

Bull Breeding Soundness Examinations

It is advisable to get bulls “serviced” 2 months before putting them back to work, so that any problems can be corrected before use:

BODY CONDITION - Bulls should be in moderate body condition for breeding (“fit not fat”). Fertility will be reduced if bulls are overweight or in poor body condition.

FEET - Consider getting your bulls foot-trimmed:

- Correcting overgrown claws will reduce the chance of your bull going lame during the breeding period.
- If problems are found they can be corrected in time; lameness can significantly reduce sperm counts and prevent the bull from working. It takes approximately 2 months for sperm counts to fully recover following a lameness episode, so don't waste time before getting problems sorted.



FERTILITY - 1 in 5 bulls are sub-fertile or have underlying problems which could cause problems during the breeding period. Having your bulls fertility tested is important for maximising pregnancies and to prevent any fertility disasters! A fertility exam involves:

1. **A full physical exam of the bull** - Anything that may affect the ability of the bull to serve cows (e.g. arthritis, back pain, bad heart/lungs, lameness) can be found and corrected if possible.
2. **Examination of the reproductive tract** - The testicles, prostate & penis are examined for abnormalities and testicular size is measured.
3. **Semen Assessment** - A semen sample is collected and analysed under a microscope to assess sperm concentration, motility and quality.

The fertility test is quick (approx. 20 minutes per bull) and all tests are performed crush-side so you get the results immediately. As well as identifying sub-fertile bulls, the results can be used to help guide how many cows should be put to each bull. Cost of Bull Fertility Test = £100 exc. VAT at the time of writing.