

Timeline



What is Scrotal Circumference?

- The circumference of the widest point of the testes when pulled down firmly into the lower part of the scrotum.
- Measured in centimetres (cm), rounded to one decimal place.

Why Record Scrotal Circumference?

- The scrotal circumference of a bull provides an indication of his genetic merit for several important fertility traits.
- Increased scrotal circumferences are associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality.
- There is also evidence that increased scrotal circumferences are associated with improved female fertility and earlier age at puberty in bull's daughters.
- Recording Scrotal Circumference enables BREEDPLAN to calculate Scrotal Size EBVs.

When to Record Scrotal Circumference?

- Scrotal Size EBVs are calculated from scrotal circumference measurements taken on bulls between 300 and 700 days of age.
- It is recommended that you measure scrotal circumference when the bulls are reaching puberty, which will vary according to seasonal conditions and the maturity pattern of your cattle.
- In most cases, scrotal circumferences are recorded when bulls are being weighed at 400 days.

How Many Scrotal Circumference Measurements does BREEDPLAN Use?

- BREEDPLAN is only analysing the first measurement for each bull.

Scrotal Size EBV

- Scrotal Size EBVs are estimates of the genetic differences between animals in scrotal circumference at 400 days of age.
- Scrotal Size EBVs are expressed in centimetres (cm).

Interpreting Scrotal Size EBVs

- Larger, more positive, Scrotal Size EBVs are generally more favourable, for example:
 - A bull with a Scrotal Size EBV of +4 cm would be expected to produce sons with larger testicles at yearling age and daughters that reach puberty earlier than the progeny of a bull with a Scrotal Size EBV of -1 cm.

More Information

Scan the QR code alongside or click [here](#) for the BREEDPLAN Help Centre.



Recommended further reading (search in the BREEDPLAN Help Centre):

- Recording Scrotal Circumference Measurements (with video)
- Understanding Scrotal Size EBVs