

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **EBI €100 Discussion Group Open Day – Tuesday 8th September**, Paddy O’Leary’s Farm, Conna, Co. Cork. This open day is being hosted by the Blackwater Discussion group and features the herd with the highest EBI in Ireland. This herd has bred many GENEIRLAND® bulls in the last few years. **Every farmer and breeder with an interest in the direction of Irish cattle breeding should make the effort to attend this very important event.**
- ✚ **ICBF & Sheep Ireland Board Meetings – Thursday 17th September**, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Tully Open Day – Saturday 10th October**, Tully, Co. Kildare.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Dairy Conference – Thursday 29th October**, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac, Co. Cork.

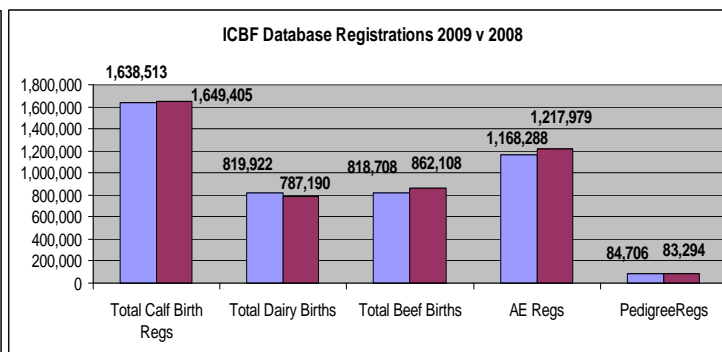
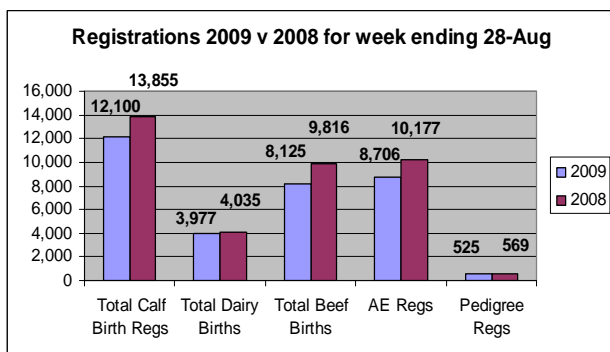
2. Interbull & Interbeef Meetings

- ✚ The presentations made by Ross Evans, Francis Kearney and Thierry Pabiou to the recent Interbull meeting in Barcelona are available in the publications section of our website – www.icbf.com. These three papers were well received.
- ✚ The Interbeef Working Group worked on its Strategic Plan during the meetings. The focus on the plan is on the delivery of international genetic evaluation services for beef breeds and traits following the completion of the proof of concept for weaning weight in the Charolais and Limousin breeds from five countries.
- ✚ Interbeef has established a Scientific Advisory Committee (Roel Veerkamp & Dorian Garrick) to address four key strategic issues; incorporation of international evaluation results in national evaluations, use of cross-bred data, across breed evaluations and genomics. A draft report is currently under consideration by the scientific collaborators in this project. When finalized the report will go to the Interbeef Working Group.

3. ICBF Strategic Plan

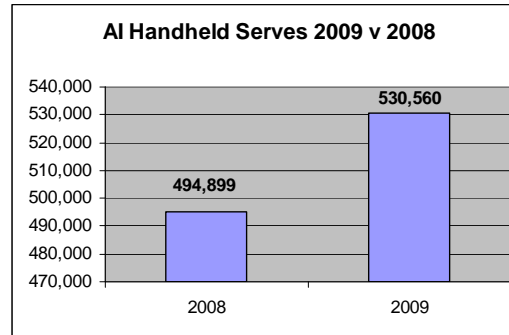
- ✚ ICBF’s strategic plan is currently being discussed with interested parties.
- ✚ Any organization or individual wishing to have input into the plan should contact me directly.

4. Database



- ✚ As of next week, all suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 will have received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 202,000.

- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system is progressing. Testing within the milk recording organisations continued this week.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the new Beef Discussion Group Reports, with some now in the testing phase.
- ✚ Development of a new on-line application for AI companies to manage their interaction with ICBF on bull codes has begun. We expect this to be live at the end of September.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008.



5. Sheep Ireland - LambPlus

Lambplus

- ✚ Texel Society Sale Result Correction:
 - Liam & Eamonn Walsh, Rathroeen, Ballina, Co.Mayo - 4th Place Prizewinner – ‘Ballybrooney PJ’ - sold for €5400.
 - His Correct Euro-Star Evaluations are as follows:
 - Overall Sheep Value: 5 Stars.
 - Production Sub Index: 4 Stars
 - Maternal Sub Index: 5 Stars
 - Lambing Sub Index: 5 Stars
- ✚ IT Development Resources to start work on the improvements to the Lambplus Web Screens is currently being organized.

MALP Flocks

- ✚ MALP Farmers are being contacted this week to put together a scheme to ensure highly linked Rams make their way from Pedigree Flocks into MALP Flocks.
- ✚ This link between Pedigree & MALP Flocks will be an area that will receive a lot of attention as it is a crucial part of the Breeding Scheme.

CPT Flocks

- ✚ The finalisation of what flocks to select is virtually completed.
- ✚ Once final details regarding AI & synchronisation have been sorted out they will be announced.
- ✚ Flocks were visited with a panel of people from Sheep Ireland, Teagasc, AbacusBio & ICBF.

6. Beef Breeding Consultation Meeting

At the consultation meeting on Tuesday the following items were considered:

Summary of latest evaluation for beef traits

- ✚ The run included 1.38 m performance records.
- ✚ For the first time the evaluations included movement data that enabled animals to be group according the herds (out side the ICBF database) where they were finished.

- ✚ Of the 20 million animals currently in database 5m were affected by having extra information about their location. The extra data has impacted on the beef evaluations (see below for a more detailed explanation).
- ✚ This change has resulted in a significant improvement in the quality of the beef evaluations as we have been able to better form contemporary groups especially for the carcass traits.
- ✚ The evaluations also include calf quality data provided by herd owners as part of the suckler cow welfare scheme (for the first time).

Across breed linears

- ✚ The current system for beef linear traits has a number of limitations including: within breed, purebred only, composite traits only, and parameters are 7 years old.
- ✚ The proposed new system comprises 13 linear traits plus three predictor traits. A single evaluation is conducted enable comparisons both within and between beef breeds.
- ✚ There is some reranking compared with the within breed BLUP results. Also with a common base for all breeds the base for each breed has changed.
- ✚ Feedback is being sought on a number of issues including: base, contemporary group size and definition, composites (mean of 100 SD of 10), website changes, and sales catalogues.
- ✚ It was agreed – that the results would be distributed (as a test run) and that comments on individual bulls that changed more than expected should be sent to ICBF by end of next week. A meeting will be held on Monday 28th Sept to make a decision on implementation.

Docility evaluations

- ✚ A new evaluation with new data (some 2,000 animals) has been completed with good agreement to the previous run.
- ✚ There is increasing demand for these proofs.
- ✚ It is proposed that the new evaluations should be available for autumn bulls sales.
- ✚ It was agreed: that results will be distributed forthwith, comments should be back to Ross by Friday 11th Sept, and a decision on implementation will be considered on Monday 28th Sept.

Breed Development Proposition

- ✚ This idea came from the Tully Advisory Committee to help overcome the shortage of suitable beef bulls for the GENÉIRÉLAND[®] Progeny test.
- ✚ The proposal is a proactive approach to breed development with a focus on (for example):
 - 5-10 elite foundation bulls
 - 50 top breeders – actively engaged and keen to participate
 - 200 elite females
 - breed development group to oversee operations
- ✚ Herd Books wishing to participate in this initiative should consult with Andrew Cromie, Stephen Conroy and Niall Kilrane.

€uro-Star page for herdbook catalogues

- ✚ Final proposed layout to be distributed shortly. Key principles being:

- 1 standard template
 - Within & Across breed
 - Euro-Stars and reliabilities
 - Composite linears
 - Grow stamp for recorded animals
 - Used by all Herd Books
- ✚ It was agreed that the template would be reviewed a decision will be taken on Monday 28th Sept. The key issue is the handling of animals not scored and weighed.

Beef Genomics

- ✚ Research is being undertaken and blood and semen samples collected from bulls with accurate beef evaluations (now or in the future) in Ireland.
- ✚ Needs to be done in Ireland – using Irish performance
- ✚ 1,340 bulls identified – three levels of reliability
- ✚ Progress – 269 with DNA extracted
- ✚ Lists distributed – need feedback to Donagh – how to get DNA from them.
- ✚ Stock bulls – 779 identified – ICBF campaign – Niall heading this up – plastic tubes – 63 returned samples
- ✚ DNA extraction working well – good purity, good DNA quality – loose 30-40% on freezing.
- ✚ Breeding program – Noreen to study tools in Norway initially for dairy and then for beef.
- ✚ By April 2010 we should have a good idea if genomic selection will work for beef.

7. Tully

- ✚ The fourth live-weight for all bulls was obtained on Monday, 31st August (Table 1). There is still one more live-weight to be obtained, before bulls finish their performance test on 22nd of September.

Table 1. Performance data of bulls averaged by breed

Breed	AA (n = 14)	BB (n = 3)	CH (n = 8)	LM (n = 7)	PT (n = 1)	SA (n = 1)	SI (n = 5)	SH (n = 1)	HE (n = 2)
Average Live-weight (Kg)	571	509	616	599	489	445	640	580	559
Average Daily Gain (Kg)	2.43	1.94	2.45	2.46	2.08	1.89	2.57	2.52	2.40

Average over a 21 day period between weightings

- ✚ As part of preparing the livestock for the Open Day at Tully, bulls received hoof pairing this week, where it was deemed necessary. Also, all bulls are being halter trained at present.
- ✚ Breed societies, bull owners, AI companies etc have being notified about the Open Day. A flyer is currently being prepared, which will be distributed through Breed societies, G-EN-€IR-€LAND and events such as the National Ploughing Championship. Also, a draft containing details relating to the Open Day will be sent out on Monday to all relevant participants.

8. HerdPlus

Dairy EBI Reports

- ✚ HerdPlus office is sending out the Autumn 2009 EBI Reports to all HerdPlus clients this week. All reports are going up on www.icbf.com this weekend.

Beef Carcass Reports

- ✚ HerdPlus office also posted the Annual Beef Carcass Reports to all Beef Herdplus clients. All reports are going up on www.icbf.com this weekend.

Glanbia Dairy Herd Performance Reports

- ✚ The third issue of the Glanbia Dairy Herds Performance Report was posted to some 3,450 Glanbia suppliers this week. This covered the period up to June 30th (1st Half Year).
- ✚ The report is the result of a synergistic and collaborative effort between Glanbia and ICBF. It combines the farmers' bulk data from the co-op and the number of cows from ICBF, to calculate the average solids output per cow and average SCC. By combining the data from two existing databases, this new report adds real value by putting farmer's own data in a format which measures his cows' performance. It also benchmarks the farmer's performance against the top 10% in Glanbia. It was first dispatched to Glanbia suppliers in Spring 09.

See sample report attached

9. Genetic Dairy & Beef Evaluations - Explanation of drop in Suckler Beef Value (August 2009).

Background.

Proofs for all breeds dropped by, on average, €60 in the latest ICBF Suckler Beef evaluations. However the rankings of bulls did not change, with 5 star bulls generally staying as 5 star bulls and 1 star bulls staying as 1 star (the correlation between the old and the new proofs was 0.984). So why the big drop in proofs – without a commensurate shift in rankings? In this article we will explain the underlying factors which caused the downward shift in proofs, and why farmers and industry can still have confidence in the Euro-Star system as a means of accurately identifying the correct animals for breeding.

There were two major data changes that happened in the ICBF cattle breeding database over the past few months. These were;

1. Access to information on each herd of slaughter for all animals in the evaluation.

The ICBF database underwent a large upgrade in July 2009 with historic movement data being received from the Department of Agriculture (DAF). In total 5.1 million animals (20% of all the animals on the database) had their movements updated. The benefit of this data is that we can now more accurately determine the contemporary group from which each animal is being slaughtered. Previously a large proportion of animals in the evaluation (some 150k from 660k carcass records in total) were being placed into a single contemporary group for slaughter, simply because we didn't know the actual herd of slaughter (i.e., they were being sold from ICBF breeding herds into non-ICBF finishing herds). Without knowing the exact herd of finish, the genetic evaluation assumed that all animals in this single large herd were managed the same and therefore that the only difference in carcass value between the animals at slaughter was down to genetics. In hindsight we now know that this was certainly not the case, with some of the herds being very high specification finishing herds (e.g., fattening units), whilst others were extensive herds that were feeding no meals and finishing off

grass. As a result, sire differences were being inflated upwards in the evaluations, with the effect being even more pronounced for continental breeds, whose progeny are generally finished in higher concentrate systems. This factor is reflected in the breed changes as outlined in Table 1, with breeds such as Charolais and Belgian Blue losing up to €80-90, whereas breeds such as Angus and Hereford losing only €20-€30.

Table 1. Summary Changes by Breed, based on Suckler Beef Value.

	Old - May 09	New - August – 09	Difference
Angus	€53	€29	€24
Aubrac	€121	€62	€59
Blonde Aquitaine	€136	€58	€78
Belgian Blue	€162	€88	€74
Charolais	€183	€92	€91
Hereford	€71	€43	€28
Limousine	€150	€79	€71
Piemontese	€93	€41	€52
Partenaise	€113	€66	€47
Saler	€131	€63	€68
Shorthorn	€83	€43	€40
Simmental	€184	€116	€68
Commercial cows	€110	€60	€50

Despite the high correlations outlined earlier (0.984), it is notable that some well proven bulls, e.g., CF52 (99% reliability) seemed to loose more under the new evaluation than others (down from €242 to €142 in the latest evaluation). Again, the reason is simple. Compared to all other animals in the evaluation (25% of records affected by movements update), CF52 had 52% of his records affected! Despite this large change in underlying data, it is reassuring to note that the bull has retained his top 5% ranking within the Charolais breed.

These explanations highlight the importance of having accurate genetic groups, but also raise another pertinent question, which is why did ICBF leave this large undefined group in previous evaluations. The answer is simple. In genetic evaluation, the most important aspect is to be able to accurately rank the animals for breeding purposes. By leaving the animals in, we were making use of all available carcass data, on which to base our selection decisions. Hence the rankings were correct and still are correct. Its just the scale that has reduced.

Use of a single contemporary group is not new to beef cattle breeding. For example, the current within breed BLUP systems for LM, CH & SI, has a single contemporary group for all animals scored in groups of 1. These records currently make up some ~30% of the total records in these respective evaluations. Therefore, we can certainly expect the scale of proofs to change when we move to the new across proof linear's. However, we can also expect to see more re-ranking as we move across these systems, simply because the volume of data that we are working with in pedigree beef linear's is much smaller (e.g., 20k in total for Simmentals) compared to the Euro-Star evaluations (1.38 million records in the overall beef performance evaluation).

2. Increase in number of new records.

In addition to information on herd of finish, ICBF received some 230k new records into the evaluation this time around. This represents an increase in total data of some 20%! This is entirely due to the

benefits of the Suckler Cow Welfare scheme, with 40k new beef herds coming onto the database in the past 2 years. Increases in quantity of data will continue to happen in coming evaluations. It is a positive and is to be welcomed as it ensures that all farms, breeds and systems are reflected in our National evaluations.

Summary.

So in summary, the net effect of these changes has been to provide farmers with a set of proofs, which are more reflective of what is actually happening on the ground. For example, the differences within and between breeds is now much more realistic (~€200/progeny between the best and worst animals) and better reflect true genetic differences between individual animals. Furthermore, the fact that rankings have stayed relatively constant despite the mammoth changes in quantity and quality of data, confirms that farmers can continue to have confidence in the Euro-Star system as a means of accurately identifying the animals that will leave them most profit in the future.

Case Study: Actual Herd Example.

Table 1 indicates the effect of the movements update on the evaluation information for 18 animals with carcass records in the May evaluation. The first 5 animals, although born in 2 different herds, were slaughtered in the same herd. This herd was known to the database (i.e., the herd-owner had signed the Animal Events form releasing data to ICBF). These first 5 animals had a variation in slaughter age of 30 kgs between the top and bottom animals and were sired by two different bulls.

The remaining 13 animals were also born in two different ICBF herds but were subsequently sold into herds not signed up to the ICBF database. Animals moving out of an ICBF herd into an unknown herd were all placed into a herd called "IEIRELAND". These last 13 animals had a variation in slaughter weight of 70 kgs between the top and bottom animals and were sired by four different bulls.

Table 1. An example of the effect of the CMMS movement update to the ICBF database for 18 animals with carcass records in the evaluation

animal	herd animal calved in	Sire	Date of Slaughter	Carcass weight	Mar-09	Herd difference in carcass weight Mar 09	CMMS update	Aug-09	Herd difference in carcass weight Aug 09
					Fattening herd			Fattening herd	
1	IE1112222	AIBULL_1	20/07/2008	340	IE1234567	Max = 340, Max = 310, Difference = 30 kg	NO HERD CHANGE as herd was on database	IE1234567	Max = 340, Min = 310, Difference is still 30 kg
2	IE1112222	STOCKBULL_1	20/07/2008	340	IE1234567			IE1234567	
3	IE1112222	AIBULL_2	20/07/2008	330	IE1234567			IE1234567	
4	IE1222333	AIBULL_2	20/07/2008	312	IE1234567			IE1234567	
5	IE1222333	STOCKBULL_1	20/07/2008	310	IE1234567			IE1234567	
6	IE4444444	AIBULL_1	20/07/2008	365	IEIRELAND	Max = 365, Min = 295, Difference = 70 kg	CMMS CHANGE as fattening herd was not previously known to the ICBF database	IE5555555	Max = 365, Min = 340, Difference is now 25 kg
7	IE4444444	AIBULL_1	20/07/2008	345	IEIRELAND			IE5555555	
8	IE4444444	STOCKBULL_2	20/07/2008	345	IEIRELAND			IE5555555	
9	IE4444444	STOCKBULL_2	20/07/2008	340	IEIRELAND			IE5555555	
10	IE4444444	AIBULL_2	20/07/2008	340	IEIRELAND			IE5555555	
11	IE4444444	AIBULL_1	20/07/2008	327	IEIRELAND			IE2222222	Now less than 5 animals
12	IE4444444	AIBULL_2	20/07/2008	322	IEIRELAND			IE2222222	
13	IE4444444	AIBULL_1	20/07/2008	320	IEIRELAND			IE3333333	Max = 320, Min = 295, Difference is now 25 kg
14	IE5555555	AIBULL_1	20/07/2008	320	IEIRELAND			IE3333333	
15	IE5555555	STOCKBULL_3	20/07/2008	315	IEIRELAND			IE3333333	
16	IE5555555	STOCKBULL_3	20/07/2008	312	IEIRELAND			IE3333333	
17	IE5555555	STOCKBULL_3	20/07/2008	301	IEIRELAND			IE3333333	
18	IE5555555	AIBULL_2	20/07/2008	295	IEIRELAND			IE3333333	IE3333333

All 20 animals were then used in the evaluations in March 2009. As noted earlier, the ICBF database underwent a large upgrade in July 2009, with historic movement data then placing animals in their correct herd groups before slaughter. The bottom 13 animals were affected by this change, as they were updated from IEIRELAND into 3 separate herds, one of 5 animals, one of 2 animals and one of 6 animals. As the evaluation only allows animals in the evaluation if they are in a minimum group of 5, the two animals slaughtered in the herd IE2222222, were discarded from the August evaluation. Table 1 also shows that the 11 animals remaining in the two other herds now have a smaller difference between the top and bottom animals in these herds (difference of 25 kgs in both herds). This is compared to the difference of 70 kgs between the 13 animals in the March evaluation when they were all grouped in the herd "IEIRELAND". This reduction in the difference is now explained by the new herd identifiers received from DAFF and is the reason why most bull will have received a drop in proofs. However, more importantly the relative ranking of the bulls will largely have remained steady as can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. The average carcass weight of the sires for the progeny in Table 1 in the March and August 2009 evaluations

Sire	Mar-09 average carcass	Aug-09 average carcass
AIBULL_1	336	338
AIBULL_2	320	319
STOCKBULL_1	325	325
STOCKBULL_2	343	343
STOCKBULL_3	309	309

10. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 25/08/09 to 04/09/09.

	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	13	811	62	17.8	4.10	3.56	1.36	368
CAVAN	49	2,656	54	18.6	4.02	3.42	1.38	409
CLARE	38	1,831	48	18.0	3.95	3.50	1.34	296
CORK STH	281	18,389	65	17.5	4.04	3.56	1.33	309
CORK NTH	244	17,464	72	18.4	4.13	3.61	1.42	293
DONEGAL	14	1,421	102	16.3	4.12	3.34	1.22	349
DUBLIN	4	188	47	21.3	4.09	3.52	1.62	610
GALWAY	19	1,356	71	19.2	4.09	3.41	1.44	370
KERRY	112	7,021	63	18.8	3.95	3.41	1.38	337
KILDARE	12	961	80	20.7	4.05	3.42	1.55	524
KILKENNY	68	4,715	69	15.9	4.18	3.60	1.24	278
LAOIS	37	3,024	82	17.0	4.23	3.54	1.32	386
LEITRIM	3	143	48	19.2	3.96	3.47	1.43	558
LIMERICK	107	7,496	70	18.1	3.95	3.50	1.35	326
LONGFORD	7	454	65	21.4	3.94	3.51	1.59	303
LOUTH	13	1,070	82	19.5	3.90	3.43	1.43	330
MAYO	37	2,036	55	23.0	3.18	3.49	1.53	280
MEATH	45	3,588	80	18.9	4.04	3.44	1.41	387
MONAGHAN	30	1,724	57	21.6	3.90	3.39	1.57	408
OFFALY	25	1,517	61	18.0	4.17	3.55	1.39	387
ROSCOMMON	1	73	73	22.9	3.70	3.36	1.62	330
SLIGO	14	725	52	19.8	3.63	3.64	1.44	357
TIPPERARY NTH	41	3,168	77	17.2	4.26	3.60	1.35	284
TIPPERARY STH	44	3,160	72	16.9	4.14	3.62	1.31	305
WATERFORD	48	4,064	85	17.4	4.20	3.62	1.36	273
WESTMEATH	15	1,026	68	19.4	4.18	3.49	1.49	461
WEXFORD	65	4,090	63	17.3	4.04	3.56	1.31	345
WICKLOW E	16	979	61	17.6	3.79	3.53	1.29	480
WICKLOW W	13	953	73	20.5	4.37	3.41	1.59	446
	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	1,415	96,103	68	18.9	4.01	3.50	1.42	372

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 25/08/09 to 04/09/09.

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	915	62,593	68	17.8	4.08	3.55	1.36	303
Leinster	333	23,376	70	18.9	4.08	3.50	1.43	408
Connacht	74	4,333	59	20.8	3.71	3.47	1.50	379
Ulster	93	5,801	62	18.8	4.01	3.38	1.39	389

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 04/09/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 04/09/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 04/09/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 04/09/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 04/09/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,066	842	41%	174,352	70,947	41%
Dairygold	1,500	560	37%	115,592	45,358	39%
Kerry	890	66	7%	62,091	4,215	7%
SWS	856	114	13%	61,239	8,801	14%
Tipperary	135	55	41%	11,008	4,896	44%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,831	10,047	85%
Connacht	139	49	35%	9,373	3,291	35%
Donegal	32	32	100%	3,732	3,732	100%
Total	5,759	1,834	32%	449,218	151,287	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 04/09/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 04/09/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	177,726	174,352	-1.9%
Dairygold	122,567	115,592	-6.0%
Kerry	78,492	62,091	-26.4%
SWS	61,202	61,239	0.1%
Tipperary	12,934	11,008	-17.5%
Arrabawn	12,715	11,831	-7.5%
Connacht	10,086	9,373	-7.6%
Donegal	4,710	3,732	-26.2%
Total	480,432	449,218	-6.9%

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CREAMERY HERD
ADDRESS1
ADDRESS2
ADDRESS3

National ID: IE1234567

BTE ID: X1234567

August 2009

Milk Performance Management Report

Dear Herd owner,

Please find enclosed your January to June 2009 herd performance report.

This report combines data from the ICBF database along with the relevant milk data, which Glanbia sent to ICBF. The combined data* provides a useful picture of your herd's current performance.

To make full use of this report we would encourage you to discuss its contents with your local Teagasc or Glanbia milk advisor. We would also like to encourage you to make it part of your next discussion group meeting, debating the pro's and con's of the report and also providing us with feedback on how best to improve its contents.

* ICBF would like to re-assure you that your combined data is stored in the ICBF database for your use only. If you do not wish to receive any further reports in the future you have the option of opting out by notifying our HerdPlus office on **1850 600 900**.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Wickham

Herd Owner: CREAMERY HERD
Designator: IE1234567 / X1234567
Supplier Number: 1234567 / Manufacturing

LoCall 1850 600 900

Table 1: Your Herds Milk Deliveries to Glanbia for 2008/2009

2009								2008							
Month	Milk (Ltrs)	Fat %	Ptn %	Total MS (kg)	SCC	Total Dairy Cows	MS/cow /day (all cows)	Milk (Ltrs)	Fat %	Ptn %	Total MS (kg)	SCC	Total Dairy Cows	MS/cow /day (all cows)	
Jan	0	0%	0%	0	0	72	0.00	3,508	4.19%	3.27%	269	433	71	0.14	
Feb	4,696	3.64%	3.37%	339	234	75	0.16	8,742	4.01%	3.34%	662	580	77	0.31	
Mar	17,906	3.66%	3.32%	1,287	120	75	0.55	30,774	3.78%	3.53%	2,317	214	80	0.78	
Apr	28,393	3.65%	3.44%	2,073	134	80	0.81	28,524	3.54%	3.49%	2,065	143	81	0.98	
May	31,886	3.63%	3.44%	2,321	141	79	1.05	34,457	3.73%	3.39%	2,526	162	80	1.13	
Jun	43,746	3.73%	3.41%	3,216	222	79	1.16	43,420	3.65%	3.47%	3,183	223	80	1.14	
SubTotal	126,627	3.67%	3.41%	9,236	168	77	0.62	149,425	3.71%	3.45%	11,022	218	78	0.75	
Jul								35,247	3.75%	3.44%	2,610	246	79	1.18	
Aug								41,322	3.96%	3.42%	3,140	239	74	1.21	
Sep								39,779	4.21%	3.64%	3,215	263	72	1.28	
Oct								24,980	4.52%	3.88%	2,161	231	72	1.07	
Nov								8,356	4.61%	3.63%	709	463	72	0.35	
Dec								0	0%	0%	0	0	72	0.00	
Total								299,109	3.91%	3.51%	22,857				
Avg/mth								24,926			1,905	238	76	0.80	
Avg/cow								3,936			301				

FIG 1: Milk Solids per Cow per Day 2008-2009

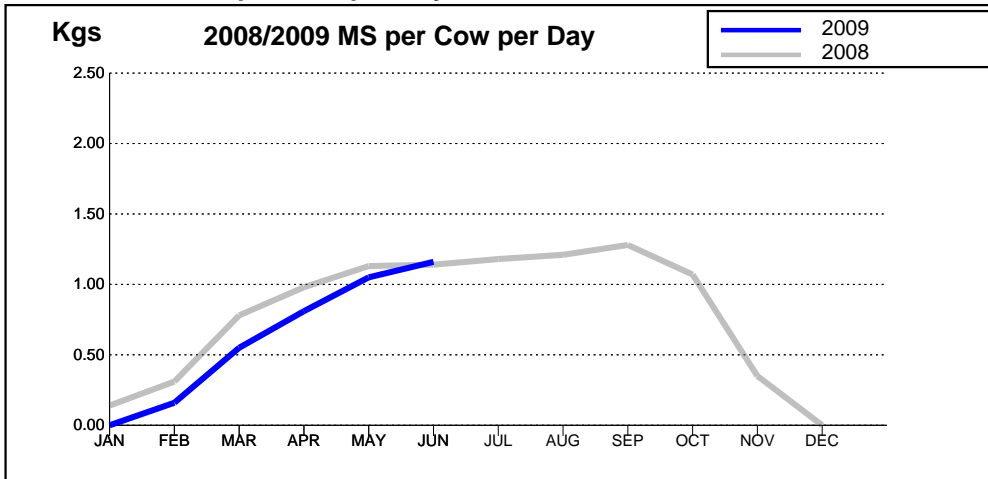
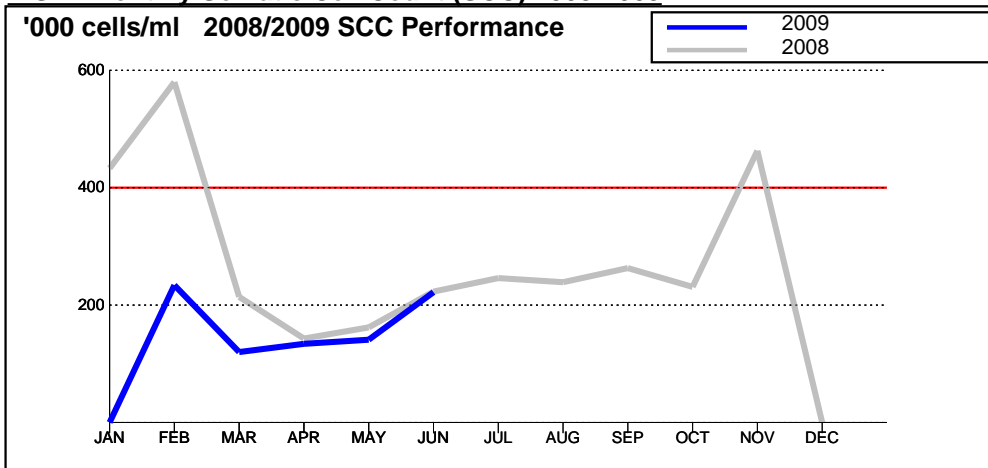


FIG 2: Monthly Somatic Cell Count (SCC) 2008-2009



Useful Management Tips

- Monitor somatic cell counts closely from now on - aim to supply milk at less than 200,000 cells/ml from now until the end of the year
- Use the ICBF milk quality reports to identify high SCC cows if cell count starts to rise
- Target a rotation length of 35-40 days on October 1st and a cover of 400-430 kg dry matter per cow
- If cover is too low, reduce demand by supplementing or by drying off thin/young cows
- Commence closing up paddocks during the first week of October
- Target a closing cover of 500-550 kg DM/ha

Table 2: Your Glanbia/ICBF Performance Score Card

	Your Herd	Glanbia Average	Glanbia Top 10%	Your Rank out of 100	Your Star Rating ¹
Your Milk performance for 2009 (Jan - Jun) based on Glanbia data					
Fat % to end June 2009 The weighted average Fat % from Jan - Jun 2009	3.67	3.64	3.78	64%	* * * *
Protein % to end June 2009 The weighted average Protein % from Jan - Jun 2009	3.41	3.26	3.35	98%	* * * * *
Fat + Protein (Kg/cow) Average Fat and Protein yield per cow for your herd (Table 1)	120	166	212	11%	*
Average Milk Value (cpl) Incl. VAT Average milk value received from Jan - Jun 2009, on your farm performance.	21.8	21.4	22.4	77%	* * * *
SCC (,000 cells/ml) The weighted average Somatic Cell Count for Jan - Jun 2009	168	238	129	76%	* * * *
Your Fertility & Culling based on HerdPlus 2008 Calving Report					
Calving Interval (days) Average number of days between successive calvings for cows calved during the period	433	396	365	10%	*
Days to calve 50% of herd Start 05/02/2009 - Median 01/04/2009	56	37	16	13%	*
Culling Rate Number of cows culled (Factory/Died) in the period (4) as a proportion of eligible cows (79)	5%	15%	3%	87%	* * * * *
%AI bred replacements %female calves born in the period from dairy AI (0) as a proportion of eligible cows (79)	0%	15%	34%	19%	*
Your EBI Statistics based on Herdplus EBI Report May 2009					
Herd EBI (2009) Average EBI for cows with EBI data	€68	€60	€83	66%	* * * *
Yearly EBI Gain (2009-2010) Gain in Herd EBI based on; 0-1yr old, 1-2yr old & 22% replacement rate	€3	€1.8	€5	75%	* * * *
EBI of 2009 Inseminations Weighted Average EBI of dairy AI bulls recorded in Spring 2009	n/a	€120	€162	n/a	
¹ * = 0 - 20% * * = 21 - 40% * * * = 41 - 60% * * * * = 61 - 80% * * * * * = 81 - 100%					

Table of Terms

Glanbia Average	The average performance of all Glanbia herds for relevant Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
Glanbia Top 10%	The top 10% cut off point of all Glanbia herds for relevant Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
Your Rank out of 100	1% = Bottom Herd, 50% = Average Herd, 100% = Top Herd
Your Star Rating	Your performance for the KPI displayed in stars e.g. 1 star is bottom 20% and 5 stars = top 20%