



UPDATE – for period 28th January to 3rd February 2006

1 Important Dates

- **Wednesday 8th February at 2.00pm at Moorepark Conference Centre.** AI Industry Meeting with AI members, private AI organizations and other interested organisations. The purpose of this meeting is to review the results of the TEAGASC AI survey and to discuss with DAF plans for increasing the uptake of AI in 2006.
- **Saturday 18th February.** Tully Open Day 11.30am – 2.30pm. *On show will be the bulls for sale on the 4-3-06 and the 6-5-06.*
- **Saturday 4th March Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.
- **Saturday 6th May Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.

2 ICBF Herd Health Meetings for owners of high genetic index animals

- The last of the ICBF High Index High Health meetings took place this week. In total some 250 breeders attended the events, across 7 regional venues. Feedback on the meetings has been very positive with very practical advice offered regarding the control of infectious diseases at farm level. In addition, the meetings expressed strong support for the establishment of a new herd health body, which would oversee the direction of herd health control in Ireland. ICBF is playing a very active role in the establishment of this body on behalf of its members.
- In addition to discussing herd health, the meetings offered ICBF an opportunity to present the new beef indexes to key breeders. Feed-back from breeders on the new indexes was very positive, with strong support for the move towards indexes that are presented in “€” values. However, in addition it is important that ICBF and herd books provide pedigree breeders with linear type traits genetic evaluations for elite animals.

3 ICBF Board meeting 2nd February 2006

Decisions taking at yesterday’s Board meeting included:

- To welcome John Bryan and Michael Murphy as IFA nominations to the Board replacing Raymond O’Malley and Pdraig Walsh respectively.
- To actively seek mutually agreeable solutions to the on-going dispute involving the Shorthorn herd books.
- To welcome the very positive approach being taken by service providing members of ICBF to the on-going discussions on the Breeding Information Service paper.
- To extend ICBF’s financial support for Gene Ireland incentives for another year.
- Endorsement of the outcomes of the beef genetic evaluation consultation meeting held on 24th January 2006.
- Endorsement of ICBF’s submissions on the National Strategic Plan.
- Welcoming the sponsorship recently agreed with the FBD Trust. This sponsorship is spread over both beef and dairy and is focused on recognising farmers who make major contributions to cattle improvement through breeding high EBI bulls and farmers who ensure such bulls are accurately progeny tested.



4 Genetic Evaluations – Beef & Dairy

Tully

- A new beef evaluation run has been completed incorporating the latest available data from the two intakes currently in Tully. A further run will be undertaken when the October 2005 intake has completed its test and this will be the basis for the March '06 Tully sale.
- The new reliability calculation method, as described by Roel at the 24th January '06 consultation meeting has been implemented. This method is based entirely on the amount of progeny (and parentage) information available for each animal. The step involves research into the most efficient way of incorporating own performance information in the reliability. It is planned that this work will be completed in time for the evaluation run that will be the basis of the March '06 Tully bull sale.

Domestic CIS

- A new dairy CIS evaluation has been completed which will be integrated into the official February EBI run.

INTERBULL

- The relevant files have been submitted to Interbull for the routine February run.

5 International beef evaluations

- The cross reference (501) and pedigree (502) files for Charolais and Limousin have been completed. These contain over 10,600 Charolais and 7,000 Limousin exchanged between France and Ireland and is now ready to be used in the next run of the prototype international evaluation for both breeds.
- For Charolais, Thierry Pabiou has been working on the two other files needed for the international evaluation. The performance file and the fixed effects file. For a first evaluation, the performance file was limited to weaning weight; the other file contained the fixed effects used in the weaning weight model (animal, sex, age at live weight, herd-year-season and previous herd-year-season). This week, the INRA (National Institut for Agronomical Research in France) in charge of the evaluation process has received the necessary files to start the calculation with the Charolais.
- In this international collaboration, some adjustments will probably be needed. The same work will apply shortly to Limousin.

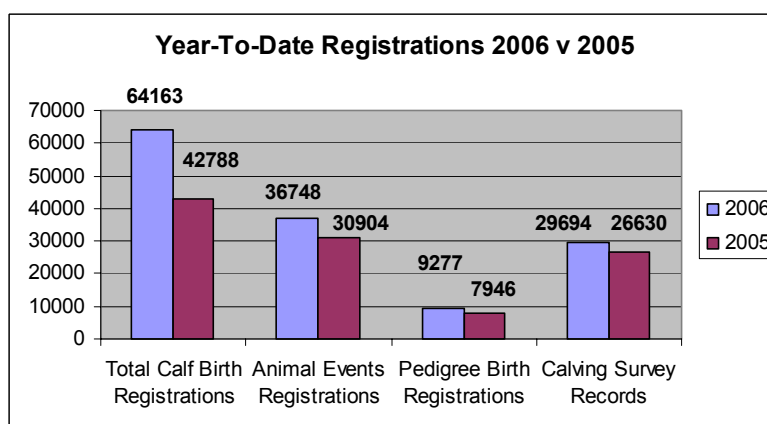
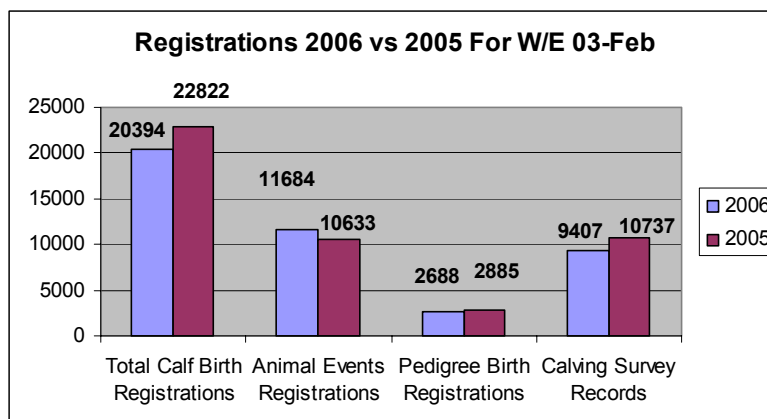
6 Tully

- Linear scoring of the bulls for the March sale will take place on the 6-2-06 and not the 31-1-06 as stated in last weeks up date. The final BLUP figures will now be in the catalogue on the ICBF web site on the 13-2-06.
- Preparations for the Open Day on the 18-2-06 are under way and will be advertised in the Farmers Journal on the 17-2-06. It will also be mentioned in the Teagasc newsletter for February.
- The final phase of construction of the sales ring has started and will be finished by the 18-2-06.
- A group of pedigree beef farmers from Scotland will visit Tully on the 4-2-06.



7 Database Update

- 550 new herds added to the database last week. This week, the majority were PG AI customers.
- The training of the AI technicians from Dairygold and Dovea continued this week. Training of call centre staff in PG took place and a schedule of training for technicians has been agreed.
- Programming of the herd-book rule changes was completed this week and will be available to the herd-books for testing next week. These changes include the issue raised in the Farmers Journal regarding herd book numbers for AI bulls, but the changes also include a number of other changes that are also required by the revised EU directive. The testing and implementation of these changes will take approximately two more weeks.



- New updates of the linear scoring handhelds are in process – this involves the updating of animals and herds as well as some reallocation of scoring areas to scorers, and this is expected to be finished next week.
- The preparation of the Beef EBI report for release was on-going this week and this will be released once the new set of proofs have been loaded over the next couple of weeks.

8 Milk Recording

Electronic DIY Milk Recording Update

- Three EDIY vans delivered this week for Progressive, SWS and Kerry cells

Weekly Processing 27/01/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 27/01/06 - 03/02/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 27/01/05 - 03/02/05
Progressive	244	231
Dairygold	46	60
Kerry	40	43
SWS	112	89
Tipperary	0	5



Connacht	18	16
Arrabawn	6	8
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	0
Total	466	452

Year to Date Stats: up to 27/1/06

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		Milk Recording Organisation	2006 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 1st-Feb 3rd
	2006 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 1st-Feb 3rd	2005 No. Herd Owners at Year End		
Progressive	1,403	2,087	Progressive	1,403
Dairygold	273	1,529	Dairygold	273
Kerry	204	1,066	Kerry	204
SWS	369	939	SWS	369
Tipperary	18	142	Tipperary	18
Connacht	86	110	Connacht	86
Arrabawn	20	109	Arrabawn	20
Others (Donegal, OAD)	2	57	Others (Donegal, OAD)	2
Total	2,375	6,039	Total	2,375

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