The Dairy

Future research

1. New traits
   - calf vigour and health
   - environmental traits
   - meat quality and saleable meat

2. Trading animal index

3. DNA technology

Benefits

Using the DBI

Select beef bulls from DBI active list
- Maximise profit \( \rightarrow \) high DBI
- High calving sub-index for easy calving, short gestation

Dairy Farmer

- 1% easier calved on dairy cows
- €18 higher calf price
- 1% Hard calved on dairy heifers
- 1 day extra gestation length

Finisher

- 20kg heavier carcass
- 1 grade higher conformation

Top 5 DBI vs. 5 most used

SFL EBY BHU WZG ZLL

KYA RGZ HE2043 SPL DBZ

€9.67

€104.54
Beef Index

What is it?
Ranks beef bulls for use on dairy females based on genetic potential to:
1. produce high quality profitable cattle
2. with minimal impact on the dairy cow

Why do we need it?
• Expansion of dairy herd
• Higher % slaughtered animals originate from dairy herds
• Knock on impact on number of animals not reaching desired carcass spec.

What's included?
- Calf mortality
- Calving difficulty
- Gestation Length
- Docility
- Carcass weight
- Carcass fat
- Carcass conformation
- Carcass bonus
- Feed intake
- Polledness
- Calf mortality

Dairy Beef Index
BREEDING HIGH QUALITY BEEF CATTLE FROM THE DAIRY HERD

ICBF.com