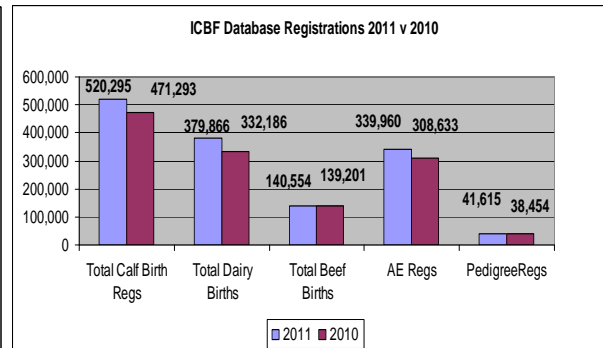
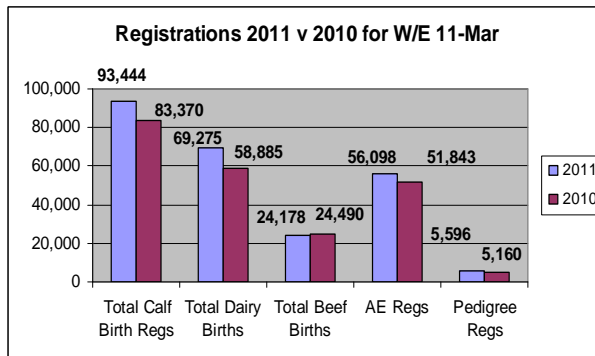


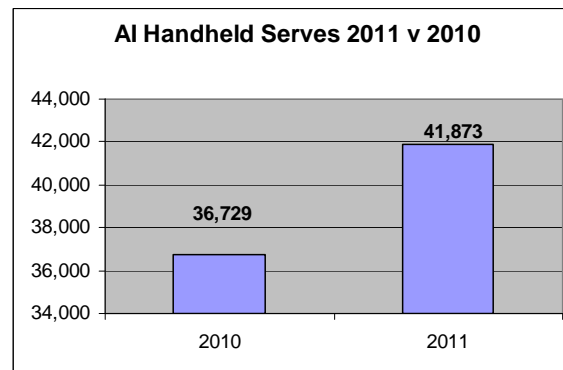
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Teagasc Beef Conference** – Tuesday 5th April, Killin Hill Mart, Kilkenny.
- ✚ **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 584,293 with the number of animals weaned at 504,376.
- ✚ As the newly launched genotyping process progresses, on-going development tweaks are being carried out. Farmer requests continue to be processed on a daily basis.
- ✚ Development on a number of updates to the Sire Advice programme continued this week.
- ✚ A discussion group report to support the Dairy Efficiency Programme (DEP) was launched this week.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Further developments on the beef slaughter report took place this week.
- ✚ Work is on-going in establishing electronic links to the commercial animal health laboratories.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



3 Interbull Workshop – Genomics

Ireland was represented at a recent Interbull Workshop held in Guelph, Canada. The focus of the workshop was the development of international dairy genetic evaluations incorporating genomic data. While in Guelph we also met with scientists working on genomics in beef cattle.

Key points to emerge from these discussions include:

- ✚ Genomic technology is moving very rapidly. Over the next twelve months we can expect to see the availability of full gene sequences for several hundred cattle worldwide.
- ✚ Sharing of genotypes between organisations and countries is now a widespread practice. However, sharing is currently limited between European and North American Holstein populations.
- ✚ The IGenoP concept developed by ICBF is widely supported and Interbull has decided to conduct a feasibility study into establishing a database of genomic information at the Interbull Centre in Sweden. ICBF will play a significant role in this development.
- ✚ Many countries are now developing genomic evaluations for their dairy breeds and are looking to collaborate with others in order to ensure larger training populations and to save costs associated with development and implementation.
- ✚ Ireland plays a key leadership role in the development and implementation of genomic selection in cattle.

4 ~~G~~~~E~~~~N~~~~E~~~~I~~~~R~~~~L~~~~A~~~~N~~~~D~~[®]

Beef

- ✚ 162 herds have signed up so far.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the ~~G~~~~E~~~~N~~~~E~~~~I~~~~R~~~~L~~~~A~~~~N~~~~D~~ section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	CH	HE	LM	LM	PT	SA	SI
CODE	MLJ	KCE	BZP	CSQ	LGL	DZP	GCT	CZH	ERE	CBQ	BHU	SXD
# STRAWS	355	395	50	145	490	45	125	525	365	197	660	55

Dairy

HERDS SIGNED UP	TOTAL STRAWS REQUESTED
610	25,610
HERDS ALLOCATED STRAWS	TOTAL STRAWS ALLOCATED
517	18,653

Call 1850 600 900 to order.

5 Tully

- ✚ Tully high health status sale, Monday, 25th April, starting at 12.00pm
 - Bulls are being halter trained at present, in preparation for the sale.
 - Tom Cox will be the auctioneer.
 - The sale is being advertised through various forms of media in Ireland, N. Ireland and the UK, from next week onwards. The closing date for entry forms (sent out to bull owners with bulls at Tully) for the up-coming sale was today.
 - This week, all bulls were ultrasonically scanned for muscle and fat depth.
 - More details about the sale can be found at <http://www.icbf.com/services/tully/index.php>
 - The fourth live-weight will be obtained on all bulls on Monday of next week.

- ✦ There will be a champion bull selected from each breed at Tully. The criteria for be the top bull will be based on the performance test, Euro-Star indexes and visual assessment. Clive Jennings (linear scorer) is to visually assess all the bulls for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits. He will assess the bulls next week for the relevant traits. It should also be noted that the champion must be in the top 20% of all three traits i.e. visual, indexes and performance test results. The bull that comes out on top in each breed will then be pictured in the Irish Farmers Journal, leading up to the Tully sale on the 25th of April.
- ✦ Letters are being posted out at present to bull owners who have bulls eligible for the next Tully intake, which starts on the 22nd of May. The selection criteria is:
 - 5 stars Suckler Beef Value,
 - 3 or greater stars for Milk and Fertility and
 - bulls born between 1st of May and 31st October 2010.
 - A list of the numbers being targeted in each beef breed is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Eligible bulls for the Spring 11 Tully GENÉ IRELAND program

Breed	AA	AU	BA	BB	CH	LM	PT	SA	SI	SH	HE	PI
No. of Bulls	138	3	6	19	225	392	5	15	97	13	61	4

6 Genetic Evaluations

Genomics

A new dairy Genomic evaluation is currently underway.

April routine evaluation

The April evaluation will commence shortly with the final extracts from the database almost complete.

Suckler Cow surveys

- ✦ Work has commenced on analysing the milk scores in the Suckler cow surveys that were sent out to farmers in January.
- ✦ An initial analysis of 15,000 cows with sires known has indicated a high heritability in the region of 40%. Next piece of research is to determine the genetic correlation between this trait and maternal weaning weight to determine if the cow survey score can be used as an adequate predictor trait for milk yield in Suckler cows.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 01/03/11 to 11/03/11

	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	8	512	64	27.8	4.51	3.33	2.18	461
CAVAN	26	1,008	39	24.2	3.93	3.22	1.73	296
CLARE	4	201	50	27.3	3.81	3.34	1.95	328
CORK STH	108	5,237	48	25.1	4.07	3.31	1.85	298
CORK NTH	183	9,362	51	25.4	4.19	3.35	1.92	339
DONEGAL	5	320	64	26.0	4.00	3.26	1.89	240
DUBLIN	3	137	46	26.6	4.21	3.29	2.00	217

GALWAY	10	526	53	24.6	3.86	3.21	1.74	302
KERRY	69	3,075	45	25.7	4.07	3.23	1.88	370
KILDARE	19	921	48	24.6	3.92	3.37	1.79	383
KILKENNY	29	1,783	61	21.7	3.90	3.32	1.57	303
LAOIS	22	1,067	49	25.8	4.10	3.50	1.96	444
LEITRIM	6	248	41	29.5	3.85	3.28	2.10	232
LIMERICK	67	3,516	52	27.0	4.03	3.33	1.99	287
LONGFORD	7	325	46	22.6	4.03	3.35	1.67	259
LOUTH	10	675	68	25.1	3.78	3.19	1.75	373
MAYO	20	943	47	25.5	3.75	3.27	1.79	375
MEATH	31	2,477	80	25.3	4.26	3.35	1.93	380
MONAGHAN	18	816	45	23.7	3.95	3.21	1.70	314
OFFALY	9	518	58	25.0	4.22	3.16	1.85	352
ROSCOMMON								
SLIGO	4	170	43	25.1	3.60	3.13	1.69	473
TIPPERARY NTH	16	897	56	24.2	4.06	3.36	1.80	386
TIPPERARY STH	17	901	53	24.4	4.18	3.26	1.82	324
WATERFORD	32	2,056	64	24.9	4.26	3.35	1.89	236
WESTMEATH	14	755	54	22.6	3.79	3.23	1.59	382
WEXFORD	28	1,561	56	22.9	3.99	3.22	1.65	382
WICKLOW E	12	866	72	23.1	3.79	3.29	1.64	388
WICKLOW W	17	1,150	68	24.8	4.03	3.29	1.82	385
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	794	42,023	54	25.0	4.01	3.29	1.82	340

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 01/03/11 to 11/03/11

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	496	25,245	51	25.5	4.08	3.32	1.89	321
Leinster	209	12,747	61	24.5	4.03	3.30	1.79	362
Connacht	40	1,887	47	26.2	3.77	3.22	1.83	346
Ulster	49	2,144	44	24.6	3.96	3.23	1.77	283

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 11/03/11

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 11/03/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 11/03/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 11/03/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 11/03/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	1,245	107	9%	66,416	7,062	11%
Progressive	1,153	252	22%	77,291	16,898	22%
Tipperary	21	1	5%	937	41	4%
Connacht	70	6	9%	3,656	326	9%
Total	2,489	366	15%	148,300	24,327	16%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 11/03/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 11/03/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	64,973	66,416	2.2%
Progressive	68,837	77,291	10.9%
Tipperary	771	937	17.7%
Connacht	3,426	3,656	6.3%
Total	138,007	148,300	6.9%

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