

# The Right Bull Has Financial Pay-Off

**The unmatched fertility traits of Irish Black® and Irish Red® cattle are hard to beat. Consider these benefits when choosing your next herd sire.**

Producers interested in Irish Black and Irish Red genetics may be surprised to realize the monumental benefits this breed has to offer in terms of fertility traits. Not only do females mature and reach puberty at a younger age, but they also have a shorter gestation of only 277 days.

What's more, Irish Black and Irish Red bulls are known for having large scrotal circumferences and high fertility, which allows a 2-year-old bull to cover 60-75 cows during the breeding season. With the added benefit of longevity, these bulls are proficient breeders that will stay in production for years to come.



## The cost benefit of these proficient breeders is incredible!

The following bull cost analysis developed by Lisa Hendrickson with Diamond H Livestock, compares the average purchase price, feed costs, vet costs, etc., of an Angus bull compared to an Irish Black (or Irish Red) bull. The resulting data clearly demonstrates the potential cost savings and return on investment when purchasing Irish Black genetics.

Bull Cost Analysis	Angus	Irish Black	Irish Black Year 5	Irish Black Year 6
Average Purchase Price	\$4,853	\$7,000	\$ 7,000	\$7,000
Feed Cost (4 years at \$500/year)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
Vet Cost (4 years at \$75/yr)	\$300	\$300	\$375	\$450
Death Loss (4 years at 2% per yr)	\$388	\$560	\$700	\$840
Subtotal for the bull	\$7,541	\$9,860	\$10,575	\$11,290
Salvage value	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total cost per bull	\$6,041	\$8,360	\$9,075	\$9,790
Number of cows bred over 4 years	92 (23/year)	220 (55/year)	275 (55/year)	330 (55/year)
<b>Breeding Cost per Cow</b>	<b>\$65.66</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>	<b>\$33.00</b>	<b>\$29.67</b>

### These calculations do NOT include:

1. Longevity of bull performance. Here, cost per cow drops even more with IB bull working 5 years (\$24.36) or 6 years (\$20.89).
2. Value of uniformity in calves at sale time.
3. Weaning weight averages increasing for herd.
4. Fast maturity and fast finish
5. Value of replacements.
6. Fertility of percentage females when held or sold as replacements.
7. Mothering ability of percentage females when held or sold as replacements.



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