Friday, March 8, 2024

# Abstract Submission Form

**Title (Mr./Mrs/Dr./Prof.)** Dr.

**Presenting author** Ross Evans

**Institute**

Institute/company: ICBF

Adress: Link Road, Ballincollig

ZIP/Postal code: P31 D452

City: Cork

Country: Ireland

**Insert all authors and institutions**

Ross Evans1, Kevin Downing1, Margaret Kelleher1
1ICBF, Link Road, Ballincollig, Cork

**Preferred presentation** Oral

**Preferred session** Joint ICAR/INTERBULL Session: Data collection for Beef on Dairy

**Email of corresponding author** revans@icbf.com

**Title of your paper** The evolving landscape of beef from the dairy herd: A perspective from Ireland.

**Insert ABSTRACT text**

The inception of the ICBF database in the late 1990s was done with one key mission, to develop a single breeding database for all bovine animals, both pedigree and commercial, and beef and dairy in origin. Over time the ICBF database has evolved to forge strategic links within the dairy and beef industry to facilitate key data flows for animal breeding purposes but also provide additional ancillary services in areas such as animal health, benchmarking and sustainability. The philosophy adopted with regard to genetic evaluations has been to evaluate all breeds together utilising both pure and mixed breed data in a series of multi-breed multi-trait evaluations with the resulting output EBVs being comparable across the breeds. Similarly, a single profit index per system of production using these EBVs coupled with independently derived economic values provides a more unified direction for the dairy, and beef sectors. The dairy profit index has for many years included a beef merit component to maintain the beef attributes of the progeny of dairy cows. The removal of EU milk quotas has resulted in a changed demographic where pre-quota births from the beef and dairy herd were equal whereas now dairy herd births represent 66% of total births. Within the dairy herd beef sire usage has increased to 52% of births in 2023. In 2019, a new genetic index for selecting beef sires for use on dairy cows was launched. More recently a genetic index to rank the remaining beef merit of beef-destined progeny from dairy cows was launched to assist the purchasers of these calves in determining the market value they can afford to pay. Coupled with a large-scale national genotyping programme, this new index is now displayed in livestock auctions but is reserved for

genotyped and parentage verified animals only.  Additional research initiatives in this area include benchmark reporting for beef rearing herds, deriving the carbon footprint of beef production, and the genetic control of sensory attributes of meat as assessed by consumers.

**Enter keywords** beef, dairy, index