

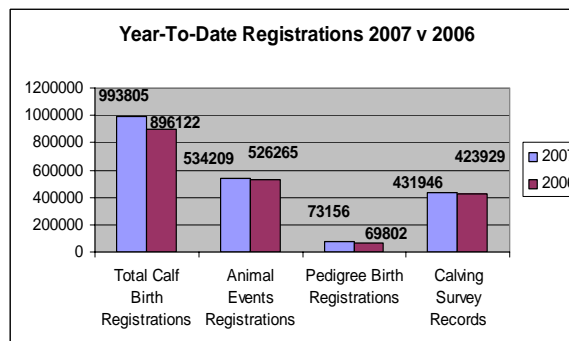
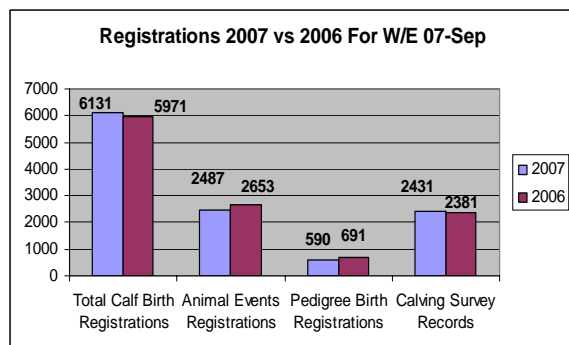


UPDATE – for period 1st – 7th September 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday, September 11th**. EBI €100 Open Day. On farm of Pat & Noreen Cronin, Macroom, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **Thursday September 13th**. ICBF Board Meeting, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **September 25th to 27th**. Ploughing Championships, Tullamore.

2 Database Update



- ✚ 343,949 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 149,649 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✚ The new farmer interface to 'HerdPlus' is continuing to take shape and will be completed over the next couple of weeks.
- ✚ All milk recording laboratory files are now being processed using the new loading process, which has significantly reduced the processing time required during the nightly batch runs.
- ✚ Progress continues on the redesign of the Animal Events file processing which will be completed over the coming months.
- ✚ Work on Gene Ireland reports and user interfaces is also on-going, in advance of the Autumn Gene Ireland programme kicking off for both dairy and beef.
- ✚ Development on a number of reports for Suckler Beef Herds is ongoing in advance of the Ploughing championships.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the Sire Advice module for the new season.
- ✚ A significant amount of work has been on-going in loading the new sets of beef evaluations.

3 EBI €100 Open Day

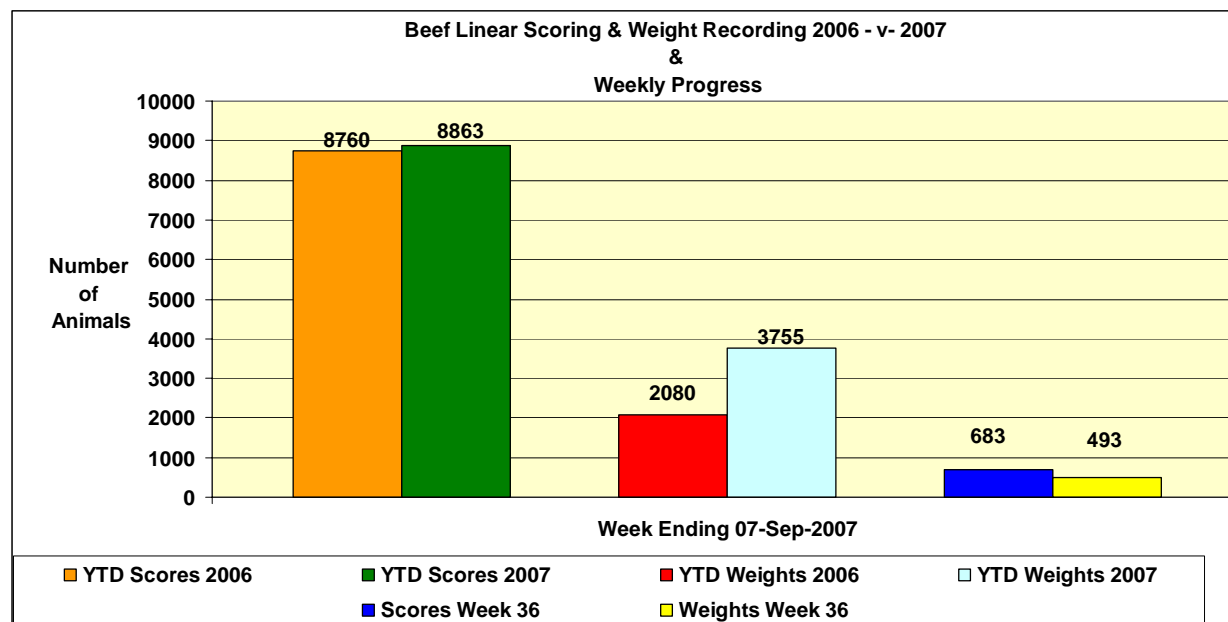
We are looking forward to the Open Day at Pat Cronin's farm on Tuesday next week. A Park n Ride system will be place. Take the main road from Cork to Macroom and follow the signs for the Park n Ride just before Macroom town. See you there!

4 Tully

- ✚ Security fencing dividing the office areas from the bull housing area is finished.
- ✚ Power washing and disinfection of the pre entry isolation units has commenced.
- ✚ The EBI run to finalize the list for bulls entering Tully will be completed before the 14-9-07.



5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



6 Genetic Evaluations

Calving Interval, Survival and Age at first calving proofs:

These are the first set of proofs ran in ICBF since takeover from Marco Pool. No new model, editing or software changes. Based on calving interval and survival from first to second lactation with lifespan (number of parities of a cow) used as a prediction of survival so we are using later parity information.

Number of records are as below and correlations below that with the old run.

Evaluation	Nov-06	Aug-07	extra
Calving Interval	74729	111649	36920
Survival	112522	158561	46039
Lifespan	143925	166713	22788
Age at first calving	143925	168112	24187
Total records	475101	605035	129934
Total cows	143925	168112	24187

Calving interval correlation Nov06 v Aug07 = 0.922, Survival correlation Nov06 v Aug07 = 0.907, Lifespan correlation Nov06 v Aug07 = 0.905, and Age at first calving correlation Nov06 v Aug07 = 0.88.

Beef Performance evaluation

New data, no new model, no editing or software changes.

Trait	May-07	Aug-07	Extra
carcass weight	316923	380065	63142
carcass conformation	316623	379759	63136
carcass fat	316372	379501	63129
cull cow weight	66918	82861	15943
weaning weight	53857	62875	9018
liveweight	64533	76500	11967
Feed Intake	3173	3175	2



Trait	May-07	Aug-07	Extra
mart calf quality	7913	14887	6974
linear score	84191	84839	648

Correlations across all proofs ranged from 0.965 (weaning weight) to 0.990 (carcass conformation) with no restriction on reliability.

Maternal weaning weight

Small amount of new data between November 06 and May 07 included. No new model or software changes. Some editing changes. Correlation between the proofs of 0.96 with previous evaluation.

Incorporation of Foreign data

Predicted differences for a range of traits from the official French evaluation were available for the following traits for each breed listed:

	Charolais	Limousine	Aubrac	BlondeAq	Partenaïse	Saler
Calving difficulty	yes	yes	No	No	No	No
Maternal calving difficulty	yes	yes	No	No	No	No
Direct weaning weight	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Maternal weaning weight	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Carcass weight	yes	yes	No	No	No	No
Carcass conformation	yes	yes	No	No	No	No
Calf quality	yes	yes	No	No	No	No

For the Limousine and Charolais there were enough links available across the countries to create conversion equations for 7 traits (above). The following procedure was used in the current evaluation to decide which proofs to use:

RULES TO APPLY

- a. If no converted proofs, use the national proofs
- b. If no national proof, use the converted proofs
- c. If a national and a converted proof are present then as follows:
 - If $REL_{national} \geq 0.60$ then use the national proofs and forget the converted
 - If $REL < 0.60$ then:
 - If $REL_{national} \geq REL_{converted}$, use the national proofs and forget the converted, else
 - If $REL_{national} < REL_{converted}$, use a mixture of the two proofs called blended proofs.

For the remaining breeds a process called comparison of rank was used. In this method breed average and standard deviation (variation) for each trait in Ireland was calculated. This was then used to scale the French proofs for the 4 breeds for direct and maternal weaning weight to an Irish equivalent. So, the animals will rank the same as in the French evaluation but their actual value will depend on the breed average and standard deviation from the previous Irish evaluation. It is hoped to extend this to other traits and breeds for the next official evaluation depending on cooperation with the home country of the breed.

It is anticipated an unofficial list of AI bull proofs will be released early next week.



7 GENEIRELAND

- ✦ There has been a steady flow of insemination data coming in over this past week. Even though the deadline was last Friday, any additional data will still be considered!
- ✦ 74 % of straws dispatched to GENEIRELAND herds in the Spring, now have an associated insemination on the Database.
- ✦ It is anticipated that the first batch of Payments will be made next week.
- ✦ AI companies involved in the spring programme have been approached, and asked to put forward potential test bulls for the Autumn programme.

8 Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 07/09/07						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/09/07	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/09/07	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/09/07	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/09/07	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,123	644	30%	163,322	48,870	30%
Dairygold	1,587	552	35%	110,184	39,906	36%
Kerry	1,032	70	7%	71,138	5,604	8%
SWS	932	109	12%	60,039	7,017	12%
Tipperary	170	71	42%	12,216	5,209	43%
Arrabawn	167	126	75%	11,814	9,001	76%
Connacht	153	67	44%	9,908	4,165	42%
Donegal	43	43	100%	3,863	3,861	100%
Total	6,207	1,682	27%	442,484	123,633	28%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organistaion - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 07/09/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 07/09/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 07/09/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	146,596	153,660	163,322	5.9%
Dairygold	96,504	102,576	110,184	6.9%
Kerry	66,657	69,555	71,138	2.2%
SWS	53,955	58,568	60,039	2.5%
Tipperary	9,284	11,747	12,216	3.8%
Arrabawn	7,110	10,953	11,814	7.3%
Connacht	7,245	8,937	9,908	9.8%
Donegal	3,540	5,142	3,863	-33.1%
Total	390,891	421,138	442,484	4.8%

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