Performance Recording Review

Overview

- **Performance Recording background**

- **Current Linear Scoring Model**

- **Future possibilities – is there a better way?**

Background

Beef Pedigree Bulls - Data Recording analysis

(Bulls born in 2013 - data analysed May 2015)

Breed	Bulls born in 2013	Calving Survey						Birth weights	Cow Service Dates	Linear Scored	Weighed	Calving Survey & a Weight Recorded on them by May 2015		Dead by May 2015	
		None	Data	1	2	3	4					Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Angus	3082	599	2483	2294	166	14	9	168	446	363	515	450	15%	273	9%
Aubrac	121	12	109	97	10	1	1	15	25	26	40	36	30%	45	37%
Blonde	177	36	141	228	27	6	1	6	25	19	48	45	25%	39	22%
Blue	240	129	111	29	28	6	48	3	36	141	123	48	20%	20	8%
Charolais	4340	479	3861	2871	726	104	160	96	741	1409	1572	1355	31%	1125	26%
Hereford	1625	154	1471	1233	190	24	24	160	564	209	312	286	18%	154	9%
Limousin	4163	413	3750	3226	422	47	55	138	1025	1611	1797	1601	38%	931	22%
Piedmontese	86	9	77	60	13	1	3	7	1	6	9	9	10%	43	50%
Parthenaise	187	31	156	123	23	4	6	16	20	47	71	58	31%	41	22%
Saler	296	18	278	266	8	2	2	27	106	32	72	66	22%	85	29%
Shorthorn	283	31	252	210	33	7	2	21	42	20	48	44	16%	62	22%
Simmental	1052	128	924	731	151	13	29	75	234	381	444	393	37%	381	36%
Total	15652	2039	13613	11368	1797	229	340	732	3265	4264	5051	**4391**	**28%**	**3199**	**20%**
	%	13%		84%	13%	2%	3%	5%	21%	27%	32%				

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Q10 Please rate 1-5 (1=Very Poor, 2=Poor, 3=Average, 4= Good, 5=Excellent) you're opinion on the service provided to participating herds

Answered: 79   Skipped: 5

	1	2	3	4	5	Total Respondents
Herd Liasion Officer (HLO)	15.58% 12	9.09% 7	28.57% 22	25.97% 20	20.78% 16	77
Linear Scoring/Weight Recording	3.80% 3	5.06% 4	15.19% 12	41.77% 33	34.18% 27	79
Recommended Bull Lists	15.38% 12	12.82% 10	29.49% 23	33.33% 26	10.26% 8	78
Newsletters	6.41% 5	10.26% 8	29.49% 23	38.46% 30	16.67% 13	78
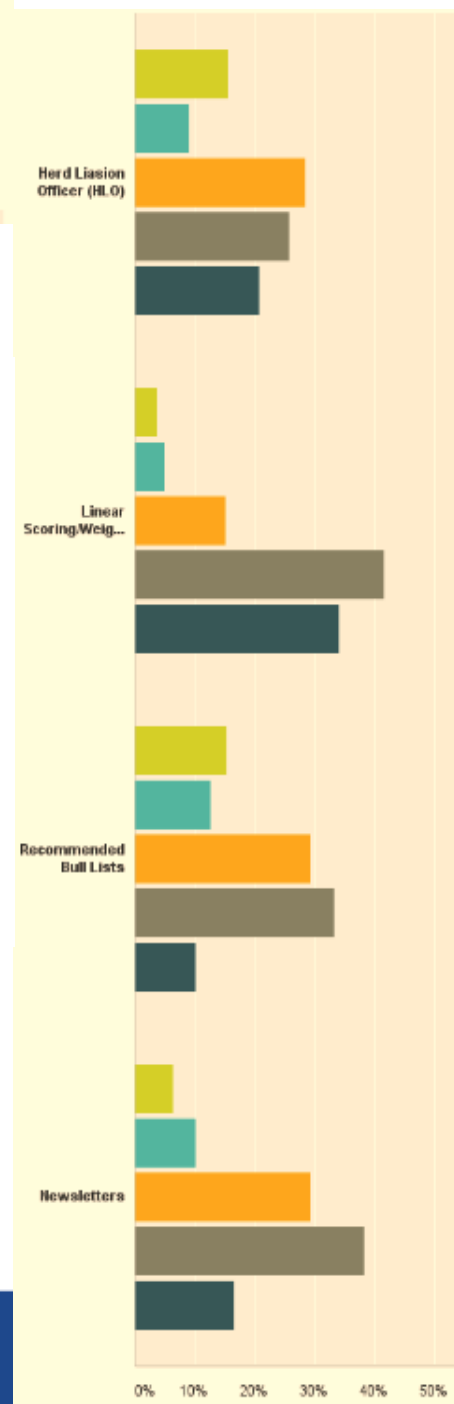
Pedigree Breeders like Linear Scoring

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Background

- Technique adopted in 1990's from French 'pointage' system.
- Traits selected were the same as those being scored in France.

| Muscular Development	Skeletal Development	Functionality	Breed Characteristics
width between the withers	cannon bone circumference	width of muzzle	colour of head
width behind the withers	length of back	front legs	colour of body
development of the hind quarters	length of pelvis	back legs	harmony
width of the hind quarters	width of pelvis	level of back	
thickness of the loin	overall development		
length of the hind quarters			

- Linear Scores were converted into BLUP's.
- Direct link between input and output.

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Current

- 'Eligible' animals are 250-365 days old.

- Must weigh & score all eligible animals on day.

- In one visit per annum – all animals under 365 days must be weighed.

- Time of year and frequency of visit dictated by:
  – Calving pattern of herd
  – **Date of upcoming sale – particularly bull sales**

- €uro-Stars have now taken over from BLUPs.
  – Particularly – Replacement Index €uro-Stars.

# Linear Scoring & €uro-Stars link

Linear Scoring - Trait Usage Overview
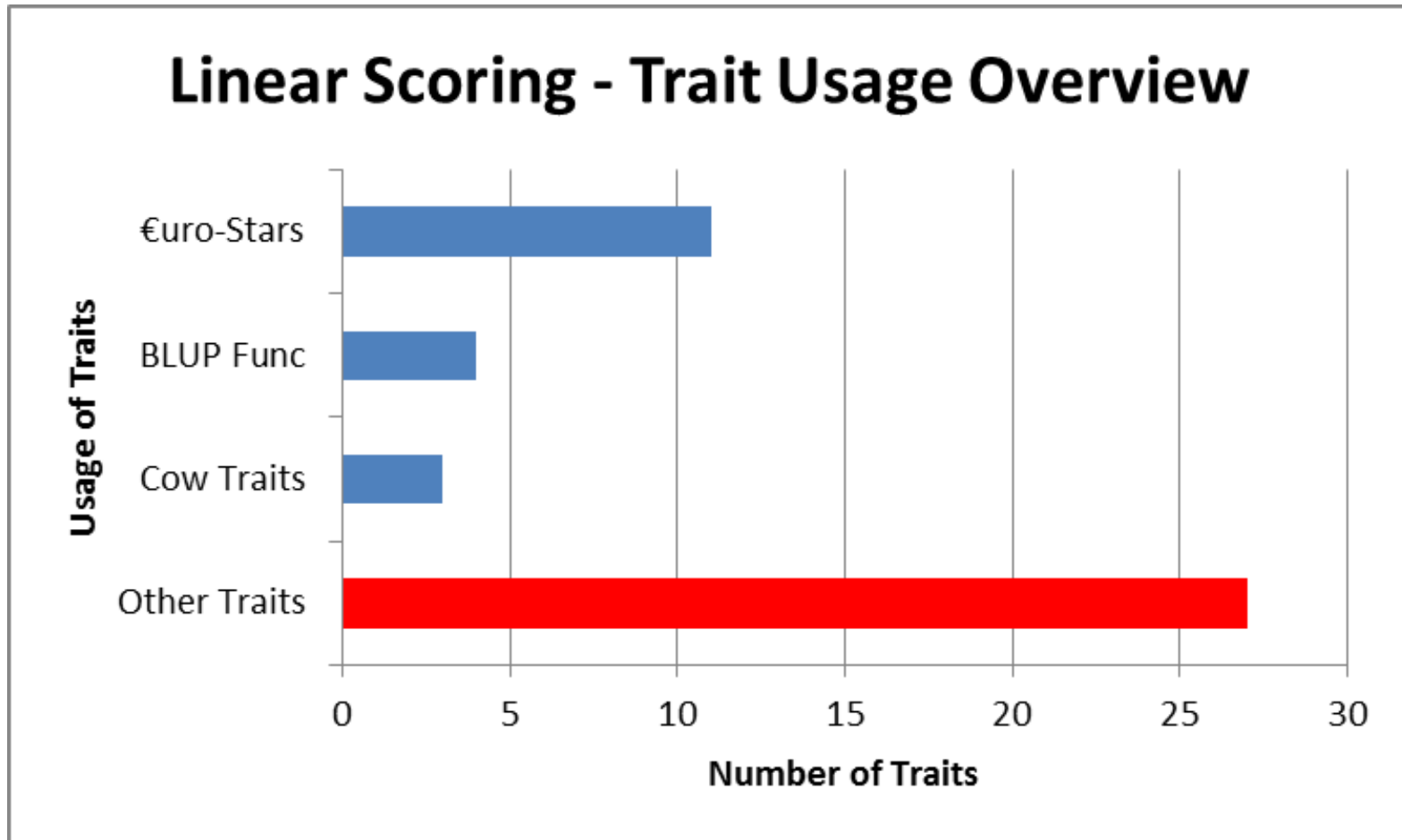
- 45 possible Linear Scoring Traits

Current Numbers

Pedigrees Scored	**7806**
Pedigrees Weighed	**14,255**
Number of visits	**1735**
Number of herds visited	**1067**
Avg nbr of animals scored per visit	**4.5**
Avg nbr of animals weighed per visit	**8.2**
Avg nbr of visits per herd	**1.6**
Avg Herd Spend	**€165**
Avg nbr Ped Cows in GROW herds	**12**
Avg nbr Peds in GROW herds	**27**

- Avg of 4.5 animals scored per visit.

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Current Numbers
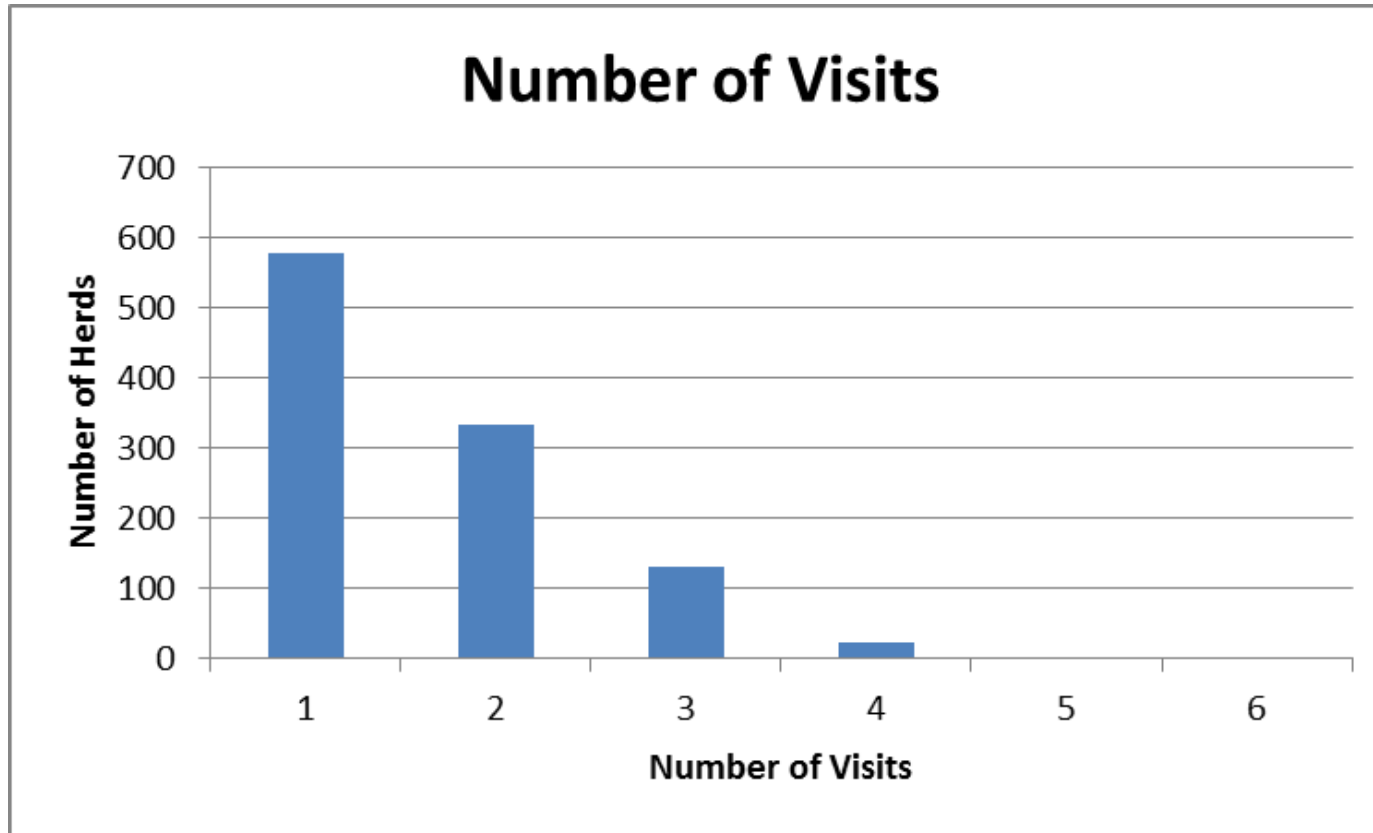
Number of Visits

Visits	Herds
1	578
2	333
3	131
4	24
5	0
6	1
Total	**1067**

- Only just over 50% of herds currently get away with one visit.

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Current Numbers

Number of Animals Scored
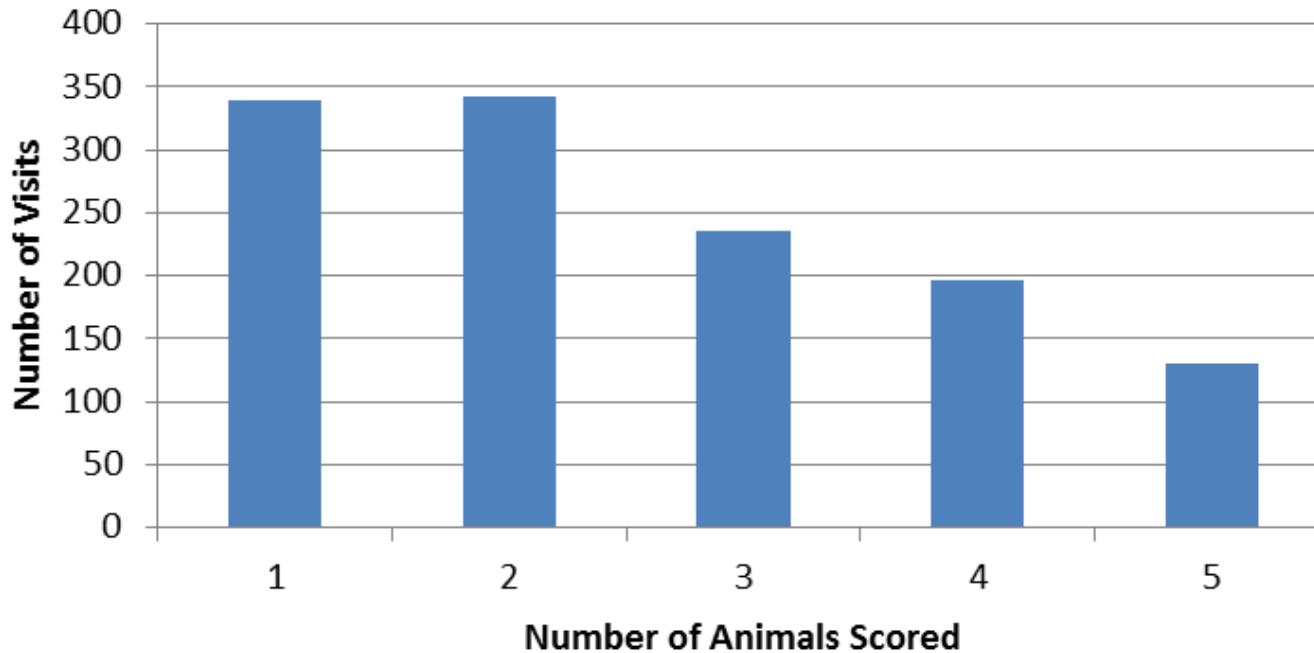
Animals Scored	Visits
1	340
2	342
3	236
4	196
5	130
Total	**1244**

Bar chart titled "Number of Animals Scored" with x-axis labeled "Number of Animals Scored" (values 1–5) and y-axis labeled "Number of Visits" (0–400). Bars: 1≈340, 2≈342, 3≈236, 4≈196, 5≈130.

- 72% of visits are for groups of 5 animals or less.

Current Costings

- **Cost Efficiency - Scoring**
- Currently – an average of 4.5 animals scored per visit
- Cost= €45 (callout) + €10*4.5 = €90
- 50% chance that the same herd will have another visit in same year.

- **Cost Efficiency – Weight recording**
- €60 covers the callout and weighing of 15 animals.

Current

- Current timing & frequency of scoring visits is largely driven by **the age of young bulls in a herd**.

- **Date of upcoming Society Sale** has a large effect on the date of a visit.

- It is compulsory that bulls are scored for certain Breed Society Sales.

Future

- **Is there a better way?**

- To-date Linear scoring has been terminal trait focussed on young animals (particularly those animals entered for sale).

- **Given Maternal breeding focus:**

- Should we now move the focus to the female?

- Have a once/year whole herd model?

- Less traits scored for an equivalent current cost?

- Remove the pressure around sale time on Breed Societies.

- Record more relevant maternal data.

Future – 'Whole Herd Scoring'?

- **We are already doing 'Whole Herd Scoring' through the GI Bull Breeder herds.**
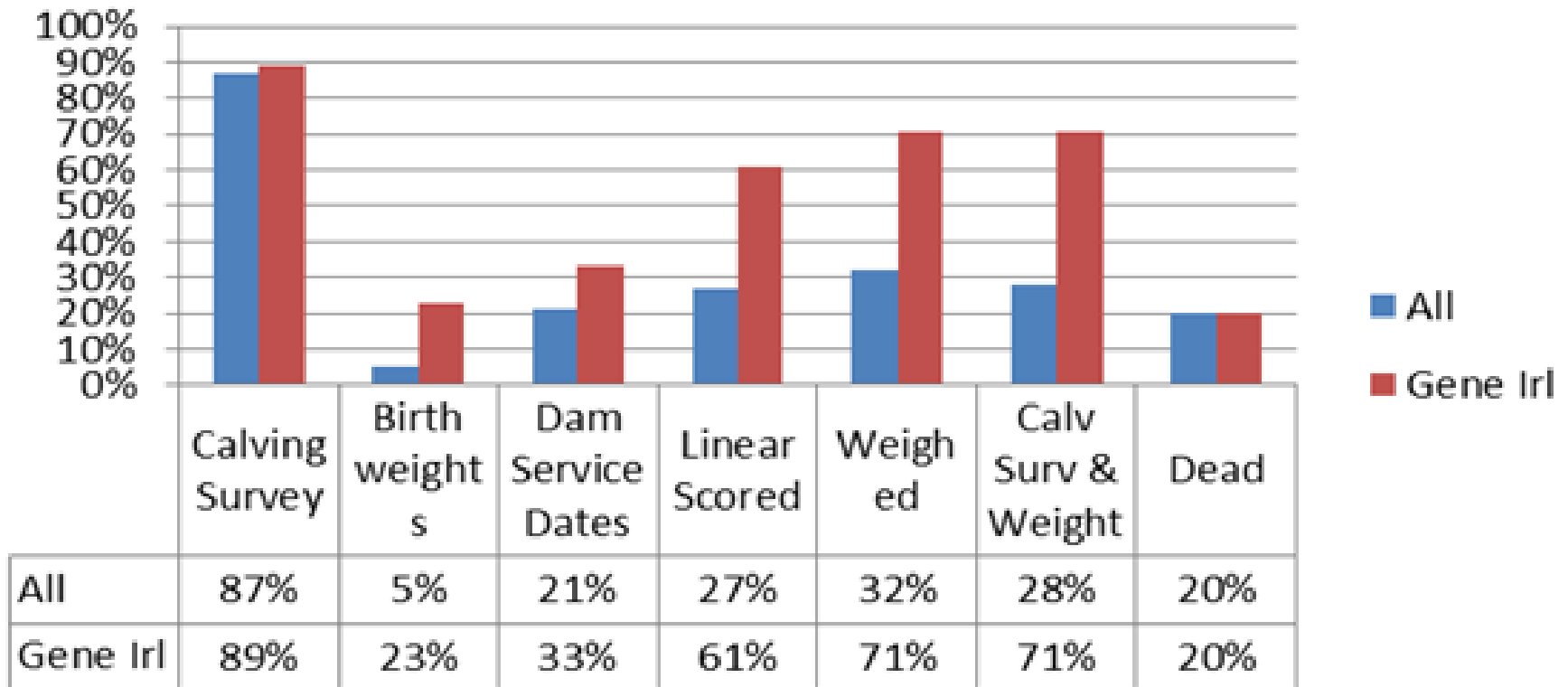

- **Annual TB Test: Annual ICBF Performance Rec. Visit!**

- Every ped animal weighed.
- 250-365 days scored also.
- Any calved female gets full maternal scores recorded.
- Evidence of sections etc
- Breeders are not complaining that it is too much hassle.
- 300 herds have had the whole herd visit done so far.

- Better alignment with Gene Ireland – Contract Matings

Gene Ireland

Data Recording Comparison - All Ped Herds v Gene Ireland Herds

	Calving Survey	Birth weights	Dam Service Dates	Linear Scored	Weighed	Calv Surv & Weight	Dead
All	87%	5%	21%	27%	32%	28%	20%
Gene Irl	89%	23%	33%	61%	71%	71%	20%

- Whole Herd approach results in more data being recorded.

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Next Steps

- Produce costings on the 'Whole Herd' approach for Breeders.
  - Expectation is that overall cost to Breeder will be similar to current model.

- Investigate ways of rewarding the herds that are performance recording i.e. edited catalogue/Bull Search outputs.

- Consult with Breed Societies & Pedigree Breeders.
  - Entry requirements for Premier Sales etc

- Phase in potential roll out in line with resource requirement, availability & potential demand.

- Q. Will there be demand? Feedback welcome

Summary

- Linear Scoring is an important cattle breeding tool.

- Pedigree Breeders place high importance in it.

- Its operational model needs to be reviewed in light of current times (€uro-Stars, Maternal breeding focus) in 4 areas:
  1. Traits scored
  2. Animals scored
  3. Cost & frequency of scoring
  4. Use of Scores (Bull Sales etc)

Expand the focus to include the cow and her calf as well as the young bull.