**ICBF Beef Industry consultation meeting held on Tuesday, 7th July 2015 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.**

**Attending:**

Sean Coughlan, Andrew Cromie, Stephen Conroy, Ross Evans, Bernard Eivers, Christopher Daly, Darren Carty, Rosalish Goulding, Doreen Corridan, Eamonn Coleman, Jessica Coyne, Joseph Burke, Joe Fortune, John Lynch, Romy O’ Donnell, Larry Feeney, Laurie Harney, John McEnroe, Louis Byrne, Mary Duggan, Mary Purcell, Pearce Kelly, Michael Conway, Noirin McHugh, Tim Fitzmaurice, Tom Baker, Fabien Peyaud, James Greevy, Audrey McDermott, Tara Carthy, Siobhan Ring, Alan Twomey, John Clarke, John Murphy, James Keane, Shane Beirne, Anne Pounds, Arthur Bredin, Eddie Barrett, Alfie Hanbidge, Larry Burke, Alan Hurley, Barry Smith, David Holland, Nevan McKiernan, Nuala Hourihane & Martin Ryan.

**Apologies:** Robert Helen, Ciaran O’ Shea, Robert Shannon, Niall Stoddart, John O’ Sullivan, Charles Gallagher, George Ramsbottom, Ger Ryan, Paul Sykes, Peadar Glennon, and Donal Carey.

# 1. Beef.

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| **Topic** | **Key points** | **Actions/Decisions** |
| Beef Data Genomics program – Andrew Cromie. | * 29.1 thousand herds with 641,000 cows are signed up to the new scheme.
* 1 Million animals will be genotyped in the next two years.
 | * BDGP €uro-Star reports will be sent out in August to herds participating in the scheme
* Tags will be issued to herdowners in September
* Plan is to have Beef genomic evaluations from Dec 2015, with test proofs sent out to the industry in advance for feedback.
* Updates on the new program will be available at the next meeting.
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| Maternal and Terminal index– Ross Evans  | * Outcomes from the €uro-Star review group were as follows:
1. Update economic values
2. Change the construction of the maternal index i.e. put an increased emphasis on female traits. Overall it was agreed to go with option 2 outlined in the table below.

 | * These recommendations are to be forwarded to the ICBF board for approval.
* The proposed new changes are included in the next proof run at the end of July, ahead of the BDGP reports being sent out in August.
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| Cow milk score and maternal weaning weight – Ross Evans | * There has being a small increase in weaning weights recorded in the ICBF database between Dec 2014 and July 2015. However, there has being a large increase in farmer recorded milk scores. See table below for more details.

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|   |  Dec 14  | Jul-15 |
| Weaning wts (Sire known) | 638,507 | 696,070 |
| Milk scores  | 379,189 | 1,234,600 |

 | * The increase in cow milk scores will be used in the next evaluation run.
* A project is underway between Teagasc and ICBF to help promote maternal weaning weight recording. It involves collecting routine weights from 50 herds.
* Update on the percentage of matching animals between the ICBF and UK Angus Breedplan database is to be made available to the industry.
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| Foreign data inclusion in evaluations – Ross Evans | * Infrastructure is now in place between ICBF and Breedplan to share data. However, there needs to be agreement between the UK and Irish Herdbooks before data from a breed can be transferred. This principle can now be rolled out to other countries.
* Angus data was shared by BreedPlan UK from June of this year.
* Data from France and UK Limousins has being shared with ICBF for a number of years.
 | * Herdbooks that data is not yet being shared with ICBF are to liaise with their counterparts in the UK to get a data sharing agreement.
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| Beef genomics research – Ross Evans | * 110,000 animals were genotyped as part of the 2013 Beef genomics scheme.
* 480 pedigree animals had an incorrect sire, however 120 of these received a new predicted sire.
* 3,174 commercial animals had an incorrect sire, however 160 of these received a new predicted sire.
 | Genomic test proofs will be available in late September.An updated file of AI bulls that are not yet genotyped is to be sent to Herdbooks and AI companies requesting samples for genotyping.  |
| Calving performance update – Noirin McHugh  | * 281 farmers (183 Beef and 98 Dairy) completed a detailed calving survey. The maximum acceptable level of calving difficulty for 64 percent of Dairy farmers on heifers was 3%, while 56% of dairy farmers would not use bulls over 4% on their cows.
* In Beef the maximum acceptable level of calving difficulty for 63 percent of farmers was 9% on heifers, while 57% of beef farmers would use bulls of up to 14% for calving difficulty on their cows. Also, 22% of beef farmers would use bulls of 20% or graeter for calving difficulty on their cows.
 | It was proposed to have a non-linear function for calving difficulty in Beef and Dairy that would penalize heavily bulls with calving difficulty over 15%. Test proofs will be available later this year for feedback once all the research has being completed.  |
| Dairy Beef Index (DBI) – Noirin McHugh | * Traits influencing the index are as follows:
1. Calving difficulty
2. Calf mortality
3. Gestation length
4. Calf price
* Results to date show large variation within breeds for calving difficulty.
 | Research and validation work on the DBI is to continue with test proofs available later in the year. The target for implementation is Dec 2015 (ahead of the Spring 2016 buying season).  |
| ICBF/Teagasc Maternal weighing project – Chris Daly | * A project is underway to collect weight data from 50 herds across the country. To date 36 farmers have signed up to the project.
* It is hoped that these herds will act as a catalyst to encourage more herds to weigh their animals as only 13% of herds had weights recorded in the ICBF database in 2014.
 | Updates will be available at future meetings  |

Draft dated 10th July 2015.