



## Why Should I Performance Record My Herd?

Performance recording gives breeders and bull buyers an objective way of assessing the genetic merit of breeding animals. Whether you are a pedigree or commercial producer, it is the most accurate way of assessing breed potential.

### Performance Recording Adds Value...

#### To Commercial Producers

Commercial finished and suckled calf producers are enhancing herd productivity by up to £40/calf through:

- ✓ **High Growth EBVs** - Increase slaughter/sale weights and reduced days to slaughter/sale
- ✓ **Superior Carcase EBVs** - Improved carcase conformation
- ✓ **Superior Maternal EBVs** – Breeding productive cows, that produce more calves during their working lifetime

#### To Pedigree Breeders

Due to the commercial benefits associated with recorded cattle, bull buyers seek out recorded bulls:

- ✓ **Clearance rates** for recorded bulls are higher than bulls that are unrecorded
- ✓ **Premiums** are being paid for recorded bulls with superior EBVs

Sale results from 2012 below (February, May and October sales at Stirling and Carlisle) illustrate these effects. As buyers have experienced success from purchasing high performance genetics, they are willing to invest in them again, which increases demand and raises clearance rates.

Beef Value	No. Bulls Sold	No. Bulls Sold as % of Total	Average Sale Value (gns/head)
<b>Top 1%</b>	63	12%	9108
<b>Top 10%</b>	181	33%	5459
<b>Top 25%</b>	101	19%	4998
<b>Average</b>	60	11%	4257
<b>Below Average</b>	40	7%	4975
<b>Non Recorded</b>	98	18%	4753
<b>Total</b>	543	100%	5592

This/

**This information tells us that at these sales in 2012:**

- ✓ 82% of all bulls sold were performance recorded
- ✓ 64% of all bulls sold had Beef Values within the Top 25% of the breed
- ✓ The higher the Beef Value, the higher the average price, this indicating buyers' willingness to source animals of superior genetic merit.
- ✓ Non recorded bulls attracted similar values to bulls with Beef Values that were Below Average, this indicating the nervousness that surrounds buying a bull of unknown genetic merit
- ✓ Clearance rates amongst recorded bulls throughout the year were typically greater than the non-recorded entry at each sale.

Performance recorded animals help pedigree breeders and commercial bull buyers to

1. Make better breeding decisions
2. Market their stock more effectively
3. Make more money from beef production

British Limousin Cattle Society  
Telephone 02476 696500 Email [info@limousin.co.uk](mailto:info@limousin.co.uk)