



**UPDATE – for period 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**1 Important Dates**

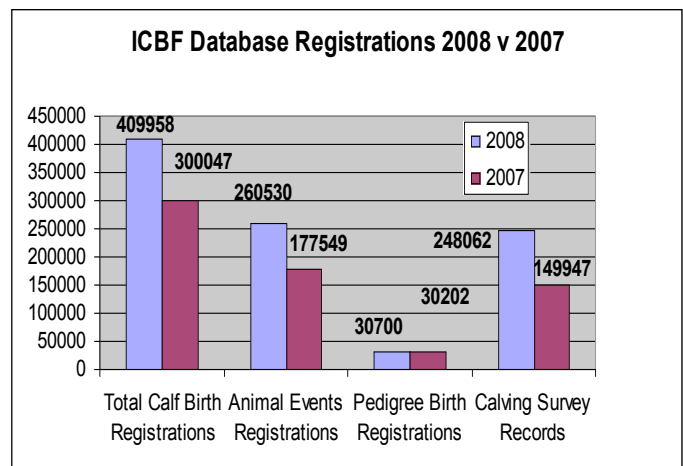
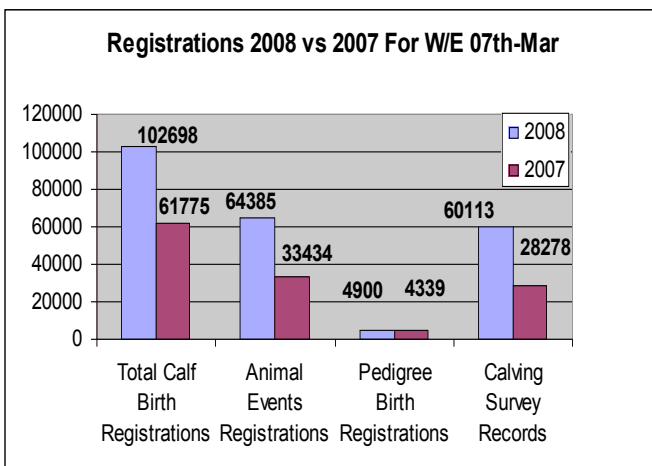
- + **27<sup>th</sup> March.** Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting Horse & Jockey
- + **3<sup>rd</sup> April.** Board meeting Comfort Inn Portlaoise.
- + **1<sup>st</sup> May.** Board Meeting and AGM. Venue to be confirmed.

**2 Board Meeting**

The ICBF Board met on Thursday this week. The outcomes from the meeting included:

- + Acceptance of the Irish Speckled Park breed into ICBF membership.
- + To endorse the development of a research plan for genomic selection in partnership with Teagasc and UCD.
- + To welcome the progress being made in conjunction with Beef Breed associations on a wide range of fronts.
- + The Board is pleased with the progress that is being made with the recruitment of herds for GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> progeny test and the quality of the bulls entering the progeny test.
- + To endorse the results of the AI survey of farmers and to encourage initiatives based on the findings.

**3 Database Update**



- + 29,656 inseminations have been received from AI Handhelds so far in 2008, compared with 21,553 in 2007 for the same period.
- + ICBF have received 43,153 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. Over 70,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- + Sire recording and calving survey recording on Animal Events continues to be of good quality.
- + The new program for loading Animal Events records to the database will go live next Monday. An enormous amount of work has gone into this, and its impact, while not that apparent to the outside world, will be significant in terms the efficiency of nightly processing.
- + The majority of the rest of the AI Handhelds went live this week and the 2007 database will be switched off from next Monday. The switch-over has been smooth, as a result of hard work, and very good cooperation between the AI organisations and ICBF.
- + The testing of the 2008 Sire Advice is almost complete, and should be released next week.



## 4 Genetic Evaluations

### Beef

- The Tully performance data from the current test will be loaded to the database over the coming days and used in the updated proofs for these bulls.
- The foreign evaluation files for 2008 are currently being requested from France and should be incorporated into the next run of Beef Euro-Star proofs. Breeds include Charolais, Limousine, Blonde, Aubrac, Salers, Parthenaise and Maine Anjou.
- Routines to identify erroneous pedigree data are almost complete and will be incorporated into the next evaluations. Animals with pedigree errors will then subsequently be omitted from the evaluations and the respective herdbooks will be notified with the lists of these animals.

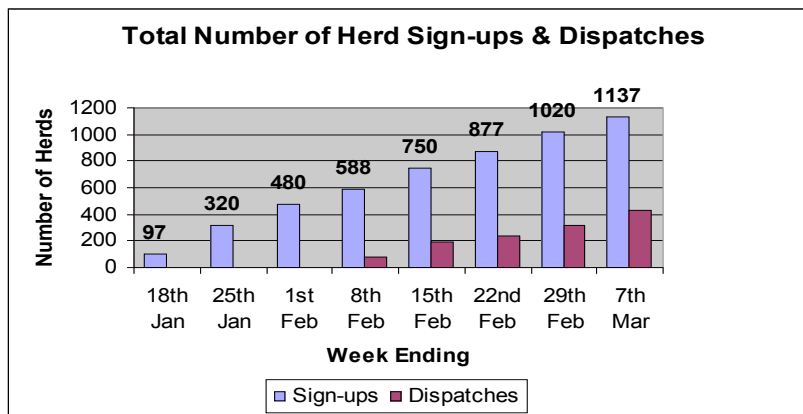
### Dairy

- Pedigree, production and CIS files for the upcoming INTERBULL routine evaluation have been extracted and evaluations have commenced.

## 5 GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup>

### Dairy Spring 2008

- The target of 1,200 herds is almost reached. This is a great achievement and all involved have done a great job.
- Sign-up forms will continue to be accepted over the next couple of weeks leading up until Easter, at which point we will review both the status of sign-ups and semen collection.



- First batch of inbreeding reports was posted this week. These reports are also available on the ICBF website through the individual farmer's log-in.
- The dispatch of 17 test bulls (700 doses/bull) is now completed. Ten further bulls are currently being dispatched (which includes a pure Friesian pack). The next HOFR pack, to start dispatch next week, consists of the following bulls:

AI CODE	NAME	SIRE	MGS	EBI	MILK	FERT
AWA	AGHAWADDA EMANUEL	RUU	MBH	147.91	38.58	85.6
DJK	DIRREECARTEN JACKSON	MAU	MFX	116.32	81.21	29.02
DZO	DONEEN MARLEEN MASCOL	MCL	HRK	136.25	76.06	38.07
MEV	CARRACOUSH MERV	OJI	GMI	196.01	93.43	64.75
VIP	VIADUCTVIEW SNAPPER	AAP	MAU	120.5	51.13	56.77
				<b>€143.40</b>	<b>€68.08</b>	<b>€54.84</b>



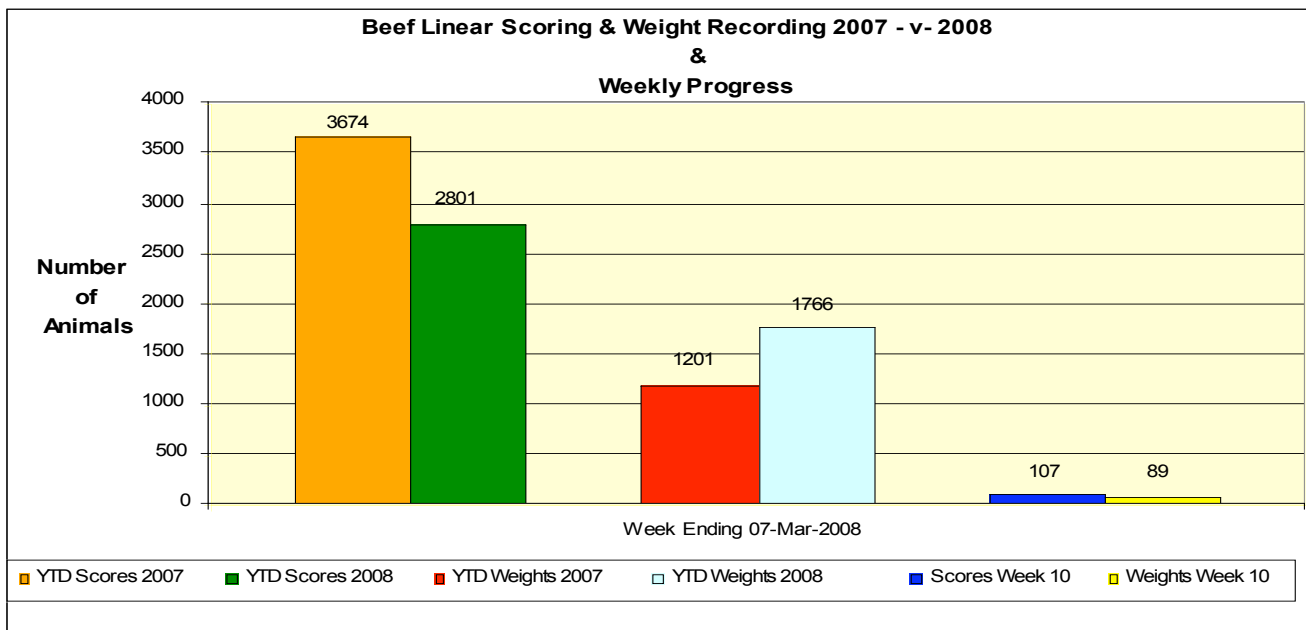
## Dairy Autumn 2007

- Next week a text message will be sent to Herd-owners that took part in last autumn's programme, informing them of the total number of inseminations we have recorded on the database. We will be following up this text message with a call over the coming weeks.
- At this point in time we only have 40% of the total number of doses dispatched with an associated recorded insemination.

## Beef Spring 2008

- 161 herds signed up taking 3,173 straws, 3,089 of which have been sent to farmers.
- DRU reached the 700 straws mark, bringing total bulls tested to seven.
- Promotional piece with photos planned for next week's farming newspapers.
- Herd recruitment getting priority next week.
- Working on getting GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> beef section on website with photos of bulls.

## 6 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



## 7 HerdPlus<sup>®</sup>

### GROW

- At the Beef Herdbook meeting on Wednesday some of the improvements that have been made so far in Linear Scoring & Weight Recording were presented.
- The main point was that the level of weight recording being performed by the Scorers has increased from 35% for year end 2007, to 56% in January 2008 and now the level of weight recording is up to 67% for February 2008.
- The Scorers have put in a lot of work encouraging Breeders to weigh and have spent time explaining the benefits of weighing from a genetic evaluation point of view.
- That said, it was also emphasised at the meeting that eight Scorers on their own cannot be expected to increase the level of weight recording. Each Breed Society has an absolutely crucial role to play in getting



their members to weigh & score their cattle at the right time (150 – 300 days old) and in the right group size (at least 5 animals).

✚ Other Improvements highlighted at the meeting include:

1. Completion of GROW Rules document that will be circulated to every pedigree Breeder.
2. Continued upgrading of scales platform with a plastic coating for ease of use.
3. Continued recruitment of Commercial Suckler Herds.

### Dairy

✚ Final testing is being carried out on the 2008 version of Sire Advice. It is hoped to release this to all HerdPlus members early next week.

## 8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics – Herds, Cows & EDIY 07/03/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/03/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/03/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/03/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/03/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,262	240	19%	73,297	14,557	20%
Dairygold	481	55	11%	22,634	3,008	13%
Kerry	388	12	3%	17,278	750	4%
SWS	542	28	5%	22,336	1,643	7%
Tipperary	33	0	0%	1,283	0	0%
Arrabawn	23	12	52%	1,103	643	58%
Connacht	88	14	16%	3,908	625	16%
Donegal	4	4	100%	214	214	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,821</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>142,053</b>	<b>21,440</b>	<b>15%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 07/03/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 07/03/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	71,858	73,297	2.0%
Dairygold	19,692	22,634	13.0%
Kerry	17,866	17,278	-3.4%
SWS	22,794	22,336	-2.1%
Tipperary	907	1,283	29.3%
Arrabawn	1,023	1,103	7.3%
Connacht	3,819	3,908	2.3%
Donegal	75	214	65.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,034</b>	<b>142,053</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

## 9 Tully

✚ Two bulls have tested +ve for IBR and have been moved to an isolation facility off-site. The remainder of the bulls from the same shed also been moved to a separate isolation facility and have tested negative for IBR.



- ✚ This week Tully demonstrated its ability to manage a high health status station. The health protocol now being operated at Tully has demonstrated its effectiveness. The systems of vigilance, repeated testing, early detection and isolation are working.
- ✚ IBR is difficult to manage and across Europe all AI Centres have detected cases of IBR in the last ten years either in their isolation or in their main studs.

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