



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

Performance Recording Steering Committee Update



Pat Donnellan



Overview

- **Agreed at last Industry meeting that a steering committee would be set up to finalise the details of the ‘Whole Herd Performance Recording’ approach.**

Committee:

- **Pedigree:** Paul Sykes, Peadar Glennon, Richard O’Beirne
- **Commercial:** Denis Large, Angus Woods
- **AI:** Rose Goulding, John Lynch
- **IFJ:** Kieran Mailey
- **DAF:** John Carty
- **ICBF:** Sean Coughlan, Pat Donnellan

- **Steering Committee met on 20th July.**

1st Meeting

- **1st Meeting Focus:**
- **Age & Insemination data**
- **Calving Ease & Preferential Treatment**
- **Whole Herd Performance Recording Details**
- **Penalties**

Age & Insemination Data

Birthweights

- **Aim: To collect birthweights on all pedigree calves.**
- Birthweights should be made mandatory for a calf to be pedigree registered.
- ‘Actual’ & ‘Estimated’ weights will be accepted.
- Possibility of including this on the DAF registration screen to be investigated.

Inseminations

- **Aim: To get inseminations recorded in the database within ‘x’ days of the insemination happening.**
- A ‘Breeding Chart’ or A.Events type docket book must be sent out to Breeders so as they can return this data.

Calving Ease & Pref. Treatment

Calving Ease

- **Aim: Get more detailed information on calving difficulty & gestation length.**
- Allow more detailed information on calving to be recorded.
- Possibility of including this on the DAF registration screen to also be investigated.

Preferential Treatment

- **Aim: Get more animal management information at the visit.**
- Record Surrogate mothers, condition score, creep feeding, selectively managed for a show.
- ICBF Scorer to record such data on the day of a visit and query animals with an unusually high daily gain (1.7kg/day appears to be the current trigger value).

Whole Herd Performance Recording

Visit Detail

- All animals in scoring range are scored and weighed (150-700 days).
- All animals 1-149 days are weighed.
- All 1st calvers are weighed & scored.
- All other cows are scored.
- Review in future – possibility of weighing 1st calver if still in the herd on her 4th calf.

Penalties

- **Currently – different Breed Societies operate broadly similar penalties: 24 hour notifications, excluded from shows etc**
- **Going forward - Breeders found to have recorded incorrect data in the ‘Whole Herd Recording’ program must be penalised by ICBF.**
- **Details of penalties have to be thought through.**
 - **Complicated and possibly costly area.**
 - **Proof of transgression must be 100% accurate.**
 - **Difference between a once off mistake and ongoing data manipulation.**