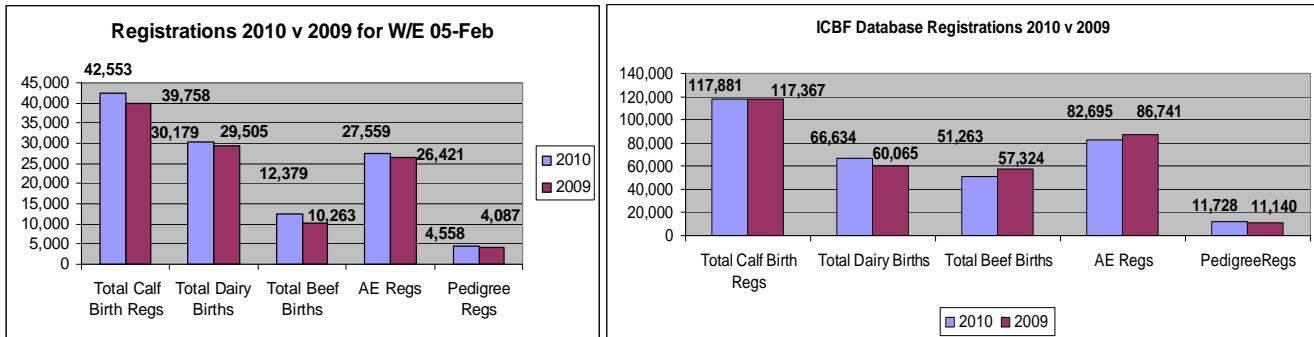


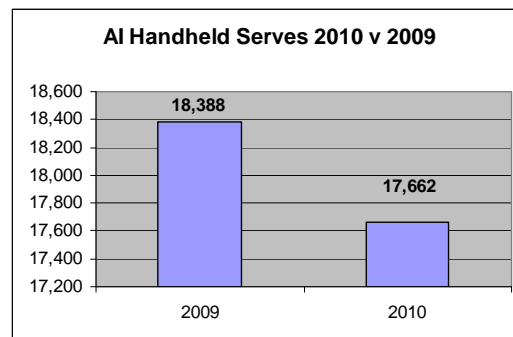
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 25th February 2010, **10:00 to 14:00** – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 25th February 2010, **14:00 to 16:30** – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interbull Breeding Industry Workshop** – Friday 5th March, Paris. This meeting is open to the cattle breeding industry. To get further details and to register follow the *Interbull* link on the International Representation page of our website (www.icbf.com).

2. Database



- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 586,807 with the number of animals weaned at 487,366.
- ✚ Around 50% of Suckler Herds have had their Animal Events Notebooks and envelopes posted out this week. The process will continue next week. A complimentary Herdplus Beef Calving Report is being included for all suckler participants.
- ✚ All four milk recording organisations continue to work well on the new Milk Recording system. The final release of changes is now tested and will be implemented next week.
- ✚ The changes to facilitate the migration to the new Beef Linear evaluations continue to be worked on. Some further updates to the catalogue arising out of last weeks Beef Industry meeting will be addressed next week. Some updates to the on-line herdbook will also begin next week.
- ✚ Updates to the EBI reports are being completed in advance of the spring distribution over the coming weeks.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



3. GENEIRELAND®

Beef

- ✚ Sign ups are going well with 122 herds taking part so far.
- ✚ MBP, SEU and KCP reached the 700 straws mark this week.
- ✚ Total bulls tested on Gene Ireland is now 29 with KCP being the first Parthenaise bull to be tested.

✚ Work continuing on identifying bulls for inclusion on the Spring panel.

✚ Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.

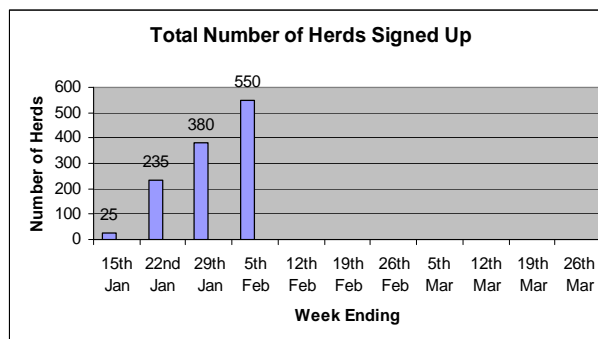
BREED	CH	LM	SI	BB	SA	AA	SH	HE
CODE	VHC	FL29	HSY	EVG	BHU	RWB	CZB	AGI
STRAWS	650	570	350	520	360	600	530	235

Dairy

✚ Sign ups for the programme are going very well.

✚ Calls to participants of last years programme are continuing and postal applications are being received daily.

✚ The total number of straws requested to date is 25,742. Dispatching of the straws will commence next week.



4. Tully

✚ The second live-weight was obtained on all bulls on Monday of this week (Table 1). Bulls are performing very well with an average daily gain of 2.03 kg, across all breeds.

Table 1. Live-weight and average daily gain (21 day period) of bulls, averaged by breed

Breed	AA (n = 13)	AU (n = 1)	BB (n = 4)	CH (n = 26)	HE (n = 5)	LM (n = 40)	SA (n = 4)	SI (n = 10)	SP (n = 2)
Average Live-weight (Kg)	526	428	515	557	490	513	469	583	527
Average Daily Gain (Kg)	2.2	1.90	1.96	2.05	1.96	1.90	1.94	2.39	1.93

* Suckler Beef Value

✚ Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date, along with the latest Euro-Star figures. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.

✚ A list of eligible bulls (Table 2) has being put together for the next intake, which will start on the 15th of May 2010. Breed societies will receive a list of bulls that are eligible, early next week. Breeders will be notified in early March, if they have a bull that has met the initial criteria for the Tully GEN€IRELAND program.

Table 2. Eligible bulls for the Spring 10 Tully GEN€IRELAND® program

Breed	AA	AU	BA	BB	CH	LM	PT	SA	SI	SH	HE	PI
No. of Bulls	73	13	6	8	314	431	2	15	85	9	114	7

✚ The selection criteria for bulls eligible for the May 2010 intake are as follows:

- 5 star Suckler Beef Value.
- 3 star Milk and Fertility.
- Born between 1st May 09 and 31st October 09.

OR

- Superior bulls identified by Breed Societies i.e. new bloodlines.

- ✚ A meeting of the Tully Advisory Committee took place on Wednesday last, 3rd February at Tully Bull performance Test Centre. There was a very good attendance. Key outcomes will be outlined in next weeks update, in order to allow members not in attendance a chance to comment on the minutes of the meeting, which are being sent out today.

5. Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

- ✚ Genomic evaluations have been completed and are being uploaded to the database currently. The correlation between the new and the previous genomic proofs is 0.90. The change is the result of the inclusion of several thousand more animals into the training population especially for production and fertility traits. We hope to have all relevant files updated on the website before the weekend. The publication rules for GS bulls are that we use domestic information greater than 70% reliability for production, calving and beef, and >50% for fertility and health. The effect of this is that some bulls will have part of their proofs based on daughter information and part on genomic information. Any Interbull information on foreign bulls takes precedence over the genomic information.

Carcass Data

- ✚ The genetic parameter analysis has started this week for the meat yield study. More than 60,000 steers and 30,000 heifers are present in the edited file. The analysis is expected to last the next 2 weeks.

6. Trends in Dairy Births- 13% Growth in Number of Dairy AI bred calves

- ✚ At this time of the year, it is always interesting to review the latest trends in dairy cow births. These have been highlighted in the following table.

*Trends in Dairy Cow Births (2006-2009)**

Key Statistics	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total Dairy Cow Births	933,393	928,076	920,461	894,015
Potential Dairy replacements	222,499	226,621	237,792	268,503
% Total	23.8%	24.4%	25.8%	30.0%
- Of which AI bred	101,106	115,606	125,888	139,273

* These statistics are based on data from the ICBF cattle breeding database, which accounts for some 85% of total dairy cow births.

There are a number of highly relevant statistics from Table 2, including;

- ✚ The 13% per annum growth in number of AI bred calves (up from 101k in 2006, to 139k in 2009). This is a remarkable increase and confirms the benefits of having a unified industry campaign (*the Profit with AI partnership*), when the issue impacts all key stakeholders. However, it should be noted that the figure for 2009 still only represents 16 AI-bred heifers per 100 cows. The best farmers and discussion groups are now setting targets of 40 AI-bred heifers per 100 cows as they seek to capitalize on expansion and/or surplus sales opportunities. We must continue to achieve improvements in this figure in coming years.
- ✚ The steady decline in number of dairy cow births. These trends are consistent with trends presented by ICBF late last year, based on a “picture” of all dairy stock on farms on 1st July 2009 (cows and young-stock). The

bottom line is there will be no major increase in dairy cow numbers for the next 2-3 years, as the increase in replacements for 2008 and 2009, will only offset the losses in dairy cow numbers from the past few years.

- ✚ The increase in potential dairy replacements – although a proportion of these are clearly non-AI bred.

7. Sheep Ireland

LambPlus

- ✚ LambPlus[®] Breeders are continuing to enter Lambing Data through the new web screens.
- ✚ An excellent meeting was held on Wednesday evening with the Mayo Mountain Ram Producer Group. Mountain sheep want to start performance recording with LambPlus[®] in 2010.
- ✚ A Meeting was also held with members of the Galway Sheep Society on Thursday evening to discuss LambPlus[®] recording.

MALP/CPT

- ✚ DNA Tagging of all ewes across all MALP flocks has now been completed.
- ✚ Preparations are well underway in advance of lambing in the CPT Flocks.
- ✚ MALP meeting & workshop for report design is scheduled for Wednesday the 10th February.
- ✚ MALP farmers in West of Ireland met on Wednesday evening last.

8. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 26/01/10 to 05/02/10

	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	15	733	49	24.3	4.38	3.36	1.88	506
CAVAN	24	843	35	24.7	3.98	3.31	1.80	370
CLARE	5	207	41	27.2	3.85	3.32	1.95	239
CORK STH	119	5,660	48	22.5	4.18	3.35	1.69	398
CORK NTH	56	3,337	60	23.9	4.25	3.38	1.82	373
DONEGAL	8	358	45	23.0	4.32	3.37	1.77	400
DUBLIN	3	149	50	28.7	3.84	3.23	2.03	442
GALWAY	22	1,114	51	25.1	4.00	3.26	1.82	457
KERRY	34	1,481	44	21.3	4.00	3.27	1.55	479
KILDARE	22	1,449	66	24.1	4.21	3.32	1.81	653
KILKENNY	13	860	66	21.9	4.11	3.47	1.66	445
LAOIS	16	912	57	20.4	4.11	3.38	1.53	437
LEITRIM	6	215	36	27.3	3.94	3.25	1.96	385
LIMERICK	28	1,417	51	21.7	4.00	3.32	1.59	414
LONGFORD	5	233	47	17.5	4.41	3.42	1.37	681
LOUTH	15	1,316	88	26.0	3.94	3.51	1.94	562
MAYO	7	269	38	21.6	4.22	3.42	1.65	551
MEATH	65	4,903	75	22.3	4.17	3.38	1.68	456
MONAGHAN	35	1,249	36	23.1	4.03	3.30	1.69	522
OFFALY	5	283	57	23.7	4.18	3.19	1.75	515
ROSCOMMON	3	127	42	20.4	4.27	3.28	1.54	409
SLIGO								

TIPPERARY NTH	7	328	47	19.2	4.32	3.46	1.49	462
TIPPERARY STH	13	564	43	23.0	4.29	3.45	1.78	463
WATERFORD	13	839	65	23.8	3.97	3.32	1.74	353
WESTMEATH	19	1,074	57	24.2	4.34	3.30	1.85	526
WEXFORD	39	1,998	51	19.9	3.91	3.42	1.46	448
WICKLOW E	12	857	71	22.5	4.00	3.39	1.66	502
WICKLOW W	12	681	57	23.8	4.09	3.32	1.76	487
	<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	621	33,456	53	23.1	4.12	3.35	1.73	462

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 26/01/10 to 05/02/10								
Provincial	<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>
Munster	287	14,579	51	22.8	4.11	3.36	1.70	406
Leinster	241	15,448	64	23.0	4.12	3.36	1.72	512
Connacht	45	2,053	46	23.6	4.11	3.30	1.75	453
Ulster	67	2,450	37	23.6	4.11	3.33	1.76	431

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