



UPDATE – for period 26th April – 2nd May 2008

1 Important Dates

- + **8th May** – Teagasc, Grange open day.
- + **16th to 20th June** – ICAR and Interbull meetings, Niagara Falls, USA.
- + **20th June** - Farmfest '08, Teagasc Major Event of the Year, Athenry.
- + **9th to 11th October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet.
For details see www.ihfa.ie.
- + **11th and 12th October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart.

2 The First Ten Years – 1st May

Sixty five people attended the special event to celebrate the first ten years of ICBF's operation. Guests included the Board and former Board members (Seamus Lynch, Mike Magan, John Malone, Pauric Walsh), representatives of shareholders, representatives of the Agricultural media (Matt Dempsey, Pat O'Keefe and Maeve Dineen), DAFF staff (Tom Moran, Dave Beehan, Ignatius Byrne, Emer McGeough), FBD Trust (Paddy O'Keefe, Conor Gouldson), TEAGASC (Matt Ryan, George Ramsbottom), Dennis Kelleher (retired from UCD) and others with a strong interest in ICBF.

John O'Sullivan, the Chairman of ICBF, expressed his pride in being the first farmer chairman. John talked about the impact of ICBF on his pedigree Holstein Friesian business and how it had simplified recording, and improved the quality of information available for his breeding decisions. John expressed appreciation for the support that ICBF had received from DAFF over the years. This support included the leadership provided by John Malone during the formative years of ICBF, financial support and the ongoing contribution being made by Dave Beehan and other DAFF staff. He praised the ICBF staff for their contributions and especially their responsiveness to enquiries on a wide range of issues.

Brian Wickham¹ reflected on the challenges faced by ICBF and how these were overcome. Key factors included; a shared vision, the way ICBF works, use of science, a focus on efficiency and use of technology.

The highlight of the event was Mary Coughlan, the Minister of Agriculture. She acknowledged the progress that had been made and indicated that she was looking for similar progress with sheep. The recent contributions made by Doreen Corridan to resolving issues affecting Breed Association and Dave Beehan in keeping her fully informed received a special mention.

3 Board Meeting

At its meeting on Thursday morning the Board:

- + Accepted the Irish Brown Swiss Society Ltd. into class "C" (Herd Book) membership.
- + Accepted the final report from the Tully Veterinary expert group in relation to the recent cases of IBR at Tully.
- + Was briefed by DAFF on the legislation relevant to cattle breeding in Ireland and welcomed consultation on possible amendments.
- + Expressed its appreciation for the wide range of contributions that Dr Corridan had made as a Board member appointed by the AI Shareholders. Most recently Dr Corridan's work as Special Liaison for the Herd Books had been pivotal in ensuring progress for beef cattle breeding.
- + Expressed its appreciation of the quality of the Annual Report for 2007 and the achievements that it reports.

¹ Full copy of speech included in the Annual Report for 2007 which can be found in the publications section of the ICBF Website - www.icbf.com

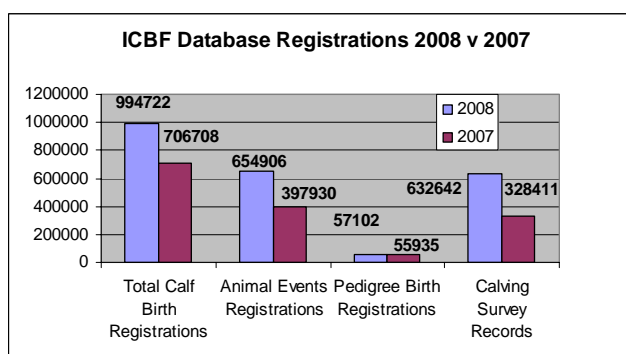
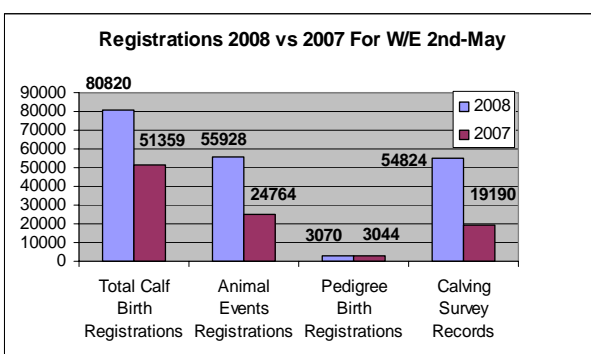


4 Annual General Meeting

The AGM on Thursday afternoon:

- # Adopted the reports of the Chairman and Chief Executive.
- # Approved the audited accounts.
- # Adopted the recommendation of the Board to re-appoint Ernst and Young as auditors.
- # Was advised of the following appointments to the Board:
 - o Class “A” shareholders had appointed Pat Mulvehill to the vacancy created by the completion of Doreen Corridan’s term.
 - o Class “B” shareholders had re-appointed Liam Foley and Kevin Meade following the completion of their terms.
 - o DAFF had reappointed Dave Beehan following the completion of his term.

5 Database Update



- # 151,563 inseminations have been received so far in 2008 from AI Handheld, compared with 103,056 in 2007 for the same period.
- # Some changes have been made which have had a positive impact on the speed of replication from AI technician handhelds to the server.
- # ICBF have received 53,167 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. No further applications for the scheme are being taken by DAF at this stage. Over 290,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- # Sire error batches continue to be issued to Suckler Scheme farmers. The first of the ‘Pre-Weaning’ forms will go out over the next couple of weeks.
- # The latest Genetic Evaluation run is being completed this weekend and evaluations will be available from next week.
- # Having completed the implementation of a microwave broadband solution, the feedback on performance continues to be positive.

6 Tully

- # The closing date for applications for the next intake to Tully is the 9-5-08.
- # A meeting will be held with DAFF’s Naas Veterinary Office on the 8-5-08 to finalize the health testing procedures for the next intake.
- # The health testing protocol for the next intake will be finalized before the 9-5-08.



7 HerdPlus

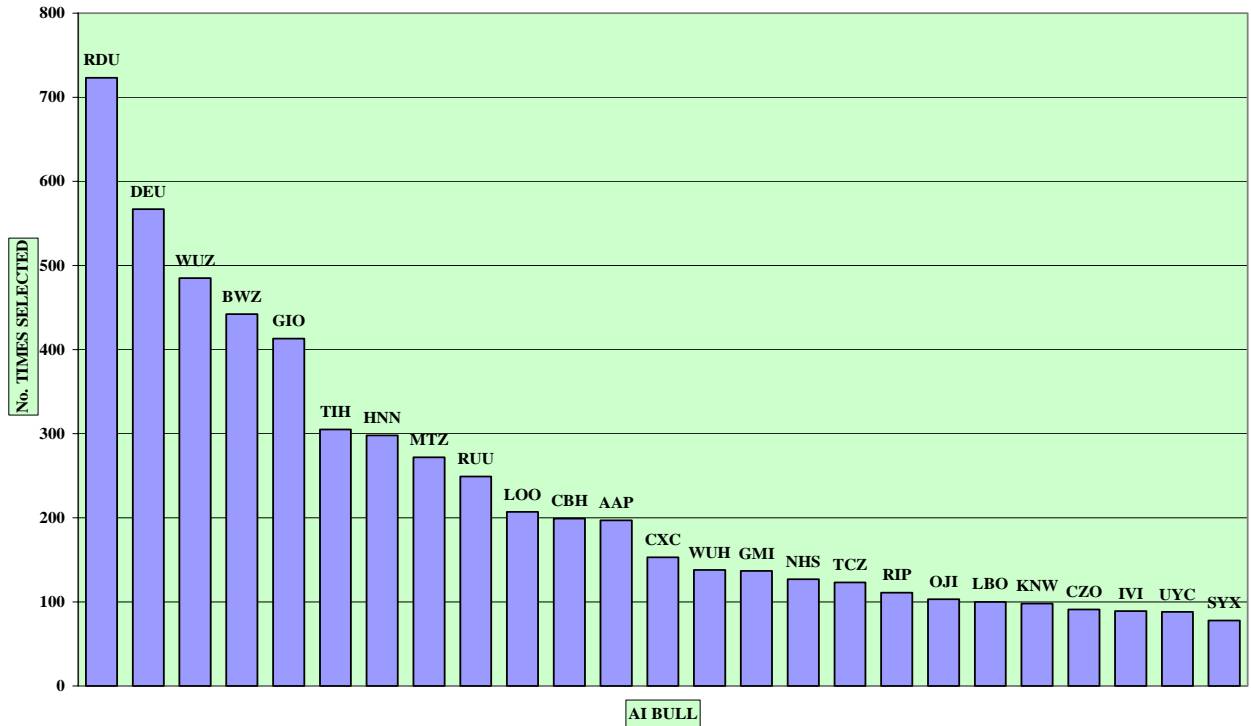
HerdPlus Dairy

- ✚ **Sire Advice analysis.** Some 1,773 farmers ran Sire Advice. See graph below which gives a breakdown of the most frequently selected bulls by farmers who ran the program themselves. (Top 25 bulls).



SIRE ADVICE for COWS - FARMER SELECTED TOP 25 AI BULLS (30/04/07)

In total 1,773 Farmers ran SA themselves in spring 2008



- ✚ **Fertility Reports.** The first “Week 3 Fertility Reports” were posted and put on website this week.

HerdPlus Beef

- ✚ Beef Weanling Performance Report has been redesigned and is under development. This enhanced report will be issued after each Linear Scoring & Weighing visit.



8 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy and beef evaluations have been completed and files are being prepared for the website. The website will be updated this evening with bull files while the bull search will be available early next week.

Work on others issues is continuing- these include

- ✚ Definition of a new base for linear type. Four alternative bases have been looked at and a file has been forwarded to IHFA for feedback.
- ✚ Development of a new bull search facility that will include information on both a genetic and phenotypic level.



Beef carcass cut yields

- Genetic analysis of Teagasc Grange experimental data has started; the data includes the complete dissection into 23 cuts of more than 300 carcasses. This work will join the already done study on the commercial dataset and provide a clearer picture of the usefulness of carcass cut yields for the benefit of farmers.

9 GENEIRELAND®

Dairy Spring 2008

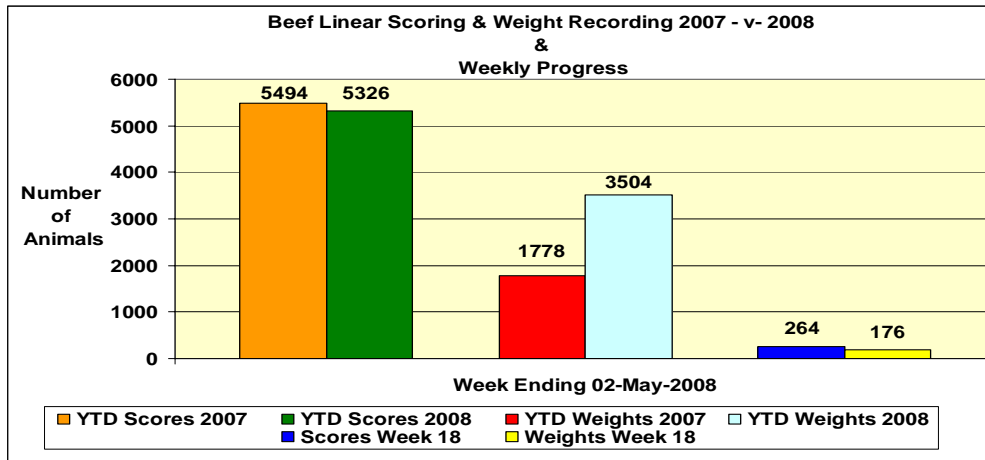
- The Spring 2008 programme is now complete. A total of 1,205 herds have taken part, testing a total of 71 young bulls.



BREED PACK	NO BULLS	TOTAL NO STRAWS	AVE NO STRAWS	NO HERDS
HOFR	52	37,026	712	907
FR*	13	7,804	600	189
Red Breeds	3	1,457	486	70
Xbreed	3	2,040	680	124
TOTALS	71	48,327	681	1205

- Please note, total number of herds involved is 1205 but sum across breeds equals 1290, the difference being herds taking 2 or 3 different breed packs. Red Breeds consists of 2 Norwegian Reds and 1 Rotbunt. Crossbreed takes in 2 Jerseys and 1 JE/HO cross.
- Of the 1,205 herds, 688 are DIY clients and 517 are using the technician service.
- The complete list of bulls involved is attached.
- A good number of insemination records are coming in, with some bulls already over the 100 mark.
- The next phase of work will include following up on the Autumn 2007 inseminations and making payments to the herd-owners.

10 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





11 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 02/05/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 02/05/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 02/05/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 02/05/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 02/05/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,924	645	34%	133,296	43,192	32%
Dairygold	1,355	402	30%	83,496	25,562	31%
Kerry	961	146	15%	53,658	8,291	15%
SWS	861	112	13%	47,432	6,097	13%
Tipperary	138	50	36%	8,582	3,253	38%
Arrabawn	134	112	84%	8,461	7,105	84%
Connacht	116	32	28%	6,263	1,546	25%
Donegal	6	6	100%	432	432	100%
Total	5,495	1,505	27%	341,620	95,478	28%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 02/05/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 02/05/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 02/05/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	116,266	124,473	133,296	6.6%
Dairygold	74,067	83,136	83,496	0.4%
Kerry	52,671	52,967	53,658	1.3%
SWS	46,233	47,359	47,432	0.2%
Tipperary	7,720	8,231	8,582	4.1%
Arrabawn	6,081	8,067	8,461	4.7%
Connacht	5,636	6,007	6,263	4.1%
Donegal	681	699	432	-61.8%
Total	309,355	330,939	341,620	3.1%

New hire Starting this week

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden.

Gene Ireland Bulls - spring 2008				Ancestry based genetic evaluation		
AI CODE	ANIMAL NAME	HOL	OWNER CODE	EBI €	MILK €	FERT €
AWA	AGHAWADDA EMANUEL	91%	NCBC	147.9	38.6	85.6
BUJ	BALLYLUCK BENJI 528	94%	NCBC	162.0	74.5	55.1
DJK	DIRREECARTEN JACKSON	97%	NCBC	116.3	81.2	29.0
DXR	DERRYCOOLE CAMS	56%	NCBC	132.2	64.0	59.1
DZB	DROMARTIN BEAMER	97%	NCBC	125.3	56.5	53.7
DZG	BALLYBRIDE DANGLE PIPER	69%	NCBC	149.9	79.6	59.1
DZI	HIGHMOUNT DAIRE	91%	NCBC	164.7	68.9	61.8
DZO	DONEEN MARLEEN MASCOL	100%	NCBC	136.3	76.1	38.1
EZT	LAURAGH ESTER KAIAPOI	63%	NCBC	137.0	59.8	71.7
GGO	GRANAGOLEEN KEET	88%	NCBC	138.9	67.9	46.3
GMO	CASTLEGALE MONDO	88%	NCBC	121.2	49.3	66.3
GZL	BALLYDEHOB GLEN 681	44%	NCBC	128.3	32.3	63.4
KIF	KILCOLMAN FLAIR	88%	NCBC	134.3	56.0	68.0
KJI	KILLGOREY BENJAMIN	88%	NCBC	160.2	65.7	63.3
KJZ	KILLINGLEY SJOERD CLASS	69%	ABS	134.0	106.8	19.4
KMA	KNOCKSOUNA MARS	88%	NCBC	135.4	59.0	63.8
KUI	KNOCKSOUNA MARTIN	78%	NCBC	116.5	60.1	37.3
KYF	KEALFINCHEON ROYCE	81%	NCBC	174.2	65.9	77.5
LHC	LAURAGH HORACE	69%	NCBC	142.9	63.1	62.2
LZD	LAURAGH DANE	38%	NCBC	162.5	91.1	52.3
LZO	LEANAMORE OMAN	94%	NCBC	192.8	104.0	49.9
MEV	CARRACOUGH MERV	100%	NCBC	196.0	93.4	64.8
MUY	MOYIDDY RUSTY	94%	NCBC	154.4	62.0	62.4
MYK	MEENASCORTHY KENWAY	84%	NCBC	141.4	96.0	31.5
MZY	MEENASCORTHY STAR	78%	NCBC	153.8	82.5	51.1
NBU	CNOCEEN BUNT RUUD	94%	NCBC	160.6	61.0	64.4
NXU	DRUMGURRA NED	91%	NCBC	150.4	70.5	65.1
NYB	BALLYDEHOB ALBYN 687	47%	NCBC	126.5	19.9	89.7
OWN	BOSNETSTOWN MASCOL	97%	NCBC	127.3	80.3	20.9
PKK	PARKDUV MARK	97%	NCBC	156.7	74.8	39.5
QWA	QUINNVIEW BARRY 241	100%	NCBC	139.8	49.4	61.5
RGW	RINGOWNEY LARRY 533	97%	NCBC	121.9	52.4	39.9
RXL	CAPPAUNIAC RALEIGH	91%	NCBC	136.5	53.4	52.2
RXR	MONAMORE ROMERO ET	100%	NCBC	161.4	75.1	54.1
RXU	RAHEENVAREN RUUD 808	91%	NCBC	161.0	66.1	61.6
RZA	ROSE ADAM	91%	NCBC	157.2	63.5	58.2
RZE	RINGOWNEY SIETSKE	88%	NCBC	132.4	50.5	59.7
SKI	SPARTA KINDER	94%	NCBC	121.9	94.0	17.4
SPH	SPARTA HARLEY	44%	NCBC	137.5	35.3	84.9
SVY	SLIEVERUE BAWNEY	59%	NCBC	119.2	70.0	46.1
SXR	CAPPAUNIAC STERLING	91%	NCBC	128.2	75.4	34.0
SZU	STAMULLEN D RUUD 1141	81%	NCBC	152.9	47.1	68.1
TPU	TORDUFF SPOCK 1	88%	NCBC	129.5	75.0	38.8
TXI	CARRACOUGH TISABRI	94%	ABS	193.9	97.4	62.8
USJ	UACHTARLANN SJOERD	91%	NCBC	118.0	90.4	22.8
VEW	MOATVIEW S BARTHO	88%	NCBC	135.0	76.3	44.9
VIP	VIADUCTVIEW SNAPPER	88%	NCBC	120.5	51.1	56.8
VLA	CORRINVILLE BRENDAN 658	72%	NCBC	172.6	62.2	79.3
WAI	MILLTOWN ARNIE	91%	NCBC	146.2	58.8	79.8
WSU	BOWENSCROSS SUPER	69%	NCBC	138.4	72.0	40.4
YBO	SCALKILL BOBBY	91%	NCBC	136.6	56.8	73.0
YBS	BALLYBRIDE SAND	72%	NCBC	140.1	74.3	64.9
ANY	DOVEA ANDY	FR	DOVEA			
BZK	BLACKISLE MAGNETIC	FR	NCBC	55.6	-22.7	58.6
CZF	CATLANE SPITFIRE	FR	NCBC	93.8	-17.1	92.2
CZI	CATLANE MISSILE	FR	NCBC	46.6	-19.7	61.8
HMZ	DOVEA HERMES	FR	DOVEA			
HZP	DOVEA DYNAMO	FR	DOVEA	33.8	-11.0	40.5
KJY	KIRKBY JAYSON	FR	DOVEA	89.8	-11.2	84.5
NZB	DOVEA NORBERT 115	FR	DOVEA	18.2	1.8	10.2
RHS	RAHEENARRAN MEB SOCHAR	FR	NCBC	114.3	7.2	91.1
RVJ	RAHEENARRAN BCG SOCHAR	FR	DOVEA	134.2	5.2	101.4
TZU	CATLANE CARACTACUS	FR	NCBC	101.6	-9.1	92.2
VIA	DOVEA MICHAEL	FR	DOVEA			
VLN	DOVEA ERMELO	FR	DOVEA			
RVM	MARVIST	RB	EUROGENE			67.3
KZI	KNOCKROUR HGZ VIKING	NR	NCBC	82.0	8.4	57.5
TUY	TEERGAY ULSAKER LILY	NR	NCBC	97.9	20.6	53.6
FVE	BALLYHOOLY FOREVER NOEL	JER	NCBC	78.3	45.8	63.2
HZK	HILLCAP ZIK	JER	NCBC	42.4	-4.2	72.2
EUW	EUROGENE KIWI	JE/HO X	EUROGENE	100.3	67.4	34.5