

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Wednesday 8th December, Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown. See agenda below.
- ✚ **Dairy Farmer - GENIRELAND[®] & Herd Plus[®] - Conference** – Thursday 9th December, 10:30 to 14:00 – Corrin Mart, Fermoy.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th January, 10:30 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th January, 14:00 to 16:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Weather Disruption

The cold spell this week has disrupted a number of our activities including:

- ✚ ICBF & Sheep Ireland Board meetings were cancelled and the next meetings will be those scheduled for 27th January.
- ✚ Judging of Discussion Group Competition. A revised plan has been adopted and awards will now be made in January 2011.

3 OptiMIR

Our funding application jointly with Teagasc and partners in the UK, Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg has been successful. Details of our proposal can be found on the OptiMIR website (www.optimir.eu). The project budget is some €7.4 million with 50% funded by Interreg. We will be meeting as a project team on 13th and 14th of December to plan the next stages.

This project has considerable potential to improve the quality and scope of information available to dairy farmers and their advisors. It seeks to exploit MIR (mid infra-red) technology in milk testing to extract extra information, over and above the traditional fat protein and lactose, as part of milk recording services. By working in a multi-country collaboration we will gain access to resources beyond the capability of any one country.

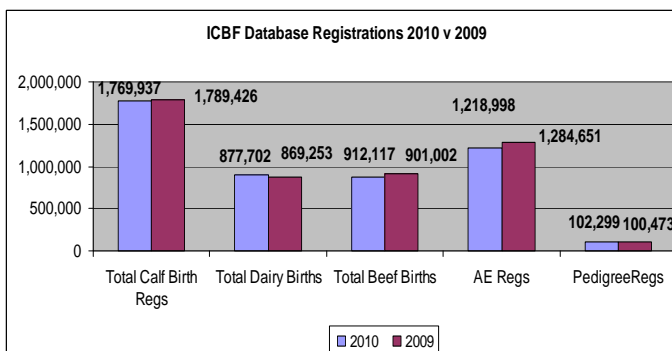
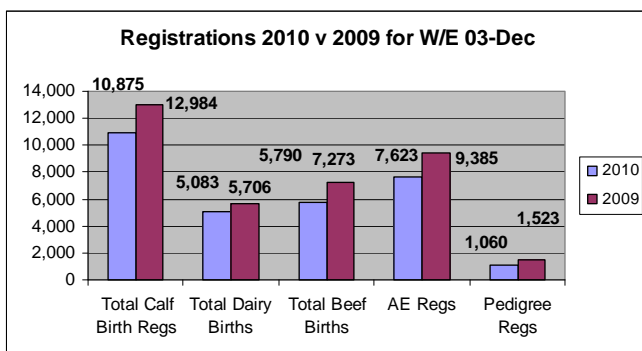
4 Breeding Consultation

The next breeding consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th December at the Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown. The meeting agenda is:

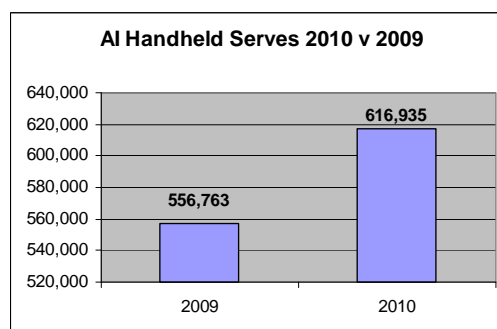
Time	Agenda Item	Background Material
11:00	Tea & Coffee on arrival.	
11:30	Genomic Programs for Dairy Cattle in Ireland – Noirin McHugh.	Copies of the reports for this meeting are on our website at: http://www.icbf.com/publications/meetings/Breeding_Consultation_081210.php .
12:00	Cost Benefit Analysis & Implications – Andrew Cromie.	
12:30	Discussion.	
13:30	Light Lunch.	
14:00 – 14:45	Further Discussion and plans for moving forward.	
15:00	Close of meeting.	

This is an open meeting. However, to facilitate catering please let me know if you plan to attend.

5 Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 500,345 with the number of animals weaned at 346,347.
- The design of a new infrastructure to manage genotypes at ICBF is entering its final stages. The development continues, and this development will be completed before Christmas.
- A new process is being designed for the reporting to breeders of sire errors on calf registrations. The building of this will begin next week. The aim is to streamline the process and make it easier for farmers to complete the process on-line.
- The design of a process to allow ET service providers to electronically record all of their work began this week. The aim is to ensure that all flushings and implantations are recorded in the ICBF database at the time of activity. There is also significant potential to remove the paperwork load that currently exists for ET providers and Herdbooks.
- Further work has taken place on the beef slaughter report this week.
- The generation of the HerdPlus packs to support the spring calving season is continuing.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



6 GENRELAND[®]

Dairy

- A further 28 herds received straws this week.
- The remainder of the herds will receive straws as soon as possible subject to availability.

Beef

- Straws are being dispatched for all available bulls.
- The Limousin bull NHL has become the 13th LM bull tested through the program.
- 292 herds have signed up, taking a total of 5,738 straws.
- Sign up packs are being sent to participating herd owners.
- To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573.
- Work is beginning on identifying bulls for the Spring program.

✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GENÉIRÉLAND section of the website.

✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	HE	LM	PT	SA	SH
CODE	MLJ	KCE	KYR	GHX	CXY	GCT	CZH	CBQ	BHU	LYJ
# STRAWS	233	291	490	557	555	68	184	129	592	10

7 Tully

✚ Blood samples taken on-farm were completed on Monday of last week, with samples received from 135 of the 170 bulls that passed on-farm inspections i.e. 79%. Lab analysis results from all but 7 herds have been received to date, with bulls from herds that have met the health testing criteria coming into pre-entry isolation at present. The bad weather has stopped a lot of breeders from delivering their bulls to Tully this week, although 30 bulls came in last Saturday. However, breeders have until Friday the 10th of December to transport their bull(s) to Tully.

✚ Once, the final bull is in isolation, a single blood sample will be obtained weekly for three weeks from all animals, and tested for IBR. These blood samples testing for IBR, help ensure that any bull that may have become infected between on-farm testing and Tully, can be identified immediately.

✚ All breeders whose bulls have passed or failed the health testing to date have been notified.

✚ There has been a low percentage (~ 15%) of bulls that did not meet the health testing criteria to get into Tully for the current intake. These herds mainly failed due to not meeting the criteria for IBR.

8 Genetic Evaluations

✚ All evaluations are currently being processed for the December release of proofs for dairy and beef traits.

✚ Testing has been completed on incorporation of additional foreign information for Muscle and Skeletal traits. Initial results for AI sires will be conveyed to the respective breed societies for feedback ahead of official release.

9 Predicted Trends in Dairy Cow Numbers

✚ Based on trends from ICBF cattle breeding database, dairy cow numbers are expected to increase by 3.2% in 2011 and then increase by a further 3.8% in 2012.

✚ There are substantial county and regional differences to these trends, with counties such as Cork and Kilkenny, expected to see increases in the order of 4-5% for the next 2 years, whilst other counties, e.g. Kerry, Cavan, Mayo and Sligo are expected to see no major increase.

✚ Click [here](http://www.icbf.com/publications/nationalstatistics.php) for link or go to <http://www.icbf.com/publications/nationalstatistics.php>.

✚ The summary for all counties, extracted from the report is attached.

10 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 23/11/10 to 03/12/10

	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	8	406	51	20.9	4.32	3.69	1.67	331
CAVAN	27	1,532	57	17.7	4.17	3.57	1.37	518
CLARE	14	750	54	14.3	4.06	3.72	1.11	306

CORK STH	195	11,772	60	18.2	4.34	3.67	1.46	312
CORK NTH	156	9,968	64	16.2	4.56	3.86	1.36	342
DONEGAL	5	383	77	13.3	4.73	3.64	1.11	351
DUBLIN								
GALWAY	19	990	52	18.8	4.39	3.55	1.49	378
KERRY	80	4,924	62	15.4	4.21	3.55	1.20	450
KILDARE	12	794	66	19.2	4.30	3.53	1.50	294
KILKENNY	20	1,399	70	17.5	4.41	3.85	1.45	387
LAOIS	17	1,235	73	19.6	4.09	3.67	1.52	551
LEITRIM	5	171	34	20.9	4.09	3.53	1.59	471
LIMERICK	76	4,901	64	16.3	4.30	3.69	1.30	386
LONGFORD	3	185	62	14.8	4.49	3.76	1.22	415
LOUTH	24	1,973	82	25.3	3.98	3.60	1.92	334
MAYO	19	921	48	19.9	3.92	3.79	1.53	295
MEATH	50	4,264	85	21.5	4.39	3.60	1.72	366
MONAGHAN	19	860	45	18.7	4.07	3.50	1.42	396
OFFALY	7	582	83	18.7	4.86	3.68	1.60	379
ROSCOMMON								
SLIGO	6	267	45	18.6	4.08	3.45	1.40	363
TIPPERARY NTH	15	1,143	76	14.7	4.53	3.93	1.24	350
TIPPERARY STH	21	1,521	72	16.4	4.30	3.83	1.33	319
WATERFORD	24	1,768	74	20.3	4.55	3.75	1.68	324
WESTMEATH	6	475	79	22.6	4.55	3.48	1.81	320
WEXFORD	37	2,383	64	17.6	4.33	3.72	1.42	355
WICKLOW E	16	1,110	69	19.7	4.05	3.54	1.50	390
WICKLOW W	17	1,589	93	23.6	3.94	3.59	1.78	387
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
National	898	58,266	65	18.5	4.30	3.66	1.47	373

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 23/11/10 to 03/12/10

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	581	36,747	63	16.5	4.36	3.75	1.34	349
Leinster	217	16,395	76	20.1	4.29	3.64	1.59	376
Connacht	49	2,349	48	19.6	4.12	3.58	1.51	377
Ulster	51	2,775	54	16.6	4.32	3.57	1.31	422

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 03/12/10

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 03/12/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 03/12/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 03/12/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 03/12/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,564	1,000	28%	279,815	85,922	31%
Progressive	2,084	816	39%	187,652	72,254	39%
Tipperary	133	57	43%	11,999	5,777	48%

Connacht	152	59	39%	10,158	3,796	37%
Total	5,933	1,932	33%	489,624	167,749	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 03/12/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 03/12/10	2010 vs. 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	257,474	279,815	8.0%
Progressive	181,370	187,652	3.3%
Tipperary	11,156	11,999	7.0%
Connacht	9,836	10,158	3.2%
Total	459,836	489,624	6.1%

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Registered Office: Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: www.sheep.ie.

Total Dairy Cows alive and calved in the last 3 years

County	Total Dairy Cows - alive & calved in the last 3 years.								
	2008	2009	%	2010	%	2011	%	2012	%
Carlow	9,436	9,621	2.0%	9,765	1.5%	10,228	4.7%	10,750	5.1%
Cavan	29,699	29,535	-0.6%	29,106	-1.5%	29,284	0.6%	29,696	1.4%
Clare	23,986	23,955	-0.1%	23,085	-3.6%	23,128	0.2%	23,244	0.5%
Cork	251,395	260,091	3.5%	265,903	2.2%	276,664	4.0%	289,557	4.7%
Donegal	10,114	10,537	4.2%	10,622	0.8%	10,966	3.2%	11,293	3.0%
Dublin	2,204	2,111	-4.2%	2,081	-1.4%	2,012	-3.3%	1,979	-1.6%
Galway	20,552	20,889	1.6%	20,399	-2.3%	20,817	2.1%	21,349	2.6%
Kerry	79,113	79,319	0.3%	77,861	-1.8%	78,214	0.5%	78,822	0.8%
Kildare	10,120	10,188	0.7%	10,223	0.3%	10,431	2.0%	10,831	3.8%
Kilkenny	49,359	51,013	3.4%	53,006	3.9%	55,916	5.5%	59,259	6.0%
Laois	24,037	25,224	4.9%	25,735	2.0%	26,767	4.0%	27,977	4.5%
Leitrim	1,821	1,775	-2.5%	1,758	-1.0%	1,772	0.8%	1,797	1.4%
Limerick	81,341	82,283	1.2%	81,388	-1.1%	82,329	1.2%	83,924	1.9%
Longford	6,479	6,443	-0.6%	6,462	0.3%	6,721	4.0%	7,058	5.0%
Louth	11,444	12,025	5.1%	12,547	4.3%	13,162	4.9%	13,933	5.9%
Mayo	11,885	11,531	-3.0%	11,174	-3.1%	11,033	-1.3%	10,967	-0.6%
Meath	36,916	38,361	3.9%	38,942	1.5%	40,756	4.7%	42,842	5.1%
Monaghan	20,825	20,819	0.0%	20,615	-1.0%	21,029	2.0%	21,629	2.9%
Offaly	18,145	18,246	0.6%	18,168	-0.4%	18,596	2.4%	19,225	3.4%
Roscommon	3,997	3,861	-3.4%	3,739	-3.2%	3,767	0.7%	3,779	0.3%
Sligo	6,337	6,228	-1.7%	5,823	-6.5%	5,693	-2.2%	5,625	-1.2%
Tipperary	98,238	102,302	4.1%	103,333	1.0%	107,560	4.1%	112,282	4.4%
Waterford	48,119	50,757	5.5%	51,679	1.8%	53,793	4.1%	56,134	4.4%
Westmeath	15,741	16,178	2.8%	16,209	0.2%	16,752	3.4%	17,425	4.0%
Wexford	43,991	45,827	4.2%	46,967	2.5%	49,708	5.8%	52,772	6.2%
Wicklow	14,042	14,612	4.1%	14,799	1.3%	15,247	3.0%	15,891	4.2%
Total	929,336	953,731	2.62%	961,389	0.80%	992,345	3.22%	1,030,038	3.80%

