



Identifying and Addressing Key Areas for Genetic Improvement in My Herd

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Bryan Kingston

Dairy Conference 2024

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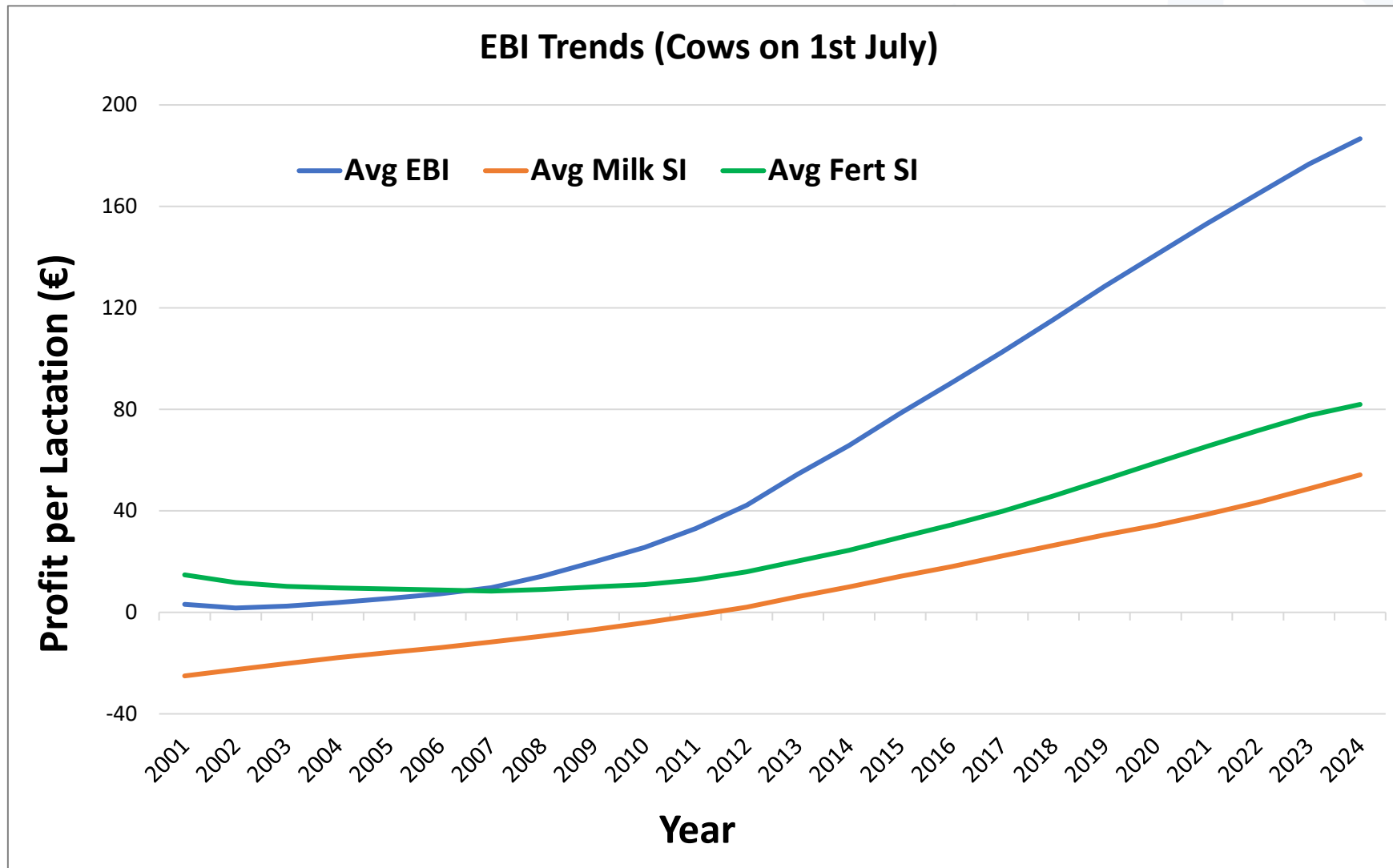


AgTech - it's in our DNA

Identifying & Addressing Key Areas for Genetic Improvement in My Herd

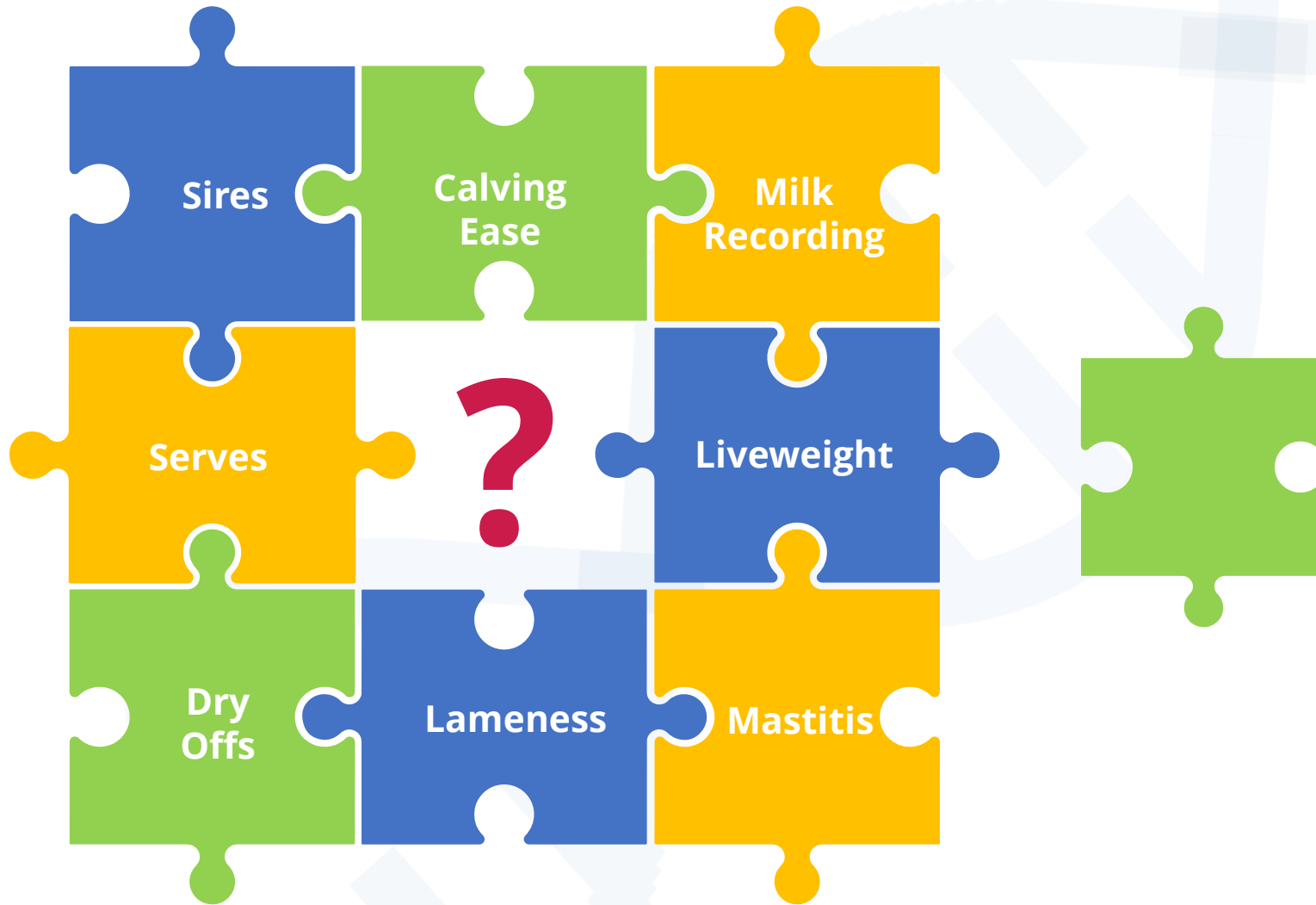


Latest Genetic Trends in EBI (2001-2024)



- Average EBI = **€184**
- Rate of gain in EBI = **€11/year**
- The cows you have now are better than the cows you had 10 years ago!

On- Farm Data Recording



ICBF Database = Jigsaw Puzzle

The more pieces of the “puzzle” we have (data), the more complete the “picture” (genetic indexes) will be.

Dairy Phenotypic Statistics 2024

icbf	Count of Records	% Cows with Data
Sire recorded	1,258,477	84%
Milk recorded	1,129,757	75%
AI Serve record	1,073,933	71%
AI Bred	1,055,679	70%
Genotyped	539,751	36%
Mastitis record (incl. no occurrence)	206,412	14%
Lameness record (incl. no occurrence)	171,319	11%
Dairy Cow Liveweight	51,616	3%

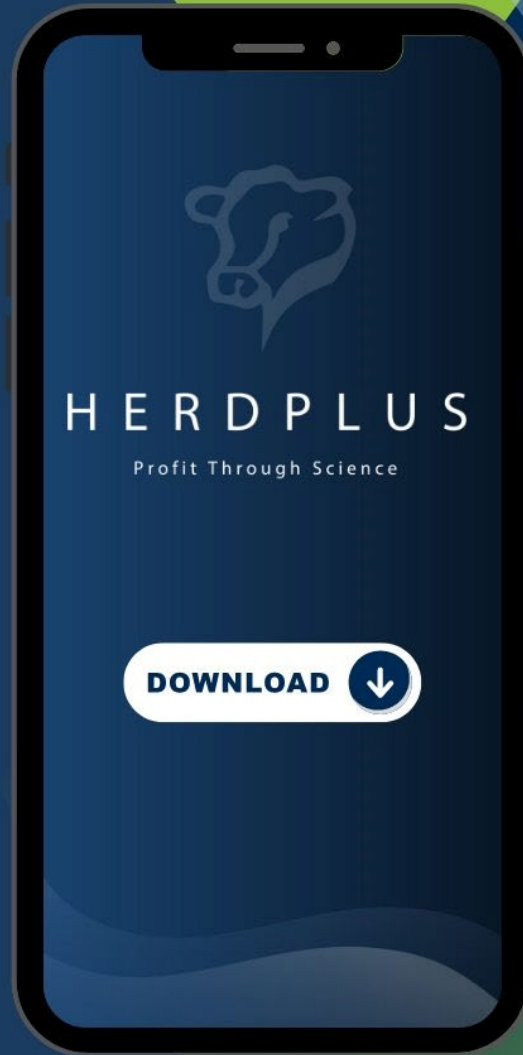
- 1.5m Dairy Cows (December 2024)
- Where there is a lack of data on low heritability traits e.g. Health, the genetic progress is slow
- Dairy Cow Weighing Project ~20,000 liveweights captured

APP UPDATES

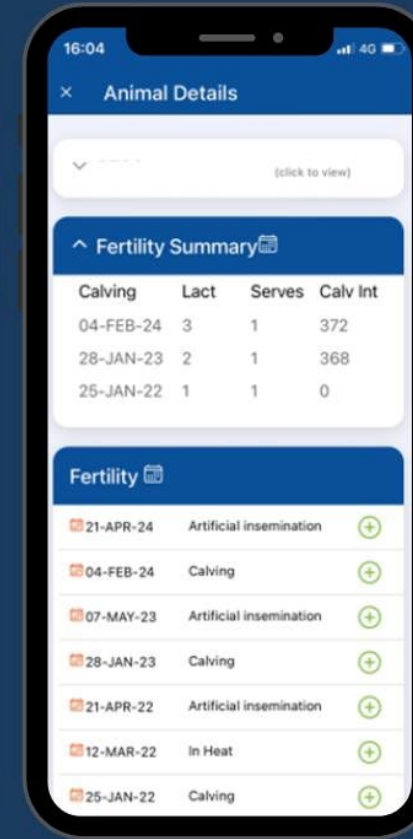
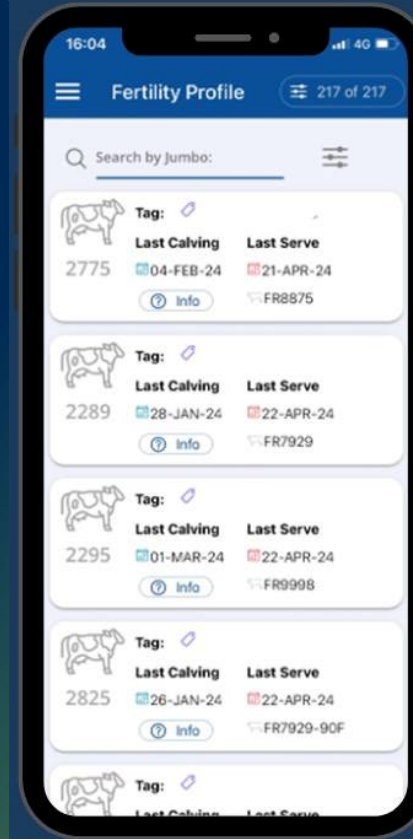


The latest version of the ICBF HerdPlus App is now available to download.

Go to your relevant store to download the new update today!



VIEW THE FERTILITY INFORMATION OF YOUR ANIMALS CURRENTLY IN YOUR HERD.



THE PROFILE NOW INCLUDES INFORMATION SUCH AS, LAST SERVE DATE, LAST BULL USED, NUMBER OF SERVES, SCANNING RESULTS AND EXPECTED CALVING DATES.

Herd EBI Scorecard

- Use the ICBF HerdPlus Scorecard to identify strengths and weaknesses

Herd Number: Herd A	Your Herd	National Average	National Top 10%	Your National Rank	Star Rating ¹
Herd EBI	€170	€179	€230	50%	* * *
Milk Sub-Index (Milk, Fat & Protein)	€ 68	€51	€68	92%	* * * * *
Fertility Sub-Index (Calving Interval & Survival)	€ 54	€77	€111	20%	*
Carbon Sub-Index	€ 11	€7	€15	70%	* * * *
Calving Sub-Index (Gestation, Calving Difficulty, Mortality)	€ 33	€31	€40	68%	* * * *
Beef Sub-Index (Carcass Weight, Conformation & Fat)	€ -25	€-5	€2	5%	*
Maintenance Sub-Index (Cow Liveweight)	€ 22	€13	€20	90%	* * * * *
Management Sub-Index (Milking speed & Temperament)	€ 4	€1	€2	96%	* * * * *
Health Sub-Index (SCC, Mastitis, Lameness & TB)	€ 4	€6	€10	14%	*

¹ Star Rating: * = 1 - 20% ** = 21 - 40% *** = 41 - 60% **** = 61 - 80% ***** = 81- 100%

Herd EBI Scorecard

- Same Herd EBI, very different Sub-Index make-up

Herd Number: Herd A	Your Herd	Star Rating ¹
Herd EBI	€170	***
Milk Sub-Index (Milk, Fat & Protein)	€68	*****
Fertility Sub-Index (Calving Interval & Survival)	€54	*
Carbon Sub-Index	€11	****
Calving Sub-Index (Gestation, Calving Difficulty, Mortality)	€33	****
Beef Sub-Index (Carcass Weight, Conformation & Fat)	€-25	*
Maintenance Sub-Index (Cow Liveweight)	€22	*****
Management Sub-Index (Milking speed & Temperament)	€4	*****
Health Sub-Index (SCC, Mastitis, Lameness & TB)	€4	*

1 Star Rating: * = 1 - 20% ** = 21 - 40% *** = 41 - 60% **** = 61 - 80% ***** = 81 - 100%

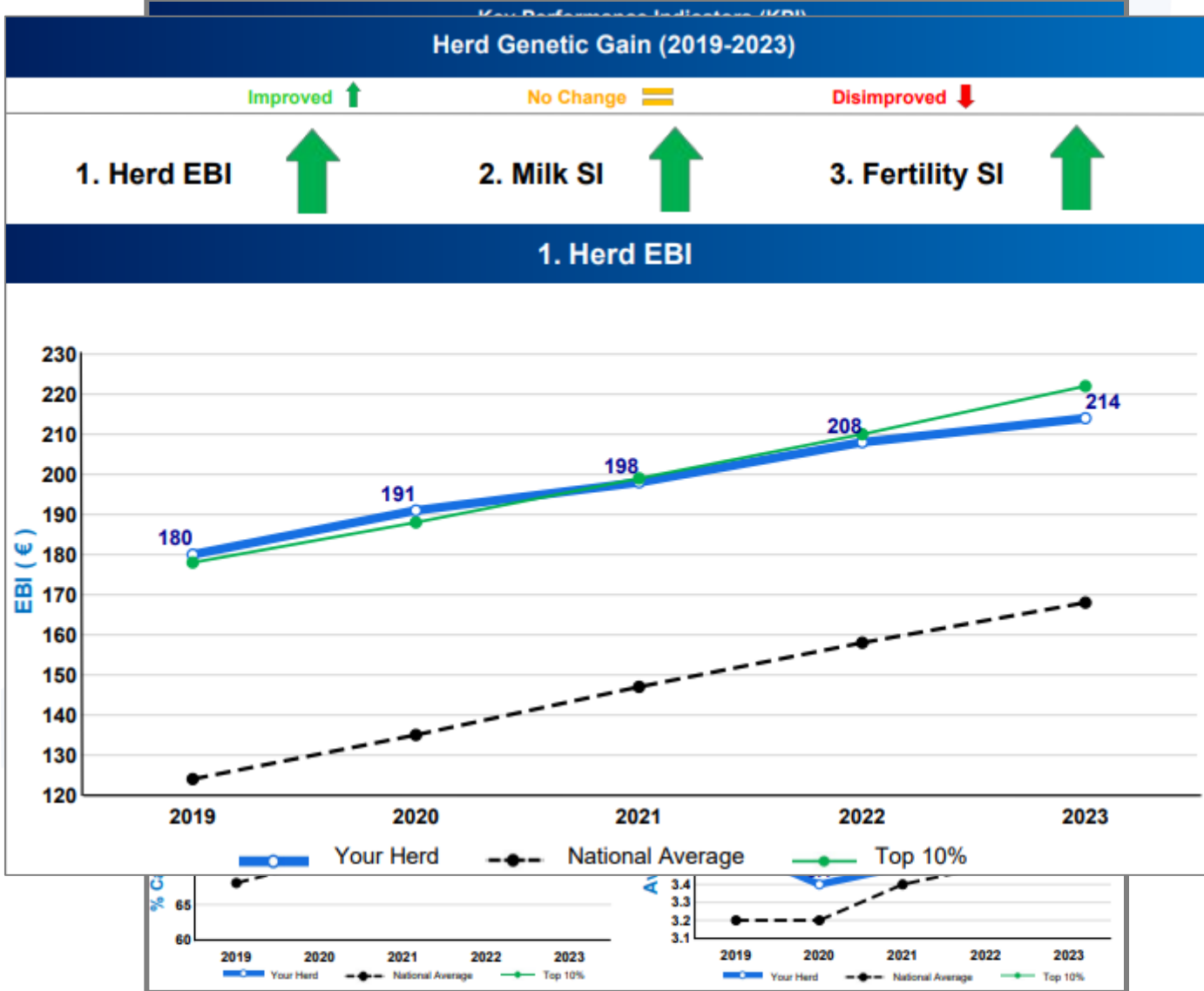
Herd A: Average EBI = €170
 Poor in Fertility, Beef, Health

Herd Number: Herd B	Your Herd	Star Rating ¹
Herd EBI	€170	***
Milk Sub-Index (Milk, Fat & Protein)	€28	*
Fertility Sub-Index (Calving Interval & Survival)	€93	****
Carbon Sub-Index	€11	****
Calving Sub-Index (Gestation, Calving Difficulty, Mortality)	€17	*
Beef Sub-Index (Carcass Weight, Conformation & Fat)	€6	*****
Maintenance Sub-Index (Cow Liveweight)	€15	***
Management Sub-Index (Milking speed & Temperament)	€-1	*
Health Sub-Index (SCC, Mastitis, Lameness & TB)	€1	*

1 Star Rating: * = 1 - 20% ** = 21 - 40% *** = 41 - 60% **** = 61 - 80% ***** = 81 - 100%

Herd B: Average EBI = €170
 Poor in Milk, Calving, Management, Health

Dairy Trend Report



- Allows you to track your herd performance over a 5-year period.

- Compare your herd with the National Avg and Top 10%

- How has your dairy herd performed over the last 5 years?

Use a Team of Dairy bulls Equally



Call 023-8820452

**Equal Usage of Dairy Bulls
Spring 2024**



(d). Previous Bull Team Size and Usage

Birth Year	Dairy AI Bull Team Usage	Most Used Bull	No dairy calves born from most used AI bull	% dairy calves born from the most AI bull
2023	15	FR6622	10	19%

(e). Dairy AI Bull Team Guidelines

Spring 2024 Breeding Guidelines for your herd		
Herd Size (cows and heifers)	Minimum Number AI bulls	Maximum Bull Usage (%)
104	8	15%

(f). Dairy AI Bull Usage

Usage of Dairy bulls (10) in the herd since mating start date: 02/05/2024							
Bull	Name of Bull	Proof	EBI	Milk SI	Fertility SI	No. Serves (70)	% of Serves
FR9810	RIVERSIDE ZEUS LIAM	GS	338	92	154	10	14
FR8862	BALLINTOSIG STAR TREK	GS	338	124	144	10	14
FR8881	BARRONSTOWN ROGER	GS	353	107	151	9	13
FR9091	WATERPARK JASPER 2121	GS	307	97	140	8	11
FR9819	CHERRYHILL TROOPER	GS	354	115	148	8	11
FR9358	CLOCHRUA MESSI	GS	305	123	120	6	9
FR9816	LAHARN BRUNO	GS	356	109	156	5	7
FR9842	(IG)BALLYDEHOB RINGO	GS	331	114	130	5	7
FR9844	PROSPECLODGE HARRY	GS	343	111	146	5	7
FR8875	WATERPARK JACK	GS	342	101	147	4	6

- Follow the Breeding guidelines for Bull Team size & Usage
- Spread you risk by using a large team of bulls.
- Use the bulls evenly across the herd. No more than 15% of matings to any one bull.
- How have you performed on each of these two metrics in the past?

Selecting Your Breeding Females



Only use females with an EBI of at least €170 for mating to High EBI dairy bulls.



All remaining females should be bred to Beef bull with a high beef sub-Index in the DBI.



If your herd EBI is low, consider buying in high EBI genotyped females.



Genotype your dairy females to identify the best heifers to breed as replacements

ICBF HerdPlus Sire Advice

- What is Does?

- Why Should we use it?



Summary

- Download the HerdPlus App
- Know your Herd's genetic strengths & weaknesses – EBI Scorecard.
- Select a Team of high EBI bulls
- Use the ICBF HerdPlus Sire Advice tool to help manage your breeding programme

Our Farmer & Government Representation



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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Our AI & Milk Recording Organisations



Our Herdbooks



Acknowledging Our Members