



UPDATE – for period 26th May – 1st June 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 21st June, Moorepark Open Day.**
- ✚ **Thursday 28th June, ICBF Board Meeting, The Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.**
- ✚ **Thursday 5th July, ICBF Beef Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting, Horse & Jockey.**

2 Breeding for Profit – Page 19 Irish Farmers Journal

Next week will be last of the sixteen week series running in the Irish Farmers Journal on page 19 under the heading of **Breeding For Profit**. This series of articles and advertisements has been paid for by ICBF using a combination of our own resources, NDP funds allocated for the *Profit with AI Partnership* 2007 spring campaign and funds for the roll-out of the **Euro-Star** beef indexes.

The articles have been contributed by ICBF and TEAGASC staff with an emphasis being placed on providing simple advice for use by farmers. A special thanks is extended to all contributors and the Irish Farmers Journal for ensuring an effective communications campaign. It is too early to determine the success of the campaign although initial indications are promising.



3 Beef Breeding Developments

In the May 18th Update I outlined the key contributors to genetic improvement of the national beef herd and indicated that we are currently working through a range of issues that need to be resolved in order for a dramatic increase in progress to be achieved.

We are in the process of consulting with all interested parties and designing a number of new and enhanced services for beef breeding. Our plan is to present a report to the ICBF Board's June meeting with a review to having the services available later in 2007. This will be followed by an Industry Consultation meeting scheduled for 5th July at Horse & Jockey as above. The service areas being considered include:

- ✚ Beef Bull Performance Testing – Tully.
- ✚ Linear Scoring & Weight Recording.
- ✚ HerdPlus[®] for beef.
- ✚ GEN€IR€LAND[®] beef.
- ✚ Sales & procurement.
- ✚ Herd Health Certification.

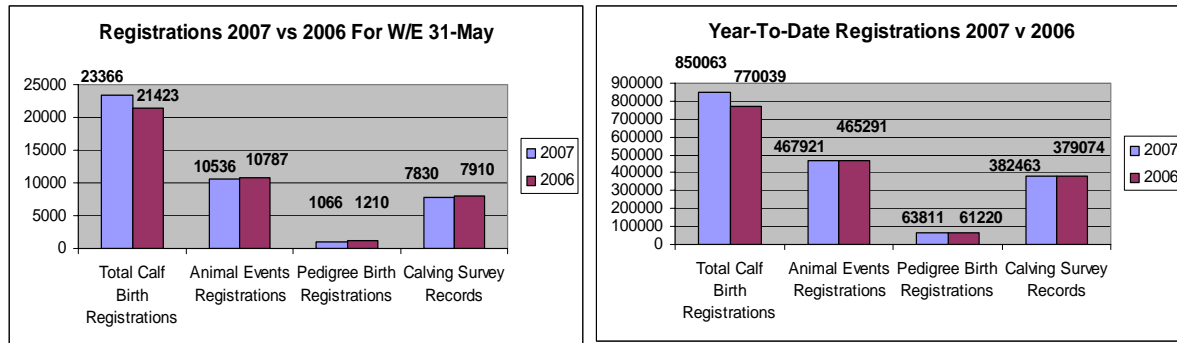
Any organization or individual wishing to make a submission in relation to any of these service areas should contact me directly.

4 Tully

- ✚ A total of 72 bulls were sold from the March and May intakes.
- ✚ A review of bio security and ration formulation has taken place and a report is being finalised.
- ✚ A group of French Department of Agriculture officials will visit Tully on 8th June 2007.



5 Database Update



- ✚ 222,496 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 84,736 in 2006 for the same period. Next week, we will provide a broader range of statistics from the insemination data gathered so far this season.
- ✚ Some tweaks to the new Herdbook front end are continuing and further iteration of the facility will be issued next week.
- ✚ The format of the 'Herdbook on the web' was issued to herdbooks this week. The format was developed based on suggestions received from the herdbooks.
- ✚ The nightly batch jobs processing data from the Dept of Agriculture are being reviewed with a view to a redesign which would reduce the processing time on the ICBF database significantly
- ✚ The 'six-week' fertility reports continue to be generated on a daily basis, and are being issued to HerdPlus members.

6 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy Genetic evaluations

- ✚ Some queries concerning the new dairy proofs sent out last week have been answered.
- ✚ ICBF staff gave a presentation to the Limerick branch of the ICMSA on Tuesday night concerning the recent developments in the EBI.

Beef Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ New Beef performance proofs were released to the industry on Wednesday 30th.
- ✚ The main source of new information was the inclusion of slaughter data for the first 4 months of 2007. The new proofs also contain French information for imported French Charolais and Limousine animals which were taken from the official French evaluations. This will add extra information to these animals which have little information in Ireland.

International Evaluations

- ✚ Work on the feasibility of conversion equations (already validated on Limousine and Charolais) is now being undertaken for the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed. A report on the consequences of blending foreign proofs into the national evaluation is currently being processed.

7 HerdPlus

- ✚ Work on the redesign of the HerdPlus section of the web site continues.
- ✚ The EBI report has been updated with the latest data and will be posted early next week.
- ✚ Preparatory work for upcoming discussion group meetings is being carried out.
- ✚ Discussions with Teagasc took place with regard to updating the current Stock Report into a REPS type report.

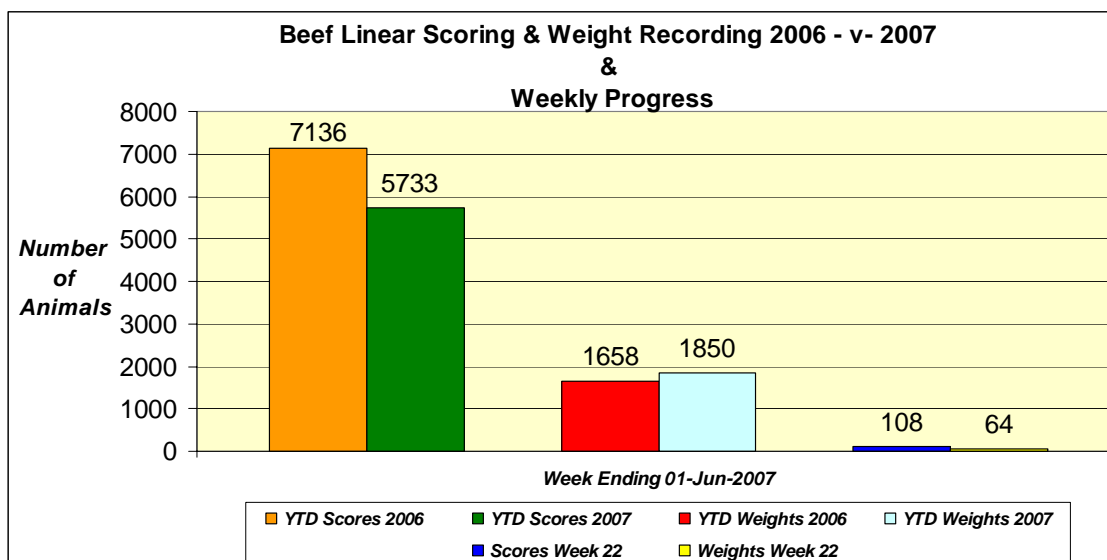


8 Milk Recording Processing this week

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 25/05/07 - 01/06/07
Progressive	311
Dairygold	207
Kerry	195
SWS	244
Arrabawn	28
Tipperary	23
Connacht	32
Donegal	0
Total	1,040

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 01/06/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 01/06/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 01/06/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	135,013	137,658	146,179	5.8%
Dairygold	82,901	91,189	96,707	5.7%
Kerry	60,578	63,440	64,472	1.6%
SWS	50,262	53,408	55,018	2.9%
Tipperary	8,181	10,251	10,940	6.3%
Arrabawn	6,359	9,862	10,607	7.0%
Connacht	6,396	6,797	8,254	17.7%
Donegal	1,384	3,610	3,182	-13.5%
Total	351,074	376,215	395,359	4.8%

9 Beef Linear Scoring



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