



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

# The Relevance of Computers on the Farm

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# Topics

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## 1. Computer uses on the Farm

- Farm Management Software
- Information via Web sites
- Other Computerised equipment for the farm

## 2. ICBF Database

- Concept - Centralised cattle breeding database
- Progress to date
- Benefits for the future

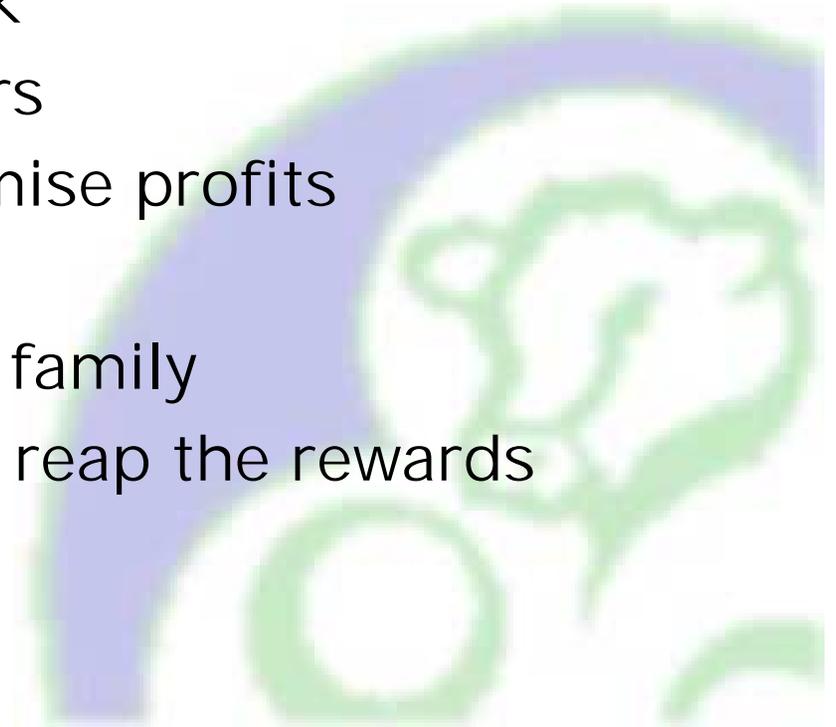


# Why computers are relevant on Farms

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## Computer & Farm Management Software

- Electronic Filing Cabinet
- Reduce time and paperwork
- Reduce the amount of errors
- Management Tool to maximise profits
- Tax Saving
- Recreational Use for all the family
- Need to put the work in, to reap the rewards



# Typical Farm Software Uses

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## **Dairying**

Animal Registration, Milk Recording, Quota Management, Milk Analysis, Fertility Analysis, Bull Selection, Milking Parlour Link

## **Beef**

Premia Planning & Applications, Herd Register, Beef Sales Analysis

## **Grassland**

Soil Sampling, Grass Measurement & Budgeting, REPS & Nutrient Management, Maps

## **Tillage**

Crop Comparisons, Tracking of Inputs

## **Sheep**

Flock Register

## **Accounts**

Payments & Receipts, Bank Reconciliation, Enterprise Analysis, Forecasting



# Why computers are relevant on Farms

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## Information on the World Wide Web

- Government Agencies
  - Teagasc, Revenue, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety Authority
- Agri Business Sites
  - Glanbia, Dairygold, Dairymaster, DeLeval, ICBF
- Non Agri Business Sites
  - Newspapers, Banking, Sport



# Selection of Computerised Equipment for the Farm



Milking Parlours



Drafting & Weighing



GPS Paddock Measurement



Automatic Scrapers

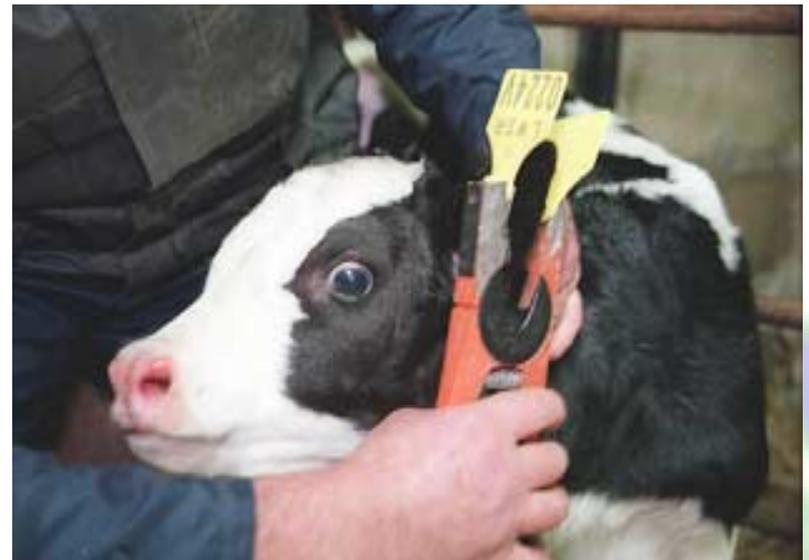


Handheld Devices

# Centralised Cattle Breeding Database

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- **Data captured close to source**
- **One copy of the truth**
- **Single point of data entry**
- **Data shared by ICBF members**



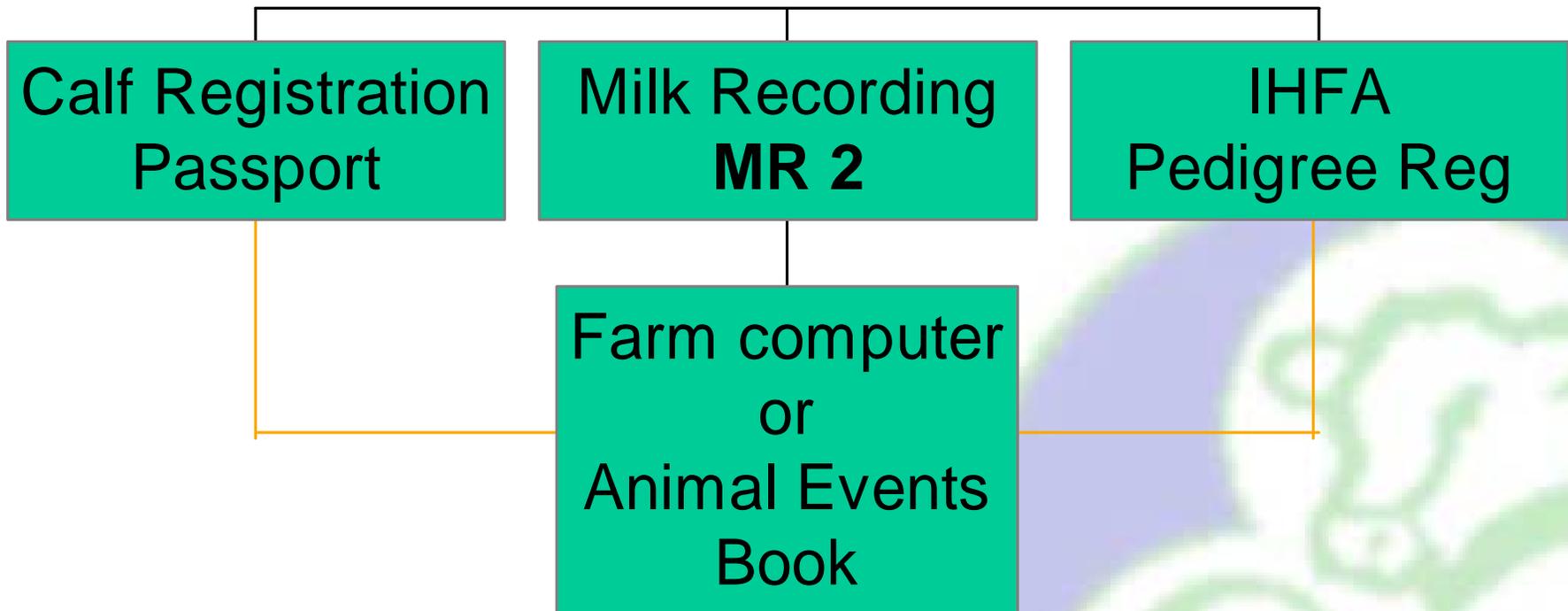
*Data is captured as close to source as possible - one of the features of a centralised database*

# Reduction in Form Filling

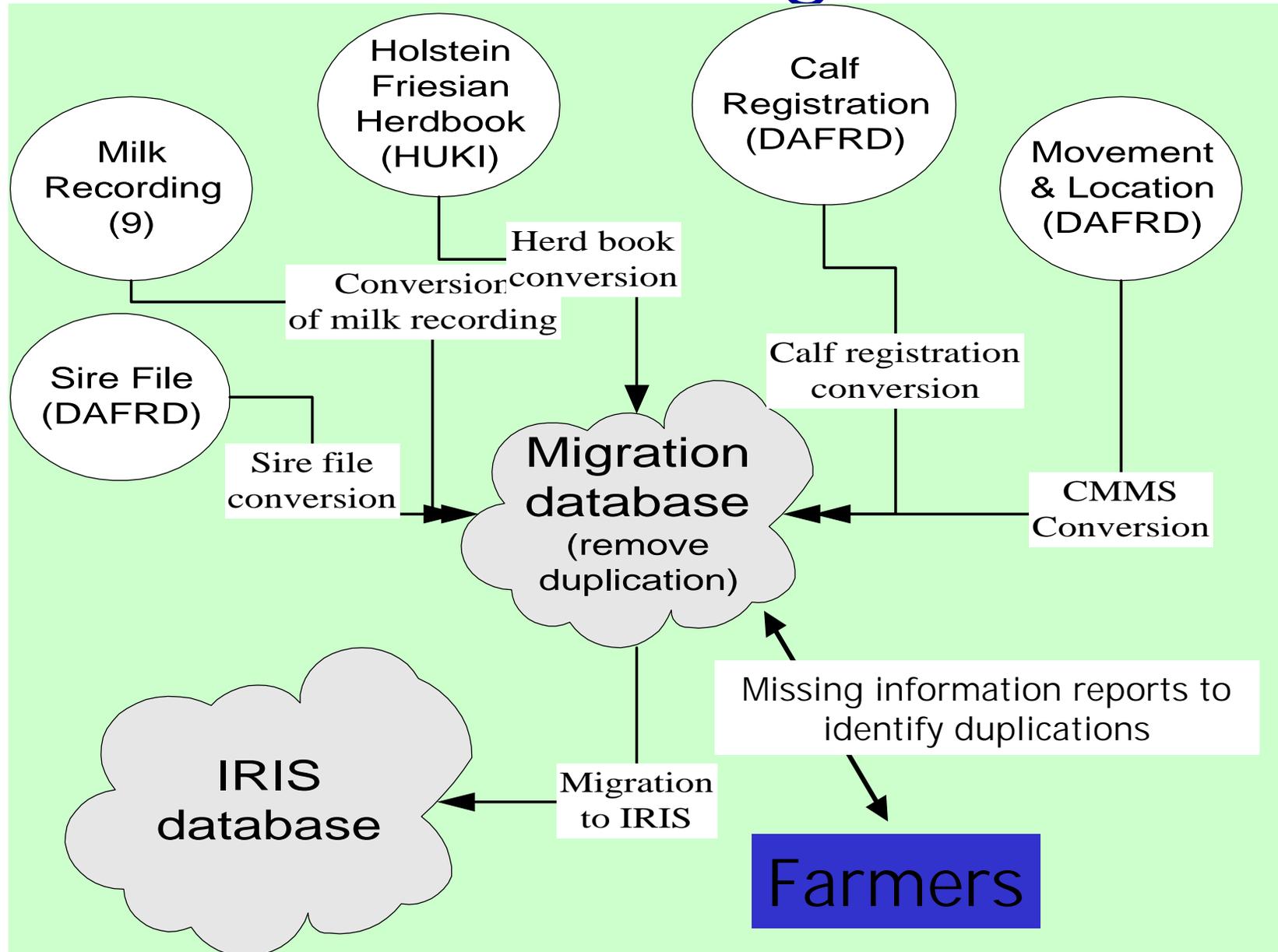
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## Central Database



# Database - Migration



# Animal Events Uptake

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**Births recorded from 7<sup>th</sup> Jan – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct**

	Total Number	E-Reg	% Total
Herds with I&R births	7,959	834	10%
Births from I&R	401,661	46,289	12%

- **Milk Recording currently stands at 30%**
- **ICBF aim to double this participation level over the next few years**

# Database - Benefits for Irish farmers

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- **Improved efficiency**
  - removal of duplication
  - reduction in on-farm work
- **Improved effectiveness**
  - access to all relevant data
  - more rapid turnaround of data
  - more valuable reports



# Summary

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- Computers are a growing necessity
  - Traceability (Accurate record keeping)
  - Labour Saving
  - Better Decision Making
- ICBF's Aim
  - To improve the genetic merit of the national herd through better information sharing & analysis using the latest computer technology.
- More Education & Training Required
  - Encourage usage and allay fears

Thank You For Listening

