



## **UPDATE – for period 16<sup>th</sup> – 22nd June 2007**

### **1 Important Dates**

- ✚ **Tuesday 3rd July, Irish Grasslands Assn.** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. Beef farm walk and conference. Farm walk on property of Robin Talbot.
- ✚ **Thursday 5th July, ICBF Beef Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting, Horse & Jockey.**
- ✚ **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July, ICBF Board Meeting, Comfort Inn Portlaoise.**
- ✚ **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.** Highfield House, Bandon. Database training for Herdbook office staff.
- ✚ **August 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.** Interbull and EAAP Annual Meetings, UCD, Dublin.
- ✚ **September 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.** Ploughing Championships, Tullamore.

### **2 Beef Service Development**

Attached is a copy of the material that will be used at the forthcoming Grasslands Assn beef farm walk on the property of Robin Talbot. This provides a good illustration of the type of information that we expect to have available as part of the new HerdPlus<sup>®</sup> information service for beef herds.

### **3 Genetic Evaluations**

#### **Dairy Genetic evaluations**

- ✚ Staff were involved in the ICBF stand at the Moorepark Open day on Thursday.
- ✚ Transfer of CIS evaluation to new software is ongoing.

#### **Beef Genetic Evaluations**

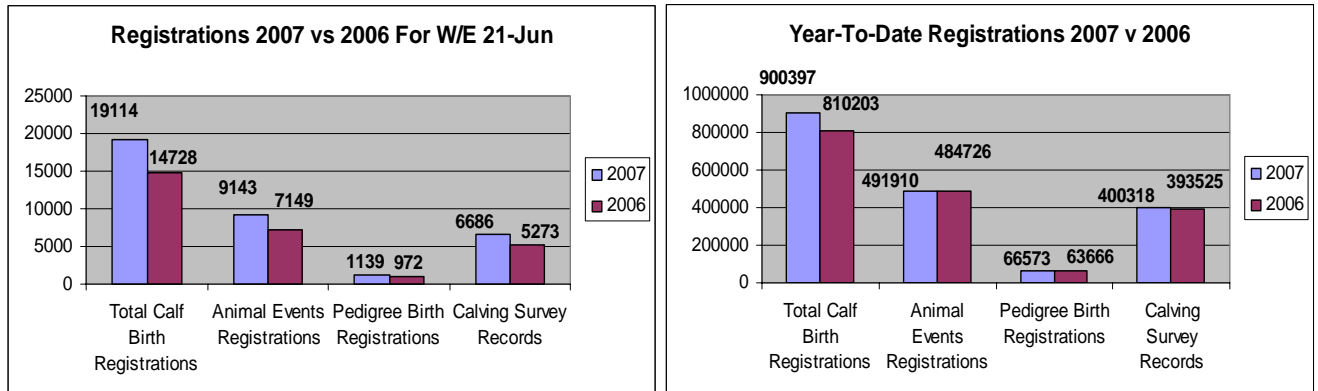
- ✚ Work was carried out on fully utilising all known breed fractions on animals in the pedigree file for the purpose of enhancing the estimation of heterosis and recombination.
- ✚ The outcome of this work will be tested on the evaluations in the coming months, and the results will be relayed to the industry in due course.
- ✚ Mart data continues to be collected and loaded to the database

#### **International Evaluations**

- ✚ Further work on animals with missing international tag numbers (ITT) has been undertaken for the French beef breeds (Charolais, Limousine, Blonde d'Aquitaine, Salers, Aubrac, Parthenaise and Rouge des Pres (Maine-Anjou). We found:
  - 2,359 animals with 'FR' in tag number
  - 4,328 animals with a 10 digits tag number probably French
  - 217 animals with either 'CH' or 'LM' or 'BA' or 'SA' or 'AU' or 'PT' or 'MA' at the start of their tag
  - 2,578 Irish animals with 'IE' at the start of their tag number. These are Irish born animals that need to have an ITT created.
- ✚ All these new ITT will be added to the database. In this process we will identify possible duplicates and check that they can be found on the relevant French database.



## 4 Database Update



- 273,783 inseminations have been recorded on the AI Handhelds so far in 2007, compared with 108,987 in 2006 for the same period.
- A very constructive meeting of the organisations using the AI Handhelds was held this week. The morning session focused on the back-office elements of the process, with the afternoon session focused on the process from the technician's perspective. The outputs are being collated and will form the basis for software enhancements.
- The use of the new Herdbook use interface is increasing and a new version which includes facilities for grading-up of non-pedigree cattle was released this week. We are in the process of adding the final modules to the interface.
- An invitation for additional training was issued to the smaller Herdbooks this week. The training is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> in Bandon.
- Good progress is being made with the Herdbook query function for public usage on Herdbook websites. We expect to issue an initial version to Herdbooks by the end of next week.
- The procurement process for new hardware (i.e. the main database server) is on-going. The existing server is coming out of warranty and will be replaced over the coming months.

## 5 Tully

- A meeting took place on the 20-6-07 to discuss the health testing procedures for bulls entering Tully. A final report is under preparation.
- A review of bio security at Tully is underway and a report will follow within the next 2 weeks.
- Maintenance of safety barriers and doors is underway.

## 6 HerdPlus

- HerdPlus had a stand at the Moorepark Open day on Thursday. It proved very worthwhile, the farmers attending were the more "focussed" dairy farmers – we had laptops connected to the website so farmers could pull up their herd details "live" with HerdPlus staff in support.
- As you can see from the photos below, the stand was busy with good two way interaction throughout the day. Feedback was very constructive and a lot of good ideas were exchanged.



Kevin Downing brings up a farmer's EBI Profile on line, while Pat Donnellan and Francis Kearney can be seen in the program in the background with other HerdPlus clients.



Rachel Wood looks after a G€Ireland query. Francis Kearney demonstrates the Sire Advice.

## 7 Milk Recording Processing this week

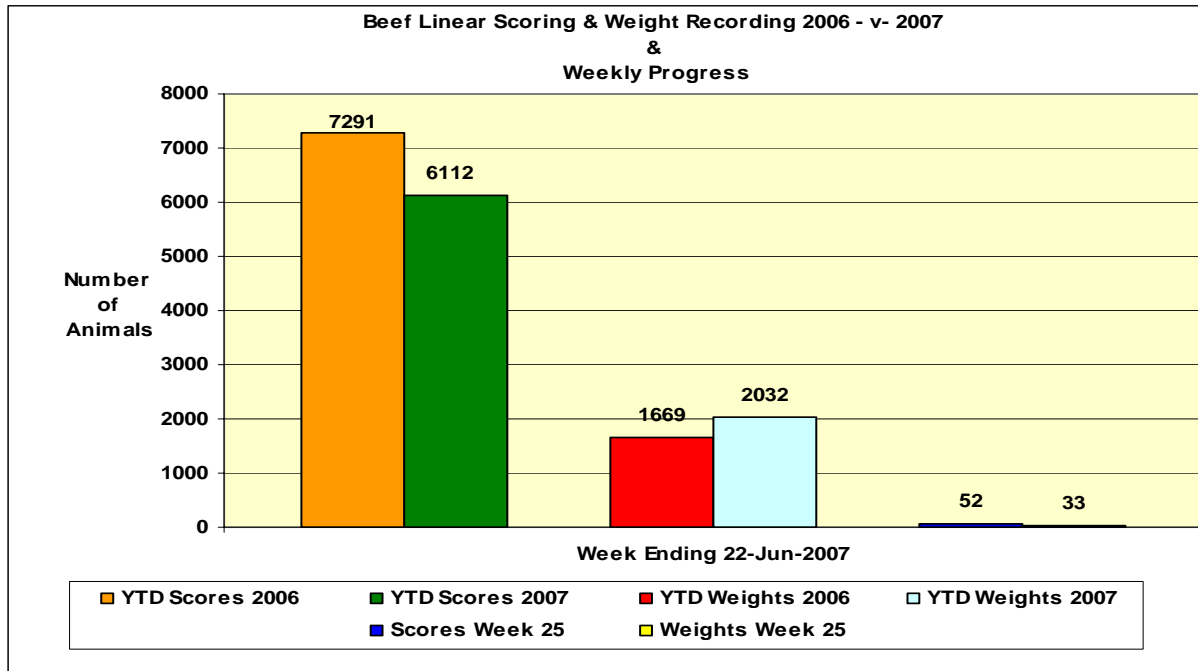
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 22/06/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 22/06/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 22/06/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	140,123	145,006	154,629	6.2%
Dairygold	89,925	96,929	103,836	6.7%
Kerry	63,653	66,487	67,739	1.8%
SWS	52,117	55,037	57,201	3.8%
Tipperary	8,780	11,095	11,676	5.0%
Arrabawn	6,690	10,351	11,189	7.5%
Connacht	6,928	7,655	8,794	13.0%
Donegal	2,756	4,758	3,222	-47.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>370,972</b>	<b>397,318</b>	<b>418,286</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

Late start 07

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 15/06/07 - 22/06/07
Progressive	328
Dairygold	324
SWS	139
Kerry	138
Tipperary	42
Arrabawn	30
Connacht	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>971</b>



## 8 Beef Linear Scoring



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## ICBF Beef Recording Reports

The ICBF Cattle Breeding Database is the most valuable source of Beef Breeding Information for Irish Suckler Farmers. The database is used to generate 'Herd Performance Reports' from which farmers can make well informed Beef Breeding & Management Decisions. The reports are available to farmers that use the ICBF Animal Events system for recording Calf Births & On-Farm events. Robin Talbot is one of those farmers. Further reports are available to farmers that Linear Score & Weight record.

### Information

Animal Events  
 Linear Scoring & Weight Recording  
 Factory Slaughter Data  
 Ancestry, Calving, Weight, Linear, Factory Data

### ICBF Reports

Calving Performance Report  
 Weanling Performance Report  
 Carcass Performance Report  
 Eurostar Report

### Calving Performance

1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> 2006	<u>All</u>	<u>Heifers</u>		<u>All</u>	<u>Heifers</u>
Total Calvings	233	65	Median Calving Date	28/07/06	29/07/06
No. of Calves – Live at Birth	234	67	Start Calving Date	20/01/06	04/02/06
No. Male Calves – Live at Birth	106	30	End Calving Date	08/12/06	17/09/06
No. Female Calves – Live at Birth	128	37			
No. Calves – Dead at Birth	4	0			

Separate breakdown for Cows & Heifers

Analyse your herd's calving pattern

### Weanling Performance

ICBF Weanling Performance Herd Report (Weighed & Scored 6th June 2007)										
Calf ID	Sex	Main Breed	DOB	Sire ID	Dam ID	Weight (kg)	Age (days)	Gain (kg/day)	Loin Dev	Dev HQ
IE221218481 <b>637</b> LM 72% AA 28%	Female	Limousin	12-Aug-06	IE221054940290	IE341086570311	370	298	1.1	11	10
IE221218491 <b>638</b> LM 75% 25% UNK	Male	Limousin	12-Aug-06	IE221054940290	IE221378460126	420	298	1.3	10	11
IE221218421 <b>648</b> BB 50% LM 25% CH 25%	Male	B.Blue	15-Aug-06	IE151574890529	IE331498370006	404	295	1.2	11	12
IE221218451 <b>659</b> BB 50% LM 25% SI 12.5%	Female	B.Blue	19-Aug-06	IE151574890529	IE221218320080	385	291	1.2	12	12

Identify most Profitable Sires to Breed from

Identify most Profitable Weanlings

### Carcass Performance

Beef Carcass - Bull Summary Report								
Farm & Slaughter details			E	U	R	O	P	Total
Total Bulls slaughtered	86	1	3	2				5
Average Age at Slaughter	17.5 mths	2	32	25	1			58
Start Slaughter Date	10/04/2006	3	6	15				21
End Slaughter Date	05/07/2006	4L						0
Range	15-20 mths	4		2				2
Beef Cows	217	4h						0
		5						0
		Total	41	44	1	0	0	86

Analyse your Herd's Overall Slaughter Performance

Same report available for Heifers & Bullocks

# €urostar Profit Index – Belgian Blue Stockbull ‘420’

**MOUNTEEN YEATS**

**Breed: Belgian Blue**

**IE141472230420**

**DOB: 12-Dec-2005**

**Male**

**Owner: Robin H Talbot - Coole Ballacolla Portlaoise Co Laois**

VICTORIEUX D AU CHENE	DES HAYONS GALOPEUR DES HAYONS	CHRISTPOHE D L'ABBAY
		HAYONS
		DES HAYONS ELITE DES HAYONS
	SOUCIEUSE	OPTICIEEN D'AU CHENE
MOUNTEEN TRUDIE	LABEL DE SPY	D'AU CHENE NOIRETTE D'AU CHENE
		URBI DE BOIS BORSU
		DE SOMME VOLKA DE SOMME
	BALLYSORRELL HARRIOT	INTREPIDE DU STORDEUR
		COLOMBINE DE BEEMONT

**€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Feb 2007)**

Within Breed		Index	Data rel	Across Breed
★★★★★	<b>Suckler Beef Value</b>	€ 117	28%	★★★★★
★	<i>Beef Value</i>			
	Calving Traits	-€ 28	28%	★
★★★★★	Weanling Export	€ 116	30%	★★★★★
★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€ 124	29%	★★★★★
	<i>Replacement Value</i>			
★★★	Milk & Fertility	-€ 38	15%	★★
★★★★★	Calf Quality	€ 231	33%	★★★★★
	<i>Other Key Traits</i>			
★	% Difficulty Calving	17.2%	33%	★
	Docility	%	%	
Data Rel: 40 - 60% = Ave    20 - 40% = Below Ave    <20% = Poor				

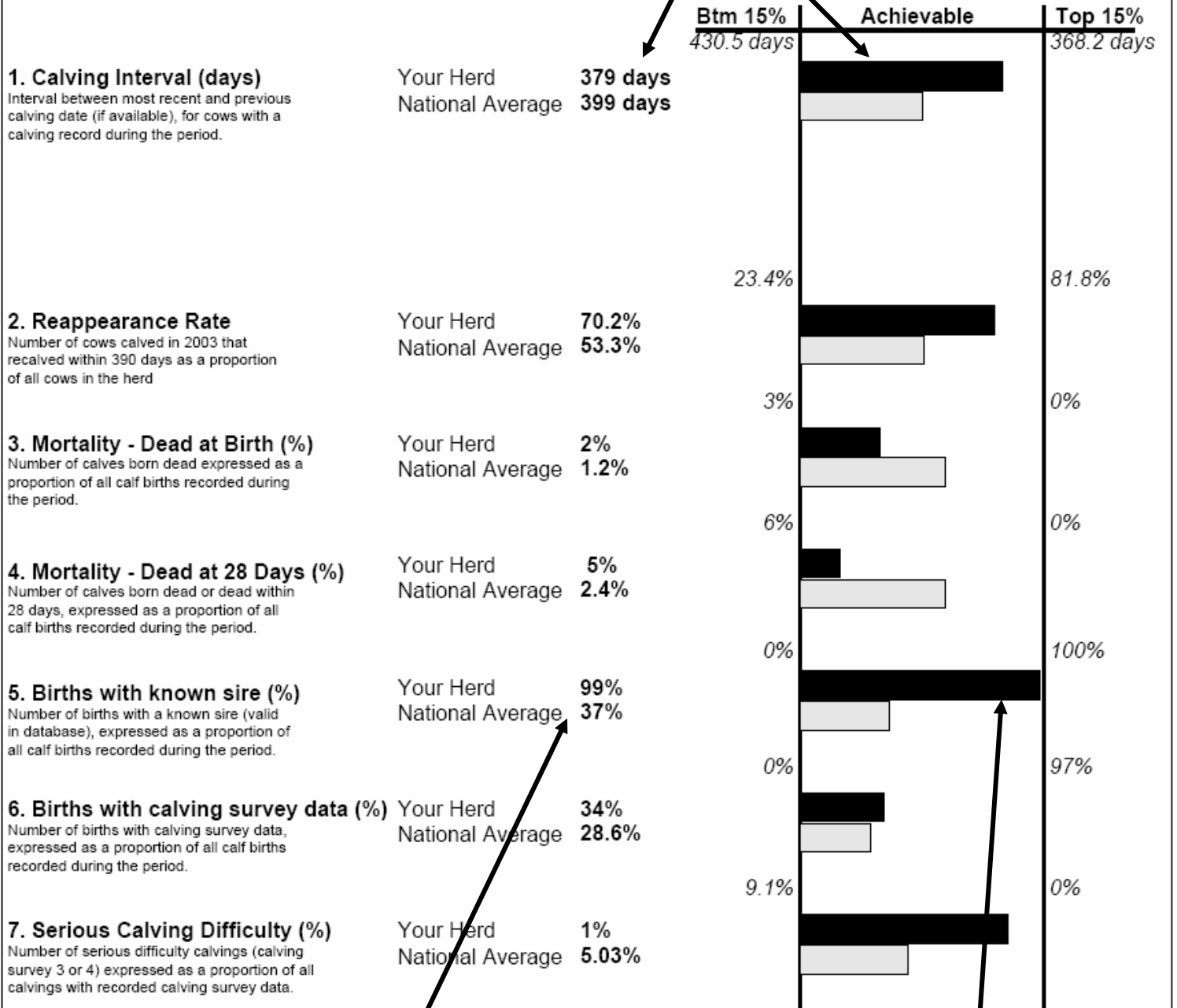
Stars		Reliability	Suckler Beef Value €
*****	5 Stars = Excellent (Top 20%)	This figure varies between 0% & 100% and is <b>very important</b> . It shows how much information is behind the figures.	This figure combines all of the indexes below into an <b>overall profit index</b> . On average progeny from this Bull will leave <b>€117</b> more than the average commercail beef calf
****	4 Stars = Above Average		
***	3 Stars = Average		
**	2 Stars = Below Average		
*	1 Star = Poor (Bottom 20%)		

# Calving Performance Report

## Excellent Calving Interval (20 days better than National Average)

### 2. Performance Statistics - relative to all beef herds in the database

Herd figures are expressed relative to all beef herds in the database, where the herd has a minimum of 10 calvings during the calving period.



#### Explanatory Notes

Performance statistics for your herd are expressed relative to all beef herds in the ICBF database, where the herd has a minimum of 10 calvings during the period. For example, the calving interval for your herd was 379 days This compares to 399 days for the average of all herds and 368.2 days for the top 15% of herds (see bar-chart).

Excellent use of ICBF Animal Events system

Sire's of calves extremely well recorded

# Weanling Performance Report

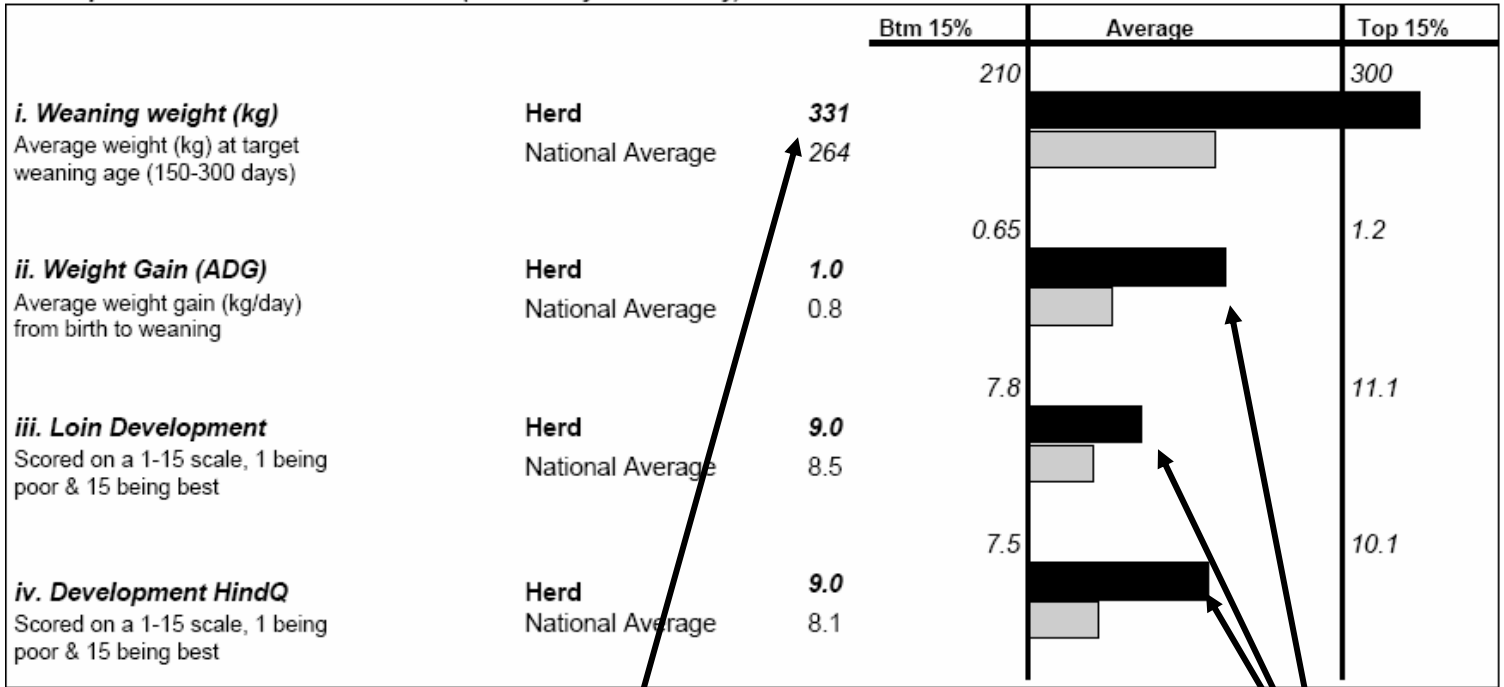
## 2. Overall Herd Performance (150-300 day records only)

Group	Number of records	Weight Gain			Conformation**	
		Weight (kg)	Age (days)	Gain* (kg/day)	Loin Dev (1-15)	Dev HQ (1-15)
<i>i. Overall</i>						
All Calves	68	331	278	1.0	9	9
<i>ii. Overall Herd Performance by Calf Age</i>						
150 - 200 days	0					
200 - 250 days	10	285	239	1.0	9	10
250 - 300 days	58	339	285	1.1	9	9
<i>iii. Overall Herd Performance by Calf Sex</i>						
M	35	348	284	1.1	9	9
F	33	312	271	1.0	9	9
<i>iii. Overall Herd Performance by Dam Age</i>						
1st calvers	22	333	289	1.0	9	9
2nd and 3rd calvers	30	330	271	1.1	9	10
4th+ calvers	16	329	274	1.0	9	10
<i>iii. Overall Herd Performance by Sire ID (5 most used sires shown)</i>						
IE221054940290	26	337	289	1.0	9	9
IE151574890529	23	325	273	1.0	9	10
IE371282670374	13	313	257	1.1	9	10
IE221145350039	6	368	290	1.2	8	10

\* Average birth weight of 40kg assumed for all calves.

\*\* Of the 14 traits scored, loin development & hind-quarter development are the best predictors of carcass conformation.

## 3. Comparative Herd Performance (150-300 day records only)



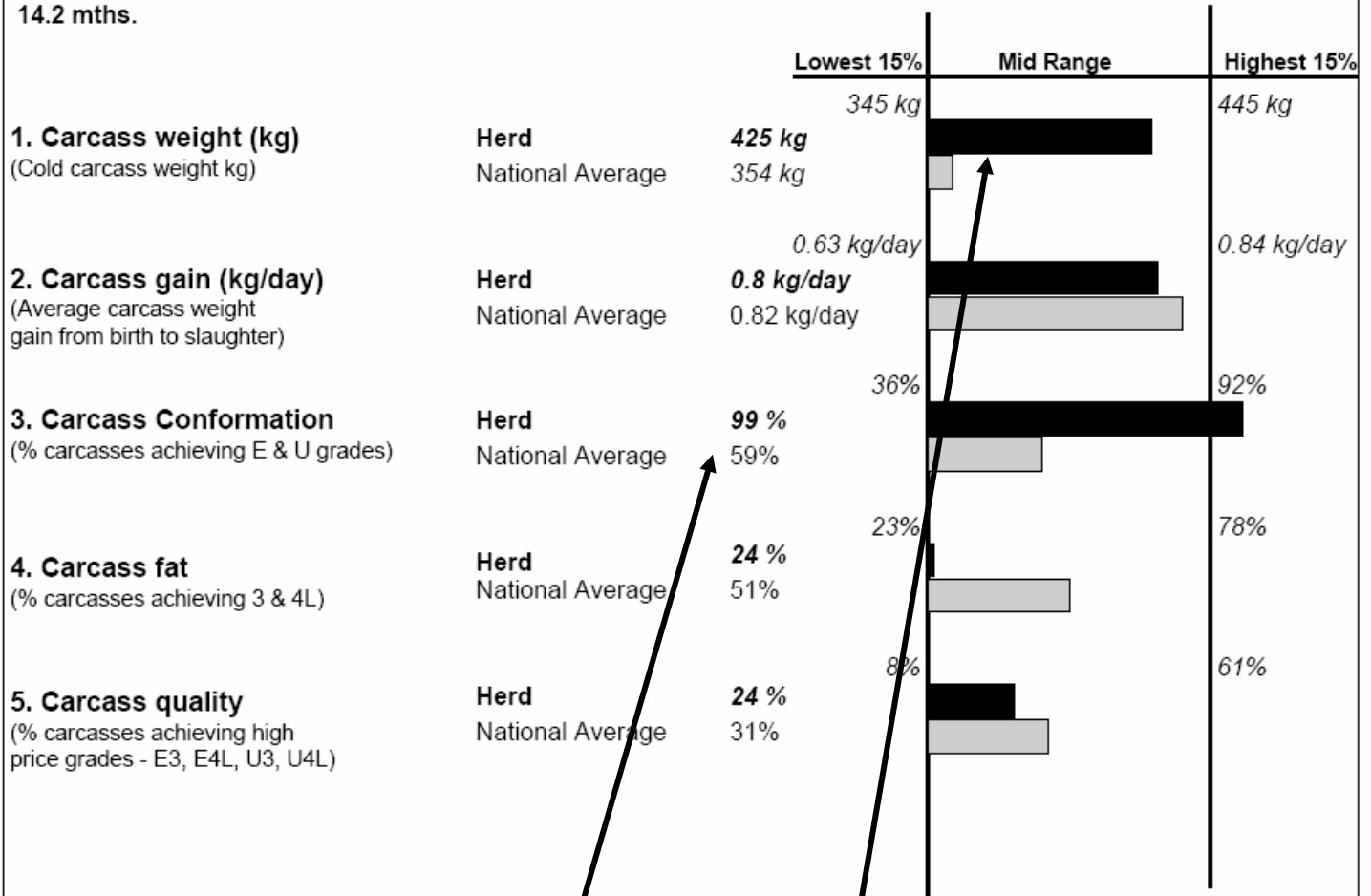
Excellent Herd average for 'Weaning Weight'

Weight Gain, Loin & Hindquarter Development all above average



# Beef Carcass – Summary Report

Slaughter Statistics - relative to all beef bulls slaughtered in period. National summary statistics are based on 353 herds with more than 10 bulls slaughtered during the period. Average age at slaughter for these animals was 14.2 mths.



**Notes: The report contains information on beef bulls slaughtered from herds involved in the ICBF cattle breeding database. Only animals that are the progeny of suckler beef cows have been included on the report.**

**99% of Carcasses achieving E&U Grades**

**Herd average for 'Carcass Weight' well above national average**

# €urostar Profit Index – Limousin Suckler Cow ‘142’

**Breed: Limousin**

**IE131618710142**

**DOB: 30-Mar-2003**

**Female**

**Owner: Robin H Talbot - Coole Ballacolla Portlaoise Co Laois**

LITRON	EPSON	VAGABOND - FR
		TECHNIQUE
	GRACIEUSE	CESAR
IENZLL0058H		BALEINE
		OVERHALL HIVY
	HOCKENHULL MARVEL	SAGE ERM IMP.74G

## *€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Feb 2007)*

Within Breed		Index	Data rel	Across Breed
★★★	<b>Suckler Beef Value</b>	€83	27%	★★★
★★★	<i>Beef Value</i>			
★★★	Calving Traits	-€ 6	29%	★★★
★★★	Weanling Export	€ 55	25%	★★★
★★	Beef Carcass	€ 62	25%	★★★
★★★★★	<i>Replacement Value</i>			
★★★★★	Milk & Fertility	€ 32	20%	★★★★★
★★★★	Calf Quality	€ 144	25%	★★★
★★	<i>Other Key Traits</i>			
	% Difficulty Calving	6.24%	32%	★★★
	Docility	%	%	
Data Rel: 40 - 60% = Ave    20 - 40% = Below Ave    <20% = Poor				

5 Star Cow for 'Milk & Fertility'

Easy Calving & Good potential for breeding profitable weanlings

Ancestry Displayed – Sire is Limousin. Sire of Dam is Simmental

# €urostar Profit Index – Belgian Blue Stockbull ‘039’

**BLUEBELL WILSON ET**

**Breed: Belgian Blue**

**IE161036080039**

**DOB: 15-Sep-2004**

**Male**

**Owner: Robin H Talbot - Coole Ballacolla Portlaoise Co Laois**

GYPSE DE HAUTE SOMME	URBI DE BOIS BORSU	RIANT
		DE BOIS BORSU ODE DE B B
	DE SOMME ELANCEE DE SOMME	OPTICIEN D'AU CHENE
		DE SOMME ADULEE DE SOMME
BALLINCURRY PEARL	VICTORIEUX D AU CHENE	DES HAYONS GALOPEUR DES HAYONS
		SOUCIEUSE
	CASTLEVIEW LINDA	NIGAUD DE MIECRET
		DE MIECRET OBSCENE DE MIECRET

## **€uro-Star Rating (ICBF, Feb 2007)**

Within Breed		Index	Data rel	Across Breed
★★★★	<b>Suckler Beef Value</b>	€ 88	18%	★★★★
★	<i>Beef Value</i>			
★	<b>Calving Traits</b>	-€ 24	17%	★
★★★★★	<b>Weanling Export</b>	€ 88	15%	★★★★★★
★★★★★★	<b>Beef Carcass</b>	€ 101	22%	★★★★★★
★★★★	<i>Replacement Value</i>			
★★★★	<b>Milk &amp; Fertility</b>	-€ 34	9%	★★
★★★★	<b>Calf Quality</b>	€ 168	20%	★★★
★	<i>Other Key Traits</i>			
	<b>% Difficulty Calving</b> 15.75%		20%	★
	<b>Docility</b> %		%	
<b>Data Rel: 40 - 60% = Ave    20 - 40% = Below Ave    &lt;20% = Poor</b>				

### 4 & 5 Star Bull for ‘Weanling Export’ & ‘Beef Carcass’

#### Animal Events

‘Animal Events’ is the ICBF on-farm data gathering system. It allows Calving Survey, Insemination, Beef Performance, Milk Recording & Health information to be recorded. All data is stored in the ICBF Cattle Breeding Database, from where Genetic Evaluation & Cattle Breeding Reports are generated.

**If you are not already on ‘Animal Events’, please sign up today by calling 1850-625-626.**