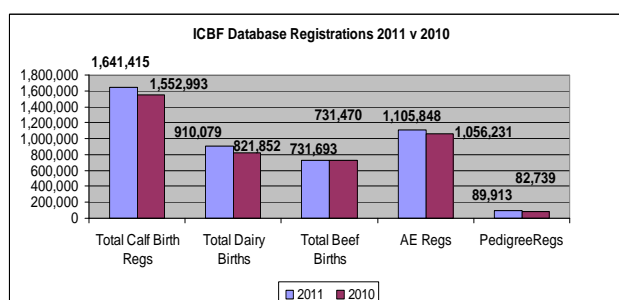
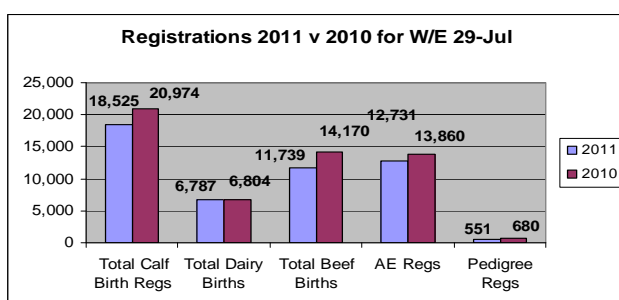


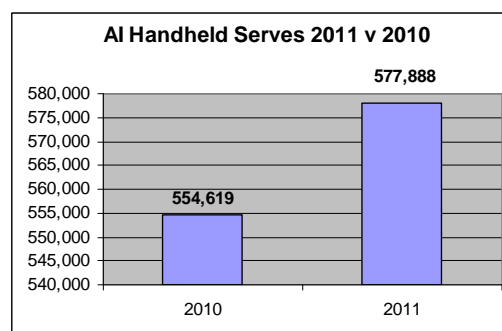
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 15th September, 10:30 to 14:00 – ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 22nd September, 14:00 to 16:30 – ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **High Health Status Sale** – Saturday 15th October 2011 – 12:00 to 2:00 - 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 629,047 with the number of animals weaned at 568,579.
- ✚ A significant block of work to further enhance the efficiency of generation and distribution of Suckler Scheme form is nearing completion.
- ✚ The first prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software has arrived from the US today.
- ✚ Work is on-going in building the systems that will support the up-coming national BVD eradication programme.
- ✚ Some minor revisions to the Co-op milk solids reports have been completed this week.
- ✚ Some further work on the screens to support the transfer of genotypes to and from the ICBF database is on-going.
- ✚ This week, the work continued on a major upgrade to one of the key software platforms used at ICBF. The tool used to generate our farmer forms and reports, (Streamserve), will undergo a major upgrade over the coming months.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



3 Gene Ireland Dairy

ICBF has made the final round of Milk Recording payments for heifers kept as replacements from Gene Ireland Autumn 2007 program. The first round of Milk Recording payments for heifers kept as replacements from Gene Ireland Spring 2008 program have also been completed last week.

4 Tully

Current Intake

- ✚ The next weighing of bulls will take place on Monday, 8th of August.
- ✚ Bulls are being washed at present to help maintain and promote hair growth.
- ✚ All bulls have received hoof-care this week where it was deemed necessary.

Tully Advisory Committee

A meeting of the Tully Advisory Committee took place on Monday, 25th of July at Tully Bull performance Test Centre.

Some of the main outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. Agreed to hold a “High Health Status Sale” at Tully on Saturday, 15th of October 2011.
 - The sale is to be held at Tully and run from 12.00 pm to 2.00 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 26th of September following the August evaluation run.
 - A sales entry forms will be sent out to breeders requesting a fee of €50 to be paid per bull entered (this fee will cover the preparation of the bulls for the sale).
 - Order of sale: The order of breeds into the sale ring is as follows: 3 Blonde d’Aquitaine, 1 Saler, 2 Parthenaise, 4 Angus, 18 Limousin, 16 Charolais, 6 Simmental 2 Belgian Blue.
2. 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 strategy focusing on selecting bulls that have strong maternal traits for the GENÉIRLAND program has been put forward to help drive breed development and increasing genetic gain for each breed. Principles of the program for selecting bulls with good maternal traits include:
 - Initially selecting from a list of top maternal cows ranked and sent to each Herdbook that have bull calves born between 1st November 2010 and 31st April 2011.
 - More intensive selection will involve ICBF, Herdbooks and AI companies liaising with each other to identify good maternal bulls based on their indexes, age and bloodlines prior to the visual inspection of the dam of the bull.
 - Emphasis on bulls having strong maternal traits and also outcrosses.
 - Herdbooks to work closely with breeders that own these elite maternal bulls.
 - These top maternal bulls will then be made available to the GENÉIRLAND program.
4. Future role of Tully

The different options for Tully going forward were outlined which included the option of commercial progeny being tested at Tully.

- The future role of Tully will be considered at a technical meeting with the Herdbooks on 18th of August.
- Work is to be carried out which looks at each breed individually in terms of selecting commercial progeny in G-€-I-R-€-L-A-N-D progeny test herds out of G-€-I-R-€-L-A-N-D (GI) bulls for potential testing this autumn at Tully. This is to be based on:
 - Adequate semen availability from the GI bull.
 - AI company, Herdbook and ICBF are in agreement as to whether or not it is worth getting further information on the bull through progeny testing.
 - How many progeny of the bull are available.
 - Commercial progeny are still on farm with correct AI date.
 - Work with the most informative herds.
- In relation to the beef G-€-I-R-€-L-A-N-D program, the up-coming Autumn program still requires more bulls from some breeds.
- In relation to GROW, when linear scoring for the first 6 months of 2011 was compared to the first 6 month of 2010, the number of pedigree animals weighed and scored has increased slightly, whilst the number of commercial animals weighed and scored has increased by 1,200.

Stephen Conroy

5 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ Sheep Ireland has been attending all the premier sales to date including the Vendéen, Charollais and Belclare sales.
- ✚ Prices for rams at all three sales have been strong reflecting the renewed optimism within the sheep industry.
- ✚ Pictured is the 1st placed ram in the Vendéen societies first ever LambPlus 5 Star Production class. The winner was a ram from the flock of Gordon & Yvonne Johnston, Swiss Cottage, Tyrrellpass, Co. Westmeath. The inclusion of this category on the day was hugely appreciated by Sheep Ireland as it really raised the profile of the LambPlus recorded breeders, this will certainly be a great incentive for other Vendéen breeders to start recording.
- ✚ The Belclare sale saw a very strong trade, however the most notable aspect of the sale was the strong prices being achieved for the higher starred rams. This really emphasises that ram buyers are beginning to buy into the €uro-Star system and it is really encouraging that they were using the stars as a selection tool when purchasing, illustrated by the increased competition for the high starred rams.
- ✚ We are also attending as many farm walks as possible in association with Teagasc advisors to spread the positive message associated with buying performance recorded rams. There has been a really good response from farmers at these meetings. Recent events attended include the field evening at John & Mary Gallagher,



Ballinamongree, Glanworth, Co. Cork on the 26th July and the farm walk on Michael Dalys, Parsonstown, Crookedwood, Mullingar on 3rd Aug.

- ✚ We have greatly increased our collaboration with Teagasc this year. On the 19th July we travelled to Lyons Estate, UCD to meet with Teagasc sheep specialists (coordinated by Michael McHugh) and advisors for an in-service training day exclusively dealing with Sheep Ireland and our full programme. The benefit of this day will be immeasurable going forward, as these advisors will disseminate our message in a far more extensive way than we can achieve. On the day itself there was a fantastic level of interaction, no topic was left undiscussed and I think advisors left with a solid understanding of what needs to be done to make a real success of the Euro-Star evaluation model. Indeed we at Sheep Ireland also left with some great suggestions, especially in terms of ways to present our information to a wider industry audience. Lyons Estate and their main representatives (Tommy Boland & Alan Fahy) are doing great work in terms of demonstrating the CPT system, and indeed explaining and helping to develop our entire system.
- ✚ Next on the agenda is the Suffolk premier sale on Sat 6th Aug in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. The Texel Premier will follow on the Sat 13th Aug with the Tullamore Show being attended on the Sun 14th Aug. Hopefully our presence at these events will deliver a better understanding of our programme to both pedigree and commercial farmers alike.
- ✚ Our CPT programme is progressing well also, today Friday 5th Aug, John Large will be selecting his ewe lambs intended for breeding with the help of Sheep Ireland representatives. This year farmers will have the benefit of being able to use their handheld recorders to identify the lambs to retain, this will facilitate a much more efficient selection process, highlighting the potential benefit of the EID tag in a commercial setting.

Eamonn Wall

6 Genetic Evaluations

The routine evaluations are well underway. Most evaluations have been processed to date. Once all evaluations are complete a new genomic evaluation will take place. We expect to publish official results on Monday 15th of August.

Genomic Evaluations

Our genomic evaluations for milk, fat and protein successfully passed the Interbull Genomic Validation test. This is an important step in ensuring the validity and accuracy of our genomic evaluations. We will submit fertility and longevity traits for the next test run.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/08/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/08/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/08/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/08/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/08/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,661	1,039	28%	298,662	93,823	31%
Progressive	2,359	1,469	62%	209,918	79,477	38%
Tipperary	144	80	56%	12,977	6,234	48%
Total	6,164	2,588	42%	521,557	179,534	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 05/08/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 05/08/11	2011 vs 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	272,410	298,662	8.8%
Progressive	186,748	209,918	11.0%
Tipperary	11,723	12,977	9.7%
Total	470,881	521,557	9.7%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 26/07/11 to 05/08/11

	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	14	996	71	24.2	4.03	3.35	1.79	280
CAVAN	45	2,550	57	24.1	3.69	3.35	1.70	313
CLARE	38	2,294	60	24.7	3.71	3.39	1.75	264
CORK STH	255	17,861	70	22.2	3.93	3.47	1.64	236
CORK NTH	267	20,252	76	22.5	3.96	3.51	1.68	244
DONEGAL	16	1,342	84	20.9	3.95	3.38	1.53	410
DUBLIN	6	520	87	21.5	3.73	3.28	1.51	252
GALWAY	32	2,335	73	21.7	4.00	3.40	1.61	260
KERRY	162	10,634	66	22.8	3.74	3.39	1.63	291
KILDARE	28	2,245	80	24.9	3.88	3.37	1.81	381
KILKENNY	58	4,946	85	21.8	3.82	3.46	1.59	218
LAOIS	32	2,487	78	20.2	4.05	3.46	1.52	274
LEITRIM	8	417	52	26.8	3.52	3.27	1.82	282
LIMERICK	112	8,597	77	24.0	3.69	3.37	1.69	284
LONGFORD	7	369	53	21.3	3.95	3.41	1.57	206
LOUTH	19	2,079	109	26.2	3.86	3.42	1.91	332
MAYO	25	1,395	56	27.1	3.34	3.33	1.81	256
MEATH	53	5,050	95	23.3	3.71	3.29	1.63	292
MONAGHAN	28	1,520	54	24.1	3.71	3.33	1.70	320
OFFALY	22	1,481	67	23.2	3.77	3.38	1.66	335
ROSCOMMON	3	238	79	21.8	4.08	3.40	1.63	346
SLIGO	8	506	63	23.3	3.66	3.32	1.63	378
TIPPERARY NTH	44	4,105	93	19.9	4.26	3.55	1.55	357
TIPPERARY STH	59	5,056	86	21.3	3.92	3.43	1.57	294
WATERFORD	45	4,008	89	22.3	3.89	3.49	1.65	255
WESTMEATH	16	1,136	71	23.3	3.91	3.34	1.69	286
WEXFORD	57	4,688	82	22.6	3.76	3.50	1.64	284
WICKLOW E	19	1,246	66	21.4	3.71	3.42	1.53	347
WICKLOW W	15	1,059	71	24.4	3.85	3.27	1.74	344
	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	1,493	111,412	74	23.0	3.83	3.39	1.66	297
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National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 26/07/11 to 05/08/11.

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	982	72,807	74	22.5	3.89	3.45	1.65	278
Leinster	346	28,302	82	22.9	3.84	3.38	1.66	295
Connacht	76	4,891	64	24.1	3.72	3.34	1.71	304
Ulster	89	5,412	61	23.0	3.78	3.35	1.64	348

Brian Wickham (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email bwickham@icbf.com.

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