# **Breeding for expansion**

George Ramsbottom Teagasc Oak Park



#### **Seamus Quigley – National Dairy Conference**

1. Purchased the wrong cow

2. Not enough heifers reared in early

years

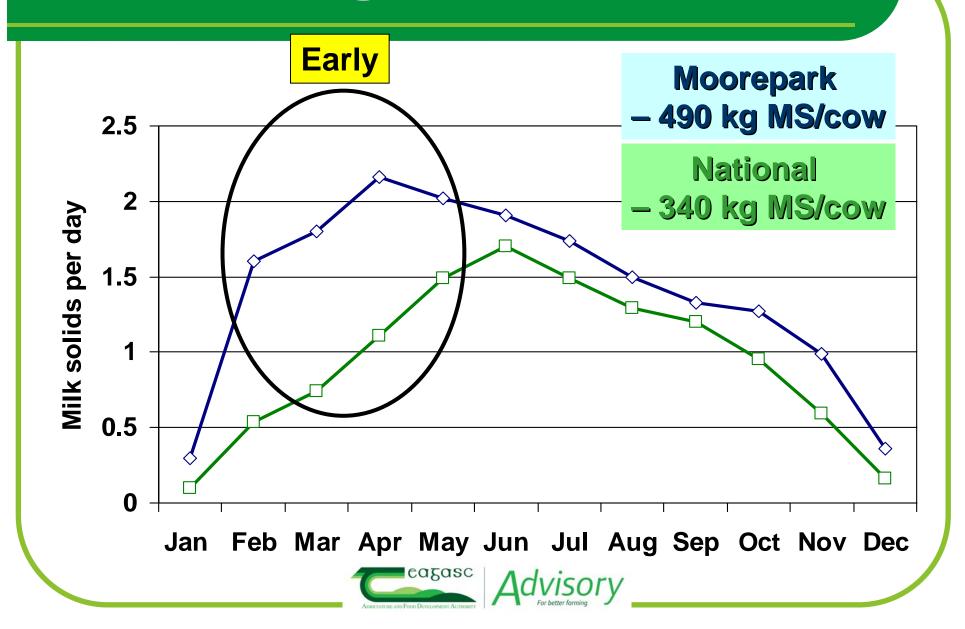
3. KNOWLEDGE IS KING







#### 1. The wrong cow



#### Profit Monitor Analysis - Profit per cow

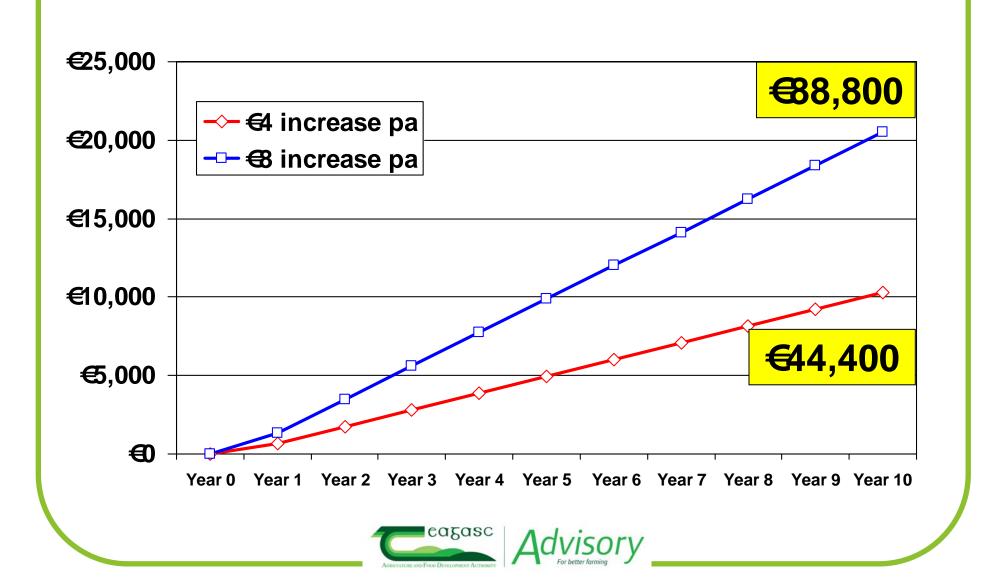
	<b>€</b> 1 increase
Herd EBI	+ €3.60 profit/cow
Milk Index (€)	No effect
Fertility Index (€)	+ €3.60 profit/cow

Teagasc Target = Lift herd EBI by €5 p.a.

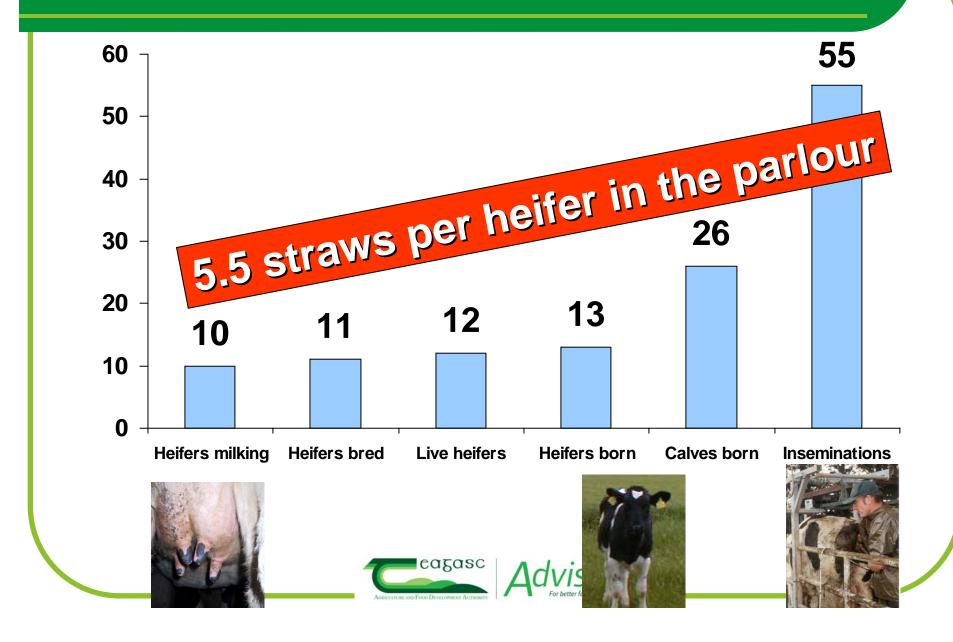


## **Economic impact of EBI increase**

#### - 100 cow herd



## 2. Not enough replacements



### EBI €100 group competition

#### **2007**

- 10,800 cows
- 16,200 inseminations (1.5 straws per cow)
- 2008
  - 3,700 live heifer calves (8% mortality)
- 2010
  - 3,100 heifers in milk (84% make the parlour)
  - Less 2,150 culls
- 950 heifers for expansion 9% increase



# Straw use and herd expansion

Straws used per cow (2008)	Herd size change 2011
1.0	-1%
1.25	+4%
1.5	+9%
1.75	+14%
2.0	+18%





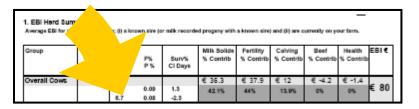
## 3. Knowledge is king



Milk Recording -

Profit Monitor - track your cost

EBI Report
- Milk vs fertility



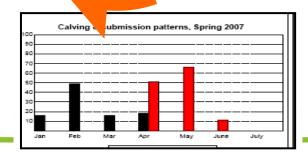
Active Bull List - pick 5 sires



Fertility Report - 90% submitted in 3 weeks

- culling strategy

Calving Report
- 80% calved in 6 weeks



#### Summary

- Breed the right cow
  - EBI €100 : Milk index €40+ Fertility index €50
- Use enough Al
  - 1.5 straws per cow for 10% expansion
- Use the reports available
  - To plan
  - To monitor
  - To analyse

