



**UPDATE – for period 26<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008**

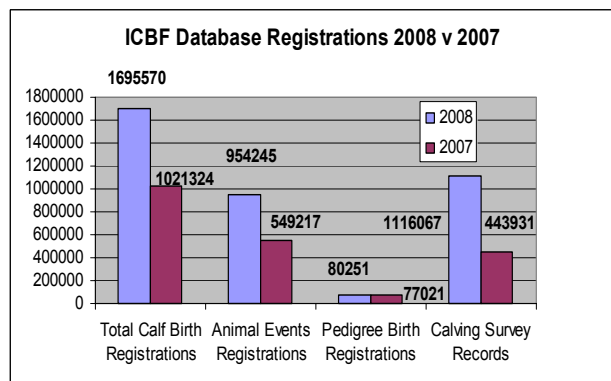
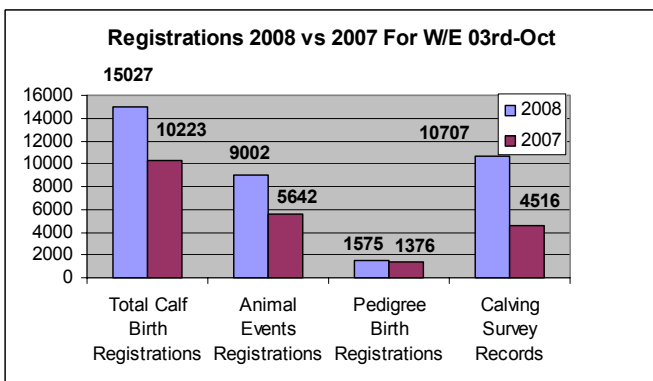
**1 Important Dates**

- ✦ **9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet. For details see [www.ihfa.ie](http://www.ihfa.ie).
- ✦ **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart. For details see [www.beefexpoireland.ie](http://www.beefexpoireland.ie).
- ✦ **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – ICBF Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.
- ✦ **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – Interim Sheep Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.
- ✦ **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November** – GEN€ IRELAND<sup>®</sup> conference, Cork Mart’s Rathcormac.

**2 ICBF Strategic Plan**

- ✦ Consultations with the Highfield based ICBF team took place this week.
- ✦ The key priorities identified in these discussions included:
  - Research on a wide range of opportunities to improve the accuracy of the dairy and beef genetic evaluations by using new data collected through the suckler cow welfare scheme and using improved methods to extract more information from the available data.
  - Developing systems for providing EBI’s using genomic data on young bulls (and cows) that are potentially valuable to Irish farmers.
  - Expansion of the HerdPlus<sup>®</sup> to more dairy and beef herds while also improving the quality of the service.
- ✦ A draft plan will be finalized over the next two weeks for consideration by the ICBF Board at its October meeting.

**3 Database**



- ✦ 502,712 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 351,495 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✦ The work on revamping the AI software for next season is continuing. This week we met with the Munster and Dovea groups.
- ✦ The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 370,000.
- ✦ The new development work on the Bull Search output is being finalised and will be tested next week.
- ✦ Next week, an upgrade of the web-server infrastructure will take place, which will help provide a more resilient system.



- The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues, with the work focused on the back-end. Once this piece of work is completed, we will engage with the milk recording organisations in terms of how screens/functionality etc will need to be updated to take account of their needs.

#### 4 Genetic Evaluations

- Work continues on improvements/enhancements to various aspects of the dairy and beef evaluations.
- We are still awaiting a file of French linear proofs to incorporate into the linear evaluation.

#### International Beef Evaluations

- Ongoing work on updating the foreign pedigrees in the database - searching primarily for country of origin & original tag in that country.
- Update of cross reference files for both the Interbeef and the Hereford projects: +3,000 Charolais & Limousine animals, and +60 Hereford. Both pure breed across country evaluations will start this fall in collaboration with the Interbeef center in Sweden and the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) in Australia.

#### 5 Sheep

- The recommendations in relation to the use of NSIS for sheep breeding have been the subject of discussions with DAFF.
- There is a plan within DAFF to replace the current NSIS ID system with a different numbering system based on the use of electronic tags.
- A proposal to use a bolus with electronic identification as an interim solution is being evaluated.
- A meeting has been scheduled to consider these identification issues further in advance of the next meeting of the Interim Sheep Board.
- There has been a good response from producer groups interested in participating as MALP flocks. An alternative of moving rams rather than ewes (as in the original proposal) is being considered.



#### 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 03/10/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 03/10/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 03/10/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 03/10/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 03/10/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,231	913	41%	179,880	71,384	40%
Dairygold	1,686	633	38%	123,438	48,292	39%
Kerry	1,159	247	21%	78,847	16,216	21%
SWS	913	132	14%	61,585	9,486	15%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	12,982	5,755	73%
Arrabawn	165	137	83%	12,802	10,799	84%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,310	4,320	42%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,781	4,781	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,533</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>484,625</b>	<b>171,033</b>	<b>35%</b>



**Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison**

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 03/10/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 03/10/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 03/10/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	155,466	165,122	179,880	13.6%
Dairygold	103,149	110,653	123,438	10.4%
Kerry	69,904	71,460	78,847	11.3%
SWS	58,905	60,300	61,585	2.1%
Tipperary	11,770	12,229	12,982	5.8%
Arrabawn	10,998	11,849	12,802	7.4%
Connacht	8,994	10,047	10,310	2.6%
Donegal	5,163	3,899	4,781	18.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>424,349</b>	<b>445,559</b>	<b>484,625</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

**National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 23/09/08 to 03/10/08**

	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	6	326	54	17.2	4.61	3.76	1.44	374
CAVAN	42	2,251	54	17.0	4.30	3.69	1.36	235
CLARE	24	1,273	53	15.8	4.14	3.69	1.24	260
CORK STH	249	15,885	64	18.7	4.17	3.70	1.47	287
CORK NTH	215	14,251	66	17.9	4.16	3.75	1.42	301
DONEGAL	14	1,285	92	15.1	4.11	3.56	1.16	293
DUBLIN	2	94	47	20.5	4.24	3.63	1.61	316
GALWAY	18	1,112	62	23.3	4.07	3.50	1.76	298
KERRY	129	7,257	56	18.4	4.00	3.64	1.41	328
KILDARE	18	1,202	67	20.3	4.36	3.60	1.62	349
KILKENNY	37	2,580	70	15.3	4.44	3.78	1.26	255
LAOIS	26	1,718	66	15.5	4.50	3.74	1.28	239
LEITRIM	4	152	38	18.6	3.87	3.53	1.38	398
LIMERICK	99	6,659	67	17.5	4.05	3.65	1.35	365
LONGFORD	11	491	45	16.9	4.08	3.70	1.31	197
LOUTH	16	1,267	79	20.9	3.96	3.53	1.57	270
MAYO	13	737	57	21.5	3.73	3.64	1.58	431
MEATH	56	4,551	81	18.5	4.23	3.61	1.45	329
MONAGHAN	34	1,619	48	20.5	3.81	3.52	1.50	246
OFFALY	16	1,073	67	17.9	4.25	3.74	1.43	320
ROSCOMMON	3	205	68	21.1	3.94	3.41	1.55	218
SLIGO	13	541	42	20.4	4.07	3.61	1.57	522
TIPPERARY NTH	45	3,153	70	15.1	4.89	3.96	1.34	318
TIPPERARY STH	44	2,757	63	17.1	4.13	3.71	1.34	274
WATERFORD	48	3,753	78	15.1	4.39	3.80	1.24	302
WESTMEATH	13	957	74	18.2	4.22	3.67	1.44	271
WEXFORD	52	3,204	62	18.6	4.09	3.67	1.44	255
WICKLOW E	16	1,068	67	20.2	3.79	3.57	1.49	336
WICKLOW W	8	691	86	19.9	4.27	3.56	1.56	400



	<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>
<b>National</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>82,112</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>4.17</b>	<b>3.65</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>310</b>

**National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 23/09/08 to 03/10/08**

<b>Provincial</b>	<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>
<b>Munster</b>	853	54,988	64	17.0	4.22	3.74	1.35	304
<b>Leinster</b>	277	19,222	69	18.5	4.04	3.66	1.42	301
<b>Connacht</b>	51	2,747	54	21.0	4.13	3.54	1.61	373
<b>Ulster</b>	90	5,155	57	17.5	4.32	3.59	1.39	258

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**Dairy**

- ✚ Sign-ups for the 2008 Autumn programme commenced this week with letters being posted to last years participants.
- ✚ Further letters will be sent next week targeting additional Autumn herds.
- ✚ The catalogue of the bulls put forward is available on the ICBF website.

**Beef**

- ✚ Direct Credit payments were made for spring inseminations, cheques will be posted early next week for the remainder.
- ✚ Sign-ups for the Autumn programme are going well, with 70 herds signed up to date.

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