



Update for period 1st-7th July 2006

1 Important Dates

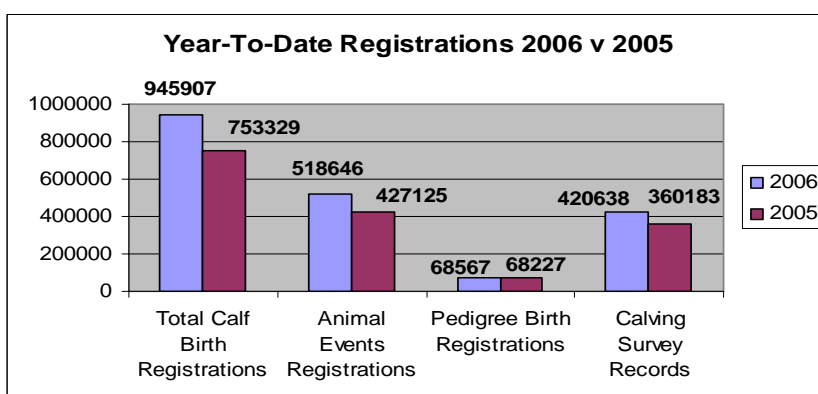
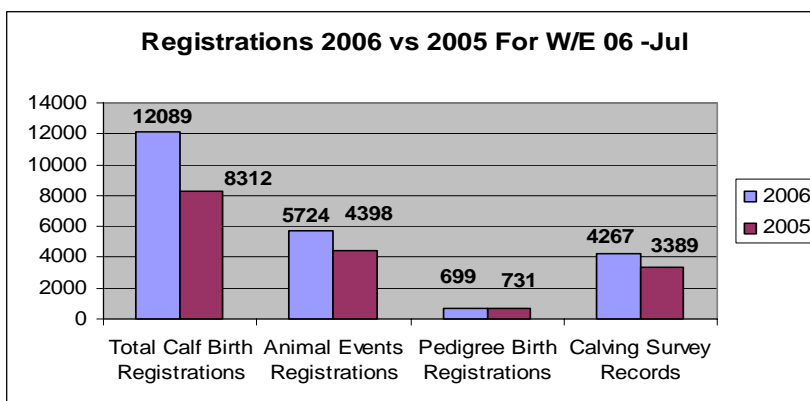
- ✚ **Wednesday 12th July**, 10:30- 4.00pm, Beef Breeding Scheme and Data Review, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. This meeting is for breed associations and AI organizations to discuss the breeding scheme proposals currently under development in ICBF.
- ✚ **Thursday 20th July**, 10:30 – 13:00. Tully & Beef Linear Scoring Review Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. **Please note change of time.**
- ✚ **Thursday 20th July**, 14:00 – 15:00. Meeting of with ICBF Herd Book Members to discuss charges for services.
- ✚ **Tuesday 1st August**, 10.30-1.00pm, **Beef** Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. **Please note change of date – previously 20th July.**
- ✚ **September 27th to 30th. Ploughing.** The new breeding information service will be the main focus of the ICBF stand.

2 Tully

- ✚ Applications for the September intake to Tully will be sent out to breeders from 17-7-06. This is the first intake to Tully that will be selected on the new EBI indexes.
- ✚ A meeting will be held with the Department of Agriculture on 13-7-06 to review the health testing procedures for entering Tully.
- ✚ Ultra sound scanning of the Tully bulls will start on 11-7-06. This is being done in conjunction UCD and it is planned to take two scans, one two weeks after entering Tully and another two weeks before the end of the test. It is planned to have results of the scans available at the end of the performance test.

3 Database Update

- ✚ 69 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ The 120,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds.
- ✚ This week will see the completion of a review of the launch of the AI handhelds and lessons that have been learned will be taken on board when planning the next wave of implementations which will be beginning immediately.
- ✚ Following on from a meeting with the beef herd-books a couple of weeks ago, a constructive meeting was held this week with IHFA to discuss the proposed changes to the user interface that herd-books

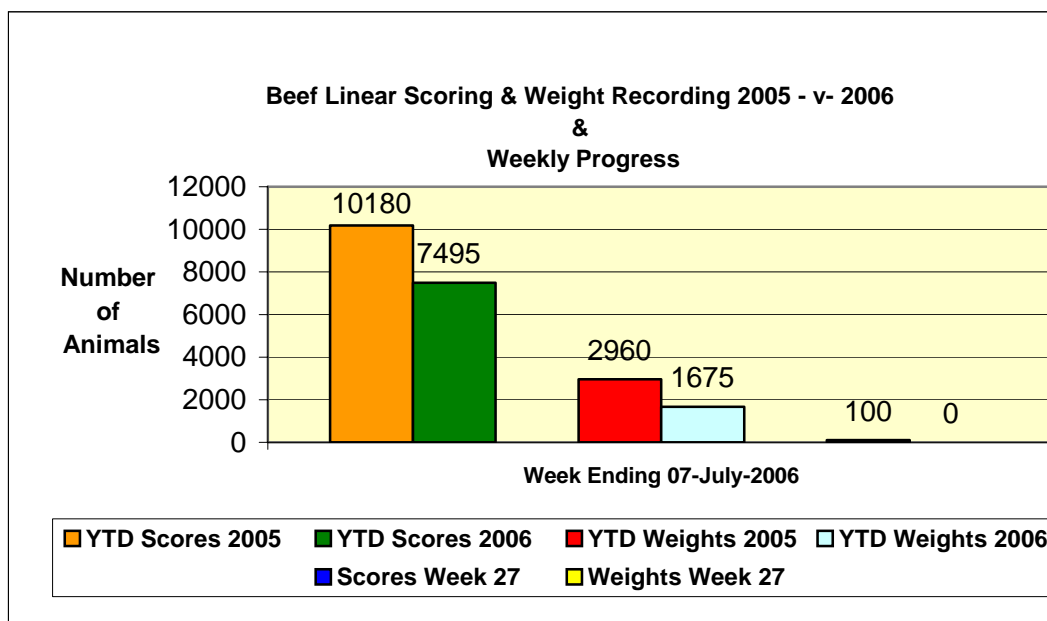




use on a daily basis. Work on this will begin in two weeks.

- ✚ The extraction process for the next dairy genetic evaluation run began this week and will continue to run over the weekend.
- ✚ Some preparatory work to update the ICBF.com website began this week. It is intended that an updated look to the site will be applied at the end of July.
- ✚ Work has continued on the Breeding Scheme Management application this week.

4 Beef Linear Scoring



5 Missing Sires

- ✚ Over the last few weeks a proposal for increasing the number of calves registered with known sire has been developed. The proposal has been distributed to interested groups this week for comment and feedback.
- ✚ The proposal is for a change to the “white card” used by DAF for calf registration. The change is to enable the recording of sire of calf, either a stock bull or AI, and calving ease.
- ✚ The second change being proposed is for a “default permission” to be established for the provision of registration, CMMS and slaughter data to ICBF. Under this proposal a farmer may elect to “opt-out” of their data being supplied to ICBF. The data supplied under this proposal can only be used by ICBF for research and genetic evaluations. Before the data could be used in other services the farmer would still need to give explicit permission by signing up for the service.
- ✚ In the course of developing the proposal we reviewed the increases in sire identification achieved since the inception of ICBF and its database. The results are summarized in figure 1. This shows that the number of calves with known sire has increased from 120,000 per year in 1995 to 395,000 in 2005. The increase of 275,000 per year is an indication of the success of animal events recording.
- ✚ The main reason for seeking a change in the “white card” is to lift the number of calves with known sires, especially in smaller suckler herds, by a further 300,000 to 500,000 without the need to incur the costs associated with providing animal events books to these smaller herds.

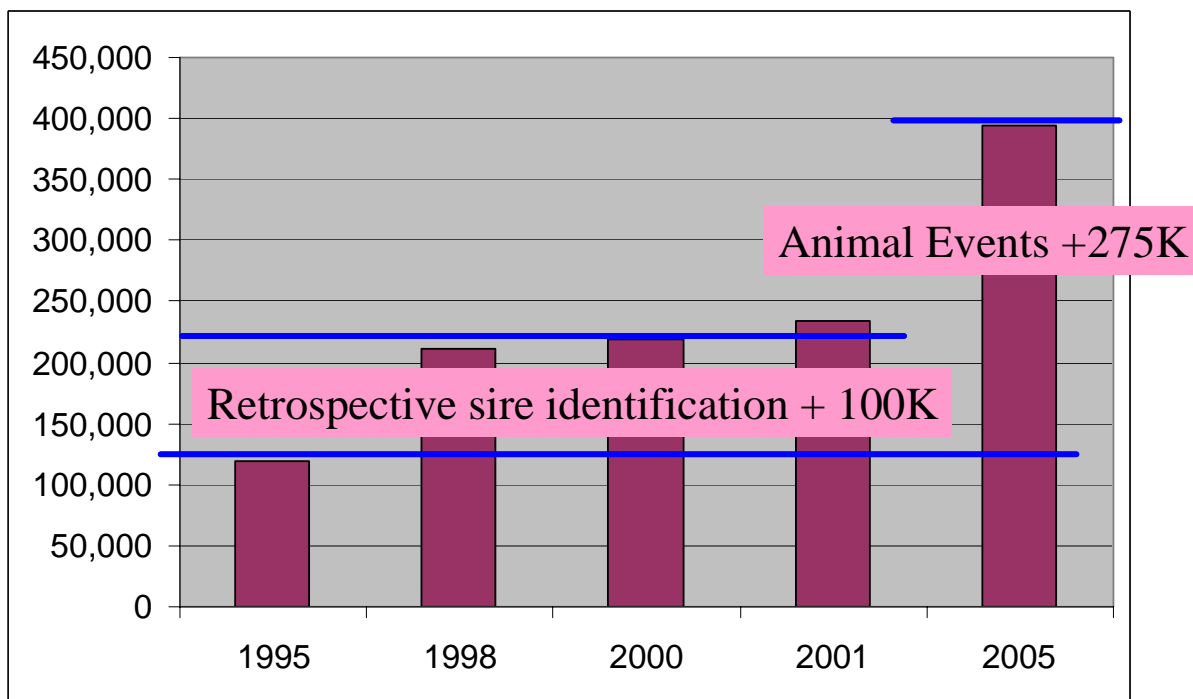


Figure 1. Number of calves registered with known sires over the last ten years. Graph shows impact of the efforts and ICBF and its members to collect sire details over the last eight years which resulted in an extra 100,000 calves with recorded sires by 2001. It also shows the impact of animal events recording which was introduced in 2002 and now accounts for an extra 275,000 calves with known sires being recorded at birth.

- The number of calves with valid sires recorded on the ICBF database from animal event and white cards in 2005 is summarized in table 1. This shows how animal events is currently the source of most sire information even though AI sires can be recorded on white cards. If the change to white cards is to succeed, assuming it is approved, there will need to be a major educational campaign to persuade farmers to use the facility.

2005 births	Animal Events	White Cards	Total
Number of registrations to ICBF	471,675	464,325	936,000
Number with valid Sire ID	384,008	10,111	394,119
% with valid sire ID	81%	2%	42%

Table 1. Analysis of 2005 births recorded on ICBF database according to source of registration and recording of valid sire codes.

6 Breeding Information Service

- TEAGASC dairy specialists briefed on Monday.
- Name suggestions coming in. Decision on name will be made in near future.
- Planning under following heading is continuing:
 - Financial – budget, payment methods, order processing
 - Technical – security, authorisations
 - Marketing – product, promotion, sales, launch
 - Operations – help desk, web site, printing & distribution



7 Milk Recording Update

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

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 07/07/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 07/07/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 07/07/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 07/07/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,067	2,071	0%	142,340	148,143	4%
Dairygold	1,514	1,540	2%	92,965	99,328	7%*
Kerry	1,064	1,073	1%	65,161	67,630	4%
SWS	934	953	2%	52,863	56,627	7%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,065	11,490	27%*
Arrabawn	107	157	47%	6,768	10,583	56%*
Connacht	110	129	17%	7,063	8,127	15%
Donegal	32	56	75%	3,106	4,843	56%*
Total	5,969	6,147	3%	379,331	406,771	7%

* For these Co-ops increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

Milk Recording Stats week ending 07/07/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 30/06/06 - 07/07/06
Progressive	408
Dairygold	242
SWS	183
Kerry	96
Arrabawn	40
Tipperary	39
Connacht	15
Donegal	9
Total	1,032

Industry Test Turnaround June 2006

- ✚ Industry national average for June 2006 was 6.4 days. Nationally 3,965 tests were processed with some 230,662 animals. June 05 had a turnaround of 7.0 days.
- ✚ The Organisation with the best turnaround in June 06 was Dairygold with an average of 4.6 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

For the subset of 453 EDIY recorded herds in June, the average turnaround time for coded EDIY herds was **9.10 days***. (Can only be extracted for MRO's that have dedicated EDIY technician codes assigned to EDIY herds, and had > 10 herd tests).

Dairygold 3 cells on EDIY averaged turnaround time of 4.1 days.
 Kerry 1 cell on EDIY averaged 4.6 days.
 Progressive 3 cells on EDIY averaged turnaround time 9.0 days



SWS 1 cell on €DIY averaged 13.0 days

*Arrabawn/Tipp/Donegal/Connacht – €DIY cells averaged 8.8 days. All these €DIY herds are being handled by SWS processing Centre in Clonakilty.

8 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Extracts have begun for the next routine dairy evaluation. Evaluations for the various traits in the EBI will take place over the next couple of weeks in advance of the Interbull deadline.
- ✚ The coding of new software for the beef and calving evaluations is nearing completion. This was necessary due to the limitations of the current software in handling the amount of new data entering both evaluations. Initial testing will begin next week.
- ✚ A new beef evaluation with new genetic parameters has been completed. Letters for the next Tully intake are being prepared based on the most recent BPSI figures for these animals based on the new evaluation.