



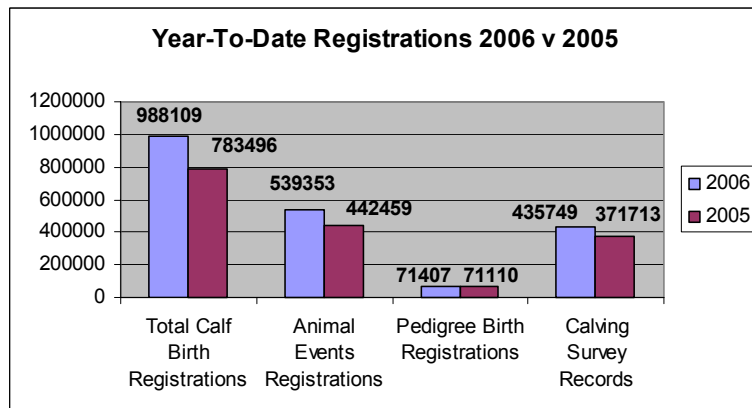
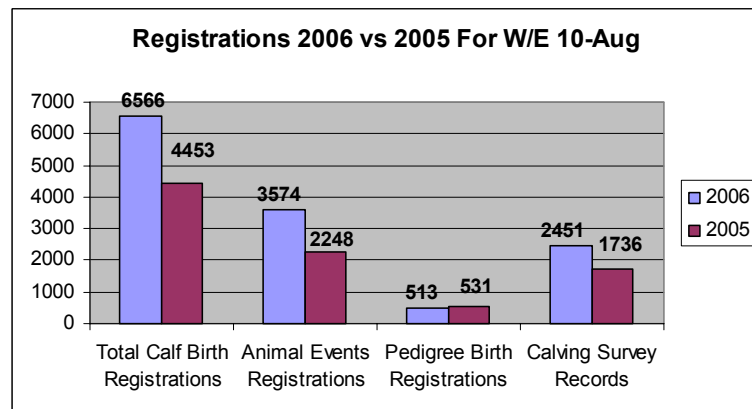
Update for period 4th-11th August 2006

1 Important Dates

- **Tuesday 12th September** – TEAGASC Grange Open Day.
- **Wednesday 13th September** – EBI €100 Open Day – near Birr.
- **Thursday 14th September** – ICBF Board meeting, Heritage Hotel Portlaoise.
- **September 27th to 30th. Ploughing.** The new breeding information service will be the main focus of the ICBF stand.
- **Wednesday 4th October** – **Beef Breeding Consultation meeting**, **Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.**

2 Database Update

- 11 new herds added to the database last week.
- The 142,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds.
- Dairygold have taken further technicians live this week. Four areas within Dairygold are now live.
- The loading of the latest Dairy Genetic Evaluation files will begin this weekend and will take roughly two weeks to complete in its entirety.
- Development has begun this week on the redesign of the herdbook front-end to IRIS – this work will be on-going over the coming months.
- Work is largely complete on authorisations for on-line reports, though further refinements will be made over the coming weeks.
- The redesign of the current EBI report is nearing completion, and the updated version of the report should be finalised next week.
- A number of beef herd-book reports will be worked on over the coming weeks.



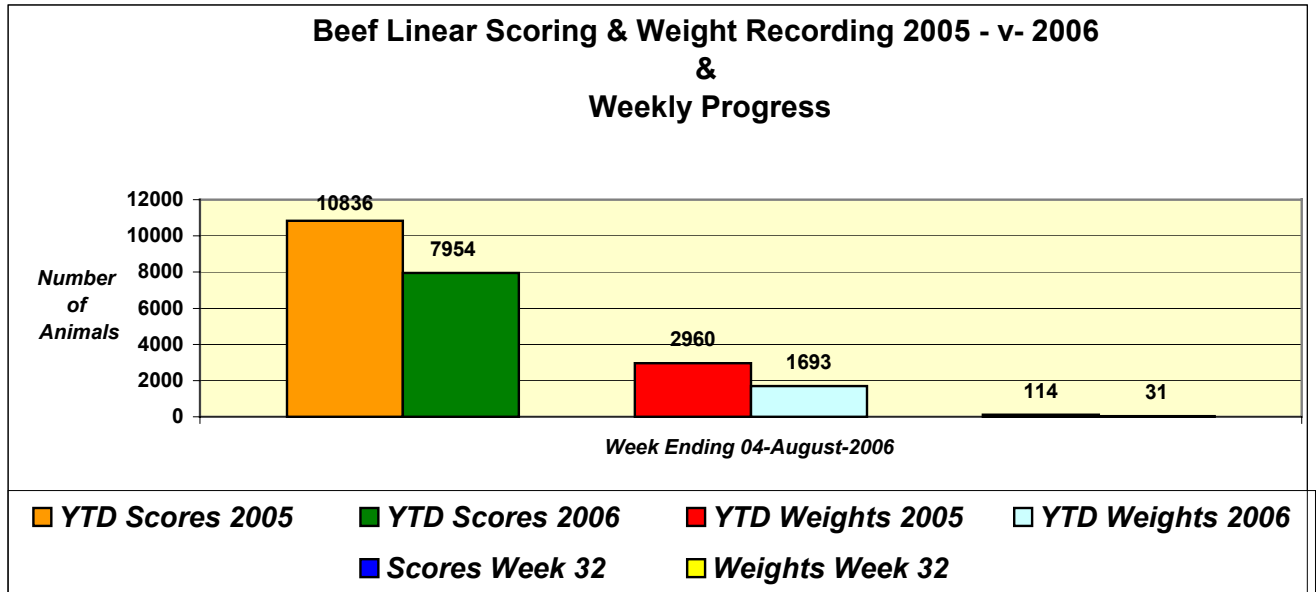
3 Tully

- The closing date for applications for the September intake is today, Inspections will start from the 18-8-06. Health testing will begin from the 4-9-06.



- A group of pedigree breeders from England will visit Tully today and a group of pedigree breeders from Wales will visit tomorrow.

4 Beef Linear Scoring



5 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 - 11/08/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 11/08/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 11/08/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 11/08/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,073	2,085	1%	145,071	151,621	5%
Dairygold	1,520	1,547	2%	95,712	101,649	6%
Kerry	1,064	1,074	1%	66,326	69,076	4%
SWS	934	958	3%	53,669	58,221	8%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,233	11,673	26%
Arrabawn	108	157	45%	6,954	10,844	56%
Connacht	110	136	24%	7,156	8,770	23%
Donegal	32	56	75%	3,314	5,029	52%
Total	5,982	6,181	3%	387,435	416,883	8%



Milk Recording Stats week ending 4/08/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 04/08/06 - 11/08/06
Progressive	428
Dairygold	205
Kerry	169
SWS	129
Arrabawn	21
Tipperary	19
Connacht	15
Donegal	2
Total	988

6 Genetic Evaluations

- All files for the latest round of the dairy EBI are currently being loaded to the database. The latest EBI will contain updated information for all traits in the EBI. Proofs for AI bulls will be available next week with proofs for all other animals available the week after.
- Calving performance evaluations for Beef AI bulls have been forwarded to the industry for comment and feedback. Official release on September 1st.
- New Beef Performance evaluations have been forwarded to the industry for comment and feedback. Official release on September 1st.
- Work continues on the development of the linear type evaluation system for beef.
- Work continues on the development of the maternal sub-index for beef.

7 International Beef Evaluations

- Laurent Journaux (Institut de l'Élevage – France) is working for 3 weeks in ICBF on international evaluations.
- The central cross reference file with animals bred in the UK in Limousine (+1195 animals) and Charolais (+84 animals) breeds has been updated.
- Correlations between indexes have been calculated for French AI sires used both in France and Ireland. This work is the first step towards the development of conversion equations between France and Ireland which will allow the calculation of indexes of French animals on the Irish base and scale. This will give breeders an indication of where a potential import might rank compared to Irish animals.