



# COMMERCIAL BEEF VALUE



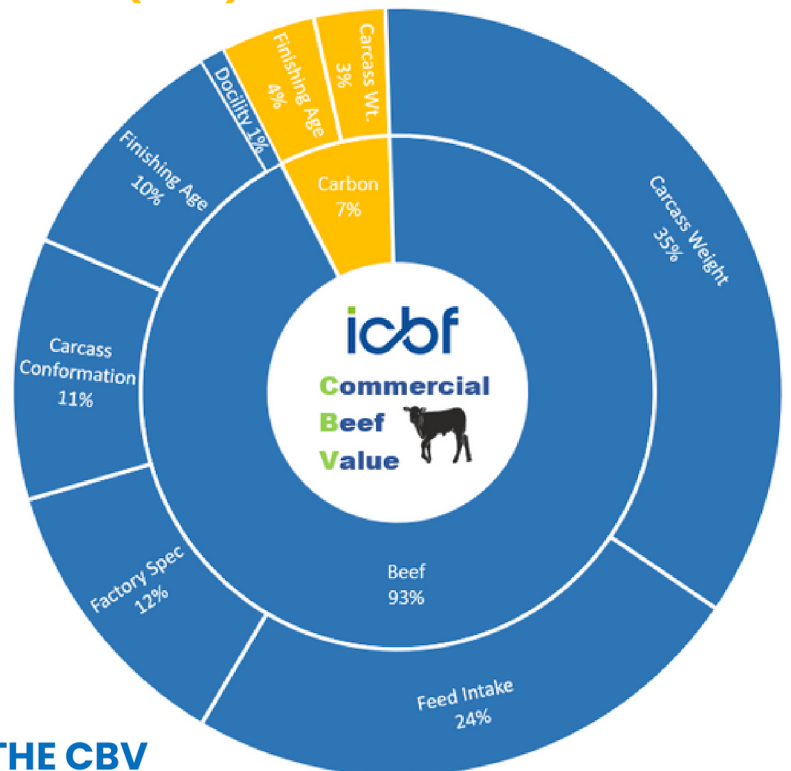
## WHAT IS THE COMMERCIAL BEEF VALUE (CBV)?

The CBV is a tool that gives farmers an insight into the genetic value of animals destined for beef production.

It comprises traits that are of economic importance to a non-breeding (drystock) farmer, such as carcass weight, conformation and feed intake.

CBV is expressed as a €uro value like the EBI and Euro-Star Indexes. The higher the €uro value, the higher the animal's genetic merit for the traits included.

Having the CBV available will allow you to make more informed decisions when purchasing animals.



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE CBV TO HAND WHEN PURCHASING?

There can be massive variation in the beef merit of calves even within breeds. ICBF research has shown that calves bred from higher genetic merit beef bulls have heavier carcass weights, better conformation and are more likely to meet factory specifications than calves bred from lower genetic merit beef bulls.



## STRUGGLING TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION?

Knowing which calf is likely to exhibit good beefing qualities over their lifetime can be difficult when purchasing them at two to four weeks of age.

## THE SOLUTION IS THE CBV

The CBV gives farmers an insight into the genetic merit of a calf and will help to put a more accurate value on it.

## USE THE BELOW TABLE AS A GUIDE WHEN BUYING DAIRY X BEEF CALVES BASED ON CBV THIS YEAR. ↪

2023 Born Beef Calves from the Dairy Herd					
Sire Breed	Btm 10%	Btm 1/3	Average	Top 1/3	Top 10%
Angus	<€43	<€63	€72	>€84	>€116
Aubrac	<€102	<€122	€132	>€145	>€179
Belgian Blue	<€106	<€141	€160	>€174	>€208
Charolais	<€126	<€153	€167	>€184	>€218
Friesian	< -€25	< -€3	€6	>€15	>€36
Hereford	<€29	<€51	€61	>€75	>€107
Limousin	<€125	<€148	€159	>€175	>€209
Simmental	<€59	<€82	€97	>€116	>€150

CBV breakdown by breed for 2023 born calves from a beef sire and dairy dam.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE CBV TO HAND WHEN PURCHASING?

The tables below highlight the importance of having the CBV to hand when purchasing animals. The data in both tables is based on animals that were finished in 2023, broken down by their CBV.

### Analysis of over 125,000 FR x FR steers finished in 2023.

CBV Rank	Calf Price	Carcass Value	Finishing Age (Days)
Top 10%	€99	€1,538	817
2	€85	€1,471	823
3	€79	€1,455	826
4	€79	€1,439	826
5	€78	€1,415	824
6	€71	€1,409	826
7	€72	€1,392	827
8	€67	€1,373	829
9	€65	€1,338	832
Btm 10%	€56	€1,263	833
Diff. between Top & Btm 10%	€43	€275	-16

### Analysis of over 56,000 AA x FR steers finished in 2023.

CBV Rank	Calf Price	Carcass Value	Finishing Age (Days)
Top 10%	€249	€1,763	778
2	€235	€1,689	787
3	€230	€1,684	789
4	€231	€1,653	790
5	€229	€1,632	788
6	€223	€1,608	792
7	€218	€1,589	802
8	€211	€1,569	805
9	€208	€1,541	817
Btm 10%	€191	€1,490	831
Diff. between Top & Btm 10%	€58	€273	-54

While there was little difference in the purchase price between the bottom and top 10% (i.e. €43), there was a significant difference when it came to finishing. The top 10% on CBV made €275 more at finish than the bottom 10%.

The top 10% of AA sired animals on CBV were finished 54 days younger and made €273 more at finish than the bottom 10% on CBV. Yet, the difference in purchase price was only €58.



## CBV-FROM THE SELLER'S PERSPECTIVE

National Genotyping Programme participants, Mary and Lorna Twomey from Leap in Co. Cork are milking 40 spring-calving cows and supplying milk to Drinagh Co-op.

Their breeding program is based on 100% AI and they use as much beef AI as possible in order to maximise the value of their calf crop, thereby making the sale of beef calves a significant part of their business. Lorna is responsible for the breeding decisions, and Mary is responsible for the calf-rearing process, doing everything she can to keep calves healthy and thriving.

Producing well-bred and well-reared calves for sale maximises the calf's value and provides the purchaser with a quality calf to take forward into their own business.

"Genotyped calves have the advantage of having both their 'genotype' and 'phenotype' on display. The 'parentage verification' element of genotyping is invaluable as it guarantees the authenticity of the calf and gives the purchaser confidence in what they are buying. The genetic potential extracted from the DNA complements this by giving an indication of what the calf is capable of. When coupled with a healthy and well-grown calf, the full benefits of both the genotype and phenotype are on display. Provided both are balanced, i.e., well-bred and well-reared, the calf should command its full value."

I think that after a while (2 – 3 years of a bedding in period) large calf purchasers will be paying more attention to CBVs because it is what their farmer customers will want. I believe that if I was selling the calves privately this year, the CBV would carry more weight as the customer would most likely be a farmer. - Lorna Twomey



## CBV-FROM THE BUYER'S PERSPECTIVE

ABP Advantage Programme participant, John Galvin runs a calf to beef system near Croom in Co. Limerick. For the last number of years John has purchased approximately 70% of his calves each year from one local farmer with the remaining 30% coming from other local farmers. John and the calf breeder work closely in advance of the breeding season to select bulls with a high Dairy Beef Index (DBI), paying particular attention to the beef traits. Angus, Hereford and Friesian are the main sire breeds.

When it comes to selecting which calves to purchase, John uses the Commercial Beef Value (CBV). Selecting genotyped calves with the highest CBV provides peace of mind that they will have the genetic potential to finish well. According to John, the CBV is "absolutely vital."

## CBV-FROM THE BUYER'S PERSPECTIVE

Currently, John has 227 dairy x beef animals that have an average CBV of €55 and 181 dairy x dairy animals that have an average CBV of €14.

With such large volumes of genotyped calves now available as a result of the National Genotyping Programme, John is confident that more and more farmers will start paying better attention to the CBV information in both private sales and mart sales. There is a responsibility on dairy farmers to make better breeding decisions so that in turn, the next generation of calves are meeting the specified requirements.

Going forward, John intends to continue incorporating the CBV into his purchasing decisions to ensure he is making the most informed, profitable and sustainable decisions for his farming enterprise.

## WHERE CAN I FIND THE CBV?

**Only genotyped** animals will have a CBV available on mart boards.

Where purchasing animals privately, the seller can access the CBV information through their HerdPlus accounts.

**Please note:** In order for a CBV to be generated, the calf must have a recorded sire.

Buying calves without a known sire means you are taking a gamble on their genetic merit potential.

Lot No 17		Qty 4	MALE	62.00 KGs
Breed Age Moves EXP Dam-BRD				
FR 0m/30d 1 Y FR				
FR 0m/23d 1 Y FR				
FR 0m/18d 1 Y FR				
FR 0m/18d 1 Y FR				
Remarks				
TB Test	TB Herd Test	ICBF Evals		
	19/05/2023	4		
Seller				
icbf				
Tag No	Comm. Beef Value	Genomic Eval		
1602	€12	Yes		
13:18:26				

## KEY POINTS

- 1 The CBV provides essential information on the genetic merit of calves.
- 2 Genotyped calves are both parentage and breed verified.
- 3 Higher CBV animals are delivering higher value carcasses.
- 4 Genotyped animals being traded through marts will have their CBV displayed on mart boards.

## CONTACT

[www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)

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