

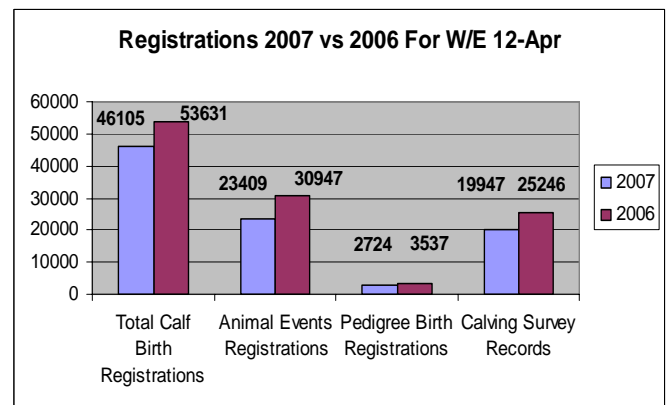
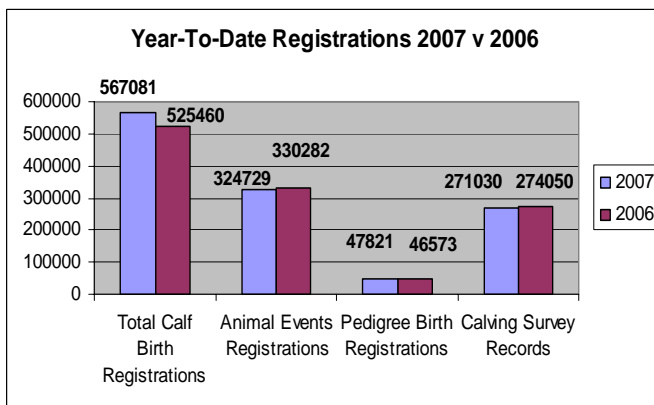


UPDATE – for period 10th – 13th April 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **High EBI Heifer Sales** - Kilkenny 16th April.
- ✚ **Evening Mart Beef Events** - Loughrea Mart, Wednesday 18th April, Manorhamilton Mart Thursday 19th April. Both events will feature the Euro Star beef indexes and GENÉIRÉLAND® beef.
- ✚ **Ballyhaise Open Day** - Thursday 19th April.
- ✚ **ICBF Board meeting** on Thursday 3rd May 2007. Comfort Inn Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Annual General Meeting** on Thursday 3rd May at 2.30pm. Comfort Inn Portlaoise.

2 Database Update



- ✚ 40,642 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 10,204 in 2006 for the same period. The volumes of inseminations being recorded on handhelds is increasing rapidly as the breeding season kicks off in earnest.
- ✚ The use of the Sire Advice program is on-going at the rate of around 100 'Sire Advice runs' per day. A full review of the Sire Advice program, engaging with all stakeholders will take place at the end of the breeding season with a view to agreeing further developments of the Sire Advice solution.
- ✚ The new Herdbook front end was demonstrated to the herd-books this week at the meeting in Dublin. It will be released to all herd-books next week.
- ✚ Some minor refinements to the fertility reports are being made in advance of the peak breeding season. The changes will provide for the exclusion of cows indicated as 'to be culled' from the calculations on the report.
- ✚ Further development on the HerdPlus profiles are being worked on and should be available for release next week, after we have completed the testing of them.

3 Gene Ireland

- ✚ Every aspect of the Dairy Gene Ireland programme is now in full swing.
- ✚ Herds continue to be signed up at a rate of approximately 12 herds per day (a hit rate of 15-20% of all calls made in any one day). The timing is getting more crucial as farmers are starting to AI their cows.
- ✚ Approximately 300 herds have had straws packed and dispatched.
- ✚ Inbreeding reports are constantly being generated and posted along with data on the bulls.



4 Tully

- ✚ A total of 6 bulls were sold from Tully this week.
- ✚ Two bulls will be exported to Northern Ireland on the 14-4-07.
- ✚ Slaughtering of the bulls will take place from the 24-4-07.
- ✚ Queries resulting from the statements issued last week have been dealt with. Cheques will be issued next week.
- ✚ Deadline for written submissions on future of Tully is Friday 20th April. A draft discussion document is available on request for anybody wanting more information before making a written submission. Please contact me directly (bwickham@icbf.com).

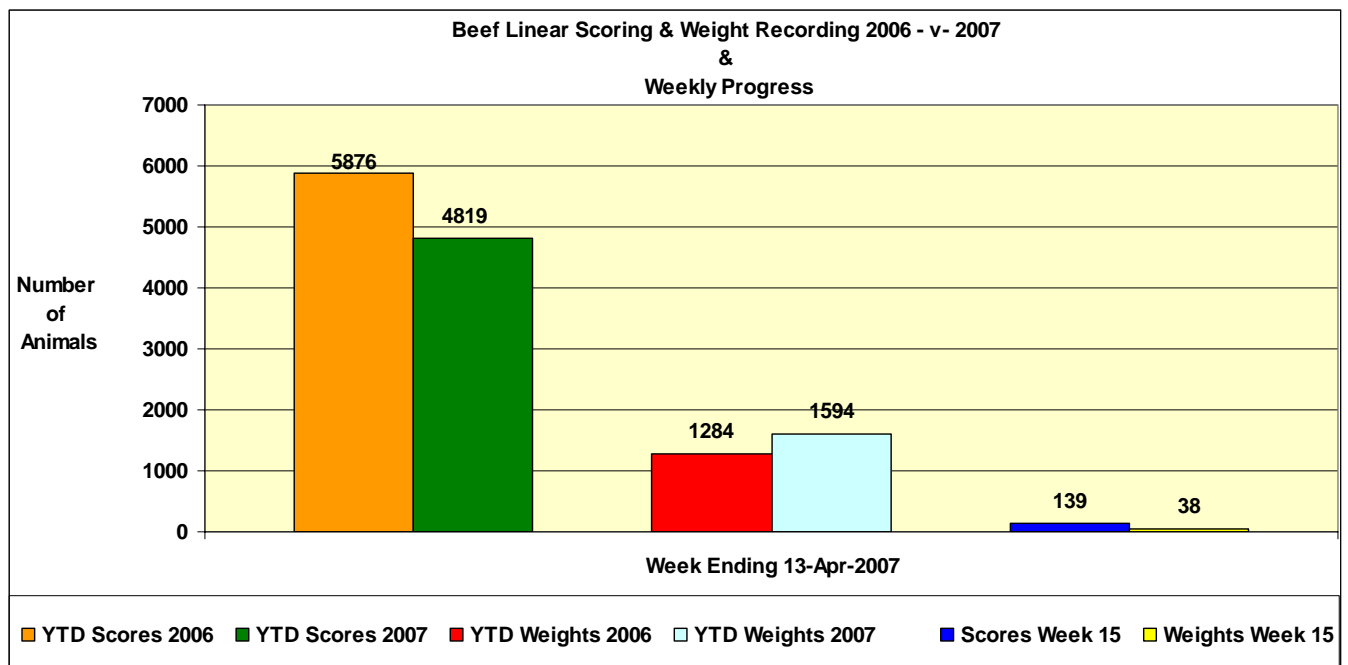
5 International Beef Evaluations

- ✚ Work continues on conversion formulae for Charolais and Limousine from France. This will be implemented on the next beef evaluation.
- ✚ Guidelines for Herd Books to add foreign born animals to the database will be issued later today.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Extractions for the next dairy & beef run are progressing.
- ✚ Staff from the genetic evaluation unit were present at dairy discussion groups this week.
- ✚ On Wednesday a lecture was given to advanced beef students at UCD.
- ✚ ICBF staff are helping UCD to source Limousine cross cows from dairy herds for an upcoming feed conversion efficiency trial.

7 Beef Linear Scoring





8 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 12/04/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 12/04/07
Progressive	102,996	99,121
Dairygold	52,905	54,542
Kerry	39,578	40,567
SWS	38,699	38,637
Tipperary	4,882	3,876
Arrabawn	3,498	4,626
Connacht	4,609	5,001
Donegal	486	504
Total	247,653	246,874

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 05/04/07 - 12/04/07
Progressive	267
Dairygold	190
Kerry	202
SWS	99
Arrabawn	20
Tipperary	16
Connacht	4
Total	798

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