

## 1. Important Dates

- ✦ **Dairy Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 to 15:00 – Moorepark Conference Room 1.
- ✦ **GENEIRLAND® & HerdPlus® Dairy Conference** – 10:00 to 13:00 Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy. Organised by ICBF and Sponsored by FBD.
- ✦ **EBI Discussion Group Competition Awards - 14:30 to 17:00** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy. Organised jointly by ICBF, Teagasc, Irish Farmers Journal and the ACC Bank.

## 2. ICBF Board Meeting

At the Board meeting on Thursday:

- ✦ Michael John O'Donovan joined the Board as one of the three appointments made by the Milk Recording members of ICBF. He replaces Benny Cottrell.
- ✦ Financial projections for 2009 and the budget for 2010 were adopted.
- ✦ The outcome of the Dairy Breeding Consultation meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November was discussed. Any changes implemented following the consultation meeting next week (9<sup>th</sup> December) will be reported to the Board for ratification.
- ✦ The possibility of a Beef Breeding Conference to be held early in the new year, along similar lines to next weeks Dairy Breeding Conference, is to be examined.

## 3. Sheep Ireland Board Meeting

- ✦ Financial projections for 2009 and the budget for 2010 were adopted.
- ✦ The project managers report (copy available on [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie)) was discussed.
- ✦ A major sheep industry day is being planned for June 2010. Sheep Ireland is actively participating in the planning along with Teagasc, UCD and other interests.

## 4. Breeding Industry Award – Dr. Ignatius Byrne

- ✦ On Thursday this week the Boards of ICBF and Sheep Ireland participated in recognising the major contribution that Dr Ignatius Byrne has made to cattle and sheep breeding in Ireland. He was awarded the inaugural Breeding Industry Award in recognition of these contributions.
- ✦ While Senior Inspector with DAFF, Ignatius provided active leadership to the breeding industry and played an very important role in ensuring the resolution of issues impacting on the partnership that is so essential for rapid genetic progress. His positive no-nonsense style in combination with a sympathetic ear has helped ensure our industry has been able to achieve so much over the last ten years.
- ✦ Ignatius has been a key contributor to the development of Sheep breeding in Ireland and served as the first chairman of the board of Sheep Ireland.
- ✦ In accepting the award Ignatius complimented the breeding industry on the progress it has made and indicated that it is well placed to take advantage of the new genomic technologies.
- ✦ Ignatius has retired from DAFF and is now actively pursuing a range of other interests.

## 5. Dairy Breeding Consultation Meeting – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 – 15:00, Moorepark

The Agenda for the Consultation meeting next week is as follows:

1. Female Fertility - Ross

2. Calving Evaluations - Francis
3. Economic Values - Laurence
4. Implementation of Changes - Andrew
5. Research Update - Andrew
  - a. Male fertility
  - b. Health traits
  - c. Beef evaluations
  - d. Genomics
  - e. Cross breeding
6. Gene Ireland – Andrew/Brian
7. AOB

This meeting is an important step in the process for improving dairy genetic evaluations and the dairy breeding scheme for Ireland. It is an open meeting and all groups with an interest in these developments are welcome to be represented at the meeting. To aid with catering please ensure your intention to attend is notified to Mary Madden ([mmadden@icbf.com](mailto:mmadden@icbf.com)).

## 6. Dairy Breeding Conference, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy. Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am

Following on from a very successful event last year, ICBF will be holding its 3rd annual dairy user meeting on Thursday 10th December 2009 in Cork Marts' Corrin facility outside Fermoy.

ICBF would like to invite you to this key event in the dairy calendar, a must see for all dairy breeders, as ICBF shares the latest on breeding developments with its users and the wider industry.

The day will kick off with at 10am, with the morning session providing updates to farmers on;

- Genomics,
- EBI Developments,
- GENIRELAND<sup>®</sup> 2010
- HerdPlus<sup>®</sup> services
- FBD GENIRELAND<sup>®</sup> breeders awards

After lunch the afternoon session will start at 2pm & will focus on the Teagasc/EBI Discussion Group competition. This year a record of over 85 groups entered the competition from all over the country. The afternoon session will entail;

- Judging criteria and results.
- Prize awards.

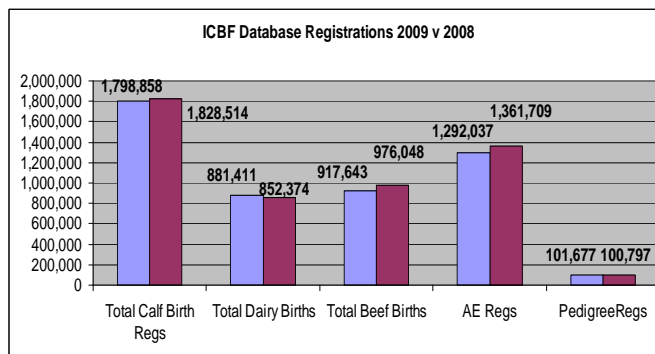
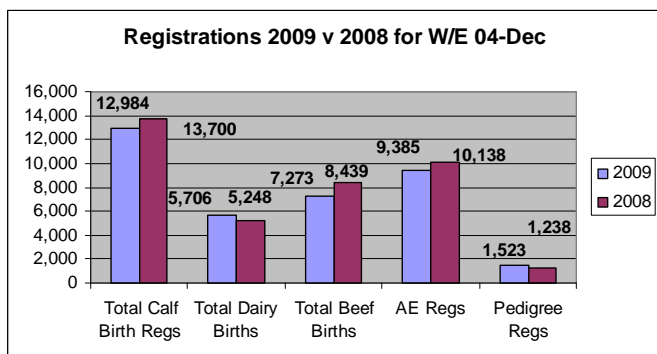
ICBF have put together a stimulating programme for the day and are guaranteeing short, snappy presentations in a friendly and conducive environment for farmers. Cattle breeding trade stands will also be present, ensuring an excellent opportunity for farmers to get the latest information on dairy breeding developments. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Please text the word **CONF** to **51101** to confirm your attendance and to help us plan numbers for lunch!

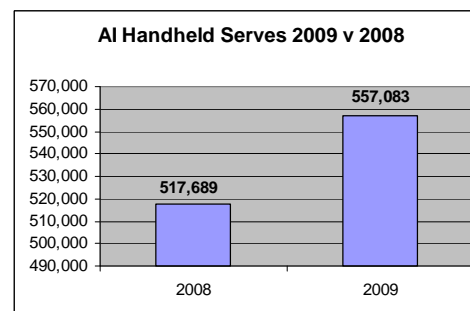
## 7. Database

- ✚ All suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 have now received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 525,000, with the number of animals weaned at 353,000.
- ✚ The systems upgrade last weekend was successful. This week, we have been tidying up some loose ends, and working with the various organisations to help smooth the transition.

- All four milk recording organisations are working well on the new Milk Recording system. We are continuing to update the software based on feedback from the organisations.



- There a number of projects currently being finalised. The AI Code application is now in test mode, and the final changes are being made to the Sheep application for Sheep Ireland.
- The work on the 5 Year Trend report has been completed and will be launched at the Cattle Breeding Event next Thursday.
- The graph herewith shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008.



## 8. Genetic Evaluations

- A document outlining the new evaluation for beef linear type has been circulated to the herdbooks for feedback ahead of releasing this to all breeders interested in linear scoring for 2010.
- Work continues on the new fertility evaluation. The matrix containing all the genetic correlations between the new traits has been assembled and work now begins on a test run in MIX99.

## 9. GENÉIRELAND®

### Beef

- Sign ups are going well with 286 herds taking part in the autumn/winter program so far.
- We have now passed our target of 700 GENÉIRELAND® herds for 2009.
- The Charolais bull CWB has become the 8th Charolais bull to be fully tested and the highest index bull to be tested.
- Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below

BREED	CH	LM	LM	SI	BB	BB	BA	PT	SA	AA	SH	HE
CODE	VHC	FL29	MBP	HSY	EVG	SEU	WOA	KCP	BHU	RWB	CZB	AGI
STRAWS	399	406	274	118	251	560	669	582	274	494	405	183

10. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 04/12/09

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 04/12/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 04/12/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 04/12/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 04/12/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,085	850	41%	180,812	73,179	40%
Dairygold	1,508	567	38%	117,705	46,272	39%
Kerry	891	66	7%	63,815	4,253	7%
SWS	857	114	13%	62,346	8,945	14%
Tipperary	136	56	41%	11,263	5,013	45%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,934	10,132	85%
Connacht	144	53	37%	9,838	3,594	37%
Donegal	34	33	97%	4,038	4,038	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,796</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>461,751</b>	<b>155,426</b>	<b>34%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 04/12/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 04/12/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	186,324	180,812	-3.0%
Dairygold	126,968	117,705	-7.9%
Kerry	79,634	63,815	-24.8%
SWS	63,073	62,346	-1.2%
Tipperary	13,143	11,263	-16.7%
Arrabawn	12,976	11,934	-8.7%
Connacht	10,693	9,838	-8.7%
Donegal	4,817	4,038	-19.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>497,628</b>	<b>461,751</b>	<b>-7.8%</b>

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 24/11/09 to 04/12/09.

	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	10	556	56	20.7	4.20	3.38	1.57	346
CAVAN	29	1,428	49	16.0	4.12	3.46	1.21	340
CLARE	8	290	36	12.6	4.23	3.56	0.98	333
CORK STH	210	10,913	52	16.4	4.26	3.57	1.28	363
CORK NTH	124	7,635	62	14.8	4.49	3.66	1.21	385

DONEGAL	9	890	99	10.3	4.63	3.68	0.86	350
DUBLIN	3	141	47	18.4	3.90	3.49	1.36	233
GALWAY	15	710	47	16.6	4.08	3.45	1.25	417
KERRY	74	4,040	55	14.6	4.16	3.53	1.12	449
KILDARE	19	1,235	65	19.7	4.13	3.40	1.48	280
KILKENNY	17	1,086	64	15.0	4.63	3.86	1.27	379
LAOIS	21	1,353	64	14.6	4.22	3.68	1.15	433
LEITRIM	3	125	42	22.8	4.14	3.37	1.71	289
LIMERICK	50	2,959	59	17.8	4.07	3.50	1.35	345
LONGFORD	5	215	43	11.1	4.01	3.70	0.86	432
LOUTH	19	1,436	76	20.1	3.82	3.50	1.47	359
MAYO	12	810	68	13.6	4.00	3.39	1.01	502
MEATH	55	5,084	92	19.6	4.14	3.42	1.48	367
MONAGHAN	23	887	39	18.5	4.00	3.44	1.38	298
OFFALY	5	301	60	19.6	4.37	3.34	1.51	573
ROSCOMMON								
SLIGO	4	136	34	15.6	3.19	3.19	1.00	400
TIPPERARY NTH	11	728	66	14.5	3.67	3.67	1.06	411
TIPPERARY STH	11	871	79	14.4	3.66	3.66	1.05	398
WATERFORD	19	1,257	66	18.7	3.56	3.56	1.33	288
WESTMEATH	16	898	56	19.7	3.33	3.33	1.31	390
WEXFORD	34	2,165	64	15.0	3.59	3.59	1.08	472
WICKLOW E	9	699	78	18.1	3.44	3.44	1.25	426
WICKLOW W	10	836	84	22.7	3.42	3.42	1.55	491
	<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>
National	825	49,684	61	16.8	3.98	3.51	1.26	384

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 24/11/09 to 04/12/09.

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	507	28,693	57	15.5	4.01	3.59	1.18	372
Leinster	223	16,005	72	18.0	3.94	3.50	1.34	399
Connacht	34	1,781	52	17.2	3.85	3.35	1.24	402
Ulster	61	3,205	53	14.9	4.25	3.53	1.16	329

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