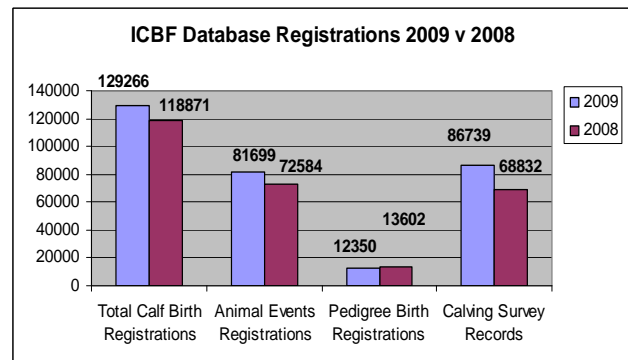
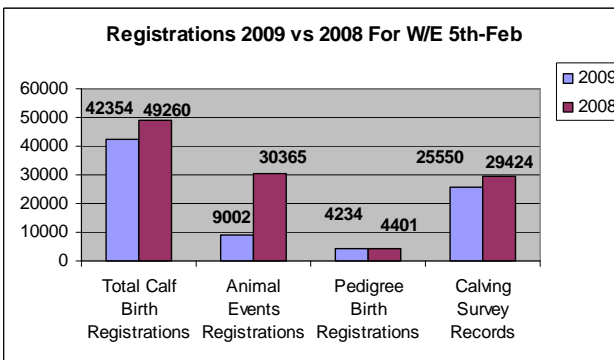


1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Monday 9th February 2009.** Tully Advisory Committee Meeting, Tully, 11:00 a.m.
- ✚ **Wednesday 18th February 2009.** Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel 10:30 – 14:00.
- ✚ **Thursday 19th February 2009.** Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting, Moorepark, 10:30 – 14:00.
- ✚ **Thursday 19th February 2009.** ICBF Board Meeting, Moorepark, 2:30pm – 5.00pm. (*This replaces the Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday 5th March in Portlaoise*).
- ✚ **Thursday 5th March 2009.** Sheep Ireland Board Meeting, Portlaoise. 14:00 – 16:30.

2. Database



- ✚ 17,655 inseminations have been received so far in 2009, compared with 18,158 in 2008 for the same period.
- ✚ The AI 2009 software migration with PG was postponed until next week due to the weather.
- ✚ The Animal Events notebooks continue to go out and should be completed by the end of next week. There also continues to be a lot of activity in relation to the 2008 born calves. The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 736,000, with just over 632,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Programming has continued this week, and will take several weeks to complete.
- ✚ Work on the in-breeding check function and Sire Advice 2009 are continuing, with the in-breeding check in the testing phase.
- ✚ This week, work has continued on the Sheep application, with a continuous stream of good feedback from users, which is being incorporated wherever possible.

3. Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

Due to problems encountered with some samples at the genotyping lab the release of the proofs for Genomically Selected bulls will not now happen on Monday February 16th. We had expected to receive them this week but

this has been postponed by at least 1 week. Further information will be made available in next weeks update and at the dairy industry meeting on the 19th.

Dairy & Beef

Work is on-going in terms of various research projects, the outcomes of which will enhance the evaluations over the next year or two. Currently, the work is focusing on the best methods for incorporating heterosis and recombination, definition of breed groups, beef docility, calving, and incorporation of foreign data into evaluations.

International

Work has been done in identifying foreign animals in the Irish database for the Simmental and Belgian Blue beef breeds. The objective was to create files of animals with proofs in the United Kingdom. This work has been conducted with the relevant breed society in Ireland and the Pedigree Cattle Breeding Services in the UK. Two files of 795 and 574 animals were created for the Simmental and Belgian blue breeds respectively. The foreign proofs of the matching animals between the Irish and the UK databases will be integrated in the next beef genetic evaluation along with the French proofs for the continental breeds and the UK proofs for the Limousine and the Aberdeen Angus.

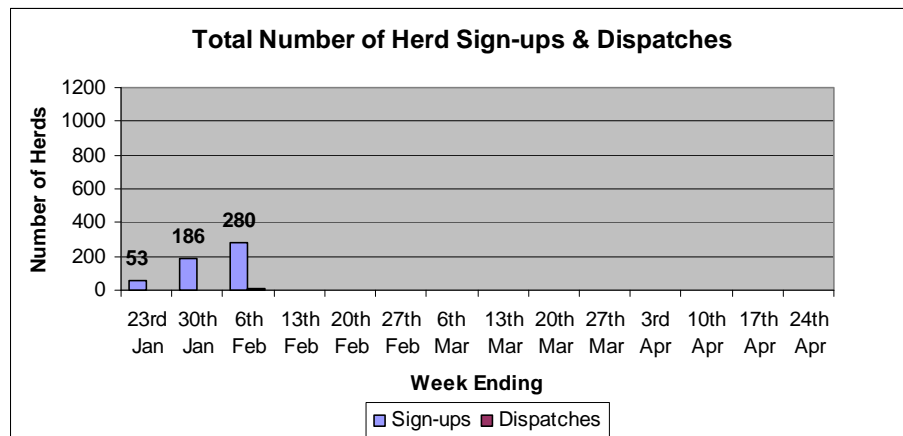
4. Tully

- ✚ Bulls are been weighted today with letters and e-mails been sent out to farmers and breed society's, respectively to update them on the performance of all bulls in Tully.
- ✚ A reminder that the Tully Advisory Committee Meeting that had to be rescheduled due to bad weather will now take place on Monday 9th of February at 11 o' clock in Tully.

5. GENEIRELAND[®]

Dairy

- ✚ Calls to participants of last years programme commenced this week. Sign-up forms still being received at a steady rate.



- ✚ Total number of doses requested to date is 12,815. Breed breakdown: Pure Fr 1,109; HOFR 9,252; XBred 1,826; and Mixed 628.
- ✚ Payments were made this week for the milk recorded heifers from the Spring 2005 programme and for calvings from Autumn 2007.

6. Lambplus®



- ✚ Lambing Sheet for paper clients is currently being developed.
- ✚ NSIS Tag numbers continue to be updated in the Inventory Screen by Lambplus users.
- ✚ NSIS Tag Explanatory document has been updated onto the website.
- ✚ MALP Flocks – The retrieval of NSIS tag numbers for ewes & rams has commenced.
 - This will allow EID NSIS Tags to be used with these flocks
 - This will greatly improve the performance recording possibilities in these flocks in future.
- ✚ 80 Flock owners have now joined Lambplus®.
 - 75 were in the PSBIP 2008 program.
- ✚ New Flock owners that were not in the PSBIP program in 2008 may join Lambplus
 - It is important to remember however that as we currently do not have any data for these flock owners (no PSBIP data & no Flock book data), they will have to enter their entire flock details either through the web or by paper.
 - The flock data required would be NSIS tag numbers, Tattoo numbers, Date of Birth, Sex, Sire & Dam information.
 - Lambplus Web Screens & Paper Recording Sheets Development Work

Priority	Item	Expected Delivery Date
1	Flock owner Profile & Lambplus Management Screens (<i>These screens will allow Lambplus staff to identify Flock owners who need assistance in recording Inventory, Lambing, Rearing & Mating data.</i>)	6 th March
2	Lambing Recording Sheets for Paper Clients (<i>These sheets will allow Flock owners that have opted for the paper based Service to record Lambing data on their flock.</i>)	13 th February
3	40 Day Weight Recording Web Screen & Paper Sheet (<i>This screen & recording sheet will allow Flock owners to enter their 40-day weights into the system.</i>)	13 th March
4	Rearing & Mating Recording Sheets for Paper Clients (<i>These sheets will allow Flock owners that have opted for the paper based Service to record Rearing & Mating data on their flock.</i>)	27 th February
5	E.T Recording Sheets for Paper Clients (<i>These sheets will allow Flock owners that have opted for the Paper based Service to record ET data on their flock.</i>)	27 th February

7. GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



- ✚ The new GROW report is awaiting final development work to be completed on it.
- ✚ It will then be sent out to all breeders following a visit from a Scorer.
- ✚ Crucially, it will show a Breeder how many of the animals that they put forward for scoring & weighing will have their own data included in their evaluations.
 - This will depend on: 1. Age – 150-300 days is desired age window

- Group size – Group of 5 is minimum required group size.

✚ A constant issue following a Scoring session is that a Breeder assumes that all data recorded is subsequently used in genetic evaluations. This is not always the case, however up to now this has not been clearly communicated to Breeders. The new GROW report will address this issue.

✚ This report will also be available on the web.

8. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 27/01/09 to 06/02/09

	<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>
CARLOW	6	489	82	26.5	3.76	3.44	1.91	359
CAVAN	26	982	38	22.0	3.96	3.47	1.63	324
CLARE	2	50	25	23.8	3.80	3.09	1.64	299
CORK STH	121	4,989	41	22.3	4.20	3.43	1.70	320
CORK NTH	54	3,019	56	23.5	4.08	3.48	1.78	248
DONEGAL	7	209	30	24.2	4.01	3.42	1.80	186
DUBLIN	1	71	71	24.9	3.66	3.36	1.75	174
GALWAY	19	808	43	23.6	3.92	3.20	1.68	366
KERRY	40	1,556	39	20.7	3.97	3.33	1.51	354
KILDARE	16	1,152	72	25.9	4.22	3.49	2.00	445
KILKENNY	14	785	56	19.5	4.12	3.48	1.48	398
LAOIS	14	713	51	21.7	4.04	3.46	1.63	577
LEITRIM	2	89	45	32.2	3.62	3.13	2.17	215
LIMERICK	22	1,034	47	24.7	3.87	3.35	1.78	402
LONGFORD	3	120	40	16.3	5.04	3.54	1.40	496
LOUTH	14	997	71	25.5	4.08	3.58	1.95	443
MAYO	10	299	30	24.5	3.70	3.40	1.74	417
MEATH	54	3,866	72	23.3	4.47	3.52	1.86	362
MONAGHAN	22	758	34	25.9	3.85	3.24	1.84	438
OFFALY	3	108	36	21.7	4.21	3.34	1.64	417
ROSCOMMON	2	58	29	16.1	4.13	3.46	1.22	524
TIPPERARY NTH	10	435	44	18.0	4.11	3.43	1.36	357
TIPPERARY STH	6	365	61	24.3	4.07	3.33	1.80	423
WATERFORD	16	1,351	84	24.7	4.09	3.36	1.84	342
WESTMEATH	6	283	47	21.2	4.18	3.49	1.63	268
WEXFORD	24	1,482	62	21.1	4.08	3.48	1.60	393
WICKLOW E	16	905	57	21.9	3.75	3.39	1.56	332
WICKLOW W	8	515	64	25.6	4.43	3.46	2.02	398
	<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	538	27,488	51	23.1	4.05	3.40	1.72	367

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 27/01/09 to 06/02/09

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	271	12,799	47	22.8	4.02	3.35	1.68	343
Leinster	181	11,575	64	22.7	4.12	3.44	1.72	377
Connacht	33	1,254	38	24.1	3.84	3.30	1.72	381
Ulster	55	1,949	35	24.0	3.94	3.38	1.76	316

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 06/02/09

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 06/02/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 06/02/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 06/02/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 06/02/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	812	144	18%	47,673	9,044	19%
Dairygold	173	12	7%	9,279	674	7%
Kerry	154	1	1%	7,358	132	2%
SWS	264	4	2%	11,307	403	4%
Tipperary	16	2	13%	670	53	8%
Arrabawn	8	6	75%	367	291	79%
Connacht	50	0	0%	2,177	0	0%
Donegal	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Total	1,477	169	11%	78,831	10,597	13%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 06/02/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 06/02/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	47,744	47,673	-0.1%
Dairygold	7,142	9,279	23.0%
Kerry	8,581	7,358	-16.6%
SWS	11,589	11,307	-2.5%
Tipperary	479	670	28.5%
Arrabawn	431	367	-17.4%
Connacht	2,818	2,177	-29.4%
Donegal	136	0	0.0%
Total	78,920	78,831	-0.1%

9. Change in our phone numbers

The ICBF phone numbers have changed. Our new numbers have "88" added to them after the area code (023). Please amend your files as soon as possible. The old numbers will continue to work until May of 2009.

Old Number (example)	New Number (example)
Phone: 023 20222	023 88 20222
Fax: 023 20229	023 88 20229

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