

## 1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 30th June.** Irish Grassland Assn Beef Meeting.
- ✚ **Wednesday 1st July.** Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting. Moorepark from 10:30 to 14:00.

## 2. Irish Grasslands Assn Sheep Conference – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

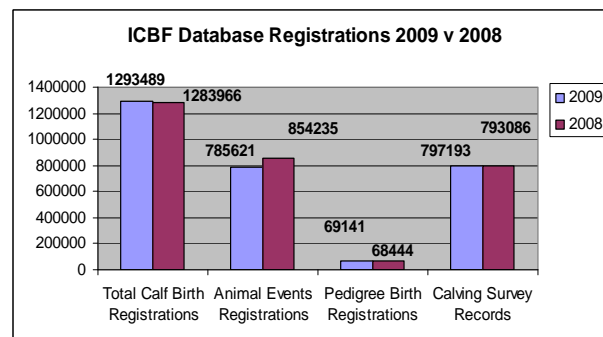
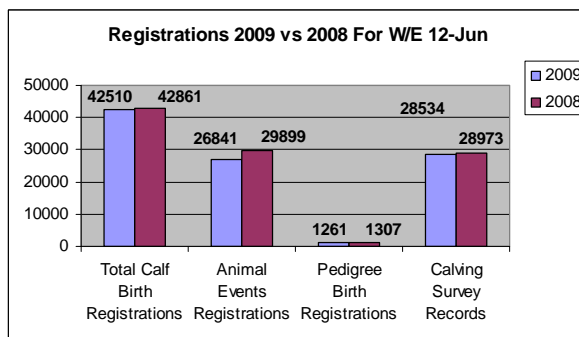
Attached is a short report of this very successful and well attended meeting.

## 3. Tully

- ✚ A third blood sample, to be tested for IBR, was taken from bulls in pre-entry isolation this week. Results from last weeks testing were clear. One more bleed will be carried out next week and if results are favourable the bulls will start their 90 day performance test on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.
- ✚ Concentrate intake was gradually increased this week and hay intake decreased with each bull now receiving 7-8 kg of concentrates and 2 kg dry matter of hay per day. As a result of the higher rate of concentrate feeding some bulls have reached ad-libitum feeding.
- ✚ At the final Spring sale organised by the Irish Cattle Limousin Society a Tully performance tested bull from the previous intake (pictured here) and sired by 'Ronick Iceman' made the top price.

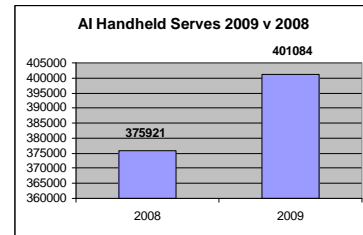


## 4. Database



- ✚ The revised 2009 suckler forms (pre and post weaning) continue to go out to farmers. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 797,000, with just over 702,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has picked up again this week, and some good progress was made with Munster Milk Recording.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is continuing, and will be completed by the end of June.
- ✚ The design of an upgrade to the security of logons to the ICBF site is being finalised and will be developed over the coming weeks.
- ✚ Development on the sheep genetic evaluation extracts has been completed.

- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, it looks like the overall inseminations for the season will be down.



## 5. Genetic Evaluations

- Peter Amer was present at ICBF this week and a review of the beef evaluations was undertaken along with researchers from Teagasc. Good progress has been made on a variety of traits, with data coming from the suckler cow data, carcass cut and calf price data looking promising for inclusion in the routine evaluations in the future. Research in all these areas as well as a revision of the economic values will be conducted over the next weeks & months. Results will be presented to the beef industry in due course.
- We are looking at a revision of the beef sub index of the dairy EBI to partition cull cow value and liveweight. Information on this will be presented at the next dairy industry meeting.

## 6. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 12/06/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 12/06/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 12/06/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 12/06/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 12/06/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,020	808	40%	160,380	62,123	39%
Dairygold	1,477	546	37%	106,315	40,410	38%
Kerry	878	64	7%	57,515	3,653	6%
SWS	851	111	13%	57,024	7,689	13%
Tipperary	130	51	39%	10,115	4,339	43%
Arrabawn	137	113	82%	10,598	8,928	84%
Connacht	124	38	31%	7,665	2,161	28%
Donegal	28	28	100%	3,090	3,090	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,645</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>412,702</b>	<b>132,393</b>	<b>32%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 12/06/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 12/06/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	164,467	160,380	-2.5%
Dairygold	106,979	106,315	-0.6%
Kerry	73,296	57,515	-27.4%
SWS	57,007	57,024	0.0%
Tipperary	11,615	10,115	-14.8%

Arrabawn	11,676	10,598	-10.2%
Connacht	7,660	7,665	0.1%
Donegal	3,179	3,090	-2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>435,879</b>	<b>412,702</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 02/06/09 to 12/06/09.

	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	15	1,010	67	26.2	3.98	3.36	1.92	207
CAVAN	45	2,325	52	25.7	3.65	3.30	1.79	274
CLARE	15	899	60	25.3	3.52	3.23	1.71	441
CORK STH	267	17,710	66	25.0	3.69	3.38	1.77	263
CORK NTH	229	17,436	76	25.9	3.69	3.38	1.83	265
DONEGAL	13	1,258	97	22.7	3.86	3.28	1.62	278
DUBLIN	5	308	62	28.9	3.11	3.34	1.86	249
GALWAY	30	2,052	68	26.4	3.72	3.22	1.83	303
KERRY	137	8,395	61	25.8	3.58	3.22	1.75	355
KILDARE	22	1,677	76	25.5	3.78	3.31	1.81	325
KILKENNY	58	4,559	79	23.3	3.77	3.38	1.67	240
LAOIS	44	3,252	74	22.9	3.97	3.35	1.68	333
LEITRIM	5	201	40	25.4	3.62	3.18	1.73	207
LIMERICK	95	6,289	66	25.3	3.65	3.20	1.73	351
LONGFORD	8	417	52	25.7	3.80	3.27	1.82	293
LOUTH	16	1,800	113	25.2	3.58	3.38	1.75	313
MAYO	36	2,068	57	27.8	3.00	3.34	1.76	428
MEATH	73	8,121	111	22.7	3.85	3.30	1.62	332
MONAGHAN	38	2,055	54	25.9	3.62	3.31	1.79	295
OFFALY	15	963	64	25.0	3.63	3.22	1.71	232
ROSCOMMON	4	199	50	27.3	3.56	3.32	1.88	356
SLIGO	9	500	56	25.5	3.06	3.33	1.63	382
TIPPERARY NTH	38	2,781	73	22.8	3.77	3.35	1.62	295
TIPPERARY STH	78	6,246	80	23.2	3.81	3.38	1.67	279
WATERFORD	56	5,008	89	24.1	3.77	3.41	1.73	289
WESTMEATH	23	1,713	74	24.1	3.86	3.29	1.72	341
WEXFORD	54	4,298	80	24.1	3.77	3.36	1.72	281
WICKLOW E	13	1,162	89	22.7	3.19	3.29	1.47	231
WICKLOW W	10	706	71	22.8	3.74	3.32	1.61	332
	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>National</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>105,408</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>302</b>

**National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 02/06/09 to 12/06/09**

<b>Provincial</b>	<b>No. Herds Recorded</b>	<b>No. Cows Recorded</b>	<b>Average Herd Size</b>	<b>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</b>	<b>Average Fat %</b>	<b>Average Protein %</b>	<b>Average F + P kg</b>	<b>Average SCC</b>
<b>Munster</b>	915	64,764	71	24.7	3.71	3.32	1.73	317
<b>Leinster</b>	356	29,986	84	24.5	3.49	3.32	1.67	285
<b>Connacht</b>	84	5,020	60	26.5	3.60	3.28	1.82	335
<b>Ulster</b>	96	5,638	59	24.8	3.82	3.30	1.76	282

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**IGA Annual Sheep Conference -Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

LambPlus was a sponsor of the Irish Grassland Association (IGA) Annual Sheep Conference held at Horse & Jockey and on the farm of John Renehan near Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny.

A feature of the conference was a demonstration (right) of the systems being used by Sheep Ireland in its LambPlus service to gather data for sheep breeding. Pat Donnellan, project manager for Sheep Ireland, talked about recent developments including;



- + electronic identification,
- + DNA testing for establishing parentage in the MALP flocks,
- + handheld computers used for collecting weight and scanning data from pedigree flocks,
- + handheld computers being developed for use in MALP flocks, and
- + weight recording systems for use in MALP flocks (as demonstrated by Graham Potterton above).

Sheep Ireland launched the Euro-Star profit indexes for sheep breeding at the meeting. Tim Byrne (left) explained the concepts and illustrated the indexes with examples of early results for rams in John's flock. Later, back at Horse & Jockey, Peter Amer went into more detail of the approach Sheep Ireland is taking to developing a breeding program that will produce more profitable sheep for Ireland.

Pearce Kelly (with microphone on right), president of IGA thanked John Renehan (on left in photo to right) for opening his farm to IGA and openly sharing a wide range of factual information about his business. It is at events such as this that farmers and scientists come together to share information and work together to achieve a more profitable sheep industry.

