



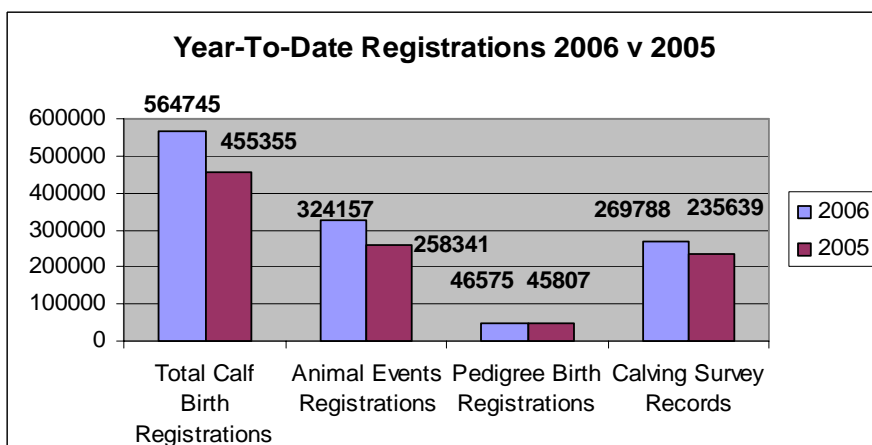
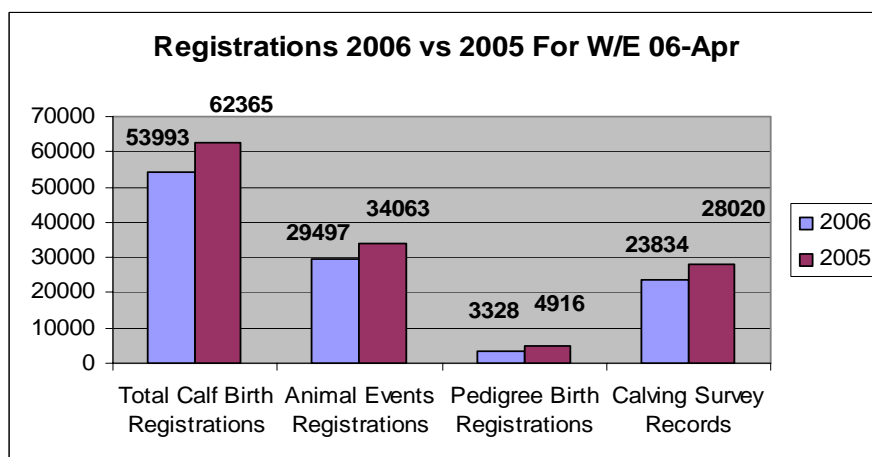
**Update for period 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

**1 Important Dates**

- ✚ **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April.** ICBF (Martin Burke & Brian Coughlan) are holding €DIY Cell Operation Review meetings with Dairygold €DIY technicians on Mon 10<sup>th</sup> in Mallow, and with Progressive Genetics Technicians and recorders on Tue 11<sup>th</sup> in Kilkenny. Further meetings with other MROs planned in the coming weeks
- ✚ **AI Promotion MART Events.** The schedule is:
  - **Ballybay Mart** – today.
  - **Bandon Mart** – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April.
  - **Killmallock Mart** – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April.
  - **Dungarvan Mart** – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April.
- ✚ **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10:30 – 13:00.** Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, **ICBF Board Meeting.**
- ✚ **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 15:00 – 16:00.** Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, **ICBF Annual General Meeting.**
- ✚ **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.
- ✚ **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30 – 16:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation Meeting.**
- ✚ **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 16:00 – 17:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Tully Review Meeting.**

**2 Database Update**

- ✚ 243 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ PG, Dovea, and Kerry continue to make good progress this week with the AI handhelds. Data issues continue to cause a few problems, but technicians are generally getting more comfortable with the system.
- ✚ Development work to support the back end activities of the AI handheld are continuing, including reporting, and billing functions, for both PG and Dovea and Kerry.
- ✚ The first of the breeding charts have been issued this week and they will be completed by the end of next week.





- ✚ Some 200 herds have recorded bulls for which they would like to have the sire advice programme run. These reports will be issued to farmers next week.
- ✚ The development of Fertility Reports for the coming AI season is continuing, and it is hoped within two weeks, the first of those reports will be generated based on data received through the AI handhelds and through on-line and email recording.
- ✚ Work on the 2005 ICBF Statistics report is on-going at the moment and this should be available at the end of next week.
- ✚ A new run of beef genetic evaluations should be available next week. Based on this run, the Beef EBI reports will be issued to all beef farmers.
- ✚ Though progress has been made on the issue of network speed, the problem has not been completely resolved. Strencom, who provide the broadband solution have identified a 'memory leakage' in one of their broadband servers and are working to fix this. However, it still appears that traffic on the lines between the sites and ICBF has tripled since January, for no apparent reason, and the reason for this still evades us. It continues to get maximum attention.

### 3 Tully

- ✚ A group of Austrian Farmers visited the Test Centre yesterday (06-04-06) and enjoyed their time here.
- ✚ Preparations are beginning for the sale in May, with the bulls being halter trained.
- ✚ Applications have gone out for the next intake to Tully, and the number of animals/herds targeted are as follows:

Breed	Animals	Herds
Angus	320	172
AU	6	6
BA	47	26
BB	30	20
CH	422	322
HE	425	170
LM	530	307
PI	4	3
SA	28	17
SH	7	7
SI	114	72

### 4 Milk Recording Update

#### MR Stats week ending 31/03/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 31/03/06 - 01/04/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 31/03/06 - 01/04/06
Progressive	392	493
Kerry	166	181
SWS	114	164
Dairygold	211	214
Tipperary	22	9
Connacht	14	8
Arrabawn	15	38



Others (Donegal, OAD)	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>1,107</b>

### EDIY Milk Recording

✚ **Industry Test Turnaround March 2006.** Industry national average for March 2006 was 6.9 days. Nationally 3,443 tests were processed with some 151,000 animals. This is down on March '05 which had 3,990 tests and some 159,000 animals and a turnaround of 6.1 days. The Organisation with the best turnaround in March '06 was **Dairygold** with an average of **5.8 days**. Kerry and SWS were also 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.

✚ **EDIY Herds Turnaround.** This month we also ran a report on the subset of EDIY recorded herds. (can only be extracted for MROs that have dedicated EDIY technician codes assigned to EDIY herds, and had > 20 herd tests). **The average turnaround time for coded EDIY herds was 4.4 days.** Connacht and Donegal not enough herds recorded in March 06. Progressive Genetics recorder codes doing both EDIY and Manual, Kerry had not yet assigned codes - as such difficult to extract statistics - we will work on for month of April. MROs that went into the EDIY stat for March 06 were;

- **Dairygold** - 3 cells on EDIY averaged turnaround time of 4.2 days. (One of the DG cells had turnaround of 3.4 days in March)
- **SWS** - cell on EDIY averaged 4.7 days.
- **Arrabawn/Tipp** - cell on EDIY averaged 4.9 days.

### 5 Genetic Evaluations

✚ Preparation for the next routine dairy evaluations is continuing. Evaluations for the EBI traits will take place over the next 2 weeks in advance of the Interbull deadline.

✚ A new run of beef evaluations including reliabilities have been completed. Post processing of the proofs is currently on-going.

### 6 International Evaluations

✚ International evaluations for Charolais are still on-going at INRA in France.

✚ Working continues on the Irish Hereford and Simmental pedigree data.

### 7 GENIRELAND® - Dairy

✚ Semen allocation for the second 10 GENIRELAND® bulls has been distributed to farmers.

✚ The signing up of Herds to the GENIRELAND® program continues. Nearly 400 herds have been signed up to date.

✚ Inbreeding Charts are being sent to herds that have received test bull semen.

### 8 AI Promotion Mart Events – Nenagh Mart Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April

✚ The first of the Mart Event was in Nenagh yesterday. Some 130 farmers attended and were able to meet with representatives of most of the AI Companies operating in Ireland. The high EBI heifer sale and competition was well supported. The prices paid were a reflection of EBI (see scatterplot of EBI vs Price below) with the price increasing by some € per unit of EBI. The average price (sold or highest offer) was €33.



Pictures of the 3 winners at Nenagh Mart yesterday

**1<sup>st</sup> prize**

Thomas Quirke (top left) - Av EBI of calves €125.

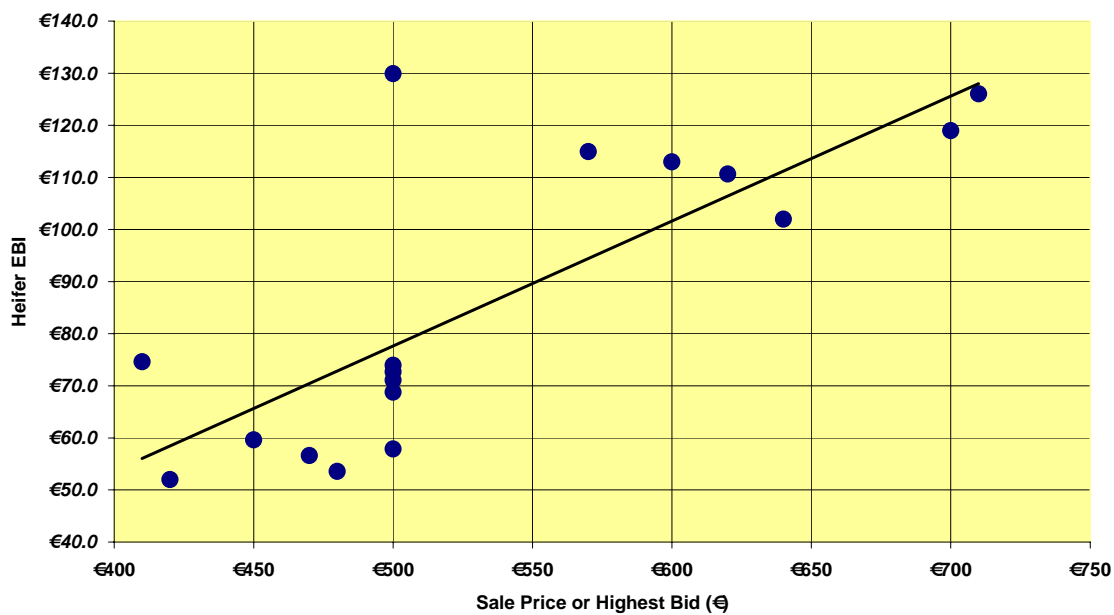
**2<sup>nd</sup> prize**

Thomas Kearney (above) - Av EBI of calves €13.

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize**

David Baker (left) - Av EBI of calves €72.

Nenagh Heifer Sale 6th April 2006





✚ The second event is taking place today in Ballybay.

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:+3532320222), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](tel:+3532320222) [Fax office +353 \(0\)23 20229](tel:+3532320222) E-Mail [bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com) ICBF Web site [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com) Assistant: Mary Madden. © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.