

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 16th July.** ICBF Board Meeting, Portlaoise. 10.30 -14.00.
- ✚ **Thursday 16th July.** Sheep Board Meeting. Potlaoise 14.30-16.00.

2. Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting – Wednesday 1st July

The meeting was well attended and dealt with two main subjects – genomics and developments.

Genomics

- ✚ ICBF is working on a number of enhancements to its genetic evaluations incorporating genomic data. These are focused on increasing the accuracy and reducing the turn-around time of the evaluations.
- ✚ ICBF is developing a genomic evaluation service for cattle breeders. The service will be available through the ICBF website to AI companies and HerdPlus[®] service users and will be launched later in 2009. Prices will be finalized nearer to launch and indications are that the cost will be less than the current estimates. The service will involve two options:
 - Genotyping and genetic evaluation** at an indicative cost of €250 (+VAT) per animal. A hair sample must be provided for each animal.
 - Genetic evaluation** based on supplied genotypes at an indicative cost of €75 (+VAT) per animal. This service is expected to be used by AI companies importing semen from other countries who have genotyped their animals already.

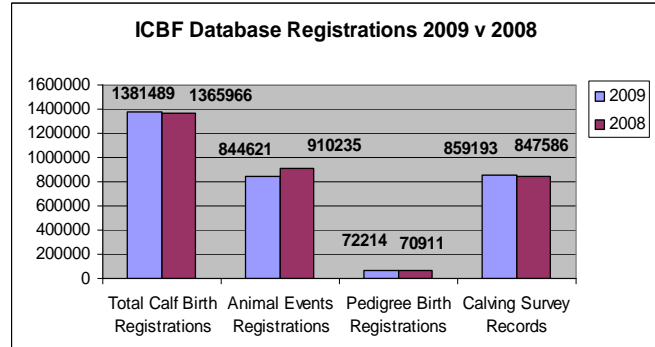
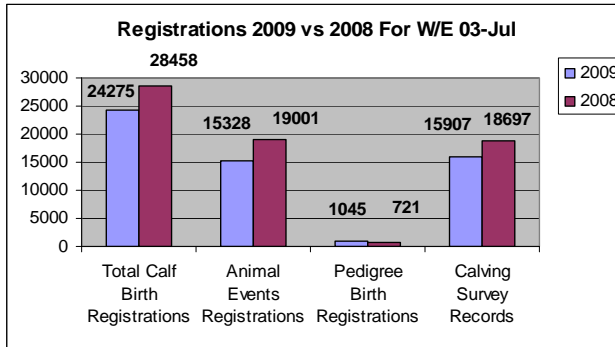
Developments in Dairy Evaluations

- ✚ Economic values in the EBI are currently being reviewed. The outcome of the review will be presented later in 2009.
- ✚ A combined (dairy and beef) evaluation for calving interval and survival is under development. It is expected that this evaluation will include insemination data as an early indicator of calving interval. Results of test runs will be presented as due course.
- ✚ TEAGASC research to improve the use of weight data in the dairy evaluations is progressing. It is expected that weight and price data available from Marts will result in a considerable improvement in both the feed conversion efficiency and beef components of the EBI. Prototype evaluations implementing this research are expected later in 2009.
- ✚ ICBF has initiated a project to develop and implement the “test-day-model” for milk production traits. Associated with this is the development of a “culling index” targeted at helping farmers more fully exploit hybrid vigor. This work is expected to take three years to complete.
- ✚ A review of the ICBF data collection system is being undertaken in an effort to improve the quality and quantity of data on mastitis, lameness, and other diseases affecting herd profitability.
- ✚ A further consultation meeting will be held in 2009 to finalise changes for introduction later in 2009.

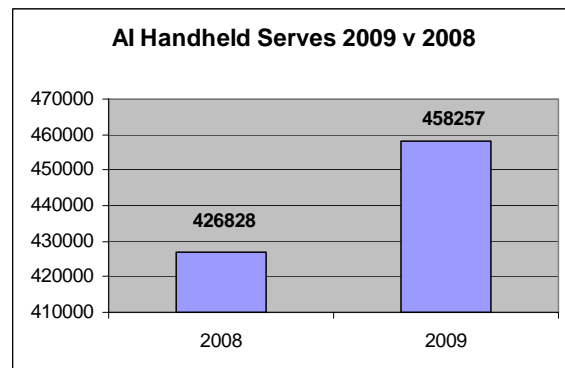
3. Genetic Evaluations – Beef Conversions

Two spreadsheets are available through the ICBF website (<http://www.icbf.com/services/evaluations/beef.php>) which will enable the user to convert French beef proofs to Irish PTA. The spreadsheets (for Charolais and Limousin) convert spring 2009 French EBV into April 2009 Irish PTA to give an estimation of the genetic merit and Euro-Star rating of a French born animal.

4. Database



- ✚ The revised 2009 suckler forms (pre and post weaning) continue to go out to farmers. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 815,000, with just over 712,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has continued this week, with Munster Milk Recording continuing to test the system. The design of a number of reporting/query screens has now been finalised, and the development of these will begin next week.
- ✚ In conjunction with the finalisation of the milk recording solution, a number of other developments are taking place that will allow the migration of all users to a completely web-based front end, and the removal of the need for the Wide Area Network.
- ✚ The above two developments will allow the movement to a new hardware infrastructure, which will have greater capacity and flexibility.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is now in the final stages of testing.
- ✚ Work on updates to the calving and final fertility reports is on-going and will be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- ✚ The design of an upgrade to the security of log-ons to the ICBF site is being finalised and will be tested over the coming two weeks.
- ✚ Design of a new on-line application for AI companies to manage their interaction with ICBF on bull codes is underway.
- ✚ 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, it looks like the overall inseminations for the season will be down.



5. Tully

- ✚ On Friday 26th of June, a group of around fifty German's visited the centre. They consisted of pedigree and commercial breeders, AI members and beef processors. They were given a talk on the Centre, ICBF'S role in beef breeding and the G-€N-€Ireland program.
- ✚ The first live-weights on all bulls were obtained on Monday of this week (Table 1). Bulls were in pre-entry isolation up to now, where they were gradually built up onto ad-lib concentrates and also had blood samples

taken weekly, testing for IBR. Live-weights will be obtained every 21 days from the initial weight, during the 90 day performance test.

Table 1. Average live-weight and Suckler Beef Value broken down by breed:

Breed	AA (n =14)	BB (n = 3)	CH (n = 7)	LM (n = 7)	PT (n =1)	SA (n = 1)	SI (n = 5)	SH (n = 1)	HE (n = 2)
Average live-weight (kg)	418	387	462	444	358	326	478	421	408
Average SBV* (€)	88	171	191	193	119	150	213	-	75

*SBV=Suckler Beef Value

- ✚ Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date.
- ✚ All bulls were washed this week with a product called Tak-Tik, which helps treat and control external parasites such as lice and mange.
- ✚ At the time of weighting, hair samples were obtained from all bulls in Tully and sent to Weatherby's Ireland in order to have parentage verified.
- ✚ All bulls were linear scored this week for muscular and skeletal traits by Karl O' Connell.

6. LambPlus



- ✚ Work on distributing the initial set of evaluation results is ongoing.
- ✚ The first results from the DNA Parentage Ram – Lamb Analysis have been received.
- ✚ The design spec for the 'Cull Ewe' DNA tags has been finalized & an order of same is being organised.
- ✚ The bulk of the Lamb Ultrasound Muscle & Fat Scanning work has been completed. Work is ongoing to match up tags that had to be hand-keyed on the day of scanning with tag numbers that were entered into the system by the Flock-Owner afterwards.
- ✚ Plans are now being made to organize for the scanning of a sample of MALP lambs for a correlation to be determined between Ultrasound measurements and corresponding carcass measurements.

7. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 23/06/09 to 03/07/09.

	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	14	1,015	73	22.5	3.75	3.38	1.60	313
CAVAN	45	2,282	51	24.2	3.70	3.23	1.68	315
CLARE	37	1,882	51	24.1	3.61	3.29	1.66	327
CORK STH	245	17,019	69	24.1	3.73	3.32	1.70	337
CORK NTH	284	20,885	74	23.8	3.75	3.39	1.70	292
DONEGAL	14	1,032	74	25.1	3.79	3.29	1.78	281
DUBLIN	4	280	70	20.1	3.97	3.42	1.49	462
GALWAY	19	1,821	96	21.9	3.99	3.33	1.60	342
KERRY	114	7,547	66	24.2	3.68	3.26	1.68	386

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KILDARE	23	1,977	86	23.8	3.61	3.37	1.66	379
KILKENNY	62	4,716	76	21.3	3.87	3.43	1.55	248
LAOIS	36	2,869	80	20.3	4.06	3.45	1.52	262
LEITRIM	5	256	51	25.7	3.81	3.25	1.81	400
LIMERICK	123	8,790	71	23.3	3.70	3.29	1.63	343
LONGFORD	8	434	54	26.0	3.98	3.33	1.90	242
LOUTH	15	1,197	80	25.2	3.74	3.36	1.79	181
MAYO	18	1,000	56	24.0	3.49	3.40	1.65	428
MEATH	66	5,833	88	23.6	3.77	3.31	1.67	313
MONAGHAN	28	1,452	52	25.0	3.82	3.25	1.77	294
OFFALY	26	1,663	64	21.6	3.84	3.32	1.55	317
ROSCOMMON	2	183	92	28.9	4.15	3.20	2.12	269
SLIGO	11	520	47	25.3	3.42	3.37	1.72	327
TIPPERARY NTH	59	4,193	71	22.4	3.86	3.45	1.64	269
TIPPERARY STH	66	5,210	79	21.1	3.84	3.41	1.53	304
WATERFORD	54	4,921	91	21.5	4.10	3.55	1.64	239
WESTMEATH	23	1,704	74	22.6	3.72	3.23	1.57	291
WEXFORD	62	4,819	78	21.7	3.57	3.49	1.53	315
WICKLOW E	18	1,342	75	23.2	3.39	3.35	1.56	275
WICKLOW W	12	1,345	112	22.6	3.62	3.36	1.58	248
	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	1,493	108,187	72	23.4	3.77	3.35	1.67	310

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 23/06/09 to 03/07/09.

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	982	70,447	72	23.1	3.77	3.37	1.65	312
Leinster	369	29,194	79	22.7	3.77	3.37	1.62	296
Connacht	55	3,780	69	25.2	3.67	3.31	1.76	353
Ulster	87	4,766	55	24.8	4.05	3.26	1.81	297

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 03/07/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 03/07/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 03/07/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 03/07/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 03/07/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,041	823	40%	166,917	66,091	40%
Dairygold	1,488	552	37%	111,460	43,070	39%
Kerry	885	65	7%	60,072	3,916	7%
SWS	854	113	13%	59,146	8,401	14%
Tipperary	133	54	41%	10,563	4,587	43%
Arrabawn	139	114	82%	11,202	9,439	84%
Connacht	129	42	33%	8,272	2,675	32%
Donegal	31	31	100%	3,386	3,386	100%
Total	5,700	1,794	31%	431,018	141,565	33%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 03/07/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 03/07/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	170,516	166,917	-2.2%
Dairygold	113,703	111,460	-2.0%
Kerry	76,213	60,072	-26.9%
SWS	59,076	59,146	0.1%
Tipperary	12,033	10,563	-13.9%
Arrabawn	12,155	11,202	-8.5%
Connacht	8,448	8,272	-2.1%
Donegal	3,368	3,386	0.5%
Total	455,512	431,018	-5.7%

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