



**UPDATE for period 4<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**1 Important Dates**

✚ **AI Promotion Workshops.** The schedule for the remaining meetings in March is:

Date & Time	Venue	Catchment Area*	Organiser
<b>Mon. 13<sup>th</sup></b> 14:00 to 17:00 <b>Note: time change</b>	<b>Blarney Park Hotel</b>	<b>Cork &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>B. Kelleher / J. Maher</b>
<b>Tues. 14<sup>th</sup></b> 18:30 – 22:30	<b>Sligo Park Hotel</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>P. Clarke</b>
<b>Mon. 20<sup>th</sup></b> 18:30 – 22:30	<b>Teagasc Office, Longford</b>	<b>Longford &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>T. Dunwoody</b>
<b>Tues. 21<sup>st</sup></b> 18:30 – 22:30	<b>Dolmen Hotel, Carlow</b>	<b>Carlow &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>G. Ramsbottom</b>
<b>Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 10:30 – 14:00	<b>Kilcoran Lodge</b>	<b>Eurogene only</b>	<b>Joe Kirwin</b>
<b>Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 10:30 – 14:00	<b>Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar</b>	<b>Eurogene only</b>	<b>Joe Kirwin</b>
<b>Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 18:30 – 22:30	<b>Ardboyne Hotel, Navan</b>	<b>Navan &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>G. Ramsbottom</b>

\*Unless indicated otherwise these are open workshops to help all those people providing breeding advice to farmers. We have gone to some length to ensure the meeting times suit AI Technicians and are looking forward to a full attendance.

✚ **AI Promotion MART Events – first two weeks of April.** The tentative schedule is:

- **Nenagh Mart** – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Ballybay Mart** – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Bandon Mart** – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Killmallock Mart** – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Dungarvan Mart** – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

✚ **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006.** Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting.

✚ **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March Board Meeting.**

✚ **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.

**2 AI Promotion 2006**

✚ The first three of the ten scheduled workshops took place on Clonakilty, Tralee and Thurles this week. A total of 130 attended including AI Technicians, Teagasc Advisors, Milk supply officers and Agriculture Trading staff.

✚ The key messages from these meetings include:

- The use of AI to breed replacement in dairy herds is currently at 38%. At this level the future of dairying in Ireland is being put in jeopardy. We have a crises on our hands.



- The fertility problem in the Holstein Friesian breed is due to genetics and it can be solved through breeding.
- There is convincing evidence supporting the use of the EBI as a tool for breeding more profitable cattle.
- The average EBI of stock bulls used to sire replacements is €8. If, instead of using stock bulls, these farmers had used an average bull from the Active Bull list (av EBI of €76) through AI then their farm profit would have been €68 per cow per lactation higher.
- The key to successful use of AI is bull selection and heat detection.
- Advisers and technicians are convinced of the benefits of AI.
- We must now convince farmers to use AI to ensure a more profitable farm in the future.

### 3 Database Update

✚ 294 new herds added to the database last week.

✚ All training of AI technicians has been completed. Some issues around the sign up of herds and the usage of handhelds by technicians will need to be resolved quickly in order to allow a fully successful roll-out of the handhelds.

✚ The linear scorers have been scoring with the new data set received last weekend in Tully.

✚ Development work to support the back end activities of the AI handheld is continuing.

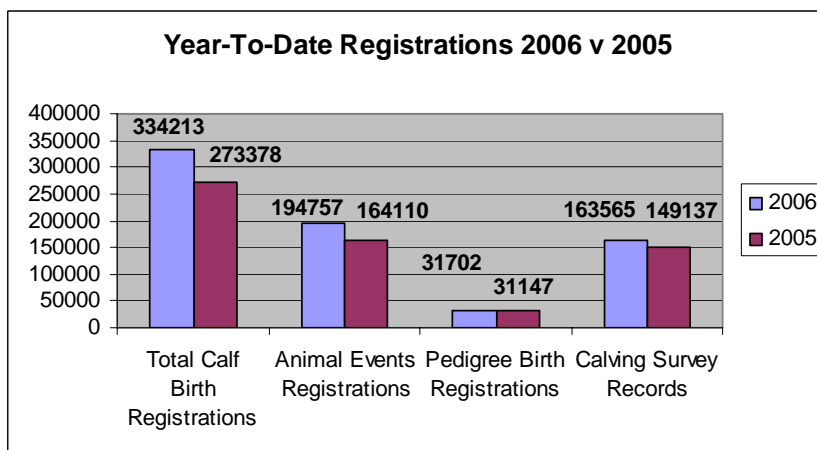
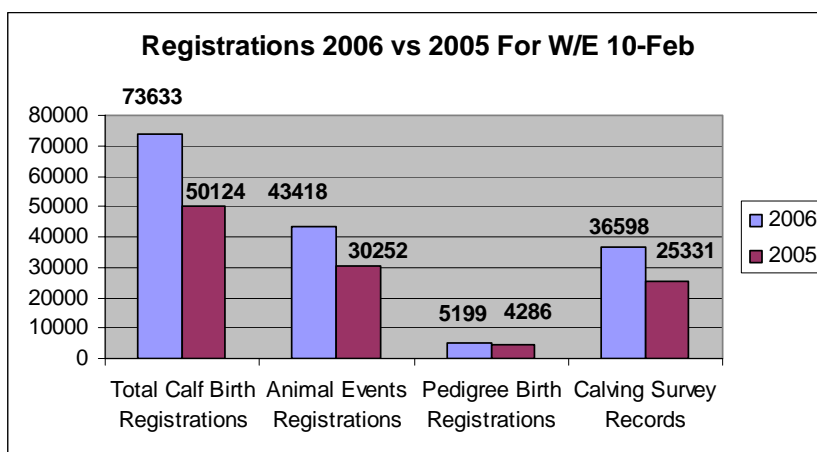
✚ The new SCC herd health report has been completed and once final testing has been completed, it will be released. This should be early next week.

✚ The generation of the dairy EBI reports will begin next week, with the issue of reports expected to be completed by March 24th.

✚ The development of Fertility Reports for the coming AI season is continuing.

✚ In preparation for the upcoming mart sales of high EBI young-stock, application forms for entry into those sales will be issued next week.

✚ The development of an 'In-breeding Avoidance' report is also being developed to support participants in the Gene Ireland Dairy Progeny test programme. With each farmer receiving straws from 10 bulls, an advisory sheet to ensure that in-breeding doesn't occur is being issued to aid the farmer in using the bulls.





## 4 Milk Recording Update

### MR Stats week ending 10/03/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 03/03/06 - 10/03/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 03/03/05 - 10/03/05
Progressive	307	296
Dairygold	205	174
SWS	150	137
Kerry	102	102
Connacht	25	28
Tipperary	13	11
Arrabawn	12	9
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>757</b>

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2006 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 1st - Mar 10th	2005 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2006 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 1st - Mar 10th	2005 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	1,484	2,087	129,344	154,992
Dairygold	584	1,529	32,675	98,832
Kerry	430	1,066	22,660	68,193
SWS	645	939	32,457	56,257
Tipperary	26	142	1,720	9,412
Connacht	84	110	6,283	7,359
Arrabawn	33	109	1,831	7,188
Others (Donegal, OAD)	4	57	325	4,837
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,290</b>	<b>6,039</b>	<b>227,295</b>	<b>407,070</b>

### €DIY Service

- ✚ **Dairygold.** 375 farmers on €DIY service (3 cells up and running). Some 35% are these are new to recording.
- ✚ **SWS.** 55 herds now signed up. Again it's significant that 39 of these are new to recording in 2006. ICBF and SWS combining to put some promotional articles in Examiner and Southern Star to help promote service.
- ✚ **Progressive Genetics.** ICBF's Brian Coughlan spent this week training Progressive staff.. Mon/Tue was spent in Kilkenny cell training 2 "operators" on both the equipment and intranet use. Some 85 farmers signed up in Kilkenny, 59 of which are new to recording. Tue/Wed was spent in Cavan/Monaghan cell training Louise Knight and "operators". Some 100 farmers signed up in Cav/Mon, 28 of which are new. A lot of farmers went to €DIY where recorder had retired or packed up. Wexford has some 86 farmers signed up with 61 new to recording.



- ✚ **Kerry.** 66 farmers signed up in Kerry at this stage, of which 61 are new to recording. First herd (independently trained by technician) recorded this week.
- ✚ **Tipperary/Arrabawn.** 110 herds signed up in Co. Tipperary of which 65 are new. Technician on the road since Tue 28th Feb. Two trainers now trained and at the end of this week some 13 herds recorded.
- ✚ **Donegal.** Some 60 herds now signed up and recording continues, all but 4 had not recorded before 2005/6.
- ✚ **Connacht Gold.** Technician candidates interviewed Thursday 09th March. Announcement next week. Meeting held with IT staff at Connacht Gold on 10th March re Lab software. Planned to have €DIY service up and running in Connacht by week Mar 20th.

## 5 Tully Sale

The ICBF Tully Performance Test Centre sale was very successful, with 79 of the 122 lots sold at a good average price of €3,450.

The top price made was for the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed FBD Trust prize winning Saler Bull owned by Brendan Clarke, and purchased by KBS Genetics of France for €6,800. They plan to take semen from the bull before he departs for France. NCBC purchased the Limousin bull Castleview Virulent ET owned by Sean O'Sullivan from Tobermaing, Castleisland Co. Kerry, for €6,200.

The second highest price for the Limousin breed was shared by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed FBD Trust prize winners (Bernadette Tynans' Elite Alo Lot 31 and John Lynchs' Ballinascrew Va Va Voom Lot 4, respectively); at €6,000. Lot 11, Kilcara Valiant, owned by Patricia and Joseph Waldron Co Galway sold for €5,100 to a buyer from Scotland. The average sale price for the 25 Limousin lots sold was €3,596.

The top sale price for the Charolais was obtained by Lot 70, Dunlon Vin, owned by Edward Hanlon, which sold for €6,000 to E Loughran Co Tyrone. Lot 63, Kilcommon Vodka, owned by Thomas Ryan Co. Tipperary, sold to Sara Flynn from Waterford for €5,600. Lot 74 Trim Visroy, the FBD Trust Champion Charolais owned by John McLoughlin, sold for €5,500 to Joe Kelly from Sligo. Lot 68, Lyonsdemesne Vivek, owned by Peter O'Toole Co Galway also made a notable sale price of €4,800 and was purchased by Owen O'Neal from Co. Carlow.

The average sale price for the 18 Charolais lots sold was €3,550.

The FBD Trust Champion Simmental, owned by Derek Costello from Co Louth obtained the top sale price for the Simmental of €4,200 and sold to Raymond O'Malley, also from Co Louth. Joseph Brady's bull Drumnagar Rob, Lot 96, sold for €3,000. Drumnagar Rob was an FBD Trust prize winner and sold to Stephen Butler from Co Donegal. Lot 103, Lisnacran Sunnyboy, owned by Michael Oliver Co Mayo sold for €2,900 to John Maher from Co Kildare.

The average sale price for the 17 Simmental lots sold was €2,500.

Other notable sales include the 1<sup>st</sup> placed FBD Trust prize winning Angus bull, Sioda Adam, owned by John Sheedy from Co Tipperary. This bull sold for €3,800 to Evelyn Armitage from Co Tipperary. Lot 56, Carbery Baron, purchased by ICBF and the Aberdeen Angus Society sold for €3,800 to John Sullivan Co Cork. The proceeds of this sale go to the winner of the Irish Farmers Journal competition held at last years Ploughing Championships to guess his weight on valentines day 2006.

The average sale price for the 8 Angus lots sold was €3,225.

The Belgian Blue bulls sold very well. The top price received was for Lot 44. Lot 44, Ballyfinn Willow, owned by Richard Duff sold for €6,200. The bull sold to Michael Jennings from Co Mayo.



Lot 46, Ballyfinn Wonder sold for €6,000. This bull was an FBD Trust prize winner, and was also owned by Richard Duff and sold to J. O' Donovan from Co Roscommon.

The average price for the 3 Belgian Blue lots sold was €600

Notable sales in the Blonde d'Aquitane breed include Lot 38, Kilnock Victor owned by Edward Kearney. Kilnock Victor, sold for €4,500 to Michael McHugh From Co Leitrim. Lot 37, Ballinascrew Vertigo, owned by John Lynch from Co Longford sold for €4,400 to Donal Ellis from Co Leitrim.

The average sale price for the six Blonde lots sold was €3,666.

The top priced Hereford Lot 124, owned by Thomas Coolahan, sold for €2,800 to D Fitzgerald from Co Limerick.

A good average price was achieved in the March sale this year, equivalent to that of past years. This is a sign that, in particular, suckler farmers continue to show interest in the high performing quality bulls that Tully offers. It is expected that the quality of bulls and the strength of the performance figures will increase in the future. The next sale is on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> where 118 performance-tested bulls will be on sale.

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