

## **Submitting Scrotal Circumference to BREEDPLAN**

Scrotal Size EBVs are estimates of the genetic differences between animals in scrotal circumference at 400 days of age. Scrotal Size EBVs are expressed in centimetres (cm) and are calculated from scrotal circumference measurements taken on bulls between 300 and 700 days of age. This pamphlet outlines the main points to consider when submitting scrotal circumference measurements to BREEDPLAN.

### 1. Why should Scrotal Circumference information be recorded?

Scrotal Circumference can be recorded to provide a measure of an animal's genetic merit for fertility.

Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality. Increased scrotal circumference also has a favorable relationship with female fertility, both in terms of earlier age at puberty, earlier return to oestrous and shorter days to calving.

### 2. When should Scrotal Circumference information be recorded?

BREEDPLAN can analyse scrotal circumference information from bulls that are between 300 – 700 days of age when measured. Subsequently, it is essential that scrotal circumference information is recorded when bulls are within this age range.

In addition, it is recommended that you measure scrotal circumference when the bulls are reaching puberty, which will vary according to seasonal conditions and the maturity pattern of your cattle. In the majority of cases, scrotal circumference is recorded when bulls are being weighed at either 400 or 600 days.

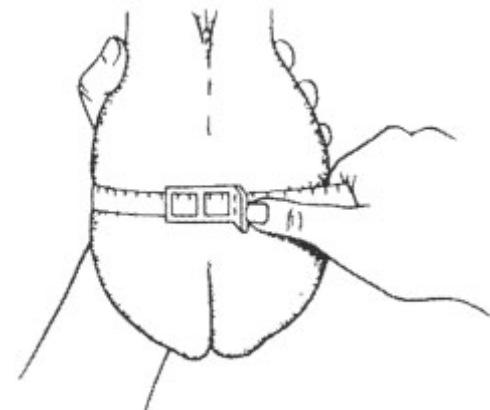
While more than one scrotal circumference measurement can be recorded for an individual animal, BREEDPLAN is only analysing the first measurement for each bull at this stage. Subsequent measurements can be stored for possible later use.

### 3. How should Scrotal Circumference information be recorded?

Scrotal circumference measurements should be recorded by holding the testicles at the bottom of the scrotum and placing a measuring tape around the widest point (as per diagram).

Measurements should be recorded in centimetres (to one decimal place).

While measuring techniques vary slightly, it is important to use a consistent technique for a whole group of cattle.



*For more information regarding the submission of scrotal circumference information, please contact staff at BREEDPLAN.*