

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 16th July.** ICBF Board Meeting, Portlaoise. 10.30 -14.00.
- ✚ **Thursday 16th July.** Sheep Board Meeting. Portlaoise 14.30-16.00.

2. AI Spring 2009 vs same period 2008

How has the spring mating season gone? This is a frequent question at this time of year. We have looked at recorded inseminations, the best indicator we have for AI and compared the same period in 2009 and 2008. The results in the following table show:

- ✚ An 8% increase in recorded inseminations. However, there has been an increase in the number of technicians using the AI handhelds in 2009 over 2008. The 2008 inseminations for these extra technicians were not be recorded in our database.
- ✚ The results for the technicians with at least 500 inseminations recorded in each year (that is, using the handhelds in both years) show a 1% decline.
- ✚ This year the AI handheld recording system has had considerably fewer inseminations recorded for which no matching animal could be found in our database (28,348 vs 35,730). These 7,382 “extra” inseminations in 2009 do not really represent an increase.
- ✚ The number of DIY inseminations recorded so far in 2009 has increased 7% over the same period last year. However, these insemination records do not normally reach the database until later in the year. It is thus too soon to tell if this is a real increase.

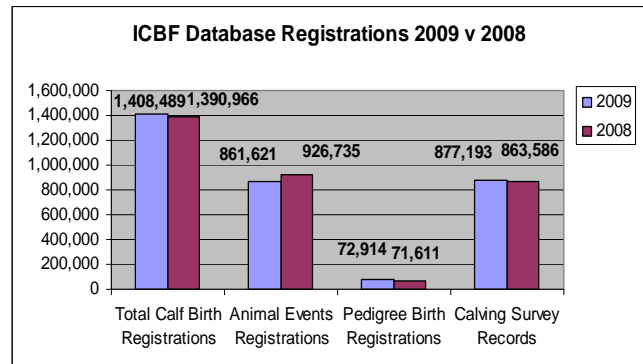
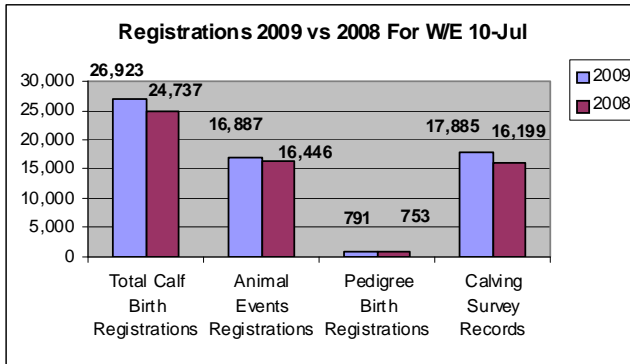
In summary: there has been a small decline in technician inseminations (<3%) which may be offset by an increase in DIY inseminations. Considering the severe weather this spring and the financial constraints on dairy farmers this is a very good result for AI in spring 2009.

Statistic for period 1st January to 7th July:	2008	2009	Difference	% Diff
Total Inseminations recorded in database:	473,101	512,308	39,207	8%
Total inseminations by technicians:	400,892	435,372	34,480	9%
Total of all other inseminations:	72,209	76,936	4,727	7%
Inseminations by technicians with at least 500 recorded in both years:	373,135	368,249	-4,886	-1%
Technician inseminations not making it to database:	35,730	28,348	-7,382	-21%

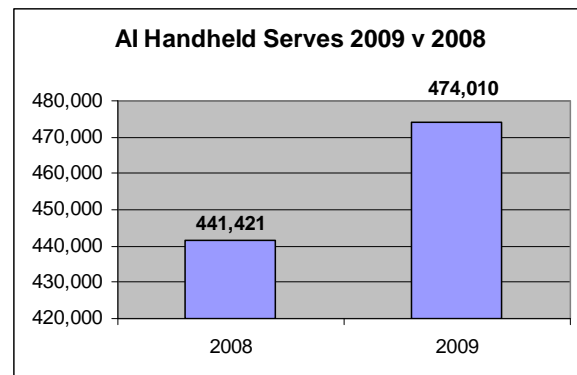
3. Tully

- ✚ This week, all outdoor pens have been cleaned out and received new woodchip.
- ✚ Back pedigree of bulls has been checked and inputted where necessary, in time for the next evaluation run.
- ✚ Feed intake data along with initial live-weight have been inputted up to date, into the ICBF system.
- ✚ Identifying bulls for the next intake in Tully will begin next week. This will initially involve a list of animal's superior in terms of beef indexes, being put together.

4. Database



- ✚ The revised 2009 suckler forms (pre and post weaning) continue to go out to farmers. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 824,000, with just over 716,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has continued this week, with the development of a number of screens and the changing of some of the infrastructure to support the reports that the milk recording organisations need.
- ✚ In conjunction with the finalisation of the milk recording solution, a number of other developments are taking place that will allow the migration of all users to a completely web-based front end, and the removal of the need for the Wide Area Network.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is now in the final stages of testing.
- ✚ Work on updates to the calving and final fertility reports is on-going and will be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- ✚ The design of an upgrade to the security of log-ons to the ICBF site is being finalised and will be tested over the coming two weeks.
- ✚ Design of a new on-line application for AI companies to manage their interaction with ICBF on bull codes is underway.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, it looks like the overall technician recorded inseminations for the spring 2009 season will be down some 3%.



5. Genetic Dairy & Beef Evaluations

Next Routine Dairy & Beef Evaluations

- ✚ The cutoff date for data entering the new routine evaluation was today. Extracts will commence over the weekend and routine evaluations will begin once these have been completed. The deadline for ICBF to submit data to Interbull for the International evaluation is Tue August 4th. Results are due back from Interbull on August 18th. Official publication dates will be given nearer the time. We aim to update all dairy and beef proofs.

Beef

- Work on adding the farmer scored trait calf quality is well advanced. Most of the genetic parameter estimation work has now been completed. The next phase is the integration of this trait into the routine MIX99 beef performance evaluation.
- Genetic parameter estimation work on a 13 trait across breed linear type evaluation is also underway.

6. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 30/06/09 to 10/07/09.

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	15	1,055	70	21.6	3.76	3.35	1.54	329
CAVAN	34	1,775	52	22.9	3.70	3.28	1.60	229
CLARE	29	1,689	58	23.6	3.62	3.27	1.63	310
CORK STH	220	15,371	70	23.9	3.70	3.32	1.68	335
CORK NTH	220	15,733	72	22.9	3.77	3.37	1.64	301
DONEGAL	15	1,309	87	23.8	3.70	3.26	1.66	317
DUBLIN	3	155	52	25.8	3.56	3.41	1.80	405
GALWAY	24	1,688	70	26.5	3.60	3.22	1.81	299
KERRY	108	7,546	70	23.9	3.65	3.25	1.65	370
KILDARE	10	909	91	22.8	3.93	3.44	1.68	279
KILKENNY	36	2,904	81	19.9	3.92	3.44	1.46	244
LAOIS	22	1,776	81	19.2	4.04	3.46	1.44	251
LEITRIM	6	356	59	21.4	3.97	3.17	1.53	482
LIMERICK	108	7,331	68	23.8	3.66	3.28	1.65	326
LONGFORD	4	276	69	26.2	4.04	3.29	1.92	263
LOUTH	7	526	75	22.2	3.66	3.42	1.57	234
MAYO	17	1,060	62	25.1	3.36	3.37	1.69	343
MEATH	34	3,492	103	23.3	3.89	3.29	1.67	503
MONAGHAN	22	1,106	50	25.7	3.65	3.25	1.77	380
OFFALY	17	1,161	68	19.6	3.93	3.35	1.43	322
ROSCOMMON								
SLIGO	4	211	53	21	3.67	3.41	1.49	302
TIPPERARY NTH	24	1,822	76	19.4	4.14	3.47	1.48	309
TIPPERARY STH	42	4,016	96	18.5	3.99	3.41	1.37	279
WATERFORD	38	3,608	95	20.7	3.83	3.39	1.49	256
WESTMEATH	9	732	81	21.0	3.80	3.36	1.50	266
WEXFORD	38	2,895	76	23.2	3.72	3.39	1.65	298
WICKLOW E	12	1,074	90	21.4	3.44	3.37	1.46	343
WICKLOW W	5	595	119	22.1	3.32	3.38	1.48	232
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
National	1,123	82,171	75	22.6	3.75	3.35	1.60	315

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 30/06/09 to 10/07/09.

Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	789	57,116	72	22.1	3.77	3.35	1.57	311
Leinster	212	17,550	83	22.2	3.32	3.38	1.49	305
Connacht	51	3,315	65	18.8	3.72	2.63	1.19	285
Ulster	71	4,190	59	24.1	3.82	3.26	1.71	309

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 10/07/09

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 10/07/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 10/07/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 10/07/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 10/07/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,045	826	40%	168,629	67,201	40%
Dairygold	1,489	553	37%	112,193	43,482	39%
Kerry	886	65	7%	60,484	3,916	6%
SWS	855	113	13%	59,647	8,409	14%
Tipperary	134	55	41%	10,664	4,677	44%
Arrabawn	139	114	82%	11,295	9,532	84%
Connacht	131	43	33%	8,480	2,736	32%
Donegal	32	32	100%	3,556	3,556	100%
Total	5,711	1,801	32%	434,948	143,509	33%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 10/07/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 10/07/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	172,750	168,629	-2.4%
Dairygold	115,426	112,193	-2.9%
Kerry	76,880	60,484	-27.1%
SWS	59,456	59,647	0.3%
Tipperary	12,592	10,664	-18.1%
Arrabawn	12,323	11,295	-9.1%
Connacht	8,812	8,480	-3.9%
Donegal	3,893	3,556	-9.5%
Total	462,132	434,948	-6.2%