**Why performance record?**

Performance recording is a tool available to all breeders to help you with your management decisions and better marketing of your stock for sale.

Recorded data is becoming increasingly important to purchasers of cattle at the bull sales and private sales.

**How do EBVs help in the selection of bulls?**

* they take into account the performance of the bull’s relatives as well as its own performance.
* they allow you to compare bulls on the basis of how they will breed (breeding value) rather than how well they have been fed
* they can be used to accurately estimate progeny performance for specific traits and to predict the outcome of breeding programmes
* they identify genetic differences for “hard to see” traits such as milk and marbling.
* they report differences in units of commercial value e.g. carcase weight, retail beef yield

Pedigree and commercial breeders are placing increasing importance on EBVs when making buying decisions. While they still place importance on the look of the animal, they are realising that they require the back-up of the performance figures.

This trend is shown in the analysis of the sale prices at Perth February 2017

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Self-Replacing Index (Breed Ranking) | Number Sold | Average (£) | Number unsold |
| Top 10% Index 21 or above | 25 | 6716 | 1  |
| Average to top 15% Index 13 - 20 | 27 | 5549 | 3 |
| Below Average Index or non recorded | 16 | 4942 | 3 |

The cost of performance recording is still very reasonable at £150 which includes the first 5 breeding cows, thereafter £3 per cow. Scanning is around £150 per visit which includes up to 25 animals (contact the scanner for a quote). As you can see from the difference in the sale averages above, can you afford not to record.

**What do I need to do?**

Record **all** young stock, both bulls and heifers (the good, bad and indifferent). Weight record at birth (using your weigh-band included in your new member pack, or available from Barbara) weaning and yearling (200 and 400 days). Scan at 12 to 15 months.

**How to get started?**

Contact Charlotte Ward Email: charlotte@charolais.co.uk Tel: 07377 119233

Breedplan

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