



1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 13th November** – ICBF National Dairy Cattle Breeding Day, at Corrin Mart near Rathcormac. This major event is being sponsored by the FBD Trust.
- ✚ **Thursday 27th November** – ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting, Horse & Jockey
- ✚ **Thursday 4th December** – ICBF Board meeting, The Comfort Inn, Portlaoise
- ✚ **Thursday 4th December** – Interim Sheep Board meeting, The Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.



2 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 for the next six months.

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

3 National Dairy Cattle Breeding Day

- ✚ Preparations for this important event on Thursday 13th November are progressing.
- ✚ The cattle breeding industry (AI, Herd Books and Milk Recording) will be well represented with trade stands.
- ✚ The day will be in two parts. The morning session (10:30 to 12:30) is for participants in GEN€IR€LAND® and the afternoon (14:00 to 15:30) is an open session existing and potentially new HerdPlus® dairy clients.
- ✚ GEN€IR€LAND® herds involved in the supply of young elite bulls and in the progeny testing of these bulls will be updated on plans for 2009 and the impact of genomics on Ireland’s breeding program for dairy cattle.
- ✚ Features of the day will be the awarding of the GEN€IR€LAND® awards and the launch of the HerdPlus Dairy Cow Report.
- ✚ The afternoon session will include a number of short snappy presentations of direct interest to dairy farmers seeking to improve the profitability of their farms.
- ✚ Booking is essential. Please call 023 88 20 458 for a reservation.

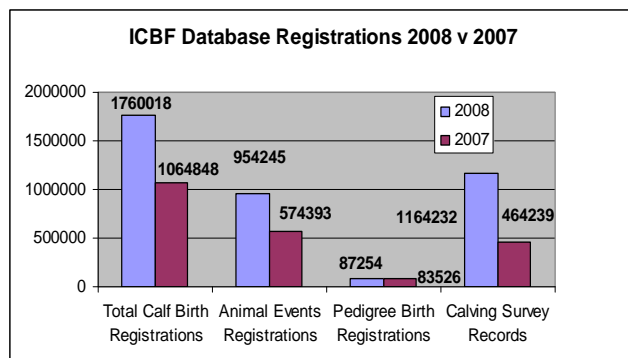
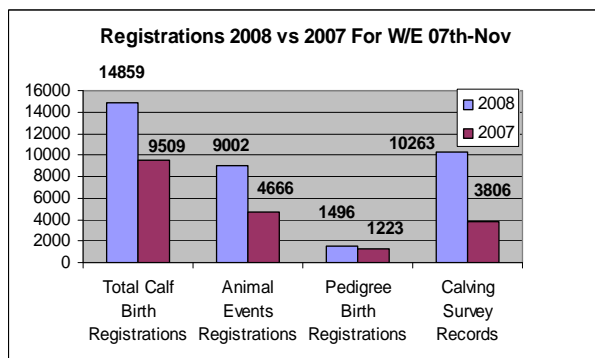
4 Sheep

- ✚ www.sheep.ie is now live. We received this message earlier today: *Congratulations on the newborn website! It appears to be of good birth weight, hardy and viable! The parentage is good, so genetically we are hopeful of an impressive growth rate and carcase quality animal in the future!*
- ✚ Sheep Ireland’s recording and information service for flock owners has been named **LambPlus**. The key elements of this service include:



- Web based with flock owner accessing the Sheep Ireland database directly from a home computer
 - Recording of matings, births, weights, faecal egg counts, scanning, dags
 - Genetic evaluation reports
 - Other management reports
 - Help desk support
 - Payment by direct debit
 - Base fee of €60 (inc VAT) per flock per year (for any number of sheep) with optional services (scanning, paper & postage, faecal egg counts, DNA testing etc) costing extra.
- ✚ On Thursday we met with representatives of Flock Books to consult on their involvement. A copy of our presentation is in the publications section of www.sheep.ie. The Sheep Flock Books now have a few months to consult with their members, obtain clarifications and to decide if they wish to avail of the comprehensive recording and information service being offered by Sheep Ireland.
- ✚ DAFF have approved the Sheep Ireland identification system for use in flocks participating in our sheep breeding information service (**LambPlus**). A copy of the letter from Sheep Ireland to DAFF outlining the details of the scheme is in the publications section of www.sheep.ie. The key elements for new born animals are:
- Left ear – NSIS
 - Right ear – NSIS
 - Lost tags – replaced with same ID
 - Movement to another participating flock – retain both tags, no new tag
 - Movement to non-participating flock – new owners tag in right ear
- ✚ The recording protocols for migrating animals from PSBIP to LambPlus are nearing completion.

5 Database



- ✚ 508,670 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 357,936 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ The work on revamping the AI software for next season is continuing. A number of training sessions of support staff within the organisations took place this week.
- ✚ The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 575,000, with just over 250,000 of these having been weaned.



- ✦ Some work on the catalogue functions for herd-books is being finalised which should increase the efficiency of that process by making the process more 'self-service' for Herdbook staff.
- ✦ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. The 'back-end' work will be completed next week, and the focus will switch to the design of the screens for inputting and data correction.
- ✦ This week, work has continued on migrating the Sheep Performance system to the Sheep Ireland database.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- ✦ All evaluations are now completed and are currently being uploaded to the database.
- ✦ We will be in touch with the industry next week regarding the timeline for official publication.
- ✦ The run represent the final run for 2008 and includes updated domestic information for both dairy and beef animals.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 28/10/08 to 07/11/08

	<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	17	1,036	61	14.8	4.53	3.75	1.23	263
CAVAN	42	2,158	51	15.8	4.42	3.68	1.28	331
CLARE	29	1,315	45	13.1	4.46	3.82	1.08	397
CORK STH	275	16,136	59	14.6	4.53	3.87	1.23	302
CORK NTH	313	21,267	68	15.3	4.48	3.76	1.26	354
DONEGAL	18	1,200	67	14.8	4.35	3.64	1.18	297
DUBLIN	1	47	47	28.9	3.74	3.29	2.03	466
GALWAY	24	1,223	51	14.8	4.37	3.61	1.18	382
KERRY	118	7,850	67	15.5	4.30	3.66	1.23	372
KILDARE	15	1,020	68	20.2	4.47	3.58	1.63	338
KILKENNY	57	3,559	62	14.1	4.47	3.85	1.17	305
LAOIS	44	2,923	66	15.0	4.62	3.85	1.27	262
LEITRIM	3	141	47	16.8	3.99	3.52	1.26	294
LIMERICK	111	7,269	65	16.1	4.27	3.60	1.27	362
LONGFORD	10	599	60	15.3	4.56	3.74	1.27	328
LOUTH	20	1,166	58	18.7	4.25	3.63	1.47	252
MAYO	9	386	43	19.4	3.30	3.69	1.36	218
MEATH	65	4,785	74	19.4	4.17	3.52	1.49	291
MONAGHAN	29	1,244	43	16.6	4.18	3.58	1.29	283
OFFALY	35	2,056	59	15.2	4.45	3.76	1.25	380
ROSCOMMON	2	166	83	17.0	4.16	3.25	1.26	228
SLIGO	4	156	39	18.6	3.38	3.61	1.30	225
TIPPERARY NTH	33	2,389	72	13.8	4.70	3.86	1.18	365
TIPPERARY STH	48	3,441	72	11.7	4.43	3.80	0.96	257
WATERFORD	54	4,064	75	14.1	4.56	3.84	1.18	288
WESTMEATH	24	1,831	76	13.2	4.88	3.79	1.14	320



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WEXFORD	62	4,478	72	16.5	4.40	3.73	1.34	313
WICKLOW E	25	1,417	57	18.8	3.99	3.56	1.42	291
WICKLOW W	14	1,113	80	20.3	4.34	3.52	1.60	343
	<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	1,501	96,435	62	16.5	4.30	3.67	1.31	314

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 28/10/08 to 07/11/08

Provincial	<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>
Munster	981	63,731	65	14.3	4.41	3.78	1.17	337
Leinster	389	26,030	67	17.7	4.03	3.66	1.36	319
Connacht	42	2,072	49	17.3	4.31	3.54	1.36	269
Ulster	89	4,602	52	15.7	4.52	3.63	1.28	304

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 07/11/08

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/11/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/11/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/11/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/11/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,238	930	42%	183,151	73,662	40%
Dairygold	1,690	640	38%	124,799	49,009	39%
Kerry	1,159	248	21%	79,199	16,317	21%
SWS	915	134	15%	62,469	9,744	16%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	13,053	5,779	44%
Arrabawn	166	138	83%	12,949	10,945	85%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,357	4,356	42%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,793	4,793	100%
Total	6,547	2,280	35%	490,770	174,605	36%



Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 07/11/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 07/11/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	168,159	183,151	8.2%
Dairygold	111,656	124,799	10.5%
Kerry	71,850	79,199	9.3%
SWS	60,845	62,469	2.6%
Tipperary	12,307	13,053	5.7%
Arrabawn	12,060	12,949	6.9%
Connacht	10,108	10,357	2.4%
Donegal	3,909	4,793	18.4%
Total	450,894	490,770	8.1%

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