

PVP Instructions (2009)

Intake of Bulls for Performance Testing at Tully

The entry of bulls into the Tully Bull Test Station is dependent on three broad requirements:

- A. Veterinary certification regarding residency
- B. Veterinary certification regarding general disease status and specific Johne's disease status
- C. The results of a range of blood tests

A. Veterinary certification regarding residency

To be eligible for entry to the Centre, at the time of the veterinary visit, each bull must be resident in either:

- The herd of birth, **or**
- Another herd into which it was purchased after birth.

Veterinary certification, indicating compliance with this requirement, is needed.

B. General disease status

a. Tuberculosis

- The herds must not be restricted.
- The herds must not have been restricted during the lifetime of the bull.
- The bull must have passed an export test in the previous 30 days.
- If a herd test is due within 1 month a full herd test must be carried out.

b. Brucellosis

- The herds must not be restricted.
- The herds must not have been restricted during the lifetime of the bull.
- The bull must have passed a blood test in the previous 30 days.
- If in doubt please check the status of the herd and contiguous herds with the relevant DVO.

c. Johne's Disease (Paratuberculosis)

- The birth dam of the bull, at time of examination, is not exhibiting clinical symptoms of Johne's disease
- No case of Johne's disease has been either reported or suspected in the herd in the previous 2 years.
- The extent to which the Johne's status of the herd has been established through testing and the nature of control programs, if any, that are in place for the herd.

d. Vaccination and Health

An examination of general health of each bull should be performed, with particular attention given to the presence or absence deformities, the presence of two normal testicles and to the presence of respiratory disease and ringworm. An animal suspected of ringworm infection may be allowed into Tully if it is accompanied by a Certificate from a Veterinary Practitioner. This Certificate must state that the animal or animals have received a full course of an **authorised Fungicide**.

In addition, the candidate bull must be vaccinated for RSV, PI3 and *Pasteurella* and dosed for Lungworm, at least 1 week prior to entry.

Veterinary certification, indicating compliance with these requirements, is needed.

C. Blood testing

To be eligible for entry to the Centre, a range of testing is required, based on blood collected from all animals within 30 days prior to movement of the bull to Tully.

The disease status of the Tully bulls on entry is critical. It is crucial that all veterinary surgeons assume best practice when participating in the scheme. Previous or same-day contact with other cattle, will necessitate that boot-disinfection, hand-washing and other hygiene standards are implemented.

If collecting all blood samples on the same visit, please bleed bulls intended for Tully first.

The samples need to be sent as follows:

a. To the Brucellosis laboratory, Model Farm Rd, Bishopstown, Cork

A single (1) serum sample from the candidate bull for brucellosis testing

b. To Tully Test Centre, Tully West, Kildare

The completed sample sheet and all remaining blood samples, including:

a. One (1) serum sample from the candidate bull(s) for

- EBL antibody test
- IBR antibody test
- BVD antibody and antigen tests

b. One (1) serum sample from the birth dam(s)

- Johne's Disease ELISA test
- IBR antibody test (*gE ELISA and gB ELISA if vaccinated with IBR vaccine, gB ELISA otherwise*)

c. A single (1) serum sample from other animals (all those listed for bleeding)

IBR antibody test (gE ELISA if vaccinated with IBR vaccine, gB ELISA otherwise) and Johne's Disease ELISA test.

The test results from these animals will provide us with a 'picture' of the IBR and Johnes status of cattle on the farm. The list of animals to bleed is enclosed.