

Irish Cattle Breeding Industry Equipped for Innovation

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ICBF Background

www.icbf.com

- Formed 1997, 1st employee March 1998, now team of 30 based near Bandon, with 4 at Tully.
- Owned by industry – farmers (46%), Artificial Insemination (18%), Milk Recording (18%) and Herd Books (18%).
- Mission – genetic improvement of cattle
 - **Database** – all data relevant to cattle breeding, and provides information for farmers, AI, Herd Books & Milk Recording.
 - **Genetic evaluations** – all traits, breeds, animals
 - **Breeding scheme** – dairy and beef

ICBF Background

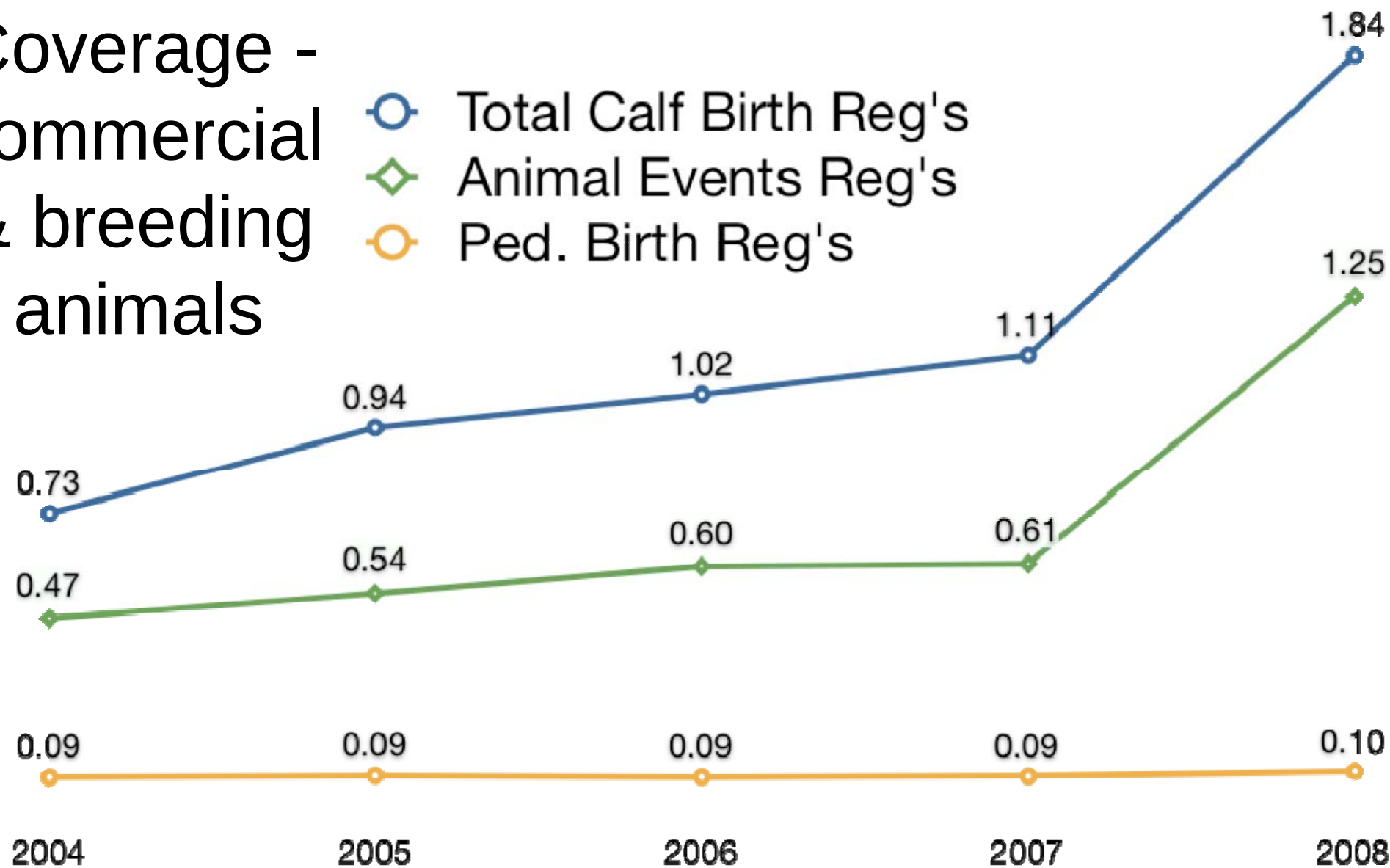
- **Challenge** – establish world class animal breeding for benefit of Irish farmers
- **Keys to success:**
 - ❖ **Farmer focused using the best of science**
 - ❖ **Work collaboratively** – AI, MR, Herd Books, DAFF, Research, Extension, Education
 - ❖ **Adapt World Best Technology** – computing, database, communications, breeding objectives, genetic evaluations, breeding scheme
 - ❖ **Strong Team who believe in the mission of ICBF -**
 - ❖ **Communicate**
 - ❖ **Continuously improve**
 - ❖ **Strong support – DAFF, Farmers, Industry**



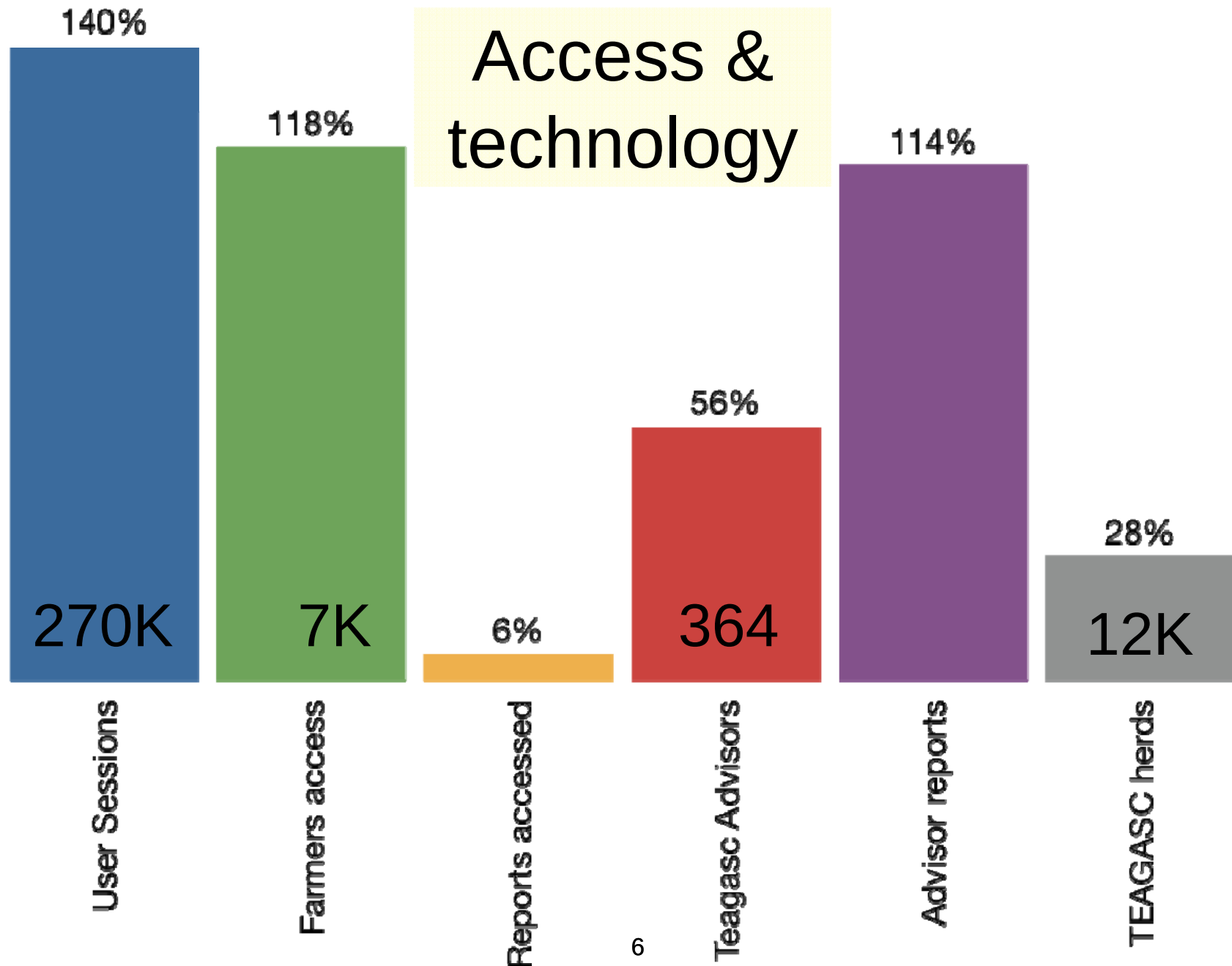
- Important industry
- Large amount of variation
- Data
- Genetic Evaluation
- Breeding Scheme

Registration trends (million).

Coverage -
commercial
& breeding
animals

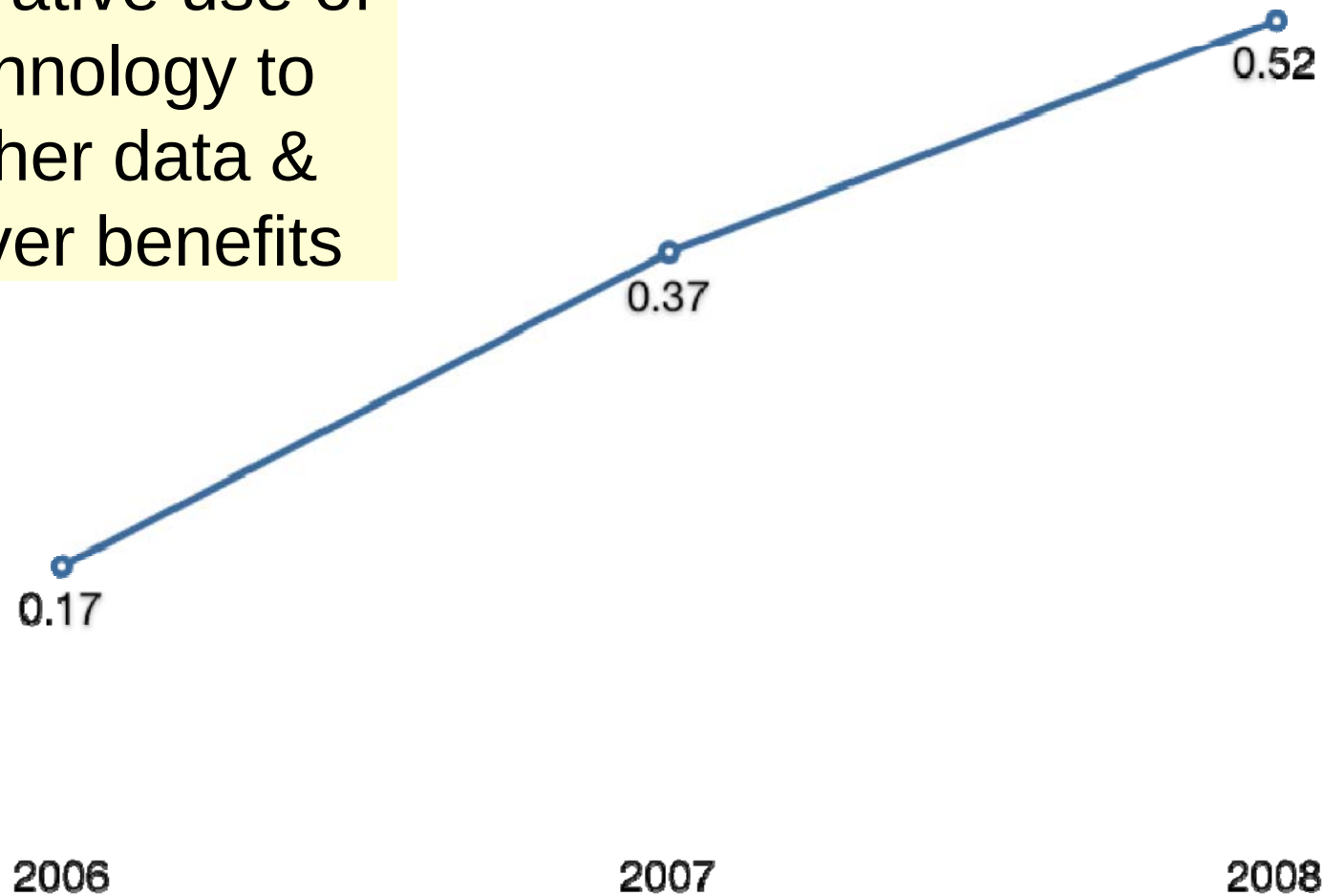


Website Usage - increase from 2007 to 2008.



AI Handheld - Recorded Inseminations (million).

Innovative use of technology to gather data & deliver benefits



Traits

- Birth & calving - ease, gestation length, mortality
- Reproduction - age, matings, calving, conception, intervals
- Growth - weight, conformation, feed intake, fatness, mature size
- Milk - volume, composition, somatic cells, calf growth
- Carcass - weight, grade, image, date

Data - consequence

- Large volumes of
- Biologically & commercially relevant data
- Readily available for genetic evaluations & research

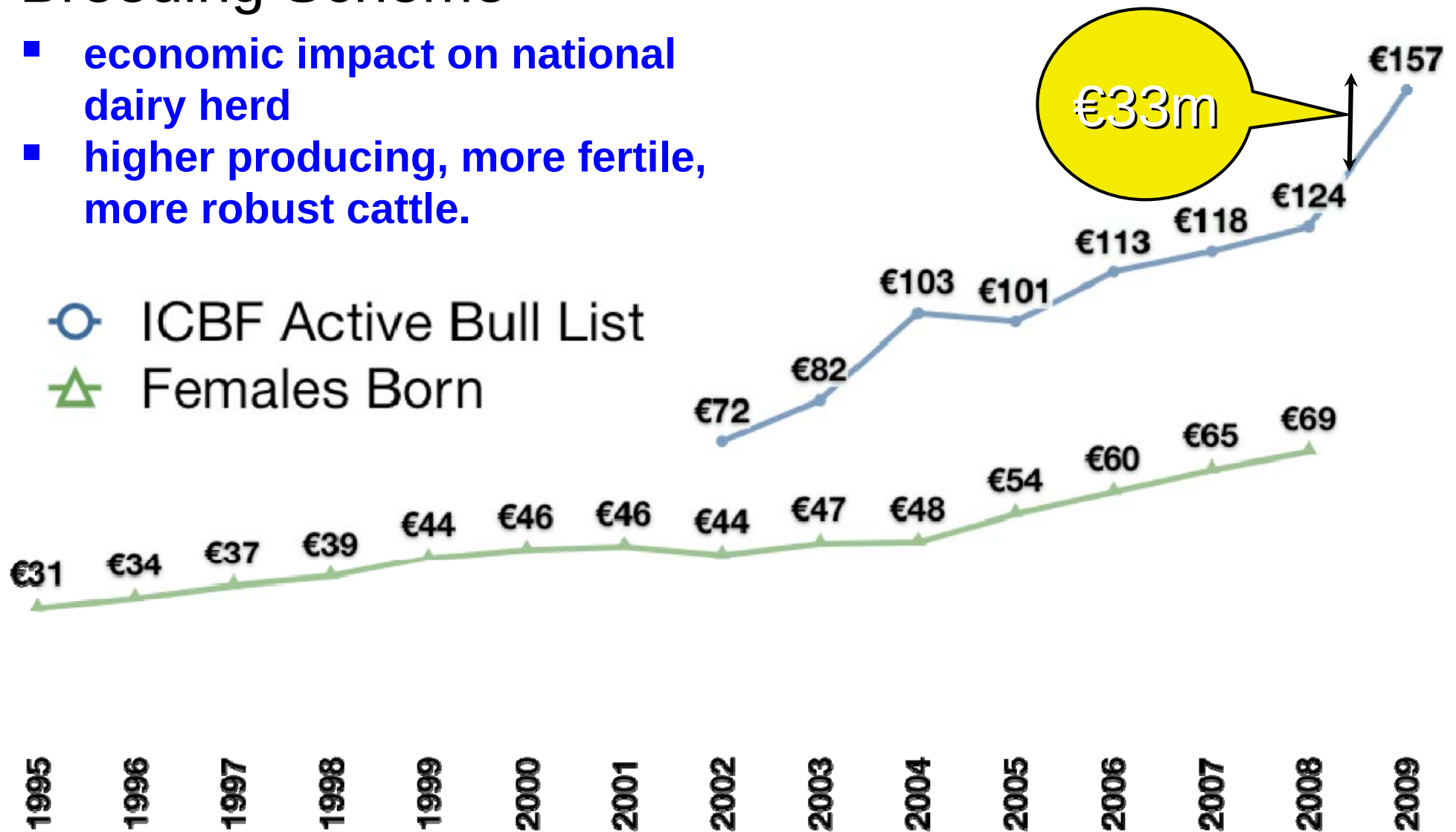
Genetic Evaluations

- ❖ Breeding objective of increasing profit by
 - Increasing income traits - milk, meat - quantity & quality, and
 - Reducing expense traits - feed, replacement rate, fertility, and disease.
- ❖ The evaluations are across breeds, including crosses, cover all traits, and through Interbull some 30 countries ...
- ❖ Their use in breeding decisions is extensive & growing.
- ❖ They being continuously improved.

EBI Trends

Breeding Scheme

- economic impact on national dairy herd
- higher producing, more fertile, more robust cattle.





- Large genetic variation in profit (€)
- Unique research capability
- Established means of delivery
- Large potential for future benefits from new technologies

Expectations of Research

- World class expertise.
- Focused on breeding more profitable cattle.
- Understand current best practice in cattle breeding.
- Quantify the impact of new knowledge & technologies on cattle breeding.
- Collaborate with breeding industry & make full use of existing facilities & resources.
- Communicate clearly with cattle breeders.

We will play our part:

- Employ the best
- Provide resources – to facilitate research, evaluate research, implement findings

To Establish a Community of collaborators all working to same end – **a more successful Agri-Food industry for Ireland.**



Irish Cattle Breeding Federation