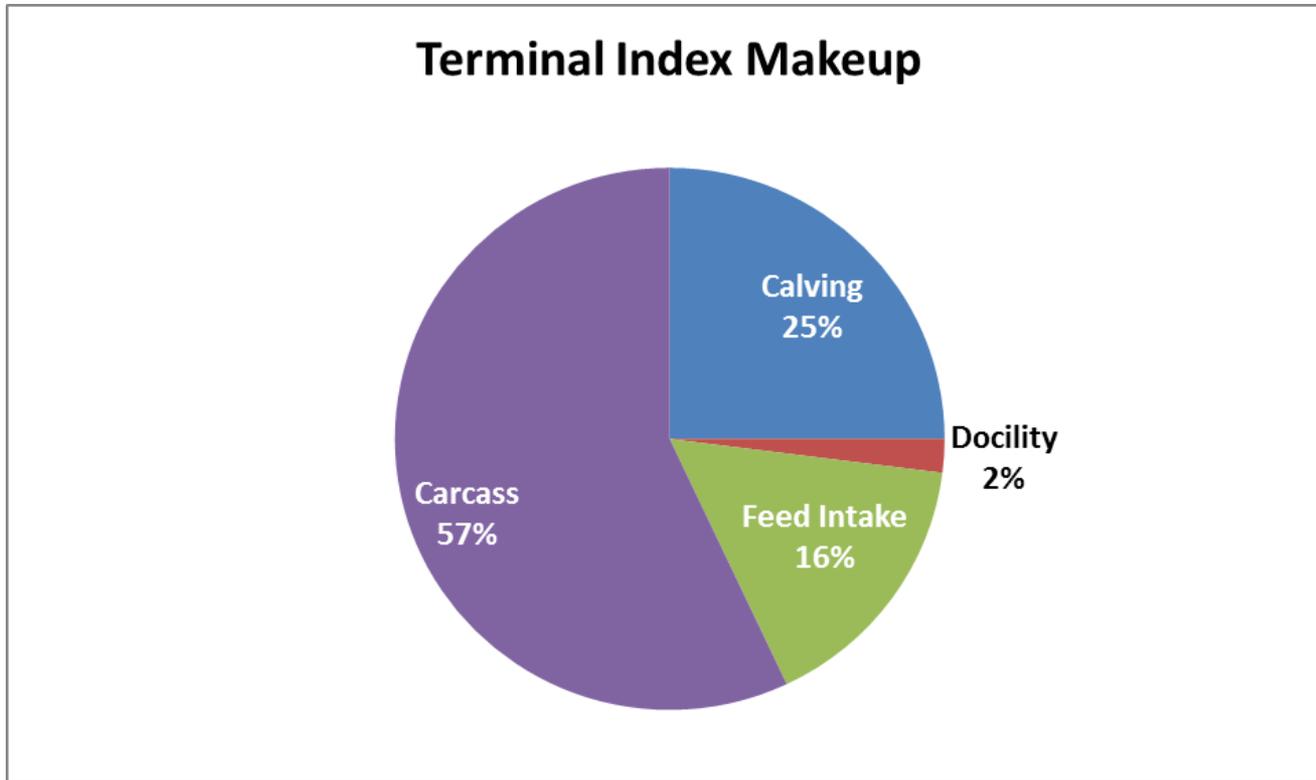


Replacement Index



- Breed efficient suckler cows balanced between maternal and beef traits.
- Made up of 17 individual traits.
- Should be used where females are intended as replacements.

Terminal Index



- **Breed efficient, high growth animals for slaughter.**
- **Made up of 8 individual traits.**
- **Should be used where all progeny are intended for slaughter.**

Euro-Star Indexes

What do the numbers mean?

| Star Rating (within Simmental breed) | Economic Indexes | Euro value | Index reliability | Star Rating (across all beef breeds) |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|---|
| ★★★★★ | Replacement (per daughter lactation) | €168 | 97% (V High) | ★★★★★ |
| ★★★★★ | Terminal | €104 | 96% (V High) | ★★★☆☆ |

Daughters of this bull will leave €168 more per calving over the base animal.

- Age 1st calving
- Calving Interval
- Calf weight gain (milk)
- Carcass weight

Progeny (males and females) will leave €104 more when slaughtered over the base animal.

- Calving difficulty
- Feed Intake
- Carcass weight
- Carcass Conformation

Euro-Star Indexes

But where do these figures actually come from?

- Each trait has a unit value (€ economic weight).
- Desirable traits have positive values e.g. milk
- Undesirable traits have negative values e.g. calving difficulty



Gringo (GWO)

Replacement (per daughter lactation)

€144

Vs



Gizmo (RGZ)

Replacement (per daughter lactation)

€139



GWO vs RGZ



Trait by trait breakdown

6.3%

$6.3 - 6 = 0.3\%$

$0.3 \times -5.12 = -\text{€}1.54$

-\text{€}1.54

Calving Difficulty

% of difficult calvings

Base is 6%

+\text{€}17.41

2.6%

$2.6 - 6 = -3.4\%$

$-3.4 \times -5.12 = \text{€}17.41$

-0.08

$-0.08 \times 14.72 = -\text{€}1.18$

-\text{€}1.18

Docility

1-5 scale

-\text{€}0.59

-0.04

$-0.04 \times 14.72 = -\text{€}0.59$

26kg

$26 \times 2.10 = \text{€}54.60$

+\text{€}54.60

Carcass Weight

kg

+\text{€}16.80

8kg

$8 \times 2.10 = \text{€}16.80$

2.27

$2.27 \times 10.22 = \text{€}23.20$

+\text{€}23.20

Carcass Conf.

1-15 scale

+\text{€}7.87

0.77

$0.77 \times 10.22 = \text{€}7.87$



GWO vs RGZ



Trait by trait breakdown

4.1%

$4.1 - 6 = -1.9\%$

$-1.9 \times -4.98 = \text{€}9.46$

+€9.46

Daughter Calving

% of difficult calvings

Base is 6%

-€6.97

7.4%

$7.4 - 6 = 1.4\%$

$1.4 \times -4.98 = -\text{€}6.97$

-2.9

$-2.9 \times 5.58 = -\text{€}16.18$

-€16.18

Daughter Milk

kg

+€45.76

8.2

$8.2 \times 5.58 = \text{€}45.76$

-5.38

$-5.38 \times -5.07 = -\text{€}27.28$

+€27.28

Calving Interval

days

+€36.40

-7.18

$-7.18 \times -5.07 = \text{€}36.40$

Similar Replacement Index but very different bulls!!!

Euro-Star Indexes

Why do they change?

Evaluations run 4 times per year

Number of Progeny Records included in Evaluation

| Date | Calving | | | Weanling and Carcass records | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------|------|------------------------------|------------------|--------|----------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| | Calv Diff | Gest | Mort | 150-250 day Wgts | 250-350 day Wgts | Linear | Docility | Farmer Calf Qual | Mart pperkg | Carc Wgt |
| Aug 2017 | 1494 | 781 | 1574 | 117 | | * | | | | 0 |
| May 2017 | 899 | 514 | 819 | 26 | 0 | * | 32 | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| Feb 2017 | 528 | 276 | 449 | 0 | 0 | 0* | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Jan 2017 | 214 | 136 | 166 | 0 | 0 | 0* | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Aug 2016 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | * | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May 2016 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | * | | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Euro-Star Indexes

Herd Level

| C. Cows | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Average Beef Euro-Star Values for cows on your farm | | | | | | |
| | | Replacement Index | | | | |
| Group | Number of Cows | Index Value (€) | Across Breed | Carcass Weight (Kg) | Daught Milk (Kg) | Daught Calving Interval (Days) |
| | | | | Across Breed | Across Breed | Across Breed |
| Cows | | | | | | |
| Total Cows | 109 | €115 | ★★★★★ | +9 | +10.2 | +0.03 |
| Missing Stars* | 0 | | | *** | ***** | ** |
| National Avg. Cows | | €77 | | +9 | +4.99 | -1.14 |

- High Replacement Index herd (Top 5%).
- Very high on milk (Top 1%)
- Average for Carcass
- Below Average for Calving Int.

How can we improve our cows?

Euro-Star Indexes

Herd Level

| | Breed | Sire Type | Rep Index | Calv Diff (%) | Carcass (kg) | Milk (kg) | Calv Int (Days) |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| Ulsan (SA2189) | SA | AI | €195 | 1.2 | 23 | 9.7 | -2.09 |
| Tomriland Kestrel | LM | Stock Bull | €160 | 6.7 | 45 | -0.3 | -0.87 |
| Castleview Gazelle (ZAG) | LM | AI | €152 | 4.5 | 18 | 1.3 | -4.52 |
| Cloondroon Calling (QCD) | SI | AI | €149 | 7.1 | 28 | 5.1 | -2.79 |
| Auroch Deuter (AHC) | SI | AI | €145 | 5.6 | 22 | 10.3 | -1.29 |
| Newtown Luke 2 | LM | Stock Bull | €143 | 7.7 | 48 | -3.2 | -0.89 |
| Doonowney Noel | AA | Stock Bull | €96 | 2.3 | 13 | 6 | -3.03 |
| Average | | | €149 | 5.0 | 28 | 4.1 | -2.21 |

- High Replacement Index team of bulls (+€34 on cows)
- Higher than cow herd on carcass (+19 kg) and calving interval (-2 days)
- Lower on milk (-6.1 kg) but still positive.

Key Points

1. What are the traits of importance for your herd.
2. Look at where your herd ranks for these traits (ICBF Euro-Star report)
3. Select sires to improve on these traits.
4. Aim is to breed balanced cows (beef traits + maternal traits).

Euro-Star Indexes

Stay up to date

- New Euro-Star Indexes out on 10th Jan 2018.
- Be mindful of dates on catalogues!!!
- New animal search app for smartphones.

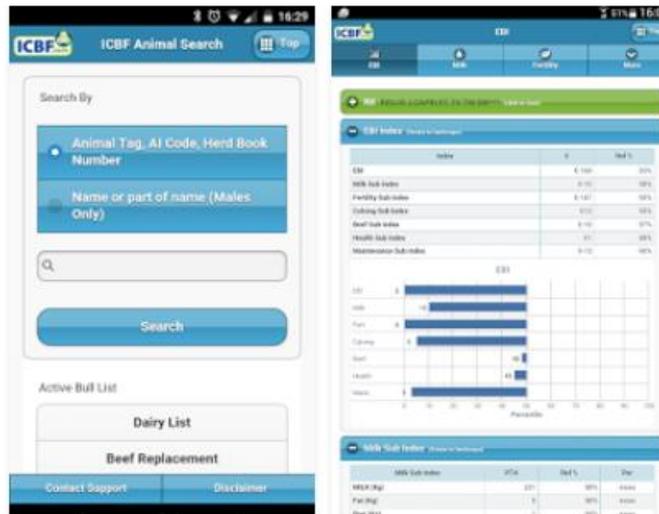


ICBF Animal Search

Herdplus Business

PEGI 3

 Add to wishlist



AI Requirement

“A minimum of 80% of the AI used after 30th June 2016 must be from 4 and 5 star bulls on the Rep and/or Terminal Index, within and/or across breed.”

- On any evaluation since May 2016.
- Genomic or non genomic

How will the figure be calculated?

- Will be based on calves born.
- An annual count beginning 1st Apr 17 – 31st Mar 18.
- Min 80% of calves must be sired by AI bulls that meet the above criteria.

BDGP

AI Requirement

Listing of all beef AI bulls which are registered as sires of progeny born in your herd from 1st Apr 2017 - 31st Mar 2018

| AI Code | Name | Breed | BDGP Eligible | Reason Code* | Number of Progeny Born since 1st May 2017 | Number of Eligible AI Progeny |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| SA2153 | Highfield Odran | SA | Yes | | 12 | 12 |
| SI2152 | Curaheen Earp | SI | Yes | | 9 | 9 |
| ZLL | Lanigan Red Deep Canyon ET | AA | Yes | | 7 | 7 |
| ICO | Starline Decision | SI | Yes | | 5 | 5 |
| ZAG | Castleview Gazelle | LM | Yes | | 3 | 3 |
| ERE | Elite Erasmus | LM | No | 8 | 4 | ERE not an eligible AI bull |
| SGO | Sang D'Or | CH | No | 8 | 2 | SGO not an eligible AI bull |
| Total | | | | | 42 | 36 |
| | | | | | Percentage of AI Sired Progeny by Eligible AI Bulls | 86% |

Summary

- Indexes are working on the ground.
- Always exceptions “My best cow has only 1 star”.
- Think of the bigger picture.
- Try to spread usage over more bulls particularly at low reliabilities.
- Get a better picture of the customers herd (Euro-Star report).
- Try to look at the individual traits.
- Make sure indexes up to date.

Who am I?

| Star Rating | Economic Indexes | €uro value | Index reliability | Star Rating (across all beef breeds) |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|---|
| ★★★★★ | Replacement (per daughter lactation) | €167 | 97% (V High) | ★★★★★ |
| ★★★★★ | Terminal | €103 | 95% (V High) | ★★★★☆☆ |

| Star Rating | Key profit traits | Index value | Trait reliability | Star Rating (across all beef breeds) |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|

Expected progeny performance

| | | | | |
|--------|--|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| | Calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 2.35%, All breeds ave: 4.49% | i 2.30% | 99% (V High) | |
| ★★★★☆☆ | Docility (1-5 scale) Breed ave: -0.09, All breeds ave: 0.01 | -0.11 scale | 99% (V High) | ★☆☆☆☆ |
| ★★★★☆☆ | Carcass weight (kg) Breed ave: 14.75kg, All breeds ave: 14.99kg | 17kg | 99% (V High) | ★★★★☆☆ |
| ★★★★★ | Carcass conformation (1-15 scale) Breed ave: 1.03, All breeds ave: 1.33 | 1.20 scale | 99% (V High) | ★★★☆☆ |

Expected daughter breeding performance

| | | | | |
|--------|---|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| | Daughter calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 5.73%, All breeds ave: 5.88% | 6.32% | 98% (V High) | |
| ★★★★☆☆ | Daughter milk (kg) Breed ave: 5.38kg, All breeds ave: 2.09kg | 5.50kg | 99% (V High) | ★★★★★ |
| ★★★★☆☆ | Daughter calving interval (days) Breed ave: -3.31 days, All breeds ave: -0.77 days | -3.45days | 97% (V High) | ★★★★★ |

Questions



Our Farmer & Government Representation



Our AI & Milk Recording Organisations



Our Herdbooks



Acknowledging Our Members

Gene Ireland Maternal Breeding Program

- Overview
- Progress to Date
- Gene Ireland in Action
- Whole Herd Performance Recording

What is a Breeding Program?

- It is the planned breeding of a group of animals over several generations to achieve a certain goal.
- Breeding programs are commonly employed where humans want to change the characteristics of their animals.



X



=



How do we generate more 4&5

rows?

**GENE IRELAND
Maternal Breeding
Program**

Beef D
Genomi
Program.

Earlier and more accurate identification of profitable pedigree and commercial beef animals for breeding.

Suckler
Beef Herd.

Placement
AI Bulls

Test

Data for
genomics.

Gene Ireland Maternal Breeding Program

- Launched in 2014 involving ICBF, AI companies, herdbooks & farmers.
- Objective of increasing genetic gain through generating more high Repl Index AI bulls.
 - Testing more bulls + more quickly + for all traits + genomics => increased genetic gain.
- 93 bulls tested to-date.
- First graduates with daughters calving now.
 - Commercial progeny tested here at Tully.

Gene Ireland Usage & Stats

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 ytd |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|----------|
| # Herds Involved | 712 | 669 | 664 | 334 |
| Straws dispatched | 11,262 | 10,793 | 8,715 | 4,732 |
| Straws/herd | 16 | 16 | 13 | 14 |
| Bulls Tested | 22.5 | 21.6 | 17.4 | 9.5 |

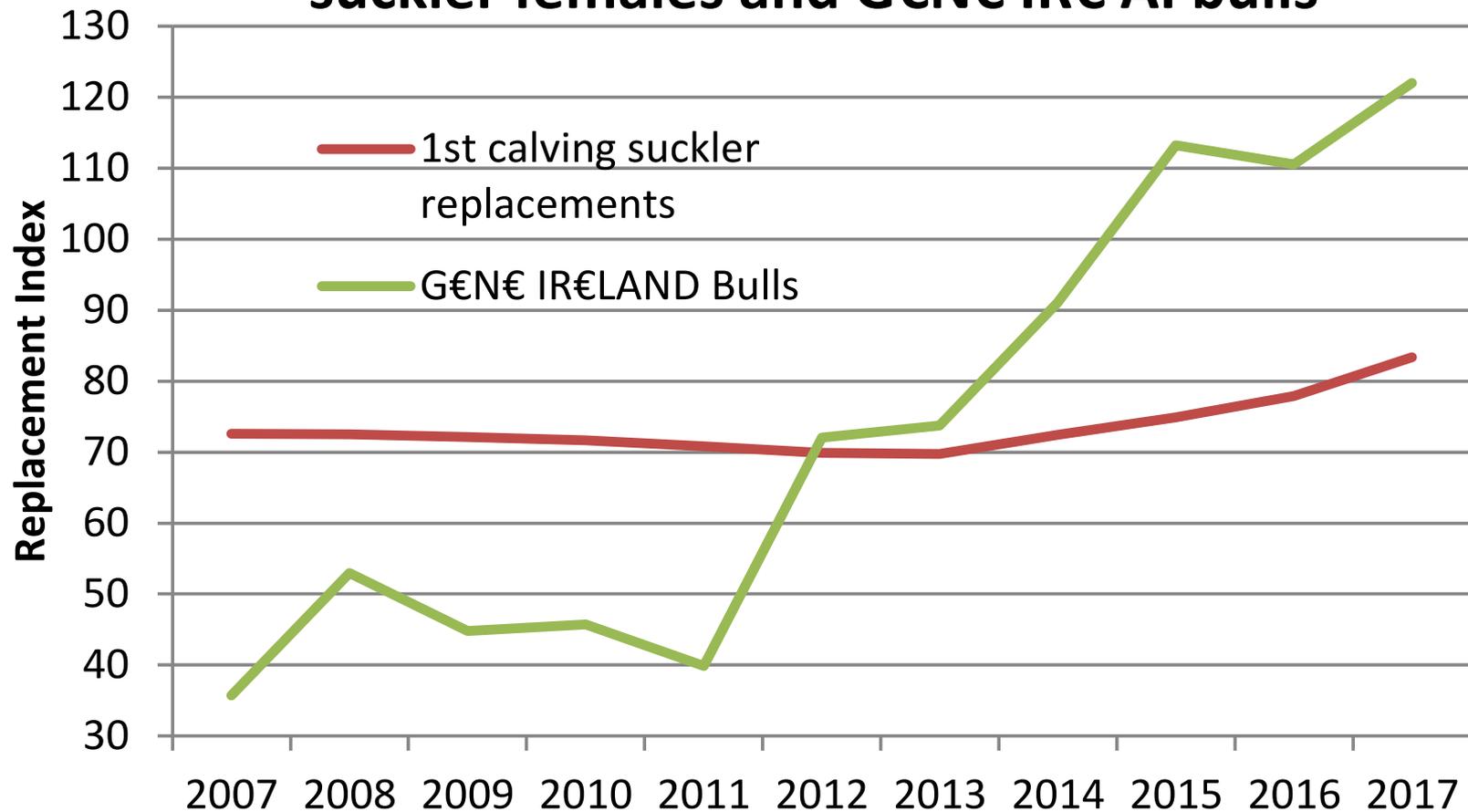
Only ~ 10% of AI Users have ever ordered GI straws

2014 GI Bulls – then & now

| | Avg Repl Star Across | Avg Repl Rel % | Avg CD % | Avg CD Rel % | Avg Milk Kgs | Avg Milk Rel % |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2014 Eval | 4.1 | 23.1 | 5.4 | 28.5 | 3.6 | 22 |
| 2017 Eval | 4.5 | 59 | 6.9 | 88.5 | 3.7 | 46 |

Progress has started – and will

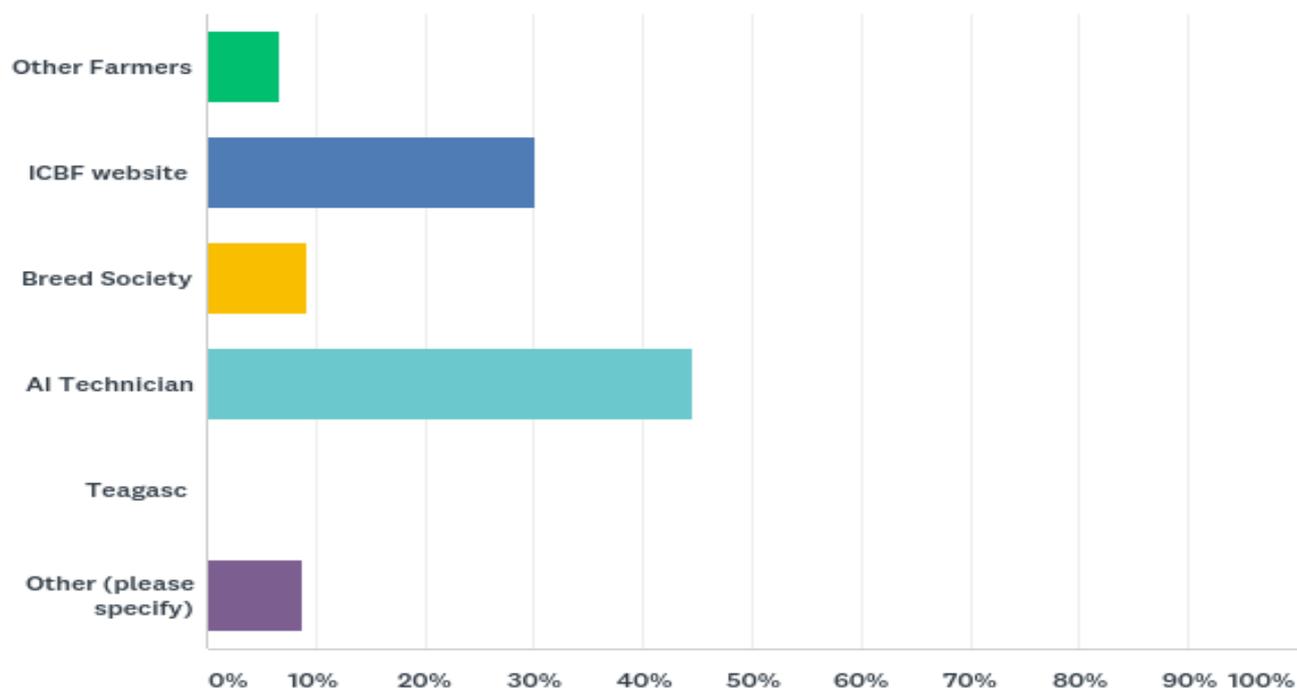
Trends in Replacement Index for 1st calving suckler females and GENE IRELAND AI bulls



Survey Results

662 AI Users that never Ordered Gene Ireland Straws

When deciding which AI bull to use, where do you go for advice





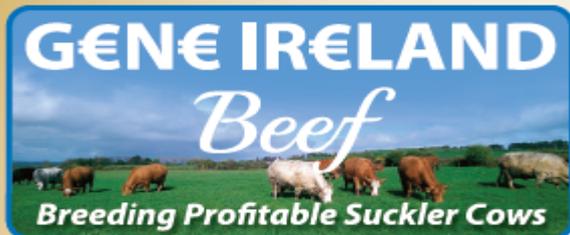
The Story of ZAG



- Identified via Gene Ireland & purchased by NCBC in 2014
- Current Repl Index of €173 @ 71% rel
- Initial CD = 4.9% @ 33% rel
- Current CD = 4.5% @ 99% rel (+20k Calving Records)

The final piece of the jigsaw will be his daughters performance





Delivered direct
to you or your
AI Technician

All straws
€5 each
*technician charges may apply

To Order Call

NEW **023 882 0452**

Gene Ireland Bulls for Autumn 2017

| Code | Breed | Name | Replacement € | Across Breed Stars | Calving Difficulty | Nominated By |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| AU4214 | Aubrac | Johnstown Keith | 169 | ★★★★★ | 1% | Gene Ireland |
| SI4250 | Simmental | Lis na Ri Gucci | 160 | ★★★★★ | 5.9% | NCBC |
| SA2366 | Salers | Carrentubber Pinocchio | 153 | ★★★★★ | 2.8% | Gene Ireland |
| SI4322 | Simmental | Kickhams Handsome | 145 | ★★★★★ | 6.9% | NCBC |
| LM4351 | Limousin | Grenache | 125 | ★★★★★ | 3.6% | NCBC |
| AA4089 | Angus | Intelagri Matteo ET | 109 | ★★★★★ | 2.4% | NCBC |
| SH4209 | Shorthorn | Stoneyroyd Halcyon Matrix P | 104 | ★★★★★ | 3% | NCBC |
| CH4218 | Charolais | Woodhead Meldrew | 99 | ★★★★★ | 5.6% | Gene Ireland |
| BA2357 | Blonde | Terelton Isaac | 99 | ★★★★★ | 4.8% | Gene Ireland |
| PT4215 | Parthenaise | Leacan King | 95 | ★★★★ | 6.5% | Gene Ireland |
| CH4213 | Charolais | Blanchefield Lester | 94 | ★★★★ | 9.9% | Gene Ireland |
| CH4251 | Charolais | Goldstar Ludwig | 89 | ★★★★ | 6.2% | NCBC |
| CH4320 | Charolais | Liseron | 86 | ★★★★ | 4.3% | NCBC |
| CH4252 | Charolais | Cavelands Levi | 85 | ★★★★ | 7.1% | NCBC |
| LJE | Blonde | Lislea Hermes | 82 | ★★★★ | 5% | Gene Ireland |
| HE4292 | Hereford | Allowdale Rory 594 | 79 | ★★★★ | 2.2% | NCBC |

➤ 16 Bulls

➤ 9 from
NCBC

➤ 9 Breeds

➤ Avg Repl
Index =
€111

**Every Bull Starts
Out as a Test Bull**

Whole Herd Performance Recording

Why record more data on pedigree animals?



Pedigree Cows

**Need to know
what's happening
here!!**



Pedigree Bulls



To improve this



**Commercial
Suckler Cows**

Whole Herd Performance Recording

Animals

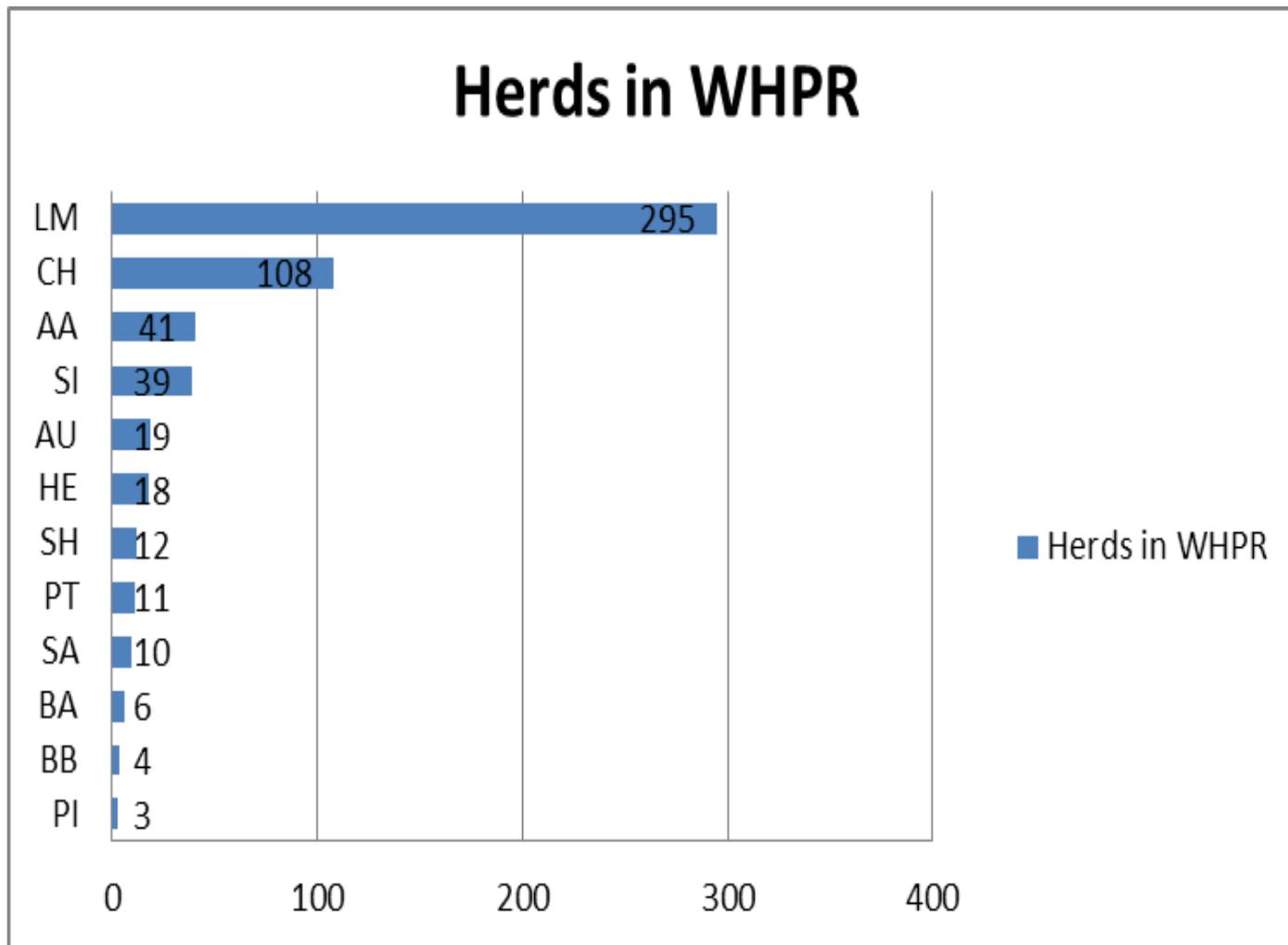
- All pedigree animals must be presented.
Different information will be recorded, depending on the animal's age.

| Animal Type | Action |
|------------------------|--|
| Under 150 days old | Weighed |
| 150 – 700 days old | Scored & Weighed |
| Cow with calf suckling | Scored & Weighed (If Cow was scored & weighed previously she is just weighed this time) |
| Cow with no calf | Checked (no cost/cow) 1. Whether in milk or not 2. Evidence of C-Section |

Cost

| Cost | |
|---------|--|
| Callout | €45 (Excl. VAT) €51.08 (Incl. VAT) |
| Animal | €5 (Excl. VAT) (€5.68 Incl. VAT) <i>up to 31st Dec. 2017</i> €6 (Excl. VAT) (€6.81 Incl. VAT) <i>from 1st Jan. 2018</i> |

Herds Participating



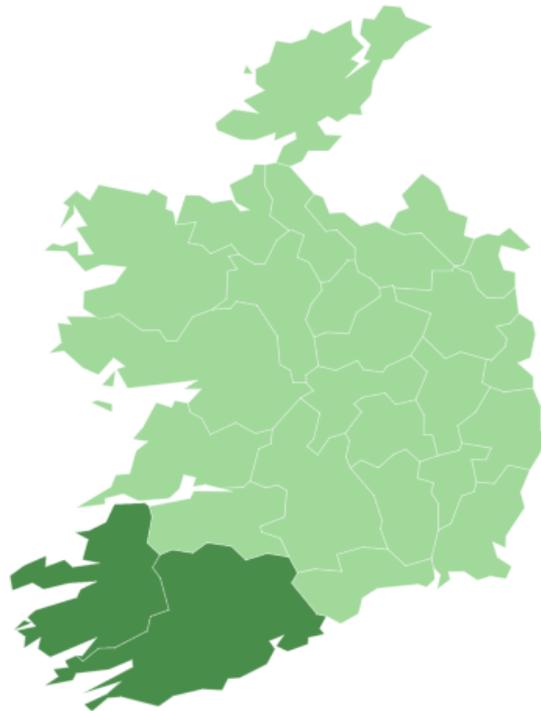
Benefits

Bull Finder

[Click here](#) or scroll down to see your search results

Region

Click on counties to limit search to those counties



Breed

Click on bars to limit search to those breeds

- Limousin
- Charolais
- Aberdeen Angus
- Simmental
- Hereford
- Aubrac
- Salers
- Blonde d'Aquitaine
- Belgian Blue
- Piedmontese
- Parthenaise
- Shorthorn

Search by Tag Number

Animal ID

Replacement Index

(Across Breed)



To

5

From

1

Terminal Index

(Across Breed)



To

5

From

1



Attention Pedigree Beef Breeders

Get your bull into the "Stock Bull Finder" by booking your "Whole Herd"

Performance Recording visit with ICBF today!

Phone 023-8820452 or Email whpr@icbf.com.

For a Bull to be displayed below it must be in a 'Herdplus' herd that has had its ICBF WHPR visit in the last 12 months.

The Bull must be 10 months – 3 years old & have been at least weighed by ICBF.

8 selected out of 1,593 records

Showing 8 records sorted by Replacement Index. [Click to download Excel file.](#)

Click on "DOB", "Stars Across", or "Genomic Eval." to sort table by these columns.

Your search narrowed to Charolais Bulls.

Benefits

Catalogue Stamp



| Birth Weight | Age (Days) | ICBF Weight | Growth (Kg/Day) |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 34 kgs | 210 | 194 kgs | 0.9 |
| Actual Birth Weight used. | | | |

| Birth Weight | Age (Days) | ICBF Weight | Growth (Kg/Day) |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 45 kgs* | 180 | 205 kgs | 1.1* |
| *Birthweight is estimated. | | | |

Summary.

- Gene Ireland is delivering on its core objectives of
 - Increasing the profitability of the National suckler herd
 - Driving genetic gain
 - WHPR will help to identify the next ZAG
- Need to start increasing use of Gene Ireland bulls by commercial beef farmers => increased genetic gain.

AI Technicians have a key role to play



Our Farmer & Government Representation



Our AI & Milk Recording Organisations



Our Herdbooks

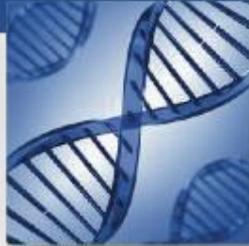


Acknowledging Our Members

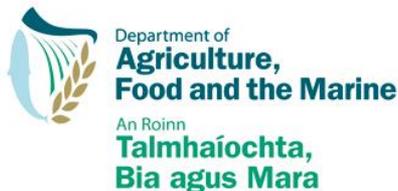


IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

Tully Performance Test.



Tully Beef Performance Test Station, 24-25th Oct 2017.



GENE IRELAND progeny test program

- **Background:** Progeny testing allows for increased accuracy in genetic evaluations.
- **Aim:** Collect information on commercial progeny from AI sires.
- Selection Process:
 - ICBF Database: GENE IRELAND AI sires (15-20 progeny), Sire & MGS recorded, age & gender (bulls & steers)
 - On-Farm: Parentage verification, weight & health.
- 1508 animals (1168 bulls and 340 steers) slaughtered to date.
- Aim is to slaughter 500 progeny per annum.



Measurements obtained

- Acclimatisation period: (30 days).
 - Vaccination IBR, BVD, RSV, PI3, Blackleg & other clostridia diseases.
- Diet
 - Bulls (ad-lib concentrates); Steers (10 kg concentrates & 3 kg hay fresh-weight)
- Performance test measures (90 day testing period).
 - Average daily gain (g/day), Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG), Linear Scores, Scanned muscle and fat depth and intramuscular fat (mm) & Scrotal circumference (cm).
- Health & disease traits.
 - Recording lameness, genetic defects, pneumonia and other illnesses.
- Genomics.
 - Genotyped using customised chip.
- Age at slaughter
 - Bulls (15-18 months)
 - Steers (17-23 months of age)

Measurements obtained at the factory

Meat quality

- Carcass wt, fat and conformation
- Primal yields
 - British spec
 - 19 different cuts
- pH
 - Hourly and ultimate



Measurements obtained cont'd

Meat eating quality

- Colour of loin
- Visual marbling of the loin
- Composition analysis
 - Intramuscular fat %, protein % & moisture %
- Cook loss and shear force
- Sensory analysis



Summary Performance*

| Performance | Young Bulls | Steers |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Number | 1021 | 350 |
| ADG on test (kg/day) | 2.02 | 1.30 |
| Final Live-weight (kg) | 677 | 660 |
| Carcass weight (kg) | 399.4 | 370.0 |
| Carcass grade & fat score | U+ 2+ | R+ 3= |
| Kill-out % | 58.9% | 56.0% |
| DMI (kg/day) | 12.7 | 12.5 |
| Total meat (%) | 317.1 (79.4%) | 284.9 (77%) |
| HVC kg (Strip-loin, fillet, Cube Roll & % of total meat) | 43.1 (13.6%) | 39.7 (13.9%) |
| Ave Tenderness | 6.06 | 6.85 |
| Ave Juiciness | 6.10 | 6.85 |
| Ave Flavour | 5.95 | 5.95 |

* Data from all animal at Tully is posted on the ICBF website.

Comparison of Young Bulls*

| Performance | 1 Star | 3 Star | 5 star |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ADG on test (kg/day) | 2.01 | 2.03 | 2.01 |
| Final Live-weight (kg) | 678 | 674 | 677 |
| Age Slaughter (Days) | 494 | 484 | 479 |
| Carcass weight (kg) | 394 | 398 | 408 |
| Carcass grade & fat score | U+ 2+ | U+ 3= | U=3= |
| Kill-out % | 58.1% | 59.0% | 60.2% |
| DMI (kg/day) | 12.73 | 12.69 | 12.35 |
| Total meat (%) | 314.1 | 314.7 | 323.6 |
| HVC kg (Strip-loin, fillet, Cube Roll) | 42.9 (13.6%) | 43.0 (13.7%) | 44.1 (13.6%) |
| Ave Tenderness | 5.87 | 6.15 | 6.24 |
| Ave Juiciness | 5.91 | 6.20 | 6.28 |
| Ave Flavour | 5.74 | 6.07 | 6.08 |

* Based on Terminal Index of the animal as a weanlings.

Bull 1



Bull 2



Feed Intake Comparison.

| Tag | Sire | Dam breed | Current weight kg | DMI | ADG | Feed Eff |
|---------------|------|-----------|-------------------|------|------|----------|
| Bull 1 (2249) | YHB | AA*HF | 676 kg | 12.9 | 1.68 | 7.68 |
| Bull 2 (1139) | AHZ | LM*BB | 664 kg | 9.7 | 2.05 | 4.52 |

Difference in feed cost over 100 days = €85.

| Sire Data.. | YHB | AHZ |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Replacement Index | €56 | €56 |
| Terminal Index | €104 | €132 |
| Feed Intake € (rel) | €14 (72% rel) | € 37 (73% rel) |
| Feed intake (wb stars) | 1 star | 5 stars |



Slaughter data.

| Tag | Sire | Dam breed | Carcass weight (kg) | KO % | Carcass grades | Animal Term index |
|---------------|------|-----------|---------------------|------|----------------|-------------------|
| Bull 1 (2249) | YHB | AA*HF | 380 | 56.2 | U+ 4= | €77.97 |
| Bull 2 (1139) | AHZ | LM*BB | 410 | 61.7 | E= 3- | €135.94 |





Our Farmer & Government Representation



Our AI & Milk Recording Organisations



Our Herdbooks



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