

Abstract Submission Form

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Preferred presentation

Oral

Preferred session

Session 1: WG Animal Data Exchange – Decision Support
Tools of the Future – Promoting Sustainability Farm
Management

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Title of your paper

The Commercial Beef Value (CBV) encourages the adoption
of sustainable and profitable practices in beef production.

Insert ABSTRACT text

The calving season is a compact period concentrated in the first 3 months of the year for three quarters of the 1.6 million national dairy cows in Ireland. Many of the resulting dairy-beef sired calves are sold off farm before the calf reaches 6-weeks of age whereby after that age a Tuberculosis test is necessary for sale. The abundance of these animals frequently results in market saturation, presenting challenges for sellers. Conversely, determining which animals will yield the greatest profit for subsequent buyers poses its own difficulties, as buyers face a gamble due to the absence of distinct visual disparities between young animals. The introduction of the Commercial Beef Value (CBV) by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) marks a significant advancement in the dairy-beef industry in Ireland. This index addresses the challenge of assessing the profit potential of non-breeding beef animals, particularly calves sold off-farm before six weeks of age.

The CBV contributes to;

1. Genetic Potential Assessment: The CBV incorporates genetic factors related to intake, growth, docility, and carcass traits. This allows purchasers to make more informed decisions regarding the profit potential of individual calves.
2. Decision Support Tool: The CBV serves as a decision support tool for farmers, helping them evaluate the performance and value of calves beyond what is visually apparent at a young age.
3. Improved Predictability: By providing more reliable information and predictability, the CBV enhances the purchasing process and encourages breeders to focus on producing higher-quality beef stock.
4. Integration with Existing Systems: The CBV complements the existing Dairy-Beef Index (DBI), providing a comprehensive set of tools for both breeders and purchasers to evaluate animals' genetic potential.
5. Environmental Impact: Finishing animals at a younger age not only increases efficiency but also reduces environmental impact by consuming less feed and emitting fewer greenhouse gases over their lifetime.
6. Genotype Verification: Animals eligible for the CBV must undergo parentage verification through genotyping, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the index.
7. Availability in Auction Houses: The CBV is accessible through digital screens in auction houses, making it readily available to purchasers.

Overall, the introduction of the CBV represents a significant step forward in the dairy-beef industry, providing tangible benefits to both purchasers and breeders. By leveraging genetic information and technology, stakeholders can make more informed decisions, ultimately driving improvements in animal quality, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

Enter keywords

decision support, dairy beef, carcass quality, profitability, genetic