



Better Returns

Bull MOT

Check your bull pre-breeding

Toes

Check feet and locomotion.

Testicles

Measure – minimum of 34cm scrotal circumference recommended for two-year olds in most breeds.

Feel – firm (think tennis ball) and no abnormalities.

Tone

Body condition score of 3.0-3.5 at start of breeding season.

Treat

Vaccinations (eg BVD & Leptospirosis), internal and external parasites.

Test

Consult your vet for a thorough bull breeding soundness examination (BBSE) of physical soundness and semen quality.



Remember...

A fit bull can...

Cut your calving interval, reduce input costs and provide greater financial returns.

Research has shown that 20% of bulls are sub-fertile

MOT your bull well in advance

10 weeks before the breeding season begins.
Semen production takes over 8 weeks.

To achieve a BCS of 3 good quality nutrition is essential

Avoid feeding high levels of concentrates over long periods of time.

Supplement the bull with good quality forage along with 2-3kg of high fibre, 14% CP concentrate, depending on body condition.

Remember to include a mineral supplement.

Assess mating ability and libido

Observe bulls serving cows and look for problems eg corkscrew penis.

Check health status

Quarantine new bulls for 3 weeks if possible and always enquire about the health status of the bull and its previous herd before bringing him onto the farm.

Test for disease status (eg BVD, IBR, Johnes) before using him.