



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

Information system technology for integrated animal identification, traceability and breeding – the example of the Irish cattle sector.

Brian Wickham (PhD)
Chief Executive, ICBF.
Tuesday 6th December.

Workshop on "Animal identification and recording systems for traceability and livestock development in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean".
5-7 December 2011.
Santiago (Chile).



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Our Cattle Industry

- 1 million dairy cows
 - Export of manufactured products
 - Good margins
 - 38% mated to beef bulls
- 0.9 million suckler cows
 - Many small herds (<10 cows) and few large herds
 - Calves:
 - 22% replacements
 - 16% live exports to mostly EU countries
 - 62% slaughtered in Ireland mostly for export as cuts
 - Poor margins

ORGANISATION & STRUCTURES

Organisation & Structure

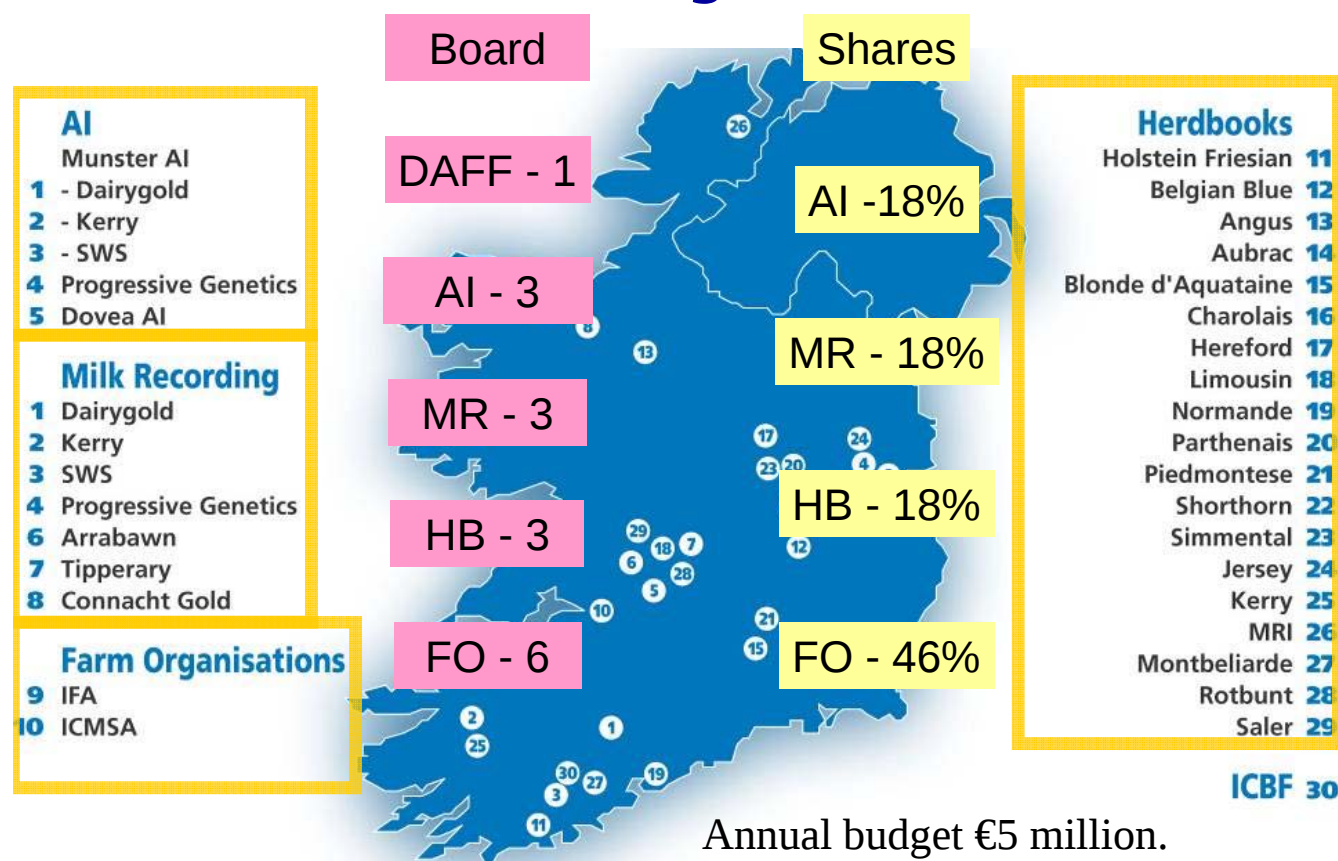
Function	Organisation Responsible
1 Regulated Diseases (eg. BSE, TB, FMD ...)	Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine (DAF)
2 Beef Quality Assurance	DAF
3 Other Diseases	Animal Health Ireland (AHI)
4 Cattle Breeding	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd (ICBF)

DAF (Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine)

- **Policy** advice and development ...
- **Representation** in international ... and national negotiations.
- **Development** and implementation of ... **schemes** in **support** of **Agriculture**, Food, Fisheries, Forestry and Rural Environment.
- Monitoring and controlling aspects of **Food Safety**.
- **Control and audit** of **public expenditure** under its control.
- **Regulation** of the agriculture, fisheries, and food industries through national and EU legislation.
- **Monitoring and controlling animal** and plant **health** and animal **welfare**.
- **Monitoring and direction of State Bodies** engaged in - research training and advice - market development and promotion- industry regulation and development- commercial activities.
- **Direct provision of support services** to Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Forestry.
- Annual budget €3,000 million.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/aboutus/aboutthedeptment/#d.en.1119>,
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2010/december/title.49510.en.html>

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)

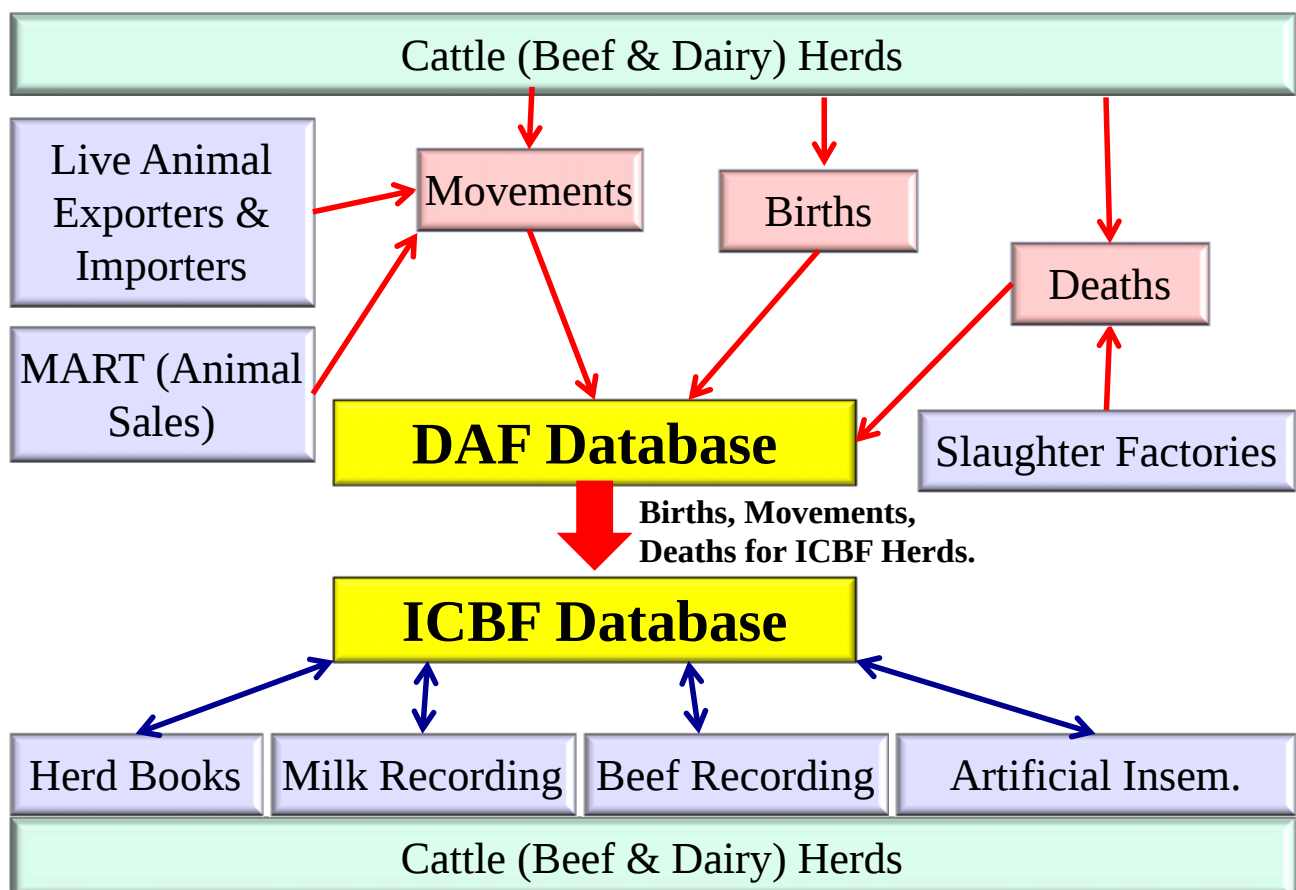


Animal Health Ireland (AHI)

- AHI is an industry-led, not-for-profit partnership between livestock producers, processors, animal health advisors and government.
- Diseases and conditions of livestock that are endemic in Ireland but which are not currently subject to regulation.
- Information infrastructure provided by ICBF.
- BVD, Johnes, IBR, Mastitis, ...
- Annual budget €1 million.

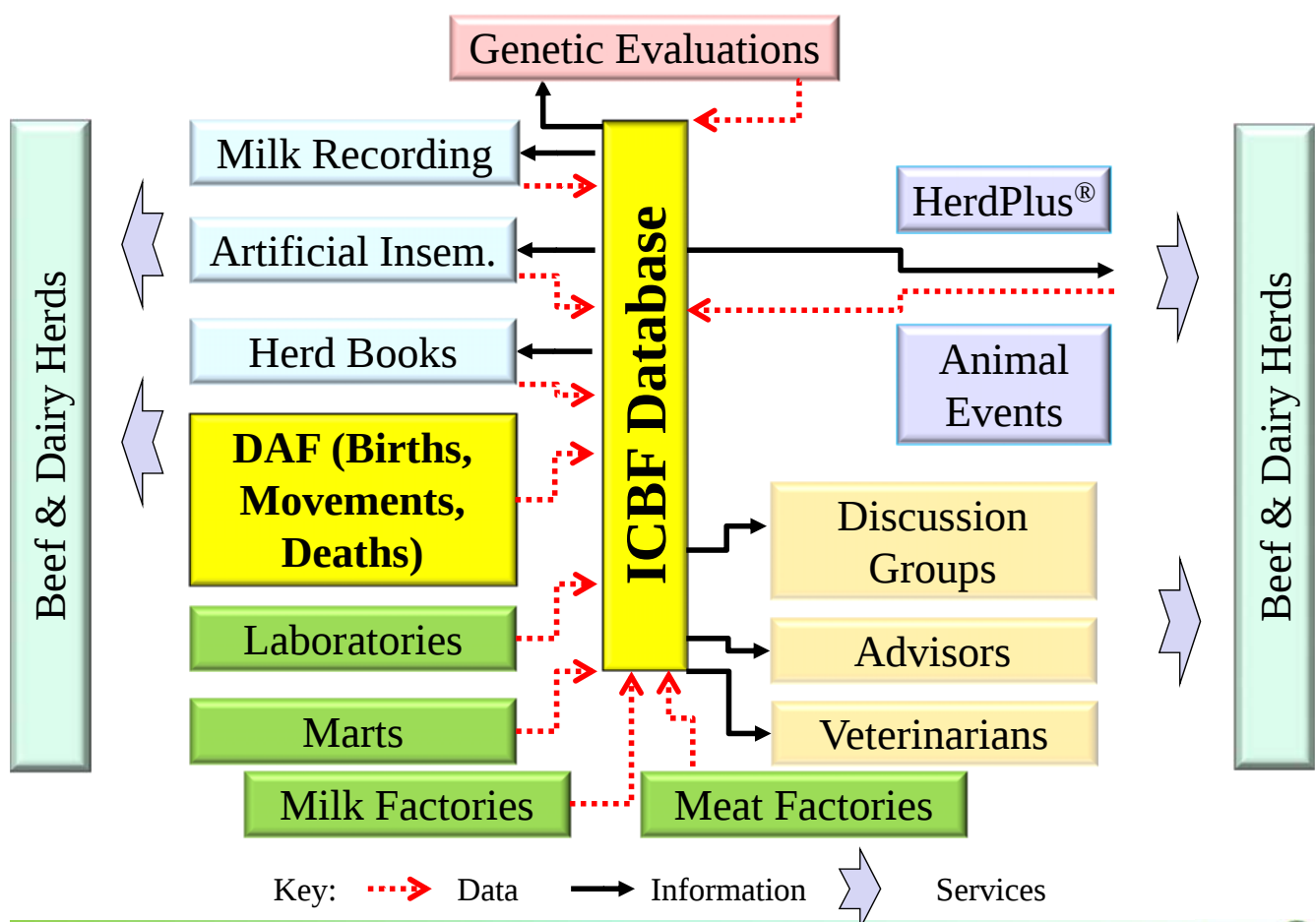
Ref: <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/>

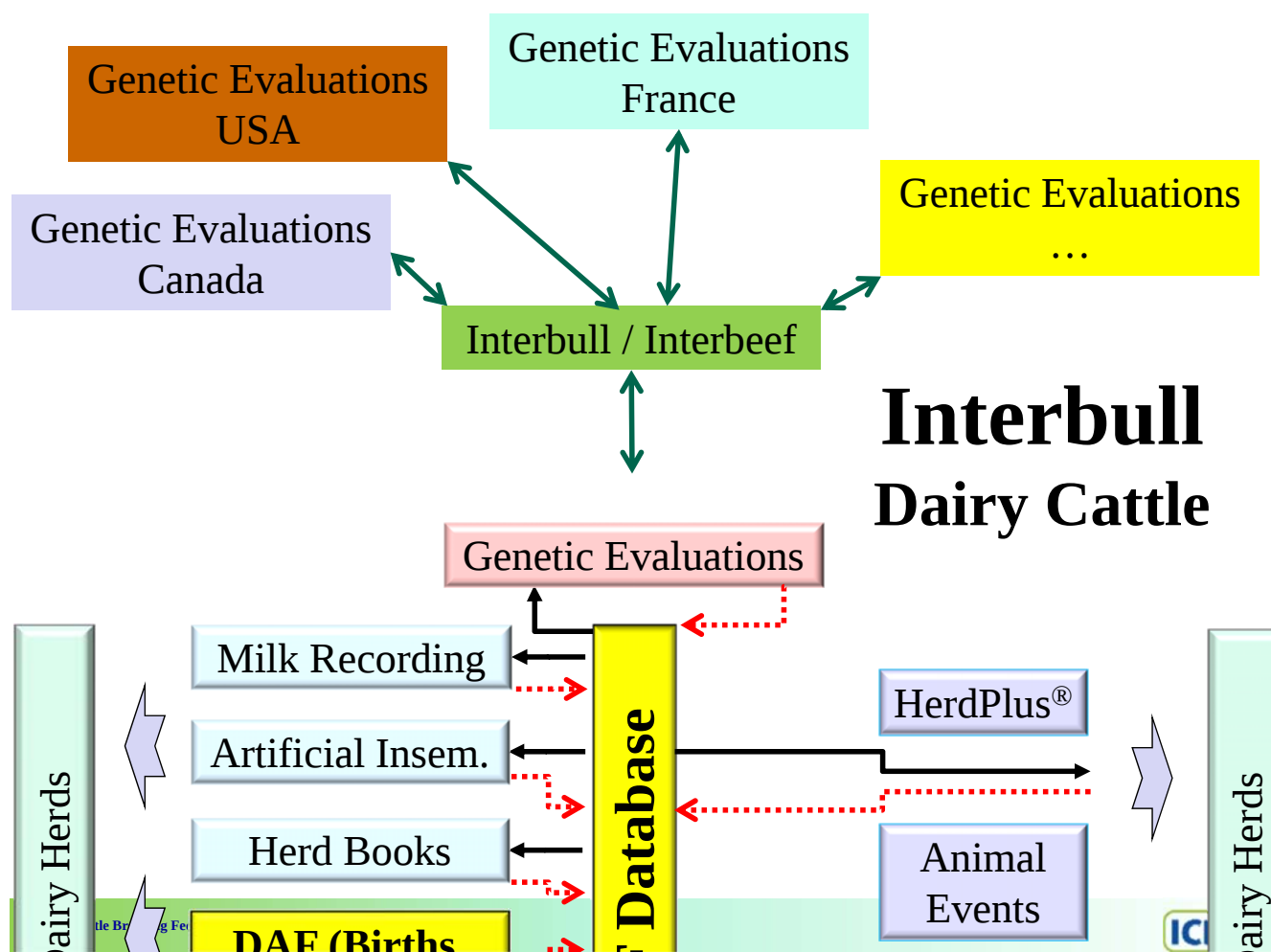
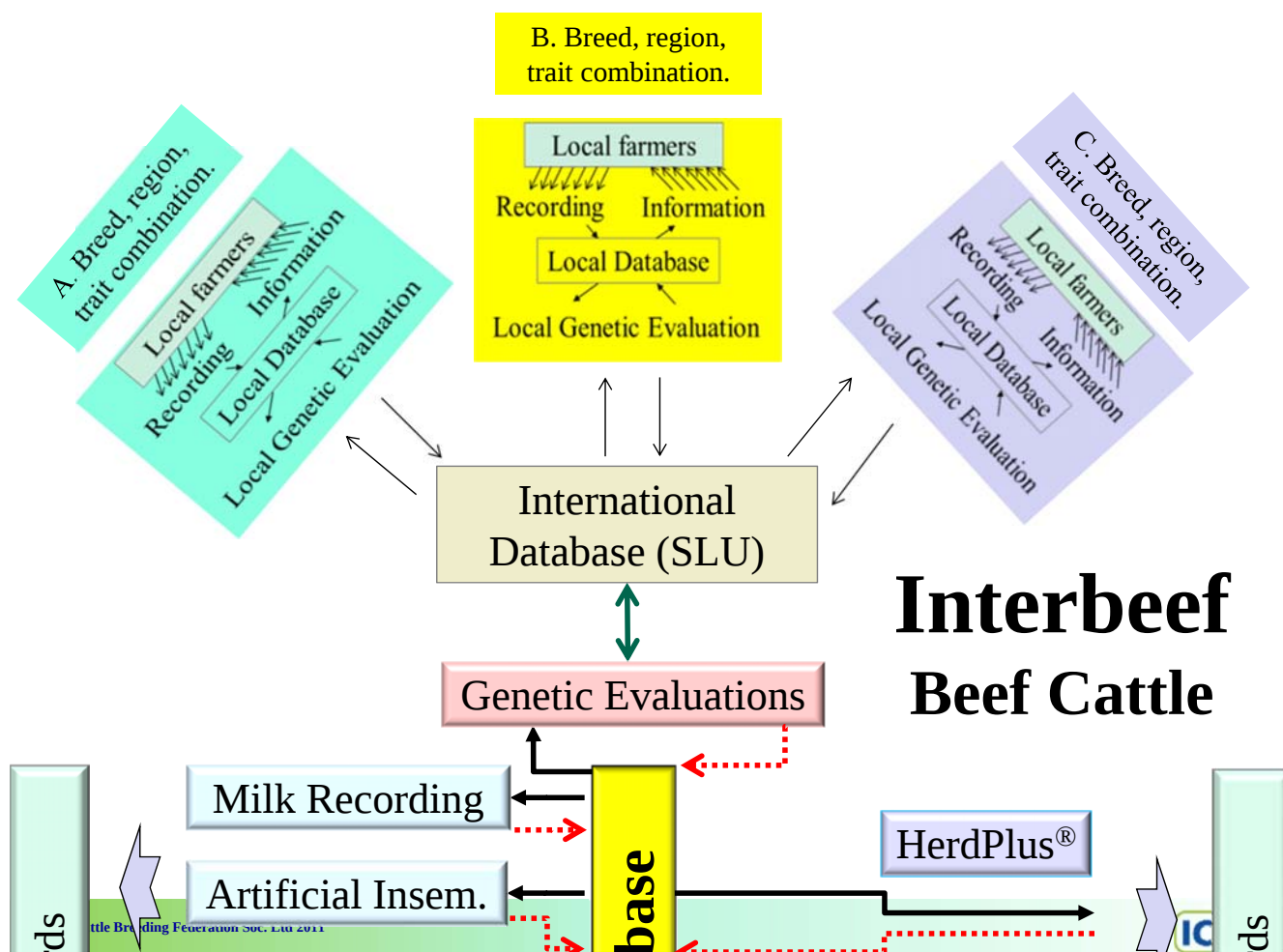
DATABASES

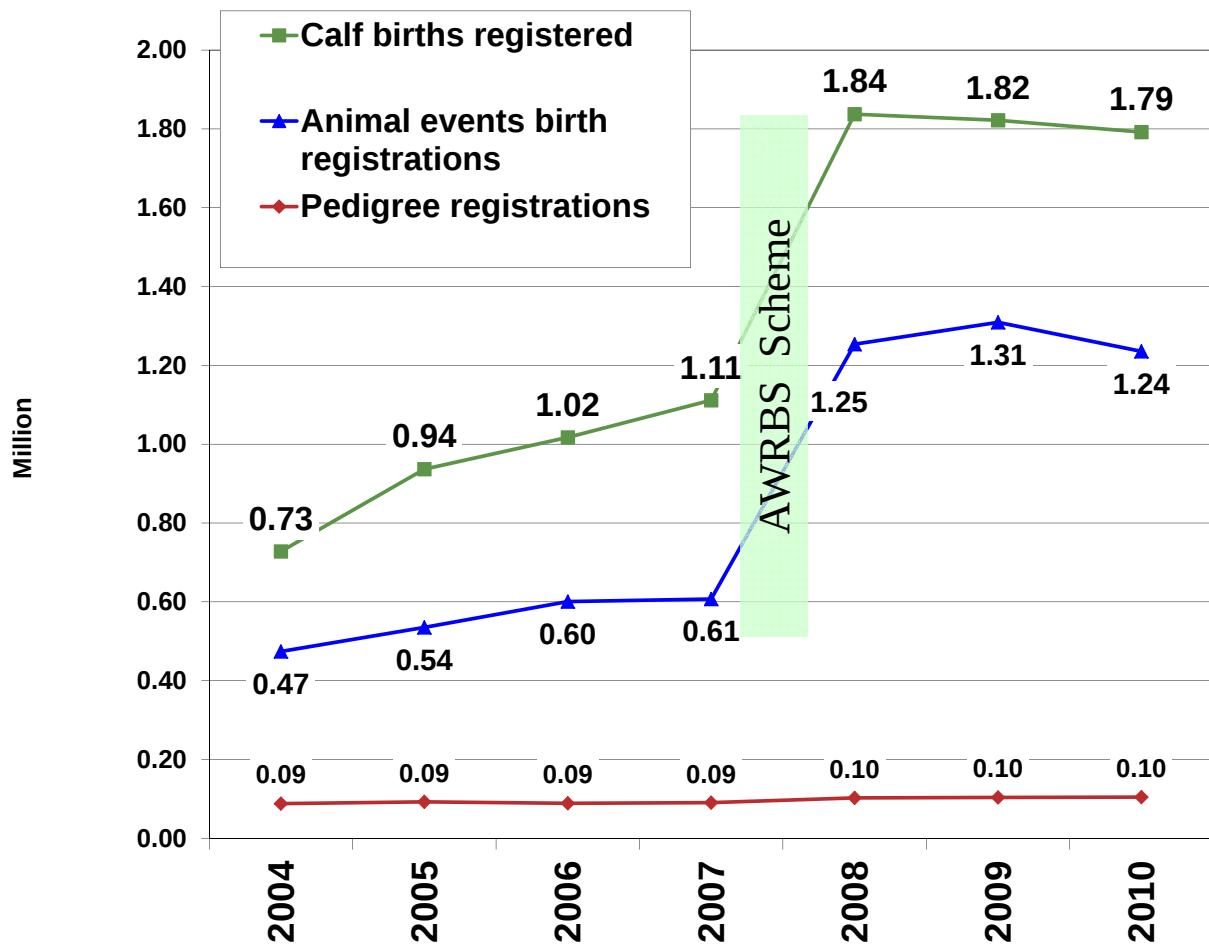


- Control of regulated diseases (FMD, TB, Brucellosis, BSE, ...)
- Beef quality assurance
- Farmer payments
- Price reporting, ...

- Cattle Breeding (Herd Books, Milk Recording, Beef Recording, Artificial Insemination, Genetic Evaluation, Breeding Schemes)
- Farm Management Information (Genetics, Reproduction, Farm Management, Advisory)
- Control of non-regulated diseases







TECHNOLOGY

Technology – Handheld Computers

ICBF Database

- Mobile phone connection
- All animals in
- Multiple herds
- Updated with movements
- Data validation at collection point
- Database updated



Handheld Computers for Recording Technician Artificial Inseminations

Before:

- Paper based
- Slow processing
- High level of identification errors

After:

- Electronic with printed receipt left on farm
- ID validation on farm
- Accurate record in database at end of each day
- Same € cost

Technology – Web Access

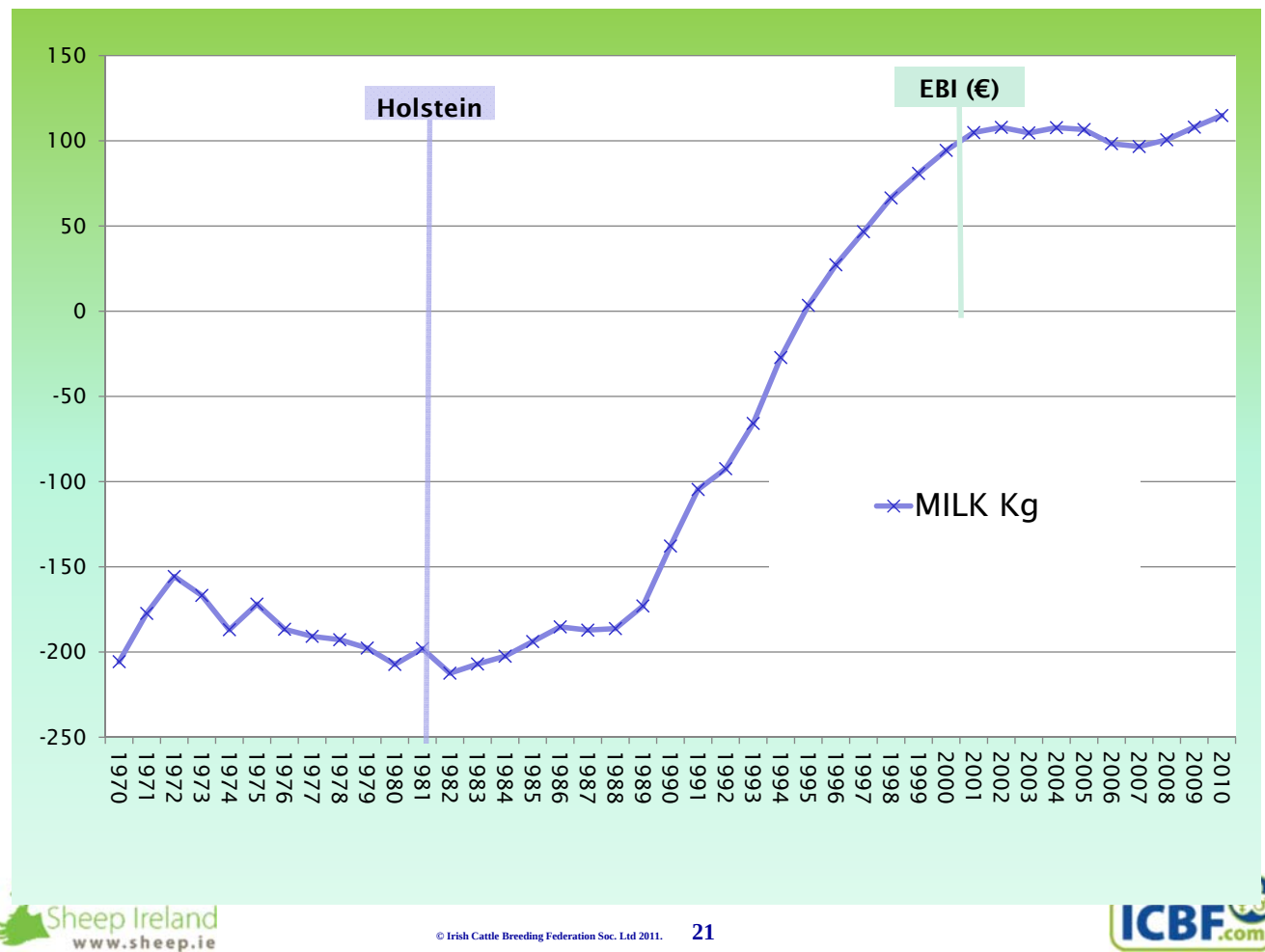
Before:

- Small number of access points to database
- Higher cost for information distribution
- Higher cost for data collection

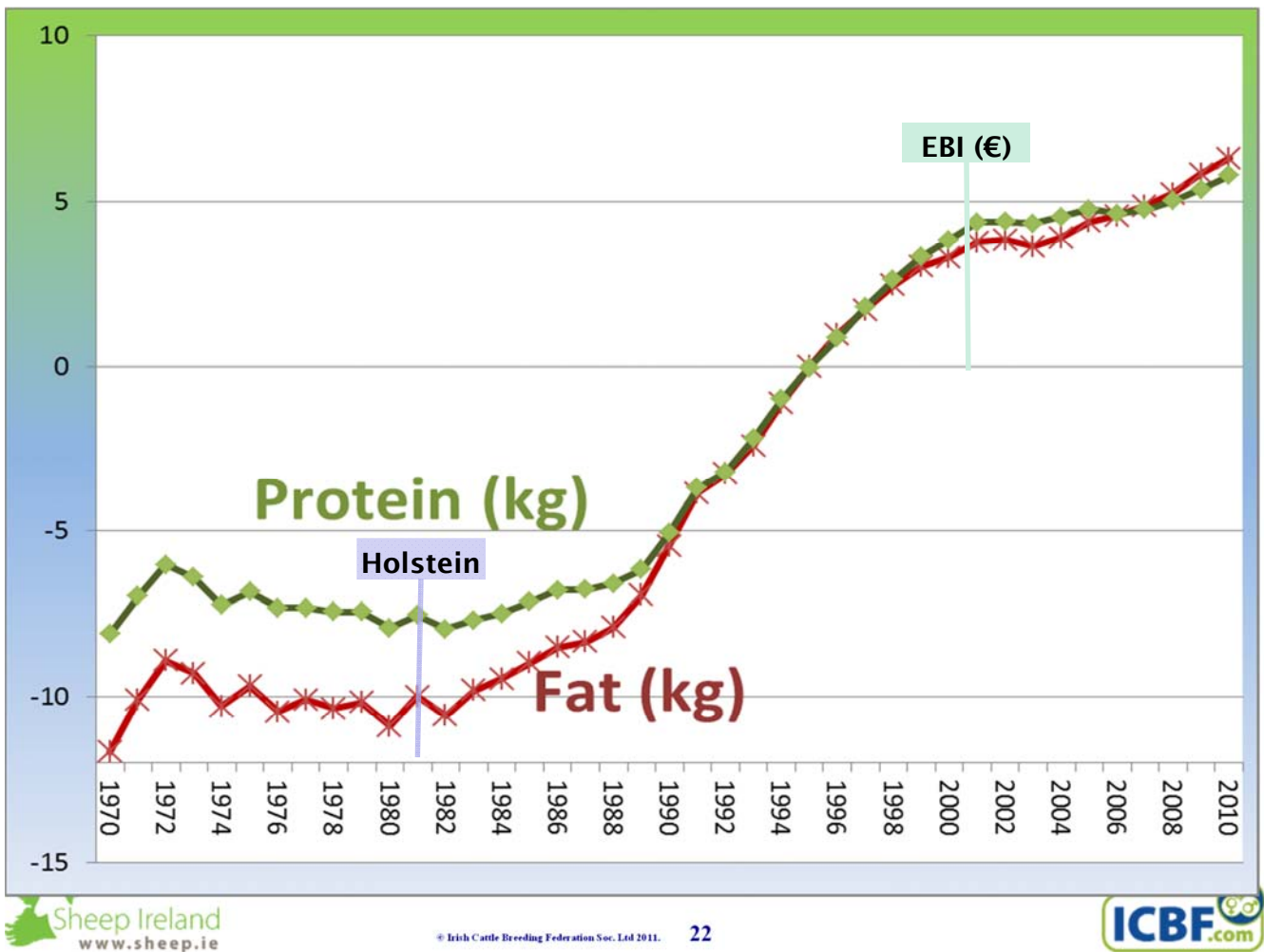
After:

- Large number of access points
- Easy change management
- Lower cost of information distribution
- Lower cost of data collection

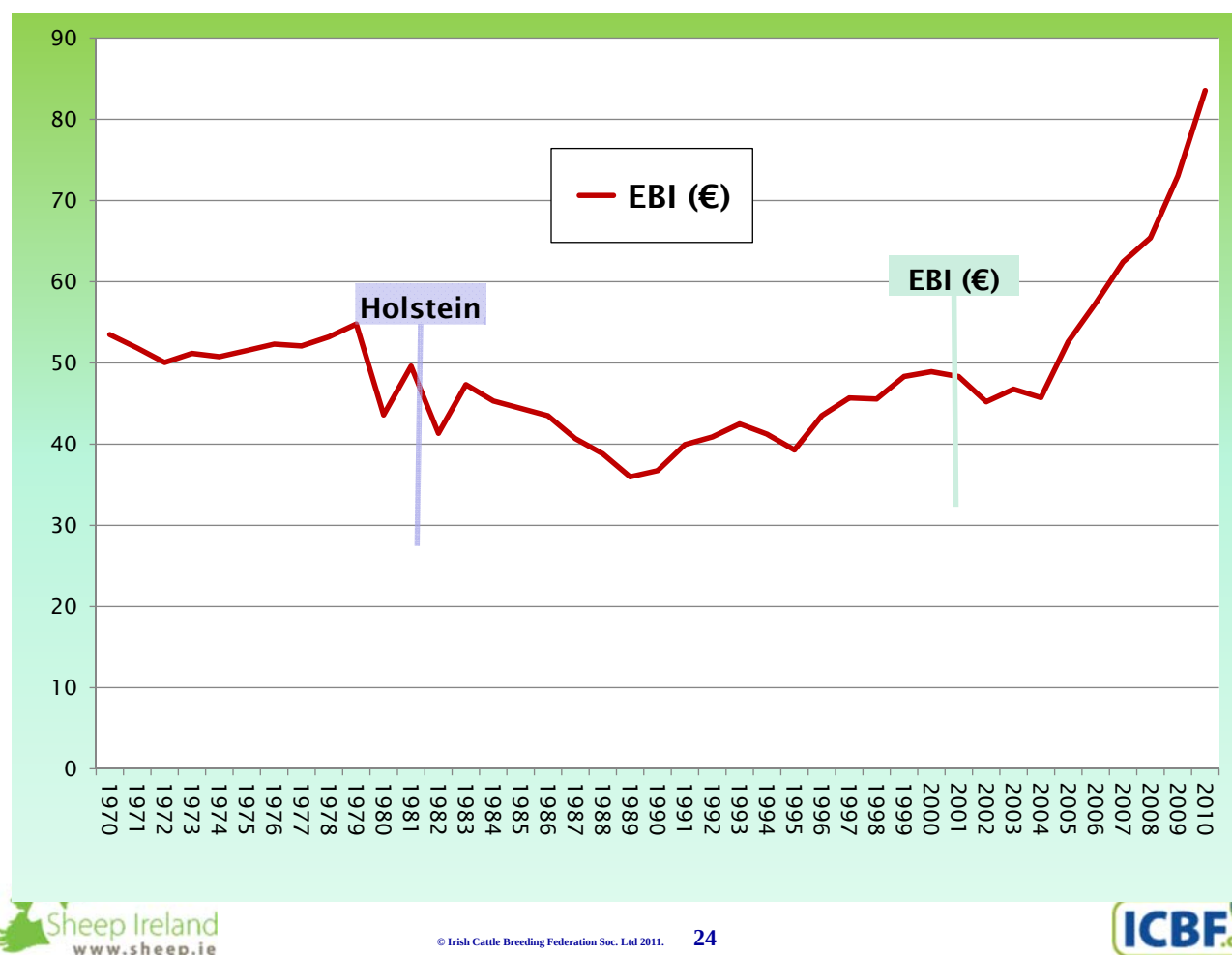
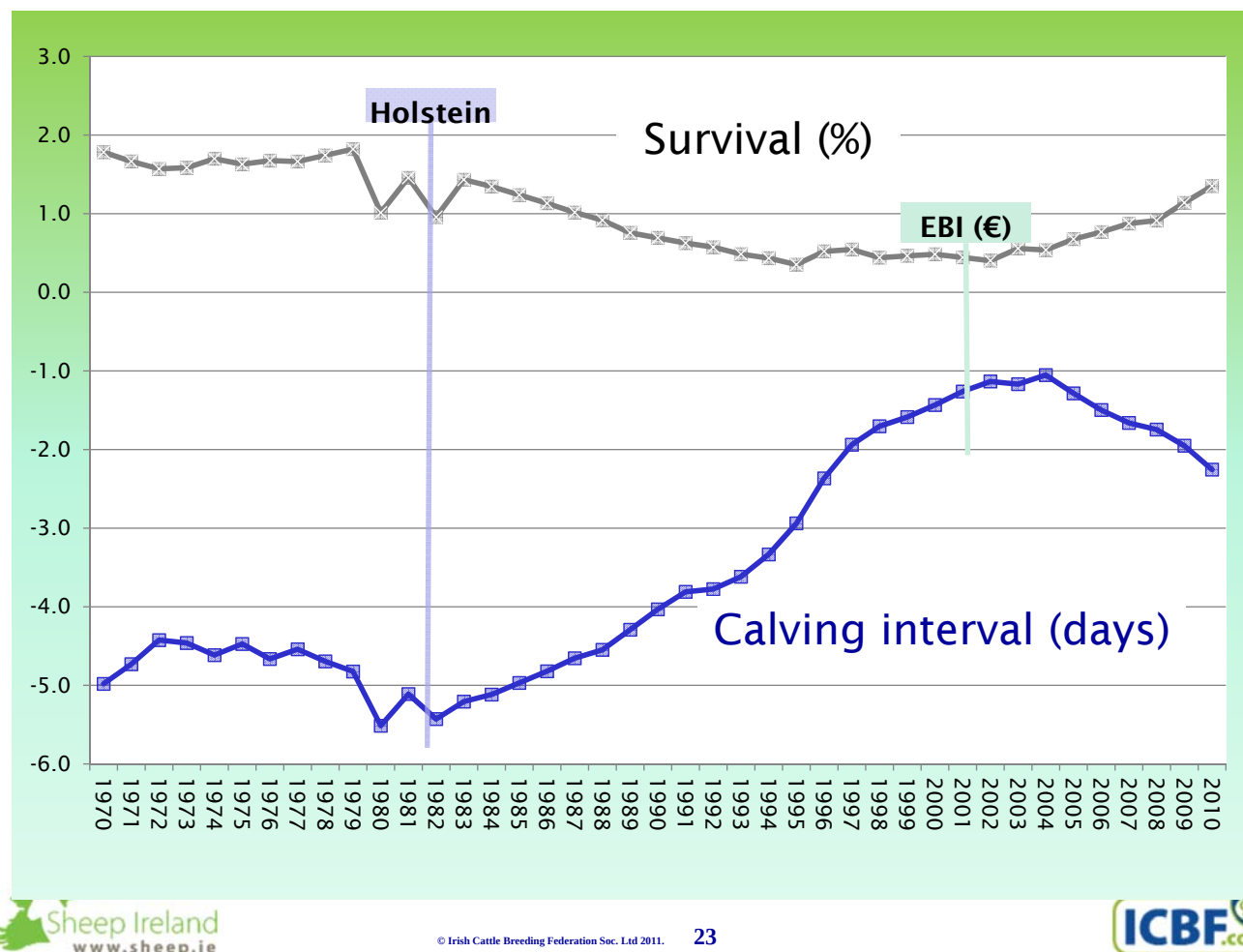
OUTCOME – ONE EXAMPLE



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SUMMARY

- Animal breeding is a unique and powerful tool for improving the profitability of cattle farming.
- Irish animal breeding has been transformed through a unique partnership between farmers, the breeding industry and DAF.
- The national identification and traceability system adopted by Ireland has greatly facilitated Irish cattle breeding.
- Continued investment in cattle breeding will give excellent returns.
- The model established relies heavily on international cooperation and collaboration.
- Membership and full participation in the activities of ICAR and Interbull are fundamental to the achievements in Ireland cattle breeding.

ICAR 2012 CONFERENCE

**CORK
IRELAND**

Mon 28th May
- Fri 1st June 2012



www.icar2012.ie