



**UPDATE – for period 28<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

**1 Board meeting**

Matters covered at the ICBF Board meeting on Thursday included:

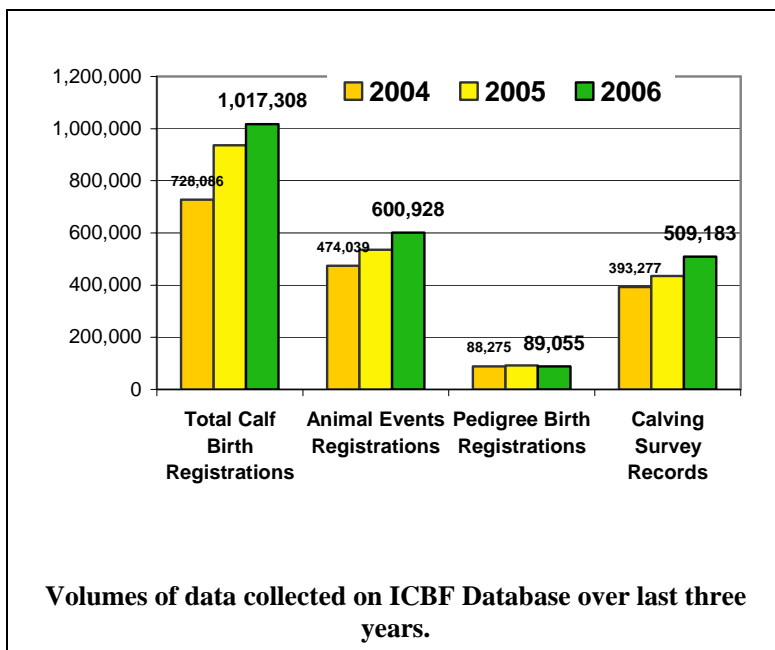
- ✚ A decision to examine ICBF’s Rules dealing with the position of Board Chairman with a view to identifying the changes required to ensure independence of the position.
- ✚ The Board has decided that it wishes reopen Tully as soon possible and to this end it adopted the three recommendations arising from the initial review. That is:
  - Discussions on all key issues (breeding scheme, financial, disease, and risk) be held with key stakeholders as a matter of urgency.
  - ICBF to evaluate the provision of a herd health certification service to pedigree breeders.
  - That Tully remain closed until the key issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the Board of ICBF.
- ✚ Good progress has been made since the last meeting in dealing with six (administration, foreign animals, linear scoring, Tully, breed development and herd health) of the eight issues identified by Herd Book members. Herd Books are to be requested to put forward proposals for dealing with the issue associated with the provision of catalogue services for non-pedigree cattle.

**2 Annual General Meeting**

ICBF’s AGM was held on Thursday. A copy of the Annual Report and the 2006 Statistics report are available on the ICBF website (under News & Publications).

In their report to the AGM the Chairman and Chief Executive emphasised the progress that had been made by ICBF during 2006. Some of the highlights included:

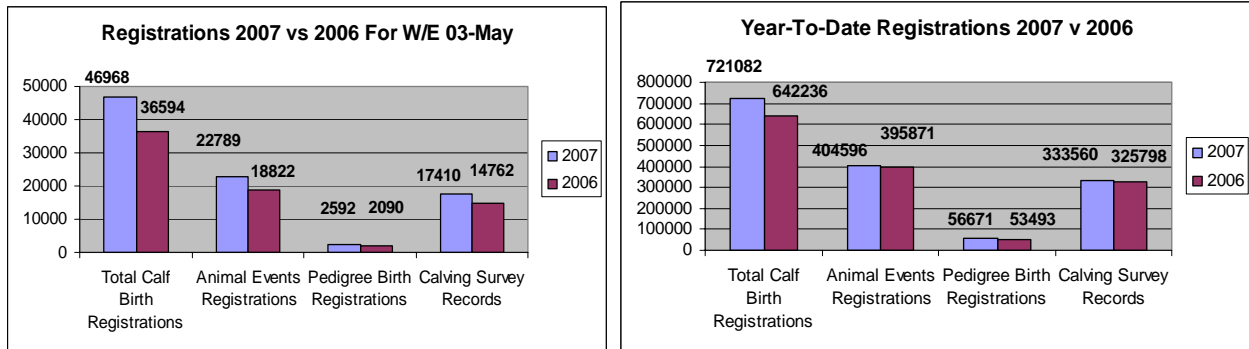
- ✚ The development of genetic evaluations for the maternal traits in suckler cows.
- ✚ A 40% increase, over 2004, in the number of births registered on the ICBF database (refer to graph).
- ✚ 601,000 births registered through animal events of which 89,000 were pedigree registered.
- ✚ A 7% increase in milk recording resulting from the roll-out of the EDIY service.
- ✚ A halt in the decline of AI in dairy herds as a result of an industry initiative lead by ICBF.
- ✚ The launch of HerdPlus® for dairy herds in September ’06.
- ✚ The launch and roll-out of the AI Handheld for recording technician inseminations.
- ✚ Identification of the optimal breeding scheme design for beef breeds and the development of proposals for moving the industry towards to the optimum.
- ✚ Development of a modified G€N€ IR€LAND® progeny test service for dairy and beef.
- ✚ Growth in farmer use of the ICBF website.





- ✚ Resolution of financial difficulties.
  - ✚ Progress towards resolving issues raised by Herd Books.
- Ernst & Young were re-appointed as auditors for 2007.

### 3 Database Update



- ✚ 105,278 inseminations have been recorded on AI Handhelds so far in 2007, compared with 36,851 in 2006 for the same period. Next week will likely see the peak in the number of daily inseminations.
- ✚ The use of the Sire Advice program is on-going at the rate of some 25 'Sire Advice runs' per day. This is likely to continue to decrease as farmers have, for the most part, made their breeding decisions for spring 2007.
- ✚ Some enhancements to the new Herdbook front end are continuing and a further upgrade of the facility has been issued this week. Good progress has been made on a number of the tasks arising out of the recent meeting with the Herdbooks.
- ✚ The new season fertility reports continue to be generated on a daily basis, and are being issued to HerdPlus members.

### 4 Genetic Evaluations

#### Dairy Genetic evaluations

- ✚ Production and calving interval evaluations have been completed and files submitted to Interbull. The release day for the official proofs is Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May. We will look to get provisional proofs on AI bulls out before this date.

#### Beef Genetic Evaluations

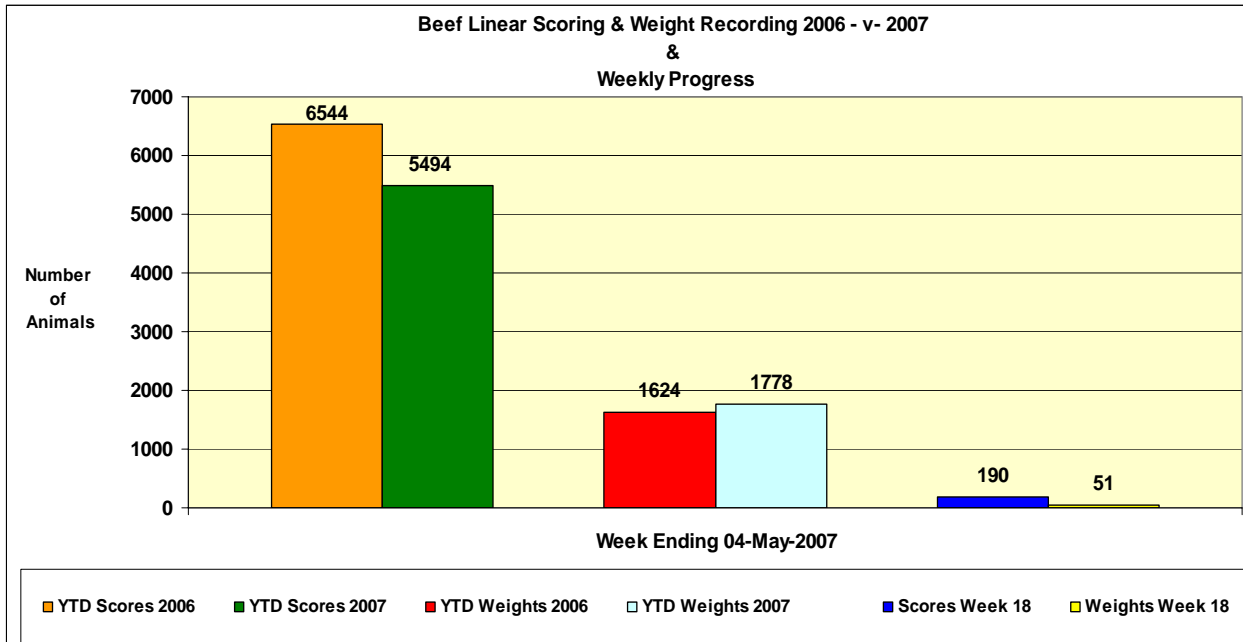
- ✚ A new beef performance evaluation has just been completed and is currently being processed. A new evaluation for beef fertility, maternal weaning weight and linear type will be done next week. New proofs will be available in the next couple of weeks.
- ✚ The calving performance evaluation is also nearing completion and proofs will be published with the new beef proofs.

#### International Evaluations

- ✚ International identifications have been updated in bulk at the request of Charolais and Limousin herd books. Of a total of 592 French born animals with missing international identifications 562 were found through our link with the French database 348Limousine & 214 Charolais. The remaining 30 could not be found in the French central database and will further investigation.
- ✚ The work to blend French converted proofs into the Irish database continues.

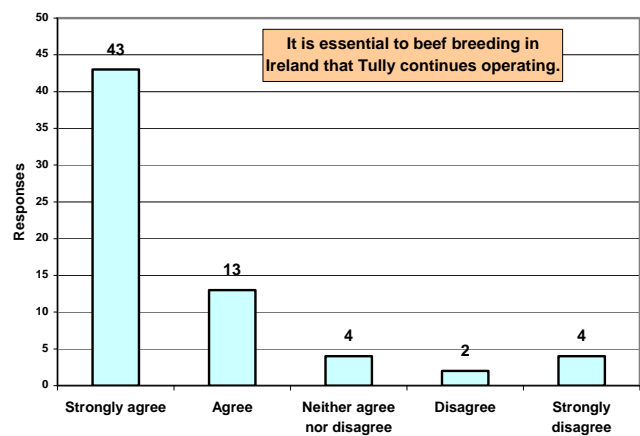
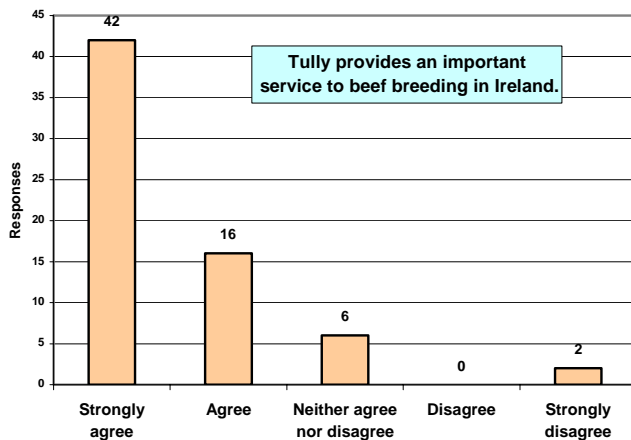


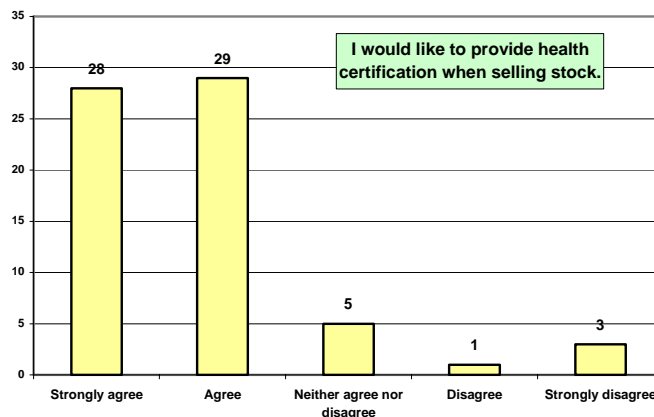
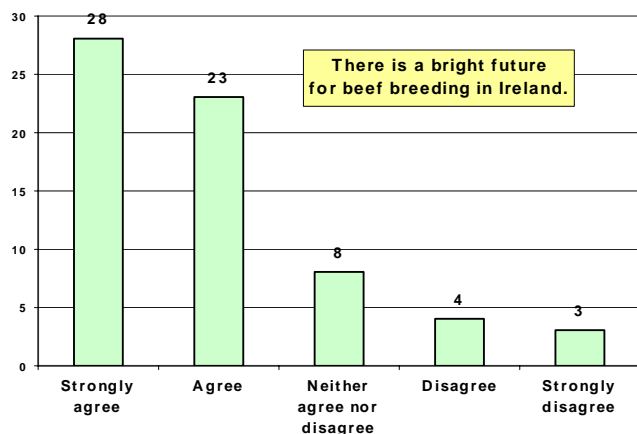
## 5 Beef Linear Scoring



## 6 Tully

- ✚ The remaining 66 bulls were sent to the factory today. Half from the March intake and half from the May intake.
- ✚ Two bulls were exported to Northern Ireland, and two to Scotland on Thursday.
- ✚ 14 bulls remain at Tully – eight for live export, three yet to be finalized, and three awaiting collection by owners.
- ✚ 66 replies have been received from the survey of Tully bull owners. In this postal survey bull owners were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with various statements. The results for four of the 11 questions are in the following graphs.





## 7 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 27/04/07 - 04/05/07
Progressive	345
Dairygold	283
Kerry	188
SWS	156
Arrabawn	30
Tipperary	19
Connacht	20
Donegal	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,046</b>

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 04/05/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 04/05/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 04/05/07
Progressive	121,256	116,266	124,473
Dairygold	66,742	74,067	83,546
Kerry	51,059	53,402	54,924
SWS	44,861	46,596	48,666
Tipperary	6,586	7,730	8,819
Arrabawn	4,040	6,081	8,477
Connacht	5,663	5,636	6,497
Donegal	0	681	798
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,207</b>	<b>310,459</b>	<b>336,200</b>

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