

ICBF Active Dairy Bull List – April 2011

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Guide to reading the Table.

- 1) **Bull Details;** Rank, AI Code, Name, Sire, Breed, Status in Herdbook & Holstein %. Ped; Full Pedigree Registered animal in the IHFA Herdbook. SRM; Supplementary registered male in the IHFA Herdbook. Male progeny of these bulls will also be supplementary registered 'SRM'. Female progeny will be given the 'ASR' registration status.
- 2) **EBI Details;** EBI, Economic Breeding Index (€); Indicates expected profit/lactation for a bull's progeny compared to an average animal. **Rel%**; Reliability of EBI proof. This indicates the reliability of the proof. The higher this value, the more reliable the proof. **Proof**; The status of the Bull proof. **DP-IRL**; Daughter Proven based on milk recorded daughters in Ireland. **DP-INT**; Daughter Proven, based on foreign milk recorded daughters. **GS**; Genomically Selected.
- 3) **EBI Sub Indices; Milk, Fertility, Calving, Beef, Maintenance & Health;** Sub Indices of the overall EBI. Added together these give the overall EBI figure. The 'Maintenance' Sub-Index (Maint) is a new development in 2010. Positive values for a Bull indicates lower maintenance costs for his daughters.
- 4) **Key Profit Traits; M Kg** Predicted Difference (PD) for milk yield. Bulls with + values for milk yield will increase milk yield. Positive values for **F Kg** (Fat Kg), **P Kg** (Protein Kg), **F %** (Fat %), **P %** (Protein %) will also increase each of the constituent traits. **CI** = Calving Interval (Days). Bulls with negative values for CI will reduce calving interval. **SU** = Survival %. Bulls with positive values will increase survival (longevity/herdlife).
- 5) **Calving; CD%**; 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. **GL**; Gestation Length PD. Positive values indicates increased gestation length. For a Bull to be included on the Active Bull list his calving evaluation must be based on actual calving survey data and not just genomic information.
- 6) **Semen 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.

Active Bull List April - 2011

Introduction

The EBI details of the 75 bulls on the list is based on the April 2011 genetic evaluations computed by ICBF. The list contains Bulls whose semen is available and they themselves are;

1. Daughter proven, (Irish & international) where the EBI reliability is $\geq 35\%$.
- or**
2. Genomically selected bulls, where the bulls have an EBI based on Irish genomic data, an EBI reliability of $\geq 35\%$ and a calving difficulty evaluation in the country of 1st origin of $\geq 50\%$.

The 75 Bulls have breeding values for EBI and the 6 Sub Indices together with trait information on 9 Key Profit Traits. None of the Bulls on the list are carriers of genetic defects e.g CVM or BLAD.

The semen availability & price details of all the Bulls are maintained by the AI Organizations through their own online access to the ICBF database.

Important Advice

It is important to note the source of a Bull's proof when choosing sires from the list. A Bull may have received his proof based on data recorded on his own daughters performance (Milk Records, Calving Fertility & Health data). Or he may be a 'Genomically Selected' Bull. 'Genomically Selected' means that the Bull's DNA profile has been analysed and the figures that you see are based on those findings. Farmers should pay particular attention to the 'Reliability' and 'Range' of a Bull's proof. In order to be able to balance the risk of using a Bull with low reliability together with the tremendous genetic gains that could be achieved by using such a Bull.

Farmers are strongly urged to use a minimum of 5 AI bulls from the list.

Bulls with 'Low' availability are not included in the ICBF Sire Advice Programme as large quantities of straws cannot be guaranteed. Farmers should note that AI Companies have a limited amount of straws available for these Bulls and should order straws early so as to avoid disappointment.

What Bulls should I pick from the List?

There are many answers to this question but 4 simple tips that will help you pick the right Sires for your herd are the following;

1. Identify which EBI Sub-Indices your herd is low in. This Herd Sub-Index information is available on the Herdplus EBI report that ICBF generates for every herd that is signed up to Herdplus (1850 600 900).
2. Pick an initial panel of Bulls that are strong in the Sub-Indices that your herd is weak in.
3. Refine your list of Bulls taking other factors into account e.g. ; Calving Ease, Inbreeding, Price, Availability.
4. Finalise your team of Bulls by picking at least 5 Bulls to use in equal amounts across your herd. The **ICBF Sire Advice program (1850 600 900)** can complete this step for you and also allocate the chosen Bulls to your cows in such a way that inbreeding is avoided.

Availability of List

The 2011 Active Bull List is available on the ICBF Website (www.icbf.com). This list shows the top 75 Active AI Sires. The total list of Active AI Sires together with their Supplier, Availability & Price details is also available at the above website.