

ICBF Active Dairy Bull List – Autumn 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) was 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. The semen availability & price details of all the Bulls are maintained by the AI Organizations through their own online access to the ICBF database.

Autumn Active Bull List 2011

Introduction

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

1. Daughter proven, (Irish or International) where the EBI reliability is $\geq 35\%$ and they have a Calving Difficulty reliability in the country of 1st origin of $\geq 50\%$.
- 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 $\geq 50\%$. Semen availability of these bulls is limited until they become Daughter Proven.

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.

Irish Bred bulls still holding first place.

2011 is the eleventh year that ICBF has published an Active Bull List. In 2001 there were just 2 Bulls on the list bred here in Ireland. Holland, New Zealand & America have generally been where most of the imported Bulls on the list have come from. This trend started to change around 2009 when the first of the GENE IRELAND bulls started to come through. Ireland has remained the number one source of Bulls on the list since then.

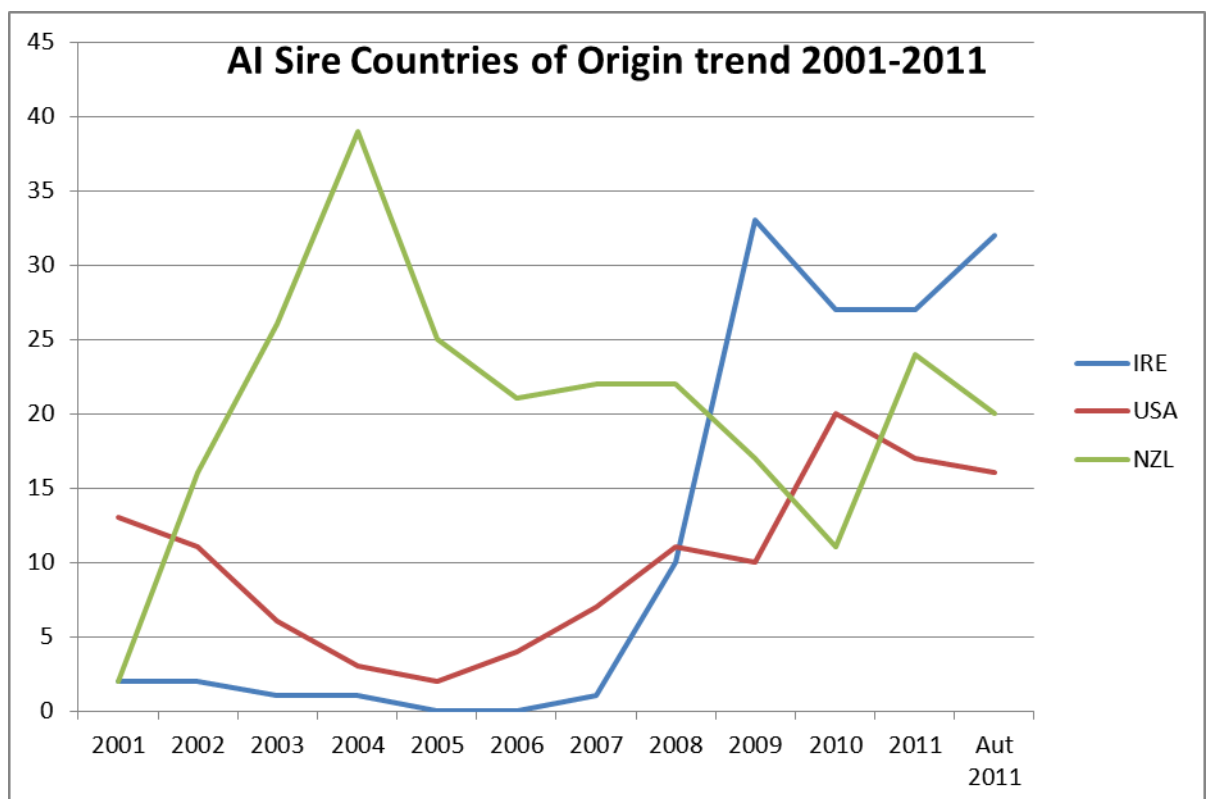
However, since the initial impact of the GENE IRELAND bulls on the list, the number of native bulls on the list has levelled out with 32 Irish bred bulls on the Autumn Active Bull List. New Zealand & the USA have now come to challenge for this position with 20 & 16 bulls on the Autumn list this year.

The number of Irish bred bulls on the list is largely dependent on the number of bulls being progeny tested. Typically about 40 – 50 bulls have been tested per annum however the target has been to test 100 bulls each year. In order for high EBI Irish bulls to dominate the list this target must be hit.

The following graph and table illustrates the trends in the countries of origins for Bull in the top Bull Lists over the past 11 years:

AI Sire Country of Origin Trend 2001 - 2011			
	IRE	USA	NZL
2001	2	13	2
2002	2	11	16
2003	1	6	26
2004	1	3	39
2005	0	2	25
2006	0	4	21
2007	1	7	22
2008	10	11	22
2009	33	10	17
2010	27	20	11
2011	27	17	24
Aut 2011	32	16	20

Table 1: Table showing the impact of Irish, American & New Zealand bred bulls on the Active Bull Lists from 2001 – 2011.



Graph 1: Graph showing the impact of Irish, American & New Zealand bred bulls on the Active Bull Lists from 2001 – 2011.

The Oman effect

The fact that the Bull O-Bee Manfred Justice - 'OJI' has been the sire of so many sons on the bull lists over the last few years has always been a concern to farmers as regards having a choice of Bulls to use across their cows in future without inbreeding being a problem.

In order to counter this problem GENE Ireland has moved away from selecting more sons of 'OJI', over the last 2 years. This is one of the many benefits of a National progeny Test program in that such issues can be managed and avoided in time. The table below shows that there are less sons of 'OJI' on this year's list and also that the number of 'OJI' sons on the list has been decreasing over the last 2 years.

OJI Effect	
Year	Sons
Spring 2009	11
Autumn 2009	36
Spring 2010	41
Autumn 2010	37
Spring 2011	31
Autumn 2011	27

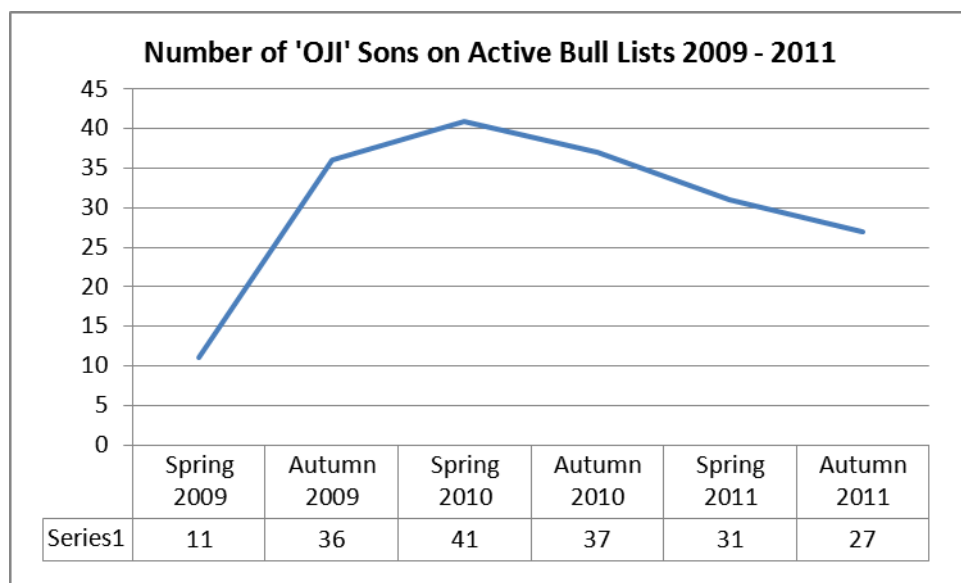


Table & Graph 2: Number of 'OJI' Sons on the Active Bull Lists 2009-2011.

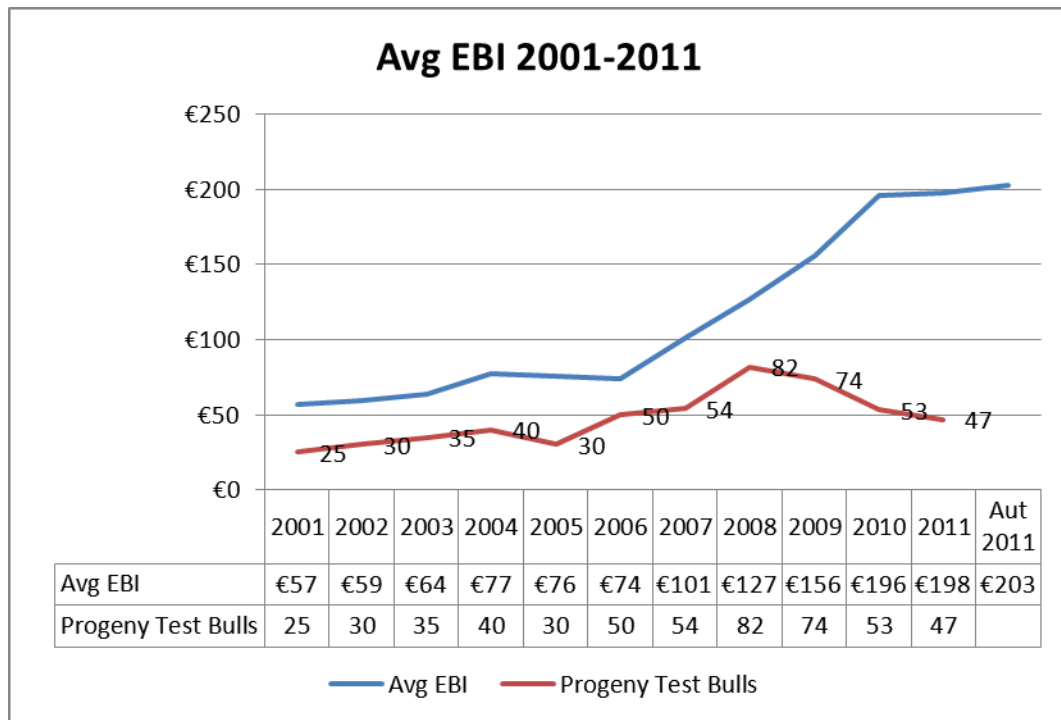
Top 75 Bulls

	Average of Proofs for Top 75 Active Bulls 2010 v 2011																
	EBI		EBI & Proof Details						Key Profit Traits								
	EBI	Rel%	Milk	Fert	Calv	Beef	Maint	Hlth	M kg	F kg	P kg	F %	P %	CI	SU%	CD%	GL
2010	€196	54%	€73	€96	€28	-€10	€6	€3	280	15.8	13.1	0.10	0.07	-4.7	3.4	1.9	-2.2
2011	€198	57%	€77	€103	€27	-€19	€8	€2	232	15.6	13.1	0.13	0.10	-5.2	3.4	2.0	-2.3
Aut 2011	€203	63%	€70	€112	€28	-€19	€10	€3	196	14.4	11.6	0.14	0.10	-5.8	3.5	2.0	-2.4

Table 3: Comparison of average of proofs for top 75 Active Dairy Bulls 2010 v 2011.

The 75 Bulls on the list have an average EBI of €203, slightly ahead of the Spring's average of €198. They range from €265 down to €176. It is important for Farmers to remember this when selecting Bulls in 2011. This list should be every dairy farmer's first port of call when selecting AI Sires for their Dairy herd in 2011.

The average EBI of the top 75 active bulls has been gradually increasing over the years. That said, similar to the number of bulls being progeny tested & the number Irish bulls on the list – the average EBI figure is starting to level off. The numbers of Dairy Progeny Test Bulls has been badly affected by IBR outbreaks in 2010 & 2011 however it is hoped that in 2012 the number of Dairy Bulls being progeny tested can be increased up towards the ultimate goal of 100 bulls.



EBI & Progeny Test Bull Trends 2001 - 2011		
Year	Avg EBI	Progeny Test Bulls
2001	€57	25
2002	€59	30
2003	€64	35
2004	€77	40
2005	€76	30
2006	€74	50
2007	€101	54
2008	€127	82
2009	€156	74
2010	€196	53
2011	€198	47
Aut 2011	€203	

Graph 3 & Table 4: Average EBI of the top 75 Active Bulls (2001-2011).

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' 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 Autumn 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.