

## Bull Breeding Soundness Examinations

**On average 20% of stock bulls are sub fertile, therefore it is too high risk to use a Stock bull without testing him prior to relying on him to get your cows in calf!**

The examination involves a physical assessment to identify any abnormalities that may limit the bulls' ability to work. If the bull passes the physical, semen is collected using electroejaculation and the sample is assessed for the motility and morphology of the individual sperm.

With the result of the assessment it is possible to plan the breeding strategy of your herd as you may have some bulls that may only be capable of serving a smaller number of cows whilst still maintaining a tight calving pattern.

Larger herds that will use a larger team of bulls may be 'carrying' one or two bulls that are not working adequately, but are being compensated for by other bulls. By routinely testing bulls prior to the breeding period any sub fertile bulls will be identified, allowing replacements to be sourced prior to breeding so that there is still adequate 'bull power'.

The Bull Breeding Soundness Examination can also be used to test bulls prior to sales so that the purchaser has more confidence that the animal being bought will be suitable for the purpose required. It is also a vital tool in an infertility investigation of a herd using natural service, to assess whether the bulls are a factor in the fertility problem.

Why not contact our vets and technicians using the details below to talk through this process for you on your farm.

