The Irish Suckler Cow in 2030.

Dr. Andrew Cromie, ICBF.

Key Performance Indicator		Suckler Cow 2019 (cows =6,662)	Suckler Cow 2030 (cows =289)	Diff. 19 vs 30
Genetic Merit	Replacement Index (€)	€89	€169	+€80/calf
Cow & Calf Perf.	Cow Weight (kg)	633	637	*No diff*
	Calf Weight (kg)	280	290	+ 10 kg
	Weanling Efficiency (%)	44%	46%	+ 2%
Female Fertility	Age at 1st Calving Mths	29.8	28.9	-29 days
	Calving Interval Days	386	374	- 12 days
Dams Other Calves Performance.	Carcass Weight kg	380	389	+ 9kg
	Age at slaughter Mts	23.4	22.7	-22 days
	Carcass Conf Grade	U-	U-	*No diff*

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Extra Slides.

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Background – BDGP Impact.
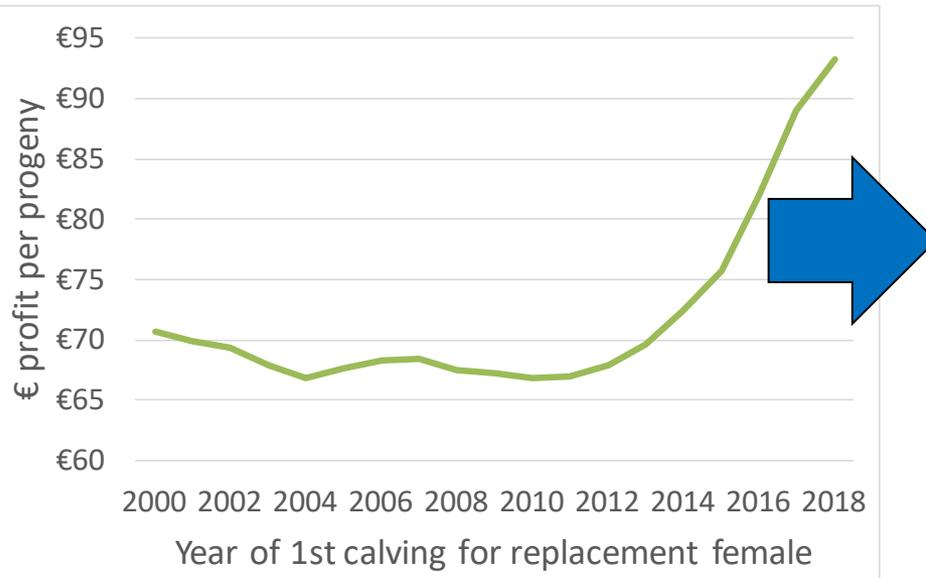
	2014	2018
Suckler Beef Cows		
Calves/cow/year	0.80	0.85
Heifer at 22-26 mths	17%	23%
CI Days	406	396
Beef * Beef Steers		
Carcass weight kg	380.6	388.7
Days to slaughter	900	866
Carcass conf grade	8.2	8.2

· Past focus on terminal traits=> decline in maternal traits & no gain in replacement index. Beef genomics scheme introduced (2014), replacement index has turned around => Major gains in calves/cow/year and carcass traits.

· Clear evidence that commercial beef farmers are responding positively to new technologies such as €uro-Stars & beef genomics.

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Background; BDGP Goal=>€150 gain in cow profitability with a 10% reduction in GHG output/cow.
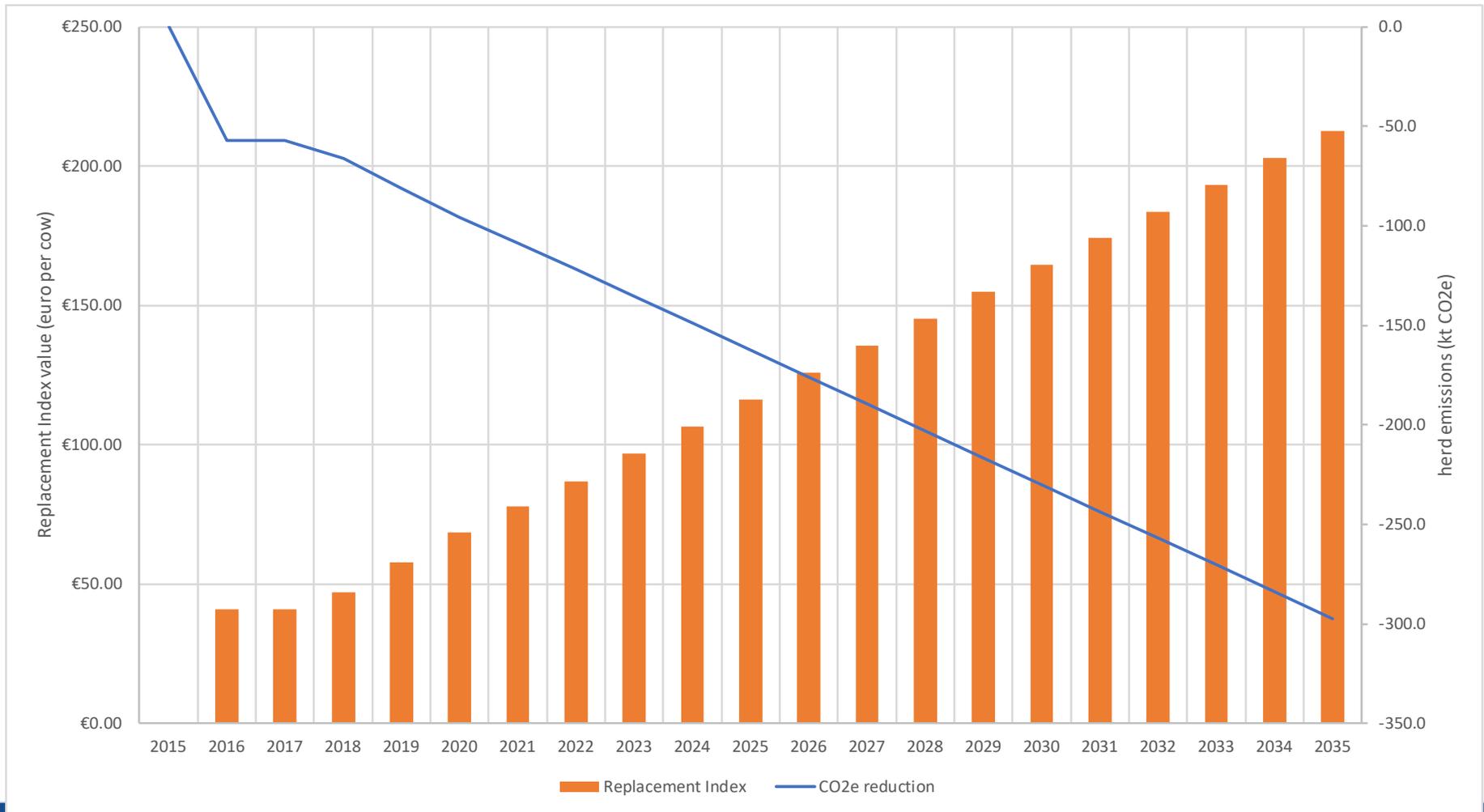
Why weanling efficiency is important?

Euro-Star Replacement Index		
Trait	**Trait Emphasis**	**Trait Type**
Maternal Calving Difficulty	6%	**Cow Traits 71%**
Age 1st Calving	6%	
Calving Interval	9%	
Survival	8%	
Milk	18%	
Cow Liveweight	14%	
Cow Docility	4%	
Cull Cow Weight	7%	
Calving Difficulty	7%	**Calf Traits 29%**
Gestation	2%	
Mortality	1%	
Docility	1%	
Feed Intake	4%	
Carcass Weight	10%	
Carcass Conformation	3%	
Carcass Fat	1%	

- Contributes almost 50% of the weighting into the replacement index.

- Ideally we want a medium sized cow, with heavy weanling, e.g., 630 kg cow & 300 kg weanling => 48% weanling efficiency).

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