



UPDATE – for period 2nd – 9th November 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Friday November 23rd**. Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting. Moorepark
- ✚ **Wednesday November 28th**. G-EN-IR-ELAND farmer meeting. Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **Thursday November 29th**. ICBF Board Meeting. Portlaoise.

2 G-EN-IR-ELAND[®]

REVIEW

Over the last few weeks we have completed a review of the process for selecting herds to participate in the G-EN-IR-ELAND[®] dairy progeny test. This review has concluded that immediate priority should be given to:

- ✚ Ensuring the dams of the test bulls are the very best that are available in Ireland, and
- ✚ The test bull semen is delivered in good time for use in the breeding season.

With these issues addressed **the G-EN-IR-ELAND[®] progeny test is a very attractive option for those dairy farmers who keep good records and are interested in playing a leading role in dairy breeding.**

G-EN-IR-ELAND[®] DAIRY FARMER MEETING

An open farmer meeting to discuss G-EN-IR-ELAND[®] will be held on **Wednesday 28th November at Horse & Jockey**. The meeting will consider the procurement of bulls and their progeny testing in Ireland. This will be a good opportunity for herd owners to discuss their expectations of the Irish dairy breeding programs and to hear about plans for achieving optimal rates of genetic gain in Ireland.

Details of the program will be finalized next week and invitations will be sent to all herds participating in dairy HerdPlus[®] and the G-EN-IR-ELAND[®] dairy progeny test.

DAIRY AUTUMN 2007

- ✚ There are now 116 herds signed up, taking a total of 4,351 doses.

BEEF SPRING 2007

- ✚ We are in the process of getting payments organised for the Beef spring programme. Initial analysis of the straws dispatched in the spring shows we have a 45% return rate in relation to recorded inseminations. Work will be done over the coming weeks to contact these farmers to ensure they get their insemination data entered onto the database.

3 Tully

- ✚ The power washing and disinfection of the pre entry isolation units is completed.
- ✚ A final list of bulls that have been sent for health testing will be sent out to breed societies before the 14-11-07.
- ✚ The new loading and unloading area will be finished before the 14-11-07.

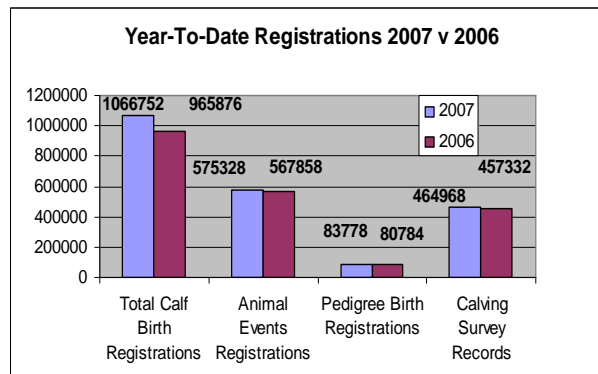
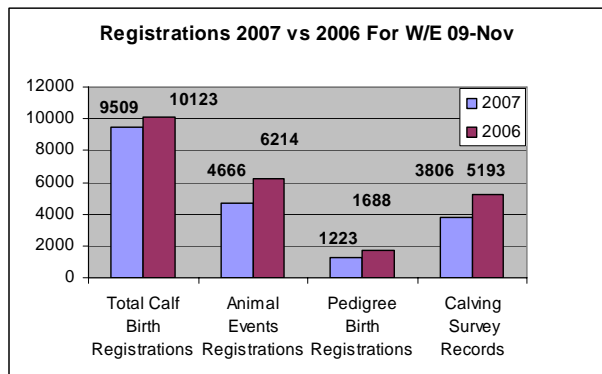
4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Extracts are underway for the next routine INTERBULL evaluations for production, health, fertility and survival.



- ✚ Work continues on improvements to the pedigree file for routine genetic evaluations including the full recuperation of all known breed information. This will then be tested on the dairy calving interval and survival evaluation and reported back in due course.
- ✚ A new round of mart data collection for the beef genetic evaluation has commenced. ICBF personnel will visit marts over the coming weeks.

5 Database Update



- ✚ 357,776 inseminations have been received so far on the AI Handhelds in 2007, compared with 158,360 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✚ Extracts for the next Interbull genetic evaluation run have been completed from the database.
- ✚ Updates to the Dairy Calving report have been on-going this week.
- ✚ Preparations are continuing in order to be ready for the commencement of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme. Developments and changes to a number of screens are underway.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the Sire Advice module for the new season.
- ✚ The implementation of the new hardware solution and database upgrade is on-going. The testing of the milk recording element has been completed this week.

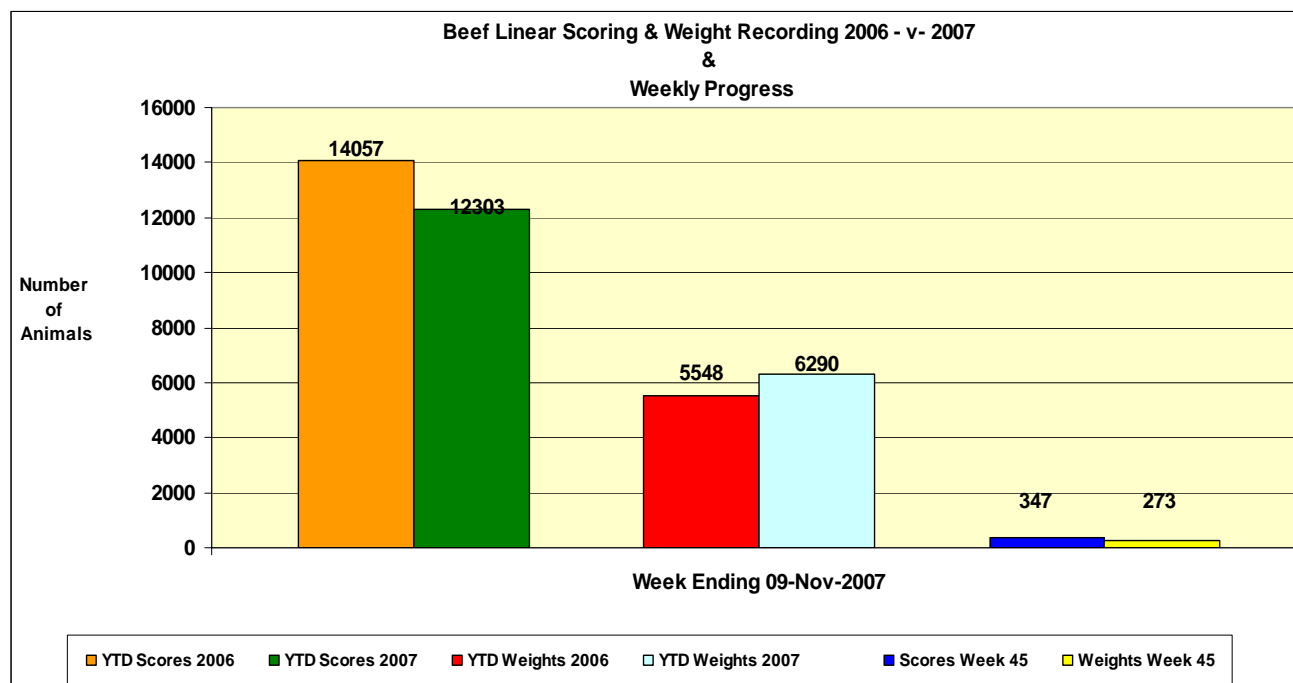
6 Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 09/11/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 09/11/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 09/11/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	151,470	158,882	168,626	5.8%
Dairygold	98,233	103,797	111,780	7.1%
Kerry	67,438	70,338	71,906	2.2%
SWS	55,232	59,790	60,946	1.9%
Tipperary	9,381	11,845	12,307	3.8%
Arrabawn	7,164	11,086	12,061	8.1%
Connacht	7,392	9,254	10,124	8.6%
Donegal	4,292	5,271	3,910	-34.8%
Total	400,602	430,263	451,660	4.7%



National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 09/11/07						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 09/11/07	No. EDIY Herds YTD 09/11/07	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 09/11/07	No. EDIY Cows YTD 09/11/07	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,142	681	32%	168,626	52,068	31%
Dairygold	1,593	555	35%	111,780	40,511	36%
Kerry	1,033	70	7%	71,906	5,688	8%
SWS	932	110	12%	60,946	7,185	12%
Tipperary	170	71	42%	12,307	5,244	43%
Arrabawn	169	128	76%	12,061	9,240	77%
Connacht	154	68	44%	10,124	4,331	43%
Donegal	43	43	100%	3,910	3,910	100%
Total	6,236	1,726	28%	451,660	128,177	28%

7 Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden.