User Guide

www.icbf.com
This Welcome Pack is aimed at helping you make full use of your HerdPlus membership. The HerdPlus service will furnish you with breeding and management tools you need to maximise profit on your farm.
Getting Started

Logging in

To access your HerdPlus account:
1. Go to www.icbf.com
2. Under Online Services enter your username (your Herd number) and password
3. Click Log in

Forgot your password?
Click here to retrieve your password OR
Text PASS to 0894577663 from the mobile registered to your herd. You will receive a temporary password which will allow you to log in and create a new password.

Our Home Page

This blue bar allows you to navigate around the HerdPlus screens. The ‘Home’ button in the top left will always return you here.

See your recording progress. Click on the graph to go straight to the record events page.

When your membership is due for renewal a reminder appears here. Simply Click “Renew HerdPlus”

See your Latest Reports or Search Star ratings on the animal search.
Reports

Suckler Cow Report

The Suckler Cow Report enables the farmer to critically analyse the performance of every suckler cow in the herd.

Clearly identify every aspect of your cow’s performance by looking at her:

1. Ancestry
2. Fertility
3. €uro-Star Index
4. Cow Scores
5. Progeny Performance

This report can be used as an aid for breeding & culling decisions.

Beef €uro-Star Report

The Beef €uro-Star Report details the breeding potential of your stock so you can breed the most profitable animals for your herd.

See full breakdown of your herds €uro-Star indexes.

How does your herd compare with the National Average & National Top 10%?
Reports

**Beef Calving Report**

The Beef Calving Report allows you to assess the calving performance of your herd.

Benchmark your herd for Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s) such as Calving Interval and Number of calves per cow per year.

Compare your herd’s figures with the National Average.

See a full breakdown of your herd’s calving survey data.

Quickly identify cows that may have potential fertility issues by looking at your “Action List”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Details</th>
<th>Areas for Attention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo Number</td>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>9.5m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Beef Output Report**

Assess the productivity of your beef herd in terms of kg of liveweight produced with the Beef Output Report.

A useful benchmark for both dry-stock and breeding herds.

To assess the output per hectare of your herd, ensure to record “Total Hectares”.

See a detailed breakdown of your sales and purchases for the year.

**Weaning Performance Report**

This report will allow you to analyse the performance of suckler calves born in your herd, as well as the performance of your suckler cows.

Easily identify your most efficient cows!

How do your animals compare to industry targets?

**Top Tip!** Improve the accuracy of your cows Replacement Index by recording cow liveweights and calf weaning weights.
Data Recording

Recording data on your animals is a vital element for accurate Euro-Star Index and completeness of data in reports. You will then be better equipped to make informed decisions when choosing breeding stock. Record calving ease, birth events, weight data, pregnancy diagnosis and more through the Record Events Screens.

Recording Calving Ease

Data collected from calving surveys reflect on the bulls calving difficulty figure and increases the trait reliability. Calving surveys can be completed on the Birth Event Screen.

Record Missing Sires

When registering calves, recording a sire is optional. However, without a sire, ICBF is unable to generate a Euro-Star Index for that animal.

Record Heat & AI/Serve

AI/Serve data is used to provide you with accurate expected calving dates for management purposes. This data is also used to calculate gestation length of bulls and female fertility.

For herds using AI, data is received from your technicians handheld.

Enter a bulls **AI Code**

Or

Enter the **full tag number** of your stock bull.

If the Sire of an animal is known, it can be recorded here.

For an AI sire, enter the AI code. For a stock bull, enter the full tag number.
Record Events

Record Health and Disease Events
You can record certain health and disease information on your animals. These include mastitis, lameness, scour, pneumonia, grass tetany, milk fever, retained placenta, etc.

If you have an animal born in your herd with a defect you can record it here.

Record Liveweights
By recording liveweights, you can identify the best performing animals in your herd. E.g. recording weaning weights at 150-250 days plays a vital role in establishing the daughter milk index.

Record liveweight data for animals that are currently in the herd and for animals that have left the herd in the last year.

Record Pregnancy Diagnosis
Recording scan results will verify expected calving dates for your herd. Where serves are not recorded, farmers can record the approximate number of days in calf as given by the scanning technician.

Enter date of scanning
Enter scan result:
- In Calf
- Empty
- Twins

Enter number of days in calf on the date of scanning.

Top Tip! Download our Free HerdPlus App to record data on the go.
**Profiles**

**Beef Euro-Star Profile**

View the Euro-Star Ratings for each of your animals on our live Euro-Star Profile.

Compare your herds average Replacement Index against National average.

Download and Print this profile in Excel or PDF format.

Filter your list to fit your search criteria.

Click on a column heading to sort your list.

Click on the full tag number to see more information including; Fertility, Progeny and Geno Eval.

**Expected Calving Profile**

See the expected calving dates for your herd based on insemination data recorded.

See the predicted Euro-Star value of the calf in the Terminal and Replacement Index.
Profiles

Stock Nitrates Reports

This report calculates kgs of Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) produced, based on the number of animals in the herd.

|-----------------------|--------------------------|

- Click on the individual figures to view animal details.
- Each report can be downloaded and printed for your convenience.
- Stock reports are beneficial for accounting purposes.

Stock Reconciliation Reports

View number of animals Born, Bought, Sold, Died and Livestock Totals for each month.

Weight Profile

View weight data for your herd based on recorded liveweights. See each animal's Average Daily Gain (ADG) at the last weighing.

Top Tip! Download our Free HerdPlus App to view your live profiles on the go.
What are Euro-Stars?
And how can I use them in the most effective way?

The Euro-Star Index is designed to aid beef farmers in selecting the most profitable animals for breeding. Each Euro-Star value is calculated using all available information about the animal e.g. ancestry, performance data and DNA. Profitable traits are combined to give each animal a Euro-Star index value.

*Euro-Star ratings are subject to change after each evaluation run. See our Publication Schedule online for evaluation timeline.

This bull ranks average (40%-60%) within the Simmental breed on the Replacement Index.

This bull is ranked in the top 40% (4 Stars) within the Simmental breed on the Terminal Index.

The Terminal Index estimates how profitable an animals’ progeny will be for slaughter. Key traits include: carcass weight and conformation.

This bull is ranked in the bottom 40% (2 Stars) in the Terminal Index when compared to all other beef breeds.

The Replacement index estimates how profitable an animals’ daughter will be per calving. Key traits include: milk, fertility and carcass weight.

This bull ranks in the top 20% (5 Stars) on the Replacement Index in comparison to all other beef breeds.

The Replacement index ranks a purebred animal against other purebred beef animals of the same breed.

This bull ranks an animal against all other beef animals regardless of breed. Commercial farmers should focus on across breed Euro-Stars.

The Reliability (%) figure gives an indication of how confident ICBF can be about the genetic index of an animal and their individual traits. This reliability figure will increase as more information is recorded on the animal.

If an animals’ reliability figure is very low, small amounts of data can make the Euro value/Star rating fluctuate.

If an animals’ reliability figure is very high, additional data will have little impact on the Euro value/Star rating given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0-20%</th>
<th>20-50%</th>
<th>50-90%</th>
<th>&gt;90%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Low- Low</td>
<td>Low -Average</td>
<td>Average-High</td>
<td>Very High</td>
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</table>

Young Animal
- Parent average.
- No progeny born
- No Genomic evaluation

Young Animal
- Data available on the animal itself e.g. Live weights, Milk Score etc
- Genomic evaluation

AI Sire/ Stockbull
- Data available from the animals’ offspring E.g. slaughter data and calving data etc

AI Sire
- Data available from the animals’ offspring e.g. Daughter milking ability.
- Fully Proven
One or more of my animals has not been given a €uro-Star rating. Why?

There are many reasons as to why an animal does not show a €uro-Star rating. The most common reason is that a sire may not be recorded for the animal.

If the sire is known, you can record the sire by going to Record Events > Record Missing Sires. See page 8 for more information.

How are the traits weighted in the €uro-Star Indices?

**Replacement Index**

- Calving Traits: 16%
- Fertility: 23%
- Milk: 18%
- Beef Traits: 21%
- Docility: 4%

The Replacement index focuses primarily on maternal traits such as milk and fertility. A suckler farmer wishing to breed replacement heifers should use breeding stock with high Replacement Indexes.

**Terminal Index**

- Calving Traits: 26%
- Carcass Traits: 56%
- Feed Intake: 16%
- Docility: 2%

The Terminal Index is solely focused on beef traits such as carcass weight and conformation. A farmer looking to breed stock for slaughter or sale as weanlings should use breeding stock with high Terminal Indexes.

Will my animals’ €uro-Star rating show up on a mart board for a sale?

As a HerdPlus member, when selling animals at a mart, their details will be shown on the ‘mart board’. Details will be displayed for all females and pedigree males where 4 or 5 Stars.

What is Genotyping? What are the benefits of Genotyping my animals? How can I order a Genotype?

Genotyping is the analysis of an animal’s DNA to help predict how the animal will breed/preform in the future.

**Genotyping**

- increases reliability figures (by about 20%) even before animal performance data becomes available
- provides accuracy to gauge potential performance of the animal from the genetic traits
- confirms parentage of the animal (assuming parents are genotyped) or can predict a sire.

As a HerdPlus member, you can avail of the genomics service for the discounted rate.

You can track and place an order online through Services > Genomic Services > Place Order.

You will receive a Hair kit in the post, together with instructions and a return envelope.
Participating Breeders want to show that the data recording is carried out with the utmost Accuracy & Transparency.

Recording events and viewing animal profiles has never been so easy!

Instant access to a wide range of HerdPlus services:
- Your latest HerdPlus Reports e.g. suckler cow and beef output reports.
- Record essential data anytime, anywhere e.g. liveweights, serves, scanning data.
- View Profiles for live, up to date information e.g. Euro-Star and fertility profiles.

www.icbf.com
Ph: 023-8820452

ICBF Whole Herd Performance Recording

Participating Breeders want to show that the data recording is carried out with the utmost Accuracy & Transparency.

Ireland’s only search engine for young stock bulls.