

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 26th January, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 26th January, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.

2 Identification & Traceability Workshop – Brian Wickham

This week I have been participating in a workshop on identification and traceability systems organised by FAO and ICAR and held in Santiago, Chile. The workshop focused on the countries of Central and South America. My participation was a result of a request from the organisers to present recent Irish experiences with a particular focus on cattle breeding. A copy of my presentation is in the publications section of www.icbf.com. Some 150 people were in attendance representing a wide range of international organisations (ICAR, FAO, EU Commission), state bodies, recording and breeding organisations and commercial companies. Most countries in the region were represented. The focus was on dairy, beef and small ruminants (sheep & goats).

Key messages included:

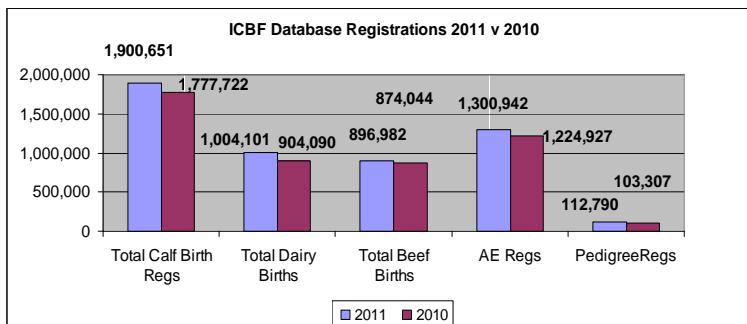
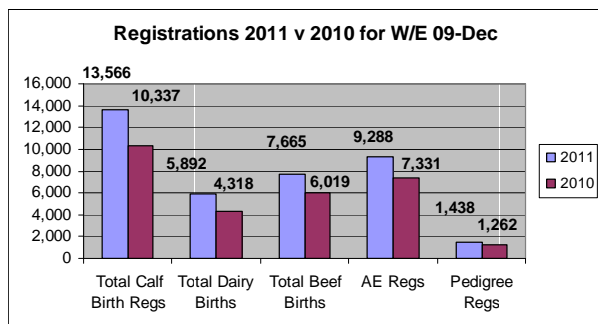
- ✚ All countries in the region are developing identification and traceability systems for a wide range of reasons including: animal health, animal theft prevention, export trade, access to EU markets, food safety, public health, performance recording and breeding, disease eradication compensation, animal ownership and animal sale, and farm management.
- ✚ There is a great deal of variation within and between countries in the implementation of identification and traceability systems.
- ✚ Use of electronic identification is a key element in many of the new systems being developed and implemented in the region.
- ✚ While the EU cattle system is a model for other countries there are opportunities to enhance it by enabling electronic data sharing for animals moving between countries. Examples relevant for Ireland include health data on imported animals and slaughter data for exported animals.
- ✚ Central databases efficiently linked to farm recording systems and information services are key to capturing the full range of benefits from effective identification and traceability systems.
- ✚ Government regulation coupled with appropriate and well-motivated organisational structures is essential for facilitating the implementation and operation of effective systems.
- ✚ Large returns on investment are available from investments in effective systems which enable the full range of benefits to be captured by farmers and the wider industry.
- ✚ The relationship between the ICBF and DAF databases provides a good example of an effective identification and traceability system which is delivering many of the potential benefits and avoiding duplication of recording on farms.

3 GENEIRELAND®

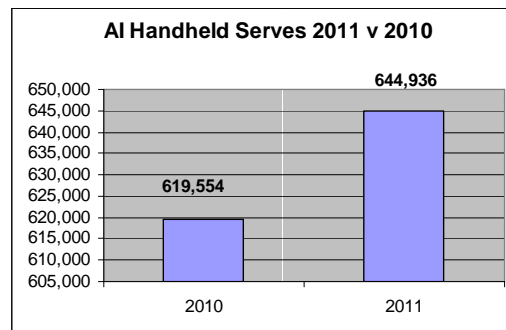
Dairy

- ✚ There are 105 participants in the programme taking a total of 3,473 straws.
- ✚ Straw allocation will be completed the week beginning December 19th.

4 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 530,483 with the number of animals weaned at 401,642.
- ✚ Around 5,580 herds have already completed their Dairy Efficiency Programme (DEP) health recording requirements for 2011.
- ✚ Testing continues on the prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software.
- ✚ The development of a new 'Bull-Tracker' report for pedigree herds is on-going. The focus of the report is to show the performance of stock-bull offspring.
- ✚ The developments to the up-coming national BVD eradication programme will be live next week.
- ✚ Some further developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database are underway.
- ✚ The IGENOP application is now in the final stages of testing by some of our international partners.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



5 ICBF HerdPlus & GENÉIRÉLAND User Day

Over 400 people attended the ICBF HerdPlus & GENÉIRÉLAND User day, which was held in Corrin mart last Wednesday 7th December. The day was an excellent success, with lots of positive feedback on the day regarding the ICBF HerdPlus and GENÉIRÉLAND programs. The event was kindly sponsored by FBD Trust.

The event included;

(i) technical updates from ICBF staff on latest research and development, (ii) new offerings from ICBF in 2012, in terms of products and services, (iii) the launch of the new "Dairy Discussion Group Projects Initiative" in conjunction with ACC bank, Teagasc, Irish Farmers Journal and ICBF, and (iv) the presentation of awards to winning herd-owners involved in the GENÉIRÉLAND breeding program. The event started promptly at 10.45am

and was completed by 1.00pm, after which all attendees were treated to a complimentary hot roast beef dinner (courtesy of FBD Trust). A copy of all presentations from the day, including the program agenda, is included on the ICBF website under the publications section.

Two sets of awards were presented on the day. These were to the top bull breeder herds (Table 1) and the top data recording herds (Table 2). The top bull breeder herds received a plaque and a cheque for €3000, while the top data recording herds received a plaque and a cheque for €1000 (again courtesy of FBD Trust).

Table 1 Top Bull Breeders

Top Daughter Proven Bulls & Breeders								
AI CODE	BULL NAME	BREEDER	ADDRESS	EBI	REL	DTRS	SIRE	PROOF
NFT	COOLNASOON FAIRGALT 2	MICHAEL MURPHY	COOLNASOON KILLINARDRISH CARRIGADROHID MACROOM CO CORK	213	70	17	GMI	DP
PKK	PARKDUV MARK	MICHAEL DOWNING	FARRANASTIG WHITECHURCH CO CORK	203	75	89	RUU	DP
EDV	EEDY DIVA OMAN	R&S HELEN	LISROE LYRE CLONAKILTY CO CORK	202	77	86	OJI	DP
RVJ	RAHEENARRAN BCG SOCHAR	BRYAN DANIELS	RAHEENARRAN KILMOGANNY KILKENNY CO KILKENNY	195	67	64	BCG	DP

Top Genomically Selected Bulls & Breeders								
AI CODE	ANIMAL NAME	BREEDER NAME	BREEDER ADDRESS	EBI	REL	DTRS	SIRE	PROOF
KXV	KEVINSFORT RXO VER	MICHAEL KINANE	KEVINSFORT LITTLETON THURLES CO TIPPERARY	265	54	0	RXO	GS
SOK	SUNNYBANK OMAN	KEVIN MCSWEENEY	SUNNYBANK KILLARD BLARNEY CO CORK	254	64	0	OJI	GS
LLK	LAURAGH LANCE	PAULINE RYAN	LAURAGH CAPPAGH CO WATERFORD	244	64	0	BWH	GS

Table 2 Top Data recording herds

Top Data Recording Herds			
NAME	ADDRESS	CATEGORY	SCORE
BERNARD FRAWLEY	ROCKWELL FARM, CASHEL, CO TIPPERARY	150+ COWS	797
JOHN HANLY	HEATHVIEW FARM, HORSE & JOCKEY, THURLES, CO TIPPERARY	150+ COWS	408
ROBERT TROY JUNIOR	BALLINAKILL WEST, NEWTOWNSHANDRUM, CHARLEVILLE, CO CORK	150+ COWS	399
DANIEL & DECLAN FLYNN	KNOCKSOUNA, KILMALLOCK, CO LIMERICK	80-150 COWS	350
CONOR MOLONEY	CLOBANNA, THURLES, CO TIPPERARY	80-150 COWS	324
MATTHEW & JOHN QUINLAN	CAPPAGH HOUSE, CAHIR CO TIPPERARY	80-150 COWS	281
JOHN KIERAN O'BRIEN	GRALLAGH LR, GRANGE, YOUGHAL, CO WATERFORD	<80 COWS	258
MUIRIS O'DONOGHUE	FEIGHMANE, VALENTIA ISLAND, CO KERRY	<80 COWS	253
DANIEL O'KEEFE	FAIRYHILL, KANTURK, CO CORK	<80 COWS	241

One of the highlights of the day was the launch of the new “genomics for females” research project. The project is aimed at encouraging farmers to genotype their females (primarily young stock but also cows). There has been excellent interest in the project with already 75 herds signed up since Wednesday. Herd-owners interested in getting involved in the project are encouraged to contact ICBF HerdPlus immediately (**1850 600 900**).

A selection of photos from the event is included below.



Winners of the top bull breeding awards in the GENE IRELAND program for 2011

Winners of the top data recording herds in the GENE IRELAND program for 2011



“Martin Burke and Kevin Downing “in full flight” at the ICBF HerdPlus and GENE IRELAND User day”.



Some of the attendees at the ICBF HerdPlus & GENÉ IRÉLAND User day, at Corrin mart on Wednesday 7th December

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 09/12/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 09/12/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 09/12/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 09/12/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 09/12/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,674	1,043	28%	305,427	95,648	31%
Progressive	2,396	921	38%	221,541	84,250	38%
Tipperary	144	64	44%	13,151	6,326	48%
Total	6,214	2,028	33%	540,119	186,224	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 09/12/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 09/12/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	280,041	305,427	8.3%
Progressive	198,092	221,541	10.6%
Tipperary	11,999	13,151	8.8%
Total	490,132	540,119	9.3%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 29/11/11 to 09/12/11								
COUNTY	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	8	536	67	19.9	4.42	3.42	1.56	397

CAVAN	39	1,737	45	16.4	4.05	3.33	1.21	355
CLARE	3	150	50	27.8	3.75	3.18	1.93	391
CORK STH	148	7,892	53	19.1	4.20	3.40	1.45	300
CORK NTH	130	7,780	60	16.7	4.31	3.58	1.32	332
DONEGAL	10	1,547	155	13.6	4.53	3.71	1.12	351
DUBLIN	4	223	56	22.0	3.66	3.17	1.50	396
GALWAY	21	1,132	54	19.0	4.20	3.30	1.43	323
KERRY	60	3,422	57	16.9	4.17	3.43	1.28	425
KILDARE	15	1,046	70	23.6	4.08	3.30	1.74	400
KILKENNY	13	974	75	15.3	4.44	3.46	1.21	434
LAOIS	17	1,107	65	19.6	4.08	3.45	1.48	345
LEITRIM	6	318	53	16.9	3.81	3.21	1.19	312
LIMERICK	46	2,748	60	16.6	4.09	3.46	1.25	296
LONGFORD	6	402	67	14.3	4.00	3.36	1.05	251
LOUTH	18	1,309	73	19.4	4.13	3.40	1.46	276
MAYO	17	935	55	16.3	4.07	3.34	1.21	440
MEATH	43	3,593	84	21.5	4.30	3.33	1.64	329
MONAGHAN	37	1,825	49	17.2	3.94	3.33	1.25	342
OFFALY	11	639	58	16.5	4.26	3.44	1.27	379
ROSCOMMON	2	215	108	14.8	3.88	3.14	1.04	341
SLIGO	4	146	37	18.6	3.48	3.26	1.25	224
TIPPERARY NTH	9	658	73	16.1	4.78	3.71	1.37	303
TIPPERARY STH	10	709	71	18.8	4.04	3.31	1.38	287
WATERFORD	22	1,565	71	22.3	4.44	3.50	1.77	311
WESTMEATH	14	959	69	19.5	4.59	3.46	1.57	304
WEXFORD	41	2,516	61	19.5	4.00	3.45	1.45	332
WICKLOW E	25	1,676	67	19.5	3.84	3.29	1.39	371
WICKLOW W	15	1,191	79	20.8	4.18	3.34	1.56	325
	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	794	48,950	67	18.6	4.13	3.38	1.39	340

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 29/11/11 to 09/12/11

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	433	24,924	58	19.7	4.20	3.42	1.50	331
Leinster	230	16,171	70	19.3	4.14	3.37	1.45	349
Connacht	50	2,746	55	17.1	3.89	3.25	1.22	328
Ulster	86	5,109	59	15.7	4.17	3.46	1.20	349

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