

## 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00 to 10:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 10:30 to 13:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 14:00 to 16:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

## 2 BIF Meeting – Brian Wickham

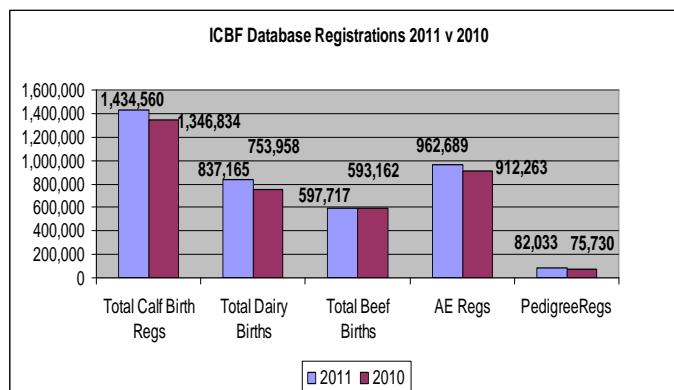
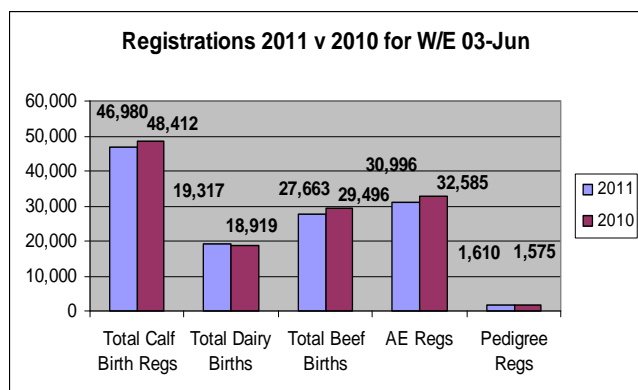
This week I have been attending the BIF (Beef Improvement Federation) Annual meeting in Bozeman, Montana as an invited speaker. These meetings bring together ranchers, seed stock producers, researchers, teachers, herd books, AI companies, extension workers and Gov't agencies from USA, and Canada with a number of other countries also being represented. This year there are some 500 people attending the three-day meeting.

A copy of my two presentations and written paper is available under the publications section of [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com).

There is a great deal of interest in the ICBF database and recent developments in Irish cattle breeding. Of particular interest is the way the Irish breeding industry shares a single database, has established a widely used across breed genetic evaluation system for beef cattle and is leading the development of international collaborations. The meeting has provided an opportunity to catch-up on developments in beef breeding in North America. Of particular interest from the first day (Thursday) of the meeting have been the following:

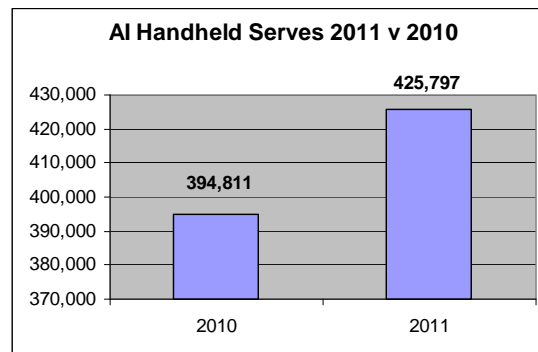
- ✚ The availability of genomic evaluations based on the 50k SNP chip for the Angus breed for a range of traits.
- ✚ Research collaboration opportunities in the development of beef genomic evaluations both within and across beef breeds.
- ✚ The widespread use of AI in the beef breeding sector which is being facilitated by synchronisation in heifers. Some 5 million AI inseminations take place annually in the USA beef herd.
- ✚ The steady decline in beef cow numbers in the USA – down to 30 million from a high of 40 million – while the output of beef has almost doubled over the same period.
- ✚ The strong focus on achieving higher growth rates while maintaining easy calving.
- ✚ A focus on breeding cattle adapted to hot climates.

## 3 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 609,912 with the number of animals weaned at 541,678.
- ✚ The fertility report batches continue to be generated as they come due.
- ✚ Weight recording forms will be distributed to all Herdplus Beef herds at the end of next week.
- ✚ Work is on-going in establishing electronic links to the commercial animal health laboratories. A meeting with the commercial labs is taking place today.
- ✚ The DEP scheme recording sheet and web screens have now been completed. DAFF will be launching the 'health recording' phase of the scheme over the coming weeks.
- ✚ A successful upgrade to the ICBF authorisations infrastructure took place last weekend.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



#### 4 Tully

- ✚ A total of 51 bulls are currently in isolation at Tully (Table 1). This is similar to the numbers that were performance tested in the 2010 spring intake.

**Table 1. Breakdown of bulls in isolation at Tully by breed**

Breed	AA	BA	BB	CH	LM	PT	SA	SI
No. of bulls	4	3	2	16	19	2	1	4

- ✚ A blood sample will be taken on all bulls early next week. These samples taken are being tested for IBR, to ensure no bull became infected during on-farm testing and entry into Tully.
- ✚ Bulls on the day of entry into isolation were given vaccinations for RSV, PI3, Pasteurella (strains of pneumonia), Blackleg and various other clostridia diseases, where it was deemed necessary. They were also treated for lice, mange, immature and mature fluke, and stomach and lung worms.
- ✚ While in isolation, bulls will be gradually built up to an ad-lib concentrate diet (the acclimatization period) in preparation for their 90 day performance test. The performance test will start on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July, when the first live-weight on all bulls will be obtained.
- ✚ Breeders who own bulls that did not meet the on-farm testing criteria have received a copy of their results and a letter with information in conjunction with Veterinary advice on the best approach to managing and eradicating disease from their herd.

#### 5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Research work continues on calving performance, fertility evaluations for dairy and beef, and test-day model for production.
- ✚ Beef linear evaluations will be available next week.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 24/05/11 to 03/06/11								
	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	12	745	62	28.8	3.77	3.32	2.04	254
CAVAN	40	2,159	54	28.8	3.79	3.28	2.04	249
CLARE	43	2,389	56	27.1	3.66	3.34	1.90	318
CORK STH	299	20,969	70	26.4	3.76	3.35	1.88	224
CORK NTH	249	19,576	79	25.7	3.79	3.40	1.85	254
DONEGAL	11	1,226	111	26.0	4.19	3.35	1.96	386
DUBLIN	1	78	78	27.0	2.83	3.38	1.68	347
GALWAY	28	1,894	68	26.3	3.89	3.28	1.89	291
KERRY	155	10,555	68	28.6	3.72	3.27	2.00	262
KILDARE	25	2,249	90	29.7	3.56	3.29	2.03	329
KILKENNY	52	4,202	81	26.7	3.69	3.36	1.88	253
LAOIS	33	2,585	78	24.9	3.61	3.34	1.73	254
LEITRIM	4	240	60	22.1	3.71	3.25	1.54	416
LIMERICK	131	10,685	82	27.8	3.66	3.32	1.94	272
LONGFORD	5	222	44	34.1	3.92	3.34	2.48	257
LOUTH	14	1,393	100	26.2	3.43	3.29	1.76	226
MAYO	26	1,460	56	30.5	3.32	3.23	2.00	238
MEATH	41	4,181	102	26.5	3.62	3.31	1.84	268
MONAGHAN	29	1,673	58	28.7	3.42	3.20	1.90	288
OFFALY	15	1,029	69	29.1	3.80	3.37	2.09	282
ROSCOMMON	3	231	77	33.2	4.20	3.28	2.48	266
SLIGO	10	510	51	29.4	3.54	3.33	2.02	239
TIPPERARY NTH	55	5,118	93	26.1	3.97	3.34	1.91	260
TIPPERARY STH	56	4,804	86	25.3	3.81	3.36	1.81	212
WATERFORD	54	4,777	88	26.1	3.86	3.39	1.89	220
WESTMEATH	12	1,049	87	25.6	3.91	3.35	1.86	197
WEXFORD	42	3,421	81	25.1	3.41	3.40	1.71	327
WICKLOW E	12	950	79	25.7	3.44	3.35	1.75	348
WICKLOW W	2	253	127	33.2	3.49	3.17	2.21	263
	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	1,459	110,623	77	27.6	3.68	3.32	1.93	276

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 24/05/11 to 03/06/11								
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	1042	78,873	76	26.6	3.78	3.35	1.90	253
Leinster	266	22,357	84	27.9	3.56	3.33	1.92	277
Connacht	71	4,335	61	28.3	3.73	3.27	1.98	290
Ulster	80	5,058	63	27.8	3.80	3.28	1.97	308

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 03/06/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 03/06/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 03/06/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 03/06/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 03/06/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,606	1,009	28%	272,870	83,205	30%
Progressive	2,273	820	36%	187,983	66,222	35%
Tipperary	138	60	43%	11,578	5,462	47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>472,431</b>	<b>154,889</b>	<b>33%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 03/06/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 03/06/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	246,858	272,870	9.5%
Progressive	167,765	187,983	10.8%
Tipperary	10,233	11,578	11.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>424,856</b>	<b>472,431</b>	<b>10.1%</b>

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