



Update for period 29th April – 5th May 2006

1 Important Dates

- **Saturday 6th May, Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.
- **Tuesday 9th May, 10:30 – 16:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation Meeting.**
- **Tuesday 9th May, 16:00 – 17:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Tully Review Meeting.**

2 ICBF Board Meeting 4th May 2006

The outcome of Wednesday's Board meeting included:

- A decision to ask the Audit & Finance Sub Committee to review ICBF's funding and expenditures for 2006 and subsequent years.
- A decision to endorse an Irish contribution of €25,000 per year for three years in support of the establishment of a routine international beef evaluation service facilitated through Interbull subject to it being budget neutral to ICBF.

3 ICBF AGM 4th May 2006

- The Accounts for year ended December 2005 were unanimously adopted.
- Ernst & Young were appointed Auditors for the Society for 2006, this appointment is for the third year of a three year term.
- The Secretary advised that she had received the following nominations from the respective groupings entitled to appoint Directors to the Board. Those named below were duly appointed to the Board for a four year term:

A.I.	Bernard Eivers & Dermot Cahill
Herd Books	Sean Fitzgerald
IFA	Kevin Kinsella, Derek Deane, John Brien & Michael Murphy
ICMSA	Kevin Connolly & Tony Maher

4 Genetic Evaluations

- **Genetic Evaluations – Beef.** Test evaluations were released for beef calving interval and survival (new maternal trait evaluations), beef performance and beef linear type traits, ahead of next weeks beef industry meeting (Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, Tuesday 9th May at 10.30 AM). This is the first time evaluations have been made available for fertility and survival traits in Irish beef cattle and is a major step forward in the development of the beef EBI.
- **Genetic Evaluations – Dairy.** Domestic milk production evaluations have been forwarded to Interbull for international evaluations. On receipt of proofs back from Interbull (12th May), new EBI's will be generated, incorporating data from milk production, calving interval, survival, beef, calving & linear type traits (for both foreign and domestic animals). Due to the work-load associated with the new beef proofs (see above), we expect this process to take a minimum of 1 week, with proofs available for official release during the week starting 22nd May.

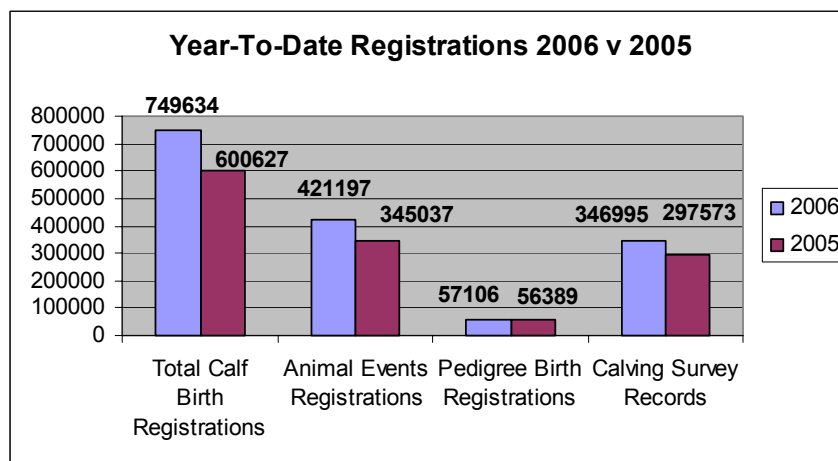
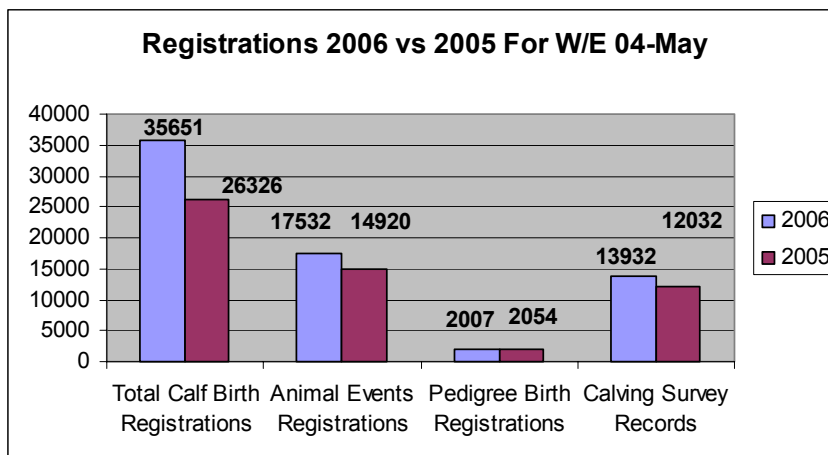
5 Gene Ireland

- Sign up of herds to the program is now closed. Approximately 490 herds are involved in this springs programmes, testing 36 Holstein and 10 Friesian young sires.
- Majority of the 4th group of 10 test bulls has been assembled and currently being dispatched. This will be completed next week.
- Final Inbreeding Reports will be sent out early next week.



6 Database Update

- 83 new herds added to the database last week
- Approximately 35,000 inseminations have now been captured across 75 AI handhelds. In general, the system continues to operate satisfactorily. The next two weeks will see the peak of the AI season.
- Backend work in the area of pricing and billing files for the AI service is continuing. The billing files for April are being prepared.
- A 'herd card' report for Dovea has been completed this week and is currently undergoing some testing.
- Further investigative work on the production of catalogues is on-going. Some feedback from herdbooks is expected in the coming week in relation to how the final solution will operate.



- In-breeding charts for a number of GENE Ireland herds have been completed.
- The development of Fertility Reports for the coming AI season is complete. Initial feedback has been positive. A run of 500 or so herds will happen next week.

7 Milk Recording Update

Industry Test Turnaround April 2006

Industry national average for April 2006 was 6.8 days. Nationally 3,400 tests were processed with some 178,900 animals. April 05 had a turnaround of 6.0 days. The Organisation with the best turnaround in April 06 was **Kerry** with an average of **4.9 days**. Dairygold and SWS were both under 6 days. Each Milk Recording Organisation (MRO) is furnished with an Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.



€DIY Herds Turnaround.

For the subset of 360 €DIY recorded herds in April, **the average turnaround time for coded €DIY herds was 4.9 days.** (can only be extracted for MROs that have dedicated €DIY technician codes assigned to €DIY herds, and had > 10 herd tests). Connacht and Donegal not enough herds recorded in April 06. Progressive Genetics recorders doing both €DIY and Manual and have not yet assigned codes - as such difficult to extract stat. MROS that went into the €DIY stat for April 06 were;

- Dairygold – 3 cells on €DIY averaged turnaround time of 4.4 days
- SWS – cell on €DIY averaged 5.2 days
- Kerry – cell on €DIY averaged 5.2 days
- Arrabawn/Tipp - cell on €DIY averaged 6.5 days. (experiencing some Lab delays due to “batching” of DIY).

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 05/05/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 05/05/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 05/05/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 05/05/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,010	1,858	-8%	121,806	118,527	-3%
Dairygold	1,373	1,384	1%	67,503	75,516	12% *
Kerry	1,028	1,015	-1%	51,832	53,912	4%
SWS	925	898	-3%	45,320	46,810	3%
Tipperary	139	134	-4%	6,609	7,831	18% *
Connacht	106	105	-1%	5,664	5,790	2%
Arrabawn	99	112	13%	4,009	6,122	53% *
Donegal	6	10	67%	307	681	122% *
Total	5,686	5,516	-4%	303,050	315,189	3%

* Increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells



MR Stats week ending 28/04/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 28/04/05 - 05/05/05	2006 Herds Recorded Week 28/04/06 - 05/05/06
Progressive	373	356
Dairygold	180	164
SWS	122	150
Kerry	160	170
Connacht	17	19
Tipperary	29	29
Arrabawn	14	11
Donegal	4	4
Total	899	903

8 Breeding Information Services

Further discussions took place on Thursday and will continue in the near future.

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, [Phone office +353 \(0\)23 20222](tel:+35302320222), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](tel:+3530868269911) [Fax office +353 \(0\)23 20229](tel:+35302320229) E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden. © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.