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User Guide

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Welcome

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This User Guide is aimed at helping you make full use of your Dairy HerdPlus membership. The HerdPlus service will furnish you with the breeding and management tools you need to maximise profit on your farm.

Understanding the Economic Breeding Index (EBI)

What is EBI?

EBI is a single figure profit index aimed at helping farmers identify the most profitable bulls and cows for breeding dairy herd replacements. It comprises of information on seven sub-indexes related to profitable milk production.

2018 Economic values and % emphasis for traits in the EBI				
Sub-Index	**Trait**	**Economic Weight**	**Trait Emphasis**	**Overall Emphasis**
Production	Milk	-€0.09	8.9	**34%**
	Fat	€2.08	7	
	Protein	€5.58	17.9	
Fertility	Calving Interval	-€12.59	23.1	**34%**
	Survival	€12.43	10.7	
Calving	Direct Calving Difficulty	-€4.19	3.3	**10%**
	Maternal Calving Difficulty	-€2.31	1.8	
	Gestation Length	-€7.93	4.3	
	Calf Mortality	-€2.58	1	
Beef	Cull Cow Weight	€0.15	0.7	**8%**
	Carcass Weight	€1.38	4.8	
	Carcass Confirmation	€10.32	1.7	
	Carcass Fat	-€11.71	1.1	
Maintenance	Cow Liveweight	-€1.65	6.3	**6%**
Management	Milking Speed	-€0.31	2.5	**5%**
	Milking Temperament	€35.86	2	
Health	Lameness	-€72.47	0.7	**3%**
	SCC	-€43.49	1.8	
	Mastitis	-€82.65	0.8	

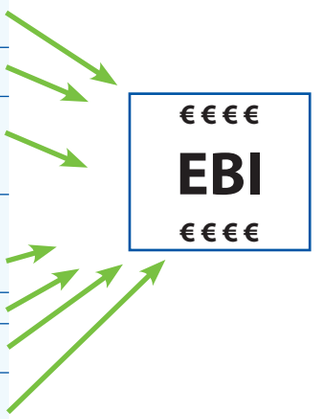

Table 1 Economic values and % emphasis of the various traits in the EBI formula (December 2017 figures)

How do I interpret the Predicted figures for Milk kg, Fat kg, etc?

An animal's Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA) indicates the amount of a particular trait an animal is expected to pass on to its progeny relative to the base population (See Table 2). The PTA is equal to half of its own Breeding Value since a cow only passes on half her genes to her offspring. All values on the EBI report are expressed as PTAs. Information on bulls (in catalogues, bull search etc.) is also presented in terms of PTA.

	Milk kg	Fat kg	Prot kg	Fat%	Prot%	CI days	Surv%
Base Cow Performance	5743	224	195	3.90	3.39	400	82.5

Table 2 Base Population Performance – 2005 born cows, calved and milk recorded in 2007.

The daughters of a bull with a PTA of 150kg for milk yield would be expected to produce, on average, 100kg more milk per lactation than the daughters of a bull with a PTA of 50kg if their dams have equal genetic merit. This logic applies across all PTA' s. The actual difference will not be exact for comparing individual daughters because no two daughters get exactly the same combination of genes and are not exposed to exactly the same environment. Thus, daughters of the same sire may have varying performance.

Note:** EBI figures are subject to change after each evaluation run. See ***Publication Schedule online for evaluation timeline.

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Getting Started

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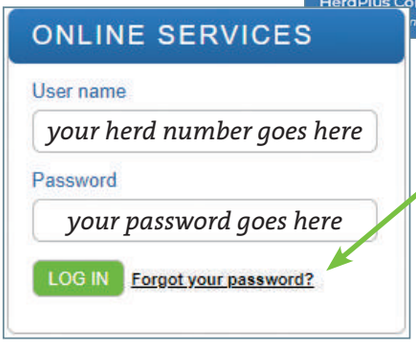
Logging In

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.



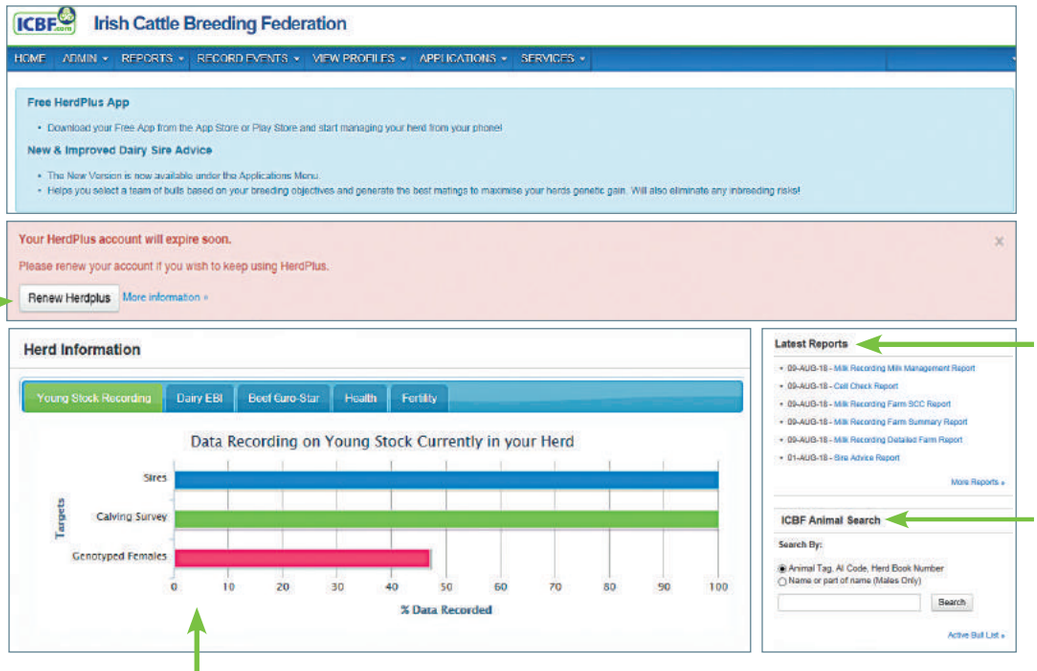
Forgot your password?

Click **Forgot your password** to retrieve your password **OR** Text **PASS** to **0894577663** from the mobile registered to your herd.

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.

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



See your **Latest Reports.**

Use the **ICBF Animal Search** to look up EBI information on individual animals.

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

Top Tip! Make sure your contact details are correct in the "Herd Info" screen located under the "Admin" option on the Home Page.

Profiles

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EBI Profile

View the EBI figures for each of your animals on our live EBI Profile.

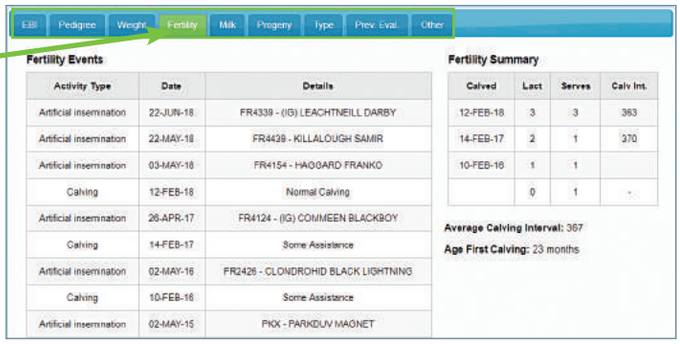
Compare your herd's average EBI figure against the National average.

Filter your list to fit your search criteria.

Click on a column heading to **sort** your list.

Download and Print this profile in **Excel** or **PDF** format.

Click on the Freeze Brand to see more information including **Milk Production, Fertility, Progeny, Geno Eval & much more!**



Expected Calving Profile

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

Jumbo	Contract Rearing	Lact	Last Serve	Last Bull	Main Breed	Bull Calv Diff %	Sexed	Last Preg Scan	Exp Calf Date	Days To Calving	DIM	EBI €	Milk €	Fert €	Other €
1027	N	4	22-NOV-17	KSB	HO	2.90		29-MAR-18	31-AUG-18	17	304	65	5	49	12
1005	N	4	24-NOV-17	OKT	JE	1.10		29-MAR-18	01-SEP-18	18	448	80	82	-27	25
1611	N	1	24-NOV-17	SLP	HO	2.20		29-MAR-18	02-SEP-18	19	306	147	45	64	38
871	N	6	26-NOV-17	LWR	HO	2.50		29-MAR-18	04-SEP-18	21	305	118	62	23	33

See the Days to Calving and the predicted overall EBI value of the calf including a breakdown of the figure across some of the key sub-indices.

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Profiles

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Fertility Profile

View live fertility information for your herd to assess which cows are performing most efficiently!

The fertility profile provides you with a snapshot of the key information from the breeding season in your herd as it happens!

See the status of your animals that are being contract reared!

View the most up to date serve information for your herd.

Sort by Number of Serves to help identify cows that may have fertility issues.

Animal Number	Contract Rearing	Lact	Purpose	Last Calving	Last Served	Last Bull	Sexed	No. Serves	Days Last Serve	Last Preg Diag	Last Preg Scan Date
	Y	4	Dairy	13-OCT-17	22-NOV-17	KSB		1	265	IN CALF	29-MAR-18
	Y	4	Dairy	22-MAY-17	24-NOV-17	OKT		1	263	IN CALF	29-MAR-18
	Y	1	Dairy	11-OCT-17	24-NOV-17	SLP		1	263	IN CALF	29-MAR-18
	Y	4	Dairy	10-MAR-17	26-NOV-17	PKX		3	261	IN CALF	29-MAR-18

Milk Recording Profile

Our live Milk Recording profile enables you to view your herd's past,present and predicted future milk yields.

View the performance of individual cows in the herd for their current lactation.

How will an individual cow perform over the full 305-day lactation?

Animal Details						Yield to Date (last recording 26-JUN-18)							305 Day Predicted					
Jumbo	Breed	Lact	Calving Date	DIM	Dry Date	Milk (Kgs)	Fat (%)	Prot (%)	Fat (Kgs)	Prot (Kgs)	F+P (Kgs)	SCC	Milk (Kgs)	Fat (%)	Prot (%)	Fat (Kgs)	Prot (Kgs)	F+P (Kgs)
284	HO (97%)	4	26-SEP-17	273		8803	4.63	3.24	411	287	697	130	9635	4.58	3.23	441	312	753
286	HO (97%) FR (3%)	5	13-FEB-18	133		5478	4.52	3.34	248	183	430	147	9867	4.24	3.39	418	334	752
299	HO (100%)	5	26-MAR-18	92		3393	3.56	2.93	121	99	220	343	9212	3.57	3.06	329	282	611

Click on a cow's jumbo to view her lifetime lactation summary.

See which cows are having a negative impact on the herd's SCC.

Lactation Summary

Lact.	Calved	Milk Kg	Fat Kg	Prot Kg	Fat%	Prot%	F+P Kg	SCC	Days	305d Milk Kg	305d Fat Kg	305d Prot Kg	305d Fat%	305d Prot%	305d F+P Kg
1	15-02-15	5778	299	194	5.17	3.36	493	308	265	6306	323	215	5.12	3.40	538
2	17-01-16	5880	203	200	3.45	3.41	403	31	314	5787	199	197	3.44	3.40	396
3	29-01-17	7704	261	253	3.39	3.28	514	42	314	7562	255	247	3.37	3.27	502
4	03-02-18	5227	152	168	2.91	3.22	320	11	142	8478	254	281	3.00	3.31	535
Avg (Completed)		6147	229	204	3.73	3.32	433	98	259	7033	258	235	3.73	3.35	493

Lifetime Production

Lact	Milk Kg	Fat Kg	Prot Kg	Fat%	Prot%	F+P Kg	Days
4	24589	915	815	3.72	3.31	1730	1035

Top Tip! Download our **Free HerdPlus App** to view your live profiles on the go.

Profiles

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Dairy Nitrates Report

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

Nitrogen(N)		Phosphorus(P)	
kg/hd	Total	kg/hd	Total
85	7676	13	1174
65	98	10	15
24	1102	3	138
57	1756	8	246
65	189	10	29
0	10819	0	1602

Nitrates Report - 2017

Animal Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Nitrogen(N) kg/hd	Nitrogen(N) Total	Phosphorus(P) kg/hd	Phosphorus(P) Total
Dairy Cows	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	183	212	203	200	202	90.3	85	7676	13	1174
Suckler Cows	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	6	1	0	1.5	85	98	10	15
Total Cattle 0 - 12 mths	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	95	113	123	108	104	45.9	24	1102	3	138
Total Cattle 12 - 24 mth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	75	75	72	72	30.8	57	1756	8	246
Total Cattle 24 mths+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	8	7	6	2.9	65	189	10	29
Totals	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	359	414	415	388	384	171.4	0	10819	0	1602

Stock Reconciliation Report

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

Click on the individual figures to view animal details.

Each report can be downloaded and printed for your convenience.

Stock Reconcilliation Report

Showing 1 to 26 of 26 entries — Excel | PDF | Print

Monthly Stock Reconcilliation Report - 2017

Animal Type	Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	12 Month Total/Average
COWS	BOUGHT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SOLD	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
	DIED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	END OF MONTH	30	30	30	33	30	30	28	29	29	29	29	30	29.8
CATTLE 0-6 MONTHS	BORN	1	1	5	6	4	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	28
	BOUGHT	0	0	4	9	3	1	3	3	2	9	0	0	34
	SOLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	DIED	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
	END OF MONTH	8	7	11	24	29	32	35	38	27	26	18	16	21.8
CATTLE 6-12 MONTHS	BOUGHT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	6
	SOLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	DIED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	END OF MONTH	60	57	49	32	18	13	9	10	23	34	48	52	33.8
CATTLE 12-18 MONTHS	BOUGHT	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	SOLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	DIED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	END OF MONTH	14	16	19	36	51	65	60	56	48	32	16	13	34.8
CATTLE 18-24 MONTHS	BOUGHT	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	SOLD	0	0	6	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	12
	DIED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	END OF MONTH	71	68	57	43	29	19	14	17	20	35	50	53	39.7
CATTLE 24+ MONTHS	BOUGHT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	SOLD	8	0	2	5	0	3	8	0	10	10	12	3	61
	DIED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	END OF MONTH	8	13	29	27	42	49	48	46	43	36	25	23	31.8
ALL CATTLE	TOTAL	191	191	186	195	199	198	194	198	190	192	185	181	191.7

Stock reports are beneficial for accounting purposes.

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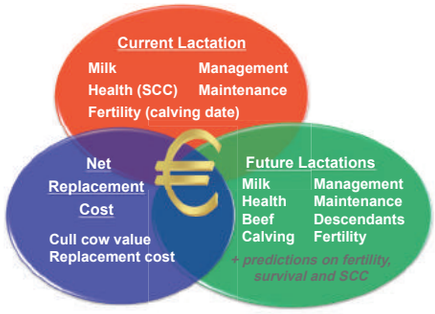
Profiles

C.O.W. is a decision support tool for dairy females to aid in **management** and **culling** decisions through measuring the performance of cows within your herd.

C.O.W. is the expected profit of a cow for her remaining lifetime. Cows are listed in order of expected profitability. Suitable culling candidates will have the lowest ranking.

Record essential data to improve the accuracy of your herd's C.O.W. e.g. dry-offs, serves, health events.



C.O.W. instantly re-ranks as new data is recorded.

Record Events

Missing Sire	Heat & AI/Serve	Pregnancy Diagnosis	Dry-Off	Mastitis & Lameness	Mark For Culling
0 Missing	89 Cows Served	53 Cows Scanned 7% Empty	3 Cows	0 Mastitis Case(s) 0 Lameness Case(s)	1 Cows Marked

Rank	Animal Details			C.O.W. Components				EBI	Fertility				SCC
C.O.W. Rank	Jumbo	Animal Number	Lact	C.O.W. (€)	Current Lact Profit (€)	Future Lacts Profit (€)	Net Replace Cost (€)	EBI (€)	Last Calving Date	Preg Diag	Expected Calving Date	Marked For Culling	SCC (,000 c/ml)
1	1384		6	2952	519	1818	615	247	28-JAN-18	IN CALF	21-FEB-19	NO	50
2	1633		4	2724	525	1588	611	291	24-JAN-18	IN CALF	18-FEB-19	NO	17
3	2104		1	2707	452	1322	933	175	06-FEB-18	IN CALF	28-FEB-19	NO	60
4	1515		5	2689	601	1478	610	193	02-MAR-18	IN CALF	21-MAR-19	NO	11
5	1789		3	2597	473	1402	721	232	20-JAN-18	IN CALF	31-JAN-19	NO	27
6	2106		1	2578	344	1300	935	180	13-FEB-18	IN CALF	24-FEB-19	NO	38
7	2132		1	2533	273	1324	936	213	28-JAN-18	IN CALF	28-FEB-19	NO	24
8	1910		2	2507	402	1273	833	211	06-MAR-18	IN CALF	07-FEB-19	NO	35

Compare your top vs bottom cows on C.O.W.

38	151		4	494	-89	-55	617	96	23-JAN-18	IN CALF	04-FEB-19	NO	259
39	16		6	340	-397	125	611	92	09-FEB-18	IN CALF	21-DEC-18	NO	334
40	488		1					148	23-JAN-18	EMPTY		NO	347
41	90		4					95	27-JAN-18	EMPTY		NO	215
42	251		3					157	30-DEC-17	EMPTY		NO	264
43	1137		4					31	28-APR-18			YES	189
44	23		6					40	06-FEB-18			YES	302

Animals that are "Marked for Culling" or "Empty" are automatically ranked at the bottom.

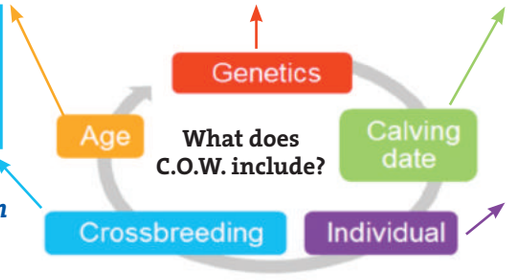
Young cows are not at their mature capability. Older cows will be more susceptible to health issues and are more likely to drop out of the herd compared to their younger herd mates.

The Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA) is equal to half of the Estimated Breeding Value (EBV) as a cow only passes on half of her genes to her progeny. EBV's are used in the C.O.W.

A late calver will produce less milk, is less likely to stay in the herd and may have been difficult to get in-calf.

The hybrid vigour effect is the extra gain in performance for a trait above the parent average where an individual is crossbred.

Note: C.O.W. is only available for Spring Calving herds with a minimum of 3 milk recordings



An individual effect is a permanent influence over an animal's performance due to an environmental consequence. E.g. a cow with one blind quarter will have a lower milk yield but will not pass this onto her daughters.

Top Tip! Record essential data to improve the accuracy of your herd's C.O.W.

Record Events

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Data Recording

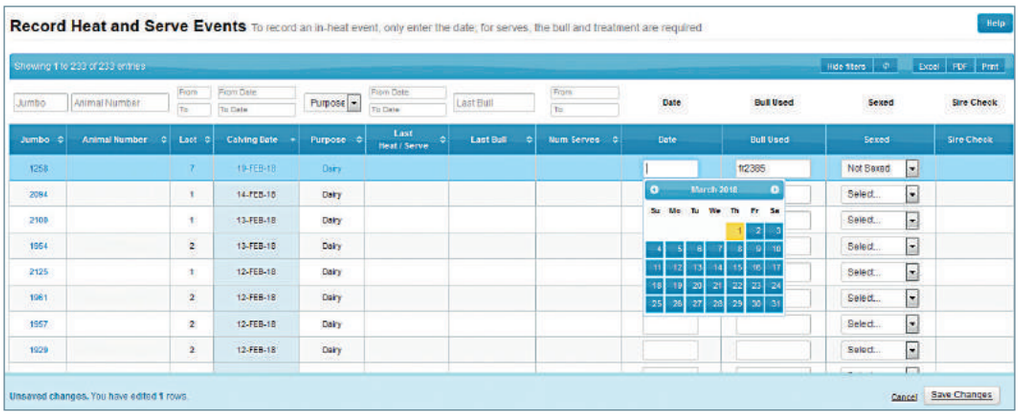
Recording data on your animals is vital for generating accurate EBI's. The completeness and effectiveness of your management reports increases with the more data that you record. You will then be better equipped to make informed breeding decisions when selecting the next generation of breeding stock.

Record Heat & AI/Serve

Heat & AI/Serve data is used to provide you with expected calving or repeat serve dates for management purposes. This data is also used to calculate gestation length and is used to generate your herd's fertility reports.

For herds using an AI technician, AI data is received from your technician's handheld.

Enter the Insemination date along with the bulls **AI Code** ***Or*** Enter the **Full Tag Number or Short code/Jumbo** of your stock bull.



Record Pregnancy Diagnosis

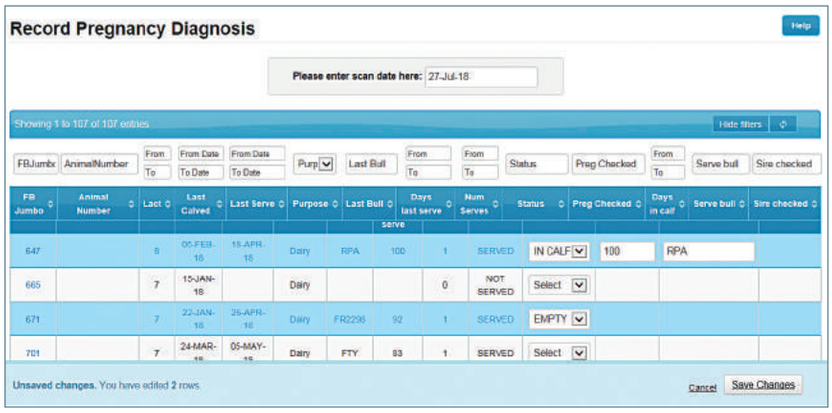
Recording scan results will verify expected calving dates for your herd. Where serves are not recorded farmers can record the approximate number of days in calf as given by the scanning technician.

Enter date of scanning

Enter scan result:

- In Calf
- Empty
- Twins

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



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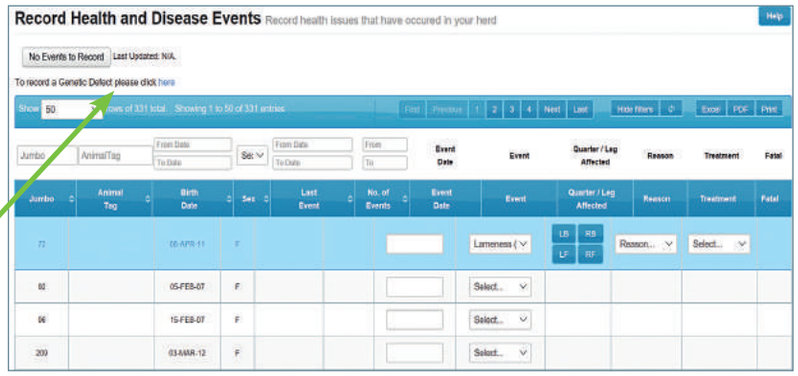
Record Events

Record Health and Disease Events

To improve the accuracy of the Health sub-index it is important to record health and disease information on your animals. Mastitis, lameness, scour, pneumonia, retained placenta and much more can be recorded here.

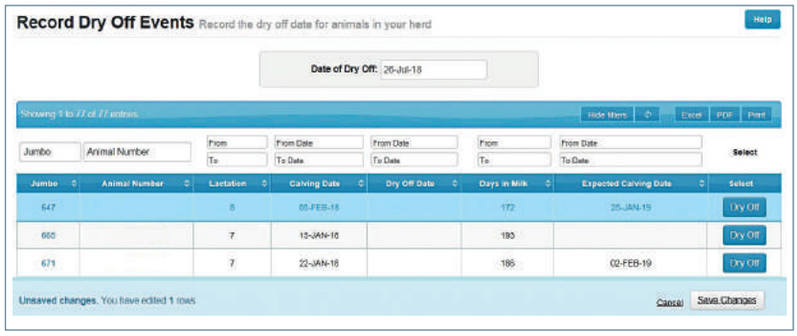
If you have an animal with a suspected genetic defect you can record it here, by clicking on the link.



Record Dry-Off

Dry off Dates must be recorded for a cow to have a valid lactation. This ensures that a cow's lactation details are included in Annual Milk Recording Reports, Sales Catalogues, Pedigree Certs and genetic evaluations.

To record dry-offs, simply put the date of the dry-off in at the top of screen, select dry off for each cow dried on that date and press save changes.



Record Birth Events

Data collected from various birth events impact on a sire's calving difficulty proof and increases reliability for that trait. Calving surveys, Malpresentation, Birth Size, Calf Vigour, Birth Weight, Birth Measurements can all be recorded on the **Birth Events Screen.** Farmer recorded birth events have been largely responsible for the reduction in calving difficulty that has been achieved in the last 10 years.

Record on the go

Dairy farmers can record even more events through their Dairy HerdPlus membership. The data that you record will improve the reliability of your herd's indexes as well as increasing the accuracy of the various management reports & profiles, provided to you through your HerdPlus membership.

Farm Events can be recorded on your pre-printed HerdPlus pocket notebook and then be recorded online.

HerdPlus App

Download for FREE today

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

Reports

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Dairy Cow Report

The Dairy Cow Report enables you to critically analyse the performance of every dairy cow in the herd.

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

1. **Ancestry.**
2. **Calving & Fertility Details.**
3. **EBI Sub-Indexes.**
4. **Milk Production Performance.**

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

Animal Details

Jumbo	1080
Tag	
Name	
DOB	25-Jan-08 9y 11m
Breed	HO 87.5% FR 12.5%
EBI Rank	70
In Herd	Born In herd
Status	Dry
Due Calve	10-MAR-18 FR2371 ExpEBI €215

Details & EBI Indexes

Sire	HFL (€161)
Dam	
Dam's Sire	RUU

EBI	Milk	Fert	Calv	Beef	Maint	Mgmt	Health
€166*	€10	€97	€46	-€4	€5	-€2	€14

Milk Kg	Fat Kg	Prot Kg	Fat %	Prot %	Calv. Int.	Survival
170	4.6	2.6	-0.03	-0.05	-4.8 days	3%

Calving & Fertility

Lact	Calved	Calf Tag	Sex	On Farm	Num Serve	Calv Int
1	18-Mar-10	71352	F	N	1	
2	31-Jan-11	51409	F	N	1	319
3	02-Feb-12	81535	F	Y	1	367
4	03-Feb-13	51680	F	N	1	367
5	03-Feb-14	71798	F	Y	1	365
6	23-Jan-15	11891	M	N	3	354
7	14-Mar-16	22156	F	Y	1	416
8	02-Mar-17	12296	F	Y	2	353
				Avg (Comp)		363
				Lifetime Production		

Milk Production

Lact	Milk kg	Fat kg	Prot kg	Fat %	Prot %	F+P kg	SCC	Days
1	4957	233	166	4.7	3.35	399	65	254
2	7364	297	258	4.03	3.51	555	94	297
3	8042	295	270	3.67	3.36	565	55	310
4	8516	346	294	4.06	3.45	639	69	313
5	8884	350	301	3.94	3.39	651	58	290
6	10131	396	345	3.91	3.4	740	49	332
7	8441	305	292	3.62	3.46	597	93	282
8	8784	332	299	3.77	3.4	631	39	294
	8140	319	278	3.96	3.42	597	65	297
	65119	2554	2225	3.92	3.42	4777		2372

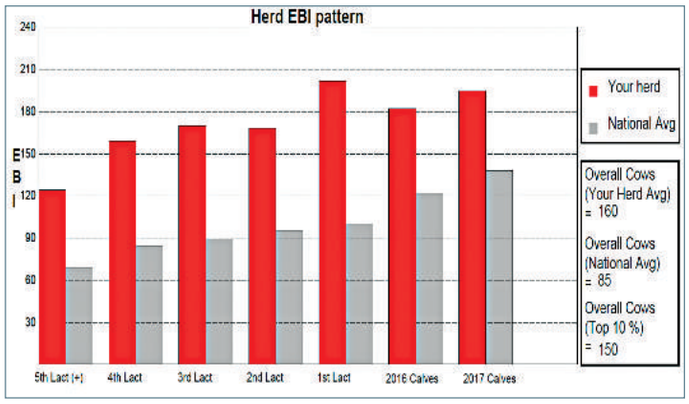
EBI Report

The EBI report details your herd's performance in terms of overall EBI and each of the seven sub-indexes which will enable you to breed the most profitable animals for your herd.

See how your herd compares to the National Average by lactation.

FB Cow ID	Sire ID	Sire EBI	C. Date	Milk Kg		Milk	Fertility	Calving Health	Beef Mainten	EBI €	
Name	Dam FB	Dam EBI	Age	Fat Kg	%				Mgmt	Rel%	Rank
Breed	MG Sire ID	MGS EBI	Lact.	Prot Kg	%						
1029	LLO	76	20/04/2017	167		€ 43	€ 58	€ -3	€ -3	€ 111 *	
	8	127	10y 9m	2.2	-0.07			€ -1	€ 12		
HO 93.8% FR 6.3%	ASE	26	9	9.1	0.05				€ 6	67 %	116

See how your herd compares to the National Average by lactation.



Compare your top & bottom 10 cows on EBI, Milk and Fertility respectively.

TOP 10 COWS ON EBI

	Jumbo	Lac	Milk	Fert	Calv	Other	EBI
1	1917	1	€87	€148	€29	€12	€276
2	1633	3	€98	€104	€58	€9	€269
3	1832	2	€90	€117	€46	€14	€267
4	1949	1	€66	€137	€37	€7	€246
5	1384	5	€78	€90	€58	€13	€240
6	1955	1	€86	€87	€50	€15	€237
7	1910	1	€80	€87	€60	€6	€233
8	1704	3	€51	€127	€56	€-3	€231
9	1944	1	€86	€87	€57	€-3	€227
10	1637	3	€66	€99	€52	€10	€227

BOTTOM 10 COWS ON EBI

	Jumbo	Lac	Milk	Fert	Calv	Other	EBI
1	1232	7	€3	€4	€-5	€19	€20
2	1040	8	€-4	€-11	€30	€12	€27
3	1457	5	€71	€-32	€26	€-8	€56
4	1188	7	€-3	€32	€28	€5	€62
5	1400	5	€13	€27	€35	€-8	€68
6	1365	5	€34	€-2	€44	€-3	€72
7	1262	6	€30	€12	€39	€-3	€79
8	1488	5	€39	€52	€-3	€-5	€84
9	1038	8	€35	€20	€28	€2	€85
10	1293	6	€-53	€110	€29	€4	€90

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Reports

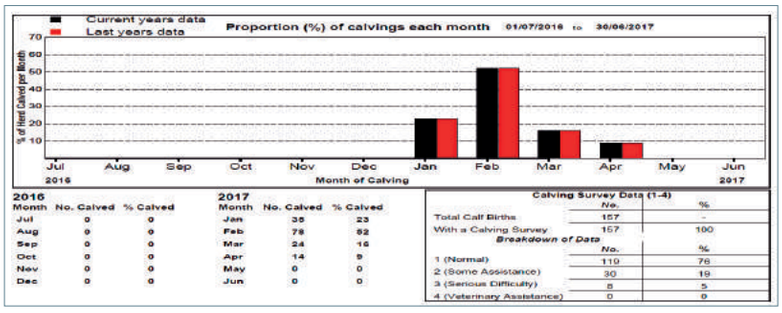
HerdPlus®
Profit through Science

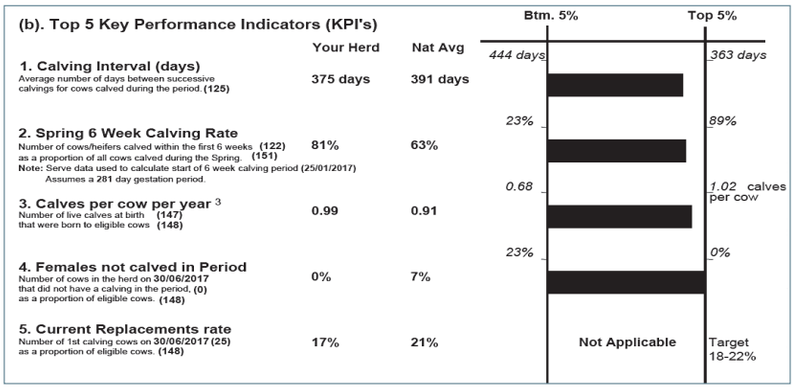
Dairy Calving Report

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

View the breakdown of your herd's:

- Calving's each month.
- Calving Survey data.





- Benchmark your herd for Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) such as Calving Interval and Six Week Calving Rate.
- Compare your herds figures with the National Average and Top 5%.

Fertility Reports

The Weekly and End of Season Fertility Reports summarise the fertility performance of your herd by looking at the calving data and submission rates at key points in the breeding season.

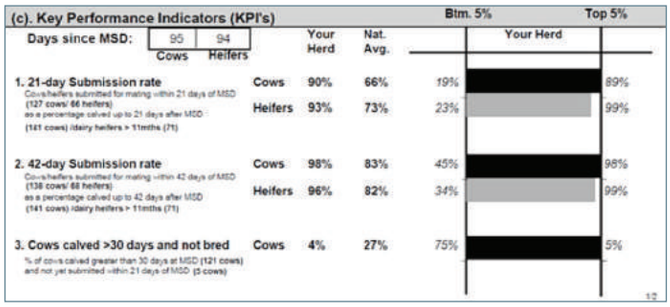
View the number of spring dairy calving's in your herd on a given year, with key calving dates and patterns outlined.

	Start Calving	Median Calving[1]
Cows	08/01/2018	07/02/2018 (31 days)
Heifers	16/01/2018	09/02/2018 (25 days)
Herd	08/01/2018	09/02/2018 (33 days)

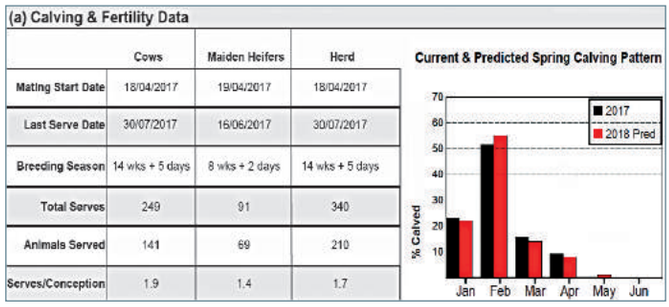
1 Date on which 50% of cows/heifers have calved as % of total calvings on report date.

Total Dairy Calvings	98
Total Dairy Calves Born	100

Spring Dairy Calving Pattern			
	Num. Calved	(%)	Top 15%
Week 3	25	(26%)	53%
Week 6	63	(64%)	80%
Week 9	87	(89%)	92%



Measure your herd's fertility with the national average & top 5% across a range of Key Performance Indicators.



See your herd's current & predicted calving pattern.

(g) Action List - Cows not yet served or confirmed not in calf

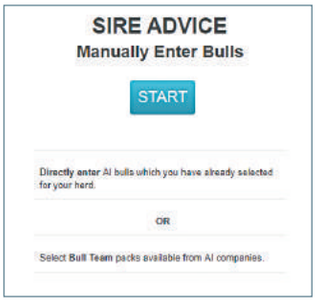
Jumbo	Animal number	Lact	Calving Date	Days Calved	Serves	Notes
1163		7	28/01/2017	361	2	

Your herd's Action List identifies cows not yet served or confirmed not in calf.

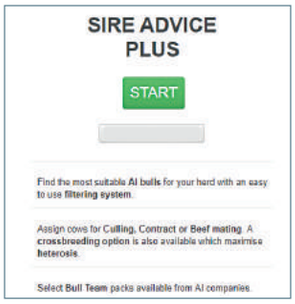
Top Tip! Log on to **icbf.com** to generate your herd's Weekly Fertility Report.

Sire Advice

Sire Advice allows the user to select bulls they wish to use for the breeding season and match these bulls to cows to maximise EBI, improve and reduce variation between milk and fertility and avoid inbreeding.

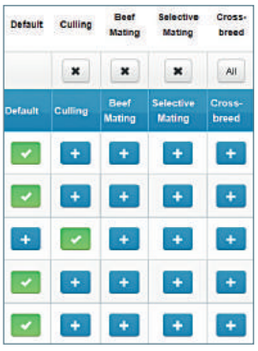


Manually enter bulls option skips the female and bull selector page.



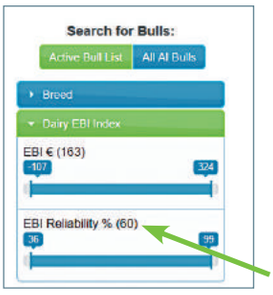
Sire Advice Plus allows for selections to be made for the females.

The progress bar above shows which page the user is on while running Sire Advice. This can also be used to jump back pages by selecting the button below each page title.



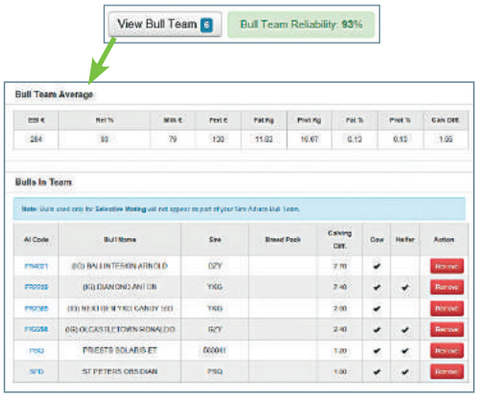
Female Selector

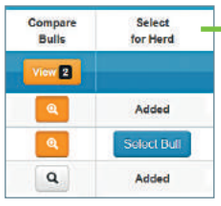
- Females can be selected for culling, beef mating, crossbred mating and selective mating using the tick boxes.
- Females selected for culling and beef mating are then excluded from the allocation.
- The females marked for crossbreeding are then allocated to bulls to maximise heterosis.



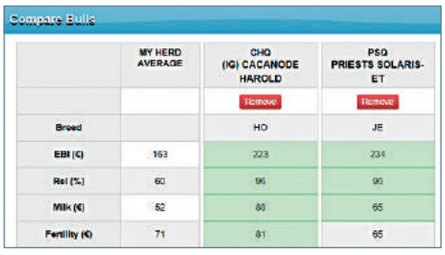
Bull Selector

1. Select bulls from either the Current Active Bull list or all AI bulls.
2. As you use the filters to refine your selection, the bulls on the screen will change.
3. Click on 'Select Bull' to add the Bull to your Bull Team.
4. Note the figures listed in brackets are your herds average EBI's as per your recent EBI report.





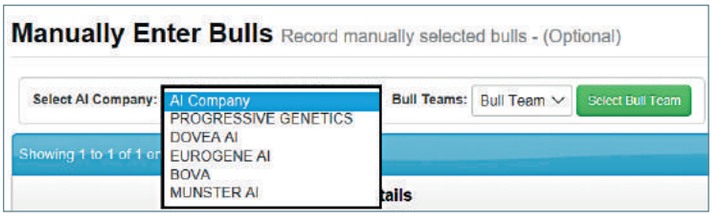
Select the magnifying glass to compare bulls in detail against each other and your herd average figures.

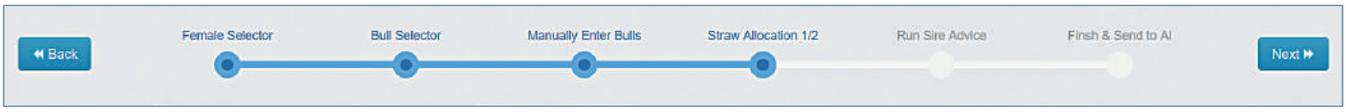


Top Tip! It is recommended to have a bull team reliability of at least 90%. The bull team reliability updates as you add bulls into your team.

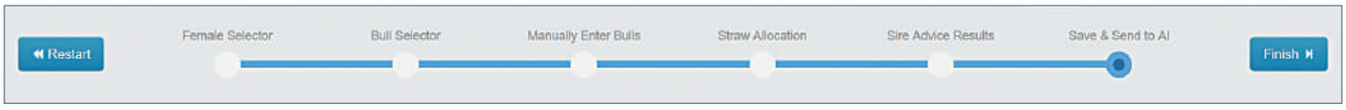
Sire Advice

If 'Manually Enter Bulls' is selected on the home screen it takes you to this point. This is where users will directly enter bulls. This screen also gives you the ability to add bull teams currently available from AI companies.

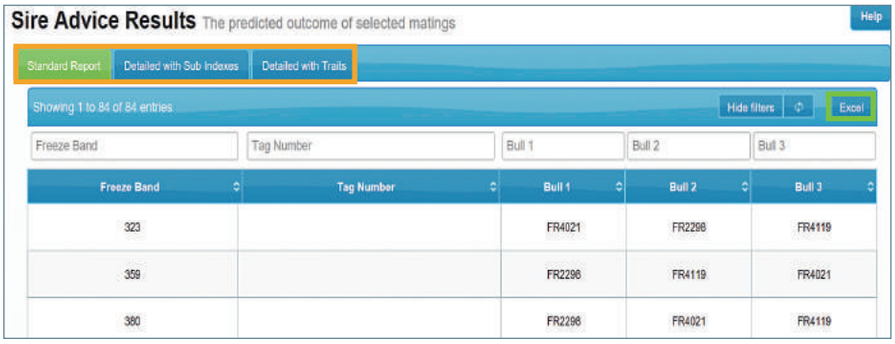


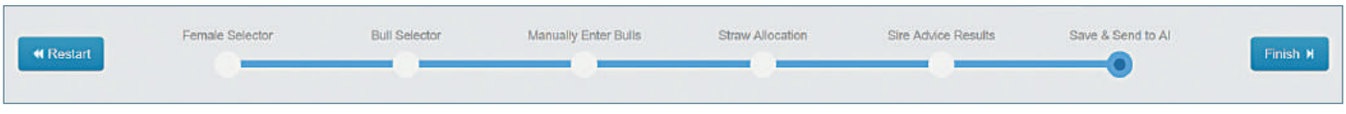


The **Straw Allocation** screen allows the user to change the percentage usage or the number of straws for each bull. There is a separate Straw Allocation screen for cows, heifers, crossbreeding cows and crossbreeding heifers depending on the selections made in the Female Selector.

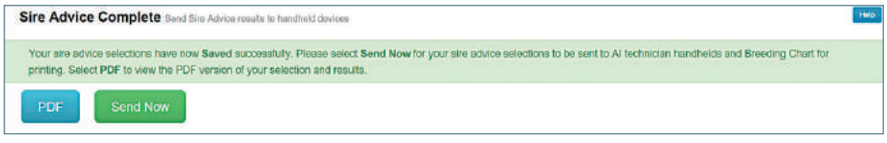


Sire Advice results shows the allocation for each of the cows in your herd. 3 bulls are proposed for each female. The 'Detailed with Sub Indexes' tab and the 'Detailed with Traits' tab both show the expected progeny performance, as a result of the Bull 1 mating. This screen can be converted to Excel, using the Excel button in the top right corner.





Save and Send to AI

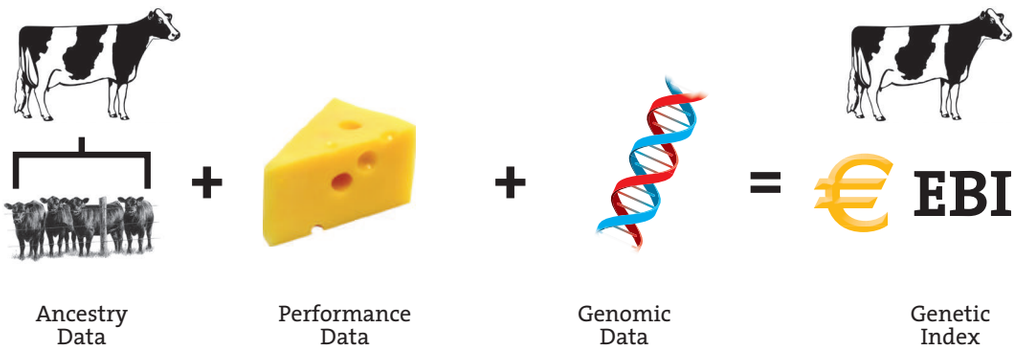


To have these selections on your Herd Plus Breeding Chart and AI technician's handheld select 'Send Now'.

Top Tip! Link your contract reared animals back to your herd to ensure they are visible on your Profiles, Reports and Sire Advice application.

What is Genomics?

Genomics is breeding using DNA (Genotype) to help better predict how well an animal will perform in the future. DNA is passed from parents to offspring and is therefore central to breeding. The DNA (hair sample) profile of an animal is analysed and compared to the DNA profiles of older proven animals also known as the reference population and looks for similarities. Performance data, Ancestry data and Genomic data are combined on the animal itself generating a more accurate prediction of the animal's genetic make-up (Economic Breeding Index).



Benefits of Genotyping Dairy females

Replacements: Identify the best heifers to breed as replacements.

Genomic Evaluation: Animal has genomics included in its Economic Breeding Index which is a better prediction of the true value of an animal's genetics.

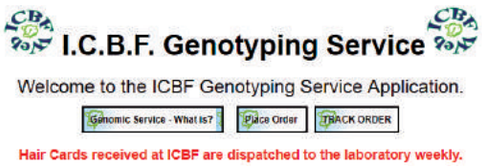
Parentage Verification: Confirms parentage (assuming parents are genotyped).

Reliability: Increases the EBI reliability % figures even before the animals have produced any offspring.

Genomic Selection: Improves the reliability of genomic selection by increasing the number of animals in the reference population.

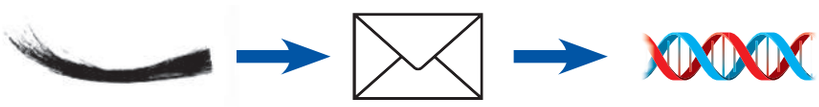
How can I Genotype?

To avail of this service, you can order hair cards for DNA collection through the self-selection screen by logging into your HerdPlus account and selecting 'Services' – 'Genomic Services' – 'Place Order'. All orders can be tracked using the genotype tracking screen.



How much does it cost?

Male animals	€50
Selective Females	€30
Genotype a group of females at a discounted price of	€22



Testimonials

HerdPlus®
Profit through Science

Helping our members succeed

We work with over 26,000 HerdPlus members on their journey to make the most profitable and sustainable breeding management decisions for their business. The information provided to Dairy HerdPlus members has enabled them to make great strides in Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) in recent years. These KPI's are strong signals for greater efficiency, sustainability and profitability at farm level and Dairy HerdPlus members are vastly outperforming Non HerdPlus herds in this regard!

Key Performance Indicators: Dairy HerdPlus vs Non HerdPlus Herds		
	HerdPlus	**Non HerdPlus**
Average Herd EBI	**€97**	**€73**
Average Calving Interval (days)	**383**	**394**
Average 6-week Calving Rate	**68%**	**58%**

Table 2 Key Performance Indicators: Dairy HerdPlus vs Non HerdPlus herds (September 2018 figures)

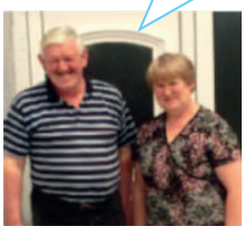
What our members are saying

"We like **C.O.W.** *as it combines both the genetic potential (EBI) and the actual milk recording performance of each cow. It's a fantastic feature of the HerdPlus service that allows us to identify the cows that are passengers in our herd"*

Kevin & John Croke,
Co. Tipperary

"We have **Genotyped** *all our dairy females each year since 2011. We are delighted with the service. It has confirmed the parentage and helped immensely with our breeding decisions".*

Tom & Kathy Kearney,
Co. Cork



"Having all the data with you while on the farm has proved invaluable. Thanks to the **HerdPlus App** *we have been able to record heat and AI serves on the spot".*

David & Andrew Ferguson,
Co. Donegal

*"***Sire Advice** *allows us to pick a team of high EBI genomic bulls and then match the most suitable bull to each cow with the aim of maximising a balanced EBI gain across our herd while minimising inbreeding. The data is uploaded to the handheld of our technician and it works a dream. We wouldn't be without it at this stage".*

Salesian Agricultural College,
Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick

*"***The HerdPlus Fertility & Calving Reports** *greatly help us in achieving submission & calving rate targets for our herd. These are crucial KPI's for farm profitability. The* **EBI Report** *shows the areas we can make improvements in our herd for future genetic gains".*

Alan Jagoe,
Co. Cork

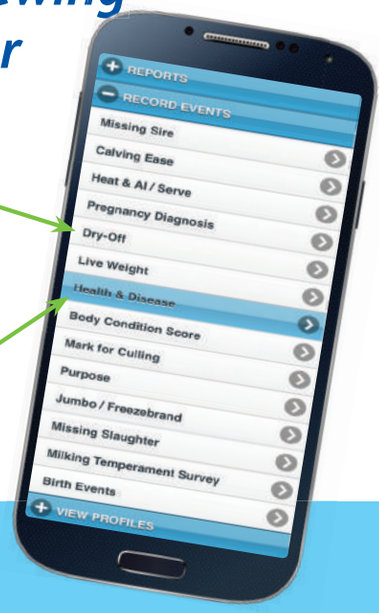
HerdPlus App

ICBF.com

We are delighted to introduce our new **HerdPlus Mobile App**

Download for FREE today!

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



Instant access to a wide range of HerdPlus services

- Your latest HerdPlus Reports.
- Record essential data anytime, anywhere e.g. dry-offs, serves, lameness and mastitis.
- View Profiles for live, up to date information e.g. EBI and Fertility.

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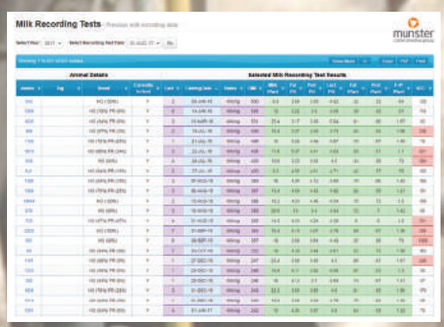
ICBF.com

New Farmer Screens available at **www.icbf.com** *for all farmers participating in Milk Recording*

Milk Recording

New Profiles

- SCC results greater than 200 are highlighted
- Easy to identify high SCC 'Problem Cows'
- Make more informed management decisions
- Accessible anytime through the ICBF Web App
- Printable and downloadable to excel or PDF



Milk Recording SCC Profile

- SCC history for each cow
- View up to 10 previous SCC Results
- Select specific cows for antibiotic dry cow therapy

Milk Recording Tests Profile

- View your **latest milk recording test** results
- View all **previous milk recording test** results
- Access a specific cow's results quickly & easily
- No longer a requirement to store paper reports

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