



Update for period 8th – 13th April 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 25th April, 11:00 – 13:00.** Breeding Information Services Meeting with ICBF Members. Tentatively for Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Wednesday 3rd May, 10:30 – 13:00.** Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, **ICBF Board Meeting.**
- ✚ **Wednesday 3rd May, 15:00 – 16:00.** Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, **ICBF Annual General Meeting.**
- ✚ **Saturday 6th May, Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.
- ✚ **Tuesday 9th May, 10:30 – 16:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation Meeting.**
- ✚ **Tuesday 9th May, 16:00 – 17:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Tully Review Meeting.**

2 Breeding Information Services

A proposal that addresses the concerns of ICBF members has been developed and distributed to all ICBF members today. We look forward to discussing this with member organisations on Tuesday 25th April.

3 Animal Welfare

Francis Kearney participated in a meeting of the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council – Educational Sub-Group and made a presentation on the subject of removing horns through breeding. A copy of Francis' presentation will be put into the publication section of the website.

4 Milk Recording Update

MR Stats week ending 31/03/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 07/04/06 - 13/04/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 07/04/06 - 13/04/06
Progressive	377	207
Dairygold	190	175
SWS	147	145
Kerry	145	146
Connacht	14	0
Tipperary	9	41
Arrabawn	8	13
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	0
Total	890	727

€DIY Milk Recording

During the week Martin Burke and Brian Coughlan (ICBF) had separate meetings with the Dairygold and Progressive Genetics €DIY Technicians to review progress to date, discuss any issues and how we can further improve the current service. Both meetings were of great benefit and will be held on a monthly basis

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Routine pedigree, milk production and fertility performance extracts have been undertaken over the past week for the next dairy evaluation in May. These evaluations will commence in the coming week.



- Comprehensive testing on the new run of beef proofs is continuing. The current intake in Tully will finish on Monday 17th and the final performance data will then be incorporated in a new evaluation. Work on the maternal beef evaluation is also underway.

6 GENEIRLAND®

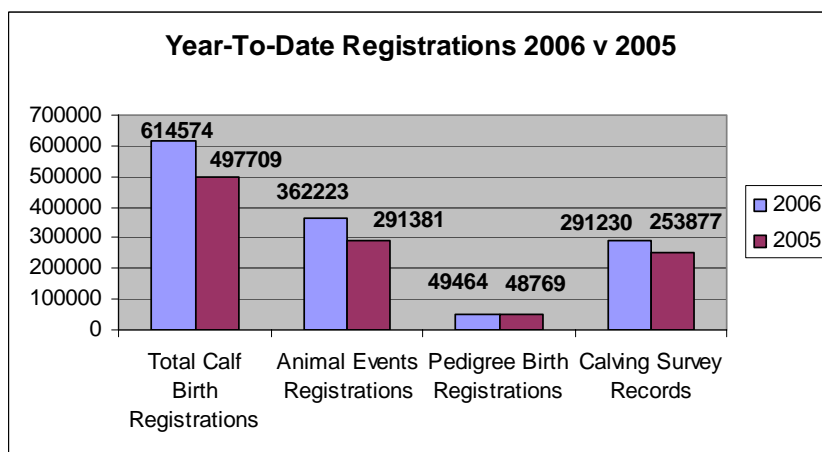
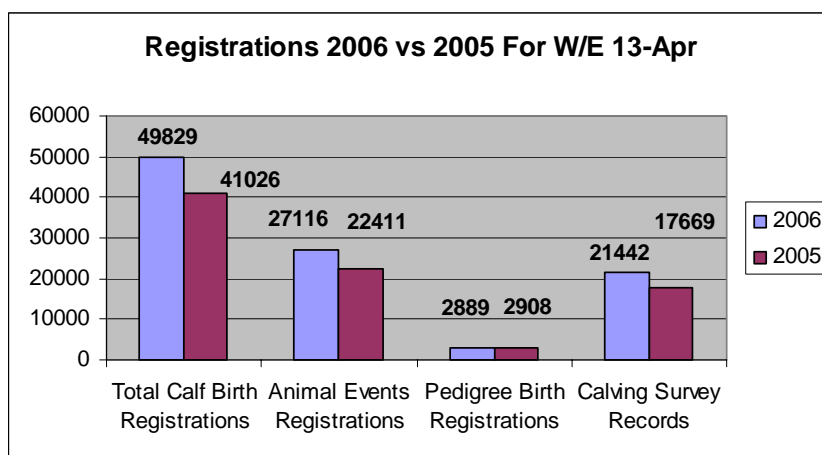
- Inbreeding charts are being compiled for herds involved in the Dairy GENEIRLAND® program and will be distributed next week.
- At this stage 600 straws each from 20 test bulls have been assembled and sent out to herds. Semen from the next 10 bulls is now assembled and its dispatch will commence in the coming week.

7 Tully

- Linear scoring of the bulls for sale on the 6-4-06 took place on Monday and Tuesday. Final BLUP figures will be up on the ICBF web site from the 19-4-06.
- The final weighing of the bulls for sale in May will take place on Tuesday the 18-4-06. Final performance figures and EBI figures will be available from the 25-4-06.
- The TB and Brucellosis test for the May intake of bulls will take place on the 18-4-06.
- Judging of the FBD prize-winners will take place on the 25-4-06.

8 Database Update

- 273 new herds added to the database last week.
- PG, Dovea, and Kerry continue to make progress with using the AI Handhelds. In the region of 10,000 inseminations have now been captured across the 75 handhelds. Data issues continue to cause a few problems, though these issues are reducing daily. Technicians are generally getting more comfortable with the system.
- Development work to support the back end activities of the AI handheld are continuing, including reporting, and billing functions, for PG, Dovea and Kerry.
- All breeding charts have been printed and the distribution to herds will be completed next week.
- The sire advice programme will run this weekend, with





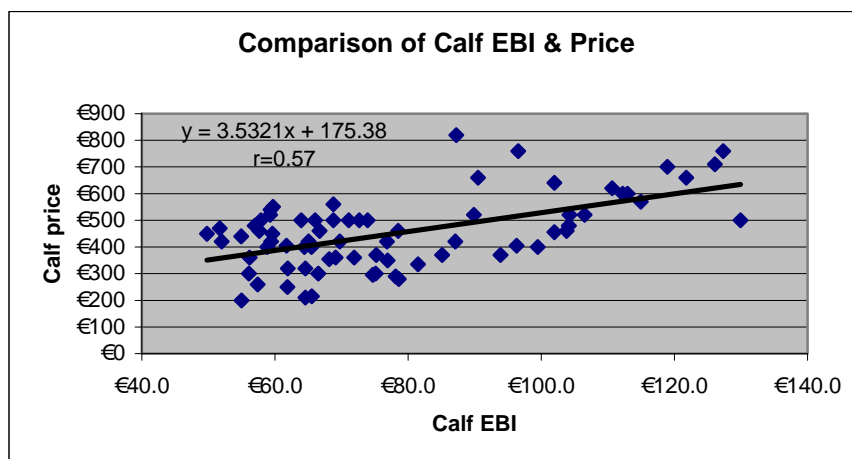
reports being distributed next week.

- ✚ The development of Fertility Reports for the coming AI season is continuing, and it is hoped that next week, the first of those reports will be generated based on data received through the AI handhelds and through on-line and email recording.
- ✚ The finishing touches are being put on the 2005 ICBF Statistics and these will be posted on the ICBF website next week.
- ✚ The issues of network speed have largely been resolved, with Strencom fixing the issue at their end. One of our service providers remains on an ISDN line, but network speed is not causing the issue it was. We will be installing more line capacity in the coming weeks, which should ensure that the types of problems with system speed experienced in recent weeks should not reappear to the extent they had been. There will be times when heavy usage will slow down the system, but this should not be a consistent problem.

9 AI Promotion Mart Events – Nenagh Mart Thursday 6th April

- ✚ The last of the Mart Event was in Dungarvan today with another large group of farmers in attendance.
- ✚ 148 animals were sold across first four events (Nenagh, Ballybay, Bandon & Kilmallock), with an average sale price of €461 for heifer calves, €799 for bulling heifers and a 71% clearance rate. In addition to these higher prices, there was a clear trend of higher EBI animals selling better, with each unit of EBI increase worth some €3.50 in average sale price.

- ✚ Top EBI calves generally made over €600, with lower EBI calves more typically making less than €400. This graph shows the spread of prices relative to EBI for the calves at the first four events.



Results from the first four Mart Event sales.

- ✚ A special thanks to all who helped ensure the success of the Mart Events including – the sponsors Pfizer and Intervet, AI Companies and others who provided Trade Stands, the Marts for providing such great facilities, the many farmers who contributed stock, purchased stock and who are taking a strong interest in breeding more profitable replacements.



First prize winner at Bandon – John Kingston
2nd from left.



Second prize winner at Bandon – Andrew
Kelleher 3rd from left.

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