



Bull MOTs Thomas Crawshaw

A fit bull will; reduce your calving interval, help tighten your calving spread, require less input, and ultimately result in better financial returns.

It is estimated that the annual cost of keeping a bull is ~£1600. This figure considers purchase price, depreciation and fixed, feed, and grazing costs. Keeping an unfit bull is expensive.

~20% of bulls are sub fertile on examination and it is highly recommended to assess your bull prior to turn out.

You can assess your bull yourself by:

- **Toes** - Check feet and locomotion
- **Testicles** – check size (for breed and age) and firmness (like a tennis ball), ensuring there are no lumps or bumps
- **Tone** – aim for a body condition score of ~3.5 at start of breeding season
- **Treat** – check all vaccines and parasite treatments are up to date with your health plan
- **Test** – book in a pre-breeding soundness (PBS) evaluation 6 – 10 weeks before mating begins

At MBM Vet Group our PBS evaluation conforms with British cattle veterinary association guidelines and a certificate will be produced for sales and/or personal records.

During a PBS evaluation the vet will check the bulls; general health, condition, locomotion, and internal and external genitalia.

A sample of semen is collected via an electro – ejaculator and analysed for volume, density, motility, and morphology. Most of the semen evaluation is done on farm; however, a final analysis of morphology is done back at our lab.

Electro-ejaculation has been proven to be safe and effective and is considered the industry standard method of semen collection for evaluation.

Testicle size and semen quality are obvious indicators of fertility; however sometimes bulls will not be serving cows due to a lameness issue. Our WOPA crush is a safe and effective way to handle bulls, allowing us to semen test and check your bulls feet on the same visit to the crush.

A bull MOT (physical and semen evaluation, feet trim and health advice) costs:

- 1st Bull: £130.84 ex VAT
- 2nd Bull +: £89.51 ex VAT

The only thing a PBS evaluation does not do is assess libido; however, you should get a good idea of whether your bulls are “keen” and mating correctly in the first week of bulling.

Please get in touch if you would like peace of mind before mating begins

Staff Update

Many of you will have now met Tom Crawshaw, who joined the farm vet team last year, we are delighted to announce he has decided to stay with us beyond his 12 months, commenting:

"It was intended to be a 12 month stay with MBM Vets; however I have really enjoyed working with the clients and team here, so you have unfortunately got me for the foreseeable future....!"

We hope you join us in wishing him success at MBM Vet Group.



MBM Veterinary Group

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