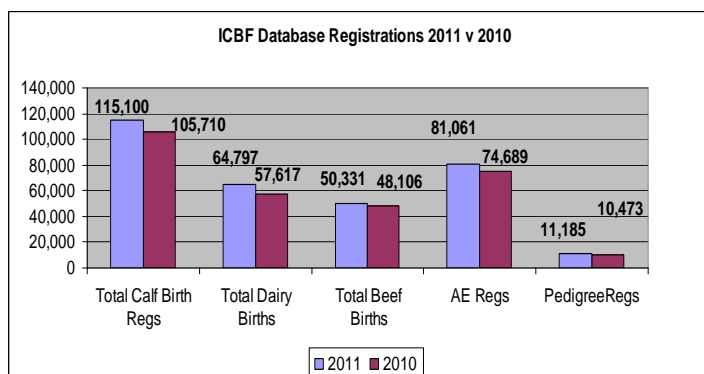
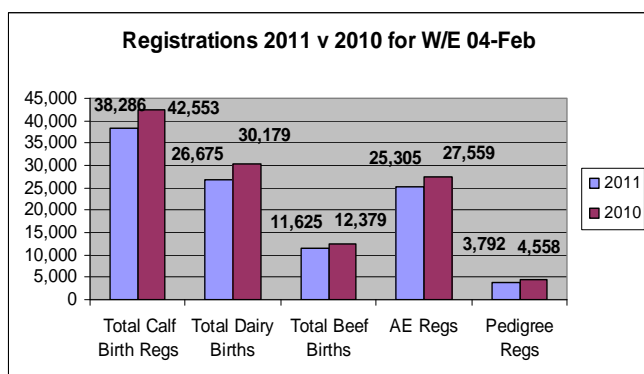


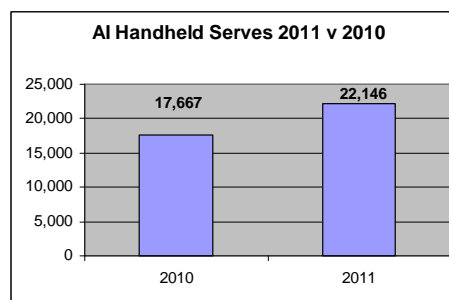
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 10th March, 10:00 to 14:00 – Horse & Jockey Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 10:00 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 14:00 to 17:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 25th April, 12:00 to 16:00 – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.

2 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 568,401 with the number of animals weaned at 479,208.
- ✚ The first of the 3k Chip genotypes was run through the new storage infrastructure this week.
- ✚ Further development on the outputs for farmers and AI companies of Genomic EBI results are ongoing.
- ✚ A new infrastructure for capturing and loading mart weights and slaughter weights is now completed.
- ✚ Testing on a new authorisation module for farmers and their service providers is on-going. This will give farmers more flexibility and control in providing authorisation to others to see their data.
- ✚ Work continues with AHI on the integration of laboratory health test results to the ICBF database.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



3 Tully

- ✚ The second live-weight on all bulls was obtained on Monday (Table 1). Bulls are due to finish their performance test on the 5th of April.

Table 1. Live-weight and average daily gain of bulls averaged by breed

Breed	AA	AU	BA	BB	CH	HE	LM	SA	SI	SP
	(n = 20)	(n = 2)	(N = 2)	(n = 5)	(n = 30)	(n = 3)	(n = 24)	(n = 6)	(n = 10)	(n = 1)
Average Live-weight (kg)	569	472	620	487	594	522	562	543	600	451
Average Daily gain (kg)	2.3	1.9	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.3	2	2.1	2.2	2

- ✚ Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.
- ✚ Bulls are being washed at present to help maintain and promote hair growth.
- ✚ Bulls received a mineral supplementation where it was deemed necessary.
- ✚ Fresh woodchip was applied to all outdoor pens.
- ✚ Bull owners were notified with a letter, outlining the details of the up-coming sale for the current crop of bulls at Tully.
- ✚ All up to date feed intake data and live-weights have been inputted into the ICBF database.
- ✚ All ancestry on bulls (mainly Angus) at Tully has been inputted to correspond with the animal's pedigree cert, where the information was missing.
- ✚ 2 blood samples from each bull were obtained for use in Genomics.

A meeting of the Tully Advisory Committee took place on Friday, 28th January at Tully Bull Performance Test Centre.

Key out-comes of the Tully Advisory Committee Meeting were as follows:

1. Agreed to hold a "High Health Status Sale" at Tully on Monday, 25th of April 2011.
 - ✚ The sale will be held at Tully and run from 12.00 pm to 4.00 pm.
 - ✚ AI companies are to purchase bulls prior to the sale, once all performance test information is available.
 - ✚ A catalogue will be available on the ICBF website from the 12th April following the April evaluation run and a printed version will be available from the 15th April.
 - ✚ Rules in relation to the sale of bulls as outlined by the "Irish Cattle Pedigree Council" are to be included in the sales catalogue.
 - ✚ Order of sale. The order of breeds into the sale ring is as follows: 1 Speckle Park, 2 Blonde d'Aquitaine, 2 Aubrac, 7 Saler, 20 Angus, 24 Limousin, 30 Charolais, 10 Simmental 5 Belgian Blue, 3 Hereford.
 - ✚ Agreed to have a 'Top Tully Bull' award based on visual (1/3) test performance (1/3) and index figures (1/3), the relevant bulls would then be photographed in the IFJ.
3. A new strategy for selecting bulls for Tully has been put forward to help drive breed development and increasing genetic gain for each breed. Principles of the new program will include:
 - ✚ Herdbooks playing a more active role in the selection of the bulls for Tully.
 - ✚ More intensive selection will involve ICBF and Herdbooks liaising with each other to identify bulls based on their indexes, age and bloodlines prior to the visual inspection being carried out by the linear scorer.
 - ✚ More communication between Herdbooks and their members about the importance of putting elite bulls into Tully.
 - ✚ Emphasis on bulls having strong maternal traits and also outcrosses.
 - ✚ Breeders that own these elite bulls will be encouraged to send their bulls to Tully, if the bull meets the health testing criteria.
 - ✚ Following further selection using Tully performance test information, a number of these bulls would have semen collected by AI companies and distributed through the GEN€IR€LAND program.

- ✚ Discussions are to take place in the coming weeks with all relevant stakeholders on the above and once a consensus has been reached it will be discussed in more detail with the wider industry at a meeting to be held prior to applications being sent out for the next intake.
4. There was a keen interest from all members to see Genomics being rolled out in beef as soon as possible.
- ✚ Herdbooks agreed to try and encourage breeders to get semen from sires which are still required for genomic selection research, especially bulls that are labeled as being of high priority.
5. In relation to the beef GENÉIRÉLAND program, the up-coming Spring program still requires more bulls from some breeds.

4 GENÉIRÉLAND®

Dairy

- ✚ There are 230 herds signed up to the programme already.
- ✚ Calls to herdowners commenced this week.
- ✚ A large number of sign-ups have come in by post.
- ✚ A further batch of letters has been sent out.
- ✚ Dispatches will commence next week when the first group of bulls are available.

Beef

- ✚ 56 herds have signed up so far.
- ✚ A number of new bulls have been identified this week for the Spring program.
- ✚ Catalogues will be printed next week and sent to herd owners.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GENÉIRÉLAND section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	HE	LM	PT	SA
CODE	MLJ	KCE	KYR	LGL	CXY	GCT	CZH	CBQ	BHU
# STRAWS	311	345	645	172	690	93	358	149	616

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 25/01/11 to 04/02/11

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	186	11,997	65	24.5	4.09	3.45	1.85	342
Leinster	182	13,118	72	25.0	4.09	3.44	1.88	445
Connacht	41	1,793	44	24.8	3.77	3.36	1.76	370
Ulster	49	2,192	45	24.9	3.98	3.41	1.84	325

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 25/01/11 to 04/02/11

	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	10	637	64	26.3	4.61	3.53	2.14	458
CAVAN	14	582	42	23.3	3.85	3.47	1.71	298
CLARE	2	95	48	32.0	3.80	3.30	2.27	312
CORK STH	68	4,222	62	23.6	4.22	3.48	1.82	362
CORK NTH	55	4,400	80	22.1	4.03	3.45	1.65	398
DONEGAL	9	518	58	26.8	4.17	3.38	2.02	295
DUBLIN	6	301	50	27.8	3.39	3.25	1.85	379
GALWAY	8	370	46	25.5	4.33	3.53	2.00	343
KERRY	20	984	49	26.5	4.06	3.38	1.97	303
KILDARE	24	1,437	60	26.1	4.10	3.52	1.99	684
KILKENNY	13	723	56	26.2	4.10	3.42	1.97	241
LAOIS	12	740	62	22.8	4.26	3.53	1.78	551
LEITRIM	2	85	43	27.5	3.68	3.33	1.93	512
LIMERICK	23	1,274	55	24.9	4.07	3.40	1.86	335
LONGFORD	4	147	37	22.8	4.38	3.56	1.81	471
LOUTH	17	1,541	91	28.6	3.89	3.42	2.09	373
MAYO	24	1,055	44	21.7	3.40	3.33	1.46	323
MEATH	39	3,739	96	25.0	4.16	3.45	1.90	458
MONAGHAN	26	1,092	42	24.5	3.93	3.38	1.79	383
OFFALY	2	118	59	23.9	3.98	3.38	1.76	437
ROSCOMMON								
SLIGO	7	283	40	24.3	3.66	3.25	1.68	300
TIPPERARY NTH	6	228	38	19.7	4.19	3.51	1.52	269
TIPPERARY STH	4	203	51	21.4	4.11	3.48	1.62	343
WATERFORD	8	591	74	25.7	4.26	3.58	2.01	412
WESTMEATH	5	381	76	29.9	4.41	3.27	2.30	313
WEXFORD	27	1,621	60	21.4	3.93	3.57	1.61	441
WICKLOW E	13	931	72	19.8	3.83	3.40	1.43	441
WICKLOW W	10	802	80	23.9	4.33	3.38	1.84	539
	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	458	29,100	58	24.8	4.04	3.43	1.85	392

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 04/02/11

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 04/02/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 04/02/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 04/02/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 04/02/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	451	21	5%	24,818	1,603	6%
Progressive	748	100	13%	48,314	6,406	13%
Tipperary	10	1	10%	485	41	8%
Connacht	46	2	4%	2,142	89	4%
Total	1,255	124	10%	75,759	8,139	11%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 04/02/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 04/02/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	22,323	24,818	10.1%
Progressive	37,800	48,314	21.8%
Tipperary	130	485	73.2%
Connacht	1,855	2,142	13.4%
Total	62,108	75,759	18.0%

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