Sire Advice Help Document

Sire Advice is a tool to help maximise the genetic potential of the future progeny in the herd.

Benefits of Running Sire Advice

➢ When running the Sire Advice application, it is recommended to **select a Bull Team** with reliability above 90%. Note the table on the landing page indicating the recommended minimum number of bulls in relation to your herd size (including heifers).

➢ Bulls are matched to cows to **improve EBI, Milk and Fertility sub-index**, **Milk kgs and Conformation.**

➢ All Sire Advice selections can be transferred to AI technician handhelds & Herd Plus Breeding Charts.

Herd Size (Incl. Heifers)	Recommended minimum number of Bulls
0-50	7
50-100	7
100-150	8
150-200	10
200-250	11
250-300	12
300-350	13
350-400	14

There are two options for running Sire Advice;
1. Sire Advice Plus
2. Manually Enter Bulls

Sire advice Plus;
➢ Select females for crossbreeding, selective/contract mating, beef mating and culling.
➢ Filters to refine bull selection.
➢ Crossbreeding option maximises heterosis.
➢ Allocate straws on a number or percentage usage.
➢ Inbreeding check completed as standard.

SIRE ADVICE PLUS

START

Find the most suitable **AI bulls** for your herd with an easy to use **filtering system**.

Assign cows for **Culling, Contract or Beef mating**. A **crossbreeding option** is also available which maximise **heterosis**.

Select **Bull Team** packs available from AI companies.

Manually Enter Bulls;
The user can skip to this point which is the quickest way to run sire advice. If the user has already decided the bulls they wish to use this is the best option;

➢ Directly enter preferred bulls for your herd.
➢ Select Bull Teams currently available from AI companies.
➢ Inbreeding check completed as standard.
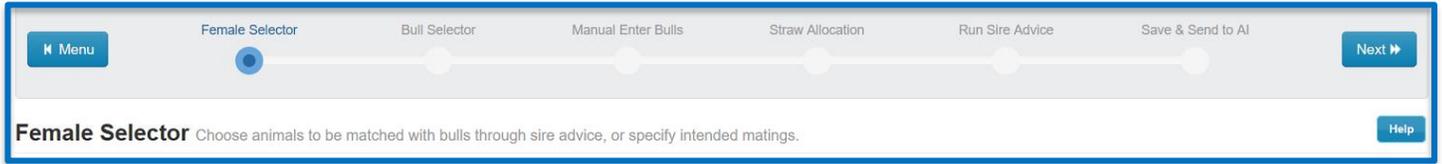
SIRE ADVICE
Manually Enter Bulls

START

Directly enter AI bulls which you have already selected for your herd.

OR

Select **Bull Team** packs available from AI companies.

Female Selector

Female Selector Choose animals to be matched with bulls through sire advice, or specify intended matings.

Features on this page include;

- ➤ All females will be pre-selected as **default** unless changed. A tick will appear to confirm your female selection in the relevant column.
- ➤ Select females to be **culled** and not to be bred. Cows that have been previously marked for culling in Herd Plus > Record Events > Mark for Culling, will show up as such on sire advice.
- ➤ Select females to be mated to a **beef** sire.
- ➤ Select females you wish to be mated for **contract mating/selective mating**.
- ➤ Select females you wish to be **crossbred** (maximises **heterosis**).
- ➤ As you make your female selections, a count updates with the number of females in each category.
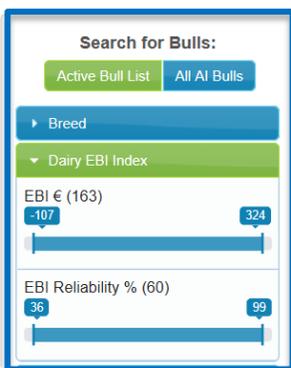

Female Selections on Screen: Default: 227 | Culling: 6 | Beef Mating: 0 | Selective Mating: 0 | Cross-breed: 0

Bull Selector
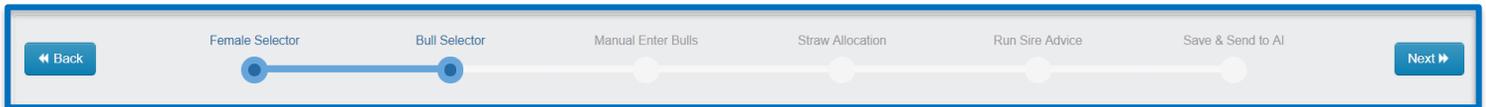
Bull Selector Filter preferred bulls for herd

- ➤ Select bulls from either the **Current Active Bull list** or all AI bulls. Note the list will default to the active bull list unless all AI bulls are selected on screen.
- ➤ As you use the filters to refine your selection, the bulls on the screen will change.
- ➤ Click on 'Select Bull' to add the Bull to the Bull Team

- ➤ Note the figures listed in brackets are your herds average EBI's as per your recent EBI report. This is to guide you in sire selection.

| View Bull Team 6 | Bull Team Reliability: 93% |

The **Bull Team Reliability** updates as the user adds bulls into the team. It is recommended to have a bull team reliability of at least 90%. A Bull Team reliability below 90% is displayed in red. This changes to green when it reaches 90% or above. The relatedness of the team is also factored into the reliability calculation. A team of bulls with the same sire will have a lower reliability than a team of bulls with unique sires.

Bull Team Average

EBI €	Rel %	Milk €	Fert €	Fat Kg	Prot Kg	Fat %	Prot %	Calv Diff.
284	93	79	130	11.83	10.67	0.13	0.13	1.95

Bulls In Team

Note: Bulls used only for **Selective Mating** will not appear as part of your Sire Advice Bull Team.

AI Code	Bull Name	Sire	Breed Pack	Calving Diff.	Cow	Heifer	Action
FR4021	(IG) BALLINTESKIN ARNOLD	GZY		2.70	✔		Remove
FR2239	(IG) DIAMOND ANTON	YKG		2.40	✔	✔	Remove
FR2385	(IG) NEXTGEN YKG CANDY 593	YKG		2.00	✔		Remove
FR2298	(IG) OLCASTLETOWN RONALDO	GZY		2.40	✔	✔	Remove
PSQ	PRIESTS SOLARIS-ET	503041		1.20	✔	✔	Remove
SPD	ST PETERS OBSIDIAN	PSQ		1.00	✔	✔	Remove

View Bull Team

Before you proceed to the next step you can review your bull team.
1. Your Bull Team Averages are in the table at the top of this screen
2. This screen can be used to remove a Bull from your Bull team.

Compare Bulls

Select the magnifying glass beside the select bull button, to compare bulls in detail against each other and your herd average figures. A maximum of **4 bulls** can be viewed at one time for comparison. Traits will appear in **green** to indicate if they are above your herd average.

Compare Bulls	Select for Herd
View 2	
🔍	Added
🔍	Select Bull
🔍	Added

Compare Bulls

	MY HERD AVERAGE	CHQ (IG) CACANODE HAROLD	PSQ PRIESTS SOLARIS-ET
		Remove	Remove
Breed		HO	JE
EBI (€)	163	223	234
Rel (%)	60	96	96
Milk (€)	52	88	65
Fertility (€)	71	81	65

Manually Enter Bulls

If 'Manually Enter Bulls' is selected on the home screen it takes you to this point.

This is where users will directly enter bulls. The reliability calculation will function on this screen and users are strongly advised to ensure their bull team is above the recommended 90%.

This screen also gives you the ability to add bull teams currently available from AI companies. **These teams are preloaded by AI companies.**


Manually Enter Bulls Record manually selected bulls - (Optional)

Select AI Company: | AI Company   Bull Teams: Bull Team ⌄   Select Bull Team
PROGRESSIVE GENETICS
DOVEA AI
EUROGENE AI
BOVA
MUNSTER AI

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 en ... tails

When selecting bulls to add to your team, you will be asked to mark them for use on cows or heifers or both. The bulls will be defaulted for use on cows. Where females were selected for crossbreeding at the female selector, the user should ensure to select bulls for crossbreeding.

Bull Team: Ulti Mate Dairy Sires

AI Code	Bull Name	Calving Diff.	Cow	Heifer
WWT	(IG) WATERWHEEL TAURUS	1.90	✔	+
PCZ	(IG) CONNIBAR PRINCE	2.40	✔	+
PBM	(IG) BALLINABORTA PRIMO	2.50	✔	+
LWR	(IG) LONGVIEW RELIABLE	2.50	✔	+
FR4022	(IG) WATERWHEEL DASHER	2.40	✔	+
FR2056	(IG) MODELIGO WHISPER	2.50	✔	+
FR2032	(IG) OAKGLEN HARRY	3.00	✔	+
FR2030	(IG) FIRODA CENTURION 1	2.00	✔	+
CFF	(IG) CREFOGUE DONCASTER	2.50	✔	+

Straw Allocation
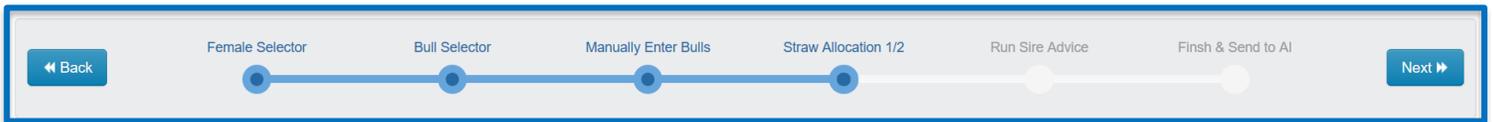
The straw allocation screen allows the user to adjust the usage of bulls across the herd. This can be altered by changing the percentage usage of each bull or the number of straws for each bull.

There is a separate Straw Allocation screen for cows, heifers, crossbreeding cows and crossbreeding heifers depending on the selections made in the Female Selector. The bulls identified for each female category will show on the respective Straw Allocation pages.

Run Sire Advice
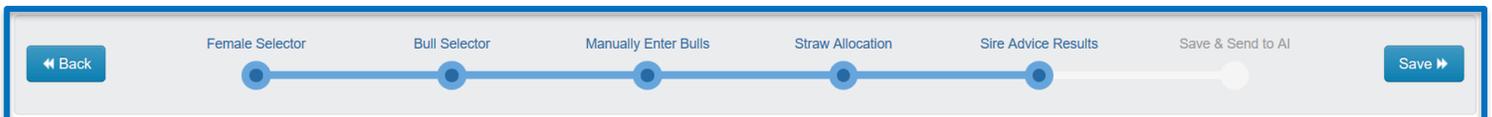
Following on from the straw allocation screen is 'Run Sire Advice/Sire Advice Results'.

This shows the allocation for each of the cows in your herd. Three bulls are proposed to mate to the females. The first bull is the most suitable followed by Bull 2 and then Bull 3. The user can use the second bull if Bull 1 is not available on the day. Cows marked for culling, beef or selective mating are identified in the output. The 'Detailed with Sub Indexes' tab and the 'Detailed with Traits' tab both show the expected progeny performance, as a result of the Bull 1 mating. This screen can be converted to Excel, using the Excel button in the top right corner.

Save and Send to Ai
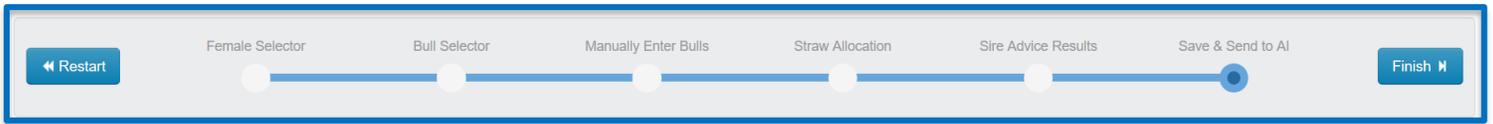
By reaching this screen you have saved your selections. You will have the option to open the allocations in a PDF, which can then be printed. To have these selection on your Herd Plus Breeding Chart and AI technician's handheld please select 'Send Now'. This will send the three proposed bulls for your cows, to your designated AI technicians handheld.

Sire advice can be run as many times as you wish and the most recent selection will appear on handhelds and breeding charts.

Sire Advice Complete Send Sire Advice results to handheld devices   Help

Your sire advice selections have now **Saved** successfully. Please select **Send Now** for your sire advice selections to be sent to AI technician handhelds and Breeding Chart for printing. Select **PDF** to view the PDF version of your selection and results.

PDF   Send Now