

Summer bulling for a successful 2022 calving

Target:

95% in 12 weeks

A fertile bull is expected to achieve 95% pregnancy in 12 weeks with a group of 45 cows.

8 weeks

Is how long it takes for sperm production to recover after any interruption e.g. injury. Treat bulls that have been lame, or unwell with caution for this long

Top Tips

Healthy Bulls

Know your health status and buy bulls appropriate to it. Vaccinate, worm and fluke them according to your farms requirements and remember to include bulls in your health plan.

Feet and Legs

All bulls should have their feet trimmed once a year. Assume a lame bull is not fit to work. Treat, rest and fertility test before returning to work.

Injury

If your bull suffers an injury, let your vet know immediately and be prepared to make alternative arrangements.

Feeding and Condition

A good condition for work is 3.5 and if a bull is too fat he's unlikely to be fit enough to pursue the cows. Too thin (<2.5) reduces sperm quality.

Fertility Test (Pre-breeding exam)

Checking a bull's fertility with an electro-ejaculator is quick, reliable, and well-proven. It tells you if he is fertile on the day of testing. Statistically 1 in 5 bulls are sub-fertile.

Number of Bulls

$X=N+1$

X = perfect no. bulls
N = no. you currently have!

Bulls often have problems just as you need them to be working, so in a perfect world you would always keep at least one spare.