**ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry consultation meeting held on Friday, 22nd May 2015 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.**

**Attending:**

Sean Coughlan, Andrew Cromie, Stephen Conroy, Paul Sykes, Ross Evans, Frank Buckley, Donal Carey, Jessica Coyne, Laurence Feeney, Bernard Eivers, Tim Fitzmaurice, Rosalish Goulding, Francis Kearney, Charles Gallagher, John O Sullivan, George Ramsbottom, Pat Mulvehill, Romy O’ Donnell, Richard Whelan, Eoin Kelly, Michael Butler, Liam O’ Grady, Tara Carthy, Stephen Connolly, Michelle Judge, Alan Hurley, Fergal Delaney, Eamonn Coleman, Eddie Barrett, Larry Burke, Darren Carty, Michael Cass, Doreen Corridan, Joe Fortune, John Lynch, John McEnroe, Kevin Bohan, Laurie Harney, Louis Byrne, Mary Duggan, Mary Purcell, Pearce Kelly, Robert Prendiville, Michael Conway, Michael McKeon, Tom Maloney, John Fitzgearld, James Keane, John Tait, Paul Crossan, Paul Sykes, Margaret Kelleher, Peadar Glennon, Larry Feeney, John Carty, Nevan McKiernan, Nuala Hourihane & Martin Ryan.

**Apologies:** Brian Wickham,John Murphy, Ger Ryan, Heike O’ Sullivan, Declan McDonnell, Jennifer McClure, Matt McClure, Sarah Haire, Raymonde Hilliard, & Justin McCarthy.

# 1. Dairy & Beef.

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| **Topic** | **Key points** | **Actions/Decisions** |
| €uro-Star Indexes: Update on economic values (terminal, replacement and dairy beef) – Paul Crossan. | * It was 3 years ago since the economic values in the beef genetic evaluations were updated. Based on the new economic values there has being little change with the exception of an increase in the economic value for gestation length and premium for early maturing cattle.
 | * Agreed that ICBF will update the new economic values into the €uro-Star indexes. These changes are to become effective as soon as possible or certainly by the August 2015 routine genetic evaluation run.
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| Construction/presentation of €uro-Star indexes – Ross Evans  | * The €uro-Star review group came back with 5 options in relation to the construction of the new Beef indexes. These are outlined below.

 | * The recommendation from the Eurostar group was option 2. This was consistent with the views of the herd-books expressed previously. This will be going forward to the ICBF board.
* It was accepted by ICBF that the newly constructed proofs were issued too late to be reviewed, and ICBF have agreed to meet the herdbooks again prior to the ICBF board meeting.
* It was agreed that a link to accessing the latest Tully progeny test results would be emailed out to the industry.
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| Developments in genetic evaluations; calving traits, maternal milk (based on milk score data), cow maintenance/live-weight – Ross Evans | * Research is showing that cow live-weight is a more accurate indicator of cow maintenance intake than cull cow weight.
 | * Agreed to move from cull cow weight as a predictor of cow maintenance intake to cow live-weight.
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| Implementation/roll-out plan re: new indexes – Pearce Kelly  | * Teagasc have outlined a number of proposed initiatives in relation to building an awareness and better understanding of €uro-Star indexes among farmers, advisors and the wider beef industry. These initiatives are outlined below.

(1) Teagasc Suckler Weighing Farms - 48 farms that are in discussion groups (4 / region). Demonstrate High & Low index cows & their calves. (2) Correlate breeding data with other farm data - Examine 500 – 1,000 herds.(3) Replacement Index Farmer Competition(4) Proposed High Index Demo Suckler Herd in Pallaskenry Ag College. (5) Mart Display Screens: Greater need to identify High Index Heifers(6) Adviser Study Trip to France  | * Agreed that the industry needs and will support the initiatives taken by Teagasc in relation to promoting and highlighting the importance of €uro-Star indexes for farmers.
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| G€N€ IR€LAND Review– Andrew Cromie | * 250 herds are participating in the G€N€ IR€LAND Maternal beef breeding program.
* It was proposed to undertake a comprehensive review of G€N€ IR€LAND Maternal Beef Breeding Program. This review will include the following:

1. Financial – cost & how to fund.2. Technical – how many bulls/breed, number herds, level genotyping.3. Operational – growing participation (bull breeders herds, progeny test), linking in with AI companies (bulls/herd).* A suggestion was made that ICBF should update the list of G€N€ IR€LAND recommended maternal bulls to only displays bulls that are 4 and 5 star for replacement index within breed.
 | Agreed that the review of G€N€ Ireland program will take place in the coming months. The current members of the €uro-Star review committee will carry out the review.  |
| Data Quality – Doreen Corridan & Sean Coughlan | * It was proposed that initiatives need to be taken in ensuring that the quality and quantity of data for use in genetic evaluations is of the highest standard.
 | Sean Coughlan is to establish a committee made up of industry representatives that will look at the area of data quality for genetic evaluations.  |
| Dairy test Day model – Ross Evans | * The dairy test day model has passed the recent interbull test run, however there is some concerns that it is not predicting fat accurately enough for some bulls.
 | Research and validation work on the Dairy test day model is to continue and an update on this work will be presented at the next meeting.  |
| Beef Data Genomics Program (BDGP) – Sean Coughlan, John Carty & Andrew Cromie | * A discussion took place on the new BDGP in which the industry sought clarification and made a number of suggestions about the program. Some of these suggestions/clarifications were as follows:
1. Farmers will get the €uro-Star indexes on their cows when the join the program regardless whether or not they are a member of Herdplus.
2. A suggestion was that farmers should get regular updates on the indexes of their cows.
 | Agreed that ICBF are to draft a joint letter with breed societies encouraging pedigree breeders to join the new scheme.The recent podcast organized by the Irish Farmers Journal on the new suckler genomics scheme is to be emailed to farmers.  |
| Dairy Genomics – Francis Kearney | * The reference population for Dairy genomics has been increased.
* Research work is continuing on cross-bred genomic evaluations.
 | Updates on developments within Dairy genomics will be presented at future meetings.  |

Draft dated 26th May 2015.