



UPDATE – for period 27th October – 2nd November 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Friday November 23rd**. Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting. Moorepark
- ✚ **Wednesday November 28th**. G-€N€IR€LAND farmer meeting. Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **Thursday November 29th**. ICBF Board Meeting. Portlaoise.

2 Tully

- ✚ Health testing letters were sent out to breeders on the 1-11-07. All health testing will be carried out before the 7-11-07 and bulls will enter pre entry isolation from the 23-11-07.
- ✚ The power washing and disinfection of the pre entry isolation units is near completion.
- ✚ The vehicle disinfection bath will be finished on the 5-11-07.
- ✚ The following photos show some of the modifications that have been made at Tully to improve bio-security.



Wheel disinfectant bath to be built at Tully entrance. Edges cut but not yet excavated.



Feed bins moved nearer entrance, behind new security fence. Bin filling occurs without the feed truck entering the secure centre.



Holding pen under construction at road end of bull entrance/exit.



New vehicle turning and stock unloading area. Bulls go into or come out of holding pen for unloading or loading.



Relocated feed bins behind new security fence.



New bull entrance & exit behind hedge enabling bulls to move into and out of the secure centre without coming near to existing stock.

3 FBD Trust

This week I met with the Board of the FBD Trust who confirmed their sponsorship for a number of awards to breeders who, by adopting best practise in cattle breeding, have made special contributions to the genetic improvement of Irish cattle. These include awards to:

- ✚ Suckler herds signing up to HerdPlus[®] beef,
- ✚ Breeders with bulls entering the G-€N-€I-R-€L-A-N-D[®] performance test at Tully,
- ✚ Breeders of the top bulls graduating from the 2005 G-€N-€I-R-€L-A-N-D[®] dairy progeny test.
- ✚ Breeders of the dairy bulls entering the 2008 G-€N-€I-R-€L-A-N-D[®] dairy progeny test.

The support that the FBD Trust provides for the cattle breeding initiatives of ICBF and the wider industry is greatly appreciated.



4 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

- ✚ Work continues on improvements to the genetic evaluations used for the EBI. Current work is focusing on calving performance, across breed, type and calving interval.
- ✚ These improvements will be discussed at the next dairy industry meeting.
- ✚ Staff attended a Macra Rally held on the dairy farm of the McEniry brothers near New Inn in Tipperary.



Beef

- # Work continues on development of the across breed evaluation for beef linear type. A further update will be available next week.
- # Work is currently underway to obtain more historic on-farm weaning weights for the genetic evaluations. Contact has been made with all the Teagasc research centers and Agricultural colleges who have a suckler herd to explore the possibility of obtaining records of weightings.
- # These herds are all commercial crossbred sucklers which should give valuable information for the across breed evaluation.

5 GENEIRLAND

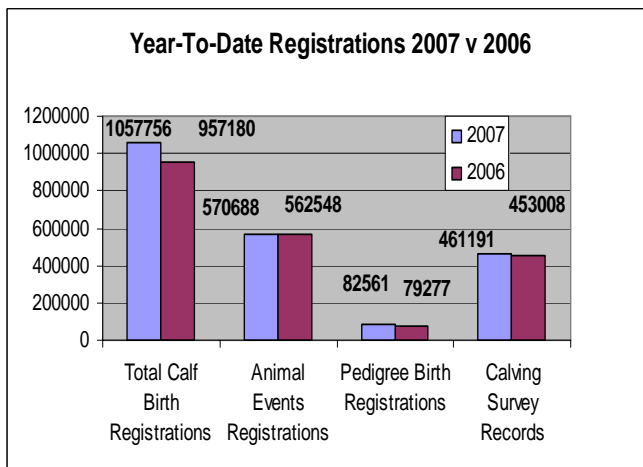
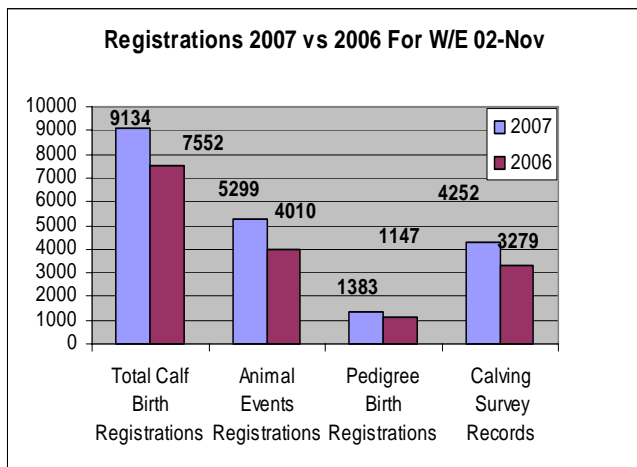
DAIRY AUTUMN 2007

- # There are now 104 herds signed up, taking a total of 3,836 straws.
- # A further 24 herds had their straws packed and dispatched during the week.

BEEF AUTUMN 2007

- # Some 77 herds have now signed up to the Autumn Beef programme. This is a 50% increase over the spring programme.
- # Total straws dispatched to date is 1,719.
- # Some bulls have almost reached their requirement of 700 doses dispatched. Consequently, we are now starting to look at the next group of bulls that will be coming onto the programme.

6 Database Update



- # 356,387 inseminations have been received from AI Handhelds so far in 2007, compared with 157,342 in 2006 for the same period.
- # Progress continues on the redesign of the Animal Events file processing which will be completed over the coming months.
- # Preparations are continuing in order to be ready for the commencement of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme, which will have a significant impact in terms of data volumes coming into the database, with Animal Events being the means of data recording.
- # Work is continuing on the Sire Advice module for the new season.



- ✦ The implementation of the new hardware solution and database upgrade is on-going. This week saw the beginning of testing of the Milk Recording functionality.

7 HerdPlus

- ✦ The updated Euro-Star report was sent to 3,700 commercial farmers who used animal events in the last 12 months.
- ✦ We sent 547 Breeding Charts to the Autumn calving members during the week. The Autumn Active Bull list was also included.
- ✦ Work has continued on enhancements to the HerdPlus web site.

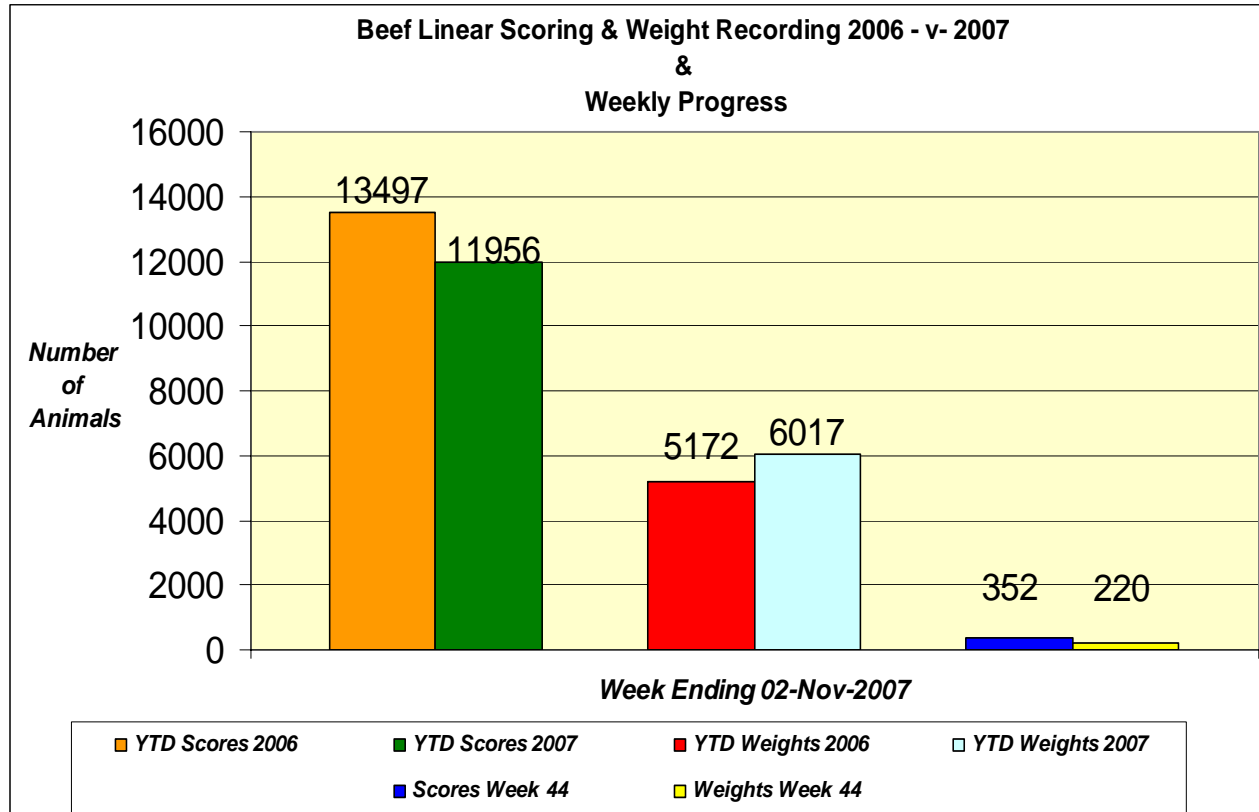
8 Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 02/11/07						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 02/11/07	No. EDIY Herds YTD 02/11/07	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 02/11/07	No. EDIY Cows YTD 02/11/07	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,135	668	31%	167,661	51,118	30%
Dairygold	1,591	554	35%	111,610	40,341	36%
Kerry	1,033	70	7%	71,788	5,688	8%
SWS	932	109	12%	60,806	7,101	12%
Tipperary	170	71	42%	12,299	5,244	43%
Arrabawn	168	127	76%	12,060	9,142	76%
Connacht	154	68	44%	10,105	4,303	43%
Donegal	43	43	100%	3,901	3,901	100%
Total	6,226	1,710	27%	450,230	126,838	28%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 02/11/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 02/11/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 02/11/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	150,736	157,957	167,661	5.8%
Dairygold	97,922	103,640	111,610	7.1%
Kerry	67,265	70,194	71,788	2.2%
SWS	54,968	59,623	60,806	1.9%
Tipperary	9,368	11,824	12,299	3.9%
Arrabawn	7,160	11,079	12,060	8.1%
Connacht	7,385	9,240	10,105	8.6%
Donegal	4,190	5,271	3,901	-35.1%
Total	398,994	428,828	450,230	4.8%



9 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



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.