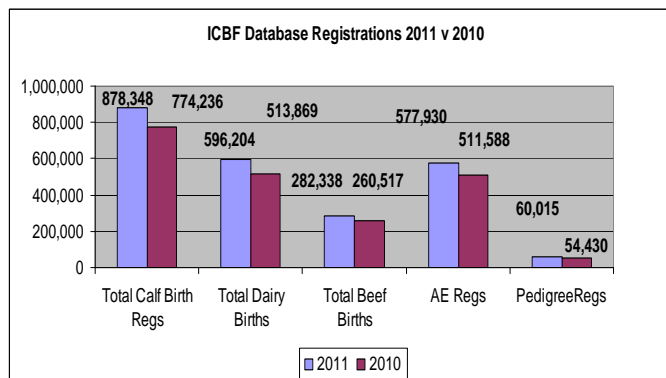
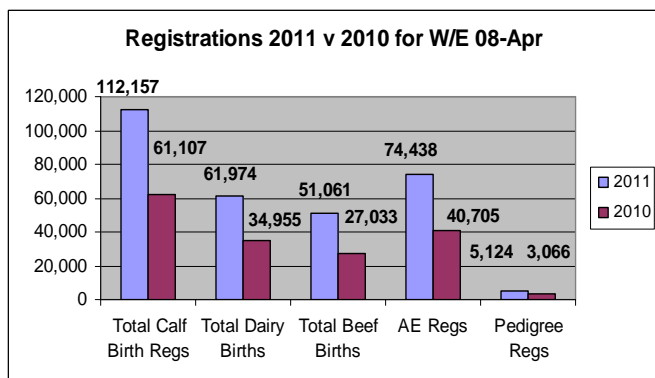


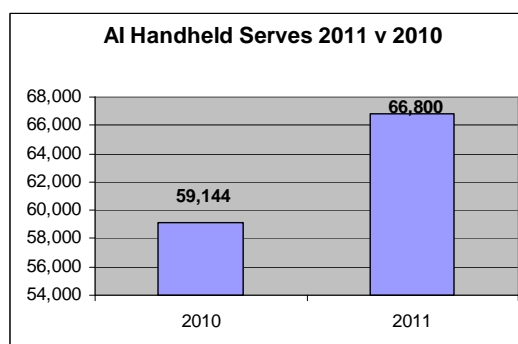
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Thursday 14th April, 10:00 to 17:00 – Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. This meeting will cover both dairy and beef. Invitations were distributed this week. If you would like to attend and have not received an invitation please contact Mary Madden (mmadden@icbf.com).
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 21th April, 10:00 to 12:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM** – Thursday 21th April, 12:30 to 13:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland - Flock Book, AGM & Board - Meetings** – Thursday 21th April, 14:00 to 17:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 25th April, 12:00 to 16:00 – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.

2 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 592,684 with the number of animals weaned at 517,033.
- ✚ Testing will be completed next week on the Beef Expected Calving report and the Beef Breeding charts.
- ✚ Testing on a new authorisation module for farmers and their service providers is on-going. This will give farmers more flexibility and control in providing authorisation to others to see their data. The intention is to have this live at the end of April.
- ✚ The first batch of the new 'Sire Error' forms will be sent out early next week.
- ✚ Work is on-going in establishing electronic links to the commercial animal health laboratories.
- ✚ Updates to the catalogues, with particular focus on the dairy catalogues are on-going.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



3 GENEIRELAND®

Dairy

- ✚ Straws continue to be allocated according to availability.
- ✚ A large panel of Jersey and Crossbred bulls are available.

✚ Call 1850 600 900 to order.

Beef

✚ 226 herds have signed up so far.

✚ The average order is 17 straws per herd.

✚ This week CZH became the 14th LM tested through the program.

✚ Also LGL became the 13th CH tested through the program.

✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GEN€IR€LAND section of the website.

✚ To order straws phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.

✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	HE	LM	PT	SI
CODE	MLJ	KCE	BZP	CSQ	DZP	GCT	ERE	CBQ	SXD
# STRAWS	430	470	230	275	85	150	660	240	250

4 Tully

Final performance test results

✚ The final live-weight on the 104 bulls in Tully was obtained on Monday of this week (Table 1). The performance test has now been completed with 85 days of individual feed intake and five live-weights obtained.

✚ Measurements obtained on bulls include average daily gain, feed efficiency, dry matter intake, ultrasonic scanned muscle and fat depth and scrotal circumference. Detailed figures on all bulls can be viewed by logging onto the Tully website at <http://www.icbf.com/services/tully/index.php>.

Below is a summary of each trait measured at Tully:

- *Average daily gain (kg/day)*: A key indicator of growth rate, which is an important factor in all aspects of beef production.
- *Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG)*: The ratio describing the amount of feed consumed per unit of production. It is important to identify animals that are efficient users of feed.
- *Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm)*: These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield (very important with the new pricing GRID in place).
- *Scrotal circumference (cm)*: Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality. It also has a favourable relationship with female fertility in daughters produced.

Table 1 Live-weight and average daily gain (last 20 days) of bulls averaged by breed

Breed	AA (n = 20)	AU (n = 2)	BA (N = 2)	BB (n = 5)	CH (n = 30)	HE (n = 3)	LM (n = 24)	SA (n = 7)	SI (n = 10)	SP (n = 1)
Average Live-weight (kg)	710	613	776	610	731	662	689	671	739	582
Average Daily gain (kg)	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9

- ✚ Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date, which included all the measurements outlined above. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.

Sale

- ✚ All bulls have been entered for the up-coming sale, which will take place in Tully on **Monday 25th April, starting at 12.00pm**. The catalogue for the sale is being prepared at present and will be on the Tully website on the 11th April.
- ✚ The order of breeds into the sale ring is as follows:
Blonde d'Aquitaine, Aubrac, Saler, Angus, Limousin, Charolais, Simmental, Belgian Blue & Hereford. Bulls will be sold from oldest to youngest within each breed. A draw to decide the sale order took place at the last Tully Advisory Committee Meeting (which is represented by all beef breed societies).
- ✚ The sale is currently being advertised through various forms of media in Ireland, N. Ireland and UK.
- ✚ Clive Jennings (Linear scorer) visually assessed all the bulls for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits, as part of the process for selecting the Champion bull from each breed. The visual assessment along with the final performance test and new Euro-Star evaluation figures will form the bases for identifying the Champion bull, which will be known early next week. These bulls will be photographed and feature in the relevant newspapers.
- ✚ Breeders that own bulls at Tully have been notified of the different procedures that will take place on the day of sale to minimise disease risk to their animals i.e. refrain from bringing power-washers etc.
- ✚ Bulls are being halter trained at present. Their concentrate offering is being gradually decreased leading up to the sale, to ensure they are acclimatised to their new on-farm environment.
- ✚ Preparation of the facilities is on-going.
- ✚ Bulls received hoof-care this week where it was deemed necessary.
- ✚ An article on the Angus bulls at Tully is featured on the Aberdeen Angus website.

Next intake

- ✚ The final number of bulls entered for the next intake is 170. This figure is similar to the number of bulls entered for the same intake, this time last year.
- ✚ Bulls are currently being visually assessed on-farm by linear scorers and once this process has been completed, on-farm health testing will begin, on the 15th April. Bulls are due to enter pre-entry isolation at Tully on the 22nd May 2011.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The main evaluations have now been completed and a new genomics run is currently underway. The expected official release is Monday 11th April at 5.00pm.
- ✚ Preparations are underway for the industry meetings next week.

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