



Update for period 2nd–8th December 2006

1 Important Dates

- **Thursday 25th January.** 10:30 to 13:00. Board Meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- **Thursday 1st February.** 10:30 to 13:00. Board Meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.

2 Tully

- A paper that was to be presented at the Tully meeting on the 7-12-06 will be sent out to all breed societies before the 11-12-06.
- Health test results for the December intake are returning and all bulls will enter Tully before the 16-12-06.
- A group of beef farmers from Louth will visit Tully on the 11-12-06.

3 Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- Work is continuing on the development of reports and rollout on the new beef indexes.
- A presentation was given to 70 beef farmers on the new indexes in Bandon during the week.
- A list of available AI bulls with the full range of new beef indexes will be available on the ICBF website early next week.

International Beef

- Conversion equations were developed for liveweight for Simmentals between Ireland and the UK. A report has been sent to the Simmental Society for feedback.
- Enhancements to the conversion equations for Limousin and Charolais are currently being investigated. These are based on the inclusion of multiple traits to account for more of the variation and results in higher correlations.

4 HerdPlus

- Personalised Pocket notebooks were sent out to Farmers in User Test Group this week. Feedback will be assimilated into final release for issue first week of January 2007.
- Fertility Reports are being run each weekend to reflect latest PD and AI/serve info.
- Sire Advice programme testing continues for release in January 2007.
- Final mail shots sent this week to last target group, some 2,700 farmers - Sign up forms continue to come in at rate of 75 - 100 a week.

5 Beef Index Implementation Working Group

The Chairman of ICBF, John O'Sullivan, has announced the membership of the working group formed at the most recent ICBF Board meeting. The members are: Pearce Kelly, Justin McCarthy, Michael Doran, Doreen Corridan, Ger Brickley, Martin Ryan and Cathal McCormack. The group members have a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience covering all aspects of beef cattle breeding. Andrew Cromie will be leading the group and they are expected to report back to the ICBF Board meeting of 2nd February 2006 with their proposal for the implementation of the new beef indexes.

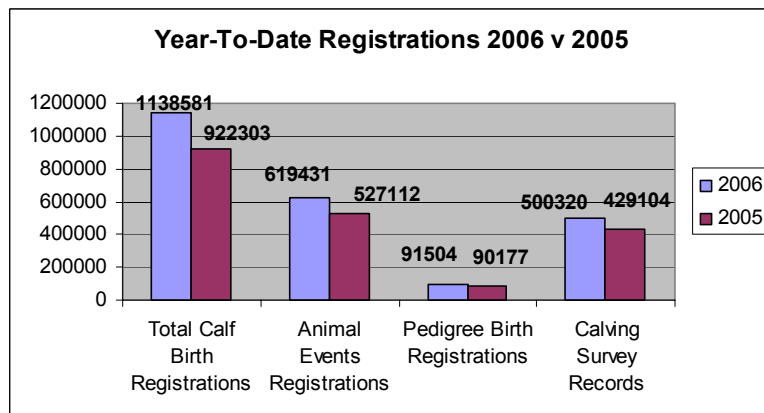
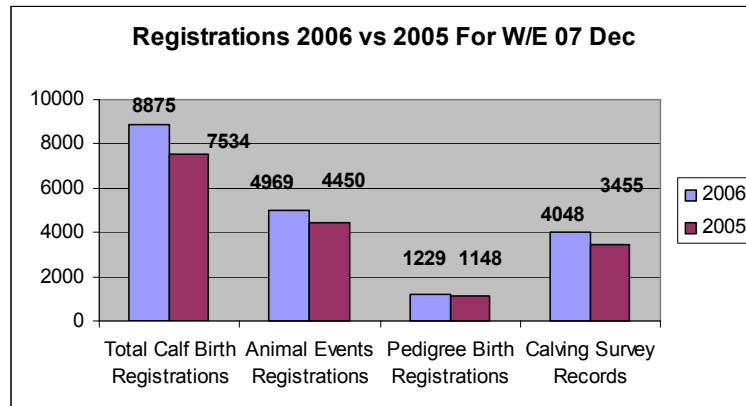
6 Sire Advice Services Working Group

The membership of this working group being lead by Sean Coughlan is currently being finalised and we expected to provide the details in next weeks update.



7 Database Update

- 19 new herds added to the database last week.
- 166,387 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds.
- The first of the 2006 Milk Recording Annual Reports will be sent out this week to those herds that have dried off.
- Work is continuing on the new IRIS front-end. An initial demonstration was held with one of the herdbooks today. A further demonstration is planned for next week.
- A meeting was held with the Tully staff discuss enhancements to the flow of data and to the Tully section of the website.
- Some further enhancements were made to the Fertility Report.
- The first draft of the personalised Animal Event book is completed and samples have been sent to a test group.
- Fiona Crowley leaves ICBF after a two-year graduate placement with the database team. We wish Fiona the very best for the future.



8 Milk Recording Update

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 08/12/05 | YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 08/12/06 | Year on Year Herds Difference(%) | YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 08/12/05 | YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 08/12/06 | Year on Year Cows Difference(%) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Progressive | 2,087 | 2,111 | 1% | 154,313 | 161,911 | 5% |
| Dairygold | 1,529 | 1,552 | 2% | 98,882 | 104,432 | 6% |
| Kerry | 1,067 | 1,075 | 1% | 67,954 | 70,702 | 4% |
| SWS | 938 | 958 | 2% | 55,902 | 60,518 | 8% |
| Tipperary | 142 | 168 | 18% | 9,473 | 11,888 | 25% |
| Arrabawn | 109 | 159 | 46% | 7,184 | 11,082 | 54% |
| Connacht | 110 | 140 | 27% | 7,465 | 9,362 | 25% |
| Donegal | 55 | 58 | 5% | 4,737 | 5,281 | 11% |
| Total | 6,037 | 6,221 | 3% | 405,910 | 435,176 | 7% |



Milk Recording Stats week ending 8/12/06

| Milk Recording Organisation | 2006 Herds Recorded Week 01/12/06 - 08/12/06 |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Progressive | 338 |
| Dairygold | 106 |
| SWS | 112 |
| Kerry | 101 |
| Tipperary | 6 |
| Donegal | 15 |
| Connacht | 27 |
| Arrabawn | 14 |
| Total | 719 |

Industry Test Turnaround November 2006.

Industry national average for November 2006 was 6.9 days. Nationally 3,524 tests were processed covering some 193,363 animals. The Organisation with the best turnaround in Nov 06 was **Kerry** with an average of **4.4 days**. Each Milk Recording Organisation (MRO) is furnished with an Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.

9 Beef Linear Scoring

