

# The Semen Story

□ On average it takes a bull eight weeks from the handshake with the farmer, to it arriving at the Bull Rearing Unit.



□ Each animal will be subject to 15-20 health and genetic recessive tests. The most common reasons for failure at this stage is Johnes status of the birth mother, and the calf having a hernia.

□ It takes a further six months to get the bull to the required level of health and licensing standard, to be able to collect semen and a further month of quarantine for the semen before dispatch, ensuring the semen you receive at your farm is the highest possible quality.

□ From the purchase of the bull to progeny test semen, three different vets will have given the bull a full medical examination.



□ Each of our test bulls has to collect 1,100 doses for the Cornerstone Breeding Club to ensure we reach Rock Solid Genetics status (100 daughters in 60 herds).

□ To collect 1,100 doses of semen it takes on average

15 ejaculates from when the bull reaches puberty at 10-12 months of age.

□ Once the initial semen bank has been collected it will be three and a half years before they are required to start collecting again.

□ At 18-30 months they finish collecting and move to the layoff unit (the unit where they holiday until it is time to start work).

□ The average weight of bulls going to the layoff unit is around 450kg to 500kg. And the average weight of bulls coming back is around 1,030kgs.

□ The semen goes out and is used on farm within two to three months, and nine months after that we send out sheets to collect information on ease of calving.

□ Two years later we start to receive milk record information, and notify the herd book of which bulls to put on LIFT (Linear Inspection For Type). Not only do we pay to classify the daughters, but also the herd mates, as this is where we get the proof information from.

□ In one year, we will classify daughters of 65 bulls, with on average five contemporaries per daughter, which is a total of 22,750 heifers classified per year through LIFT, to find out how good each sire is.

□ For a bull to graduate, he must be exceptional in type, management traits and production. The standard is high so on average we graduate one in 10 bulls. The other nine are culled, which means for every graduated bull, we produce 25,920 quarter pounder beef burgers!

