The Relevance of Computers on the Farm

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Topics

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

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

**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

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
- Automatic Scrapers
- Handheld Devices
- GPS Paddock Measurement
Centralised Cattle Breeding Database

• 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

Central Database

Calf Registration Passport
Milk Recording MR 2
IHFA Pedigree Reg

Farm computer or Animal Events Book
Database - Migration

- Milk Recording (9)
- Sire File (DAFRD)
- Holstein Friesian Herdbook (HUKI)
- Calf Registration (DAFRD)
- Movement & Location (DAFRD)

Conversion:
- Conversion of milk recording
- Sire file conversion
- Calf registration conversion
- CMMS Conversion

Migration database (remove duplication)

Missing information reports to identify duplications

Migration to IRIS

IRIS database

Farmers
Animal Events Uptake

Births recorded from 7th Jan – 31st Oct

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>E-Reg</th>
<th>% Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herds with I&amp;R births</td>
<td>7,959</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Births from I&amp;R</td>
<td>401,661</td>
<td>46,289</td>
<td>12%</td>
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- Milk Recording currently stands at 30%
- ICBF aim to double this participation level over the next few years
Database - Benefits for Irish farmers

- **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

• 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