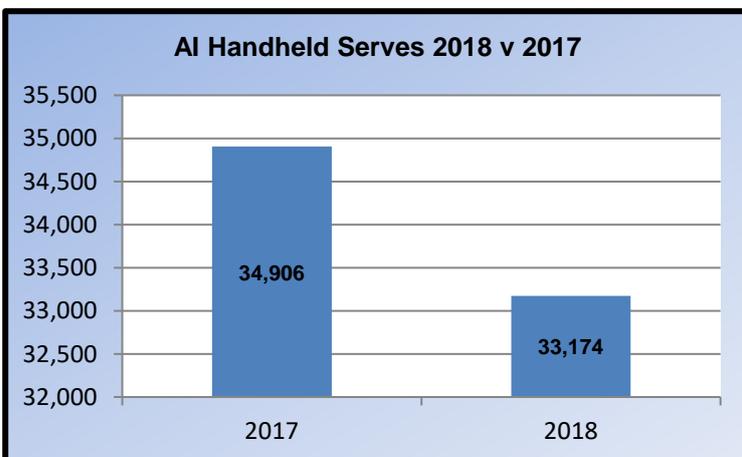
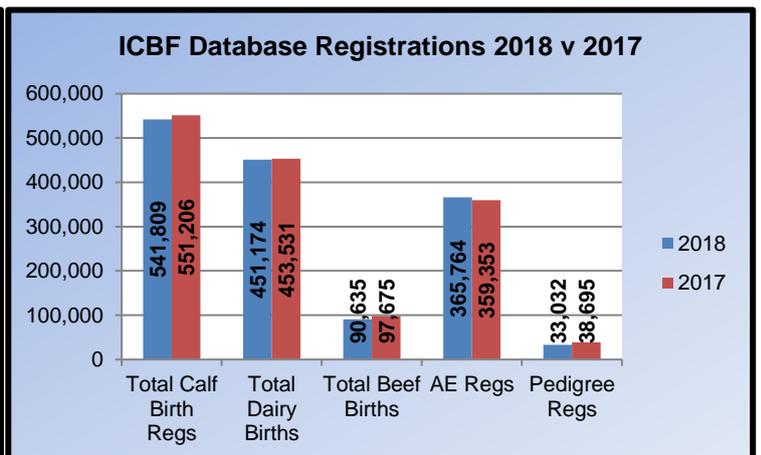
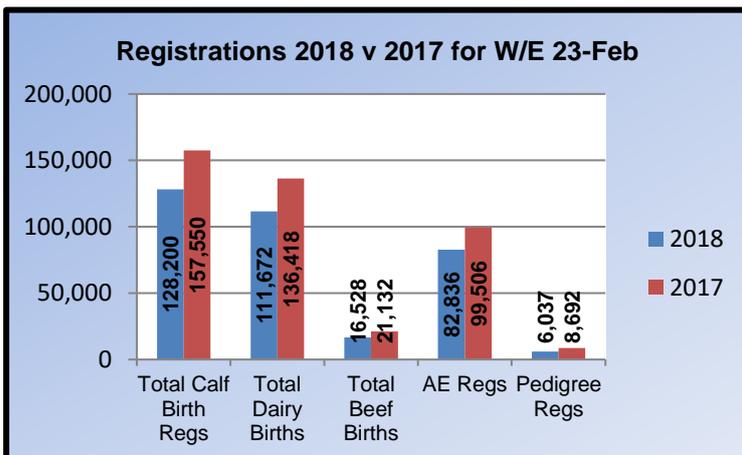


ICBF Weekly Update 23rd February 2018

1 Important Dates

- Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 29th March at 10:00am, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 5th April at 10:00am, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 5th April at 2:00pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

2 Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 524,762 results received since January 1st, of which 165,959 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 12,446,279 results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2018 compared with 2017.

3 Herd Plus®

The first calves from the 2017 Gene Ireland beef bulls are currently being born on farms. Here are some of Alamira Harry (ZYH) progeny. Click [here](#) for more details.



Note – New HerdPlus Contact Number. The Irish Cattle Breeding Federation will officially use **023-8820452** as our telephone number. Click [here](#) for more details.



5 Star Salers Bull now available to order from Gene Ireland. Spiddal Pat (SA4461) (Variegeois x Egard) is now available to order from Gene Ireland at €5 per straw. Click [here](#) for more details.



Check Out your Latest Co-op Report now. The latest HerdPlus Dairy Co-op Performance

Reports are now available for viewing online under the reports section. Click [here](#) for more details.



4 GENE IRELAND® Beef

Orders are continuing for the GI Beef Spring 2018 bulls.

174 herds taking a total of 2550 straws have joined so far.

The average order is 14 straws per herd.

The bulls SH4376 and CH4320 both reached the 500 straw target this week.

Details on the bulls available can be viewed on the ICBF website.

To learn more or to order straws please telephone **023 8820452**.

Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed in table.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Replacement Index	Across Breed Stars	Total Straws Ordered
SA4461	Spiddal Pat	SA	€155	5	35
SI4322	Kickhams Handsome	SI	€154	5	400
SI4347	Leeherd Harry	SI	€122	5	165
SI4350	Rubyjen Here's Johnny	SI	€122	5	70
AA4375	Carrigroe Nationwide	AA	€118	5	170
LM4356	Coisceim Lex	LM	€113	5	350
LM4360	Aherla K 7 P	LM	€109	5	120
LM4358	Montclare Lopez	LM	€106	5	60
AA4357	Mckeague Noddy	AA	€105	5	65
CH4213	Blanchefield Lester	CH	€91	4	105
PT4215	Leacan King	PT	€90	4	160
CH4218	Woodhead Meldrew	CH	€88	4	240
BA2357	Terelton Isaac	BA	€88	4	440
HE4292	Allowdale Rory 594	HE	€83	4	190

5 Tully

The Gene Ireland Beef Progeny Test Centre in Tully, Co. Kildare featured in this week's Irish Farmers Journal.

Please see article attached to this Weekly Update.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 23/02/18						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 23/02/18	No. EDIY Herds YTD 23/02/18	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 23/02/18	No. EDIY Cows YTD 23/02/18	% Cows EDIY
Munster	487	34	7%	32,072	2,564	8%
Progressive	653	99	15%	48,532	7,988	16%
Tipperary	5	1	20%	329	40	12%
Total	1,145	134	12%	80,933	10,592	13%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2017 Cows Recorded 01/01/17 - 23/02/17	YTD 2018 Cows Recorded 01/01/18 - 23/02/18	2018 vs 2017 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	31,197	32,072	2.8%
Progressive	48,828	48,532	-0.6%
Tipperary	314	329	4.8%
Total	80,339	80,933	0.7%

7 Sheep Ireland

Teagasc National Hill Conference

✚ The Hill conference took place in Westport on Wednesday. Frank Campion spoke about the potential benefit of using performance recorded rams in the years to come. With preliminary results from one of the BETTER farms showing substantial differences in lamb mortality between Lanark rams used on the farm. This highlights the opportunity that performance recording has to offer. We continue to engage with hill breeders and we encourage any hill farmers that are interested in performance recording to get in touch. We send out lambing notebooks and lambing sheets to interested breeders each year. To incentivise hill breeders to performance record, this service has been offered free of charge for 2018.

To see the online publication from the event please see <https://www.teagasc.ie/publications/2018/hill-sheep-conference-2018.php>

CPT Lambing Preparation in its final stages

✚ With only a week to go before the first of our CPT lambs start hitting the ground, preparation is in full swing! We are putting the final touches to our labour rota and we can now focus on having everything in place for next week. Contained in the pictures below is the information we will be collecting from ewes and lambs over the coming weeks. These will be placed on large boards which will be present on each farm to make it easier when we are recording. We also place a small board on each lambing pen where we write this information. This can be easily wiped off and be ready for use again when the next ewe enters the pen. The CPT farmers find these boards very useful to write down any issues that any ewe/lamb may have.

Sheep Ireland data to be captured at Lambing

Lambing Difficulty		Ewe Milk	
1. No assistance	Ewe lambed down totally unassisted	1. Very Poor	Ewe has no milk at lambing time
2. Voluntary assistance	The lamb was pulled for convenience purposes, if the lambs chances of survival were increased due to human intervention then this would be a score 3	2. Poor	Ewe has very little milk and not a sufficient amount to feed her lambs adequately.
3. Slight assistance	There was no adverse impact on the ewe or lamb but the lambs chances of survival was increased due to human intervention – (reverse presentation/leg back etc).	3. Average	Ewe has just enough milk to feed her lambs at lambing.
4. Significant assistance	A prolonged intervention by farmer and/or vet. Without human intervention a dead ewe and/or lamb would have been the most likely outcome.	4. Good	Ewe has an adequate amount of milk to feed her lambs very well.
		5. Very Good	Ewe has an abundance of milk, more than her lambs can consume.

Mothering-Ability		Lamb Vigour	
1. Very Poor	Ewe has no interest in her lamb.	1. Very Poor	Still not standing after 60 minutes.
2. Poor	Ewe stands well away and is slow to lick the lamb.	2. Poor	Standing within 60 minutes.
3. Average	Ewe licks the lamb and follows the lamb to the lambing pen.	3. Average	Standing within 30 minutes.
4. Good	Ewe licks the lamb, is protective and follows closely to lambing pen.	4. Good	Standing within 10 minutes.
5. Excellent	Ewe is very protective, licks lamb immediately, follows lamb very close.	5. Very Good	Standing within 5 minutes.

Sheep Ireland data to be captured at Lambing

Pen Boards	Foster Lambs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Pen Board should be placed on each individual lambing pen, and should be numbered. Use the Pen Boards to record all traits that are required. Each section on the Pen Board should be filled in accordingly. Once all information has been recorded, the pen board should be wiped clean, indicating that the ewe is ready to be released to grass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a "1" on the pen board where a lamb was fostered off. Also write the pen number of the foster mother on the genetic mothers Pen Board. Eg. "1 to pen 10" Write a "41" on the pen board where a lamb was fostered on. Also write the pen number of the genetic mother on the foster mothers Pen Board. Eg. "41 from pen 6" Foster lambs should be tagged immediately with a management tag, and recorded on the "Foster Lamb Sheet"
<p>★ Dead Lambs ★</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are even more significant than alive lambs to record!! Write "1 Dead" on pen board of ewes that had a dead lamb. Collect a DNA sample from all dead lambs, and record immediately on the "Lamb Deaths Sheet" Make sure there is no amniotic (birth) fluids on the ear before taking the sample, as this may affect DNA quality. 	<p>Tagging Lambs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambs should be tagged between 12-24 hours old when they are dry and strong. Tags should be used in sequence to make it easier to track problems Ears should be sprayed with alamycin (blue spray) immediately after tagging Birth weights must be recorded at this stage also.
<p>Pet Lambs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a lamb is removed from its mother as a pet, write a "P" on the ewes pen board. Tag the lamb using NSIS/management tag. Record the lamb on the "Pet Lamb Sheet" 	<p>DNA Samples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNA samples should be placed in a freezer every 6-12 hours. Ensure all DNA vials are sealed correctly after sampling. Ensure vials are not damaged/cracked.

Sheep Ireland 023 882 0451

Ewe No: 00123A DOB: 02/01/17

Lambing Difficulty: 3 (Slight pull)

Mothering Ability: 4 (Good mother)

Lamb Vigour: 3

Ewe Milk: 1 (V.poor milk)

Comment: Ewe has mastitis (mark for culling)

An example of a board that is placed on the pen with the traits we record

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 14-FEB-2018 To 23-FEB-2018

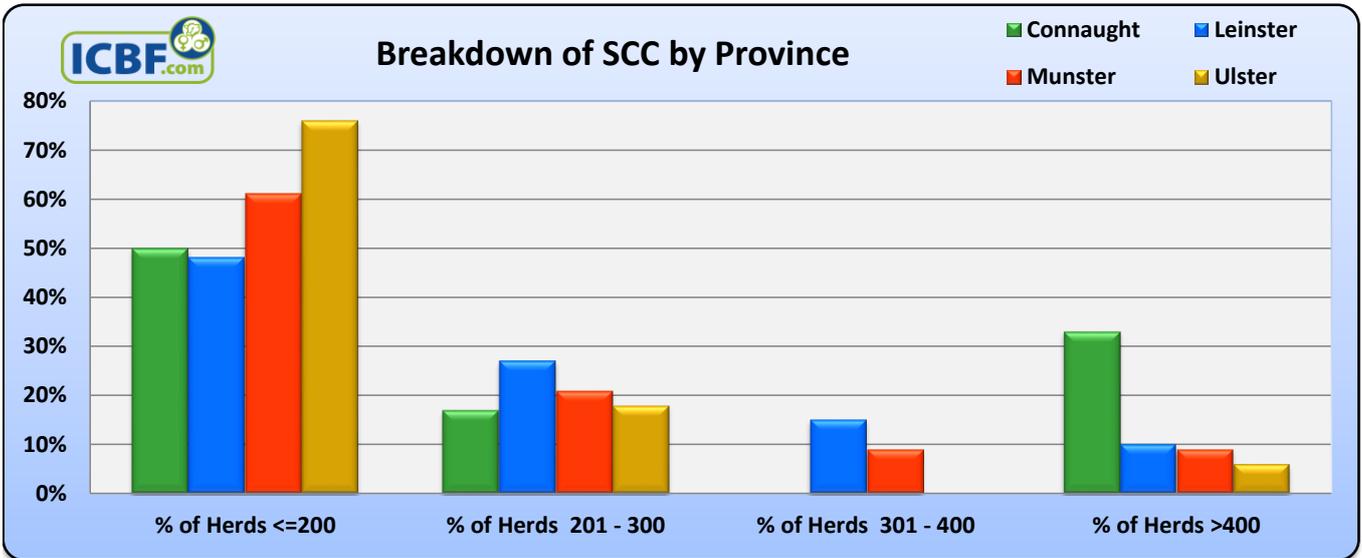
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	6	319	53	25.5	4.09	3.24	1.86	175
Leinster	73	5,774	79	23.1	4.34	3.38	1.79	191
Munster	174	11,402	66	25.1	4.37	3.37	1.94	174
Ulster	17	833	49	25.5	4.19	3.34	1.92	147
National Statistics	270	18,328	68	24.6	4.35	3.37	1.90	177

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 14-FEB-2018 To 23-FEB-2018

ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	6	319	53	50%	17%	0%	33%	175
Leinster	73	5,774	79	48%	27%	15%	10%	191
Munster	174	11,402	66	61%	21%	9%	9%	174
Ulster	17	833	49	76%	18%	0%	6%	147
National Statistics	270	18,328	68	59%	23%	10%	9%	177

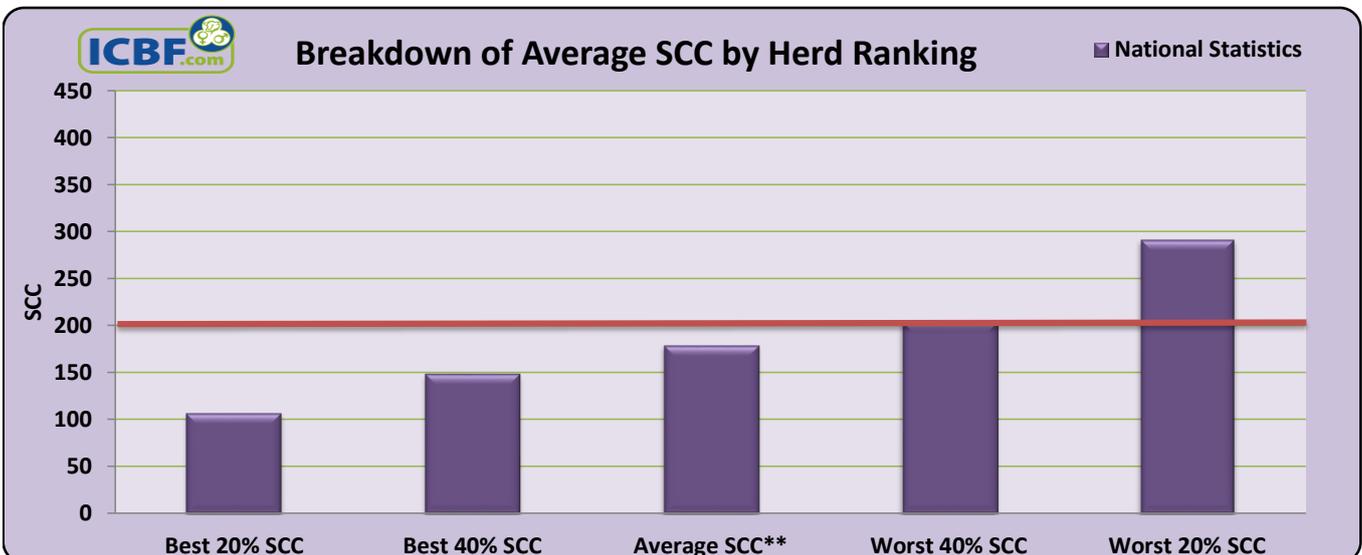
* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 14-FEB-2018 To 23-FEB-2018

ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	6	319	53	54	150	191	232	471
Leinster	73	5,774	79	113	155	214	240	310
Munster	174	11,402	66	111	148	178	199	274
Ulster	17	833	49	89	118	130	167	253
National Statistics	270	18,328	68	107	149	179	204	291

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



Five-star progeny leaving €110 more profit

The main aim of the progeny testing model at Tully is to increase the accuracy of genetic evaluations for AI sires. Adam Woods talks to Ciarán Costello about the trial

Recent results from Tully test centre in Kildare town have demonstrated an average difference of €110 in the finishing period between five-star commercial bulls and one-star bulls based on their terminal index.

The difference between individual bulls of the same breed was as high as €200. The main reason for the €110 difference is due to the five-star terminal bulls slaughtering on average 15 days younger, having a heavier carcass weight of 14kg due to higher kill-out of 2% and lower feed intake of 0.4kg/day when compared with the one-star animals (see Table 1).

The five-star animals also had a higher total meat yield percentage. All bulls used in the analysis were from suckler cows.

The main aim of the progeny testing model at Tully is to increase the accuracy of genetic evaluations for AI sires of interest. This is carried out by collecting information on 20 commercial progeny from each AI sire identified.

Progeny are selected from AI sires tested through the Gene Ireland maternal programme. However, some progeny of proven AI sires are also selected to allow ICBF to validate their sires' indices.

The selection process is carried out by using the ICBF database to locate Gene Ireland AI-sired progeny across Ireland.

Age and gender also form part of the selection process.

Once the progeny are identified, farmers are contacted. The animals are then weighed on farm and they are collected by the ICBF. The price paid is based on the average for five-star terminal animals of similar age and weight paid in the marts that week. There have been 1,984 commercial animals slaughtered from Tully since the move away from testing pedigree bulls three years ago. The commercial animals slaughtered consisted of 1,301 bulls, 555 steers and 128 heifers.

Measurements obtained

When the animals are purchased, they have an acclimatisation period of 30 days followed by a performance test period of 90 days. The health programme includes vaccinating for IBR, BVD, RSV, PI3, Black-leg and other clostridia diseases.

The diet for the bulls is ad-lib concentrates with 3kg of hay freshweight. Steers and heifers are offered 10kg of concentrates and 3kg hay freshweight per head per day.

Throughout the 90-day finishing period, a number of key traits are recorded. All animals are genotyped using a customised chip to verify parentage.

Key data recorded includes average daily gain, feed conversion efficiency, muscle, skeletal and functionality traits, scanned measurements for muscle and fat depth along with intramuscular fat.

Health and disease data is also recorded, such as lameness, genetic defects, pneumonia and other illnesses. Scrotal circumference measurement is obtained on bulls.

Bulls are slaughtered between 15 and 18 months, with the vast majority being



slaughtered under 16 months of age. Steers and heifers are slaughtered between 22 and 18 months, respectively.

Measurements at the factory

When the animals are slaughtered, a number of meat quality phenotypes are recorded. These include carcass weight, carcass fat and carcass conformation. The carcass is then cut into 19 primal yields and each cut is weighed. Muscle pH is recorded hourly and ultimate. Meat eating quality traits are also recorded. These include colour of the loin, visual marbling of the loin, composition analysis, intramuscular fat %, protein %, moisture %, cook loss, shear force, and sensory analysis.

€200 difference within breed

Table 2 compares two individual bulls (refer to pictures of bull 1 and bull 2) based on their finishing period in Tully and slaughter data. There was a difference of 3.7kg of dry matter consumed per head per day between the two bulls.

In value terms, bull 2 consumed €85 less feed than bull 1 over a 100-day finishing period despite being sired by the

The difference in feed intake between the two bulls measured in bags of meal over the 100-day finishing period. The bull on the left consumed €85 more feed.

same breed and finished in the same pen under similar environmental conditions. As shown in Table 2, bull 2 was from a five-star feed intake sire (AHZ) and bull one (YHB) was from a one-star feed intake sire.

Therefore, the sires indices reflect the performance of respective progeny. Despite bull 2 eating less feed, its carcass was 28kg heavier at slaughter leaving a difference of €112 between the bulls. Both bulls were of similar age.

Grading and high-value cuts

Following these bulls through to slaughter, bull 2 also performed best at grading E=3- in comparison to bull 1 which graded U+4=. Based on carcass dissection, we can see that bull 2 had the largest striploin, which was 1.42kg heavier than bull 1.

Overall, bull 2 left the highest margin of profit due to being the most efficient animal over the finishing period and due to the overall slaughter value of the animal in comparison to bull 1.

In conclusion, the total difference from finishing (€85) to slaughter (€112) equates to nearly €200 between both animals.



Ciarán Costello.

Irish Angus Cattle Society Sales 2018

10th March	Ck-On-Shannon
21st March	Kilkenny
31st March	Ballina
7th April	Kilmallock (Premier Sale)
14th April	Ck-On-Shannon
18th April	Kilkenny
28th April	Kilmallock
12th May	Kilmallock
16th May	Kilkenny
19th May	Ck-On-Shannon
9th June	Ck-On-Shannon
20th October	Ck-On-Shannon
8th December	Ck-On-Shannon Elite Sale

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Striploins



Bull 2: 9.10kg

Bull 1: 7.68kg



Bull 2: 9.10kg

Bull 1: 7.68kg

Tully is delivering on its core objectives. To increase the profitability of the national suckler herd by providing key data on hard-to-measure traits linked to profit such as feed intake and meat quality. It is also validating the Euro-Star indices while demonstrating the value of better genetics to the beef industry.



Bull 1 conformation

Poorer bull for feed efficiency; carcass conformation grade: U+4=; carcass weight: 380kg.



Bull 2 conformation

Good bull for feed efficiency; carcass conformation grade: E=3-; carcass weight: 408kg.



Table 1: Comparison of young bulls*

Performance	1 Star	3 Star	5 Star
ADG on test (kg/day)	2.01	2.03	2.01
Final liveweight (kg)	678	674	677
Age slaughter (days)	494	484	479
Carcass weight (kg)	394	398	408
Carcass grade & fat score	U+ 2+	U+ 3=	U= 3=
Kill-out %	58.1%	59.0%	60.2%
DMI (kg/day)	12.73	12.69	12.35
Avg tenderness	5.87	6.15	6.24
Avg juiciness	5.91	6.20	6.28
Avg flavour	5.74	6.07	6.08

* Based on terminal index of the animal as a weanling.

Table 2: Feed intake comparison

Tag	Sire	Dam breed	Final weight	DMI	ADG	Feed eff
Bull 1	YHB	AA*HF	676kg	13.0	1.62	8.03
Bull 2	AHZ	LM*BB	664kg	9.3	2.07	4.51

Difference in feed cost over 100 days = €85

Sire data	YHB (sire bull 1)	AHZ (sire bull 2)
Replacement index	€67	€37
Terminal index	€108	€127
Feed intake € (rel)	€14 (71%)	€35 (73%)
Feed intake (wb stars)	1 star	5 stars
Carcass weight	380kg	408kg
Carcass grade	U+ 4=	E= 3-

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Replacement Index Breed Percentiles (Jan 2018)	ICBF			
	20%	40%	60%	80%
All Breeds (Cross Breed)	643	681	677	638
Angus	696	681	694	678
Simmental	676	673	678	661
Mix of Breeds	673	667	656	671
Belgian Blue	671	671	622	600
Charolais	671	671	649	606
Hereford	673	680	654	673
Limousin	679	673	667	670
Flottmariner	681	676	670	677
Redpoll	671	670	673	670
Salers	676	676	649	674
Shorthorn	684	687	678	671
Northdown	673	676	675	676

****So its obvious - whether you use a Salers Bull or a Salers Dam, you can't go wrong!****