



UPDATE – for period 29th September – 5th October 2007

1 Important Dates

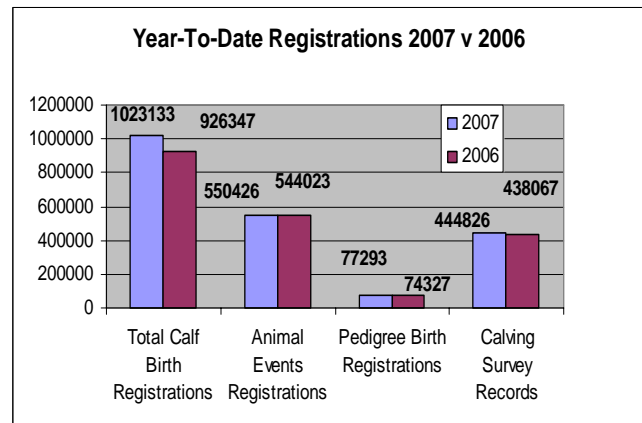
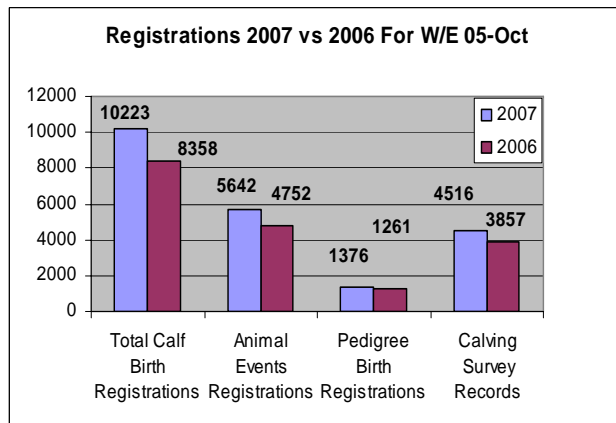
- ✚ **October 20th.** National Dairy Show, Millstreet.
- ✚ **October 25th.** ICBF Board Meeting.

2 Ovultest Project.



ICBF, and Dovea, are participating in a three year EU funded project to develop technology to simplify heat detection and pregnancy testing in cattle. The project has been running for one year and the first annual reporting meeting was held this week at Lund University in Sweden. The project is being managed by a technology company based in Barcelona and involves collaboration with research, technology and cattle breeding organisations in several other EU countries. Good progress has been made in each of nine work packages that comprise the overall project. See attached photo of participants in the Lund meeting this week.

3 Database Update

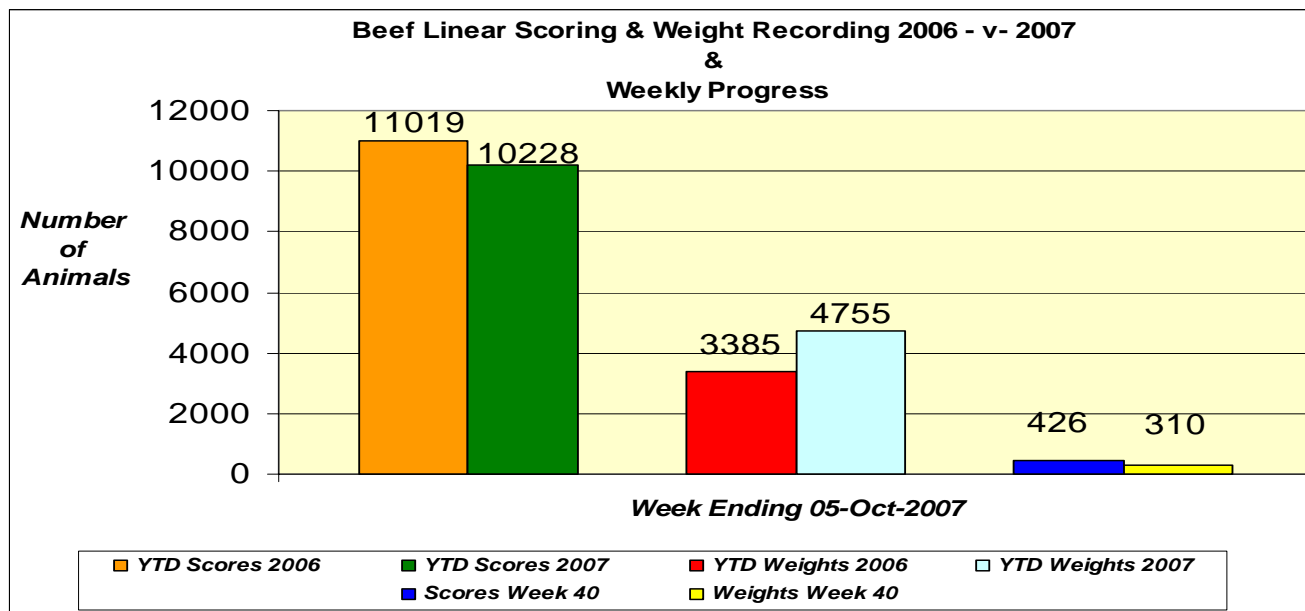


- ✚ 351,375 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 154,396 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✚ The new farmer interface to ‘HerdPlus’ was launched this week. Further updates will be continuing, with a further release expected before Christmas.
- ✚ Refinements of the Eurostar reports are underway, in preparation for the issue of a further batch of reports to those herds who have not yet received them.
- ✚ Progress continues on the redesign of the Animal Events file processing which will be completed over the coming months.
- ✚ Preparations are beginning in order to be ready for the commencement of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme, which will have a significant impact in terms of data volumes coming into the database, with Animal Events being the means of data recording.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the Sire Advice module for the new season.



- The implementation of the new hardware solution and database upgrade is on-going. This will take another 4-6 weeks of work. The main impact will be increased storage capacity, and more timely updates of genetic evaluations to the production database.

4 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



5 Tully

- All applications for the next intake to Tully have been sent out to breeders.
- A meeting will be held on the 12-10-07 with the Tully staff, Tully vet and DAF vets to discuss the Tully health protocol.
- The bio security changes at Tully and isolation units have commenced.

6 Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/10/07						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/10/07	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/10/07	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/10/07	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/10/07	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,128	651	31%	165,048	49,823	30%
Dairygold	1,588	553	35%	110,677	40,216	36%
Kerry	1,033	70	7%	71,493	5,659	8%
SWS	932	109	12%	60,311	7,060	12%
Tipperary	170	71	42%	12,233	5,218	43%
Arrabawn	167	126	75%	11,902	9,086	76%
Connacht	154	68	44%	10,045	4,297	43%
Donegal	43	43	100%	3,899	3,899	100%
Total	6,215	1,691	27%	445,608	125,258	28%



Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 05/10/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 05/10/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 05/10/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	148,194	155,417	165,048	5.8%
Dairygold	97,133	103,102	110,677	6.8%
Kerry	66,961	69,904	71,493	2.2%
SWS	54,356	58,976	60,311	2.2%
Tipperary	9,300	11,775	12,233	3.7%
Arrabawn	7,124	11,003	11,902	7.6%
Connacht	7,319	8,995	10,045	10.5%
Donegal	3,601	5,172	3,899	-32.6%
Total	393,988	424,344	445,608	4.8%

7 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

- Work is on-going into areas of improvement in the EBI. This work will be presented at the next dairy industry meeting.

Beef

- Work is also continuing on various aspects of the beef evaluation including calving performance and heterosis and recombination.

8 HerdPlus

BEEF

- We did a feature on the GROW service (Linear Scoring & Weighing) in this weeks Irish Farmers Journal. We plan to get scorers and or ICBF staff to support the Herdbook club meetings, sales etc over the next few months to promote the uptake of weanling recording.
- Response to Euro-Star and the HerdPlus Beef service has been positive. Missing sire reports and sign ups are coming in each day – all of which will help to build up the data reliability in the beef data.
- We are preparing copies of Euro-Star Reports for herdbooks so they can see what their clients received - so they can help explain and answer any queries. Will be sent out next week.

DAIRY

- Dry off sheets were sent to all Milk Recording herds this week from database
- Breeding charts for Autumn Herds are in preparation stage and plan is to send next week
- HerdPlus Dairy Reports and web products are being reviewed for improvements for 2008 release. Watch this space for further updates.



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