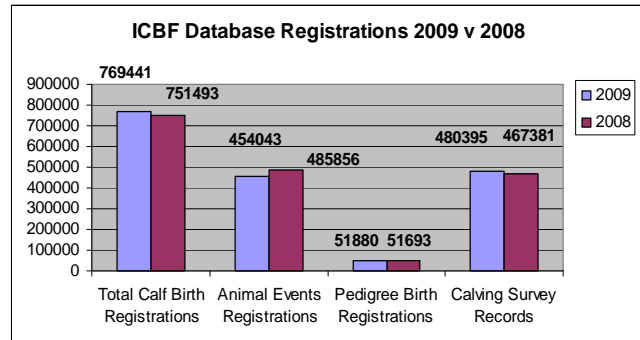
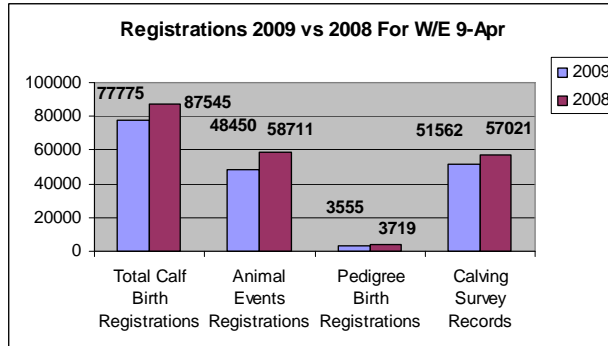


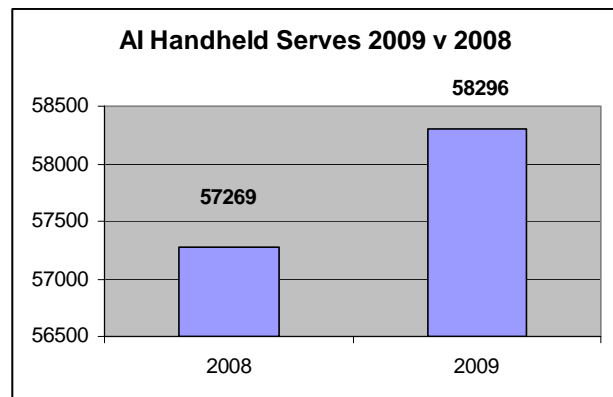
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 30th April 2009.** ICBF Board Meeting (AM), AGM (PM) Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, 10:30-16:00.
- ✚ **Thursday 7th May 2009.** Sheep Board Meeting (AM).

✚ Database



- ✚ The 2009 Suckler Scheme calvings are continuing at a solid rate. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 768,000, with just over 674,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Testing has continued this week, and it is envisaged that there are about another 2 weeks of testing left. Parallel runs on some Munster Milk Recording herds began this week and will continue next week. PG milk recording go their first view of the system this week, and the feedback was very positive.
- ✚ Work has begun on updates to the Fertility reports for the coming AI season.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is beginning and will take a number of weeks to complete.
- ✚ Development on the sheep application continues, with on-going updates being released.
- ✚ This graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008.



2. HerdPlus

Breeding Charts

- ✚ Breeding charts were dispatched to some 3,650 dairy farmers this week. Farmers who ran the Sire Advice will have their bull selections reflected on their Breeding Charts. The bulls also get automatically saved to the AI Handhelds operated by AI technicians. Next week we will provide final update on the most popular bulls selected by HerdPlus Sire Advice clients.



HerdPlus[®]
Profit through Science

Genomics and Active Bull Lists

- ✚ Some 13,300 information packs were sent out this week to inform the greater population of dairy farmers (not just HerdPlus) on the new science that is Genomics.
- ✚ Information and explanatory guides on AI, Genomic selection, and the New Active Bull list were included in the pack. Making genomically selected bulls available to Irish farmers in 2009, provides a great opportunity to improve the genetics of the national herd and thereby improve profits for every dairy farmer who avails of these bulls.

3. Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- ✚ The active bull list for Beef AI sires was published in the Irish Farmers Journal this week. The list is also available on the ICBF website.
- ✚ Evaluations on the next routine beef evaluation have been completed and are in the process of being uploaded to the database.
- ✚ With the publication of new docility proofs in this weeks Active Bull list based on a joint evaluation of the Animal Welfare farmer recorded docility and the linear scorer docility, focus will now change to evaluating the Animal Welfare calf quality trait. Genetic parameter estimation (to estimate heritability) has begun and following this the genetic relationship with the traits in the routine beef evaluation will commence.

Dairy

- ✚ Uploading of the latest dairy proofs has commenced. Initial indications are that the correlations with the old proofs are very high. We expect to have proofs available for **proven** AI bulls early next week.

Genomic Update

- ✚ DNA extraction is almost complete. The genotyping is expected to commence on Monday 13th April in Denmark with genotypes expected back at the end of the week. The genomic selection software will then be run to get genomic figures for these bulls. At this point all Genomically Selected bulls will have their proofs updated.

4. Lambplus®

- ✚ The 40-Day Weight Recording Screen was released for use on the Lambplus website last week.
 - Feedback was received on this screen – Order of the lamb tags and Number of lambs being displayed will now be acted upon.
- ✚ Another day of training for the Donegal FRS Scanning team was performed in Ballyhaise Ag College.
 - The Handheld unit that will be used to retrieve the data was tested. Improvements to this device are currently being progressed.
 - A final day of training is planned for Monday the 20th of April. After this a number of Flocks will be due to commence scanning.
- ✚ Another round of telephone calls will be made shortly to ensure that all lambs have been entered onto the system in advance of the scanning visit. Without the lambs having been entered onto the system the Handheld unit will not have any lambs and so the visit will not be able to take place.
- ✚ Completed Lambing & Mating Recording sheets for Flockowners signed up to the 'Paper' service continue to be sent in for keying.

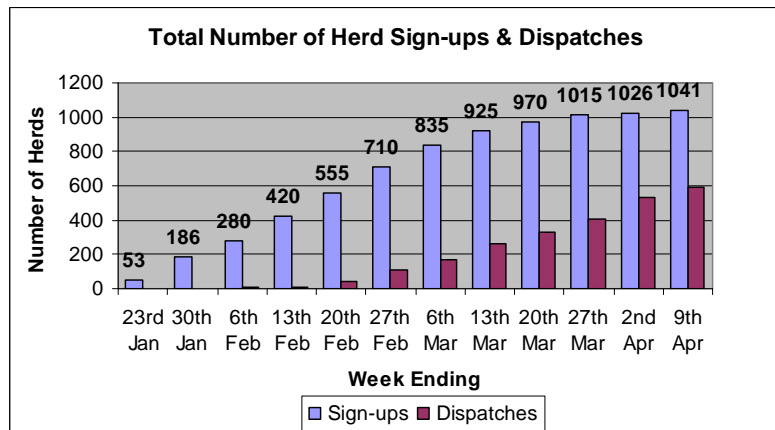


- The first order of EID tags for the first MALP Flock have been used. The Pratley handling unit was fitted with the EID reader and lambs were put through the system on Tuesday. It worked well and was a useful exercise as slight adjustments will be made to the equipment for the next day.
- Two meetings with Flock Books took place this week. Further meetings are scheduled or being scheduled.

5. GENE IRELAND®

Dairy

- Currently packing herds with AI start dates around the 12th April 09.



Beef

- Sign ups have reached 358 herds taking an average of 17 straws each. 134 herds ahead of the same week last year.
- Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below

BREED	CH	CH	LM	SI	SI	BB	PT	BA	AA	AA	AA	SH
CODE	RHI	CWB	RHF	RWV	SKU	RSA	KCP	WOA	RWB	FPG	LZE	CZB
STRAWS	446	12	189	127	492	655	252	431	287	134	235	150

6. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 09/04/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 09/04/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 09/04/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 09/04/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 09/04/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,500	414	28%	100,458	28,906	29%
Dairygold	1,003	272	27%	55,999	17,580	31%
Kerry	670	29	4%	34,829	1,474	4%
SWS	717	54	8%	37,827	3,098	8%
Tipperary	58	14	24%	3,727	1,315	35%
Arrabawn	61	44	72%	3,823	2,943	77%
Connacht	79	2	3%	4,010	74	2%
Donegal	3	3	100%	215	215	100%
Total	4,091	832	20%	240,888	55,605	23%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 09/04/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 09/04/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	101,403	100,458	-0.9%
Dairygold	53,459	55,999	4.5%
Kerry	36,232	34,829	-4.0%
SWS	38,041	37,827	-0.6%
Tipperary	4,354	3,727	-16.8%
Arrabawn	3,661	3,823	4.2%
Connacht	4,964	4,010	-23.8%
Donegal	214	215	0.5%
Total	242,328	240,888	-0.6%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 30/03/09 to 09/04/09.

	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	13	975	75	27.0	4.09	3.44	2.03	299
CAVAN	30	1,083	36	28.8	3.77	3.27	2.03	305
CLARE	27	1,072	40	28.3	3.67	3.28	1.97	255
CORK STH	269	14,856	55	26.3	3.82	3.38	1.89	237
CORK NTH	217	13,739	63	26.0	3.83	3.35	1.87	273
DONEGAL	9	433	48	27.0	4.06	3.31	1.99	348
DUBLIN	6	352	59	24.0	4.20	3.51	1.85	312
GALWAY	16	848	53	28.9	3.74	3.24	2.02	362
KERRY	125	6,444	52	27.6	3.73	3.28	1.93	298
KILDARE	17	1,228	72	26.4	4.15	3.43	2.00	371
KILKENNY	48	3,323	69	22.8	4.02	3.35	1.68	226
LAOIS	30	1,709	57	24.8	3.87	3.35	1.79	288
LEITRIM	4	113	28	25.0	3.77	3.23	1.75	371
LIMERICK	117	6,791	58	27.5	3.69	3.30	1.92	279
LONGFORD	8	378	47	26.1	4.31	3.35	2.00	266
LOUTH	20	1,567	78	25.1	3.61	3.36	1.75	333
MAYO	21	886	42	27.7	3.40	3.31	1.86	449
MEATH	62	5,334	86	25.5	4.03	3.37	1.89	326
MONAGHAN	43	1,874	44	24.5	3.89	3.30	1.76	309
OFFALY	16	891	56	28.1	3.92	3.32	2.03	375
ROSCOMMON	4	225	56	27.8	4.25	3.45	2.14	244
SLIGO	6	198	33	26.3	3.41	3.33	1.77	312
TIPPERARY NTH	34	2,004	59	25.4	3.86	3.39	1.84	249
TIPPERARY STH	48	2,904	61	25.1	3.91	3.36	1.82	235
WATERFORD	46	3,457	75	25.0	3.85	3.33	1.80	260
WESTMEATH	12	893	74	24.1	4.18	3.39	1.82	247
WEXFORD	46	2,894	63	25.4	3.92	3.44	1.87	298
WICKLOW E	16	1,265	79	24.4	3.40	3.36	1.65	274

WICKLOW W	8	516	65	21.6	4.21	3.34	1.63	346
	<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	1,318	78,252	58	25.9	3.88	3.35	1.88	302

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 30/03/09 to 09/04/09.

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	883	51,267	58	26.4	4.03	3.33	1.94	261
Leinster	302	21,325	71	25.0	3.86	3.39	1.81	305
Connacht	51	2,270	45	27.1	3.75	3.31	1.92	348
Ulster	82	3,390	41	26.8	3.82	3.29	1.90	321

7. 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 until May of 2009.

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

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 882 0222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 882 0229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com