

What is the Dairy Beef Index?

The Dairy Beef Index (DBI) is a breeding goal for Irish beef and dairy farmers to promote high-quality beef cattle bred from the dairy herd. The aim of the Dairy Beef Index is to allow dairy farmers to easily identify beef bulls that are **short gestation, easy calving, with a high carcass merit**.

Why was the DBI developed?

As a result of selecting beef bulls for mating on the dairy herd which are easy calving and short gestation only, the carcass attributes of dairy-beef cattle are at risk. That said, until now, it has not been easy to identify beef bulls for use in the dairy herd with desirable calving and carcass attributes; the Dairy Beef Index was developed to fill that void.

How is the DBI constructed?

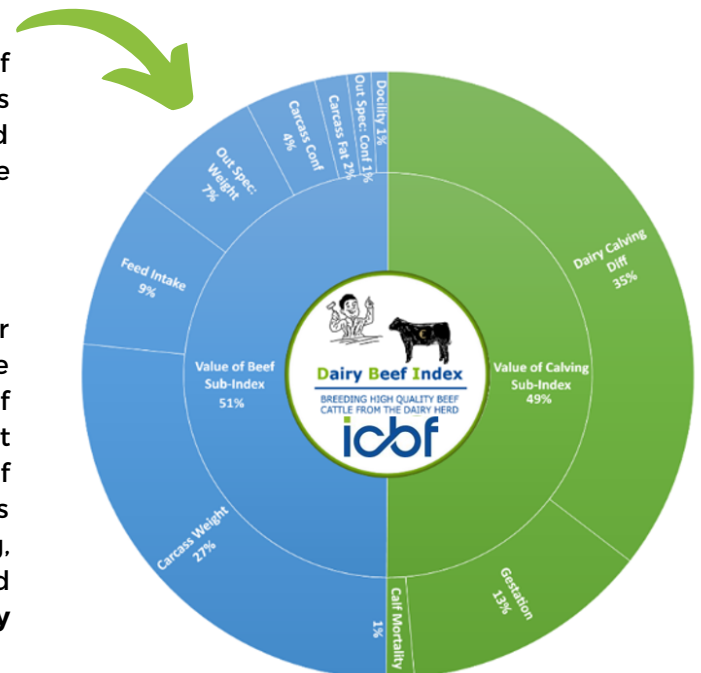
The Dairy Beef Index is divided equally into two suites of traits, **calving traits** (i.e. easy calving, short gestation, less calf mortality) tailored specifically for the dairy farmer and **beef traits** tailored to deliver desirable attributes for the rearer and finisher (i.e., high carcass merit, docile etc.).

How do I interpret the DBI?

The Dairy Beef Index is expressed in euros (€), with higher euro values associated with better ranked bulls on the Dairy Beef Index. For example, a bull with a Dairy Beef Index value of €100 is expected to generate progeny that return €80 more revenue than a bull with a Dairy Beef Index value of €20; that additional €80 revenue is attributable to benefits gained through ease of calving, shorter gestation, less feed consumed, and improved carcass merit etc. **Note: that €80 advantage is not totally derived from factory gate prices.**

Where can I find the DBI?

The Dairy Beef Index is available on the ICBF website (www.icbf.com) through the Animal Search tool. Alternatively, users of the ICBF website can click on **“Active Bull Lists”** to identify beef AI bulls that currently rank best to worst on the Dairy Beef Index. Many AI companies also present the Dairy-Beef Index on their AI catalogues. All pedigree animals, including stock bulls and AI bulls have a DBI available.



For further information on the DBI, please call the HerdPlus office on 023-8820452.

