

1. Important Dates

- + **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 3rd May 2010 11:00 to 16:00 – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.
- + **ICBF AGM** – 12:30 – 13:30, Thursday 27th May at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise. **Please note revised time.**
- + **ICBF Board** – 10:00 – 12:30, Thursday 27th May at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep Ireland AGM, Sheep Board Meeting & Election of new Flock Book representative to Interim Sheep Board** – PM Thursday 27th May at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **ICAR and Interbull Meetings**, Riga Latvia 31st May to 4th June. Organisations interested in attending can find further information on the conference website - www.icar2010.lv.
- + **Sheep 2010, Lyons Estate, UCD** – Saturday 26th June. This is a major day for the Irish Sheep industry.

2. Sheep Ireland Board Meeting

Outcomes from the Interim Sheep Board meeting on Wednesday 31st March included:

- Adoption of the Audited Accounts for 2009.
- Receipt of the Project Managers progress report (copy in publications section of www.sheep.ie).
- To seek a new Board member to replace Mr John Joyce following his recent resignation. The electoral process used to establish the Interim Board will be followed and the election is scheduled for 27th May.
- To meet with DAFF to discuss technical aspects of the implementation of electronic ID in Ireland.

3. ICBF Board Meeting

The ICBF Board met on Thursday 1st April. Outcomes of the meeting included:

- Two new Board members were welcomed. James Lynch who is replacing Liam Foley as the Milk Recording shareholders appointment. Ger Ryan who is replacing Dermot Cahill as the AI shareholders appointment.
- Adoption of the Audited Accounts for 2009.
- Decision to explore in partnership with service providers any opportunities to improve the value of services provided to their farmer customers.
- Decision to meet with Breed Assn members to address questions raised in correspondence tabled at the meeting.

4. Breeding Scheme Discussions

Discussions on the Irish breeding schemes for dairy and beef have continued this week. There is good agreement that Ireland should be exploring options for reducing the risks associated with diseases and seeking to find the best ways for exploiting genomic technologies. The next phase, refining and evaluation of options will commence shortly.

5. Tully

Performance test:

- The fifth and final live-weight was obtained on all bulls on Tuesday of this week (Table 1). The performance test has now been completed with 85 days of individual feed intake and five live-weights obtained. The overall average daily gain, across all breeds was an exceptional 2.0 kg a day, reflecting the quality of bulls selected and tested in the current intake. Bulls were ultrasonically scanned for muscle and fat depth, last week, along with having scrotal circumference measurements obtained. All up to date feed intake data, scanned measurements and live-weights have been inputted into the ICBF database, and it is hoped to have final performance test figures such as feed efficiency and dry matter intake, early next week.

Table 1. Live-weight and average daily gain (21 day period) of bulls, averaged by breed

Breed	AA (n = 13)	AU (N = 1)	BB (n = 4)	CH (n = 26)	HE (n = 5)	LM (n = 40)	SA (n = 4)	SI (n = 10)	SP (n = 2)
Average Live-weight (Kg)	667	560	644	692	606	640	618	731	659
Average Daily Gain (Kg)	2.13	2.18	2.17	2.14	2.06	2.08	2.55	2.33	2.0

- Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date, along with ultrasonically scanned and scrotal circumference measurements. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.

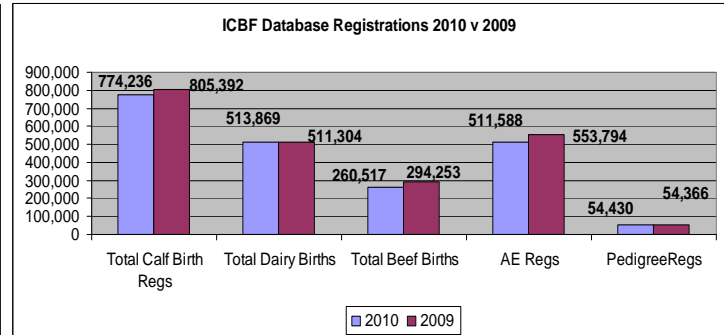
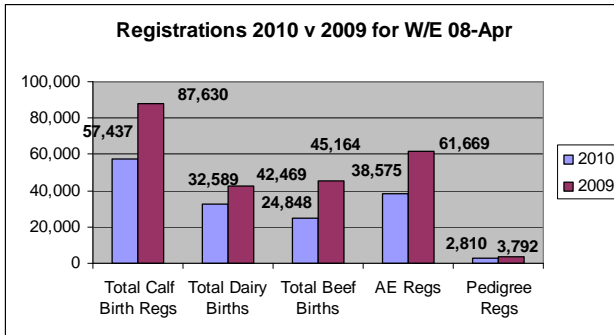
Sale:

- All bulls have been entered for the up-coming sale, which will take place in Tully on Monday, 3rd of May. The catalogue for the sale is being prepared at present and should be available soon on the ICBF website.
- The sale is currently being advertised through various forms of media in Ireland, N. Ireland and UK. More details about the sale can be found by clicking on the Tully page, which is on the ICBF website - www.icbf.com.
- Basil Bothwell (Linear scorer) visually assessed all the bulls for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits, as part of the process for selecting the Champion bull from each breed. The visual assessment along with the final performance test and Euro-Star evaluation figures will form the bases for identifying the Champion bull, which will be known before the end of next week. These bulls will be photographed and feature in the Irish Farmers Journal.
- Breeders that own bulls at Tully have been notified of the different procedures that will take place on the day of sale to minimise disease risk to their animals. These include refraining from bringing power-washers and grooming equipment to Tully.
- Bulls are being halter trained at present and are to have their concentrate offering gradually decreased leading up to the sale, to ensure they are acclimatised to their new on-farm environment.
- Preparation of the facilities is on-going.

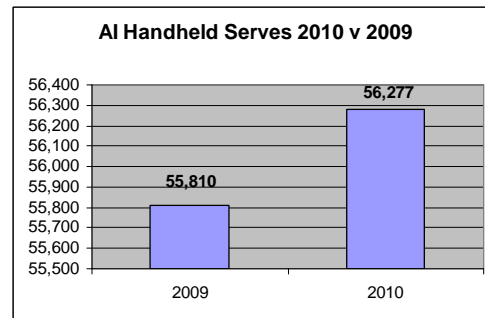
Next intake:

- The final number of bulls entered for the next intake was 190. This was up slightly on the number of bulls entered for the same intake, this time last year.
- Bulls are currently being visually assessed on-farm by linear scorers and once this process has been completed, on-farm health testing will begin, on the 20th of April. Bulls are due to enter pre-entry isolation at Tully on the 22nd of May.

6. Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 619,315 with the number of animals weaned at 542,920.
- ✚ A number of updates to the extracts of Suckler scheme data to DAFF are being worked on.
- ✚ Work is on-going to update the ICBF website to handle the requirements of Animal Health Ireland, beginning with their BVD programme. Testing will be completed next week and it is hoped to launch the developments at the end of next week.
- ✚ Work on a number of issues in relation to the IHFA pedigree certificate is underway.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



7. Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- ✚ A series of test runs for maternal weaning weight were carried out. However further work is necessary over the coming weeks ahead of any recommended evaluation changes.
- ✚ New beef proofs will be released on Monday 12th April at 5pm.

Dairy

- ✚ The genomic evaluations for dairy bulls are nearing completion and will be uploaded to the database over the weekend. The official proofs for all bulls will be released on Monday 12th April at 5pm.
- ✚ The publication rules for GS bulls are that we use domestic information greater than 70% reliability for production, calving and beef, and >50% for fertility and health. The effect of this is that some bulls will have part of their proofs based on daughter information and part on genomic information. Any Interbull information on foreign bulls takes precedence over the genomic information.

8. GENÉIRELAND®

Dairy

- ✚ Dispatch of a limited quantity of the Holstein Friesian straws has commenced. Some of the Friesian straws will be available next week.

9. Sheep Ireland

- ✚ A productive Genetic Evaluations meeting was held in Abbeyleix on Wednesday 31st of March. A copy of each of the two presentations is in the publications section of our website – www.sheep.ie.
- ✚ LambPlus breeders are continuing to enter Lambing and weighing data. Any breeder who has yet to enter data should do so straight away.
- ✚ LambPlus breeders with data entered should contact Donegal Farm Relief Service on 074 91 45386 to organise ultra sound scanning for muscle and fat depth of their lambs between 120 and 140 days old.
- ✚ LambPlus breeders who have not entered data must do so before ultra sound scanning occurs on farm.
- ✚ MALP farmers in the west received their handhelds and training how to use the handhelds this week.
- ✚ Other MALP lambs are being EID tagged and weighed at 40 days.

10. HerdPlus

Beef

- ✚ ICBF supported the Munster Aberdeen Angus 'High Health Status' Bull Sale that was held in Bandon Mart on Wednesday the 7th April.
- ✚ All of the Herds were tested free of Johne's Disease.
- ✚ All of the 23 Bulls were:
 - Tested free of BVD & vaccinated.
 - Tested free of IBR & vaccinated.
 - Vaccinated for Leptospirosis.
- ✚ Euro-Stars were distributed on the day.
- ✚ Although the Bull Trade was down on previous years the prices achieved were still on a par and at times ahead of prices being received for Bulls at other sales.
- ✚ The High Health Status gave Purchasers (Dairy Farmers in particular) great confidence in that they weren't introducing any health problems to their herd by purchasing any of the Bulls at the sale.
- ✚ The Euro-Stars allowed Purchasers to concentrate on the particular Breeding Goal that interested them – again on the day 'Calving Ease' was of most interest to the many dairy farmers at the sale.
- ✚ Many Breeders also appreciated the information given that many of them had invested in Linear Scoring – it was important to them that they could see the results of their efforts through the figures of their Bulls.
- ✚ Examples of some of the High Indexed Bulls from the sale together with the catalogue cover are attached.

11. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 30/03/10 to 09/04/10

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	8	651	81	27.5	4.10	3.28	2.03	462
CAVAN	30	1,125	38	23.7	3.93	3.11	1.67	318
CLARE	29	1,325	46	24.7	3.81	3.18	1.73	396
CORK STH	222	13,432	61	24.8	4.00	3.24	1.80	352
CORK NTH	203	12,526	62	24.9	4.08	3.17	1.81	312
DONEGAL	7	417	60	25.5	4.37	3.23	1.94	570
DUBLIN	3	141	47	26.6	3.98	3.35	1.95	422
GALWAY	13	721	55	28.3	4.07	3.29	2.08	370
KERRY	92	4,647	51	24.4	3.83	3.05	1.68	404
KILDARE	17	1,398	82	27.1	3.90	3.22	1.93	556
KILKENNY	25	1,572	63	21.3	3.80	3.21	1.49	378
LAOIS	21	1,390	66	21.9	4.07	3.24	1.60	406
LEITRIM	8	350	44	23.6	3.96	3.20	1.69	344
LIMERICK	86	4,723	55	26.1	3.91	3.12	1.83	307
LONGFORD	5	176	35	28.7	3.94	3.30	2.08	783
LOUTH	11	1,135	103	28.1	3.95	3.39	2.06	349
MAYO	19	943	50	22.6	3.87	3.29	1.62	419
MEATH	64	4,966	78	24.1	4.11	3.26	1.78	344
MONAGHAN	27	979	36	27.0	3.83	3.19	1.90	409
OFFALY	11	882	80	24.0	4.23	3.10	1.76	256
ROSCOMMON	3	136	45	20.2	4.13	3.33	1.51	421
SLIGO	3	128	43	21.3	4.41	3.43	1.67	556
TIPPERARY NTH	23	1,575	68	23.1	3.96	3.12	1.64	308
TIPPERARY STH	43	2,383	55	21.3	4.06	3.12	1.53	322
WATERFORD	39	3,115	80	23.2	5.19	3.12	1.93	310
WESTMEATH	18	1,046	58	25.7	4.35	3.26	1.96	386
WEXFORD	36	2,757	77	21.8	3.67	3.34	1.53	411
WICKLOW E	15	1,152	77	24.9	3.81	3.29	1.77	291
WICKLOW W	12	830	69	24.4	4.28	3.20	1.83	456
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
National	1,093	66,621	61	24.5	4.06	3.23	1.79	401

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 30/03/10 to 09/04/10

Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	737	43,726	59	24.1	4.11	3.14	1.74	339
Leinster	246	18,096	74	25.1	4.00	3.26	1.82	423
Connacht	46	2,278	50	23.2	4.09	3.31	1.72	422
Ulster	64	2,521	39	25.4	4.04	3.18	1.83	432

Brian Wickham (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland , Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email bwickham@icbf.com.

Registered Office: Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd trading as "ICBF", Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 4914R, Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1978. Web: www.icbf.com.

Registered Office: Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: www.sheep.ie.

Munster Aberdeen Angus Club



€uro-Star Catalogue



23 Aberdeen Angus Bulls

(Registered with Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association)

High Health Aberdeen Angus Bull Sale

- Herds tested free of Johne's disease
- Bulls: Tested free of BVD & Vaccinated
Tested free of IBR & Vaccinated (Dead marker vaccine)
Vaccinated for Leptospirosis

Wednesday, 7th April, 2010

at

Bandon Mart



HerdPlus[®]
Profit through Science

1850 600 900

VENDORS

Lot**Vendor****3**

Eustace Burke - Ballyguinnane Carrigaline Co Cork

2

Albert De Cogan - Killamuckey Castlemartyr Co Cork

1

John Tait - Westwood Rostellan Midleton Co Cork

ICBF Euro-Stars

Background

The Beef Euro-Star breeding Index for Beef cattle that has been developed by ICBF reflects how much Profit a farmer can expect to realize from making a breeding decision. They are designed to help farmers increase return from cattle breeding and are based on available data on all animals in the the ICBF Cattle Breeding Database.

€uro-Stars - What do they mean?

Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	Measure of the Overall Beef Value of an animal - combines Sub-Indices together.
Weanling Export	Measure of genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce profitable Weanlings</u> .
Beef Carcass	Measure of genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce profitable Carcasses</u> .
Daughter Fertility	Measure of genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce daughters with good fertility</u> .
Daughter Milk	Measure of genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce daughters with good milk production</u> .

€uro-Stars - Where does the information come from?

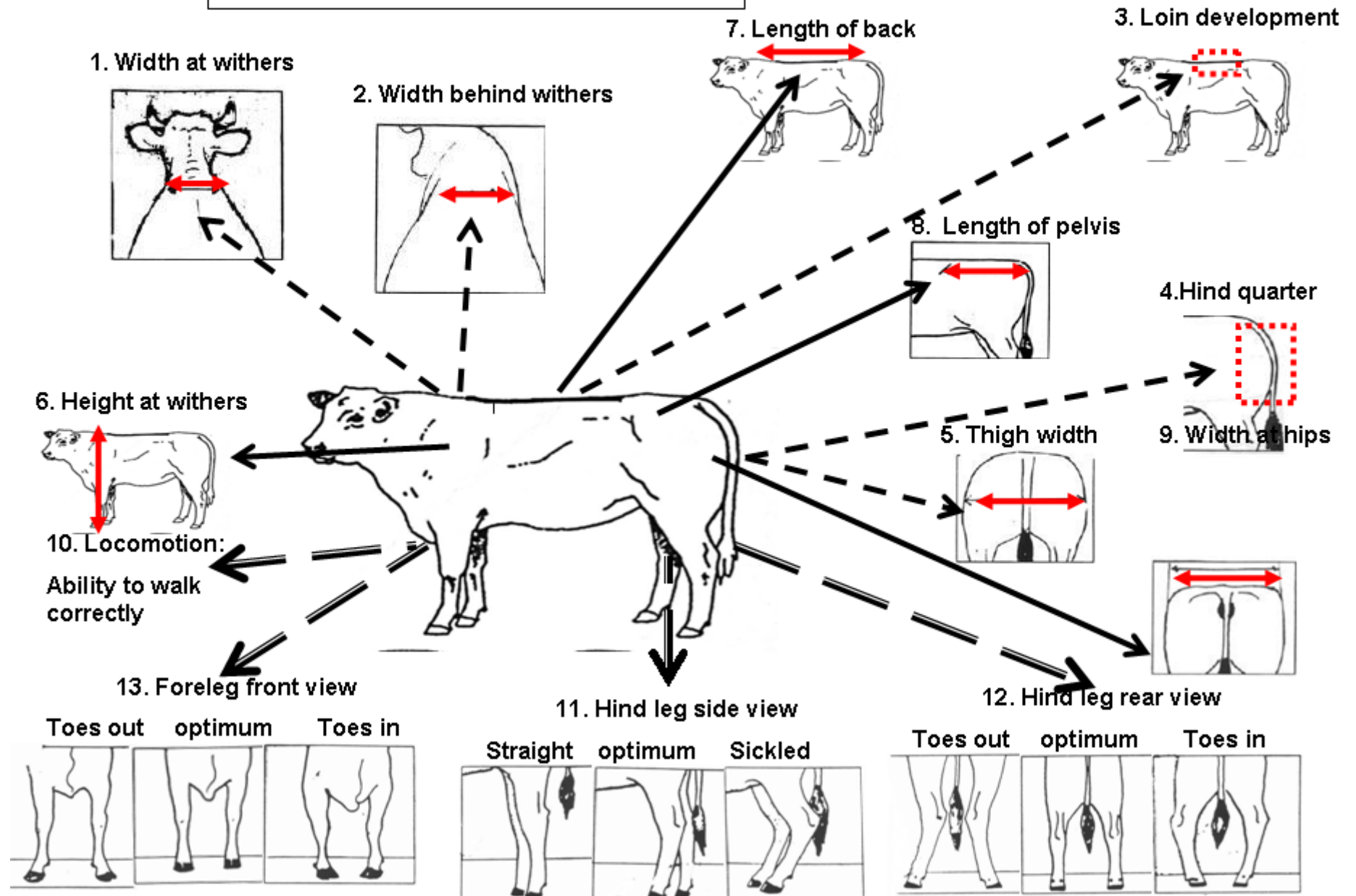
Index	Information Source
Weanling Export	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Individual on-farm & mart weanling weights (150-300 days old).2. Individual weanling price/kg from mart sales.3. Linear scoring information recorded by ICBF trained scorers.4. Weaning weight & live weight information.
Beef Carcass	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Carcass weight, conformation & fat data from Irish factories.2. Feed intake measured at Tully Bull Performance Test Centre.3. Linear scoring information recorded by ICBF trained scorers.4. Weaning weight & live weight information.
Daughter Fertility	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Daughter age at first calving from calf birth records.2. Daughter calving difficulty recorded through Animal Events.3. Daughter calving interval from calf birth records.4. Daughter survival to calve again from calf birth records.
Daughter Milk	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On-farm & mart weaning weights (150-300 days old).
Other Key Traits	Calving Difficulty: recorded at calving time through Animal Events. Gestation: data from females with mating & calving dates recorded through Animal Events. Docity: docility recorded through SCWS by farmer & docility recorded by linear scorer.
Reliability %	This is an indication of how much confidence can be placed in the evaluations.
N/A	€uro-Star Indexes are sometimes not available due to the reliability % for that trait being too low
GROW Bar Graphs	GROW (Genetic Recording of Weanlings) Bar Graphs show how an animal is expected to breed various traits.
BLUP Figures	BLUP composite figures compress the individual scoring traits into Muscle, Skeletal & Functional Composite figures.
€uro-Stars ★★★★★	5 Stars - Top 20% of the Breed. 4 Stars = Between Top 40% and Top 20% of the Breed 3 Stars = Breed Average. 2 Stars = Between Bottom 40% & Bottom 20% of the Breed. 1 Star = Bottom 20% of the Breed.

Herdplus^(R)

Herdplus^(R) is the ICBF Cattle Breeding Information Service for both Dairy and Beef farmers. Herdplus^(R) 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 with the National Average figures - **all for €60/year!**

To find out more about 'Herdplus', call ICBF today on 1850-600-900 or (www.icbf.com).

Muscle = 1 + 2 + 3(x2) + 4 + 5
Skeletal = 6(x2) + 7 + 8 + 9
Functional = 10 + 11 + 12 + 13



Lot 1 Westellen Dougie H663 **Breed: Angus**
IE151801060663 **DOB: 19-Nov-2008** **Male**

Owner: John Tait - Westwood Rostellan Midleton Co Cork

Sire: Belvin Patriarch (VPH) SBV = €89 (70%)	Belvin Kingpin 24'00	SBV = €59 (22%)	Connealy Dateline
	Belvin Lady Blossom 22'02	SBV = €62 (18%)	Belvin Georgina 52'95
			O G L Battle Cry 427 128
			Belvin Lady Blossom 47'97
Dam: Liss Dana E680 IE281074240680 SBV = €39 (32%)	Gigginstown Rolls Royce E.T.	SBV = €4 (85%)	Stevenson Royce 741c
			Knights Blackbird 9y
			Jeremy Eric Of Bridgefoot
			Dinkina Of Liss

€uro-Star Indexes

% Rank	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability	Relative Data Reliability Comment
83%	★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€48	33%	High
94%	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€8	39%	High
65%	★★★★	Beef Carcass	-€4	37%	High
53%	★★★	Daughter Fertility	€58	6%	Medium
18%	★	Daughter Milk	€66	8%	Medium

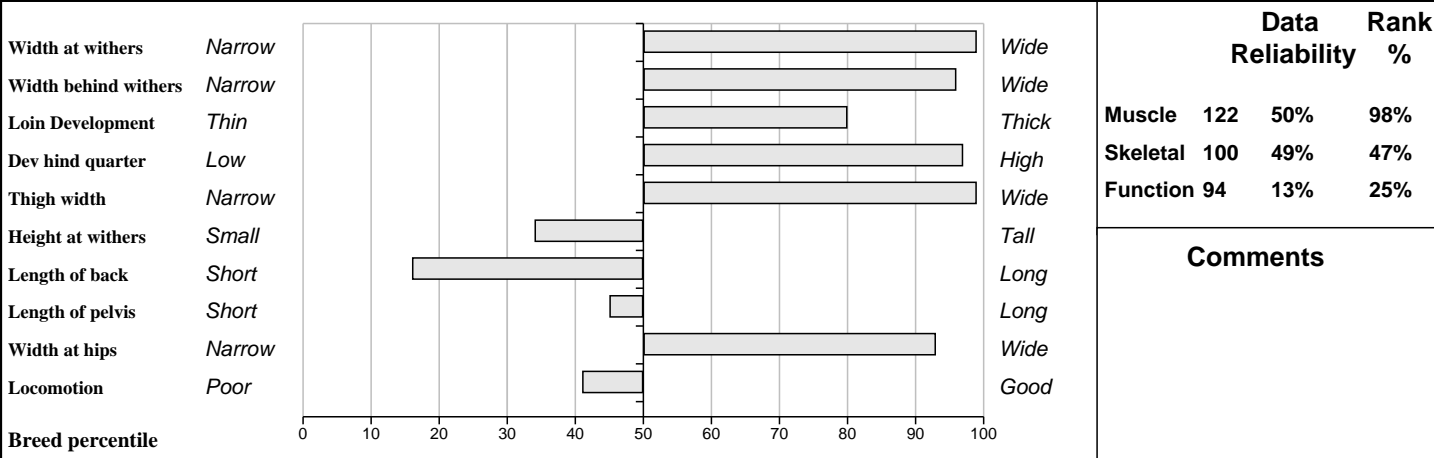
Other Key Traits

87%	★★★★★	Calving Difficulty	1.4%	42%	High
74%	★★★★	Gestation Length		26%	Medium
98%	★★★★★	Docility		39%	Low

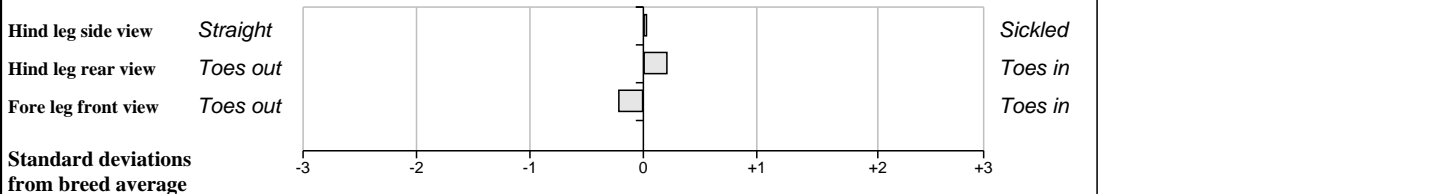
GROW Linear Score Evaluation (Within-Breed Percentiles)

Animal scored. Linear scores and weaning weights in evaluations

BLUP Composites (Within Breed)



Feet and Leg Descriptions



Lot 2 Mogeely Pop J011 **Breed: Angus**

IE151739531011 **DOB: 10-Feb-2009**

Male

Owner: Albert De Cogan - Killamuckey Castlemartyr Co Cork

Sire: Iona Bounder D048 (IE231426810048)	Fullam Mr Zeus SBV = €37 (33%)	Tc Stockman 365
	Z104	Hf Miss Rosebud 15c (Et)
	Knockadrinan Bell	Belvin Flare 19'96 (Imp)
	A190	
Dam: Mogeely Pam C564	Lord Ivor Of Cahirmee SBV = €85 (33%)	Ballinwing Knight (Imp)
IE151739510564 SBV = €85 (17%)	Mogeely Peta SBV = €40 (12%)	Harrison Of Greenhurst

€uro-Star Indexes

% Rank	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability	Relative Data Reliability Comment
99%	★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€86	23%	Medium
99%	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€43	34%	High
99%	★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€25	29%	Medium
N/A	N/A	Daughter Fertility	N/A	0%	Too Low
67%	★★★★	Daughter Milk	€92	3%	Low
Other Key Traits					
98%	★★★★★	Calving Difficulty	0.9%	36%	Medium
N/A	N/A	Gestation Length		4%	Too Low
N/A	N/A	Docility		26%	Too Low

GROW Linear Score Evaluation (Within-Breed Percentiles)

Animal scored. Linear scores and weaning weights in evaluations

BLUP Composites (Within Breed)

Width at withers <i>Narrow</i>		<i>Wide</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Data Reliability</th> <th>Rank %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Muscle 121</td> <td>45%</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skeletal 104</td> <td>44%</td> <td>66%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Function 100</td> <td>8%</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Data Reliability	Rank %	Muscle 121	45%	98%	Skeletal 104	44%	66%	Function 100	8%	49%
		Data Reliability		Rank %											
Muscle 121		45%		98%											
Skeletal 104		44%	66%												
Function 100		8%	49%												
Width behind withers <i>Narrow</i>		<i>Wide</i>													
Loin Development <i>Thin</i>		<i>Thick</i>													
Dev hind quarter <i>Low</i>		<i>High</i>													
Thigh width <i>Narrow</i>		<i>Wide</i>													
Height at withers <i>Small</i>		<i>Tall</i>													
Length of back <i>Short</i>		<i>Long</i>													
Length of pelvis <i>Short</i>	<i>Long</i>														
Width at hips <i>Narrow</i>	<i>Wide</i>														
Locomotion <i>Poor</i>	<i>Good</i>														
Breed percentile	0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100														

Feet and Leg Descriptions

Hind leg side view <i>Straight</i>		<i>Sickled</i>
Hind leg rear view <i>Toes out</i>		<i>Toes in</i>
Fore leg front view <i>Toes out</i>		<i>Toes in</i>
Standard deviations from breed average	-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3	

Lot 3 Clontead Hino **Breed: Angus**
IE141640740056 **DOB: 17-Oct-2008** **Male**

Owner: Eustace Burke - Ballyguinnane Carrigaline Co Cork

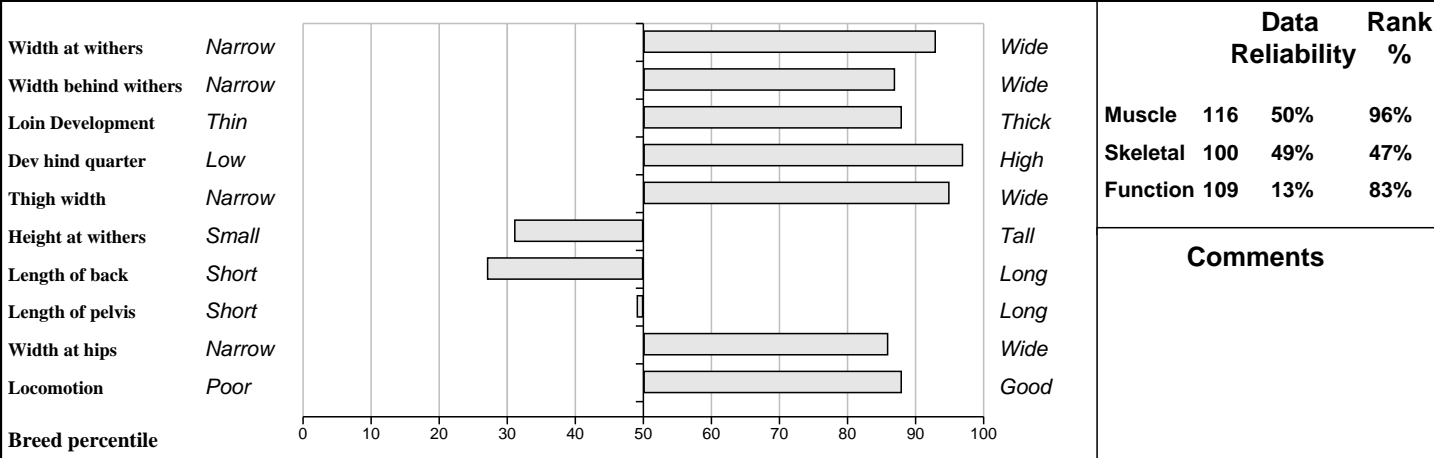
Sire: Netherton Eastern Cruz (S358) SBV = €90 (62%)	Dalrene Cruz 11f SBV = €74 (77%)	Dalrene Cruz 7c
	Netherton Evita R26 SBV = €53 (32%)	Tiptop Of Dalrene 87a
Dam: Springmount Wyona IE201078230126 SBV = €30 (31%)	Rainbow Hills Independence 117 SBV = €24 (92%)	Northern Independence 1s
	Springmount Polly SBV = €32 (26%)	Tiptop Of Rainbow Hills 39p
		Lissard Mark
		Springmount Flora

€uro-Star Indexes

% Rank	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability	Relative Data Reliability Comment
96%	★★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€68	31%	High
87%	★★★★★★	Weanling Export	€2	39%	High
99%	★★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€25	35%	High
37%	★★	Daughter Fertility	€50	6%	Medium
38%	★★	Daughter Milk	€78	17%	High
Other Key Traits					
26%	★★	Calving Difficulty	2.5%	39%	Medium
57%	★★★	Gestation Length		22%	Medium
1%	★	Docility		35%	Low

GROW Linear Score Evaluation (Within-Breed Percentiles)
Animal scored. Linear scores and weaning weights in evaluations

BLUP Composites (Within Breed)



Feet and Leg Descriptions

