

## 1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF & Sheep Ireland Board Meetings – Thursday 17th September**, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Tully Open Day – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October**, Tully, Co. Kildare.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Dairy Conference – Thursday 29th October**, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac, Co. Cork.

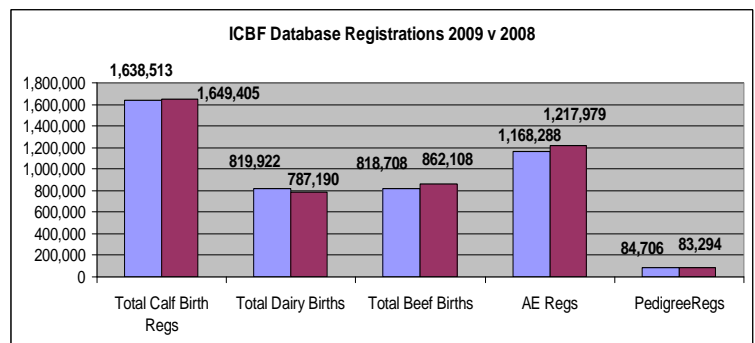
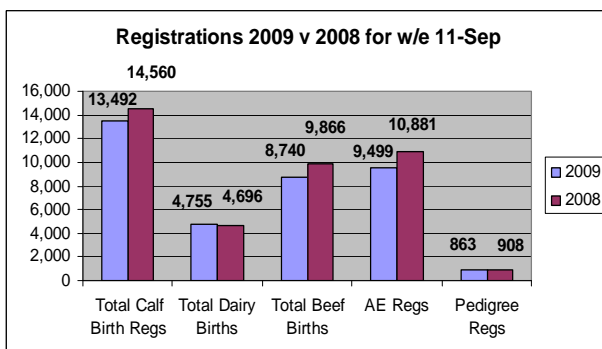
## 2. Board Meetings

- ✚ Both the ICBF and Sheep Ireland Boards will meet at Highfield House next Thursday. They will have a chance to view the recent renovations to the ICBF offices, meet each other and to meet the ICBF Team.
- ✚ The ICBF Board will consider the ICBF Strategic Plan for the period 2010 to 2014.
- ✚ The Interim Sheep Board will receive an update on progress with development of the Sheep breeding infrastructure in Ireland. Major progress has been made and the focus will soon be moving to getting more breeders involved.

## 3. European Projects

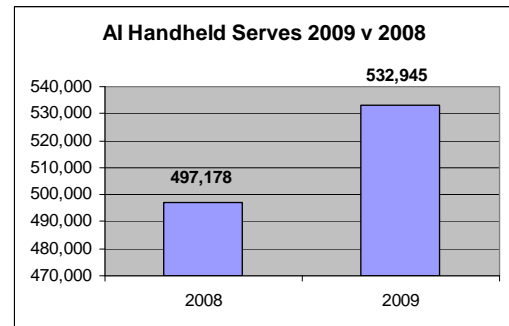
- ✚ ICBF is collaborating in a number of EU projects. These projects which focus on particular aspects of cattle breeding and the use of new technologies are important to Ireland as they establish working relationships with other European organizations and give Ireland access to new knowledge.
- ✚ Francis Kearney attended the month 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ovutest project last week. The goal of this project was the development of an inexpensive device to detect heat and or pregnancy in lactating dairy cows. After 30 months of intense effort the projected test cost is too high for adoption. A lot of new knowledge has been created but it has not been possible to miniaturize the technology.
- ✚ Brian Wickham & Donagh Berry attended the first full meeting of the OptiMIR project on Monday. The objective is to develop an expert system for interpreting the data available for a herd (including the full spectrum of wavelengths from infra-red analyzers used for milk testing), and the latest scientific knowledge to diagnose problems and evaluate solutions. The project proposal is being prepared for submission to the funding agency in early October. Collaborators include cattle breeding and research organisations from France, Germany, Belgium, UK and Ireland.

## 4. Database



- ✚ As of next week, all suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 will have received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 227,000.

- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system is progressing. Testing within the milk recording organisations continues this week. The first users are planned to go live on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ✚ The final developments which will allow the Herdbook users to fully migrate to a web-based solution are being completed.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the new Beef Discussion Group Reports, the slaughter report expected to be completed next week.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008.



## 5. Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The extra evaluation information files (no. of progeny records, sire averages, herdmate information etc.) are almost completed and should be available on the website early next week.
- ✚ Further test runs for docility and linear type have been carried out investigating the impact of condition score on linear scored traits. These will be made available to the industry for feedback next week.

## 6. Milk Recording

### National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 04/09/09 to 11/09/09.

	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	18	1,107	62	18.5	4.51	3.59	1.50	403
CAVAN	43	2,070	48	18.1	4.06	3.43	1.36	397
CLARE	37	1,882	51	16.8	4.08	3.53	1.28	333
CORK STH	268	17,060	64	17.5	4.15	3.59	1.35	336
CORK NTH	256	17,542	69	18.2	4.19	3.65	1.43	296
DONEGAL	10	889	89	16.9	4.05	3.39	1.26	307
DUBLIN	5	257	51	22.4	3.43	3.51	1.55	483
GALWAY	17	1,122	66	21.2	4.04	3.42	1.58	329
KERRY	101	6,298	62	18.1	3.98	3.45	1.34	378
KILDARE	15	905	60	16.5	4.34	3.54	1.30	390
KILKENNY	68	4,747	70	16.7	4.12	3.61	1.29	347
LAOIS	35	2,670	76	17.1	4.16	3.52	1.31	369
LEITRIM	7	317	45	17.0	3.89	3.33	1.23	472
LIMERICK	101	6,619	66	18.5	4.04	3.57	1.41	319
LONGFORD	2	96	48	15.4	4.18	3.47	1.18	235
LOUTH	16	1,683	105	28.4	3.75	3.50	2.06	488
MAYO	17	1,062	62	21.0	3.57	3.50	1.48	401
MEATH	44	3,807	87	17.2	4.18	3.57	1.33	437
MONAGHAN	31	1,484	48	20.3	3.94	3.42	1.49	473
OFFALY	18	1,268	70	16.6	4.32	3.60	1.31	379
SLIGO	8	500	63	18.5	3.87	3.72	1.40	373
TIPPERARY NTH	44	3,761	85	15.9	4.37	3.68	1.28	309
TIPPERARY STH	39	2,635	68	16.9	4.12	3.58	1.30	317
WATERFORD	39	3,109	80	16.6	4.32	3.69	1.33	322
WESTMEATH	13	806	62	18.1	3.97	3.51	1.35	264
WEXFORD	64	4,356	68	16.9	4.15	3.59	1.31	350
WICKLOW E	21	1,707	81	17.7	3.81	3.51	1.30	370

<b>WICKLOW W</b>	6	337	56	25.5	4.04	3.39	1.89	317
	<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>
<b>National</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>90,096</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>4.06</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>364</b>

**National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 04/09/09 to 11/09/09.**

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
<b>Munster</b>	885	58,906	67	17.3	4.16	3.59	1.34	326
<b>Leinster</b>	325	23,746	73	19.0	4.07	3.53	1.45	372
<b>Connacht</b>	49	3,001	61	19.4	3.84	3.49	1.42	394
<b>Ulster</b>	84	4,443	53	18.4	4.02	3.41	1.37	392

**National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 11/09/09**

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 11/09/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 11/09/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 11/09/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 11/09/09	% Cows EDIY
<b>Progressive</b>	2,069	844	41%	174,779	71,190	41%
<b>Dairygold</b>	1,500	560	37%	115,716	45,413	39%
<b>Kerry</b>	890	66	7%	62,155	4,225	7%
<b>SWS</b>	856	114	13%	61,360	8,888	14%
<b>Tipperary</b>	135	55	41%	11,014	4,900	44%
<b>Arrabawn</b>	141	116	82%	11,837	10,085	85%
<b>Connacht</b>	139	49	35%	9,384	3,296	35%
<b>Donegal</b>	32	32	100%	3,732	3,732	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,762</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>449,977</b>	<b>151,729</b>	<b>34%</b>

**Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison**

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 11/09/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 11/09/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
<b>Progressive</b>	178,444	174,779	-2.1%
<b>Dairygold</b>	123,160	115,716	-6.4%
<b>Kerry</b>	78,560	62,155	-26.4%
<b>SWS</b>	61,281	61,360	0.1%
<b>Tipperary</b>	12,960	11,014	-17.7%
<b>Arrabawn</b>	12,739	11,837	-7.6%
<b>Connacht</b>	10,112	9,384	-7.8%
<b>Donegal</b>	4,749	3,732	-27.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>482,005</b>	<b>449,977</b>	<b>-7.1%</b>

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