

Superior Carcase Sire Scheme



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The Hereford Cattle Society operate a scheme to improve carcase quality within the Hereford Breed.

The Superior Carcase Sire Scheme was launched in 2010, specifically to assist commercial producers in the selection of sires able to transmit improved carcase traits to their progeny and will offer up to £500 to purchasers of eligible bulls.

“Superior Carcase Sire Scheme”

The Hereford Cattle Society is offering a financial incentive to users of certified “Superior Carcase Sires”. These are bulls which have been identified from their Breedplan records as having potential to produce improved carcase quality in their progeny.

Purchasers of a “Superior Carcase Sire” will be eligible to claim £5.00 per calf on the progeny of the bull - confined to a maximum of 100 calves during a claim period of up to 4 years (3 crops of calves) from the purchase date of the bull.

The incentive may only be claimed once in the bull’s life and is confined to the original purchaser.

Claims to be submitted by the owner of the bull at 6 monthly intervals for calves up to 6 months of age by 30th June and the 31st December each year – no payments will be made in respect of any calf that is over 6 months of age at the time the claim is received.

All claims must be supported by an official list obtained by the owner of the bull from, in the case of England, Scotland and Wales – BCMS (British Cattle Movement Service) and in Northern Ireland – APHIS (Animal & Public Health Information System).

Calves will be subject to a random DNA test for sire verification and checks will be made with the appropriate authorities that the bull was present on the farm at the time of conception of the calves.

The eligibility of a bull to qualify for “Superior” status is as follows:-

1. Must be fully registered.
2. Must come from a Herd that is Breedplan recorded.
3. Must have a Birth Weight Recorded
4. Must be under 30 months of age at the point of sale.
5. Must be DNA tested prior to sale.
6. Must be officially transferred to the new owner.
7. MUST have a minimum scrotal circumference of 32 cm measured by the scanning technician at the time of scanning
8. MUST have a combination of two live weights recorded in addition to the birth weight i.e. 400 day weight and 200 or 600 day weight
9. Must achieve the following Breedplan EBVs.
Retail Beef Yield (RBY) – Top 20%
Eye Muscle Area (EMA) – Top 25%
Calving Ease Direct (CED) – Top 75%
Terminal Index – Top 25%

This incentive provides a potential bonus of £500 to the purchaser – but the real value of using superior genetics should be obvious in the quality and performance of the progeny. EBLEX suggest that “selecting a sire with the right genetics could increase the profitability of a 50 cow suckler herd by £1,500 to £2,000 a year”.

REMEMBER, WHEN USING EBVs

“Half the value of a bull’s EBV will be transmitted to his calves while the other half will come from their dams”.

For example, a bull with a 400 Day Growth EBV of + 62 kg. is estimated to have the genetic potential to be 62 kg. heavier at 400 days of age compared to a bull with an EBV of 0 kg. His calves would be expected to be 31 kg. heavier at that age when compared to calves by a bull with an EBV of 0 kg.”

With the increasing popularity of the Hereford Breed and the increasing demand for Branded Hereford Beef, the time has never been better to purchase a top performance Hereford Sire.

“Superior Carcase Sire Scheme”

The Superior Carcase Sire Programme is now well under way, many eligible bulls having been approved for funding – the official launch of the scheme having taken place in 2010.

The purpose of the scheme

To assist commercial producers in the selection of sires able to transmit superior carcase traits to their progeny. This is key to the success of our Branded Beef Schemes and will improve returns to both producers and processors of Hereford beef.

To focus breeders on the value of the Breedplan Recording System, and in particular scanning for muscle and fat depth. Breedplan becomes a much more accurate and meaningful tool to drive forward Breed improvement as the number of participating herds increases.

How are incentives paid?

Purchasers of eligible bulls will be entitled to claim £5 per calf on the progeny of these sires. Claims will be accepted twice per year for up to 4 years from the date of purchase or up to a total of 100 calves per sire. The intention is that three crops of calves will be eligible and that the maximum payment will not exceed £500 (see full details opposite).

The criteria for eligibility

A Retail Beef Yield value in the top 20% of the Breed with an Eye Muscle Area in the top 25%. The RBV is a factor of eye muscle area and fat depth with a higher value indicating leaner more muscular animals. Carcases from a superior sire slaughtered at fat class 4 should be heavier and yield more lean meat than progeny of a sire with a lower RBV slaughtered at the same stage. This allows more flexibility in management and reduces the problem of animals becoming over fat before they have achieved a satisfactory weight and muscle development.

A Terminal Sire Index in the top 25% of the Breed – this ensures that the improvements in carcase quality are not achieved at the expense of other important traits. This index incorporates a number of the key economic traits including growth rate.

The funding and future of the scheme

Hereford Cattle Society funds have been allocated to run the Scheme and it is seen as an important long-term investment to maximise the potential of our Breed in commercial beef production.

For a list of qualifying Sires visit www.herefordcattle.org and select Animal Search. Scroll down to “Sire Summary Type” and select “Superior Carcase Sire”, click Search” (found at top & bottom of web page) and a list of Superior Carcase Sires will appear in alphabetical order.

Percentile Bands for 2013 Hereford Born Calves

	Calving Ease DIR (%)	Calving Ease DTRS (%)	Gestation Length (days)	Birth Wt. (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat. Cow Wt (kg)	200 Day Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Carcase Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq cm)	Rib Fat (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF (%)	Hereford Terminal Index (GBP)	Hereford Self Replacing Index (GBP)
Top Value	+10.9	+7.8	-3.0	-3.6	+46	+85	+109	+102	+18	+3.6	+73	+4.5	-2.6	+2.6	+0.8	+45	+52
Top 1%	+5.8	+4.2	-1.1	-1.8	+39	+71	+93	+88	+14	+1.7	+59	+3.0	-1.1	+1.2	+0.4	+36	+43
Top 5%	+4.1	+2.4	-0.5	-1.0	+35	+63	+83	+78	+10	+1.3	+52	+2.3	-0.8	+0.9	+0.2	+32	+38
Top 10%	+3.2	+1.6	-0.2	+0.4	+33	+59	+77	+72	+8	+1.1	+48	+2.0	-0.6	+0.7	+0.2	+30	+35
Top 15%	+2.6	+1.1	+0.0	+0.9	+31	+56	+73	+69	+7	+1.0	+45	+1.8	-0.5	+0.6	+0.1	+28	+33
Top 20%	+2.0	+0.7	+0.1	+1.2	+30	+54	+70	+66	+7	+0.9	+43	+1.7	-0.4	+0.5	+0.1	+27	+32
Top 25%	+1.6	+0.4	+0.2	+1.4	+29	+52	+67	+64	+6	+0.8	+41	+1.6	-0.3	+0.5	+0.1	+26	+31
Top 30%	+1.3	+0.1	+0.3	+1.6	+28	+50	+65	+62	+6	+0.7	+40	+1.5	-0.2	+0.4	+0.1	+25	+30
Top 35%	+1.0	-0.2	+0.4	+1.7	+27	+49	+63	+60	+5	+0.6	+39	+1.5	-0.2	+0.4	+0.0	+24	+29
Top 40%	+0.7	-0.5	+0.4	+1.9	+26	+48	+61	+58	+5	+0.6	+37	+1.4	-0.1	+0.3	+0.0	+24	+28
Top 45%	+0.4	-0.8	+0.5	+2.1	+25	+46	+59	+56	+4	+0.5	+36	+1.4	-0.1	+0.3	+0.0	+23	+27
Top 50%	+0.0	-1.1	+0.6	+2.2	+24	+45	+57	+55	+4	+0.5	+35	+1.3	+0.0	+0.2	+0.0	+22	+26
Top 55%	-0.3	-1.3	+0.7	+2.3	+24	+44	+56	+53	+4	+0.4	+34	+1.2	+0.0	+0.2	+0.0	+22	+26
Top 60%	-0.6	-1.6	+0.7	+2.5	+23	+43	+54	+52	+3	+0.4	+33	+1.2	+0.1	+0.2	-0.1	+21	+25
Top 65%	-1.0	-1.9	+0.8	+2.6	+22	+41	+52	+50	+3	+0.3	+32	+1.1	+0.1	+0.1	-0.1	+20	+24
Top 70%	-1.5	-2.2	+0.9	+2.8	+22	+40	+51	+49	+3	+0.3	+30	+1.0	+0.2	+0.1	-0.1	+20	+23
Top 75%	-2.0	-2.6	+1.0	+3.0	+21	+38	+49	+46	+2	+0.2	+29	+0.9	+0.2	+0.0	-0.1	+19	+22
Top 80%	-2.6	-2.9	+1.2	+3.3	+20	+37	+46	+44	+2	+0.1	+28	+0.8	+0.3	+0.0	-0.2	+18	+21
Top 85%	-3.3	-3.3	+1.3	+3.6	+19	+35	+43	+42	+1	+0.0	+26	+0.7	+0.3	-0.1	-0.2	+17	+20
Top 90%	-4.2	-3.9	+1.6	+3.9	+17	+31	+39	+37	+1	-0.1	+23	+0.5	+0.4	-0.1	-0.2	+15	+18
Top 95%	-5.7	-4.8	+1.9	+4.4	+8	+15	+20	+21	+0	-0.2	+13	+0.3	+0.5	-0.2	-0.3	+9	+12
Top 99%	-8.7	-6.4	+2.8	+5.4	+4	+9	+12	+12	-2	-0.5	+8	-0.2	+0.8	-0.5	-0.5	+6	+7
Low Value	-14.4	-10.4	+6.1	+7.7	+0	+3	+3	+7	-7	-1.9	+3	-1.9	+1.7	-1.4	-1.2	+0	+1



Hereford Shows & Sales 2015

Friday 27th February, Borderway Mart, Carlisle

Tuesday 14th April, Hereford Mart, Hereford

Tuesday 6th October, Dungannon Mart, N.I.

Tuesday 13th October, Hereford Mart, Hereford

Friday 23rd October, Borderway Mart, Carlisle