IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

# *Sire Advice - Simplifying breeding decisions for Farmers.*

Open Dairy Farmer Meetings

January 2007.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

# Why Sire Advice Tool?

- Farmers spend ~ €1000/year on AI.
- Sire Advice Tool is aimed at maximising this return on investment by ensuring that;
  - Farmers select bulls that are consistent with their breeding goal.
  - Inbreeding is avoided.
  - Lethal gene combinations are avoided.
  - Those assisting in AI (farm staff, AI technicians) are made aware of the bull choices via charts/AI Technician Handhelds.

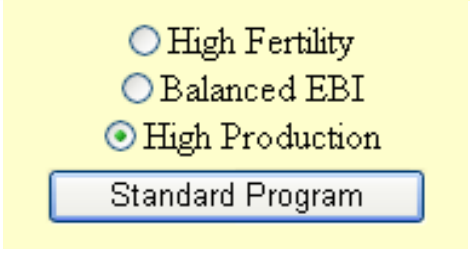
# Sire Advice Development

- ICBF have undertaken development work in consultation with a working group including;
  - Farmers
  - AI Organisations
  - IHFA
- Sire Advice can be run;
  - For all AI Bulls
  - For all Dairy Breeds
  - By the farmer him/herself
  - Through and with the assistance of his/her breeding advisor (Herdbook, AI org & Teagasc).

# Standard Program – Goal

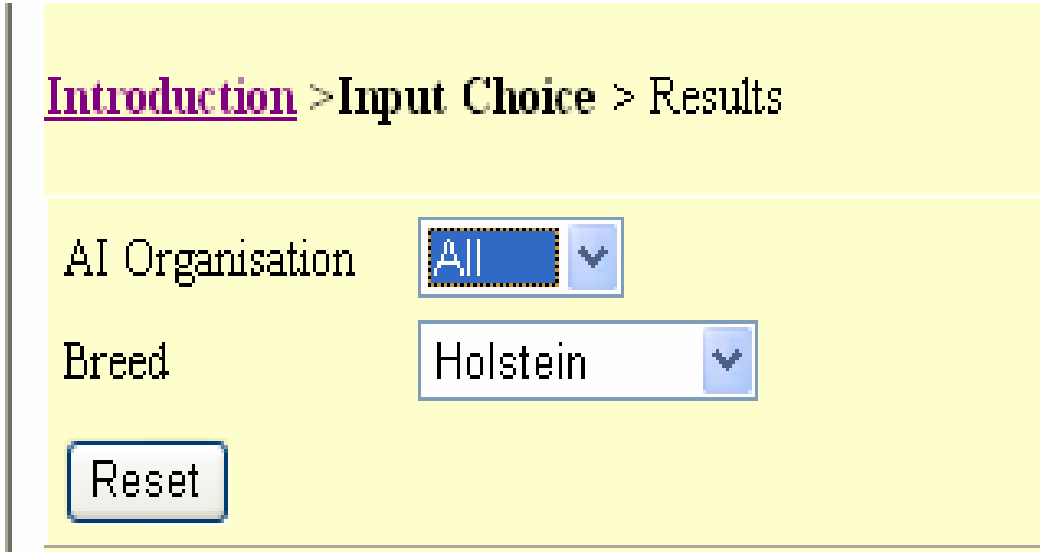
- Decide what your breeding goals are – where are you versus Top 15% of EBI herds

| | Your Herd | Bottom / Mean / Top | Top 15% |
|---|---|---|---|
| Overall EBI | € 43.70 | | € 51.39 |
| Milk Sub Index | € 12.70 | | € 26.79 |
| Fertility Sub Index | € 30.60 | | € 33.55 |
| Calving Sub Index | € 7.70 | | € 11.05 |
| Beef Sub Index | € -6.80 | | € -5.84 |
| Health Sub Index | € 0.30 | | € .21 |



# Standard Program - Details

- Choose your breed & AI organisation.



# Standard Program - Results

- The program allocates 6 bulls and matches them to cows; avoids inbreeding, lethal gene combinations and ensures easiest calving bull to heifers.
- A summary of the impact that these bulls will have on the herd EBI is also given

Introduction > Input Choice > **Results**

The list of bulls chosen for your herd was

- RUU
- BAV
- LLO
- HFL
- NDI
- MHN

**EBI Summary**

| | This Year | Next Year |
|---|---|---|
| Cows | €44.2 | €45 |
| Heifers | €48 | €63 |
| Calves | €63 | €50 |

Download File(Excel)

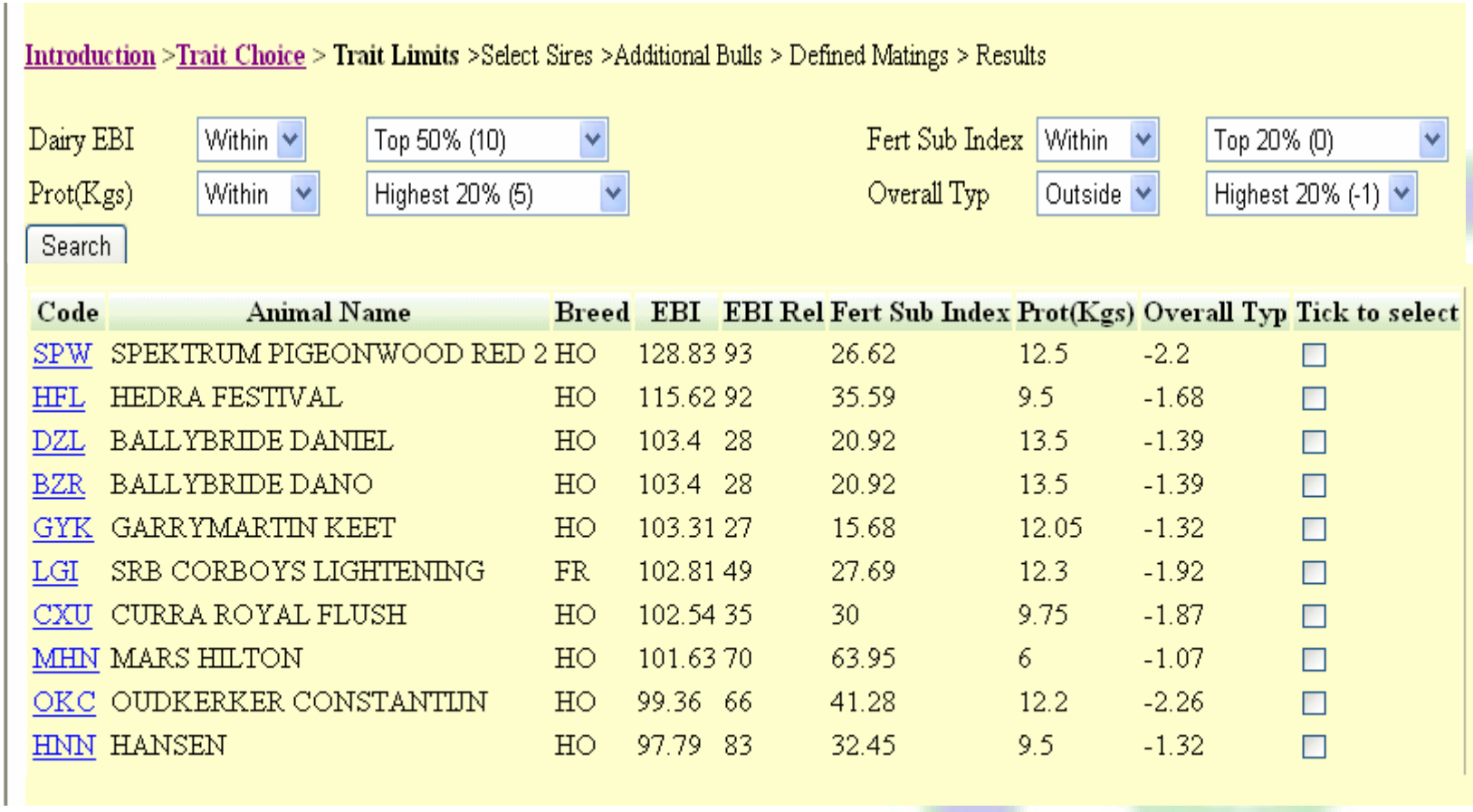
| Cow FB | Cow Tag | Bull 1 | Bull 2 | Bull 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | WOA295651 | NDI | RUU | BAV |
| 53 | WOA296413 | RUU | NDI | BAV |

# Advanced Program – Criteria

- Select the bulls yourself, using detailed criteria.

# Advanced Program - Bulls

- Use the criteria to select a panel of bulls.



Introduction >Trait Choice > **Trait Limits** >Select Sires >Additional Bulls > Defined Matings > Results

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dairy EBI | Within | Top 50% (10) | Fert Sub Index | Within | Top 20% (0) |
| Prot(Kgs) | Within | Highest 20% (5) | Overall Typ | Outside | Highest 20% (-1) |

Search

| Code | Animal Name | Breed | EBI | EBI Rel | Fert Sub Index | Prot(Kgs) | Overall Typ | Tick to select |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SPW | SPEKTRUM PIGEONWOOD RED 2 | HO | 128.83 | 93 | 26.62 | 12.5 | -2.2 | ☐ |
| HFL | HEDRA FESTIVAL | HO | 115.62 | 92 | 35.59 | 9.5 | -1.68 | ☐ |
| DZL | BALLYBRIDE DANIEL | HO | 103.4 | 28 | 20.92 | 13.5 | -1.39 | ☐ |
| BZR | BALLYBRIDE DANO | HO | 103.4 | 28 | 20.92 | 13.5 | -1.39 | ☐ |
| GYK | GARRYMARTIN KEET | HO | 103.31 | 27 | 15.68 | 12.05 | -1.32 | ☐ |
| LGI | SRB CORBOYS LIGHTENING | FR | 102.81 | 49 | 27.69 | 12.3 | -1.92 | ☐ |
| CXU | CURRA ROYAL FLUSH | HO | 102.54 | 35 | 30 | 9.75 | -1.87 | ☐ |
| MHN | MARS HILTON | HO | 101.63 | 70 | 63.95 | 6 | -1.07 | ☐ |
| OKC | OUDKERKER CONSTANTIJN | HO | 99.36 | 66 | 41.28 | 12.2 | -2.26 | ☐ |
| HNN | HANSEN | HO | 97.79 | 83 | 32.45 | 9.5 | -1.32 | ☐ |

# Advanced Program – Features (i)

- Select the criteria to match the bulls to cows.
- Criteria will include;
  - Balance EBI.
  - Maximise fertility.
  - Maximise production.
  - Balance production.
  - Maximise overall type.
- Allocation of bulls to cows will be possible on sub-indexes and on individual traits.
- Defined matings allowed.
- Easy calving bulls selected for heifers.

# Advanced Program – Features (ii)

- Output will be displayed:
  - Report from Sire Advice
  - Breeding Charts
  - AI Technician Handhelds
- Available Jan 31st.
- Paper based option for those without computers

# Summary

- Important new tool for farmers this Spring.
- Simple & advanced options.
- Linked to AI handhelds & breeding charts.
- Start using as soon as possible.