

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tully Advisory Committee meeting** – Monday 25th July, 10:00 to 14:00 – Tully.

2 ICBF Board Meeting

At its meeting on Thursday this week the ICBF Board:

- ✚ Elected Michael Doran as Vice-Chairman.
- ✚ Endorsed the recommendations of the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee to:
 - Submit an application to DAFF for NDP funding for 2012.
 - To hold fees to service providers (AI, Milk Recording and Herd Books) at their 2006 level and to review them annually from here on.
- ✚ Was briefed on progress with the review of beef breeding. Discussions with stakeholders are to continue, a cost/benefit study is to be undertaken and a finalised proposal is planned for the September Board meeting.

Progress since the April meeting includes:

- The development of a roadmap which has been incorporated in the report of the 2020 Beef Activation Group.
 - Initial testing of parameters for incorporation in the proposed information quality index.
 - Development, testing and implementation of systems, including web pages, for capturing weight data from a range of on-farm recording systems and catering for varying levels of automation.
 - Development and incorporation in reports for herd owners of weight predictions from birth to slaughter.
 - Appointment of a consultant to conduct a cost/benefit study of options for the future of Tully and the traits that should be given priority in recording systems.
- ✚ Received a report on the recent travel undertaken by the Chief Executive to Australia, New Zealand and USA. Two highlights were:
 - The progress being made in semen sexing technology.
 - The enormous beef breeding resources of North America, South America and Australia. Ireland needs to give these more attention in the future.

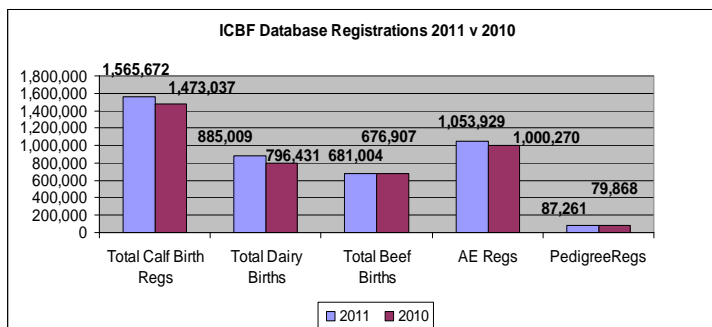
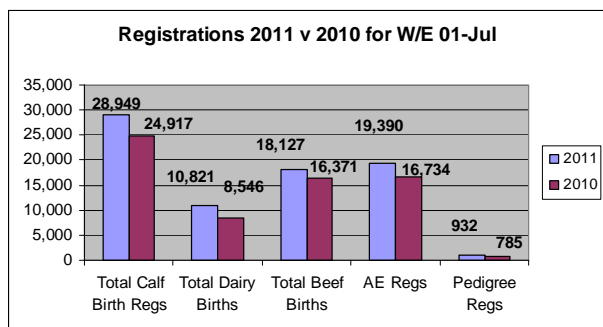
3 Sheep Ireland Board Meeting

At its meeting on Thursday this week the Sheep Board:

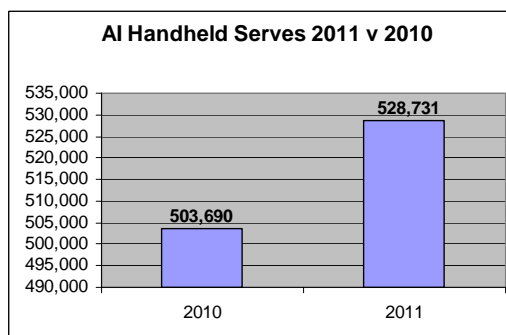
- ✚ Endorsed the recommendations of the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee to submit an application to DAFF for NDP funding for 2012.
- ✚ Was briefed in progress with MALP, CPT, LambPlus and genetic evaluations. Over the next two months there will be a number of events at which sheep breeding information provided by Sheep Ireland will be a central feature.
- ✚ Received a report on the recent travel undertaken by the Chief Executive to Australia, New Zealand and USA. Two highlights were:

- The large amount of sheep breeding research being conducted in NZ & Australia.
- The recognition that genomic selection in sheep is currently relatively less attractive than it is in dairy cattle.

4 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 619,334 with the number of animals weaned at 553,224.
- ✚ The first of the weight recording forms have been returned from farmers this week.
- ✚ A number of updates continue to be made to the weight recording screens and outputs.
- ✚ The first of the Farm Relief Service operators went live this week in Kerry and Limerick using handhelds linked to the ICBF database to record lameness data.
- ✚ Work is on-going in establishing electronic links to the commercial animal health laboratories.
- ✚ Some further work on the screens to support the transfer of genotypes to and from the ICBF database is on-going.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



5 Beef HerdPlus®

- ✚ Positive feedback is being constantly received about the recent 'Weight Recording' letter that was sent out.
- ✚ Work is continuing on developing an upload & download function for transferring weight data into the database.

Better Farms

- ✚ Beef Herdplus attended the farm walk on the farm of Willie Treacy, Shortstone, Hackballscross, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
Willie is a member of Beef Herdplus. It was an excellent event, well attended with a very informative series of Boards set up around the farm, giving summaries about the various elements of his beef production system.
- ✚ The photos below show a section of the large crowd gathered at one of the information stands as well as some of the bulls sired by his 2 five star Belgian Blue & Limousin Stockbulls:

- IE371366270164 – Belgian Blue – Beechmount Andy – bred by Trevor Ashmore, Ballycarney, Enniscorthy, Co.Wexford. He is sired by ‘Beechmount Vinson’ and is out of an ‘Inexes de la Croix de Mer’ dam.
http://www.icbf.com/taurus/bull_search/index.php?ani_id=447891334
- IE131306660430 – Limousin – Mount Scott Donny – bred by Michael Sexton, Mullagh, Ennis, Co. Clare. He is sired by ‘Ronick Hawk’ and is out of an ‘Ideal 23’ dam.
http://www.icbf.com/taurus/bull_search/index.php?search_type=name&search=mount+scott+donny



✚ Following is an example of just one Suckler Cow (Page from Herdplus Suckler Cow Report).

It is clear from the report that she is a very profitable Suckler Cow:

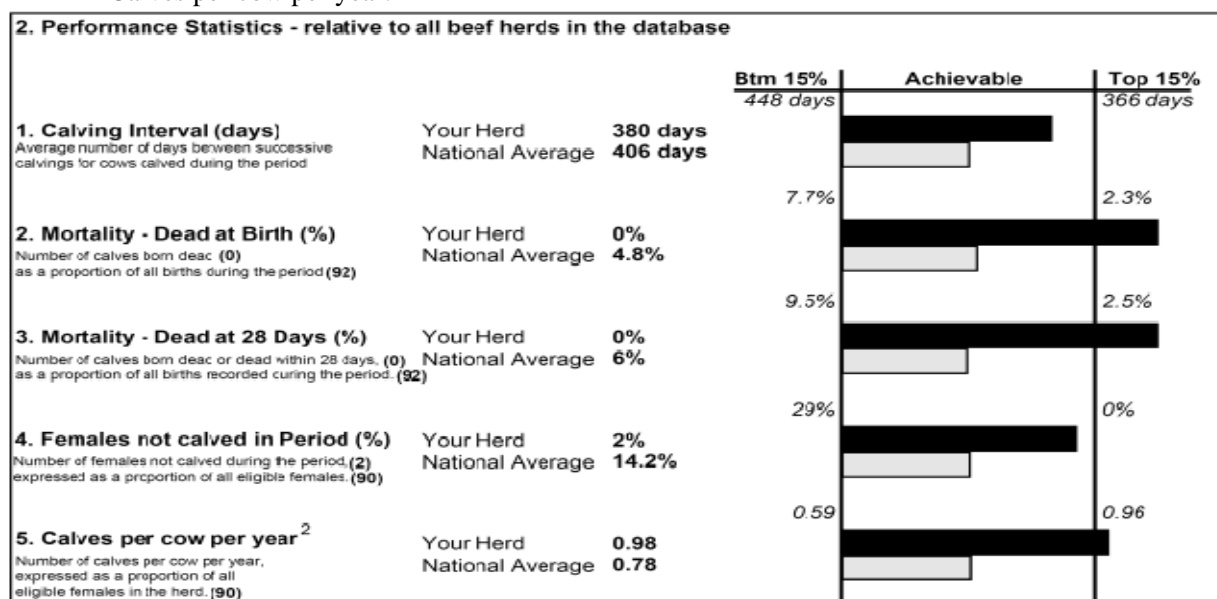
- 5 Stars for Overall Suckler Beef Value, Weanling Export & Beef Carcass.
- 4 Star for ‘Daughter Fertility’ & 3 Star for ‘Daughter Milk’
- Average Calving Interval of 355 days.
- Has had a calf every year.
- Progeny have good weight gains & SCWS scores.
- Progeny slaughtered also have excellent Carcass Grades.

Animal Details			Ancestry Details						Euro-Star Index							
Jumbo: 330			Sire's Sire:						Within Breed	Index	Rel%	Across Breed				
Official Tag: IE261141270330									Sire's Dam:						★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value
Animal Name:			Sire: F-H03982/2269												Beef Value	
Date of Birth: 02/03/2003									Dam: IE261141290150						★★★★★	Weaning Export
Breed: CH (43.75%), SI (40.63%), UN (15.63%)			Dam's Sire:												★★★★★	Beef Carcass
Herdbook:									Dam's Dam: OFA052875						Replacement Value	
Scored:			Other Key Traits												★★★★	Daughter Fertility
Weighed:									MUSCLE						★★★	Daughter Milk
BLUP Index (Reliability 9%)			DOCILITY												Other Key Traits	
96									107						★★★	Mat Calving Diff %
															★★	Gestation Length
															★	Docility
Calving & Fertility Performance						Weaning & Carcass Performance										
Calving Date	Tag Number	Calving Survey	Calving Interval	Sex	Current Status	Sire	Sire Breed	Age days	Weight Kgs	Growth Kg/Day*	Price/Kilo	Calf Quality	Docility	Age at Slaught. (months)	Carcass Conf. & Fat	Carcass Weight
1	27/03/2005	IE261141240451			M	Dead	SI							25	U-3-	442
2	29/04/2006	IE261141220516		397	M	Dead	SI							22	R+2=	393
3	26/03/2007	IE261141260569		331	M	Dead	CH							24	R4L	440
4	15/02/2008	IE261141270628	S. Assis	326	F	Dead	10021 LM	276	322	1.02		Average	Average	23	R+3-	335
5	12/02/2009	IE261141270677	S. Assis	362	M	Dead	70164 BB		428	1.32		Excellent	Difficult	19	U-1+	437
6	10/01/2010	IE261141290761	S. Assis	331	M	In herd	70164 BB					V.Good	Average			
7	02/02/2011	IE261141260858	Normal	387	F	In herd	60430 LM									

Calving Report

The following extract from the herd's Calving Report also shows excellent performance for the key performance indicators:

- Calving Interval.
- Mortality.
- Females not calved in the period.
- Calves per cow per year.



6 Tully

- The first live-weight on all bulls (n = 52) was obtained on Monday of this week (Table 1). Bulls were in pre-entry isolation up to now, where they were gradually built up onto ad-lib concentrates and also had blood samples taken weekly, testing for IBR. Live-weights will be obtained every 21 days from the initial weight during the 90 day performance test. Individual feed intake is being recorded on all bulls daily.
- The next weighing of bulls will take place on Monday 18th July.

Table 1. Live-weight of bulls averaged by breed

Breed	AA (n = 4)	BA (N = 3)	BB (n = 2)	CH (n = 16)	LM (n = 18)	PT (n = 2)	SA (n = 1)	SI (n = 6)
Average Live-weight (Kg)	457	547	433	552	499	543	491	471

- Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.

7 Genetic Evaluations

- The monthly beef evaluation for linear scored animals has commenced. Updated indexes will be available on Monday 4th July.
- The deadline for data for the next big evaluation is 4th July. Extracts will then commence next week ahead of the August proof run.
- Work is progressing well on the development of an enhanced evaluation for milkability in Suckler cows. Test proofs will be available in the coming weeks.

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 01/07/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 01/07/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 01/07/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 01/07/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 01/07/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,717	1,037	28%	294,302	90,722	31%
Progressive	2,259	861	38%	198,560	74,441	37%
Tipperary	142	63	44%	12,507	5,947	48%
Total	6,118	1,961	32%	505,369	171,110	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 01/07/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 01/07/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	273,449	294,302	7.1%
Progressive	170,190	198,560	14.3%
Tipperary	10,985	12,507	12.2%
Total	454,624	505,369	10.0%

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 21/06/11 to 01/07/11								
Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	1036	80,119	77	25.4	3.78	3.40	1.82	248
Leinster	351	27,952	80	25.4	3.66	3.39	1.79	241
Connacht	72	4,455	62	26.0	3.60	3.30	1.79	267
Ulster	96	6,011	63	26.2	3.53	3.30	1.79	252

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 21/06/11 to 01/07/11								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	15	1,034	69	23.4	4.00	3.36	1.72	234
CAVAN	47	2,922	62	25.3	3.63	3.42	1.78	240
CLARE	38	2,268	60	27.5	3.70	3.40	1.95	213
CORK STH	243	18,799	77	26.0	3.78	3.39	1.86	269
CORK NTH	282	21,486	76	25.3	3.80	3.45	1.83	230
DONEGAL	15	1,301	87	25.0	3.62	3.29	1.73	244
DUBLIN	3	138	46	25.1	3.09	3.46	1.64	404
GALWAY	18	1,229	68	27.4	3.84	3.34	1.97	276
KERRY	140	9,707	69	26.3	3.64	3.31	1.83	293
KILDARE	16	1,379	86	26.5	3.53	3.33	1.82	295
KILKENNY	59	5,062	86	25.0	3.67	3.38	1.76	188
LAOIS	44	2,982	68	23.9	3.77	3.49	1.74	206
LEITRIM	7	382	55	25.7	3.62	3.25	1.77	300
LIMERICK	138	9,883	72	26.8	3.58	3.32	1.85	257
LONGFORD	7	405	58	30.5	3.61	3.30	2.11	184
LOUTH	14	1,232	88	28.5	3.57	3.39	1.98	257
MAYO	34	2,139	63	26.7	3.48	3.36	1.83	250
MEATH	55	4,856	88	25.5	3.87	3.34	1.84	234
MONAGHAN	34	1,788	53	28.2	3.34	3.20	1.84	273
OFFALY	40	2,918	73	25.3	3.79	3.35	1.81	186

ROSCOMMON	4	230	58	24.2	3.46	3.22	1.62	222
SLIGO	9	475	53	25.8	3.58	3.32	1.78	285
TIPPERARY NTH	47	4,351	93	23.5	3.87	3.40	1.71	248
TIPPERARY STH	86	6,959	81	23.7	3.86	3.44	1.73	256
WATERFORD	62	6,666	108	24.1	4.03	3.50	1.81	218
WESTMEATH	20	1,663	83	26.3	3.88	3.49	1.94	192
WEXFORD	58	4,598	79	23.1	3.70	3.46	1.65	255
WICKLOW E	14	1,098	78	24.7	3.64	3.44	1.75	231
WICKLOW W	6	587	98	22.1	3.73	3.34	1.56	268
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,555	118,537	74	25.6	3.68	3.37	1.80	249

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