

ICBF Active Beef Bull List – Autumn 2011

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€uro-Stars Background

The ICBF (Irish Cattle Breeding Federation) calculates and publishes the €uro-Star evaluations for beef cattle in Ireland. The ICBF database contains **Performance Data** (calving surveys, weights, deaths, movements etc) and **Ancestry Records** (Sires, Dams, relatives). **Economic Values** have also been calculated for all the traits and are stored in the database.

1. How are €uro-Stars calculated?

The €uro-Stars are the end result of a series of routine steps otherwise known as a ‘Genetic Evaluation Run’. Without going into too much detail, a genetic evaluation run will identify all of the relatives of your Bull and compares their performance records to those of their herdmates. It then applies the economic values to the data, as some traits are more valuable than others e.g. ‘Liveweight’ is a more valuable trait than ‘Coat Colour’.

It then expresses the results (Breeding values) of this calculation in €uro’s as ultimately this whole process is describing how profitable (or not) progeny of a Bull are. The actual €uro-Stars make these €uro values visually easy to understand. The better the €uro value the more stars the Bull will have.



The table below shows the different data sources, how the various traits are grouped together, what their economic values are and what their % emphasis is in the overall make-up of the Suckler Beef Value.

Beef €uro-Star Flow Diagram 2011									
Source		Traits	Economic Values	Traits % Weighting		Sub - Index	% Weighting		★
Animal Events	➔	Calving Difficulty	-2.96	62%	➔	Calving	7%	➔	★
AI Handheld & Web		Gestation Length	-2.12	28%					★
DAF-AIM		Calf Mortality	-5.34	10%					★
Marts & On-Farm	➔	Weaning Weight	1.55	34%	➔	Weanling Export	14%	➔	★
Linear Scores SCWS		Calf Quality	2.58	66%					
Marts & On-Farm	➔	Weaning Weight	1.29	8%	➔	Beef Carcass	52%	➔	★
Factories		Carcass Weight	2.5	30%					
		Carcass Conformation	14.77	9%					
		Carcass Fat	-7.86	5%					
Tully	Feed Intake	-0.1	48%						
DAF-AIM	➔	Cow Survival	16.19	12%	➔	Daughter Fertility	20%	➔	★
Animal Events		Calving Interval	-7.51	49%					
		Age at First Calving	-1.38	16%					
		Maternal Calving Difficulty	-9.98	23%					
On-Farm Weights	➔	Maternal Weaning Weight	9.9	100%	➔	Daughter Milk	7%	➔	★

Guide to reading the table

Eligibility	For Bulls to make this list they must be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suckler Beef Value \geq 50% reliability. 2. Calving Ease \geq 50% reliability. 3. Not approved for 'Special Breeding' with an 'S' Code.
Bull Details:	AI Code, Name & Breed of each sire
Suckler Beef Value:	The expected profit expected from each calf for different Production systems
Weanling Export:	Genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce profitable Weanlings</u> .
Beef Carcass:	Genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce profitable Carcasses</u> .
Daughter Fertility:	Genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce daughters with good fertility</u> .
Daughter Milk:	Genetic merit of a Bull to <u>produce daughters with good milk production</u> .
Calving Difficulty:	Calving Difficulty . Increasing % CD indicates increased incidence of difficult calvings e.g. % CD of 5% means that 5% of this Bulls calves will result in difficult calvings.
Docility:	This Sub – Index indicates the level of Quietness/Wildness that a Bull’s progeny exhibit. The information for this Sub-Index comes from the GROW Linear Scoring & Weight recording system and also from the SCWS. The reliability figure must be taken into account here as some Bulls have had small numbers of progeny scored.
Supplier Details:	Price, availability and supplier details of each bull are also included. This ensures that only bulls with at least 2000 straws available are included on the list. L = 2000-4000 straws available. M = 4000 – 6000, H = >6000 straws available. These details are provided by each AI Company for their own Bulls.
€uro-Stars:	€uro-Stars give a quick visual guide to show where a Bull is ranked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Stars = Top 20% 4 Stars = Top 40% 3 Stars = Breed Average 2 Stars = Bottom 40% 1 Star = Bottom 20%

Reliability % As more information is included in a Bull’s genetic evaluation the reliability % of his genetic evaluation results will increase – in other words the level of certainty over the genetic evaluation results increases.

Reliability % Guide		
Range		Description
0-20%	Low	Very Low - €uro-Stars mostly based on Ancestry data.
20-50%	Low - Medium	Increasingly useful. Bull’s own performance affecting figures. Linear Scores & Weights could affect a Bull's figures at this stage if they are collected when animal is 150-300 days old and in a group of at least 5 animals.
50%	Medium	Best you will see in a young Bull with no progeny.
50-95%	Medium - High	€uro-Stars increasingly based on progeny records. This can be a period where most change is seen in a Bull's figures as records from new progeny are included in his evaluations.
>95%	High	€uro-Stars completely based on progeny records. Little change seen in Bull's evaluation figures.

Within Breed

This €uro – Star rating compares the progeny of an AI Sire against all other animals of the same breed, born in the last 5 years. The 'Across Breed' evaluations compare the same progeny against all other animals from all other breeds. They are available through the Bull Search at www.icbf.com.

Availability of the List

The Active Bull List is available under the 'Active Bull Lists' section at www.icbf.com.

Bull Search

In order to access more information about any AI, Stockbull or Young Beef Bull go to www.icbf.com & enter his AI Code or tag number into the 'Bull Search' facility.