



**UPDATE – for period 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

**1 Important Dates**

- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January.** Tully review meeting to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- **Herds Not Using Animal Events** – a campaign to encourage more herds to use the Animal Events forms for calf registration will be run jointly with TEAGASC and ICBF's members in early 2006.
- **Herds with high EBI dairy and beef bulls** – a series of meetings to help beef and dairy breeders ensure they can meet the health requirements of AI Centres and Tully is being organised jointly with CVERA, Veterinarians, TEAGASC and AI service providers. The key presentations will address the steps a herd owner can take to ensure freedom from diseases such as Johnes, IBR, and BVD in the animals destined for Tully and or AI. The meetings will include a special session for beef breeders to learn more about the new indexes for beef cattle.

Date and Location of Meetings for Breeders of high merit dairy and beef cattle	
Date	Location
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Castle Hotel, Macroom
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Kilcoran Lodge, Cahir
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Headfort Hotel, Kells
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Dolmen Hotel, Carlow
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Meadow Court Hotel, Lough Rea

Timetable and Topics to be Discussed	
Approximate Time	Topic
14:00 – 14:30	Set scene & identifying high genetic merit animals.
14:30 – 16:00	Herd health initiative, understanding & dealing with diseases.
16:00 – 17:00	New beef evaluations

- **Thursday 2nd February.** ICBF Board meeting.

**2 Priorities for 2006**

ICBF's priorities for 2006, as agreed at the December 2005 Board meeting, are in keeping with our Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is focused on ICBF delivering in three key areas:

- genetic evaluation
- uptake and cost of services and
- breeding scheme design.

There is a great deal of work to be completed as we strive to ensure Irish cattle farmers have ready access to breeding stock that will maximise future profits. In 2006 we expect to make considerable progress towards ensuring many more farmers are able to benefit from our efforts. The way in which we plan to achieve this includes:

- **Improved Beef Genetic Evaluations.** Completion of the development of genetic evaluations for maternal traits in beef cattle, implementation of the EBI for beef, and the development of international evaluations for beef breeds and traits in close collaboration with Interbull. The result of this will be that potentially any beef animal on the database will be evaluated and the results will be readily available for the owner to use in his breeding decisions.
- **Improved Dairy Genetic Evaluations.** Implementation of across breed evaluations for dairy cattle, continuous improvement of the genetic evaluation systems, incorporation of new mastitis treatment,



lameness and farmer opinion data in the EBI, and implementation of enhancements to the models and data used in computing the evaluations. This is expected to result in the EBI becoming even more widely accepted by dairy farmers.

- **Electronic DIY Milk Recording (EDIY).** In partnership with our Milk Recording Service providers we are planning to introduce eight new cells (in addition to the four cells already operating) servicing all regions and potentially 100,000 cows of which 50,000 are expected to be new to milk recording in 2006. This is an ambitious target and its achievement depends on the successful training of new staff and the recruiting and training of many farmers.
- **AI Handheld Computers for Insemination Recording.** In partnership with our AI Service providing members some 250 AI technicians will be equipped with new systems for recording inseminations. As a result many more herds will start using the database and Animal Events. These herds will benefit from more accurate data and access to the wide range of management information now available from the ICBF database.
- **Management and Animal Health Information.** Our collaboration with TEAGASC, CVERA and Veterinarians is expected to progress significantly in 2006 with the result that more farmers will be able to benefit from having access to better information for making decisions relevant to calving, mating, fertility, replacement selection and herd health.
- **Breeding Scheme Design.** In 2006 we plan to towards ensuring GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> achieves optimal levels of progeny testing for both dairy and beef breeds. This is a long slow process with the power to greatly improve the genetic merit of all Irish cattle. The database is enabling farmers and breeders to make better selection decisions with the result that the supply of young breeding stock from high EBI parents is now increasing more rapidly. If we can achieve an optimal breeding scheme design for all beef and dairy breeds then Irish farmers will achieve a strategic advantage over all their international competitors. The obstacles to overcome are considerable but the benefits are enormous and we must not be distracted from ensuring rapid progress.
- **Tully.** Our goal for 2006 is to operate Tully to capacity using beef EBI as the main criteria for selection and marketing of graduates. During 2006 we plan to review the facilities at Tully in light of new information on the optimal breeding scheme design for beef breeds. Tully is quickly becoming the focal point for beef breeding envisaged when ICBF was first established. Our challenge is to now ensure Tully is optimised for producing cattle farm profits.
- **Uptake of AI.** We will be providing leadership and technical support to the breeding industry as it works to reverse the recent decline in AI. Our efforts will focus on providing the information farmers need to make the breeding decisions that generate the greatest amount of profit in the future. We are seeking to introduce a genetic improvement incentive scheme that will reward farmers who breed high merit replacement animals.

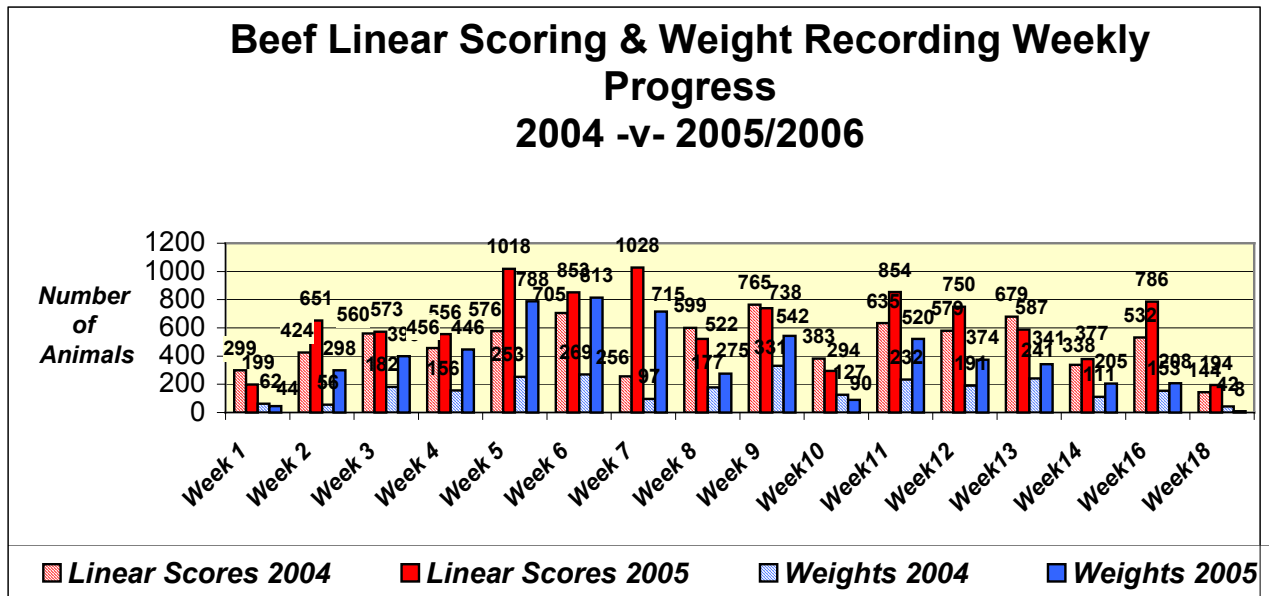
So, in summary, our priority for 2006 is to take another step towards ensuring the Irish breeding industry is delivering a greater rate of genetic progress than any other country in the world.

### 3 Tully

- The catalogue for the March sale at Tully on the 4-3-06 can be viewed on the icbf web site at [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)
- An open day will be held at Tully on the 18-2-06. On show will be the bulls for sale on the 4-3-06 and the 6-5-06.
- The first TB test was carried out on the October intake of bulls on the 3-1-06 and all were clear. The next TB test will be carried out on the 20-2-06.
- The November intake of bulls started their performance test on the 28-12-05.



#### 4 Beef Genetic Evaluations



#### 5 Database Update

- 12 new herds added to the database last week. A large number of authorisation forms have been received from both Dairygold AI and Dovea AI and these are waiting to be processed and will be included in next weeks figures.
- The first of the Annual Milk Recording Reports are being issued on Monday next. A copy of a report is included below.
- Continued solid progress continues to be made with preparations for the roll-out of AI handhelds. The sign-up of herds continues to be a cause for concern, though good progress is being made in Dairygold and Dovea AI.
- The upgrade of the production database to the next release of Oracle is almost complete at this point, with work having been done over the Christmas period. The work will finally be completed by the end of January. It may require us to take the database down for a day, tentatively Monday Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, as it will require more than the Saturday and Sunday to complete the task.
- The pilot issue of the Beef EBI reports took place before Christmas, and we are awaiting feedback from the herdbooks.
- A conference call was held with most herd-books this week discussing some updates to herd-book rules. Programming of these changes will begin next week.
- A herd inventory report, to be issued when herds sign on to the database initially, and for anyone required a template on which they can update information was also completed over the Christmas period. A copy of this report will be included in next weeks update.
- Some further updates to the Beef Herd-book sale catalogue are taking place this week.
- As part of the 2006 Animal Events Notebook distribution, we are including a form which form which outlines to a herd-owner those organisations that have access to his/her data, and allows them to amend this. This is to ensure that each farmer is aware of who has access to their herd data. A copy of this form is included.
- The usual Animal Events statistics graphs will be presented again starting next week.



## 6 Genetic Evaluations

- A major series of articles outlining developments in the new beef indexes and Tully were published in this weeks Irish Farmers Journal pedigree supplement. The articles summarise the new beef indexes, including information on how farmers can interpret the new indexes. The indexes are a major step forward for the Irish beef industry as we move from BLUP based systems (where indexes were presented in a relative format) to new profit indexes where information is presented in terms of increased profit (€). For all breeds evaluated, differences of €100 per animal slaughtered (equivalent to €0.30/kg) have been identified, indicating the potential benefit that breeding can deliver to the beef industry. In addition to these articles, further information on the performance of the various breeds has been posted on the ICBF website (<http://www.icbf.com>).
- New Beef EBI reports are currently being developed for all pedigree herd-owners. These new reports contain information beef EBI values for animals belonging to pedigree breeders. The report contains information for all pedigree animals on the farm, cows, stock-bulls and young-stock. It is anticipated that these reports will be released to herd-owners in the next 2 weeks.
- Work on maternal beef traits, beef linear type and international beef evaluations, is continuing. This work will be presented at the next beef industry meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006.
- Data extractions for milk, beef, calving, fertility and linear type traits has commenced ahead of the next routine dairy evaluation (mid-February).

## 7 Milk Recording

**Table 1. Milk Recorded Cows and Herd Count  
(2004 vs 2005 comparison)**

Milk Recording Organisation	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2004 No. Cows at Year End	2005 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2233	2087	156,588	154,992
Dairygold	1620	1529	102,778	98,832
Kerry	1099	1066	66,952	68,193
SWS	964	939	56,753	56,257
Tipperary	147	142	9,268	9,412
Connacht	121	110	7,597	7,359
Arrabawn	120	109	7,369	7,188
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	57	0	4,837
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>6,039</b>	<b>407,305</b>	<b>407,070</b>



<b>Table 2. 2005 Milk Recorded Herds' Profile</b>				
	<u>No. Herds</u>	<u>No. Cows</u>	<u>No. Tests</u>	<u>No. Samples</u>
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
<b>A4</b>	2,717 45%	191,302 47%	29,941 62%	1,475,872 62%
<b>A6</b>	2,234 37%	146,545 36%	14,486 30%	696,180 29%
<b>A8</b>	1,088 18%	62,222 17%	3,865 8%	205,269 9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,039 *</b>	<b>407,070</b>	<b>48,292</b>	<b>2,377,321</b>

Included in above figures are 312 herds which were €DIY Milk Recorded in 2005.  
 The scheme breakdown of these 312 herds was ;  
 10% every month (B4), 34% every 6 wks (B6) and 56% every 8/9 wks.

### **2005 Milk Recording – commentary**

While there was a 4.5% drop in the number of herds recorded, the number of cows has remained at 400K. With further increasing costs pressures expected in 2006, we will have to become more innovative with our service options to the farmer, to maintain, never mind increase, the numbers recording.

We are also seeing more farmers switching from A4 to either A6 or A8. This is likely due to a combination of increasing cost pressures coupled with the ability of the ICBF database to calculate accurate lactation yields from fewer tests. This is especially noticeable in the €DIY Milk recorded herds with 56% of users opting for 4 visits per annum. We expect this trend to continue into 2006.

### **Electronic DIY Milk Recording Update**

- The meters are all in house - first vans are being customised – expect finish and delivery to Milk recording Organisations by end January
- SWS/ICBF met with 4 West Cork Coops (Barryroe, Bandon, Drinagh & Lisavaired) to share with them the details of the €DIY service available to their clients in 2006. They were very positive and commented on the fact as the new service is particularly attractive to non recording commercial herds meant it dovetailed nicely with their newly announced SCC incentives/initiatives. They also agreed to include a promotional “flyer” with very newsletter posted in January.
- Meeting held with SWS Operations Jan 05<sup>th</sup> – agreed priority is the get Technician on board asap. First training on system to SWS staff planned for next week.
- **Progressive Genetics** – 3 cells planned for 2006 – Wexford, Kilkenny and North Leinster (exact area TBD). Farmer meeting scheduled for Jan 11<sup>th</sup> in Enniscorthy. Teagasc, Progressive and ICBF will present.
- **Dairygold** continue their herd data preparation for new season – 3 technicians now on boards and fully trained.
- **Kerry** – proposed location of cell (Limerick/North Cork border) is very close to one of existing cells in Dairygold... discussions needs to take place on what’s best for overall efficiency of system.
- **Tipperary/Arrabawn** – lab work to accept barcode completed by Softrace. To be tested in next 10 days. ICBF/Tipp/Arrabawn are lining up short list of candidates for technician post. Tipperary and Arrabawn suppliers sign up going well – between the 2 coops over 80 names interested to date.

# Milk Recording Annual Animal Report

KERRY CO-OP  
CASTLEISLAND AI

Herd owner: N  
Herd No: IE  
Print date: 06-JAN-06  
Report Period: 01-JAN-2005 - 31-DEC-2005

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Tel: 066-7141396

## 1. Cows Currently in Herd

Cow ID	I&R-Tag	Calv. Date	Days	Completed Lactation / Extended Lactation/ Lifetime Production							SCC	EBI
Cow name		End Date	Ext. Days	M Kg	M Gall	F%	P%	F Kg	P Kg	F+P	Tests > 250	Milk Fert. €
Sire ID	Calving Intvl.	Lact	Lifetime Days									
9S	IEQRPR0009S	02/04/04	174	5886	1257	2.95	3.12	174	184	358	127	27
				<i>Last test outside rep period</i>							0	9
MAU	430	6	1726	39536	8446	3.64	3.29	1441	1302	2743		11
51	WOA295651	19/02/05	286	6190	1322	4.32	3.29	267	203	470	278	
		02/12/05									2	
	369	10	2762	53424	11413	4.29	3.22	2290	1718	4008		29
53	WOA296413	14/05/05	202	3821	816	3.82	3.09	146	118	264	129	
		02/12/05									1	
	438	10	2471	55074	11765	3.60	2.97	1980	1637	3617		
63	VJB817793	26/02/05	251	4174	892	3.74	3.49	156	146	302	117	5
		04/11/05									1	-13
	302	10	2692	47295	10103	3.87	3.40	1830	1610	3440		12
65	DKL748395	17/03/05	260	5375	1148	3.60	3.39	193	182	375	418	30
		02/12/05									2	1
	385	9	2451	53321	11391	3.56	3.33	1900	1778	3678		23
78W	IEQRPR0078W	04/02/05	301	6627	1416	3.74	3.14	248	208	456	71	14
		02/12/05									0	-25
	354	7	1989	40120	8571	3.84	3.10	1539	1244	2783		43
90H	IEQRPR0090H	02/02/05	303	5397	1153	3.71	3.24	200	175	375	70	-13
		02/12/05									0	-21
	336	7	2068	34848	7444	3.62	3.15	1260	1098	2358		11
115T	IEQRPR0115T	02/02/05	303	6508	1390	3.36	3.27	219	213	432	134	11
		02/12/05									1	-8
MAU	353	6	1656	34026	7269	3.42	3.29	1163	1119	2282		14
119	IEQRPR0119K	04/02/05	301	8687	1856	3.52	3.27	306	284	590	77	29
		02/12/05									0	11
LEW	330	6	1702	42198	9015	3.69	3.21	1559	1353	2912		14
154	DVK522804	26/02/05	279	4665	997	3.61	3.62	169	169	338	1436	
		02/12/05									4	
	342	12	2886	60158	12851	3.70	3.39	2225	2041	4266		31
157	DGL784532	15/05/05	201	5020	1072	3.62	3.35	182	168	350	426	
		02/12/05									1	-19
	353	7	801	19475	4160	3.73	3.31	727	644	1371		22
223	IEQRPR0223Q	09/01/05	305	6395	1366	3.45	3.42	221	219	440	67	30
		02/12/05									0	38
JOS	333	6	1787	41595	8886	3.33	3.43	1387	1425	2812		-20
226	IEQRPR0226J	13/02/05	292	6524	1394	4.17	3.42	272	223	495	157	66
		02/12/05									1	10
MAU	379	6	1777	36022	7695	4.09	3.44	1474	1240	2714		39

# Milk Recording Annual Farm Report

KERRY CO-OP

Herd Owner N

Herd No: IE

Print date: 06-JAN-06

Tel: 066-7141396

Report Period: 01-JAN-2005 - 31-DEC-2005

### 3. Summary by Month of Calving

Only animals that have had a valid lactation are included in these summaries. A valid lactation is one that was : (i) completed on the farm during the 12 month period (ii) has a valid lactation end reason (i.e. either dried off or completed 305 days) and (iii) has a minimum lactation length of 150 days.

Month Calving Group	No. of cows rec.	Average days in milk	Completed Lactations Only							SCC	EBI Milk Fert €
			M Kg	M Gall	F%	P%	F Kg	P Kg	F+P Kg		
Before Sep 2004	2	651	16704	3568	3.27	3.34	547	558	1104	173	
			8648	1847	3.31	3.30	286	285	571		
Sep - Dec 2004											
Jan 2005	15	307	5419	1158	3.82	3.46	207	188	395	137	28
			5407	1155	3.81	3.46	206	187	393		3 27
Feb 2005	65	290	5713	1220	3.91	3.45	224	197	421	156	30
			5836	1247	3.94	3.47	230	202	433		11 19
Mar 2005	21	257	5091	1087	3.94	3.48	200	177	378	205	30
			5508	1177	4.03	3.54	222	195	417		9 20
Apr 2005	2	236	4253	908	3.45	3.53	147	150	297	108	26
			4949	1057	3.54	3.58	175	177	352		-7 37
May 2005	9	203	4065	868	4.11	3.42	167	139	306	361	44
			5226	1116	4.28	3.51	223	183	407		23 19

# Milk Recording Annual Farm Report

KERRY CO-OP

Herd Owner: ED

Herd No: IE

Print date: 06-JAN-06

Tel: 066-7141396

Report Period: 01-JAN-2005 - 31-DEC-2005

## 1. Production Summaries - Valid Lactations

Only animals that have had a valid lactation are included in these summaries. A valid lactation is one that was : (i) completed on the farm during the 12 month period (ii) has a valid lactation end reason (i.e. either dried off or completed 305 days) and (iii) has a minimum lactation length of 150 days.

Group	No. of lactations No. of cows	Average days in milk	Completed Lactations Only							SCC	EBI Milk Fert €
			M Kg	M Gall	F%	P%	F Kg	P Kg	F+P Kg		
Overall	114	284	5597	1196	3.88	3.45	217	193	410	174	31
		305	5705	1219	3.94	3.48	225	199	424		9
		Cl: 386									21
1st Lactation	42	291	4648	993	4.03	3.47	187	161	349	183	24
			4775	1020	4.06	3.49	194	167	360		-3
											31
2nd Lactation	23	309	6580	1406	3.74	3.47	246	228	475	129	37
			6125	1308	3.85	3.51	236	215	451		16
		Cl: 390									20
3rd Lactation	22	267	6013	1285	4.01	3.5		210	451	108	37
			6388	1365	4.08	3.54	261	226	487		24
		Cl: 410									11
4+ Lactation	27	268	5896	1260	3.71	3.37	219	199	417	259	29
			6237	1332	3.77	3.41	235	212	448		9
		Cl: 364									16
Winter											
Spring	114	284	5597	1196	3.88	3.45	217	193	410	174	31
			5705	1219	3.94	3.48	225	199	424		9
		Cl: 386									21

## 2. Production Summaries - Invalid Lactations

Only animals that have been dried off at less than 150 days or are in milk with less than 305 days are included in these summaries.

Invalid	7	277	4867	1040	3.77	3.34	183	163	346	146	36
			6330	1352	3.91	3.43	248	217	464		13
		Cl: 373									17



## Organisation Assignment

The following are organisations that you are currently assigned to in the ICBF database. Being assigned to an organisation means that the organisation may have access to some of the details relating to animals on your farm. Obviously, for an organisation to provide cattle breeding services to you, (e.g. herd-book registration, milk recording, AI, etc.) this must be the case.

If any of these assignments are incorrect, please call the Animal Events helpdesk on 1850-625-626.

<b><i>Organisation</i></b>	<b><i>Assigned</i></b>
Irish Holstein Friesian Association	Yes
Progressive Genetics - Milk Recording	Yes

### Additional Organisations

If you wish to add an organisation (e.g. Teagasc, Your AI organisation, ...) to this list please specify below and sign and return this form.

Name of Organisation

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_