

Bull Pre-Breeding Examinations

What is it?

- General examination on a future breeding animal to check that he is suitable to be run with your herd, and perform as expected, i.e. 65% of cows calved within first 21 days.
- It does not guarantee the breeding capability of the animal, but does greatly reduce the risk of the owner using an animal that will fail to achieve acceptable levels of fertility.



Why do it?

- It is estimated that 20-25% of bulls used for breeding are either infertile or sub-fertile.
- Sub-fertile bulls are capable of getting cows in -calf in low pressure set-ups, for example a low cow to bull ratio.
- Buying in a bull with sub-optimal breeding capability can prove disastrous economically, especially in setups where only one bull is used.
- Selling bulls that have been tested can add to the animals' price, and offer peace of mind to the buyer.

How is it done?

We follow the British Cattle Veterinary Association protocol for the examination which involves:

- General clinical examination including examination of internal and external genitalia and measurement of scrotal circumference.
- Collection of semen sample using our specialist electro-ejaculator. This involves stimulation of the prostate gland to induce ejaculation.
- On farm microscopic examination of semen – ejaculate is checked for motility, and morphology. This will let us know if the bull is producing a good quality sample.
- +/- Assessment of mating