



UPDATE – for period 3rd – 9th February 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Saturday 3rd March.** Tully beef bull sale. Launch of new beef indexes, Show 11.00 am Sale 12.00 pm.

2 ICBF and TEAGASC Collaboration

Every Friday at 8:30 there is a conference call involving ICBF and TEAGASC beef and dairy specialists. The call usually lasts fifteen to twenty minutes and it is an important part of the ongoing collaboration between ICBF and TEAGASC. This partnership is producing major benefits for farmers while at the same time saving costs. Over the last three years we have developed our website so that TEAGASC Advisors can access a wide range of information on their clients' herds without the need for extra effort on the part of the herd owner, they simply give written permission. Nor does it require extra effort for the Advisor, they go into the ICBF website where the information is ready to be viewed or downloaded.

This week the collaboration has been extended through the new facility for supporting the activities of TEAGASC Discussion Groups. Once again the approach taken has been to keep everything simple while at the same time providing information that is extremely useful in monitoring farm performance and stimulating discussion and understanding amongst discussion group members.

This is a good illustration of the way ICBF and TEAGASC work together to the benefit of Irish farmers.

3 Profit with AI Partnership

The partners in this AI industry initiative met again this week. Brian Wickham is chairing the committee and John Carty of DAF is the secretary. All AI companies in Ireland are participating in the partnership. Items discussed included:

- ✚ The initial results of a December 2006 farmer survey conducted by TEAGASC. Final results will be available in two weeks time. The survey results are being used as the basis for planning the campaign in 2007.
- ✚ Mart Events in 2007 will be driven by individual Marts. Cork Marts are planning three events and other Marts are being offered the opportunity to organize events based on the sale of high EBI dairy stock. Up to ten events covering all regions will be supported by the Partnership.
- ✚ Workshops for field staff will take place during March. Workshop content will depend on the needs of the AI companies. ICBF and TEAGASC will put together a program designed to provide the information needed by field staff.
- ✚ The advertising campaign will be co-ordinated with information being provided through editorial material. The campaign will run for the breeding season and will cover the key issues affecting farmers' decisions on the use of AI.

4 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

Processing and uploading of files for the next evaluation is taking place. We hope to be able to provide provisional proofs to the industry next week. For this run, for the first time, Interbull fertility evaluations will be used where available. More information will be provided with the proof release. These proofs will also include new calving and beef information.



Beef

New beef and calving evaluations have been run and will form the basis for the Active Beef bull list 2007. The beef evaluation just completed is the first to include mart price data for weanlings. This first run incorporates 6,000 weanling price records (150-300 days) of which 3,000 are by AI sires.

A new across breed linear evaluation is being prepared in advance of the Tully sale.

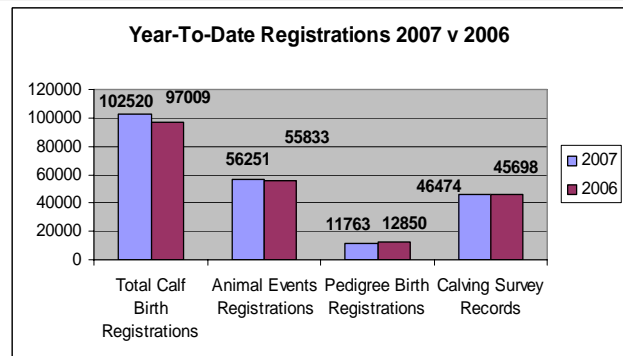
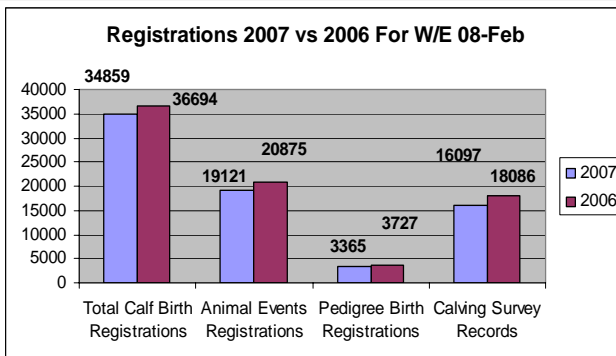
International

Converted proofs for 549 Charolais and 626 Limousin that originated in France and present in the database have been calculated based on conversion equations. For those animals without Irish data these proofs will be used to provide Irish evaluations for carcass conformation and weaning weight.

5 HerdPlus

- ✚ The “new look” for HerdPlus clients who sign-on to our website was released this week – we welcome any feedback through our contact link.
- ✚ The Sire Advice Programme has been released to a group of 40 farmers – they will do some testing over the next few days. Once they have completed user acceptance testing we plan to release to all farmers next week.

6 Database Update



- ✚ 187,957 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds. We are in the process of planning the rollout of updated software to all AI Handhelds currently in operation.
- ✚ Production of the personalized Animal Events notebook for farmers is continuing as farmers sign up.
- ✚ The Sire Advice program will go out on limited release this weekend, and pending the feedback, will be available to the wider population before the end of next week.
- ✚ We will be engaging with the AI and Herdbook organisations this coming week to plan training events on Sire Advice, so they can assist their customers in planning the upcoming breeding season.
- ✚ The new Teagasc Discussion Group application has been released and is being used by Teagasc advisors.
- ✚ Development on a Gene Ireland application which will assist in the management of the programme for the upcoming season is also in its final stages.



7 Milk Recording

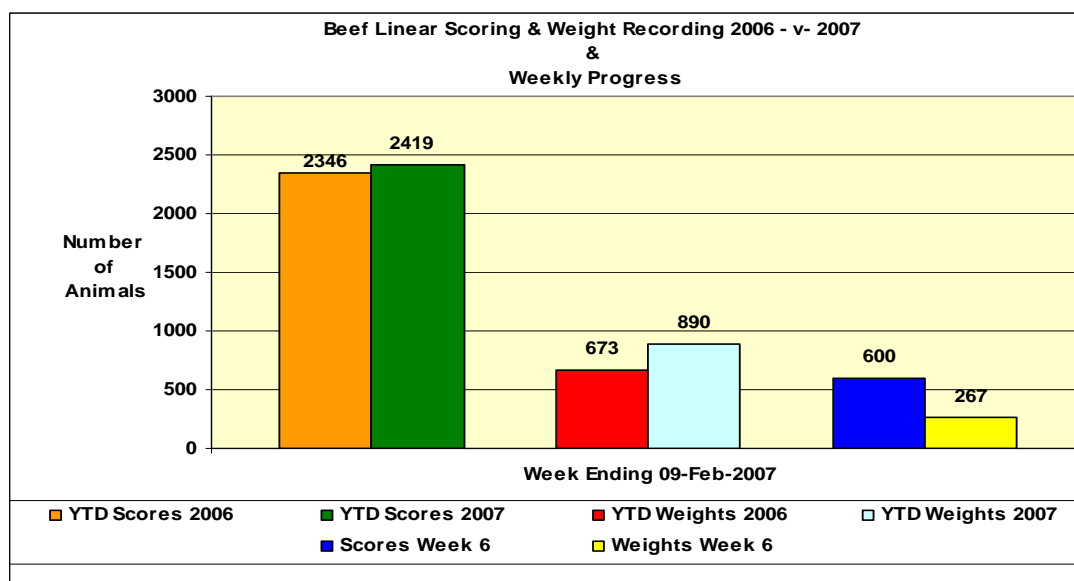
Weekly Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 02/02/07 - 09/02/07
Progressive	190
SWS	72
Dairygold	32
Kerry	43
Connacht	27
Arrabawn	3
Total	367

8 Tully

- ✚ Weights for the December intake will be sent out to breeders on the 15-2-07.
- ✚ The final BLUP figures for the bulls for sale on the 3-3-07 will be up on the ICBF web site before the 13-2-07.
- ✚ Advertising for the March sale will start on the 15-2-07.
- ✚ A group of pedigree beef farmers from Clare will visit Tully on the 10-2-07.

9 Beef Linear Scoring



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