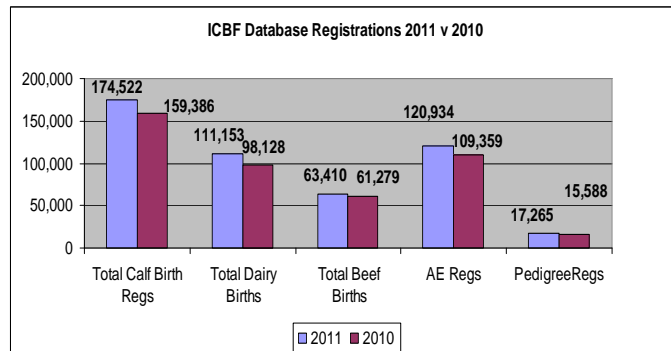
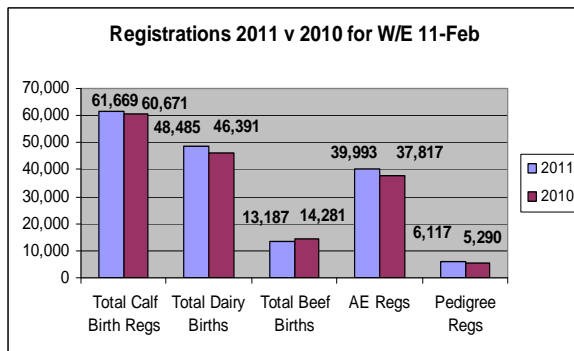


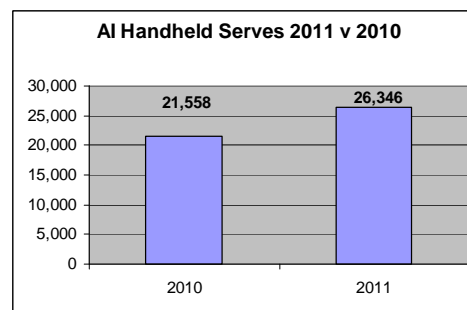
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 10th March, 10:00 to 14:00 – Horse & Jockey Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 10:00 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 14:00 to 17:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 25th April, 12:00 to 16:00 – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.

2 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 572,321 with the number of animals weaned at 486,268.
- ✚ As the newly launched genotyping process progresses, on-going development tweaks are being carried out.
- ✚ Further development on the outputs for farmers and AI companies of Genomic EBI results are on-going.
- ✚ Testing on a new authorisation module for farmers and their service providers is on-going. This will give farmers more flexibility and control in providing authorisation to others to see their data.
- ✚ Development of a new 'Weight Profile' has begun. It will link up with the Teagasc Better Farms data collection process.
- ✚ Work continues with AHI on the integration of laboratory health test results to the ICBF database.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



3 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Work is nearing completion on converting additional traits for Norwegian Red bulls for EBI. Currently we have Interbull proofs for production and converted proofs for fertility but we are now looking at using country of origin information for 8 additional traits, mainly beef and calving. We will send on test proofs to the relevant AI companies with a view to implementing the changes in the next official evaluation.
- ✚ The new genomic service has been launched (see below). At the moment we are not in a position to calculate genomic EBI for cows in milk production at this point. The reasons for this are mainly technical and we would expect to be in a position to do all animals sometime in the future. The advice to farmers

would be to collect samples of cows of interest especially if they are going to be culling them so as we can include them in the future.

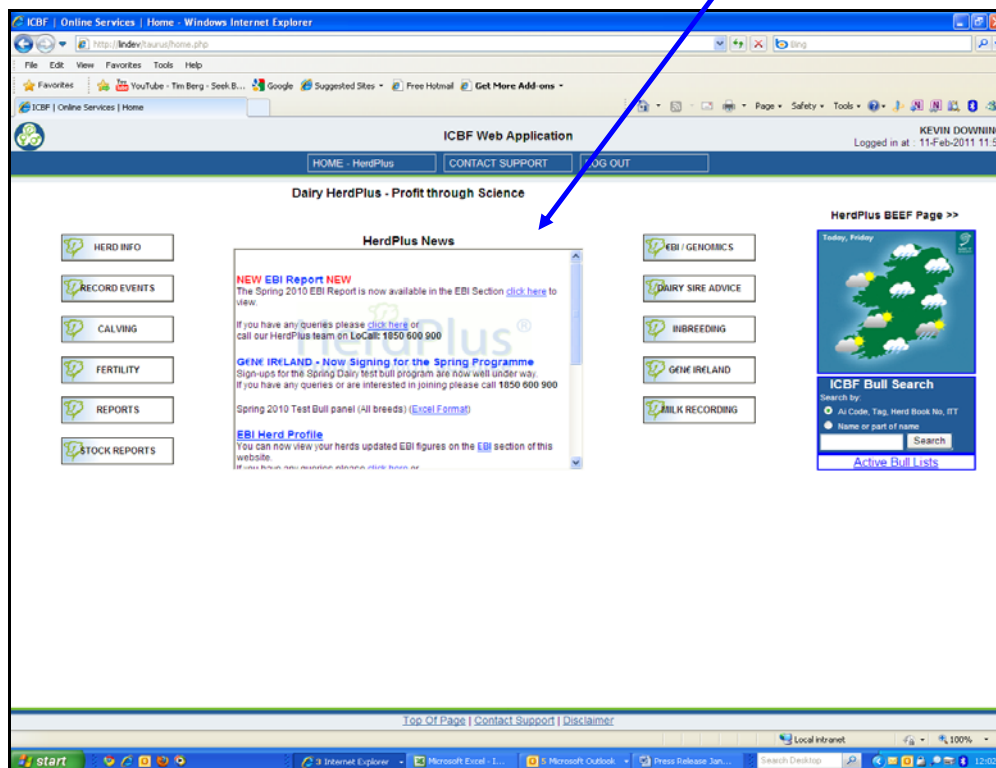
4 Genomics

ICBF release a low cost, integrated Genomic Service for HerdPlus[®] farmers.

- Following on from our launch at the recent HerdPlus[®] users meeting at Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy, ICBF are pleased to announce that our new Genomic Service is “live” on www.icbf.com as of **today the 11th February 2011**.
- The research carried out by Teagasc and ICBF in collaboration with the breeding industry has resulted in reducing the cost of genomic testing by approximately one third.

Service Description

Farmers can select and pay for animal genotypes via their HerdPlus[®] screens at a very competitive cost of €50 (including VAT) per animal.



- Once the HerdPlus[®] farmer selects (“ticks”) the animals he wants genotyping, then the HerdPlus[®] staff will automatically (next day) send him tail hair sampling kits for those “ticked” animals (one per animal). Once the hair sample is received back in ICBF, they are dispatched to one of their two partner laboratories, Weatherbys (IRL) or NeoGen (USA), to provide the genotype file. ICBF expects to have a turnaround time of 3 - 4 weeks from request to a genotype report being back in the farmer’s hand. (Once we are up and running we will endeavor to reduce this turnaround time).
- The service will allow Irish dairy farmers to genomically test their young breeding animals, (male and female) facilitating more informed breeding decisions and increase the genetic merit of their herds. Farmers now can access these genomic proofs at a much reduced cost. Through this genomic service the herdowner can make better and earlier selection decisions which ultimately will yield more profitability through greater genetic gain at herd level.

- ✦ For HerdPlus® users who do not have access to the web, our HerdPlus® staff will take and process your genotype request over the phone at 1850 600 900.
- ✦ For more on Genomics see <http://www.icbf.com/publications/index.php>

Background

- ✦ In 2009 genomic selection was launched in Ireland, following research carried out by Teagasc, led by Dr. Donagh Berry in collaboration with the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) team of Dr. Andrew Cromie and Dr Francis Kearney. This made Ireland the second country in the world, after the USA, to implement this technology in a national dairy cattle breeding programme. Genomic selection has resulted in a significant acceleration in genetic gain within the Irish dairy cow population.
- ✦ But up to now the cost of the technology was prohibitively expensive for individual dairy farmers to implement into their own herd breeding programmes. Now, the ICBF and Teagasc collaboration has successfully developed a new method to use a lower cost technology (so called “3K” chip) with minimal compromise in accuracy. The approach is based on the knowledge that “chunks” of DNA are inherited from an animal’s pedigree and if we know a few of the pieces of DNA in these chunks the remaining DNA in the chunk can be estimated. The accuracy of this estimation is, on average, 98% when the full DNA profile of at least the sire is also known, which is the recommendation laid down for the use of the technology.
- ✦ The Head of this Programme, Dr. Pat Dillon said; “Continuous access to new world class animal genetics is vital for a profitable industry. This new Genomic service can speed up the rate of genetic improvement of our national cow herd, and help our dairy industry improve its competitive position internationally. We work closely with the ICBF to ensure that cattle breeding programmes in Ireland are as advanced and scientifically based as anywhere in the world”.
- ✦ This research was funded from a range of sources including Dairy Levy, Stimulus Research Fund, FP7, Teagasc, ICBF and the AI industry and carried out by Teagasc at the Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark in collaboration with other Teagasc Centres.

5 GENÉIRÉLAND®

Dairy

- ✦ There are 435 herds signed up to the programme at this stage.
- ✦ 85 herdowners have had their straws allocated.
- ✦ Calls to potential participants continue to be made.
- ✦ Details of the potential bulls are available on the ICBF website or call 1850 600 900 to order.

Beef

- ✦ 60 herds have signed up so far.
- ✦ CXY has become the 12th CH bull tested through the program.
- ✦ Catalogues should be printed next week and sent to herd owners.
- ✦ More details on the bulls are available in the GENÉIRÉLAND section of the website.
- ✦ To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573.
- ✦ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	HE	LM	PT	SA
CODE	MLJ	KCE	KYR	LGL	GCT	CZH	CBQ	BHU
# STRAWS	328	355	655	189	93	375	149	616

6 GROW[®]

- ✚ The series of meetings with users of the service have been completed.
- ✚ Below are the results of the surveys which were completed by the breeders who attended the meetings.
 - Q. Should the linear scorers provide breeding advice as part of the service?
A. 70% said YES
 - Q. Should all eligible animals be presented at every visit?
A. 63% said YES
 - Q. Should the GROW service police false birth dates?
A. 79% said YES
 - Q. Does the service offer value for money?
A. 63% said YES
 - Q. Will genomics make linear scoring obsolete?
A. 72% said NO
 - Q. Would you like to see your adult animals being linear scored?
A. 88% said YES
 - Q. Is Linear Scoring an effective method to gather data on new breeds/bloodlines?
A. 91% said YES
 - Q. Do you use data in the GROW report to help you make breeding decisions?
A. 72% said YES
 - Q. Does Linear Scoring provide breeders with data to help them to breed more profitable cattle?
A. 77% said YES
 - Q. Do you plan on getting your animals scored in 2011?
A. 100% said YES

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 11/02/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 11/02/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 11/02/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 11/02/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 11/02/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	855	29	3%	31,375	2,197	7%
Progressive	572	161	28%	55,042	17,379	32%
Tipperary	11	1	9%	508	164	32%
Connacht	57	5	9%	2,705	2,211	82%
Total	1,495	196	13%	89,630	21,951	24%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 11/02/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 11/02/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	27,351	31,375	12.8%
Progressive	44,239	55,042	19.6%
Tipperary	151	508	70.3%
Connacht	2,621	2,705	3.1%
Total	74,362	89,630	17.0%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 01/02/11 to 11/02/11								
	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	9	581	65	26.0	4.62	3.50	2.11	483
CAVAN	23	1,101	48	22.5	3.75	3.27	1.58	318
CLARE	3	166	55	30.2	3.87	3.37	2.19	394
CORK STH	128	6,382	50	23.4	4.22	3.49	1.80	362
CORK NTH	70	3,827	55	23.3	4.20	3.43	1.78	374
DONEGAL	9	540	60	23.4	4.60	3.33	1.86	326
DUBLIN	4	185	46	30.6	3.20	3.18	1.95	354
GALWAY	13	576	44	26.4	4.22	3.46	2.03	334
KERRY	25	1,386	55	26.8	4.03	3.38	1.99	354
KILDARE	15	955	64	24.9	3.89	3.35	1.80	324
KILKENNY	8	518	65	20.3	3.99	3.48	1.52	243
LAOIS	13	795	61	23.9	4.09	3.52	1.82	522
LEITRIM	7	312	45	22.3	3.61	3.27	1.53	278
LIMERICK	24	1,321	55	25.6	3.99	3.36	1.88	330
LONGFORD	2	38	19	14.0	3.91	3.36	1.02	539
LOUTH	19	1,414	74	30.0	3.80	3.36	2.15	358
MAYO	40	1,790	45	21.9	3.63	3.33	1.52	349
MEATH	44	4,473	102	25.1	3.98	3.37	1.84	465
MONAGHAN	26	1,078	41	22.2	3.95	3.42	1.64	311
OFFALY	8	497	62	23.3	4.05	3.37	1.73	499
ROSCOMMON	1	24	24	25.3	4.51	3.28	1.97	453
SLIGO	8	319	40	24.7	3.69	3.24	1.71	293
TIPPERARY NTH	9	311	35	20.3	4.17	3.49	1.55	243
TIPPERARY STH	4	177	44	20.7	4.38	3.60	1.65	641
WATERFORD	10	760	76	26.2	4.30	3.54	2.05	386
WESTMEATH	5	255	51	22.3	3.93	3.37	1.63	450
WEXFORD	20	1,189	59	20.3	3.90	3.57	1.52	464
WICKLOW E	10	688	69	21.2	3.73	3.33	1.50	329
WICKLOW W	14	1,085	78	24.5	4.33	3.49	1.92	485
	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	571	32,743	55	23.8	4.02	3.40	1.77	388

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 01/02/11 to 11/02/11								
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	273	14,330	52	24.6	4.15	3.46	1.87	386
Leinster	171	12,673	74	23.6	3.96	3.40	1.73	424
Connacht	69	3,021	44	24.1	3.93	3.32	1.75	341
Ulster	58	2,719	47	22.7	4.10	3.34	1.69	318

Brian Wickham (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email bwickham@icbf.com.

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