

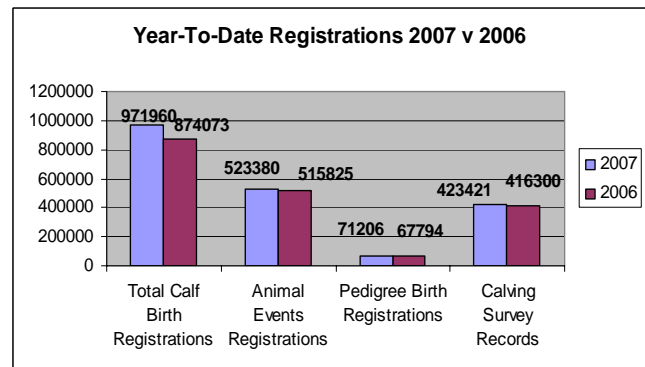
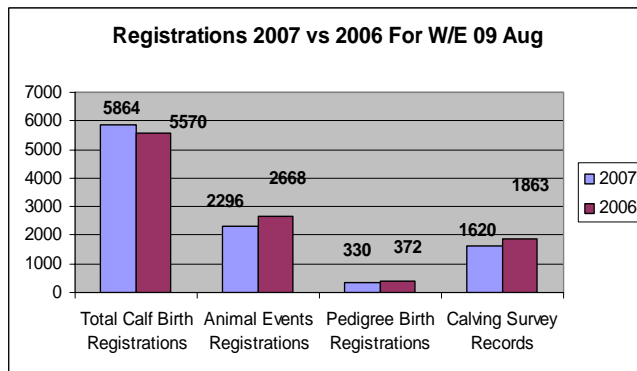


UPDATE – for period 4th – 10th August 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✦ **August 24th to 30th.** Interbull and EAAP Annual Meetings, UCD, Dublin. If you would like to attend (most of it is an open meeting) you should register through the EAAP Dublin 2007 Website (<http://www.eaap2007.ie/>).
- ✦ **Wednesday, August 29th.** EAAP Field Trip – Cattle Breeding in Ireland. Visit a beef & dairy farm.
- ✦ **Tuesday, September 11th.** EBI €100 Open Day. On farm of Pat & Noreen Cronin, Macroom, Co. Cork.
- ✦ **September 25th to 27th.** Ploughing Championships, Tullamore.

2 Database Update



- ✦ 329,078 inseminations have been received so far in 2007 from the AI handhelds compared with 140,925 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✦ The majority of the Herd Books continue to use the new web interface to the database with the development team addressing any issues that arise
- ✦ The redesigned CMMS and I&R “white card” loading process has been running successfully for a week and has resulted in great savings in database processing time. The equivalent redesign of the Animal Events will be completed over the coming months.
- ✦ Work is continuing on the HerdPlus web interface in the areas of data recording and the look and feel of the site.
- ✦ Development of the Sire Advice module for the new season has commenced.
- ✦ Loading of 3rd quarter Dairy Genetic Evaluations into the database has commenced
- ✦ The development of the Beef Calving Report is ongoing

3 Genetic Evaluations

Beef:

- ✦ Work is on-going on evaluations for beef. These include calving performance, carcass, weaning (direct and maternal), calving interval/longevity, and linear type traits. The work includes additional data, new software and new model developments. More information on publication dates will be given next week.
- ✦ Transfer of the Beef CIS evaluation from Lelystad to ICBF has begun.
- ✦ Staff from ICBF will present information on the new Euro-Star indexes at a weanling breeding demonstration in Kilmallock tonight (Fri, 10th)

Dairy:

- ✦ Processing of files for the next evaluation is currently taking place. Provisional proofs for AI bulls will be sent to the industry early next week.



International:

- ✦ Preparation of the paper and presentation for Interbull meeting Friday 24th August 2007 in Dublin on the approach taken by Ireland on international genetic evaluation: comparison of ranking, conversion equations and InterBeef. The presentation and paper will show the work accomplished so far on the subject in the diversity of beef breeds found in Ireland.
- ✦ Update on conversion equations: a study has started with the objective of giving more accurate converted proofs by including genotype x environment interaction. To do so, the Irish proofs are de-regressed prior to the regression (method developed by Goddard - 1985).

4. Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

| National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 10/08/07 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 10/08/07 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 10/08/07 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 10th Aug 2007 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 10/08/07 | % Cows EDIY |
| Progressive | 2,121 | 639 | 30% | 161,935 | 48,295 | 30% |
| Dairygold | 1,586 | 550 | 35% | 109,337 | 39,551 | 36% |
| Kerry | 1,030 | 69 | 7% | 70,581 | 5,520 | 8% |
| SWS | 932 | 109 | 12% | 59,623 | 6,875 | 12% |
| Tipperary | 170 | 71 | 42% | 12,141 | 5,177 | 43% |
| Arrabawn | 167 | 126 | 75% | 11,697 | 8,914 | 76% |
| Connacht | 152 | 66 | 43% | 9,698 | 4,004 | 41% |
| Donegal | 43 | 43 | 100% | 3,840 | 3,840 | 100% |
| Total | 6,201 | 1,673 | 27% | 438,852 | 122,176 | 28% |

| Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 10/08/05 | YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 10/08/06 | YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 10/08/07 | 2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%) |
| Progressive | 145,251 | 151,703 | 161,935 | 6.3% |
| Dairygold | 95,616 | 101,745 | 109,337 | 6.9% |
| Kerry | 66,275 | 69,119 | 70,581 | 2.1% |
| SWS | 53,647 | 58,208 | 59,623 | 2.4% |
| Tipperary | 9,233 | 11,673 | 12,141 | 3.9% |
| Arrabawn | 6,990 | 10,862 | 11,697 | 7.1% |
| Connacht | 7,156 | 8,747 | 9,698 | 9.8% |
| Donegal | 3,303 | 5,029 | 3,840 | -31.0% |
| Total | 387,471 | 417,086 | 438,852 | 5.0% |

5 Tully

- ✦ The recommendations from last weeks Tully Advisory Committee have been provided to the Board of ICBF with a view to proceeding with implementation without delay.
- ✦ The animal health protocol for Tully has been updated following feedback from members of the animal health expert group advising ICBF. A bio-security review and pre entry isolation units of Tully will be carried out in early September by the UCD Vet College. This is expected to result in further refinements to the animal health protocol for Tully.
- ✦ Funding of Tully remains a priority and discussions are taking place with a view to ensuring Tully re-opens according to the timetable recommended by the Tully Advisory Committee.



6 Gene Ireland

- ✦ **Beef Breeding Schemes.** A draft interim understanding upon which ICBF will provide breeding scheme support services to Breed Associations and AI Companies was distributed this week. This will enable support services from ICBF to commence in advance of detailed agreements being finalised.

7 DNA Technology

- ✦ **Genomic selection** is currently causing a lot of interest in scientific cattle breeding circles. The concept of genomic selection is based on the use of recently developed DNA chips which are capable of testing for some 10,000 markers on each animal sample. These results are then associated with genetic evaluation results and the theory is, that this will enable the EBVs of young bulls to be estimated with a reliability of 75% or more. Genomic selection holds the promise of increased rates of genetic gain, due to bull selection decisions being taken when they are very young, while potentially eliminating the need for progeny testing. Nothing in recent times has caused as much excitement amongst cattle geneticists. We are working with TEAGASC and others to ensure it is scientifically validated and then available to Irish cattle breeders and farmers for practical use as soon as possible. Current expectations are that this will take three to five years.

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