



Update for period 27th May – 2nd June 2006

1 Important Dates

- **3rd – 9th June**, ICAR Session & Interbull Meeting, Kuopio, Finland. The Chairman & Vice Chairman will be part of ICBF's delegation at this meeting.
- **Thursday 15th June**, Finance Sub-Committee meeting.
- **Thursday 22nd June**, 10:30-1:00, Board Meeting, Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **Wednesday 28th June**, 2.00-4.00pm, Developments in dairy evaluations, in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Wednesday 12th July**, 2.00- 4.00pm, Beef Breeding Scheme and Data Review
- **Wednesday 19th July**, 10.30-1.00pm, Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel
- **Wednesday 19th July**, 2.00-4.00pm, Tully Review Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel

2 IRIS User Group Meeting 30th & 31st May 2006



Don O Leary being thanked by Hans Wilmink for hosting the IRIS User Group on his farm.

ICBF hosted the IRIS User Group meeting this week at the Celtic Ross Hotel in Rosscarbery. The meeting was attended by delegates from 8 countries.

The main focus of the meeting was the developments in IRIS over the next few years and the experiences of the existing users of IRIS. The main developments in the future will be focused on improving the ease of use and reducing the cost of providing cattle breeding information for farmers.

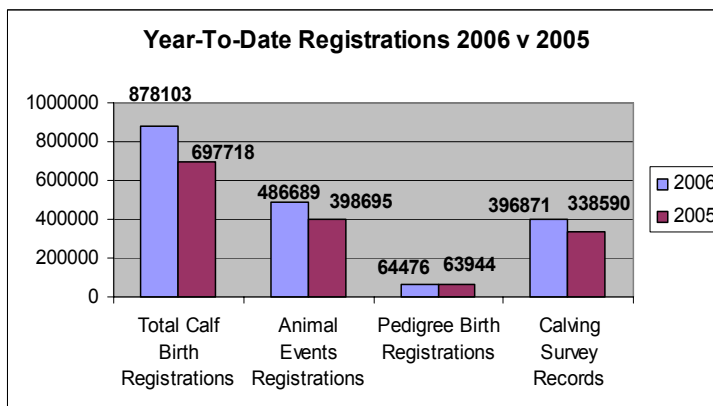
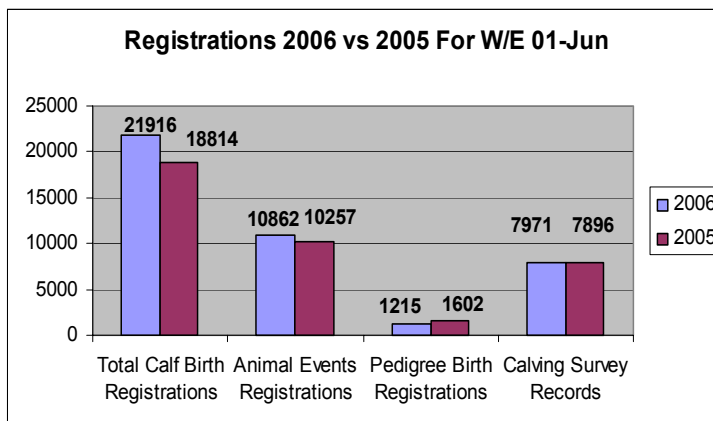
3 Tully

- The bulls are beginning to arrive for the summer intake and the majority should be in by the end of next week.
- We are currently repairing and preparing the sheds.
- New fields have been made for the bulls to spend time outdoors over summer.



4 Database Update

- 74 new herds added to the database last week.
- The 80,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds.
- Further report development to support the AI handheld application is on-going. The majority of the core reports have now been completed and work is continuing on expanding the level of functionality available to AI offices.
- 953 'Week 3' Fertility reports have been issued to date. 241 'Week 6' reports have been issued. Feedback continues to be positive.
- Development of a front-end to streamline the sending and receiving of text messages from/to ICBF is on-going. The aim is to continue to expand the use of text messaging as a means of reducing the ICBF postage costs.
- The design of an application to assist with the management of the progeny testing schemes is on-going. As the programmes expand, this will be key to the efficient management of them.
- This week, the IRIS User Group met to discuss the future development of the IRIS application. This was a very useful meeting and the new developments planned will be discussed with IRIS users in the coming weeks.



5 Milk Recording Update

Industry Test Turnaround May 2006.

Industry national average for May 2006 was 6.7 days. Nationally 3,965 tests were processed with some 230,662 animals. May 05 had a turnaround of 6.5 days. The Organisation with the best turnaround in May 06 was **Kerry** with an average of **5.0 days**. Dairygold and SWS were both under 6 days. Each Milk Recording Organisation (MRO) is furnished with an Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.

€DIY Herds Turnaround.

For the subset of 494 €DIY recorded herds in May, the average turnaround time for coded €DIY herds was **5.7 days***. (can only be extracted for MROs that have dedicated €DIY technician codes assigned to €DIY herds, and had > 10 herd tests). Some Progressive Genetics recorders doing both EDIY and Manual and have not yet assigned codes - as such difficult to extract stat. MROs that went into the €DIY stat for May 06 were;



Dairygold – 3 cells on €DIY averaged turnaround time of 4.5 days.
 Kerry – 1 cell on €DIY averaged 4.8 days.
 Progressive – cells with known codes averaged 9.7 days

*SWS/Arrabawn/Tipp/Donegal/Connacht – EDIY cells averaged 8.2 days. All these EDIY herds are being handled by SWS processing Centre in Clonakilty. The center had a staff availability problem in the start of May where one full week was lost – ICBF addressing with SWS.

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 02/06/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 02/06/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 02/06/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 02/06/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,060	2,003	-3%	135,209	137,837	2%
Dairygold	1,475	1,510	2%	83,206	91,529	10% *
Kerry	1,059	1,072	1%	60,725	63,587	5%
SWS	932	941	1%	50,334	53,521	6%
Tipperary	141	162	15%	8,257	10,297	25% *
Arrabawn	107	155	45%	6,370	9,864	55% *
Connacht	109	114	5%	6,454	6,797	5%
Donegal	21	44	110%	1,740	3,707	113% *
Total	5,904	6,001	2%	352,295	377,139	7%

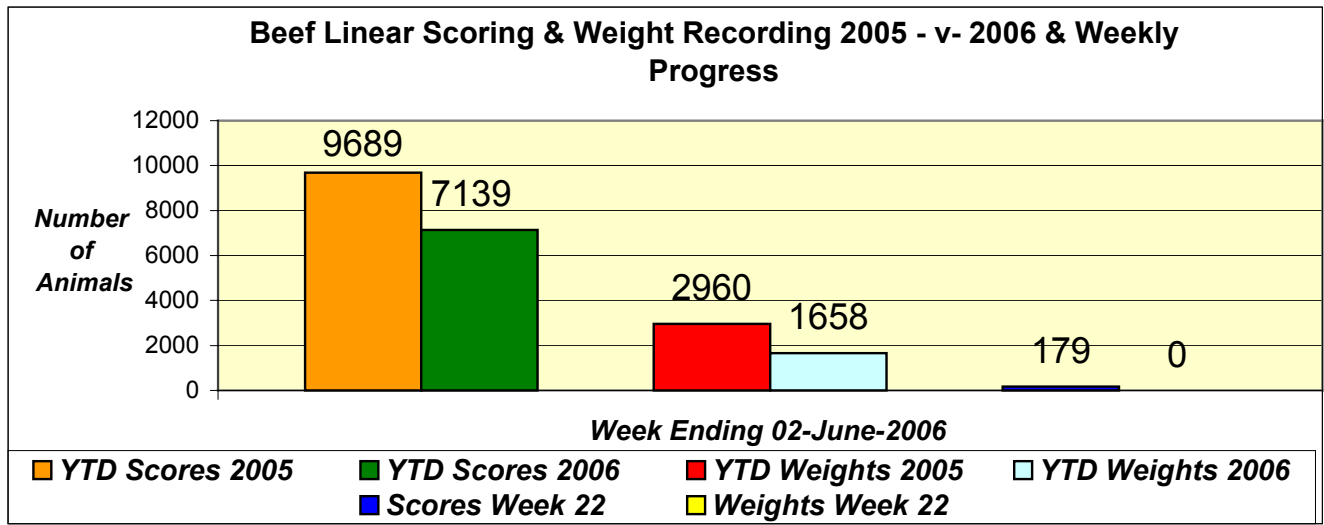
* For these Co-ops increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

Milk Recording Stats week ending 2/06/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 26/05/06 - 02/06/06
Progressive	282
Dairygold	219
Kerry	178
SWS	154
Tipperary	24
Arrabawn	18
Donegal	10
Connacht	9
Total	894



6 Linear Scoring



7 Genetic Evaluations – Beef & Dairy

- Official EBI proofs for HF AI sires were released to the AI industry earlier today. In addition, EBI proofs for all dairy AI sires (including other dairy breeds and young sires) will be published on the ICBF website this evening. In terms of proofs comparisons, there is little change in the evaluations relative to Feb 2006, with all of the top AI bulls maintaining their performance in terms of EBI.
- A meeting to discuss developments in dairy evaluations has been scheduled for Wednesday 28th June, in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, commencing at 2.00 PM.
- Research work on beef evaluations is continuing, with particular attention being given to evaluations for beef linear type and beef performance data.

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