



UPDATE – for period 7th to 13th January 2006

1 Important Dates

- **Thursday 19th January.** Tully review meeting to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.
- **Tuesday 24th January.** Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting starting at 10.30 AM (and finishing at 1.00 PM). Meeting venue will be The Abbeyleix Manor, Agenda is as follows:
 1. *Beef Breeding Programs for Ireland – Theo Meuwissen*
 2. *Beef Genetic Evaluations*
 - a. *Reliability of evaluations – Roel Veerkamp*
 - b. *Maternal proofs – Roel Veerkamp.*
 - c. *Beef performance evaluations – Ross Evans*
 3. *Rolling out new beef indexes – Andrew Cromie*
 4. *International evaluations – Thierry Pabiou.*
 5. *Any other business*
- **25th January – 3rd February.** Below is the summary of dates for the forthcoming “**High Index Herd Health**” Meetings for breeders. The meetings are specifically focused on those high index breeders that are providing bulls into Tully and into AI.

25 Jan 2006	Headfort Arms Hotel, Kells	2.00 PM
26 Jan 2006	Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon	6.30 PM
27 Jan 2006	Kilcoran Lodge, Cahir	2.00 PM
31 Jan 2006	Meadow Court Hotel, Loughrea	6.30 PM
1 Feb 2006	Dolmen Hotel, Carlow	2.00 PM
2 Feb 2006	Munster Arms, Bandon	2.00 PM
3 Feb 2006	Tentatively, Duhallow Lodge, (Venue to be confirmed)	2.00 PM

The agenda for these meetings will be as follows;

- **Introduction – ICBF - Genetic Gain - The role of breeders in providing bulls for Tully & AI.**
- **A background to disease – Simon More & Damien Barrett (CVERA)**
 - *Key principles of how diseases operate in individuals & among groups.*
 - *Specific information [JD, IBR, BVD]*
- **Disease control – Simon More (CVERA) & Doreen Corridan (Dairygold)**
 - *Key principles of disease control on farms.*
 - *Practical preventive steps this spring [JD, IBR, BVD]*
- **Forum discussion**
- **The herd health initiative – Simon More (CVERA)**

All meetings will last approximately 2 hours. In addition, each meeting will be followed by a 1-hour open session explaining the new beef indexes. This **session will be especially focused on the wants and needs of pedigree beef breeders.**

- **Thursday 2nd February.** ICBF Board meeting.
- **Saturday 18th February.** Tully Open Day 11.30am – 2.30pm. *On show will be the bulls for sale on the 4-3-06 and the 6-5-06.*
- **Saturday 4th March Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.
- **Saturday 6th May Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.



2 Genetic Evaluations

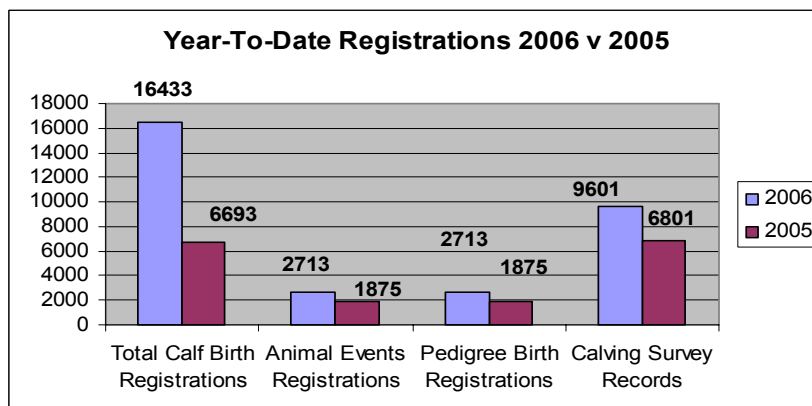
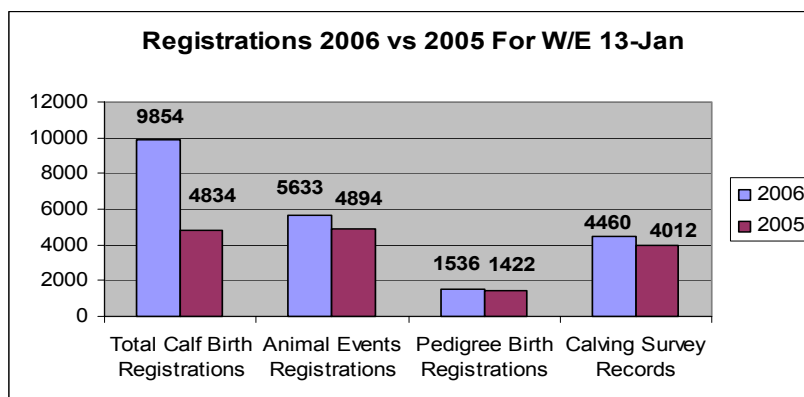
- Work on maternal beef traits, beef linear type, beef reliability, and international beef evaluations, is continuing. This work will be presented at the next beef industry meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 24th January 2006.
- Population statistics for all pedigree Irish beef breeds were compiled. These statistics will be used in the design of optimal beef breeding schemes in Ireland, currently being developed by Theo Meuwissen. This work will be presented at the next beef industry meeting.
- Data extractions for the next routine dairy evaluations are continuing. New evaluations for all traits in the EBI are likely to commence early next week.

3 International beef evaluations

- International genetic evaluation requires a degree of connection between the countries involved. These links can be exchanges of animals, embryos or semen.
- The first step in this process is the creation of a cross reference file where every animal represented in several countries is recorded under an international identification number along with its national identification number in the importing country. Every entry in this cross reference file (called the “501 file”) must be validated by the country of birth and only validated data will be used in the genetic evaluation. The second step is then the building of pedigree file for every animals involved in the international evaluations (the “502 file”).
- Over the last few weeks Thierry Pabiou has been working through this process for three French beef breeds. The 501 file (created in France in November 2005) contains mainly Charolais, Limousin and Blonde d’Aquitaine animals exchanged between France, Ireland and Great Britain. For these three breeds, the contents of the file have been analysed and further corrections made. Animals present in the ICBF database and that were born outside Ireland are in the process of being added to the file.

4 Database Update

- 527 new herds added to the database this week. The major influx is mainly due to Dairygold AI customers signed up.
- The first of the Annual Milk Recording reports were issued this week.
- Continued solid progress has been made with preparations for the roll-out of AI handhelds. The first of the handhelds will be delivered to technicians next week.
- The upgrade of the production database to the next release of Oracle is almost complete, with work having been done over the Christmas period. The work will be completed by the end of





January. It may require us to take the database down for a day, tentatively Monday Jan 23rd, as it will require more than the Saturday and Sunday to complete the task.

- The pilot issue of the Beef EBI reports took place before Christmas, and some feedback from the herd-books has been received, though we are still awaiting the majority of the feedback.
- Programming of the herd-book rule changes have continued this week. Some significant changes are required and it will be the end of January before these are fully completed.
- A copy (sample page attached) of the herd inventory report, to be issued when herds sign on to the database initially, and for anyone requiring a template on which they can update animal details was also completed over the Christmas period. As we further encourage farmers to use text messages to log events, it will be critical that the freeze brands or jumbo number that the farmer knows an animal as, tie up with what is in the database. It is these short numbers that will be used when farmers submit new events for each animal. The events need to be allocated to the correct animals. This report plays an important role in this process.
- Some further updates to the Beef Herd Book sale catalogue were finalised this week.
- The 2006 Animal Events Notebook distribution has continued this week and should be largely completed next week.

5 Tully

- A group of 10 pedigree Charolais breeders from Northern Ireland visited Tully on the 12-1-06.
- The catalogue for the November intake will be up on the ICBF web site on the 19-1-06. This intake will be for sale on the 6-5-06.
- Plans for the March and May sale will be presented at the Tully review meeting on the 19-1-06.
- A group of 24 Agricultural students from Tipperary will visit Tully on the 18-1-06.

6 Milk Recording

Industry Test Turnaround Dec 2005.

- Industry national average for December was **7.4 days, with 2,303 herds processed and 109,766 cows tested.**
- The Organisation with the best turnaround was **SWS**, with an average of **4.5 days**. It is important to keep it under the five day barrier. Well done to all in SWS! Each month every MRO gets an ICBF Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.

Turnaround Year on Year

- 2005 Average Monthly Turnaround was 6.5 days compared with 6.6 days for 2004.
- While we did well to get the national average down to 6 ½ days in 2004, we can see we have flattened out in 2005, with little or no change. For standard recording (recorder based) SWS, Kerry and Dairygold consistently hit 4 to 6 days turnaround in 2005. As more €DIY herds come on board in 2006 we will track and report their turnaround separately.

Annual Herd Summaries

- Milk Recording farmers who have sent in their dry offs were sent their annual herd summaries (AHS) this week (some 1,300 farmers).
- Annual Summary Reports will not be complete or accurate unless Farmers record their “Dry Off” dates. Entering “Dry Off” dates has never been so easy, with 4 options to Record Dry-offs:



1. Post back Dry off Notification Sheets to Animal Events office.
2. Send in via text message.
3. Tick the cows on-line at www.icbf.com
4. Send via email from Farm Software.

- ICBF will be placing notices in the Farmers Journal to encourage farmers to get their dry offs into Animal Events.

Electronic DIY Milk Recording Update

- **Progressive Genetics** – Farmer meeting to launch €DIY Wexford cell was held Jan 11th in Enniscorthy. Teagasc's Neilus Noonan, ICBF's Martin Burke and Progressive Genetics' Laurence Feeney presented on the benefits of Milk Recording and how the electronic DIY system operates. Over 60 Wexford/Glanbia farmers were in attendance – good response and sign ups taken.
- **Tipperary/Arrabawn** – Interviews for Co. Tipperary Technician scheduled for Mon 16th January.

Weekly Processing 13/01/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 06/01/06 - 13/01/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 06/01/05 - 13/01/05
Progressive	380	391
Dairygold	38	40
Kerry	36	53
SWS	67	84
Tipperary	1	1
Connacht	34	26
Arrabawn	5	3
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	0
Total	561	598

Year to Date Stats: up to 13/1/06

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2006 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 1st - Jan 13th	2005 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2006 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 1st - Jan 13th	2005 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	560	2087	9,570	154,992
Dairygold	117	1529	1,353	98,832
Kerry	51	1066	1,120	68,193
SWS	107	939	2,795	56,257
Tipperary	10	142	448	9,412
Connacht	46	110	428	7,359
Arrabawn	8	109	140	7,188
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	57	0	4,837
Total	899	6,039	15,854	407,070



7 UCD Seminar

- ICBF presented a seminar on the State of Cattle Breeding in Ireland at UCD on Wednesday (a copy of the joint presentation can be found in the publications section of the ICBF website). The purpose of the seminar was to update UCD on the progress made in cattle breeding in Ireland in the last few years and to discuss ways of collaborating to achieve better returns for farmers through research, teaching and extension.
- As a result of the seminar ICBF, UCD and TEAGASC will be exploring a number of opportunities in the near future.

[Brian Wickham Ph.D.](#) Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, [Phone office +353 \(0\)23 20222](#), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](#) [Fax office +353 \(0\)23 20229](#) [E-Mail \[bwickham@icbf.com\]\(mailto:bwickham@icbf.com\)](#) ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: [Mary Madden](#). © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.

Dear Herdowner,

Thank you for signing up to ICBF. Enclosed find an inventory of animals that we have loaded to ICBF database from Department of Agriculture database. In order that we can provide you with the best information it is important that we have as much information as possible about the animals in your herd.

Please use the report to add or correct any of the following information

- FreezeBrand or Jumbo tag of the animal.
- Animal sex.
- Lactation number for animals which have calved.
- When the animal last calved.
- Sire of the animal. Please use sire tag or AI code or Herdbook number here.
- Dam of the animal.

Note the animals are orderd by jumbo/freezebrand and then by date of birth.

If you have been able to add any missing data or correct any of the existing data, please return the completed form in the freepost envelope provided. If you have any questions or comments, please call the Animal Events Helpline at 1850-625-626 or email query@icbf.com

Yours truly,

Brian Wickham
Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

Herd Inventory Report

10

Please add any extra information in the box and correct any information which may be incorrect especially sires and dams.

Jumbo/ FB	Animal Tag	Sex	Date of Birth	Lact Num	Last Calved	Dam	Sire	Sire Name
9S	IEQRPR0009S	F	28/02/1997	6	02/04/2004	DMK471208	MAU	GALTEE MARS USNES
	Do not change the tag							
46	DAL258958	F	28/02/1994	7	13/02/2002		MFN	MOUNTFARNA STARMAN
	Do not change the tag							
51	WOA295651	F	30/01/1994	10	19/02/2005			
	Do not change the tag							
53	WOA296413	F	05/02/1994	10	14/05/2005			
	Do not change the tag							
057	IE151531011057	M	20/03/2005			DKL750946	IE241150730368	JEWEL
	Do not change the tag							
63	VJB817793	F	10/02/1994	10	26/02/2005			
	Do not change the tag							
65	DKL748395	F	18/02/1994	9	17/03/2005			
	Do not change the tag							
074	IE151531021074	M	10/05/2005			IE151531040788	IE241150730368	JEWEL
	Do not change the tag							
78W	IEQRPR0078W	F	01/04/1997	7	04/02/2005	DVK522132		
	Do not change the tag							
078	IE151531061078	M	14/05/2005			WOA296413	IE241150730368	JEWEL
	Do not change the tag							
082	IE151531021082	F	08/06/2005			DJL272285	IE241150730368	JEWEL
	Do not change the tag							
083	IE151531031083	F	08/06/2005			DFL703246	IE241150730368	JEWEL
	Do not change the tag							
084	IE151531041084	F	10/06/2005			IE151531080651	IE241150730368	JEWEL
	Do not change the tag							
085	IE151531051085	M	12/06/2005			IE151531050500		
	Do not change the tag							
086	IE151531061086	M	19/06/2005			MTA440903		
	Do not change the tag							
088	IE151592160088	M	16/05/2003			IEGYTY0004P		
	Do not change the tag							
90H	IEQRPR0090H	F	05/03/1997	7	02/02/2005	DAL258982		
	Do not change the tag							
115T	IEQRPR0115T	F	01/02/1998	6	02/02/2005	DFL703771	MAU	GALTEE MARS USNES
	Do not change the tag							
119	IEQRPR0119K	F	09/02/1998	6	04/02/2005	DIK346724	LEW	LISDUFF ELWIND
	Do not change the tag							