

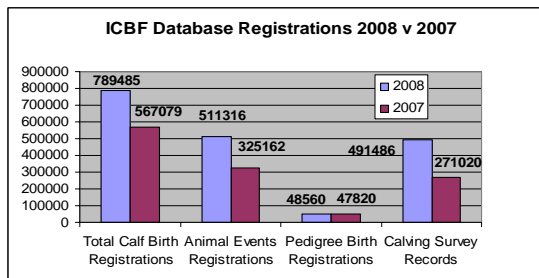
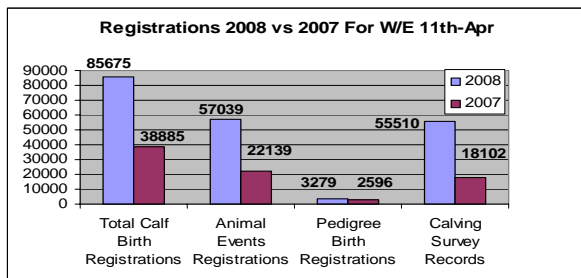


UPDATE – for period 4th - 11th April 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **1st May** – Board meeting, Ten Years of ICBF Operations, and AGM. O’Callaghan Alexander Hotel Dublin.

2 Database Update



- ✚ This has been an exceptionally busy week for Animal Event (refer to graphs above) with 57,039 animal events registrations.
- ✚ 57,169 inseminations have been received so far in 2008 from the AI Handhelds, compared with 38,419 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ ICBF have received 52,664 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. Over 200,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- ✚ Responses to the initial batch of the Suckler Scheme ‘Missing Sires/Sire Errors’ have continued to come back this week. Further batches have been issued.
- ✚ Database work on Breeding charts and Sire Advice continued this week.
- ✚ All herdbooks have now received the initial version of the On-line herdbook.
- ✚ We have had a number of problems with the broadband lines over the past weeks and have secured what we hope will be a viable solution and plan to implement it next week.

3 Tully

- ✚ The annual TB and brucellosis test was carried out on the 4-4-08 and all were negative.
- ✚ The final IBR blood test was carried out on the 4-4-08 and all bloods were negative.
- ✚ The next meeting of the Tully advisory committee will take place on the 15-4-08.

4 HerdPlus[®]

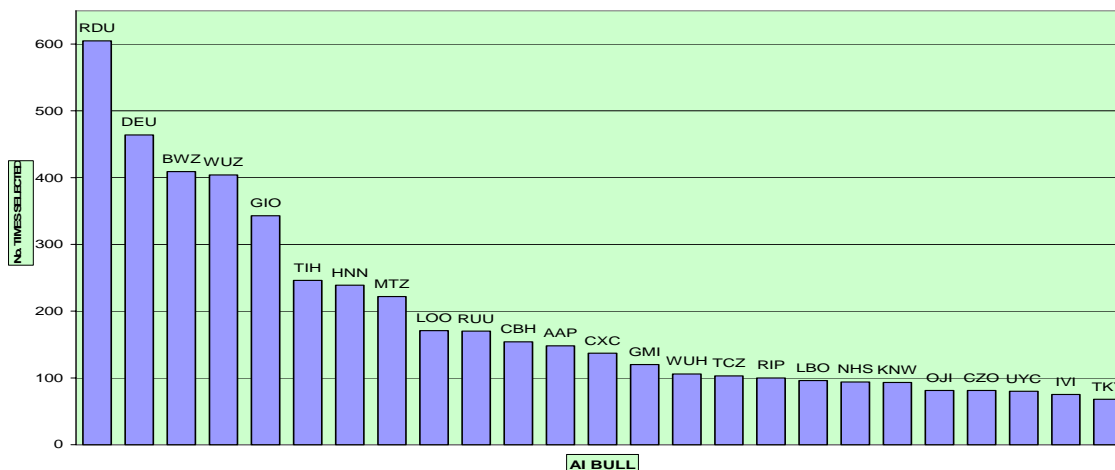
Sire Advice Analysis

1,541 farmers ran Sire Advice. Breeding Charts were posted this week. The bulls also get automatically saved to the AI Handhelds operated by AI technicians. See graph below which gives a breakdown of the most frequently selected bulls by farmers who ran the program themselves.



SIRE ADVICE for COWS - TOP 25 FARMER SELECTED AI BULLS ON COWS (11/04/07)

In total 1,541 Farmers ran SA themselves YTD



5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Code to sort issues regarding pedigree errors in genetic evaluations has been completed and will be implemented for the next set of genetic evaluations.
- ✚ Peter Amer from Abacus Biotech (NZ) is visiting ICBF this week. Peter is involved in determining the economic values applied in the Suckler Beef Value indexes and is reviewing the costs and prices assumed in determining these economic values. Other work undertaken during Peters visit included the evaluation of mart calf price data from both dairy and the beef sired animals from dairy herds with a view to routinely evaluating dairy sires for this trait. Discussions also took place on development of Culling Indexes for dairy and beef cows.
- ✚ The InterBeef working group meeting, chaired by B. Wickham, was hosted at the Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh on Thursday 10th April. ICBF represented Ireland alongside SAC (UK), INRA and Institut de l'Élevage (France), the Danish Agricultural Advisory Service (Denmark) representing the Nordic countries, the Spanish National Institut for Research INIA (Spain) representing the ICAR beef working group, the InterBeef service from Interbull (Sweden) and an expert in database set-up and management from Germany.
- ✚ The key outcomes of this meeting rich in discussions were:
 - The development of a common database hosted by Interbull: based on an approved structure, this database will manage the repository and data flow of cross reference, ancestry and performance files.
 - The writing of an InterBeef code of practice: this important document states the rules adopted for data handling, data flow and service agreement.
 - The possibility for InterBeef to offer, as an interim service, access for its member to share their genetic evaluation results.

6 GENEIRELAND®

BEEF SPRING 2008

- ✚ 245 herds signed up since January taking 4173 straws, 3943 of which have been sent to farmers.
- ✚ MVO reached the 700 straws mark this week, bringing total bulls tested to 8.
- ✚ Good farmer interest in latest Simmental (SEV) added to test



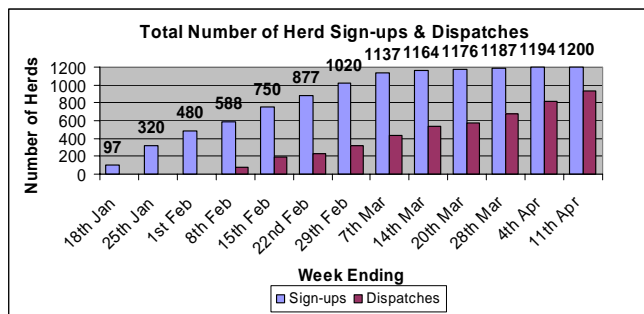


panel.

- Promotional piece with photos planned for next weeks farming newspapers.

DAIRY SPRING 2008

- Currently dispatching herds due to start 18-20th April. Approximately 270 herds left to dispatch.



Dairy 2007

- The average number of 'alive' female progeny on the ground from last years spring programme is currently 107.
- 18 bulls have over 100 daughters, 13 in the 90's, 10 in the 80's and 5 bulls have less than 80.
- Average number of gestation length records is 179.
- Average number of calving performance records is 178.

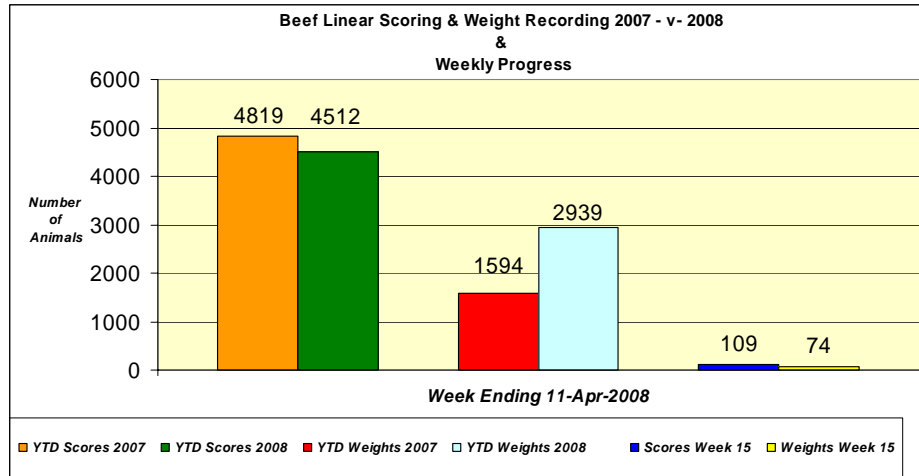
7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 11/04/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 11/04/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 11/04/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 11/04/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 11/04/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,594	395	25%	104,200	25,833	25%
Dairygold	1,038	250	24%	56,939	14,688	26%
Kerry	720	66	9%	36,918	3,576	10%
SWS	794	89	11%	39,448	4,583	12%
Tipperary	90	23	26%	4,852	1,397	29%
Arrabawn	67	47	70%	3,828	2,655	69%
Connacht	107	25	23%	5,283	1,159	22%
Donegal	4	4	100%	214	214	100%
Total	4,414	899	20%	251,682	54,105	21%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 11/04/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 11/04/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 11/04/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	101,045	99,121	104,200	4.9%
Dairygold	52,905	54,542	56,939	4.2%
Kerry	39,578	40,567	36,918	-9.9%
SWS	38,699	38,637	39,448	2.1%
Tipperary	4,882	3,876	4,852	20.1%
Arrabawn	3,498	4,320	3,828	-12.9%
Connacht	4,609	5,001	5,283	5.3%
Donegal	486	504	214	-135.5%
Total	245,702	246,568	251,682	2.0%



8 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



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