**ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry consultation meeting held on Tuesday, 14th October 2014 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.**

**Attending:**

Sean Coughlan, Andrew Cromie, Stephen Conroy, Paul Sykes, Donal Carey, Donagh Berry, Terry Dillon, Christopher Daly, Ross Evans, Joe Fortune, Laurence Feeney, Bernard Eivers, Tim Fitzmaurice, Rosalish Goulding, Gerry Greally, Matt McClure, Liam Foley, Robert Helen, Francis Kearney, John McCarty, John O Sullivan, George Ramsbottom, Pat Mulvehill, Niall O’ Regan, Sean O’ Leary, Lisa Ring, Eddie Barrett, Tom Baker, Eamonn Coleman, Tim Fitzgearld, Karl O’ Connell, Paul Sykes, Noirin McHugh, Sinead McParland, Jennifer McClure, John Flynn, John Lynch, John McEnroe, Laurie Harney, Margaret Kelleher, Louis Byrne, Dave Beehan, Peadar Glennon, Nevan McKiernan, Michael Cass, Nuala Hourihane & Martin Ryan.

**Apologies:** Catherine Lascurettes, John Murphy, Michael Doran, Robert Shirley, Vincent Gorman, Darren Carty, Kieran Mailey, Tom O’ Dwyer, Joe Burke, Aidan Murray, Larry Feeney, Richard Whelan & Pearse Kelly.

# 1. Dairy traits & dairy breeding programs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Key points** | **Actions/Decisions** |
| Test day model update – John McCarty. | * Test-day model (TDM) evaluation system is built and has passed two Interbull test runs. * Extensive analysis and testing on the test day model has taken place since the last industry meeting. Overall it seems to be working well with little re-ranking of animals when compared to the old 305 day model (r = 0.96 in bulls with over 90% reliability). | * Continue validation of HV correction with Finnish research institute (MTT). * Submit updated test day model to Interbull test run in January 2015 |
| Dairy Genomics and GMACE – Francis Kearney | * Validation work comparing original genomics proofs to the current daughter proofs was outlined. * Generally genomics proofs were in line with daughter performance; however genomic proofs did underestimate calving. * Important that farmers use a minimum group of 5 genomic bulls and don’t overuse any one bull. * GMACE is an international evaluation of young bulls that published its first evaluations in August 2014 after receiving evaluations for calving, longevity, fertility and calving on 9000 young bulls. | * Research on multi-breed genomics is to take place. * Increase the number of animals in the reference population (foreign bulls and cows). * The validation work on genomics in Dairy is to be publicized. |
| Next Generation Herd – Sinead McParland | * The objectives of the next generation herd are too:   1. Breed cows compatible to Irish grass based production systems  2. To facilitate the monitoring of difficult to measure traits e.g. feed efficiency  3. To enhance the development of the EBI (i.e. identify new traits).   * Research to date is showing that high/elite EBI cows are leaving €111 more profit over cows that represent the national average for EBI due to higher milk solids and better fertility. | * As this work progresses updates will be available at future meetings. |

# 2. Dairy & Beef. Common agenda items.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Key points** | **Actions/Decisions** |
| New calving evaluations – Ross Evans | A non-linear economic impact was incorporated into the Dairy Beef index test proof for calving difficulty which was presented. This was as a result of recent simulation work which indicates that increases in calving difficulty have a more severe negative impact on farm profitability when calving difficulty levels are already at a high level within the herd.  Also, research has concluded on the development of 4 new calving traits to represent:   * Calvings recorded on Dairy heifers * Calvings recorded on Dairy cows * Calvings recorded on Beef heifers * Calvings recorded on Beef cows | * Feedback welcome on how many indexes does the industry publish on calving and the proposed new methodology on a non-linear adjustment for calving difficulty. |
| Health and disease data- Jennifer McClure | * Genetics can play an important role in reducing disease in Irish herds by selecting animals that have resistance to diseases of interest. * A new Health and Disease pilot project has started with 246 farmers participating. The objective of the project is to identify the lineage of healthier animals to suggest mating’s that result in more robust progeny. Data which is being collected includes lameness, mastitis, scour etc. * You can now record health events through the ICBF website * Liver fluke data is now being collected and sent to ICBF from some abattoirs (ABP & Slaney Foods International) in Ireland. | * As this work progresses updates will be available at future meetings |
| AI codes – Francis Kearney | * There is 3 types of AI codes that exist  1. 3 letter codes 2. Special breeding purposes codes 3. On farm collected bulls  * The current system is running out of 3 letter codes. | * A proposal was made to introduce a new bred x number coding system that would be 6 characters in length e.g. CH1075. Feedback on the new AI code form is to be sent to Pat Donnellan (ICBF) before 31st October 2014. * ICBF are to follow up with the Department of Agriculture as to why some AI codes are not being accepted at the time of registration. Peadar Glennon (Irish Simmental society) is to give examples of coded bulls that are not being recognized. |
| Data quality for genetic evaluations – Andrew Cromie | * Genetic evaluations are dependent on good quality data * There are some recent examples where there is evidence of deliberate miss-recording. ICBF are building systems to reward good data recording herds e.g. Herd Data Quality Index (HDQI). | * Work is on-going to communicate and make HDQI available for both beef and dairy herds. This will involve introducing new “terms and conditions” under which herd owners receive genetic evaluations. * Implementation date for the HDQI is August 2015. * If there is a difference in farmer recorded sire through ICBF and the sire recorded by AI service provider in relation to a pedigree animal, ICBF are to make the relevant herdbook aware of the discrepancy. * ICBF are to engage with industry representatives on their list of priorities for 2015 with feedback welcome on what areas that industry representatives feel should be prioritized. |
| Interbeef genomics workshop – Andrew Cromie | * There will be a beef genomics workshop for the Irish Industry on Wednesday 26th November in Roganstown Hotels, Swords from 2pm – 5pm | * Please add the date of the genomics workshop to your diary and invite any farmers that may be interested in finding out more about genomics. The workshop will be very farmer and user friendly. |

# 3. Beef.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Key points** | **Actions/Decisions** |
| G€N€ IR€LAND Maternal program – Stephen Conroy | * 230 herds are participating in the G€N€ IR€LAND Maternal beef breeding program * Autumn 2014 Maternal Beef Gene Ireland young bull panel has being sent out to suckler farmers. It consists of 18 bulls most of which are 5 stars for replacement index. * The panel of gene Ireland maternal beef test bulls available to herds in 2014 has an average replacement index of €168. This is much higher than the average replacement index for bulls from 2007 to 2013 which was €80. | Updates on the G€N€ IR€LAND Maternal program will be available at future meetings.  An update on the performance of beef progeny being tested at Tully gene Ireland progeny test center, Kildare town is to be presented at the next Industry meeting.  The next round of GI committee meetings will take place on the following dates:   * Tuesday 13th November   HE, AU & SH breeds   * Wednesday 14th November   SA, BA & PI breeds   * Tuesday 18th November   SI, CH & LM breeds   * Thursday 20th November   BB, AA & PT breeds |
| Suckler Beef genomics –Donagh Berry | * The objective of the Suckler beef genomics project is to develop and implement a multi-breed beef genomics evaluation for all (purebred and crossbred) cattle. * The research work has being done on carcass traits using a basic model with 9000 genotypes. Next step is to use all 110,000 genotypes from the beef genomics scheme to look at all other traits such as calving etc. | * Updates available at future meetings * ICBF are to liase with Weatherbys in reducing the price of testing for major genes. * Herdbooks are to liaise with ICBF on the best way to record and test major genes once they are highlighted by farmers. |
| Meat eating quality – Francis Kearney | * Research for meat eating quality carried out to date on 787 animals (91 % bulls and 9% steers) is showing variation within breed for traits such as tenderness, juiciness and flavor. * No significant difference between breeds based on current dataset. | * Collect larger volumes of data and run validation studies with consumers to confirm results. |
| How genetic differences in Beef terminal traits are reflected in phenotypic performance differences – Stephen Connolly | * Based on 159,097 animals from 7,303 herds the terminal index is working at farm level and robust across contrasting production systems i.e. higher index animals are leaving more profit than lower index animals due to faster growth, better conformation, less days at feed and better feed efficiency. | * As this work progresses updates will be available at future meetings |
| Maternal milk score – Ross Evans | * Maternal weaning weight is a goal trait in the evaluation of milkabilty in suckler cows. * Milkability score (recorded by farmers) is a very useful predictor trait for maternal weaning weight. | * Proceed with using the milkability score(s) as a predictor of maternal weaning weight for herds that don’t weight record. Implement into the December 2014 evaluation. |

Draft dated 16th October 2014.