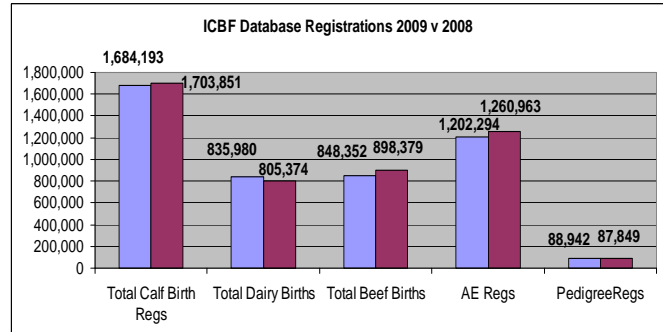
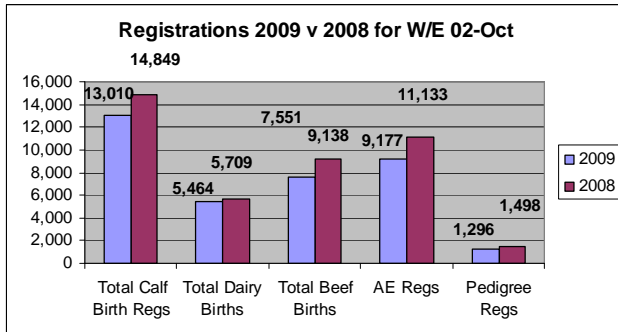


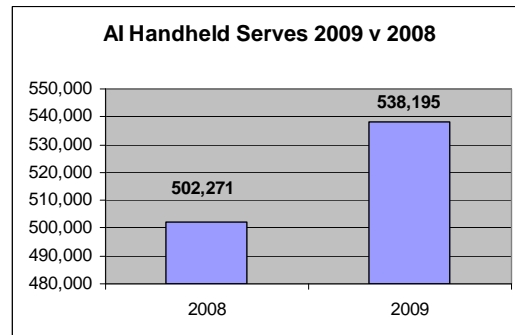
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Tully Open Day – Saturday 10th October**, Tully, Co. Kildare.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Dairy Conference – Thursday 29th October**, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **ICBF & Sheep Ireland Board Meetings – Thursday 22nd October**, Portlaoise.

2. Database



- ✚ All suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 have now received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 316,000, with the number of animals weaned at 47,000.
- ✚ The new Milk Recording system went live this week in Tipperary Coop. Further users will go live in PG next week. Munster will go live the following week.
- ✚ The final developments which will allow the Herdbook users to fully migrate to a web-based solution are being completed. We will begin removing users from the wide area network (WAN) next week.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, overall inseminations for the season will be down.



3. Tully

- ✚ Bulls were scanned this for eye muscle (3rd lumber vertebra) and fat depth (3rd lumbar vertebra and 13th rib) this week. Bulls were washed after scanning in order to remove any external oil which is used in the process. The oil is poured on the animal's coat and helps remove any air pockets in the hair, in order for good contact to be made between the scanner probe and the area on the animal that is being scanned. Also, scrotal circumference measurements were obtained on all bulls.
- ✚ Final test results will be sent to breeders with bulls at Tully early next week and will contain measurements which include:
 1. *Average daily gain (kg/day)*: A key indicator of growth rate, which is an important factor in all aspects of beef production.

2. *Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG)*: The ratio describing the amount of feed consumed per unit of production. It is important to identify animals that are efficient users of feed.
 3. *Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm)*: These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield.
 4. *Scrotal circumference (cm)*: Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality. It also has a favourable relationship with female fertility in daughters produced.
- ✚ All breeders that have bulls, which have met the initial criteria for the next Tully intake, have received an application form.
 - ✚ Preparations are ongoing for the upcoming Tully GENÉIRÉLAND Open Day, with facilities and grounds being prepared at present. Also, information that will be displayed on the day is being put together and sent for print.
 - ✚ A feature on the Open Day will be in next weeks Irish Farmers Journal, with advertisements running in IFJ, Farming Independent and Ulster farmer, prior to the event.
 - ✚ Bulls purchased by AI companies, from the current intake are to be photographed this Saturday, with photo's displayed along with relevant information on the bull at the Open Day.



The Tully Team (left to right): Stephen Conroy, Brendan O'Shea, Paul Kilcullen, Pat Flood, Niall Kilrane and some of the bulls that will be part of the Open Day on Saturday 10th October from 10:30 to 15:00.

4. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 02/10/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 02/10/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 02/10/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 02/10/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 02/10/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,073	845	41%	176,208	71,576	41%
Dairygold	1,507	566	38%	116,543	45,983	39%
Kerry	890	66	7%	62,307	4,240	7%
SWS	857	114	13%	61,565	8,903	14%
Tipperary	137	55	40%	11,034	4,910	44%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,848	10,094	85%
Connacht	140	49	35%	9,457	3,306	35%
Donegal	33	33	100%	3,916	3,916	100%
Total	5,778	1,844	32%	452,878	152,928	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 02/10/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 02/10/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	180,251	176,208	-2.3%
Dairygold	125,005	116,543	-7.3%
Kerry	78,920	62,307	-26.7%
SWS	61,576	61,565	0.0%
Tipperary	12,982	11,034	-17.7%
Arrabawn	12,797	11,848	-8.0%
Connacht	10,405	9,457	-10.0%
Donegal	4,781	3,916	-22.1%
Total	486,717	452,878	-7.5%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 22/09/09 to 02/10/09.								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	7	462	66	16.1	4.10	3.76	1.27	290
CAVAN	27	1,458	54	19.2	3.96	3.63	1.46	441
CLARE	28	1,308	47	17.9	4.04	3.67	1.38	287
CORK STH	220	13,394	61	16.3	4.18	3.80	1.30	305
CORK NTH	238	17,038	72	17.0	4.26	3.81	1.37	310
DONEGAL	19	1,876	99	15.9	4.32	3.71	1.28	342
DUBLIN	4	148	37	19.9	3.74	3.65	1.47	423
GALWAY	13	718	55	21.7	3.90	3.48	1.60	319
KERRY	134	7,942	59	17.1	4.06	3.68	1.32	386
KILDARE	17	1,164	68	21.3	3.96	3.61	1.61	304

KILKENNY	44	3,149	72	15.5	4.28	3.86	1.26	300
LAOIS	27	1,533	57	16.2	4.31	3.78	1.31	393
LEITRIM	5	194	39	22.7	4.10	3.60	1.75	208
LIMERICK	93	6,534	70	17.6	3.93	3.68	1.34	363
LONGFORD	7	258	37	17.1	4.36	3.71	1.38	399
LOUTH	17	1,207	71	18.5	4.05	3.74	1.44	407
MAYO	11	540	49	21.3	3.46	3.71	1.53	409
MEATH	52	3,563	69	19.2	3.75	3.58	1.41	393
MONAGHAN	16	778	49	19.7	3.98	3.56	1.49	508
OFFALY	11	625	57	19.9	4.03	3.67	1.53	377
ROSCOMMON	2	156	78	18.6	4.21	3.61	1.45	363
SLIGO	6	187	31	16.5	3.50	3.47	1.15	544
TIPPERARY NTH	34	2,618	77	15.3	4.34	3.75	1.24	357
TIPPERARY STH	63	4,454	71	15.3	4.23	3.77	1.22	347
WATERFORD	47	4,271	91	15.5	4.60	3.96	1.33	296
WESTMEATH	12	840	70	17.3	4.09	3.70	1.35	319
WEXFORD	51	3,288	64	17.5	4.07	3.74	1.37	305
WICKLOW E	13	867	67	16.1	3.54	3.62	1.15	316
WICKLOW W	13	911	70	19.2	4.53	3.58	1.56	546
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,231	81,481	62	18.0	4.06	3.69	1.39	364

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 22/09/09 to 02/10/09.

Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	857	57,559	67	16.5	4.21	3.77	1.32	331
Leinster	275	18,015	66	18.0	4.06	3.69	1.39	367
Connacht	37	1,795	49	20.2	3.83	3.57	1.49	369
Ulster	62	4,112	66	18.3	4.09	3.63	1.41	430

5. Genetic Evaluations - ICBF Beef Breeding Consultation Meeting – Key Outcomes (Andrew Cromie)

- ✚ An ICBF Beef Breeding Consultation Meeting was held on Thursday 1st October 2009, in the Abbyleix Manor Hotel. Key outcomes from the meeting were as follows;
- ✚ **New Across Breed Linears.** That ICBF would make official new across breed evaluations for linear type traits. These would replace existing within-breed BLUP's for Limousin, Charolais and Simmental. The new across breed BLUP's would include linear's for 13 individual traits, as well as 2 existing composite traits. Additional work will be carried out on a new functionality composite (in consultation with herdbooks). Following feedback from the meeting, it is now proposed that the new beef linears would be run every 4 weeks, to ensure availability of accurate data for sales. The new proofs will be available for all animals (AI sires, stock bulls, young bulls and females) and will become official, at the same time as the launch of the new herdbook catalogue page (see point 3 below).

- ✚ **New Docility Proofs.** That ICBF would make official new docility proofs, based on data recorded by farmers (through the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme) and data recorded by linear scorers. In terms of publication of these proofs, it was agreed that some additional work should be undertaken to confirm the accuracy of the across breed proofs. This work has now been completed (see below summary of this work from Dr. Ross Evans) with this update. Based on this work we recommend proceeding with publication of these new across breed proofs for all animals (AI sires, stock bulls, young bulls and females). Furthermore we recommend that these proofs be presented in their original scale as recorded by farmers through the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme. (Please refer to the New Herdbook Catalogue for an overview of how this data would be presented). Again we would anticipate making these proofs official at the same time as the launch of the new herdbook catalogue.
- ✚ **New Herdbook Catalogue.** After much deliberation, a new herdbook catalogue format has been agreed. We would particularly like to thank everyone for their feedback in the design of this template. The new catalogue template is attached with this update. In addition, it was agreed that herdbooks would have a menu option around this catalogue. This would allow them select particular sections of the template depending on their particular requirement. Any final comments on the catalogue should be forwarded to Andrew Cromie. It is proposed that the new catalogue format would be available in the coming weeks. An exact time-line will be given in next weeks update.
- ✚ **Correction for preferential treatment & mating.** Concern was expressed as to the large impact possible preferential mating and treatment was having on the proofs of some animals. Although difficult to quantify, it was agreed that ICBF would undertake a review of how it currently handles both preferential treatment (e.g., show calves) and preferential mating (e.g., ET calves and semen from imported AI sires) in our beef evaluations and beef breeding programs. The outcome of this work would then be presented at the next ICBF beef industry meeting, with a view to making improvements for future evaluations.
- ✚ **Linear Scoring.** To help promote linear scoring and weight recording, it was suggested that ICBF should design a new scheduling report for herd-owners. This report would recommend dates for linear score visits, based on the profile of the herd (i.e., numbers of animals, season of birth, combination of breeds etc). This work would be undertaken as part of ongoing developments in the GROW service.
- ✚ **Genetic Evaluation Schedule.** ICBF would make available a schedule of key dates for the beef industry. This would include key dates for; (i) extraction of data, and (ii) publication of proofs, for all animals.
- ✚ **GENÉIRELAND Breeding Advisory Meeting.** It was agreed that ICBF should commence engagement with all key stakeholders regarding the establishment of a GENÉIRELAND breeding advisory group for the industry. It was also agreed that the current Tully structures and ICBF consultation meetings should remain in place, until such times as this new stakeholder group was firmly established.
- ✚ This was an important meeting in the context of ongoing developments in ICBF's beef evaluation system, with many issues discussed and agreed on the day. We would like to thank everyone for their active participation in the meeting, and in the weeks leading up to the meeting. A copy of all presentations from the meeting are now posted on the website under the publications sections.
- ✚ **New docility evaluations (Ross Evans)**

The table attached shows the average genetic merit for docility for each of the breeds (based on all pedigree animals in each breed). Also included is information on the breeds in the evaluation for both the animal welfare farmer scored docility and the linear scored docility. Key information includes numbers of records for each of the traits for both pedigree and commercial, average docility scores by breed, percentage of poor scores recorded by breed (poor scores were classified as scores of 4 or 5 for the Animal Welfare scores and scores of 4 or less for the linear score records).

Factoring into account the level of records available, the average score for the breed and the percentage of poor scores recorded for the breed for both forms of docility the ranking of the breeds for pd docility coming from the evaluation appears consistent with the data going into the evaluation. These rankings may change over time with new data particularly for breeds with smaller levels of records available. At the moment the rankings are a reflection of the qualifying data to date.

The graph shows the average genetic merit for docility but also the top 5% and bottom 5% for the each of breeds. It clearly shows that there is substantial variation for docility in each of the breeds and improving docility is therefore possible in each of the breeds

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Lot 52 Hollyoak Watson

Breed: Blonde d'Aquitaine

IE211088670230

DOB: 01-Oct-2005

Male

Owner: Farmer 1

Sire: Fallou (FLL) BA8177132385 SBV = €120 (40%)	Nestor SBV = €97 (60%)	Etain Gaufrette
	Tigresse SBV = €43 (23%)	Iguskia Leontine
Dam: Stonehouse Sabrina VHB396585 SBV = €80 (40%)	Whistley-Dollar SBV = €97 (60%)	Abricot Wharfedale Uberta
	Newcastle Leah SBV = €45 (22%)	Kilboy Frank Abbey Triona

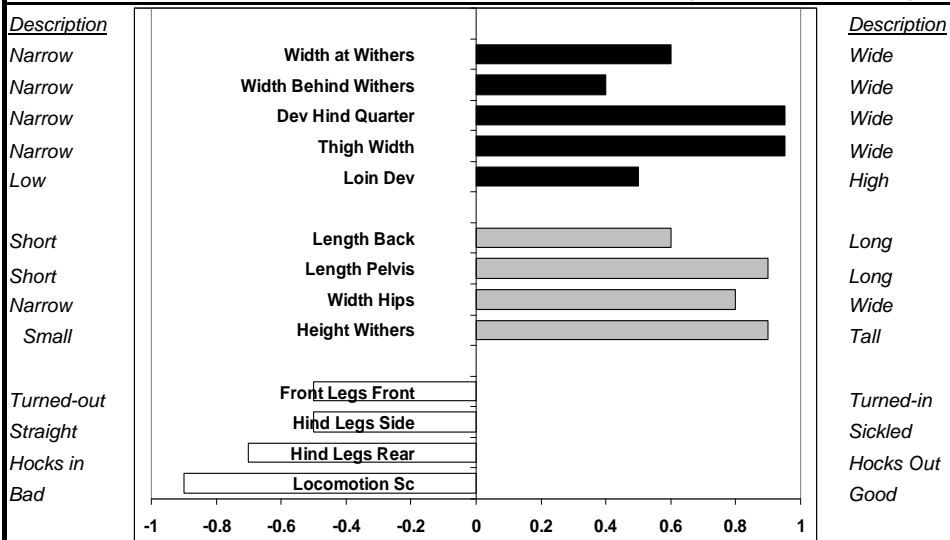
€uro-Star Indexes

% Rank	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability	Reliability Comment
81%	★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€108	37%	Medium
90%	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€30	41%	Medium
88%	★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€58	42%	Medium
50%	★★★	Daughter Fertility	€140	6%	Low
57%	★★★	Daughter Milk	€20	6%	Low

Other Key Traits

80%	Calving Difficulty (% 3 or 4)	6%	Easy-calving	46%	High
67%	Gestation Length (Days)	3 days	Short gestation	46%	High
56%	Docility (1-5 score)	0.3	Very Good	47%	High

Linear Score - Individual Traits (Within-Breed)

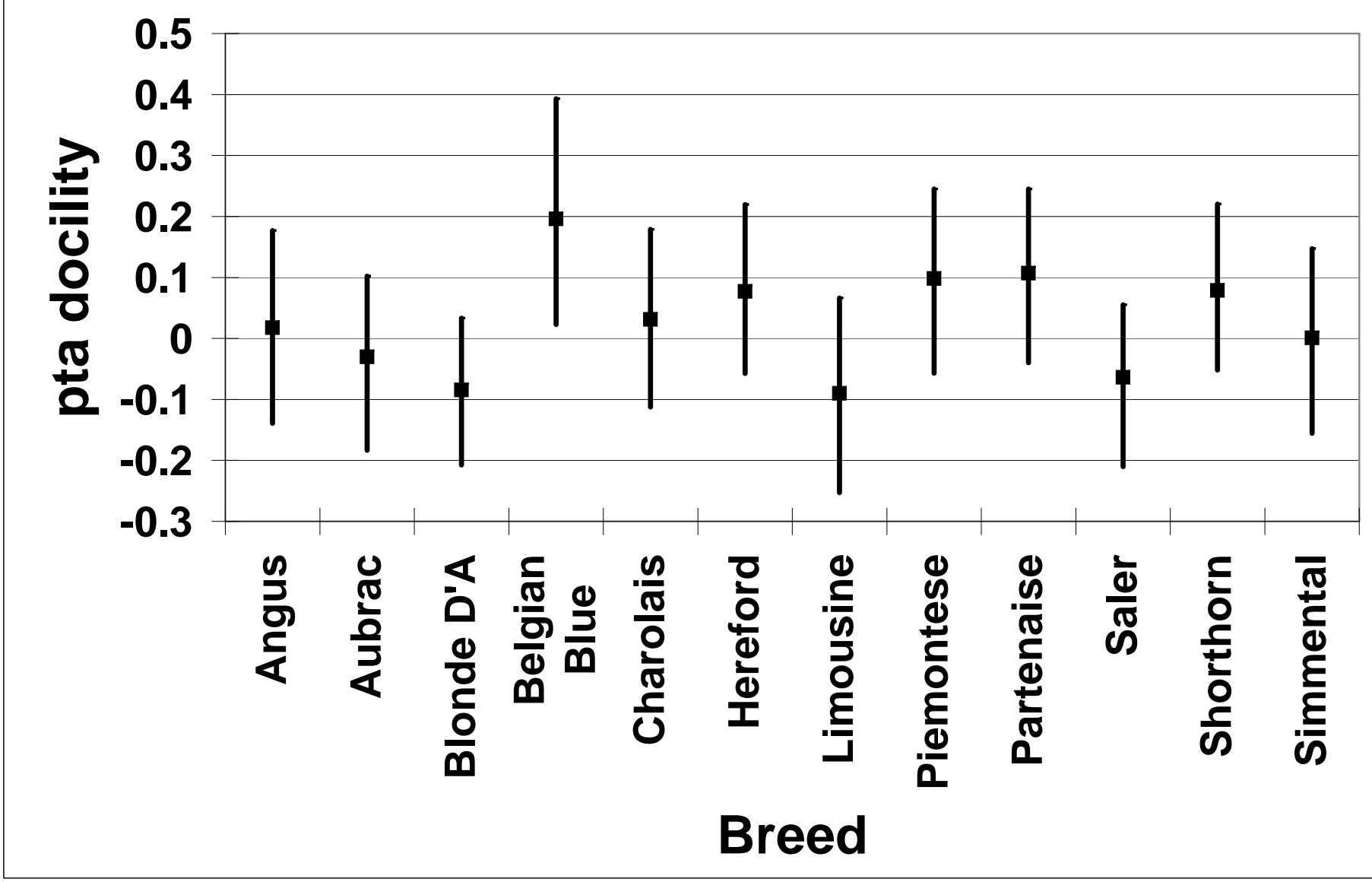


BLUP Composites (Within Breed)

Composite	Rank
Muscle	110 85%
Skeletal	115 87%
Functionality	110 77%

Comments

Bull is full brother to Hollyoak Wendy. Champion female at Society Premier Show & Sale, Tullamore, August 2008. Sold for €2,700 at sale.



Breed averages for docility pta, Bottom 5% and Top 5%, and additional information on phenotypic averages in the combined animal welfare and linear score evaluation

Breed	Total animals with data	Average pd FARM Score (pedigree animals)	Btm 5% pd FARM Score	Top 5% pd FARM Score	Animals with FARM score	Average FARM score	% of FARM scores scored poor (4 or 5)	Pedigree Animals with FARM score	Average FARM score on pedigrees	% of FARM scores on pedigrees scored poor (4 or 5)	Crossbred Animals with FARM score	Average FARM score on crossbred animals	% of FARM scores on crossbreds scored poor (4 or 5)	Animals with Linear docility score	Average LINEAR docility score	% of LINEAR scores scored poor (less than 5)	Pedigree Animals with Linear docility score	Average LINEAR score on pedigrees	% of LINEAR scores on pedigrees scored poor (less than 5)	Crossbred Animals with Linear docility score	Average LINEAR score on crossbred animals	% of LINEAR scores on commercial s scored poor (less than 5)
BB	8,722	0.20	0.02	0.39	6,092	2.2	4.9%	21	1.8	14.3%	6,071	2.2	4.9%	2,630	7.6	1.3%	248	8	0.0%	2,382	7.5	1.4%
PT	435	0.11	-0.04	0.25	212	2.3	3.3%	7	2.1	14.3%	205	2.3	2.9%	223	7.9	0.9%	142	8	1.4%	81	7.6	0.0%
PI	470	0.10	-0.06	0.25	255	2.5	5.9%	4	2.3	0.0%	251	2.5	6.0%	215	7.1	1.9%	175	7.3	2.3%	40	6.6	0.0%
SH	1,008	0.08	-0.05	0.22	747	2.3	5.9%	89	1.7	0.0%	658	2.4	6.7%	261	7.9	0.0%	129	8	0.0%	132	7.8	0.0%
HE	4,203	0.08	-0.06	0.22	2,111	2.4	6.8%	320	2.1	5.0%	1,791	2.5	7.1%	2,092	7.9	0.3%	1,932	8	0.3%	160	7.5	0.6%
CH	48,461	0.03	-0.11	0.18	31,752	2.5	7.2%	1,066	2.2	5.0%	30,686	2.5	7.3%	16,709	7.5	1.1%	11,691	7.6	1.0%	5,018	7.2	1.4%
AA	6,983	0.02	-0.14	0.18	5,274	2.5	7.4%	427	2.3	4.4%	4,847	2.5	7.7%	1,709	7.3	1.6%	1,055	7.5	1.4%	654	7	1.8%
SI	12,270	0.00	-0.16	0.15	5,999	2.4	7.9%	396	2.4	5.8%	5,603	2.4	8.0%	6,271	7.4	1.7%	4,659	7.6	1.6%	1,612	7.1	2.0%
AU	1,134	-0.03	-0.18	0.10	358	2.3	4.2%	88	2.1	4.5%	270	2.4	4.1%	776	7.4	1.9%	676	7.4	1.6%	100	7.2	4.0%
SA	1,891	-0.06	-0.21	0.06	1,120	2.6	8.7%	44	2.3	4.5%	1,076	2.6	8.8%	771	7.5	1.4%	675	7.5	1.3%	96	7.3	2.1%
BA	2,144	-0.08	-0.21	0.03	1,325	2.5	8.7%	40	2	2.5%	1,285	2.5	8.9%	819	7.3	0.2%	394	7.6	0.3%	425	7	0.2%
LM	60,230	-0.09	-0.25	0.07	24,496	2.6	10.0%	790	2.3	5.2%	23,706	2.6	10.2%	35,734	7.1	1.7%	30,227	7.2	1.4%	5,507	6.9	3.5%