

## Bull Buying & Leasing Checklist

Before making your bull buying or leasing decisions, make sure the boys that you're looking at tick off everything on this checklist to help ensure a successful natural mating period.

### Checklist:

- ☐ They are virgin bulls  
**Rule of thumb: virgin bulls are less likely to pass on venereal diseases to your cows**
- ☐ If they are not virgin bulls, you have discussed relevant venereal disease testing, such as Trichomoniasis and Campylobacter, with your vet
- ☐ They are from a source that fits within your farms biosecurity criteria, **and** you have reviewed the details of their movement history
- ☐ They have tested clear for BVD, TB, and EBL **and** you have the test results in your hot little hands  
**Rule of thumb: BVD tested as clear is different from just being BVD inoculated**
- ☐ They are vaccinated fully for BVD and Leptospirosis
- ☐ If from a herd with Johne's, they have a clear Johne's blood test
- ☐ They are not from a Theileria infected farm
- ☐ They are sexually mature  
**Rule of thumb: they need to be 15 months or older**
- ☐ They are easy calving  
**Rule of thumb: look for bulls with low birthweight and high calving ease breeding values**
- ☐ They are tall enough for your cows/heifers
- ☐ They are not too big for your cows/heifers  
**Rule of thumb: they need to be less than 100kg heavier than your cows/heifers**
- ☐ The bulls are 3 years old or less  
**Rule of thumb: younger bulls are less likely to injure your cows and are less likely to already have back or penis injuries**
- ☐ They have sound feet and do not have horns
- ☐ You have ordered enough bulls - enough bulls for two teams (for rotation) and spares in case a bull/s becomes lame or injures himself  
**Rule of thumb: 1 bull/20 heifers + a spare, and two teams of 1 bull/30 non-pregnant cows + a spare**
- ☐ They are in good BCS for the 2-3 months before they will be put in with the herd (when the sperm are being produced that will be ejaculated during mating)  
**Rule of thumb: the target BCS at mating for bulls is 4.5 - 5.5**
- ☐ They will arrive on farm in time to give the boys time to sort out their pecking order and to get over the truck ride and any injuries from fighting  
**Rule of thumb: picking bulls from the same mob can help reduce the fighting when they arrive on farm**

For further information, check out Chapter 15 of the In-Calf [book](#)