



UPDATE – for period 26th January – 1st February 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✦ Friday 8th February. Publication of **updated dairy and beef genetic evaluations.**
- ✦ Thursday 14th February. 10:30 to 13:00 at Moorepark (conference room 3). **Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting.**
- ✦ 19th to 21st February. Cork International Airport Hotel. **International Cattle Breeders Round Table.**

2 Board Meeting

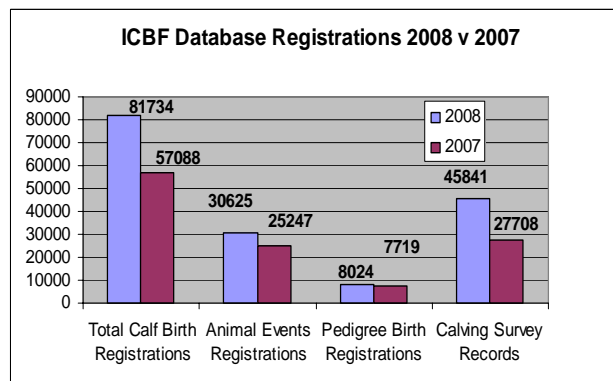
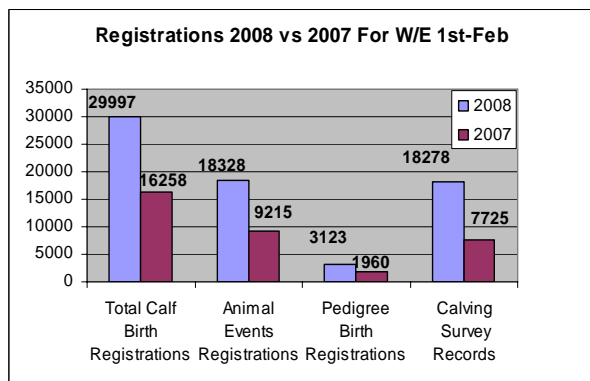
At its meeting on Thursday the Board:

- ✦ Reviewed progress on the range of issues affecting relationships with Breed Associations. Excellent progress has been made on a large number of areas. Priority is now being given to the development of breeding programs through GEN€IR€LAND[®] and the launch of the on-line herdbook.
- ✦ Supported the review of options for best meeting ICBF's office accommodation requirements.
- ✦ Delegated the Chief Executive and Chairman to form a delegation to attend the ICAR and Interbull meetings being held in Niagara, USA in June of 2008.

3 Tully

- ✦ The linear scoring of the December intake will now take place on the 6-2-08.
- ✦ Eye muscle scanning of the December intake will take place on the 7-2-08 by UCD.
- ✦ Weights from the last weighing of the December intake were sent out to breeders and breed societies on the 30-1-08.

4 Database Update



- ✦ 15,304 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 11,483 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✦ ICBF have received around 31,000 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. Around 10,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- ✦ A significant amount of development work is still on-going in relation to the Suckler Scheme.
- ✦ Testing of the Gene Ireland application continued this week in advance of the Spring AI season.
- ✦ The generation of the Annual Milk Recording reports from the database has continued this week.
- ✦ Testing of the new loading solution for Animal Events Records continued this week and will continue for a number of weeks. This is a key piece of development work, given the additional volumes of data that will be received as part of the Suckler Scheme.



- ✚ Work is also continuing on the 'On-line Herdbook'. Good progress was made on finalising the design with the herdbooks this week.
- ✚ The new version of the AI handheld software for 2008 continued to be tested this week with number of technicians, in advance of a full roll-out in a few weeks.

5 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

- ✚ Provisional dairy proofs have been sent to the industry for comments and feedback. The parent averaging is currently on-going and should be finished next week. At this point all files will be updated on the website and the bull search updated with new proofs.
- ✚ AI companies will be contacted next week regarding the Active Bull List for Spring 08.

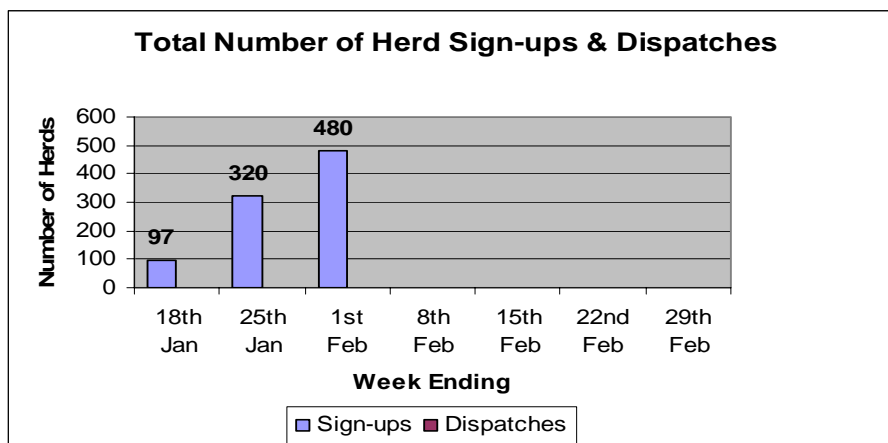
Beef

- ✚ Provisional Beef proofs are expected to be released to the industry next week. This represents an update of all traits in Suckler Beef Value.
- ✚ Staff attended a meeting of less numerous breeds in Tullamore. Statistics on the number of animals present in the database and the use of AI sires of the breeds were presented in addition to statistics on the number of records in the evaluations. Various aspects of GENÉIRLAND[®] progeny testing in terms of bull acquisition, Tully health testing, semen collection and herd acquisition were also discussed. A demonstration on the facilities available on the ICBF website for including missing sires and recording events was also given.

6 GENÉIRLAND[®]

Dairy – Spring 2008

- ✚ Another 160 herds signed up this past week. In total 21,604 doses requested to date, averaging 45 doses per herd.
- ✚ Good interest in the other breed packs with 61 and 63 herds requesting the Pure Friesian and Crossbreeding Pack (HOFR and JER), respectively.
- ✚ Dispatch to start early next week.

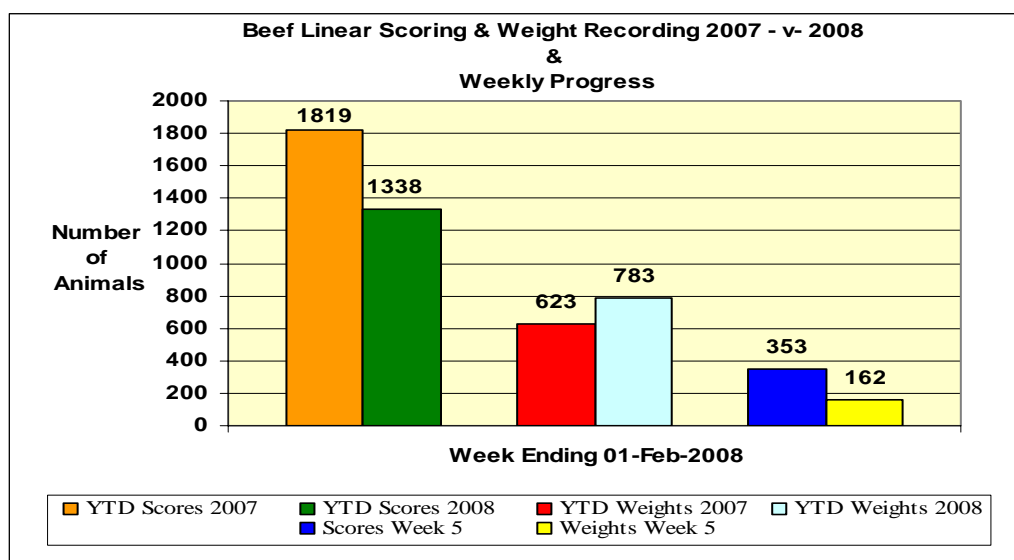




7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 01/02/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 01/02/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 01/02/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 01/02/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 01/02/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	837	126	15%	45,370	7,506	17%
Dairygold	134	8	6%	6,272	344	5%
Kerry	176	4	2%	8,039	325	4%
SWS	271	7	3%	10,593	547	5%
Tipperary	14	0	0%	479	0	0%
Arrabawn	11	3	27%	431	167	39%
Connacht	60	8	13%	2,292	322	14%
Donegal	3	3	0%	136	136	0%
Total	1,506	159	11%	73,612	9,347	13%

8 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



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