

BSE

- There are many components to a bull breeding soundness examination.

1. History and health status

this might involve reviewing the health status of the herd of origin if the examination is being carried out prior to purchase, reviewing the results of previous laboratory tests that may have been carried out on samples collected from the bull in the past

- Collecting samples and commissioning more laboratory tests
- Reviewing vaccination and
- Other treatment history
- Reviewing previous breeding performance.

Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), if known, should also be considered.

- ♣ Scrotal Size
- ♣ Days to Calving
- ♣ Gestation Length
- ♣ Calving Ease
- ♣ Milk, etc

2. Physical examination

This begins at a distance assessing

- Size relative to age
- Body condition
- Conformation
- Locomotion and
- Noting signs that might be consistent with the presence of any infectious or contagious disease.

- A more detailed examination may be required particularly to assess
- The eyes,
- The teeth,
- The legs and feet and,, the reproductive
- apparatus.

3. Examination of the reproductive tracts

- The prepuce will be examined for any evidence of constriction or discharge.
- The penis will be palpated to ensure that it is
 - freely moveable within the prepuce
 - and that there is no evidence of any abnormal swellings or growths.

- The testes will be:
 - Measured (size correlates with sperm production and offspring fertility)
 - Palpated to ensure uniform size and consistency and that they
 - Checked for the they are moveable within the scrotum.



4.Semen collection and examination

- The best quality samples can be obtained by teasing the bull with a cow that is in oestrus and then using an artificial vagina
- The use of electro-ejaculation will also usually result in an acceptable quality sample being obtained more quickly and safely.
- A few bulls will fail to respond satisfactorily to electro-ejaculation and no sample will be obtained.

- An assessment will be made of ejaculate volume and density
- Then sample is viewed using a microscope to assess sperm motility and the number of abnormal or damaged sperm.

5. Libido and serving assessment

- watching the bull's behaviour to allow an assessment to be made of his libido (how keen he is to serve cows) and of his ability to serve.
- It is particularly important during this part of the examination to watch carefully for any penile deviations which may prevent intromission (the penis entering the vagina) and for evidence of an ejaculatory thrust.

Reasons for failing BSE

- Immaturity,
- Poor body condition
- Lameness
- Health status
- penile damage or deviation
- Inadequate testicular size