



Update for period 4th November – 10th November 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Saturday 18th November.** Tully Bull Sale.
- ✚ **Wednesday 29th November,** 10:30 – 16:00. Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation meeting, Abbeyleix.
- ✚ **Thursday 30th November.** ICBF Board Meeting in Bandon.
- ✚ **Thursday 7th December.** 10:30 to 13:00. Tully and Linear Scoring Consultation meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.

2 More Achievements

This week, like many weeks in the history of ICBF, has seen two major achievements.

1. HerdPlus reached 1,000 signed-up herds. It was only in mid September that HerdPlus was launched. The service was introduced primarily to achieve cost savings for ICBF while at the same time ensuring a high quality service for those farmers that wanted it. Well done to the HerdPlus team and to all who have provided support for this important industry initiative. We now look forward to achieving 2,000 herds signed-up!
2. The beef industry got a first glimpse of the complete set of the new beef indexes. Andrew Cromie, speaking at the Irish Grasslands Assn beef conference, gave an insight into the new indexes and the way they will enable beef farmers to identify the most profitable animals to use for breeding suckler replacements. A copy of Andrew's slides is in the publications section of our website (<http://www.icbf.com/publications/index.asp>).

Both of these achievements rely primarily on the availability of a wide range of data collected from farms and many other sources. When this data is combined using the best available scientific methods it becomes information that cattle farmers can use to become more profitable by making better management and breeding decisions. This ultimately is the purpose of ICBF.

3 Tully

- ✚ The May intake of 71 bulls will be sold at Tully on Saturday 18th November. The sale will start at 12.00.
- ✚ Judging of the FBD prize winners from the May intake will take place on the 14-11-06.
- ✚ Inspections for the December intake will be finished before the 18-11-06.
- ✚ A group of pedigree breeders from Antrim will visit Tully on the 15-11-06.

4 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

- ✚ Routine evaluation files have come back from Interbull and are currently being processed.
- ✚ Interbull fertility and longevity test-run evaluations have been sent out for AI coded bulls to the industry for feedback.

Beef

- ✚ The latest evaluation including the current intake of Tully bulls is nearing completion. These evaluations will be available in the catalogue for the Tully bulls early next week.



International Beef

- Following the comments from partners, a new version of the InterBeef guidelines is currently being drafted. These guidelines cover a range of issues including the process for a new country to join InterBeef.
- Feedback from the Irish Simmental Society on the list of animals used in both Ireland and the UK has been received. Conversion equation work will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

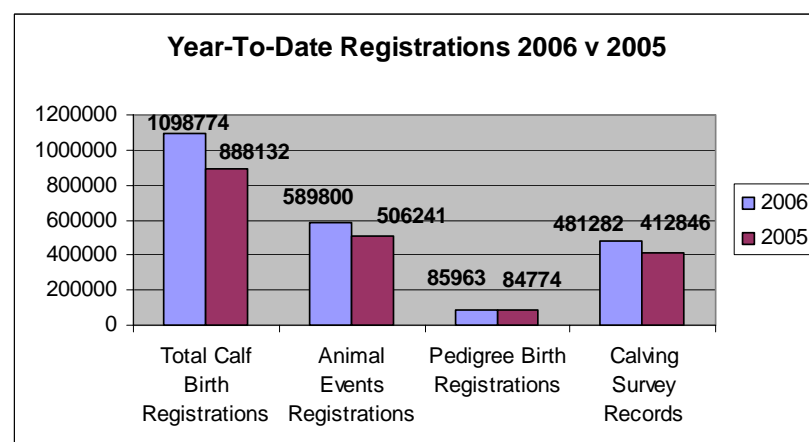
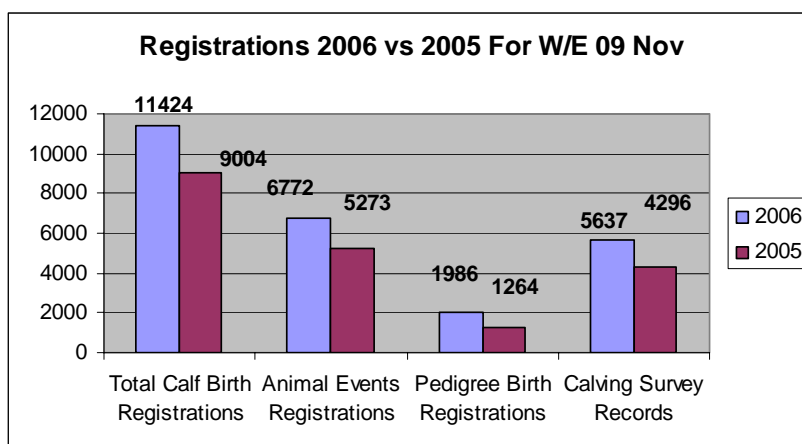
5 HerdPlus

- The numbers signed to HerdPlus passed the 1,000 number this week.
- Fertility and Calving Reports are being finalised this week and next. We will be texting farmers to get as much AI and natural service (serve) data in as possible, before we generate the reports.
- Testing of Personalised Notebook (with each farmers animals pre-printed) is underway.
- HerdPlus will have a presence at the Teagasc Dairy Conferences in Limerick and Cavan next week.

HerdPlus Client Profile Statistics	
Service Option	73% Electronic, 27% Postal.
Payment method	97% Direct debit, 3% Cheque.
Mobile No.?	99% have mobiles in the database
Top 3 counties	33% in Cork, 13% in Tipp, 9% Limerick
> 50% Serves in	38% have all serves in at this stage

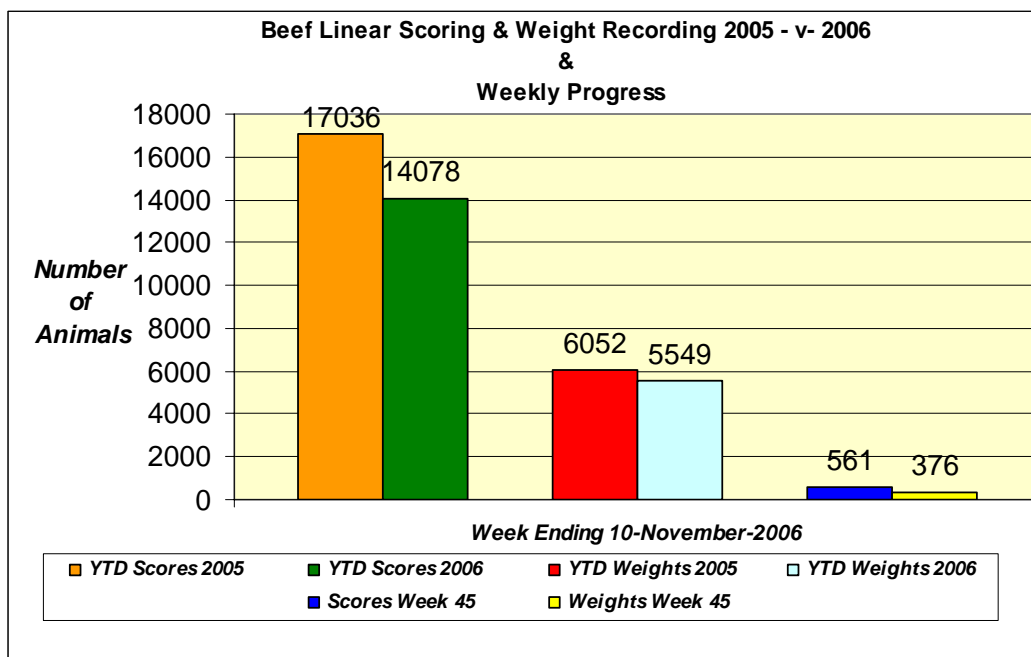
6 Database Update

- 27 new herds added to the database last week.
- 161,200 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds.
- Work is continuing on the personalised Animal Events notebook for farmers.
- The Tully catalogue is being finalised and will be printed next week
- Work is continuing on the web-enabled herdbook processing application and on the background infrastructure of the platform for other applications to be migrated to the web.
- Data from a further 15 Marts was gathered this week and loaded to the database.
- Linear scoring system for use in the herds participating in the TEAGASC Norwegian Red research is now in operation.





7 Beef Linear Scoring



8 Milk Recording Update

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 10/11/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 10/11/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 10/11/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 10/11/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,081	2,102	1%	148,366	155,584	5%
Dairygold	1,523	1,550	2%	97,298	103,087	6%
Kerry	1,064	1,074	1%	67,002	69,814	4%
SWS	937	958	2%	54,412	59,092	9%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,301	11,775	27%
Arrabawn	109	159	46%	7,092	10,970	55%
Connacht	110	139	26%	7,320	9,007	23%
Donegal	35	58	66%	3,601	5,172	44%
Total	6,000	6,208	3%	394,392	424,501	8%

Milk Recording Stats week ending 10/11/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 03/11/06 - 10/11/06
Progressive	317
Kerry	182
SWS	162
Dairygold	142
Arrabawn	25
Connacht	18
Tipperary	7
Donegal	5
Total	876



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