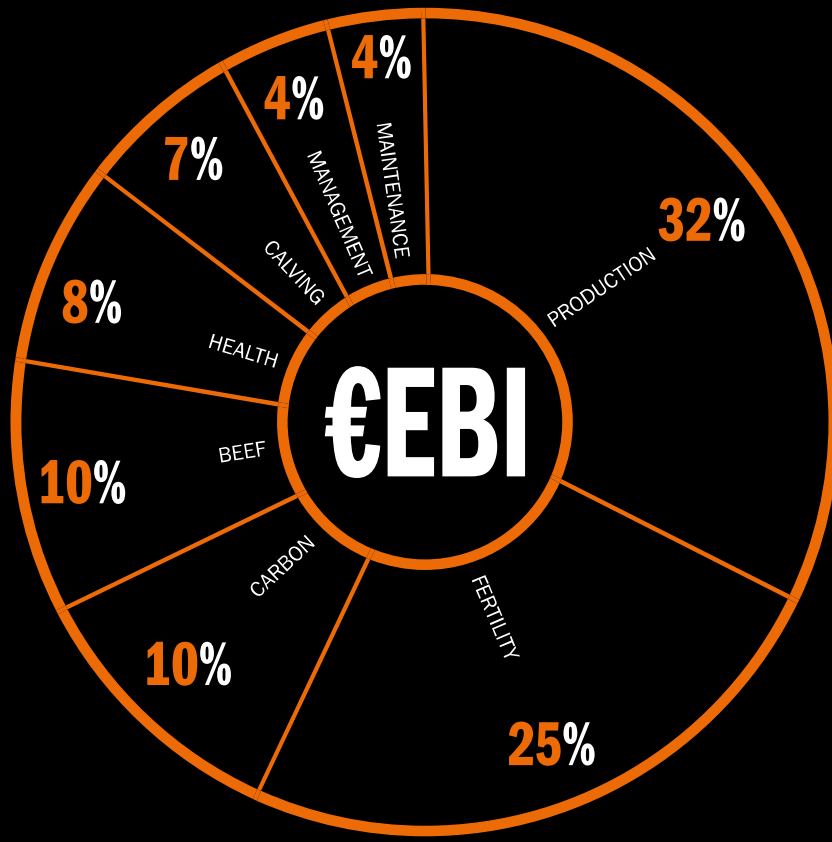
ECONOMIC BREEDING INDEX (€EBI) EXPLAINE

EBI is a profitability-based index aimed at helping farmers to identify the most profitable bulls for use within their dairy system. It comprises eight sub-indexes weighted in relation to the influence they have on farm profitability. These are displayed in the chart below with the outer ring showing the individual traits that form part of that sub index. Values in the index are based on data collected from the Irish dairy herd with these values last updated in November 2022 where the inclusion of the Carbon Sub Index was seen for the first time.



PRODUCTION	FERTILITY	CARBON	BEEF
Mainly focused on Fat & Protein production with a small emphasis on volume	Includes Calving interval and Survival, fertile cows will last longer in the herd and reduce empty rates	Increases the economic weighting of traits that contribute to reduced GHG emissions	High value indicates a better cull cow value and carcase weight and has a direct correlation to calf value

HEALTH	CALVING	MANAGEMENT	MAINTENANCE
High values result in a reduction of Lameness incidence ensuring ability to walk to pasture as well as reduced Mastitis and SCC	A measure of calving ease and calf mortality ensuring early survival of calves as well as reduced numbers of assisted calvings	Focused on milking speed and temperament, improving milking efficiency and reducing the amount of time spent in the parlour	Decreased liveweight will result in a better value here with negative liveweight bulls possessing a higher value