

## 1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee** – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 10:30 to 14:00 – Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.
- ✚ **Dairy Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 10:30 to 15:00 – Moorepark.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® & HerdPlus® Dairy Conference** – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy.

## 2. Animal Health Ireland (AHI) Conference on Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

Three hundred and thirty people attended the BVD conference held on Thursday this week. The audience included: dairy and beef farmers, veterinarians, farm advisors, researchers, academics, representatives of the stakeholders in AHI and providers of animal health products & services. This was the first major event for AHI and was focused on BVD.

### Conclusions from the day include:

- BVD is a disease which is having a major impact on the profitability of dairy and beef production in Ireland.
- The knowledge already exists to control and, if desired, to eliminate BVD from Irish dairy and beef herds.
- AHI has created a structure and working collaboration amongst professionals with excellent knowledge of BVD. This has resulted in clear and agreed guidelines for dealing with BVD on Irish dairy and beef farms.
- ICBF's information infrastructure is a key element to ensuring farmers and veterinarians have access to the information required to control BVD.
- The fact that the ICBF database is, in effect, the repository of the farmer's data, means that the information required to control BVD can be fully integrated with all other information about the herd.
- The ICBF database should provide web access to the farmer & veterinarian for bulk sample and individual animal test results and vaccination history.
- A combination of bio-security, testing, elimination of "PI" animals, vaccination and monitoring will result in BVD being controlled.
- Ireland, through the role being played by AHI, now has a unique opportunity to control and eliminate BVD. The key to success is the very special partnership between farmers and the wider industry that AHI is in the process of establishing.
- ICBF's support for AHI is well justified.

This week we launched a web based survey (see below) of dairy and beef farmers. One of the questions asked was:

*“Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement:*

*Improving the health status of my herd is a priority for me”*

The following table is a summary of the responses as at 21:30 on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov:

Response Options	Dairy Farmers	Beef Farmers
Strongly agree	77	43
Agree	39	37
Neutral	4	6
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>87</b>

The message is clear – **herd health is a priority for dairy and beef farmers.**

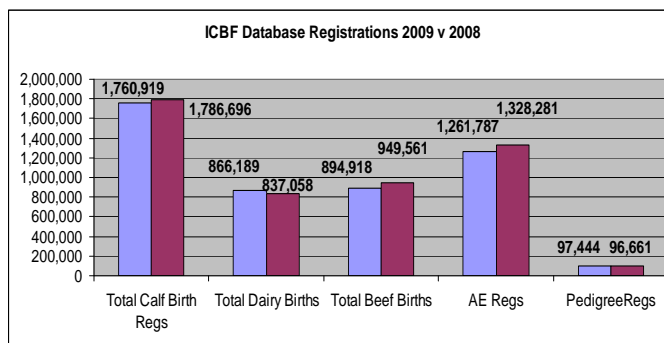
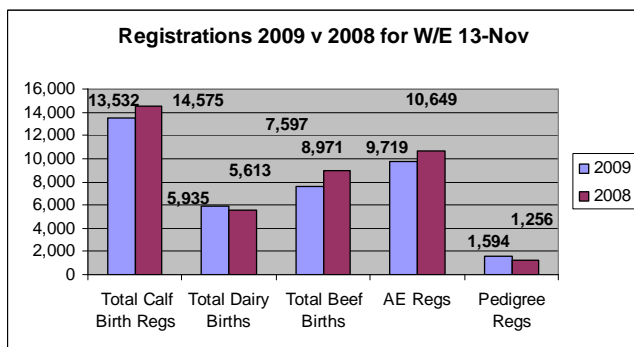
### 3. Customer Survey

On Tuesday this week we launched three confidential web-based surveys targeting some of our key customer groups. The three targeted groups are:

- Advisors & Veterinarians
- Dairy Farmers
- Beef Farmers

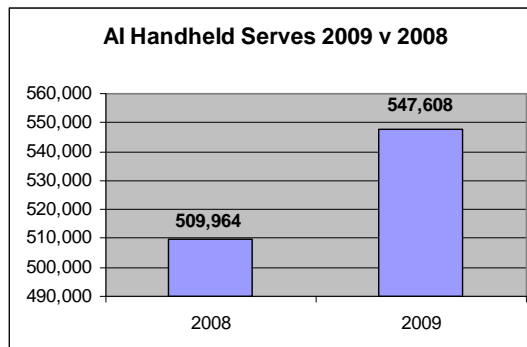
The surveys are focused on the services that ICBF provides to each of these groups and seeks to identify ways in which we can improve the quality of our service. We are using an internet based survey system which eliminates the need for paper and provides very quick results. At the time of writing we have received 373 responses containing many useful suggestions.

### 4. Database



- ✚ All suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 have now received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 472,000, with the number of animals weaned at 238,000.
- ✚ All four milk recording organisations are working well on the new Milk Recording system. We are continuing to update the software based on feedback from the organisations.
- ✚ Final updates to the Taurus application around pedigree cert generation have been completed this week. The Limousin society has been the first to completely disengage from IRIS and use the web application exclusively.
- ✚ Further work has been completed on the Teagasc discussion group reports.

- 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, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, overall inseminations for the season will be down.



## 5. GENÉIRELAND®

### Dairy

- Sign-ups for the Autumn 2009 program are coming in slowly.
- We now have 123 herds partaking.
- Time is fast running out so we would appreciate if everyone could help with a final push to get these numbers up to 150.

### Beef

- Sign ups are going well with 209 herds taking part so far.
- 2 new Tully tested bulls, a BB and a LM, joined the panel this week. See pictures.



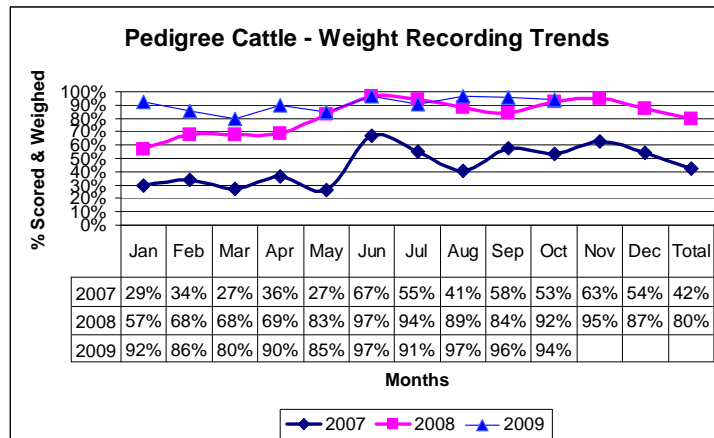
- Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.

BREED	CH	CH	LM	LM	SI	SI	BB	BB	BA	PT	SA	AA	SH	HE
CODE	VHC	CWB	FL29	MBP	HSY	RWV	EVG	SEU	WOA	KCP	BHU	RWB	CZB	AGI
<b>STRAWS</b>	250	550	275	0	15	695	40	535	620	535	195	375	330	120

## 6. Grow

### October Figures

- ✚ The figures for October are again ahead of the figures for the same time last year.
- ✚ It is the 5<sup>th</sup> month in a row that the weighing % for pedigree animals has been over the 90% mark.
- ✚ The weight recording % for Pedigree animals has not dipped under 80% in 2009.
- ✚ The weight recording % for Commercial animals has not gone below 93% for any month this year.
- ✚ To-date in 2009, over 5,000 Commercial & 6,500 Pedigree weanlings have been scored & weighed.



### Total Scored & Weighed Statistics (1<sup>st</sup> Jan - 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2009)

Year	Scored	Weighed
2007	12,380	6370
2008	13843	11,535
2009	12,279	11,616

## 7. Sheep Ireland

- ✚ Testing of the new LambPlus recording screens has begun.
- ✚ The Development & Testing work will result in improvements in the following screens:
  - Inventory
  - Lambing
  - Mating
  - Rearing Status
  - Weighing
- ✚ The CPT (Central Progeny Test) Insemination Data is being loaded to the Database.
- ✚ Presentations are being prepared for upcoming Breed Society & Teagasc information meetings.

## 8. Genetic Evaluations

### Beef

- ✚ Further refinement and testing to the format of the beef catalogue were made this week.

### Dairy

- ✚ During the week Francis Kearney gave a lecture to Agriculture and Veterinary student in UCD on the various aspects involved in dairy cattle breeding, from data collection, to the EBI and genomic selection.

- ✚ Work on the test runs for the new calving interval and survival proofs and the calving performance proofs is underway.

### Sheep

- ✚ Transfer of genetic evaluation to Mix99 continues with two more consecutive steps: all pedigree data are processed in one evaluation, and pedigree and MALP data are processed jointly. The post processing has been done and the breeding value models are currently being tested. Also in preparation are the heterosis and recombination factors that will make this model an across breed evaluation model.

### 9. Tully

- ✚ Bloods taken on-farm by breeders are coming into Tully at a good rate this week, which is very positive. All bloods are being sent to Backweston, Cellbridge, Co. Kildare for analysis. Breeders have until Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of November to take the samples from the listed animals on their farm. A text message is being sent to breeders who have not yet sent bloods to Tully, so as to confirm the final date on-farm health testing can be carried out. All bulls that pass the health testing criteria should be in isolation at Tully by the end of the month.
- ✚ A Tully tested bull from the last intake was junior champion at the recent Limousin Premier sale. Also, a Tully tested bull, again from the last intake made one of the top prices at the Charolais Premier sale, which was held last Saturday in Tullamore. Considering 6 bulls were purchased by AI companies from the last intake and with Tully bulls excelling in the sales ring, this gives great comfort that the process for bulls coming into Tully is working well i.e. identify high index bulls using the Euro-stars and then carrying out a visual inspection on-farm.
- ✚ With power washing and disinfecting of facilities completed, maintenance work is being carried out on the sheds at Tully at present. Work on the off-farm isolation unit, which involves dividing of the larger sheds into smaller pens is near completion.

### 10. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 03/11/09 to 13/11/09.

	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	16	894	56	17.4	4.60	3.73	1.45	349
CAVAN	50	2,322	46	16.3	4.08	3.54	1.24	407
CLARE	23	1,309	57	14.1	3.97	3.51	1.05	336
CORK STH	295	17,516	59	14.8	4.42	3.80	1.22	317
CORK NTH	293	19,509	67	14.0	4.62	3.87	1.19	337
DONEGAL	11	937	85	11.3	4.76	3.86	0.97	388
DUBLIN	3	151	50	21.9	4.53	3.46	1.75	490
GALWAY	18	909	51	15.7	4.43	3.66	1.27	394
KERRY	119	6,669	56	13.9	4.11	3.61	1.07	403
KILDARE	16	957	60	18.8	4.05	3.51	1.42	383
KILKENNY	37	2,242	61	13.6	4.46	3.85	1.13	360
LAOIS	45	2,865	64	12.3	4.53	3.80	1.02	459
LEITRIM	7	297	42	16.8	3.98	3.38	1.24	348
LIMERICK	101	5,897	58	14.3	4.27	3.72	1.14	384
LONGFORD	6	231	39	14.1	4.39	3.58	1.12	486
LOUTH	26	2,070	80	21.2	3.88	3.46	1.56	339
MAYO	41	2,068	50	18.8	3.80	3.60	1.39	387

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MEATH	66	5,644	86	17.7	3.97	3.49	1.32	402
MONAGHAN	37	1,645	44	16.2	4.13	3.49	1.23	388
OFFALY	21	1,322	63	14.2	4.37	3.66	1.14	380
ROSCOMMON	4	346	87	13.2	4.16	3.63	1.03	446
SLIGO	11	455	41	19.0	3.88	3.72	1.44	348
TIPPERARY NTH	30	2,347	78	13.2	4.36	3.82	1.08	398
TIPPERARY STH	38	2,480	65	11.9	4.58	3.88	1.01	433
WATERFORD	38	3,089	81	13.6	4.71	3.92	1.17	324
WESTMEATH	12	644	54	15.4	4.32	3.60	1.22	404
WEXFORD	63	4,311	68	17.3	4.29	3.69	1.38	370
WICKLOW E	25	1,546	62	17.9	3.84	3.53	1.32	332
WICKLOW W	14	820	59	22.6	3.79	3.38	1.62	381
	<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>
National	1,466	91,492	61	15.9	4.25	3.65	1.26	385

**National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 03/11/09 to 13/11/09.**

Provincial	<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>
Munster	937	58,816	63	13.7	4.38	3.77	1.12	367
Leinster	350	23,697	68	17.3	4.23	3.60	1.35	395
Connacht	81	4,075	50	16.7	4.05	3.60	1.28	385
Ulster	98	4,904	50	14.6	4.32	3.63	1.16	394

**National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 13/11/09**

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 13/11/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 13/11/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 13/11/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 13/11/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,082	850	41%	179,529	72,732	41%
Dairygold	1,508	567	38%	117,155	46,262	39%
Kerry	891	66	7%	62,474	4,253	7%
SWS	857	114	13%	61,915	8,945	14%
Tipperary	137	56	41%	11,153	5,012	45%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,891	10,132	85%
Connacht	144	53	37%	9,807	3,586	37%

Donegal	33	33	100%	3,918	3,918	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,793</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>457,842</b>	<b>154,840</b>	<b>34%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 13/11/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 13/11/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	184,461	179,529	-2.7%
Dairygold	126,569	117,155	-8.0%
Kerry	79,366	62,474	-27.0%
SWS	62,700	61,915	-1.3%
Tipperary	13,124	11,153	-17.7%
Arrabawn	12,963	11,891	-9.0%
Connacht	10,586	9,807	-7.9%
Donegal	4,811	3,918	-22.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>494,580</b>	<b>457,842</b>	<b>-8.0%</b>

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