

## 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10:30 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 14:00 to 16:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

## 2 Weather Disruption

- ✚ The HerdPlus<sup>®</sup> and GEN<sup>®</sup>IR<sup>®</sup>LAND<sup>®</sup> farmer meeting scheduled for Thursday was deferred to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January.
- ✚ A webinar was held today to facilitate those people unable to attend the Breeding Consultation meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

## 3 Breeding Consultation Meeting

The outcome of the Breeding Consultation meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December included:

### Costs and Benefit:

- Very high rates of return on investment in genetic were identified from the work (€1 invested = €50-€100 returned).
- Genomic schemes have the potential to double rates of genetic gain, and more than halve the cost of our current breeding programs.

### Females

- Future genetic gain will be primarily driven through accurate recording of females (i.e., both genotypes and phenotypes).
- This data will be used to;
  - a. identify the best females for the GEN<sup>®</sup>IR<sup>®</sup>LAND<sup>®</sup> breeding program, and
  - b. develop more accurate genomic predictions.
- Priority must be now given to developing a service that facilitates the widespread genotyping of females.

### Herds

- It is anticipated that future data recording will happen in two types of herds;
  - a. “*Bull Breeder*” herds (initially 1,000 herds & 100k cows), where, over time, all females will be genotyped, with accurate recording of relevant on-farm data, and
  - b. “*Next Generation*” herds (5 herds & ~1000 cows), where the highest EBI industry females will be recorded for on-farm data and additional traits of research interest, e.g., health traits (including vet treatments) and feed intake/efficiency.
  - c. Over time (5-10 years) it is anticipated that all dairy animals will be genotyped on a routine basis by farmers.
  - d. In launching this new program it is important that ICBF demonstrates the benefits of farmers genotyping all females, not just selected high EBI animals.

- e. With the benefit of genomics, a large component of the additional genetic gain will come from directed breeding advice to farmers. This will also be key in managing inbreeding within the overall program.

### AI Bulls

- With the switch towards genotyping females, the need for progeny testing 100 bulls with 100 daughters is now reduced. Instead it is anticipated that some 30 new AI bulls per year will service the bulk of National dairy herd.
- It is recommended that the initial semen from these bulls (some 1,000 straws collected at 15 months of age) is distributed to targeted herds (e.g., bull breeder herds), as this will allow early identification of any problems around calving difficulty and/or major genes. The remaining semen on these bulls (~20k doses) would then be distributed the following season when the bulls are 1 year older.

### Bio-Security

- In future concerns over bio-security will be managed through a combination of;
  - a. Smaller groups of bulls in rearing units,
  - b. Smaller numbers of bulls at AI stations and
  - c. Retaining previously used GS bulls for an extended period (in isolation), to cover the possibility of disease breakdown in the AI centre.

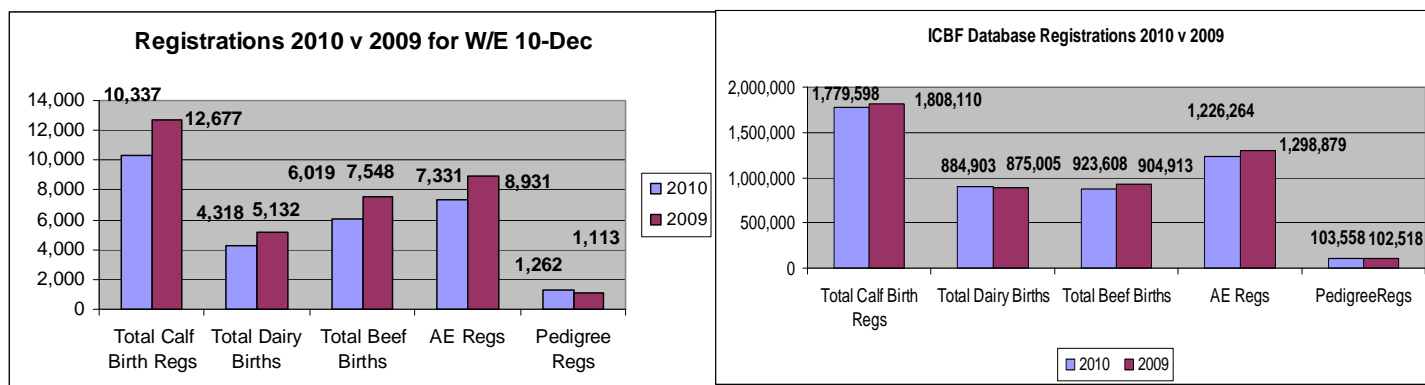
### Inbreeding

- In future concerns over inbreeding would be managed through a combination of;
  - a. Directed sire advice for bull breeders.
  - b. Additional constraints on the ICBF Active Bull List, e.g., limiting the number of sons for any one sire, and
  - c. Semen limits for bulls that are approved for widespread AI usage.

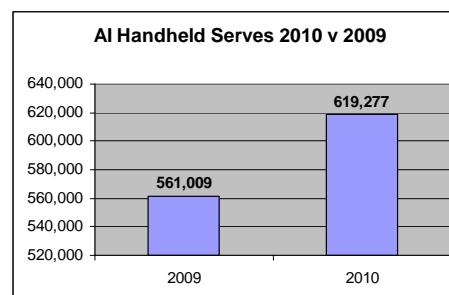
### Next Steps

- ICBF to develop up a breeding program proposition that covers each of the following elements;
  - a. Females.
  - b. Bull breeder and next generation herds.
  - c. Breeding bulls, including those for AI.
  - d. Managing risk including inbreeding and bio-security.
- This proposition should include both a funding model and proposed structure for this new National breeding program.
- This proposition would be available for discussion and feedback with industry in January 2011.

## 4 Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 520,457 with the number of animals weaned at 356,787.
- The design of a new infrastructure to manage genotypes at ICBF is entering its final stages. The development continues, and this development will be completed before Christmas.
- The building of the solution to allow farmers avail of the genotyping service will be completed prior to Christmas. Testing will begin next week.
- A new process for the reporting to breeders of sire errors on calf registrations is being designed. The building of this will began this week. The aim is to streamline the process and make it easier for farmers to complete the process on-line.
- The generation of the HerdPlus packs to support the spring calving season is continuing.
- The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



## 5 GENEIRLAND®

### Dairy

- Straws will be ready for all the remaining herdowners by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Beef

- Only 20 herd owners are now waiting for their straws to be dispatched
- 302 herds have signed up, taking a total of 5805 straws.
- This is an average of 19 straws per herd.
- Sign up packs are being sent to participating herd owners.
- To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573.
- Work is beginning on identifying bulls for the Spring program.
- More details on the bulls are available in the GENEIRLAND section of the website.
- Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	HE	LM	PT	SA	SH
CODE	MLJ	KCE	KYR	GHX	CXY	GCT	CZH	CBQ	BHU	LYJ
# STRAWS	243	297	495	562	560	68	184	139	598	10

## 6 HerdPlus®

- New Euro-Star Profile is now available to all Beef HerdPlus customers. By clicking on an animal jumbo you can quickly get more information. Details can be filtered and sorted by the different headings.

[BACK](#)

**BEEF euro-Star Profile**

[Euro-Star Profile](#) [Euro-Star Report](#) [Missing Sire](#)

[Print](#) [Download](#)

Click Column Heading to sort by that attribute. Number of Animals Displayed :199 [Reset](#)

Animal Details				Suckler Beef Value			Beef Value				Replacement Value				Additional Traits							
Jumbo	DOB	Sex	Brd	€	Star	Rel %	€	Star	€	Star	€	Star	%	Star	Days	Star	%	Star	Musc	Skel		
<a href="#">1086</a>	15-FEB-08	F	LM	100	*****	34	65	*****	106	*****	-31	*	39	*****	6.47	*	4.30	**	-0.05	****	109	107
<a href="#">1232</a>	12-FEB-10	M	LM	101	*****	29	48	****	85	***	53	*****	27	*****	4.86	****	4.36	*	-0.17	*		
<a href="#">0966</a>	10-SEP-06	F	LM	102	*****	41	41	***	92	****	15	*****	50	*****	6.29	**	4.19	**	-0.18	*	109	105
<a href="#">08093</a>	25-SEP-96	F	LM	103	*****	30	50	****	100	*****	-17	**	45	*****	5.74	**	3.63	****	-0.03	****	110	108
<a href="#">1226</a>	10-FEB-10	F	LM	104	*****	26	57	*****	106	*****	-0	****	40	*****	6.89	*	4.51	*	-0.06	****		
<a href="#">704</a>	01-FEB-03	F	LM	105	*****	48	42	***	92	****	23	*****	54	*****	5.51	***	3.63	****	0.05	*****	108	99
<a href="#">1140</a>	02-NOV-08	F	LM	105	*****	33	56	*****	112	*****	-22	**	33	*****	6.63	*	4.71	*	0.01	*****	118	112
<a href="#">1244</a>	15-APR-10	M	LM	105	*****	31	60	*****	96	****	17	*****	50	*****	7.13	*	3.88	***	0.04	*****	112	116
<a href="#">1252</a>	05-MAY-10	M	LM	105	*****	28	58	*****	93	****	23	*****	30	*****	7.11	*	2.97	*****	-0.06	****	116	107
<a href="#">1253</a>	05-MAY-10	F	LM	105	*****	28	58	*****	93	****	23	*****	30	*****	7.11	*	2.97	*****	-0.06	****	116	107
<a href="#">1218</a>	26-JAN-10	M	LM	106	*****	19	50	****	104	*****	10	****	16	***	5.89	**	3.75	****	-0.01	*****	108	106
<a href="#">1219</a>	26-JAN-10	F	LM	106	*****	19	50	****	104	*****	10	****	16	***	5.89	**	3.75	****	-0.01	*****	108	106
<a href="#">0978</a>	24-SEP-06	F	LM	107	*****	31	48	****	91	****	40	*****	26	****	5.83	**	2.93	*****	-0.03	****	101	111
<a href="#">660</a>	20-OCT-02	F	LM	108	*****	43	42	***	108	*****	-23	**	68	*****	5.42	***	4.07	**	-0.06	****	113	112
<a href="#">1108</a>	30-SEP-08	F	LM	108	*****	39	52	****	113	*****	-10	***	23	****	6.46	*	3.69	****	0.10	*****	109	116

## 7 Genetic Evaluations

- Evaluations for all traits for dairy and beef have been completed and are being uploaded to the database. A new genomic run is now underway using all the updated information. We expect to be in a position to publish all proofs on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.
- New Interbull production proofs are being used for Jersey and Red Dairy breeds. Conversions equations are still being used for other traits. New dairy calving conversions were done for countries with updated data as well as gestation length for NZL bulls with no Irish calving performance.

## 8 Milk Recording

### National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 30/11/10 to 10/12/10

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
<b>CARLOW</b>	3	145	48	18.3	4.27	3.85	1.49	364
<b>CAVAN</b>	12	708	59	18.2	4.19	3.55	1.41	547
<b>CLARE</b>	6	352	59	17.4	3.88	3.55	1.29	334

CORK STH	120	7,340	61	17.1	4.49	3.75	1.41	303
CORK NTH	91	5,825	64	17.6	4.55	3.81	1.47	351
DONEGAL	7	640	91	18.0	4.49	3.73	1.48	333
DUBLIN	2	72	36	19.0	3.63	3.45	1.35	276
GALWAY	12	648	54	22.6	4.59	3.81	1.90	334
KERRY	51	3,068	60	14.5	4.34	3.63	1.16	506
KILDARE	6	567	95	24.6	4.05	3.56	1.87	808
KILKENNY	11	658	60	16.3	4.26	3.77	1.31	305
LAOIS	7	507	72	17.6	4.10	3.81	1.39	384
LEITRIM	2	74	37	18.8	3.94	3.62	1.42	339
LIMERICK	44	2,706	62	17.5	4.26	3.68	1.39	404
LONGFORD	1	112	112	14.7	4.49	3.81	1.22	391
LOUTH	8	753	94	26.4	3.79	3.62	1.96	376
MAYO	15	763	51	16.2	4.16	3.74	1.28	264
MEATH	24	2,911	121	23.5	4.38	3.66	1.89	440
MONAGHAN	4	213	53	18.9	4.15	3.45	1.44	477
OFFALY	5	441	88	21.2	4.30	3.63	1.68	470
ROSCOMMON								
SLIGO	2	71	36	22.3	4.26	3.61	1.76	397
TIPPERARY NTH	4	352	88	17.9	4.20	3.72	1.42	276
TIPPERARY STH	12	845	70	15.0	4.54	3.89	1.26	309
WATERFORD	17	1,245	73	22.2	4.59	3.81	1.86	348
WESTMEATH	2	139	70	24.9	3.95	3.40	1.83	432
WEXFORD	17	1,386	82	18.9	4.62	3.80	1.59	357
WICKLOW E	5	355	71	18.7	3.95	3.46	1.39	383
WICKLOW W	6	719	120	26.4	3.75	3.53	1.92	421
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	496	33,615	71	19.5	4.22	3.67	1.53	390

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 30/11/10 to 10/12/10								
Provincial	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
Munster	345	21,733	63	17.4	4.36	3.73	1.41	354
Leinster	97	8,765	90	20.8	4.12	3.64	1.62	416
Connacht	31	1,556	50	20.0	4.24	3.70	1.58	334
Ulster	23	1,561	68	18.4	4.28	3.58	1.44	452

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 10/12/10						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 10/12/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 10/12/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 10/12/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 10/12/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,564	1,000	28%	280,007	85,963	31%
Progressive	2,084	816	39%	188,008	72,389	39%
Tipperary	133	57	43%	11,999	5,777	48%
Connacht	152	59	39%	10,165	3,796	37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,933</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>490,179</b>	<b>167,925</b>	<b>34%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 10/12/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 10/12/10	2010 vs 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	257,474	280,007	8.0%
Progressive	182,066	188,008	3.2%
Tipperary	11,156	11,999	7.0%
Connacht	9,841	10,165	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>460,537</b>	<b>490,179</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

**Brian Wickham** (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email [bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com).

**Registered Office:** Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd trading as "ICBF", Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 4914R, Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1978. Web: [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com).

**Registered Office:** Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie).