



UPDATE – for period 24th February – 2nd March 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 6th March.** ICBF Board Conference Call at 9.00pm.
- ✚ **Wednesday 7th March.** Meeting with Tully Bull Owners at the Heritage Hotel Portlaoise at 8.00pm.
- ✚ **Thursday 8th March.** Joint Audit & Finance Sub-Committee & Board (10:00 – 12:00) and ICBF Board (12:00 – 15:00). The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Board and Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meetings

- ✚ The meetings that were scheduled for Thursday 1st March have been rescheduled for Thursday 8th March.
- ✚ The Board met by telephone conference call on Thursday evening and considered the situation in relation to IBR at Tully.

3 Tully

The Board is currently examining the implications of the presence of IBR at the Tully Test Centre. Bull owners are being invited to a meeting to discuss the situation. Participating in the meeting from ICBF will be the Chairman Mr John O’Sullivan, the Vice Chairman, Mr Derek Deane, Board member Dr Doreen Corridan, and Chief Executive Dr Brian Wickham. Dr Simon More of UCD’s Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis will also be in attendance.

4 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy EBI

Files have been submitted for an INTERBULL test-run for production for Holsteins. This test run will examine new methods to handle heterosis and recombination in domestic evaluations of participating INTERBULL member countries.

Beef

The beef performance evaluation run incorporating the Tully data was analysed and the indexes loaded to the database for these bulls. Crosschecking on incorporation of the Eurostar grid into catalogues was done in conjunction with ICBF IT staff.

International Beef Evaluations

A method for conversion of French Charolais and Limousine indexes to an equivalent Irish scale was developed in excel and sent to the respective breed societies for feedback. Some initial testing on the possibility of conversion formula for French Blonde Aquitaine was done and a report will be dispatched to the society shortly.

5 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 23/02/07 - 02/03/07
Progressive	187
SWS	123
Dairygold	124
Kerry	97
Connacht	19
Tipperary	4

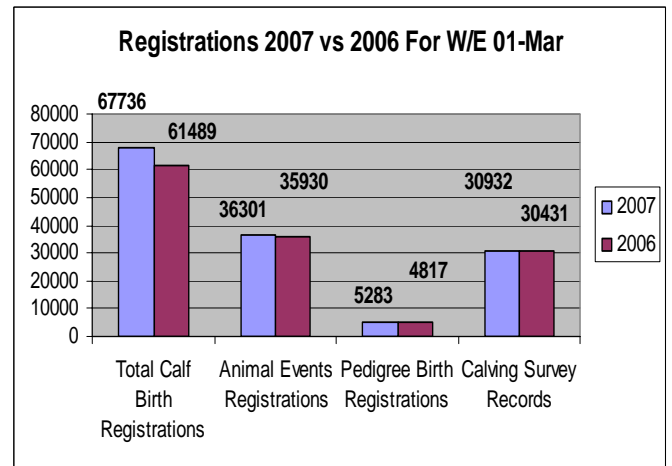
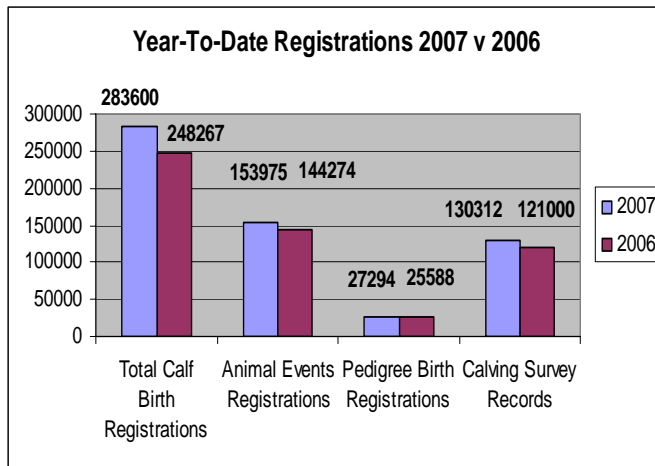


Total	554
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6 HerdPlus

- ✚ Spring '07 EBI for cows are being loaded to database this weekend. Farmers' EBI profiles will be available on the web from March 05th with EBI reports being generated later that week.
- ✚ Now that the new EBI's are "live" - we urge farmers to get familiar with the Sire Advice tool on the web so they can start planning breeding season. All feedback welcome.
- ✚ A new Lifetime Milk Production report has been added to the Herd Profile section of the web site.

7 Database Update



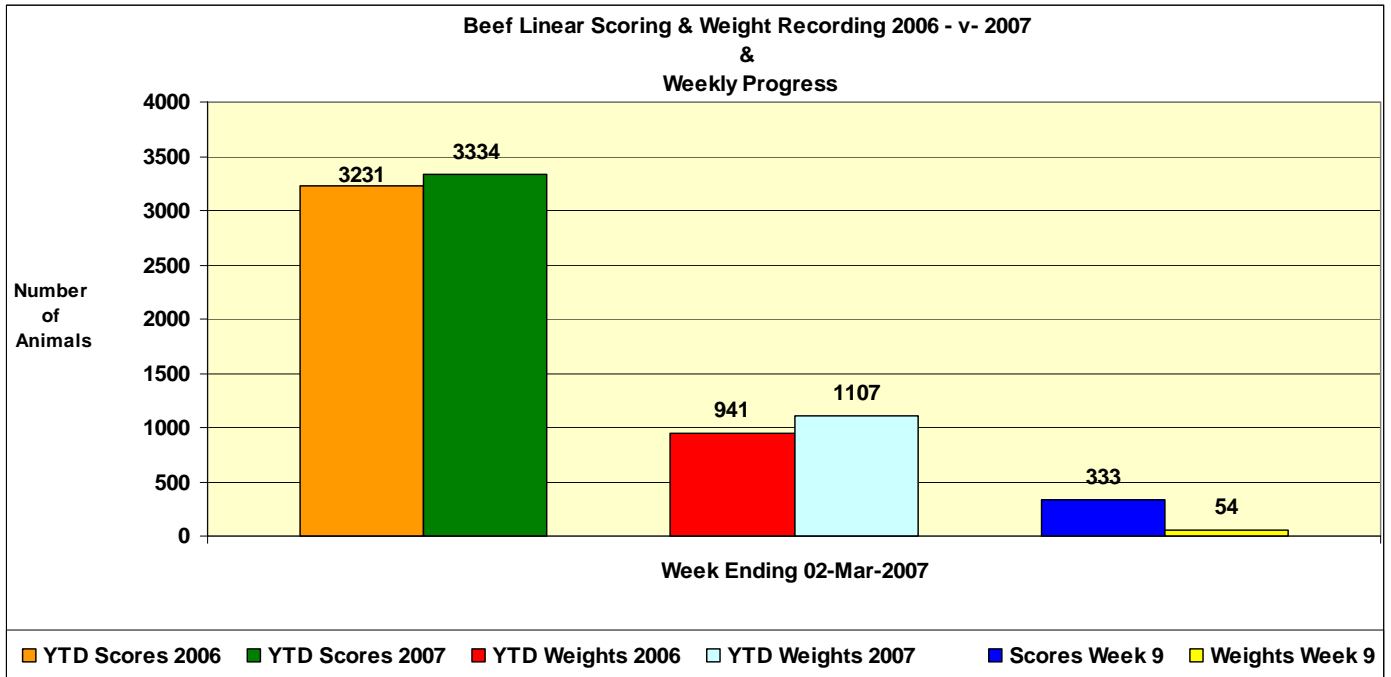
- ✚ 193,794 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds. This week the remaining handhelds updated with new software and databases, which will have resolved some replication issues that a number of them were having.
- ✚ Preparations for the issue of the latest EBI reports are being finalised, with some further updates since last autumn's report being included.
- ✚ The use of the Sire Advice program is on-going. 226 herds have now run the Sire Advice programme. We hope to push this significantly upwards over the next few weeks.
- ✚ The new Teagasc Discussion Group application is getting good use and feedback continues to be positive.
- ✚ The Gene Ireland application went live this week and is proving very useful in managing the signing up of herds.
- ✚ We are now on the last phase of work in the completion of the Herdbook front end, and this will be completed before the end of March.

8 Gene Ireland

- ✚ Herd sign-up for the Spring 2007 programme continues.
- ✚ A further 900 letters were posted to herd-owners earlier this week.
- ✚ Currently 135 herds have signed up to date.
- ✚ A meeting was held between ICBF & NCBC Sales staff to discuss the programme for 2007.



9 Beef Linear Scoring



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