



UPDATE – for period 2nd August – 8th August 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✦ **Tue. 26th August, 10:30** – Beef Industry Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting, Tullamore Court Hotel.
- ✦ **Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th August** – Sheep breeding consultation meetings, Tullamore Court Hotel.
- ✦ **Thursday 18th September** – ICBF Board meeting 10:30 to 14:00.
- ✦ **Thursday 18th September** – Interim Sheep Board meeting 14:00 to 17:00.
- ✦ **23rd to 25th September** – Ploughing Championships, Kilkenny.
- ✦ **9th to 11th October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet. For details see www.ihfa.ie.
- ✦ **11th and 12th October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart. For details see www.beefexpoireland.ie.

2 Genetic Evaluations

- ✦ All work this week has been focused on the current routine evaluation.
- ✦ Files have been sent to Interbull for the relevant dairy evaluations.
- ✦ Evaluations are currently being undertaken for the beef and calving traits.
- ✦ There are an additional 850,000 records in the calving performance evaluation giving a total of 3.1m records, up from 2.25 million. This represents a huge jump in the amount of information that is usually collected between runs (~100,000). The large increase is mainly due to the fact that almost all beef herds are now registering their animals and calving scores via animals events as part of the Suckler Welfare Scheme and is a demonstration of the value the scheme will play in improving the reliability of the genetic evaluations.

3 Tully

- ✦ The final IBR result for the July intake to Tully has returned negative.
- ✦ The bulls from the pre entry isolation units will enter Tully on the 9-8-08.
- ✦ The performance test will start from the 11-8-08 and weights will be sent out to breed society and breeders before the 13-8-08.
- ✦ A survey of bull owners has been conducted and the results are currently being analyzed for presentation to the next meeting of the Tully Advisory Committee.
- ✦ Applications for the Manager position close Friday next week. We have received a number of applications already.

4 Genomic Selection

Dairy

- ✦ Letters went out this week to 3,500 DIY AI herd-owners, targeting 1,900 AI bulls that we require semen for as part of the Genomic Selection research program.
- ✦ At this stage (end week 1) we have received straws from 146 bulls from 21 farmers.
- ✦ We will be monitoring response to this initiative over the coming weeks.
- ✦ All cattle breeding organisation should underline the importance of this research program to their staff and members and customer. If we are to have accurate genomic data in our EBI's in the future, then we must



look to maximise the numbers of AI bulls included in our research project. Your support for this initiative would be greatly appreciated.

Beef

- The relatively small number of beef bulls of each breed that have been accurately progeny tested in Ireland is a limiting factor in research on genomic selection. A range of options to overcome this limitation are being considered.

5 GENEIRELAND®



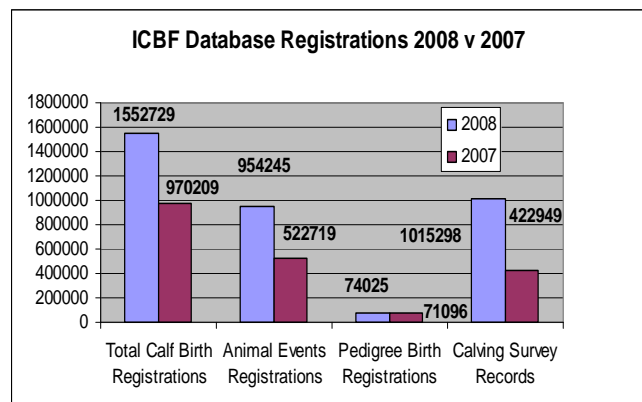
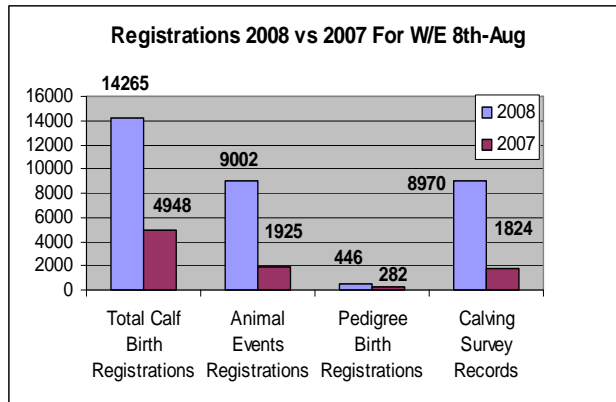
Beef

- Contact is being made with the participants of last Autumn's programme to try and get more insemination data recorded on the database or at least establish semen usage. We currently have 40% of total straws dispatched recorded on the database and this is below target.

Dairy

- Farmer Rating forms (see attached example) are being received at a steady rate. Between the herds targeted for Linear Scoring and additional GENEIRELAND® herds we now have information from some 360 herd owners.

6 Database



- 477,544 inseminations have been received so far in 2008 from AI Handhelds, compared with 328,520 in 2007 for the same period.
- The work on reviewing the AI software for next season is continuing. We expect to have a session with each of the AI organisations using handhelds in early September.
- Over 550,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received as part of the Suckler Scheme. All 49,000 herds that are part of the Suckler Scheme and have had a calving in 2008, have had Pre-Weaning forms posted to them.
- A number of revised screens for the recording of the Suckler Events are now available to farmers.
- New developments have continued this week, including a revamp of the bull search output, further development of the Gene Ireland application, and the update of the milk recording data entry screens.
- The Dairy Calving report is now available on-line for HerdPlus customers.



7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 29/07/08 to 08/08/08.

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	9	566	63	23.3	3.93	3.40	1.71	340
CAVAN	44	2,267	52	23.9	3.58	3.38	1.66	242
CLARE	22	1,130	51	23.8	3.65	3.42	1.68	205
CORK STH	237	14,494	61	21.6	3.82	3.50	1.58	241
CORK NTH	231	16,990	74	21.9	3.82	3.52	1.61	260
DONEGAL	9	597	66	27.6	3.91	3.43	2.03	338
DUBLIN	3	139	46	26.3	3.78	3.39	1.89	346
GALWAY	28	1,810	65	22.7	3.86	3.37	1.64	361
KERRY	132	8,262	63	21.4	3.79	3.42	1.54	287
KILDARE	11	800	73	25.3	3.69	3.37	1.79	353
KILKENNY	48	3,620	75	19.1	3.94	3.56	1.43	268
LAOIS	26	1,523	59	22.1	3.68	3.48	1.58	195
LEITRIM	6	372	62	22.5	3.55	3.29	1.54	279
LIMERICK	101	6,664	66	22.6	3.68	3.38	1.60	301
LONGFORD	14	834	60	21.7	3.79	3.37	1.55	231
LOUTH	25	1,850	74	23.9	3.53	3.41	1.66	240
MAYO	1	48	48	37.6	3.93	3.55	2.81	234
MEATH	56	5,096	91	20.6	4.03	3.41	1.53	308
MONAGHAN	27	1,306	48	25.3	3.73	3.36	1.79	290
OFFALY	19	1,403	74	19.8	4.03	3.49	1.49	313
TIPPERARY NTH	29	2,235	77	18.3	4.42	3.60	1.47	382
TIPPERARY STH	70	5,263	75	20.2	3.83	3.50	1.48	210
WATERFORD	44	3,474	79	21.2	3.9	3.48	1.56	311
WESTMEATH	21	1,352	64	21.4	3.69	3.37	1.51	314
WEXFORD	60	4,448	74	20.7	3.83	3.45	1.51	245
WICKLOW E	19	1,450	76	21.2	3.35	3.38	1.43	274
WICKLOW W	10	633	63	22.5	4.04	3.41	1.68	455
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
National	1,302	88,626	66	22.9	3.81	3.43	1.66	290

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 29/07/08 to 08/08/08.

Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	866	58,512	68	21.4	3.86	3.48	1.57	275
Leinster	321	23,714	74	22.1	3.79	3.42	1.60	299
Connacht	35	2,230	64	27.6	3.78	3.40	1.98	291
Ulster	80	4,170	52	25.6	3.74	3.39	1.83	290



National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 08/08/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 08/08/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 08/08/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 08/08/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 08/08/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,214	890	40%	175,542	68,473	39%
Dairygold	1,644	592	36%	118,788	44,601	38%
Kerry	1,156	247	21%	78,026	16,143	21%
SWS	912	131	14%	60,579	9,047	15%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	12,857	5,669	70%
Arrabawn	165	137	83%	12,573	10,557	84%
Connacht	149	56	38%	9,194	3,289	36%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,593	4,593	100%
Total	6,460	2,174	34%	472,152	162,372	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 08/08/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 08/08/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 08/08/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	151,634	161,878	175,542	13.6%
Dairygold	101,677	109,243	118,788	8.0%
Kerry	69,096	70,596	78,026	11.4%
SWS	58,128	59,584	60,579	1.6%
Tipperary	11,669	12,130	12,857	5.7%
Arrabawn	10,844	11,697	12,573	7.0%
Connacht	8,742	9,698	9,194	-5.5%
Donegal	5,022	3,840	4,593	16.4%
Total	416,812	438,666	472,152	7.1%

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland. Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden.

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20/07/2008

National ID: IE12

Dear Herd-Owner,

Re: Farmer Ratings

The ICBF is currently collecting information regarding farmer ratings of first lactation animals and would appreciate your feedback on the animals in your herd. The objective is to use this information in genetic evaluations and establish a link to profitable traits such as production, fertility and health.

Farmer satisfaction should reflect the overall opinion of you, the farmer, on each of your animals listed. It should encompass every attribute that is sought by you within your own individual farming system. Some examples of things to consider include:

- Does she produce milk of high value?
- Does she get in-calf early in the breeding season?
- Any health problems? e.g. Mastitis or lameness.
- Would you breed replacements from this animal?
- Will she last in the herd?

Please take a moment to evaluate each animal (listed on the form enclosed). You will most likely have a larger proportion of "average/moderate" cows which is okay. Try to avoid scoring all animals as "liked very much".

In addition, we would also appreciate your feedback on temperament, milking speed and leakage (the tendency to leak milk prior to milking) for each animal identified. The scale for each of these attributes is explained on the form. Please complete and return using the freepost envelope provided.

We appreciate your time in completing this information.

Regards,



Brian Wickham
Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation.

RECORDING FARMER RATINGS

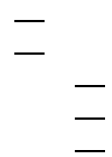
(First lactation animals only)

Herd Number: IE1

Name: E

Please enter the relevant scores for each animal using the scales presented below.

20/07/2008



ANIMAL DETAILS			FARMER SCORES			
Jumbo	Animal Number	Calving Date	Farmer Satisfaction (1 - 5)	Temperament (1 - 5)	Milking Speed (1 - 5)	Leakage* (1 - 3)
343	IE121218970601	04/03/2007				
443	IE121218960690	24/01/2008				
444	IE121218970691	05/10/2007				
446	IE12121899069	08/12/2007				
541	IE121218920704	06/04/2007				
547	IE121218930770	29/10/2007				
630	IE121218980775	04/05/2008				
631	IE121218990776	13/05/2008				
632	IE121218910777	23/03/2008				
633	IE121218960781	26/03/2008				
635	IE121218940788	14/04/2008				
637	IE121218980800	14/06/2008				

* *Leakage is the tendency to leak milk before milking*

<u>Farmer Satisfaction</u>	<u>Temperament</u>	<u>Milking Speed</u>	<u>Leakage</u>
1. Strongly Disliked	1. Very Bad	1. Very Slow	1. None
2. Disliked	2. Bad	2. Slow	2. A Little
3. Average	3. Moderate	3. Moderate	3. Obvious
4. Liked	4. Good	4. Fast	
5. Liked Very Much	5. Very Good	5. Very Fast	

Please complete this form and return to ICBF in the freepost envelope provided.