

Increasing Dairy Heifer Ratio

The cost of producing heifer calves is a cost that keeps rising every year for UK Dairy Farmers, but now GB Bulls with the launch of HeiferPlus Enhanced semen at this year's Dairy Event are changing that. Bill Dennie owner of GB Bulls is releasing Heifer Plus and Bull Plus Enhanced semen alongside the conventional semen GB Bulls market. Heifer Plus not only produces between sixty five to eighty five percent heifer calves, this is by a process of selectively capacitating only the female X chromosome with a sperm sexing agent. The process stimulates the female sperm and at the same time slowing the mobility of the male Y chromosome, when inseminated the female sperm swim faster than the male sperm and therefore reaches the egg first. The result is more eggs are fertilized by female sperm resulting in more heifer calves and without sacrificing fertility.

The increase in conception rate to first service is between five and fifteen percent therefore reducing the heifer replacement costs considerably, there are two methods of using Heifer Plus, either individual vials which is when any bull can be used from the farmers own AI tank or being Heifer Plus Enhanced which is when the enhancement takes place at the pre freezing point of the process this is carried out by UK Sire Service Ltd in Dartington Devon.

Farmers who have used Heifer Plus remark

Ray Brown of the Bidlea Herd at Holmes Chapel, Cheshire comments



“using a small amount of Heifer Plus for the first time we were pleasantly surprised when we had six pregnancies from the first nine services, since then we have used more and with not only the increase in heifer calves to look forward to but also the increase in conception, it now makes Heifer Plus an important part of our breeding program. Such is the confidence we have in Heifer Plus we are now using it on the cows that in the past have being a struggle to get in calf for no apparent reason”



Part of the Bidlea Herd bred with Heifer Plus

Staffordshire Holstein Breeder John Lomax owner of Chorlton Holstein's who farms at Hill Chorlton, Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffordshire

“Anything that can help me get more heifer calves out of my best cows is a great boost to my farming business and the extra improvement on my conception rates is a big bonus to me as well and Heifer Plus gives me both”

Stuart Hope Herd Manager for B Althan Yanworth in Penrith Cumbria remarks

“we are more than delighted with the fertility of Heifer Plus, it really gets cows in calf even the problem ones we also like the fact that in the single vial we can use it with any bull we like and we will certainly be using a lot more of the Enhanced semen and single vials in the future”

All so being launched at the Dairy Event is Bull Plus Blue an enhanced straw of two high quality British Blue bulls that is Bull Plus enhanced which is the same process as Heifer Plus but where the male Y chromosome is stimulated instead of the female X chromosome resulting in producing more bull calves than heifers and greatly increasing the revenue from bull calf sales.

“We are very proud to be the first AI Company in the world to offer Heifer Plus and Bull Plus Enhanced semen with seven dairy and beef bulls now available and more to come in the near future we feel farmers now have a more cost effective choice of getting the calves they require” comments Bill Dennie

For more information contact Bill Dennie at GB Bulls Tel 01782791441 email bill@gbbulls.co.uk www.gbbulls.co.uk or visit our Stand GE 419 at this year's Dairy Event.