



UPDATE – for period 3rd – 9th March 2007

1 Important Dates

✚ **ICBF Board meeting.** 29th March.

2 Meeting with Tully Bull Owners

The meeting held with the owners of bulls currently at Tully on Wednesday night was well attended. Prof Simon More made a presentation on IBR and the outbreak of the virus at Tully. The key points in his presentation covered the short incubation period of the virus making an isolation strategy unlikely to be effective, the risk of false negatives in bulls entering Tully and the possibility of the virus coming from biosecurity breaches. Prof More and Dr Doreen Corridan responded to a wide range of questions and statements.

A proposal for resolving the outstanding issues was put to the meeting by the Chairman of ICBF Mr John O’Sullivan. This was discussed and is the basis on ongoing consideration by the interested parties.

3 Board Meeting

The Board meeting on Thursday was focused primarily on the current situation with IBR at Tully.

The Board adopted the financial analysis of the beef and dairy breeding scheme proposals as the basis for seeking financial support for the 2007 dairy and beef programs and asked that proposals be bought back to the Board for the 2008 programs in the near future.

4 Tully

✚ Judging of the FBD prize winners will take place on the 13-3-07.

✚ Weights for the December intake were sent out to breeders on the 6-3-07.

✚ TB and brucellosis testing of the December intake will take place on the 13-3-07.

5 International Beef Evaluations

Thierry Pabiou and Ross Evans are attending the inaugural Interbeef workshop. They will be making presentations on the Irish Beef genetic evaluations and also the Interbeef work that has been completed thus far. The aim of the workshop is to gather people from other countries who are interested in participating in international evaluations for beef animals. A report on the workshop will be in next weeks update.

6 Milk Recording

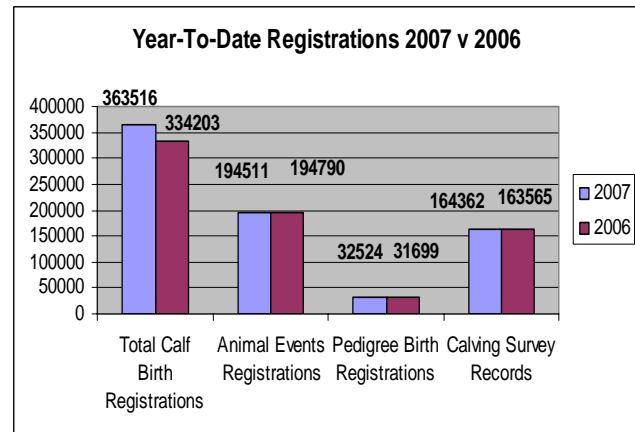
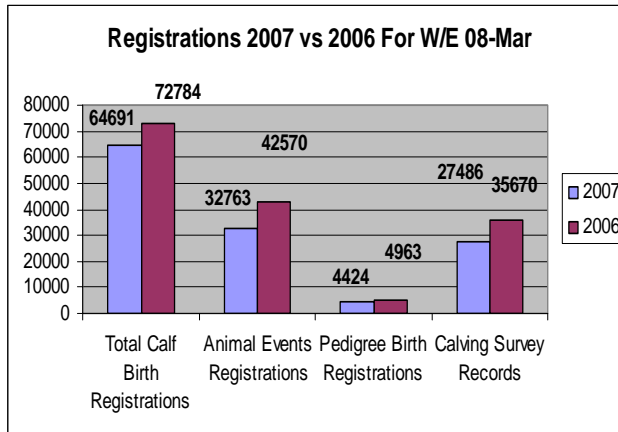
Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 02/03/07 - 09/03/07
Progressive	284
SWS	146
Dairygold	137
Kerry	123
Connacht	13
Tipperary	11
Arrabawn	4
Total	718



7 HerdPlus

- ✚ The FBD sponsored Direct Debit offer (€40 off) is closing next Fri 16th March. We have sent texts to farmers and also posted a notice on our website to that effect. We'd like to thank the FBD Trust for their generous support, as this sponsorship proved invaluable in helping to get HerdPlus off the ground.
- ✚ EBI Reports are being finalised over weekend and will be posted next week.

8 Database Update



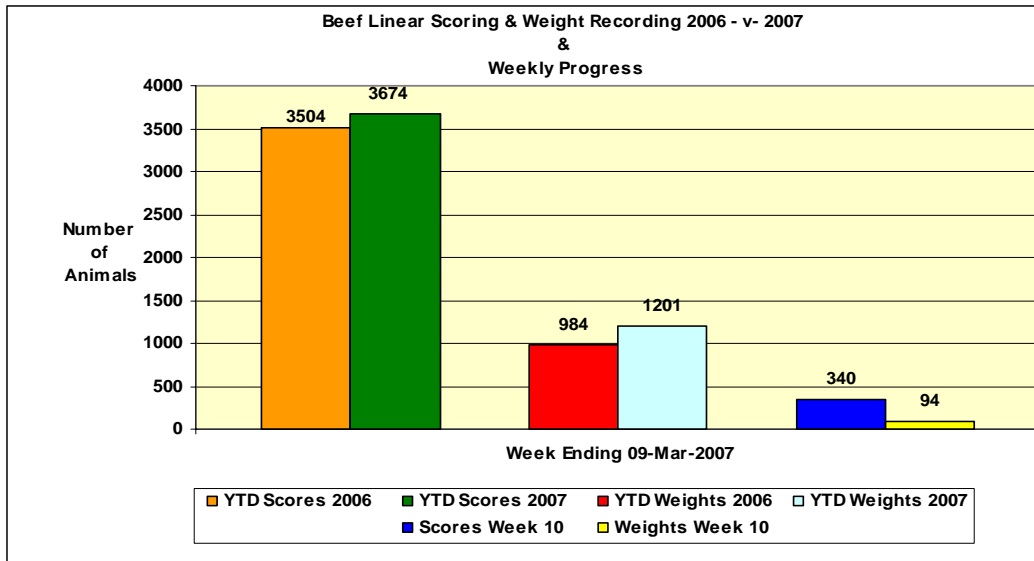
- ✚ 196,594 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds. A number of Eurogene technicians have begun using the AI handhelds this week.
- ✚ Preparations for the issue of the latest EBI reports are being finalised, with reports scheduled for issue next week.
- ✚ The use of the Sire Advice program is on-going. 340 herds have now run the Sire Advice programme. We hope to push this significantly upwards over the next few weeks.
- ✚ The new Teagasc Discussion Group application is getting good use and feedback continues to be positive.
- ✚ We are now on the last phase of work in the completion of the Herdbook front end, and this will be completed before the end of March.

9 GEN€IR€LAND®

- ✚ Herd sign-up is going well with 280 herds now involved in this years programme.
- ✚ A further 1,500 letters were sent to herd-owners during the week.
- ✚ Work is being done on the automated generation of Inbreeding Reports once test bulls have been allocated to a herd.
- ✚ Lists of bulls are now available on the ICBF website, through the GEN€IR€LAND® section.



10 Beef Linear Scoring



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