

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

GROW
2007 – 2009
The story so far!

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ICBF



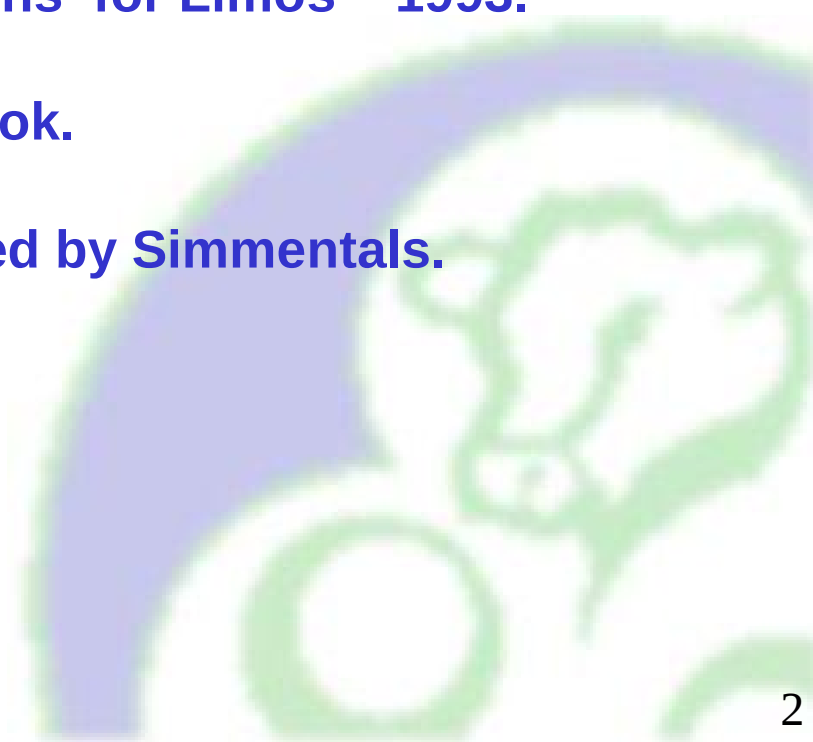


Linear Scoring



Historically (1990's)

- § Dept of Ag. inspected Bulls for Breeding.
- § Late 1980's these Bull inspections stopped.
- § Linear Scoring replaced Bull Inspections for Limos – 1993.
- § Compulsory for registration in Herdbook.
- § Charolais commenced in 1995, followed by Simmentals.
- § Other Breeds commenced over time.





Linear Scoring

Historically (late 1990's – 2007)

- § Data collected from Linear Scoring used in within Breed BLUP evaluations for each breed.
- § Normal for animals to be:
 - § Scored on their own
 - § Not Weighed at time of Scoring
 - § Range in age from 5 – 20 months
- § Typical for level of animals scored to increase close to sale dates.
- § Across Breed Linear Scoring commenced by ICBF 2002
- § Handheld Computers also rolled out.



Linear Scoring



Seamus O'Leary enters a bull for Kevin Bulliver.



Assessors Seamus O'Leary discusses scoring system with Society Secretary Nicholas Trish and Software Developer Brendan McLaughlin.



Linear Scoring

Historically (Spring 2007)

§ Data being collected analysed for 'Quality' in Genetic Evaluations. i.e.

how much of the data could be used in evaluations

Breed	Scored	Weighed	Group of 5	150-300 Days old	Ok for Evaluation	%
AA	187	58	157	50	27	14%
AU	217	99	192	40	28	13%
BA	103	42	93	58	35	34%
BB	131	13	66	34	4	3%
CH	3362	1400	2551	856	392	12%
CO	3772	3479	3719	2680	2563	68%
HE	301	99	260	60	33	11%
LM	4446	1426	3395	1062	430	10%
PI	63	-	44	19	-	-
PT	47	23	44	15	12	26%
SA	147	86	128	36	27	18%
SH	23	7	17	7	4	17%
SI	1259	790	1020	389	237	19%

§ 12% of Pedigree Animals records eligible for evaluations

§ 70% of Commercial Animals eligible for evaluations



Linear Scoring

Historically (Summer 2007)

- § Agreed to improve 'Quality' of data recorded.
- § Rules drawn up to address quality issues:
 - § Weighed
 - § 150-300 days
 - § In a group of at least 5
- § Situation explained to Linear Scorers.
- § Rules distributed to Breed Societies & Farming Press.
- § Website improved to reflect changes.
- § Communication of new approach commenced



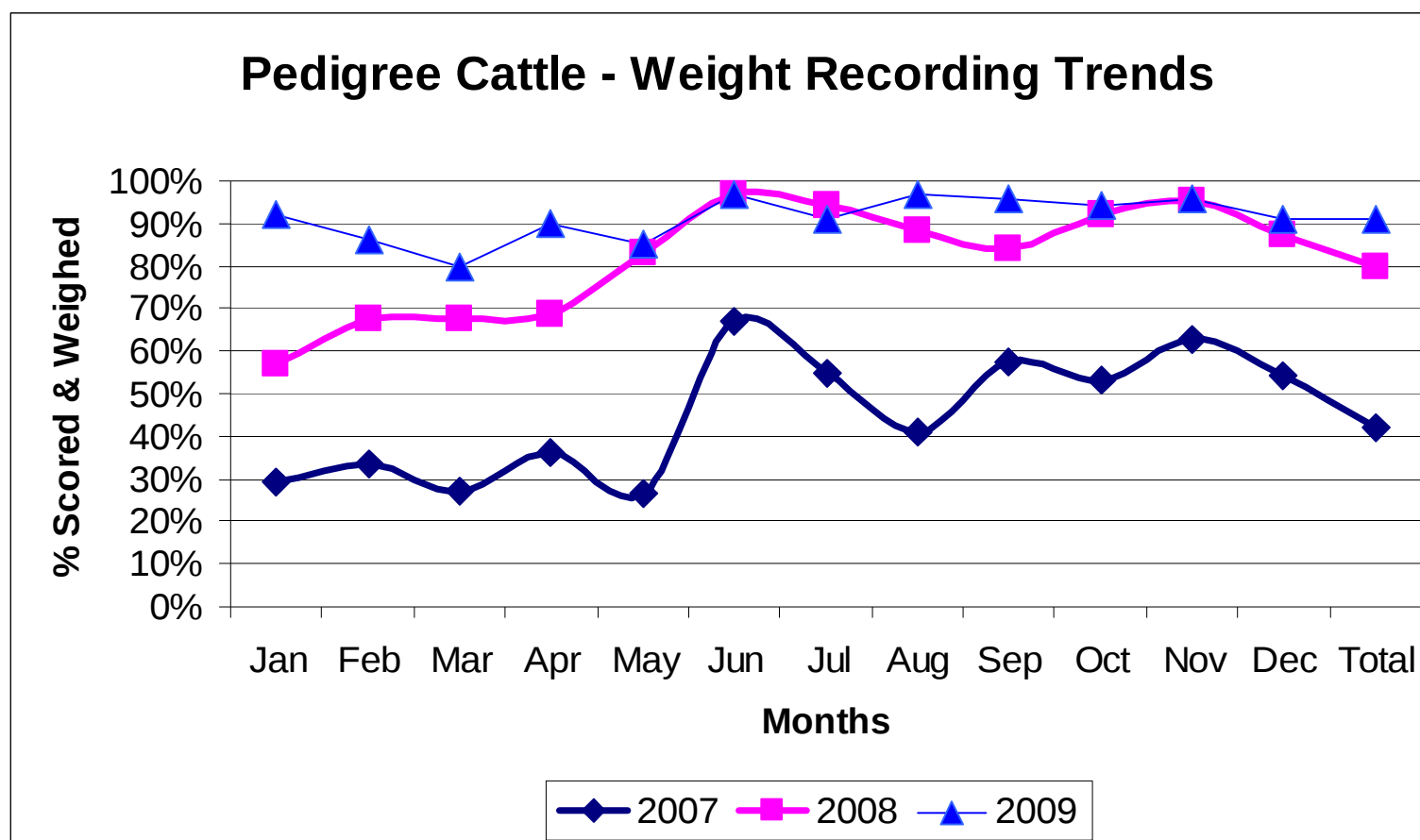


Linear Scoring

2008 - 2010

§ January 2010 – GROW Service Launched

§ Scorers managed with monthly reviews.





Linear Scoring

2008 - 2010

- § Weight Recording began to increase.
- § Numbers of animals being scored decreased.
 - § Reasons:
 - § Individual Animals for scoring – small herds.
 - § Requirement to weight record & score younger than previously turned some Breeders off.
 - § Economic Climate





Linear Scoring

2008 - 2010

Pedigree			
Year	Animals Scored	Scored & Weighed	% Cattle Weighed
2007	10875	4531	42%
2008	11865	9469	80%
2009	8634	7906	91%

§ Number of Pedigree Scored decreased by 20%

§ Number of Pedigrees Weight Recorded increased by 50%



Linear Scoring

2008 - 2010

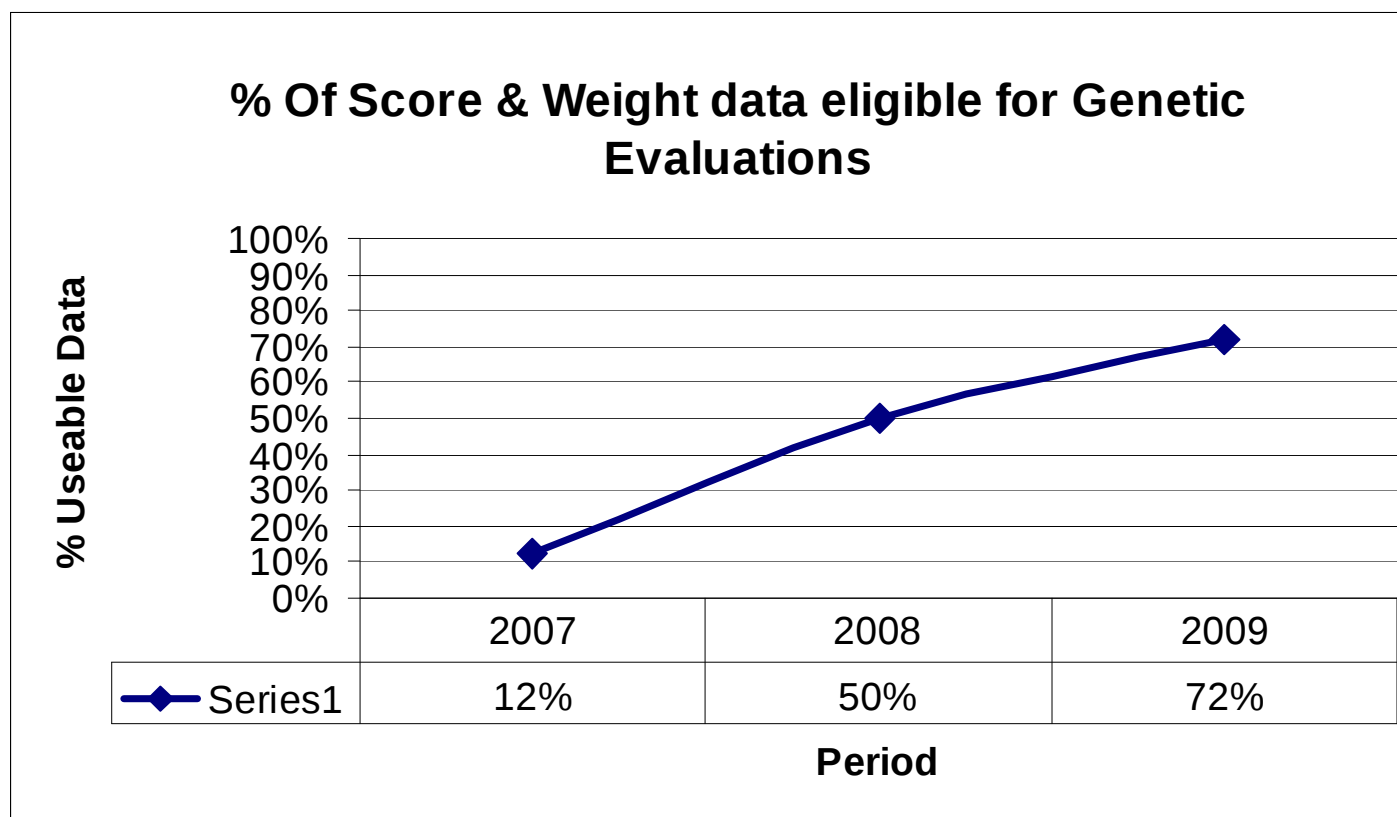
Commercial			
Year	Animals Scored	Scored & Weighed	% Cattle Weighed
2007	3621	3461	96%
2008	4940	4893	99%
2009	5835	5793	99%

§ Number of Commercial Animals Scored & Weighed increased by 40%



Linear Scoring

2008 - 2010



§ % of animals achieving 'Quality' required for genetic evaluations has increased by 60%



Linear Scoring

2008 - 2010



		WEANLING PERFORMANCE REPORT Pedigree 'Breed' Weanlings			
Herd Owner: Mr John Spec		Designator: IE2113715		Date Created: 07-Sep-2007	
1. Summary Statistics					
Date of Visit		02-Sep-07		Total	
Total Number of Weanlings Presented				30	
Number of Weanlings <u>Eligible</u> for Evaluations (BLUPs & €uro - Stars)				14	
Number of Weanlings <u>Not Eligible</u> for Evaluations (BLUPs & €uro-Stars)				16	
Number of Weanlings - Sick/Injured				-	
Total Number of Weanlings eligible for Weighing & Scoring on date of visit				40	
For a Weanling to be <u>Eligible</u> for Genetic Evaluations it must be: 		1. WEIGHED & SCORED			
		2. 150 - 300 DAYS OLD (On day of visit)			
		3. IN A GROUP OF 5 ANIMALS (Pedigree Weanlings from other Breeds & Commercial Weanlings allowed)			
% of Records contributing to BLUP's & €uro-Stars 47%					

- § New Report developed for Breeder after Scoring
- § Shows 'Quality' of data recorded - % eligible for evaluations
- § Herd Average Figures
- § Herd Comparison Figures
- § Individual Animal Scores for all traits
- § Suckler Cow Rating based on growth of calf



Linear Scoring



2008 - 2010

GROW Linear Score Evaluation (Within-Breed percentiles) Scored and weighted in a group of 5 and in age range 150 - 300 days			BLUP Composites (Within Breed)		
Description			Data Rel Rank		
Narrow	Width at withers	78	Muscle	104	79%
Narrow	Width behind withers	68	Skeletal	89	80%
Thin	Loin Development	72	Function	119	51%
Low	Der hind quarter	84			98%
Narrow	Thigh width	50	Comments		
Small	Height at withers	50			
Short	Length of back	50			
Short	Length of pelvic	50			
Narrow	Width at hips	48			
Poor	Locomotion	98			
Poor	Hind leg side view	82			
Poor	Hind leg rear view	98			
Poor	Fore leg front view	98			
% ranking					

§ New Template developed for presenting Evaluations



Linear Scoring

2010 Onwards

- § Future
- § Continue to apply 'Quality' rules.
- § Increase level of Linear Scoring
 - § Breeders expressed interest in on-farm Breeding Assistance.
- § Develop improvements to service:
 - § Text Message to Breeders notifying date of Scoring.
- § Increase % of Linear Scores eligible for evaluations.
- § Continue to improve the GROW Service