



G€N€ IR€LAND® (GI) Maternal Beef Breeding Program 2012 ***Terms & Conditions for Bull Breeder Herds.***

1. Services to be provided by ICBF:

Upon acceptance by ICBF of the application by the herd owner and, subject to the terms and conditions on which the application is made, ICBF intends to offer the following services to the herd owner:

- Mating suggestions based on new Euro-Star indexes for all breeding females in the herd with particular emphasis on elite cows to produce bulls required for the GI beef breeding program.
 - This will involve ICBF sending a list of bulls recommended for use on some or all the females in the herd. The herd owner will have final discretion in relation to which bull each breeding female is mated or inseminated to.
- Guidance on best practice for rearing of young bulls:
 - This will involve ICBF sending out protocols to advise herd owners of best practice for rearing of bulls. The herd owner will have final discretion on whether or not to follow all or any of the information detailed in the protocols.
- Assessment of information quality and quantity on the recording of nine traits/events that need to be carried out on individual animals. A report will be generated for herd owners called the Herd Data Quality Index (HDQI). It is proposed that:
 - The HDQI index will initially access data based on nine traits/events for completeness and timeliness of data.
 - Normality of data will be included in the HDQI in year two of the program.
 - An overall score will be computed at the end of each year based on the criteria outlined above.
- Advice to herd owners on how they can improve the HDQI for their herd.
- ICBF, at its absolute discretion, may exclude herds from the program if the HDQI for the herd is below a level acceptable to ICBF.
- Reports in relation to herd health.
 - ICBF will send farmers their herd health reports on animals tested for various diseases. Reports will only be available in cases where a report has been developed for that particular disease and on the condition that the health testing information is made available to ICBF.
- Promotion of the herd to pedigree and commercial herd owners through the ICBF website, Herdbooks and various forms of media.

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- Promotion of elite young bulls that meet certain criteria within the herd to AI companies.
- Allocation of stored semen from GI AI bulls to herds. There is no charge to the herd owner for the semen on the basis that the cost is covered by the annual fee to join the program. Semen will be allocated to herds strictly on the following conditions:
 - Herds will only have access to GI semen on bulls that have semen collected after the herd owner has signed up to the program and has paid in full the sign-up and any other relevant fees.
 - Straws will be allocated by ICBF, at its discretion, based on suitability for mating of elite cows within the herd to produce bulls required for GI breeding program. However, the herd owner can use the semen allocated to the herd on any pedigree females within the herd.
 - Herd owners can make a request for semen and, subject to demand and availability ICBF will endeavor where possible to provide the semen accordingly.
- ICBF will have complete discretion as to which bulls will have their semen allocated to herds in order to maximize genetic gain and diversity.
- Provide a GI bull breeders “stamp” to herds to facilitate promoting and marketing of the herd.
- Where possible, provide priority access to new technology’s such as genomics to herds.
- Access to ICBF linear scoring and weight recording services.
- Subject to availability, allocate personnel to visit farms to offer advice on all aspects of the GI program.
 - This will include a complimentary “start-up” visit that will outline in detail the targets for the herd. As part of the visit the GI program will cover the cost of capturing data on all pedigree animals of interest in the herd through weight recording and linear scoring. If the initial visit identifies manipulation of records on animals, this will result in the herd being excluded from the program.
- ***Purchase of bulls for the program***
 - ICBF will only purchase bulls directly from herd owners that are participating in the program.
 - ICBF will select bulls, at its discretion, based on Euro-Star indexes, visual assessment (muscle, skeletal and functionality traits) and health.
 - The bull owner must pay all costs relating to the testing of the bull including the costs of health testing the bull and its dam to meet the entry requirements for A.I.
 - The agreed fee for the bull shall not be payable by ICBF unless the bull:
 1. passes the required health testing for entry into AI;
 2. passes the required health testing in AI quarantine;

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- Notwithstanding any arrangement made or any other terms and conditions, ICBF reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to return the bull to the bull owner at any time prior to the agreed fee being paid and to cancel any proposed sale.
 - If accepted, bull(s) will be transported to the A.I company and the cost of such transportation will be covered by the GI program.
 - Bull(s) will be insured by the GI program (except for notifiable diseases) for the duration of the term at the AI center.
 - ICBF strongly recommends that owners who have bull(s) that may be in the process of being purchased by the programme for AI to fully insure such bull(s) for any losses incurred to the bull prior to the bull being transported to the AI centre. ICBF shall have no liability whatsoever in this regard.
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- ***Access to progeny test breeder owned bulls through the program.***
 - Herd owners participating in the GI program may have semen collected if the bull(s) meet the following criteria:
 - The bull meets the selection criteria set out by ICBF and, at ICBF's absolute discretion, is chosen by ICBF for inclusion in the GI progeny test.
 - The HDQI for the herd has met the required standard set by ICBF.
 - The bull passes the required health testing for entry into AI (all costs of which must be paid for by the herd owner).
 - The herd owner must make available the first thousand doses of high quality semen to the program at no charge.
 - For every bull, the herd owner must pay upfront a fee of €1000, which is refundable on the condition that a thousand doses of high quality semen is made available to the program. The fee is non-refundable in the event that (a) the bull produces fewer than a thousand doses of semen or (b) in ICBF's opinion, the semen is not of high quality pre-freezing or not viable post-freezing.
 - ICBF will cover the following costs incurred in collecting the 1,000 doses to be used in the program.
 - Transport of the bull to the A.I center.
 - Collection and storage for the first 1000 doses of high quality semen that the bull produces.
 - Health tests and maintenance costs from the time the bull enters the AI center until 14 days after the first 1,000 doses of high quality semen have been collected for the GI program.
 - Allocation of an AI code and payment of relevant A.I code and genetic evaluation fees.
 - The herd owner shall be responsible for all costs in respect of any additional semen collected above 1,000 doses.

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- ICBF strongly recommends that owners, who have a bull entering AI, fully insure the bull for any and all losses and risks arising prior to the bull being transported to the AI centre. ICBF shall have no liability whatsoever in this regard.
- The herd owner must insure the bull (except for notifiable diseases) for the duration of its term in the AI center and must provide evidence of such insurance to ICBF upon request. The herd owner acknowledges and agrees that (a) there is a risk of disease, illness, injury and/or death whilst the bull is in the AI center and (b) any costs, claims or liabilities arising in this regard shall be the sole responsibility of the herd owner and (c) ICBF has no liability whatsoever in this regard.

2. Conditions of the service

- All pedigree herds are eligible to sign-up to the program.
- Herds will be assessed based on their overall HDQI score after a 12 month period. Herds not meeting the required standard set out by the program after each 12 month period will be removed from the program.
- ICBF will notify herd owners if their HDQI score falls below that expected for the program. As part of the notification the herd owner will have an appropriate period of time to address and improve their HDQI to the standard required to continue in the program. Failure to address this will result in the herd being removed from the program.
- Herd owners must record the following in accordance with the requirements of the HDQI and send the information to ICBF:
 1. insemination records on all breeding females.
 2. calving survey, calf sire, birth weights, calf docility and calf quality and a post-weaning weight on all pedigree calves.
 3. linear score and weight record all pedigree animals between 150 and 250 days of age.
 4. Record the milkability and docility on all breeding females in the herd.
- Herd owners are encouraged to sign-up to any voluntary national herd health schemes or programs and must participate in any compulsory herd health schemes.
- Herd owners must record any defects on all animals in the herd.
- ICBF reserves the right to vary, develop and evolve the program as it sees fit. Any changes will be communicated to participants prior to the change(s) taking place.
- Herds must be signed up to ICBF HerdPlus[®] for each year the herd participates in the program.
- All pedigree registered males must be SNP genotyped within 60 days of birth. This information may be used for parentage verification, identification of major genes (including recessives) and genomic evaluations (including relevant research).
- All breeding bulls must be SNP genotyped. This information may be used for parentage verification, identification of major genes (including recessives) and genomic evaluations (including relevant research).

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- Without prejudice to any other provision of these conditions, ICBF reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to exclude a herd from the program at any stage in the program and although ICBF may give an explanation for such exclusion it will be under absolutely no obligation to do so. Without prejudice to this provision, any manipulation of records on animals will result in the herd being excluded from the program.
- The herd owner acknowledges and agrees that there is a risk of disease, illness, injury and/or death and any costs associated with or resulting from such disease, illness, genetic defects, injury and/or death while any animal is involved in the program will be the sole responsibility of the herd owner and ICBF will have no liability whatsoever in this regard.
- The herd owner shall indemnify and keep indemnified ICBF against any costs, claims, liabilities or expenses whatsoever and howsoever arising or that ICBF may incur as a result of (i) any disease that may be traced to his/her animal, (ii) the acts or omissions of the herd owner, (iii) a breach by the herd owner of these terms and conditions or (iv) otherwise howsoever, save where such costs, claims liabilities or expenses wholly arise as a result of the negligence of ICBF.
- The services will be further subject to ICBF's standard terms and conditions of supply. In the event of any inconsistency between the standard terms and these terms and conditions, these terms and conditions will prevail.
- Any fees paid shall not be refundable except where, in the opinion of ICBF acting in its sole discretion, circumstances exist which would justify a full or partial refund.

3. *Duration and Fees*

- Herds must sign-up for a minimum of 4 years.
- There will be a sign-up fee of €250 that will cover year one, with an annual fee of €250 for each year afterwards.
- The fee each year after the first must be paid to ICBF by direct debit.

Contact Details for ICBF

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