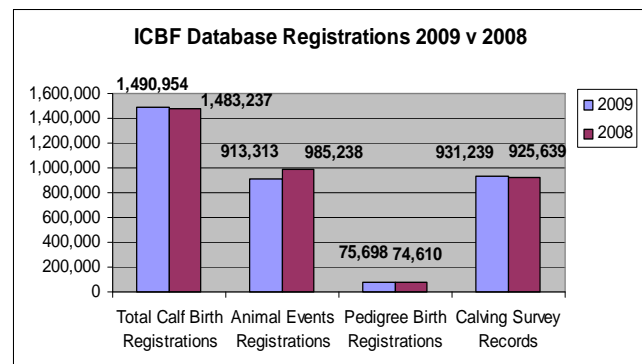
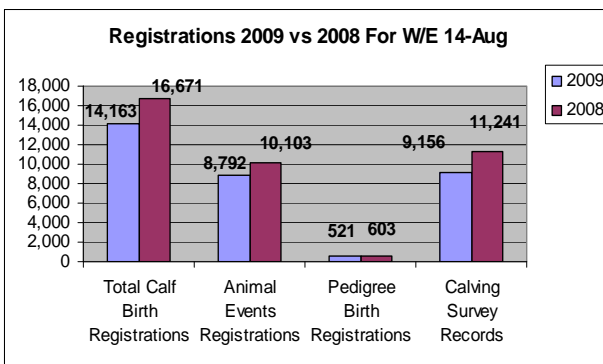


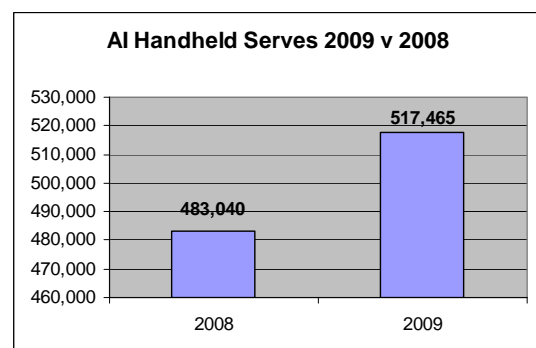
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep Industry Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting** – 14:00 Tuesday 18th August, Maldron Hotel, Port Laoise.
- ✚ **Interbull & Interbeef Meetings** – Fri. to Sun. 21st to 23rd August. In Barcelona before EAAP meeting.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Tuesday 1st September, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- ✚ **EBI €100 Discussion Group Open Day** – Tuesday 8th September, Paddy O’Leary’s Farm, Conna, Co. Cork. This open day is being hosted by the Blackwater Discussion group and features the herd with the highest EBI in Ireland. This herd has bred many GENEIRLAND® bulls in the last few years. **Every farmer and breeder with an interest in the direction of Irish cattle breeding should make the effort to attend this very important event.**
- ✚ **ICBF & Sheep Ireland Board Meetings** – Thursday 17th September, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Tully Open Day** – Saturday 10th October, Tully, Co. Kildare.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Dairy Conference** – Thursday 29th October, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac, Co. Cork.

2. Database



- ✚ The 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 861,000, with just over 733,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Testing has continued this week, and most of the modules are now completed. Testing within the milk recording organisations has begun this week.
- ✚ In conjunction with the finalisation of the milk recording solution, a number of other developments are taking place that will allow the migration of all users to a completely web-based front end, and the removal of the need for the Wide Area Network (WAN). The herdbooks will be the first to move off the WAN, before the end of August.
- ✚ Work has begun on the new Stock Reports.
- ✚ Design of a new on-line application for AI companies to manage their interaction with ICBF on bull codes is continuing. We expect this to be live at the end of



September.

- The graph above 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 number of technician inseminations for the season will be down.

3. Tully

- The third live-weight on all bulls was obtained on Monday, 10th of August (Table 1). There are still two more live-weights to be obtained. Therefore, the 90 day performance test will finish on 22nd of September 09.

Table 1. Performance data of bulls averaged by breed

Breed	AA (n = 14)	BB (n = 3)	CH (n = 8)	LM (n = 7)	PT (n = 1)	SA (n = 1)	SI (n = 5)	SH (n = 1)	HE (n = 2)
Average Live-weight (Kg)	519	470	568	546	437	406	581	516	514
Average Daily Gain (Kg) ¹	2.49	1.87	2.58	2.48	1.90	1.81	2.60	2.48	2.67

¹ Averaged over a 21 day period

- Bull owners and Breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, of the performance of bull to date.
- All feed intake data along with recent live-weight figures have being inputted into the ICBF database.
- All bulls were treated for lice this week and received a mineral supplement where it was deemed necessary.

4. Genetic Dairy & Beef Evaluations

- The domestic milk and fertility evaluations have been completed at this stage. The beef and calving evaluations are in progress.
- Genetic parameter estimation work on an across breed linear evaluation for beef breed has been completed and these parameters will now be incorporated into an evaluation over the coming weeks.

5. Sheep Ireland - LambPlus

Suffolk Sale

- The Irish Suffolk Sheep Society held their Premier sale in Rocscrea Livestock Mart on Saturday the 8th of August last.
- Lambplus Breeders that sold sheep on the day & examples of some of the Show results & Sale prices received for Euro-Star Indexed sheep:



Prize Winners

- Ewe Lambs:** Lot 12 received 2nd prize (5* for 'Overall Sheep Value) - owned by Susan O'Keefe, Annakisha, Mallow, Co.Cork.
- Lot 18 came 4th (5* Overall Sheep Value). Lot 19 came 6th (5* Production) – both owned by Aidan Collins, Rossroe, Sixmilebridge, Co.Clare
- Shearling Ram:** Lots 27 and 28 received 1st & 2nd prize – owned by Pj McGonagle, Raphoe, Lifford, Co.Donegal & Susan O'Keefe, Annakisha, Mallow, Co.Cork.
- Novice Ram Lamb:** Lot 52 (4* Overall Sheep Value) received second prize – owned by Niall Walsh, Errill, Portlaoise, Co.Laois. He was later sold for €10,500
- Performance Recorded Class:** Lot 123 came 1st. He later went unsold for €1800.

- Lot 125 (4* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €120. Both were owned by Arthur O'Keefe, Annakisha, Mallow, Co.Cork.
- **Open Ram Lamb:** Lot 92 (5* Overall Sheep Value) received 2nd Prize. Lot 98 (5* Overall Sheep Value) and 92 (5* Overall Sheep Value) came 7th and 8th for Susan O'Keefe, Annakisha, Mallow, Co.Cork.

Sale Prices

Ewe Lambs

- Aidan Collins, Rossroe, Sixmilebridge, Co.Clare:
Lot 18 (5* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €740.
Lot 19 (5* Production) sold for €600.
- John Hanley, Horse & Jockey, Thurles, Co.Tipperary:
Lot 22 (4* Production) sold for €380.
- Michael O'Connell, Doora, Ennis Co.Clare:
Lot 24 (4* production) sold for €300.

Ram Lambs

- Patrick O'Keefe, Annakisha, Mallow, Co.Cork:
Lot 34 (5* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €500.
- Michael O'Connell, Doora, Ennis, Co.Clare:
Lot 35 (4* Production) sold for €460.
- Arthur O'Keefe, Annakisha, Mallow, Co.Cork:
Lot 42 (5* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €700.
Lot 44 (4* Production) sold for €660.
- Niall Walsh, Errill, Portlaoise, Co.Laois:
Lot 52 (4* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €10,500.
- John Hanley, Horse & Jockey, Thurles, Co.Tipperary:
Lot 54 (4* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €720.
Lot 55 (5* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €660.
Lot 56 (4* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €320.
Lot 57 (5* Production) sold for €600.
- Michael Gottstein, Dungeel, Killorglin, Co.Kerry:
Lot 61 (5* Overall Sheep Value) sold for €580.

Lambplus

- ✚ Positive Feedback has been received about the lists of Rams published on the Sheep Ireland Website with Breeders receiving phone calls of interest about their Rams.
- ✚ Evaluations for females are now being generated and released.
- ✚ A meeting to give an update on the evaluations as well as receive feedback on how they have been received will be held in the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, next Tuesday 18th August at 2pm.

MALP Flocks

- ✚ The compilation of MALP files for the evaluation system is nearing completion. This involves linking all of the weight data recorded to-date with the DNA Parentage data received from the Labs.
- ✚ Once this work is done it will be put through a Genetic Evaluation run.

CPT Flocks

- ✚ Strong interest has been shown by Flockowners in the CPT Scheme.
- ✚ Over 10 applications have been received.
- ✚ The selection of the CPT flocks will begin over the coming week.

6. HerdPlus

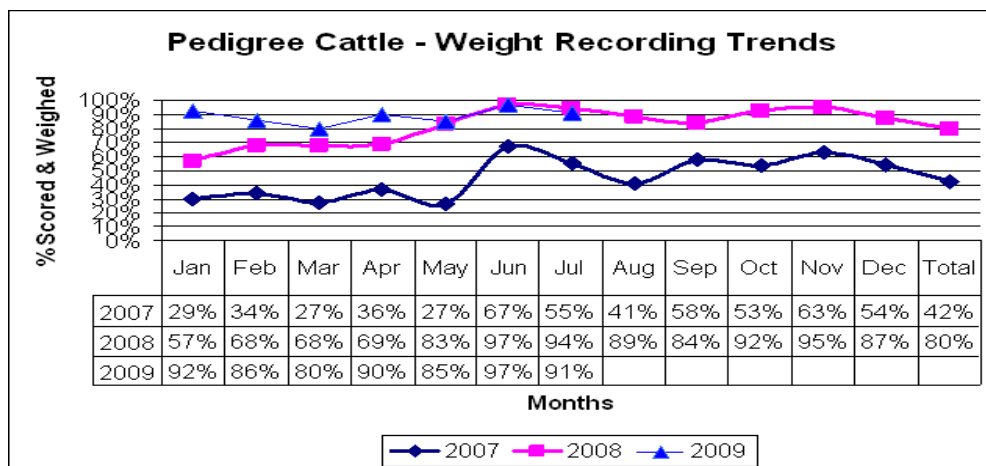
- ✚ HerdPlus had a display at the Tullamore show. Handouts & Sign-Up forms were available.
- ✚ An Aberdeen Angus Breeder who is also a strong supporter of HerdPlus – John Mc’Enroe, Liss, Oldcastle Co.Meath also displayed a ‘Suckler Cow Report’ page for one of his cows ‘Liss Miylo B434’. She has excellent Euro-Star ratings combined with excellent progeny performance which is reflected on the Report page.
- ✚ See Example Page - attached.

7. Grow

Pedigree Cattle

- ✚ The percentage of Pedigree Cattle Scored that are also weighed has maintained its high level (over 90%).

- ✚ The vast majority of Scoring data that was being collected prior to the new GROW Service getting started in

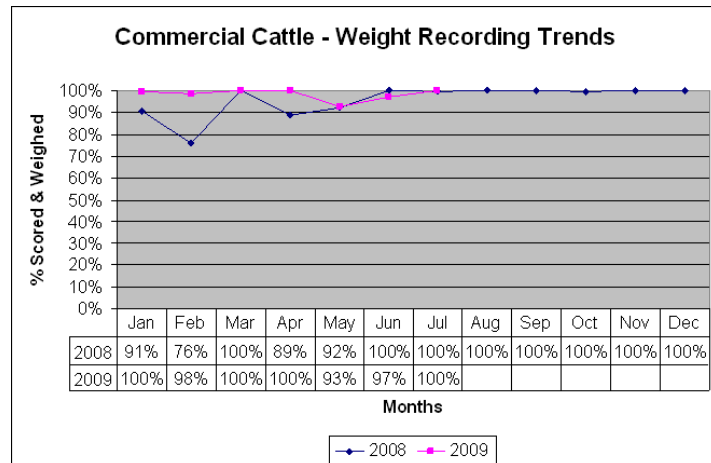


January 2008 was not used in genetic evaluations as it fell down on one or all of the criteria for inclusion in the evaluations (Weighed, 150-300 days old, in a group of at least 5).

- ✚ In order to rectify this and increase the quality of data being recorded as well as ensuring that those Breeders that did Score & Weigh were getting value for the expense & effort involved the Scoring service was revamped and renamed GROW.
- ✚ 3 rules were communicated to all Breeders:
 1. Weight record
 2. 150-300 days old
 3. In a group of at least 5
- ✚ The number of Pedigree Cattle being scored has fallen from last year however this was not unexpected as a portion of the Breeders found it difficult to comply with the new GROW rules. The Downturn in Beef prices & General Recession effects have also put Breeders off the extra expense of Scoring.

Commercial Cattle

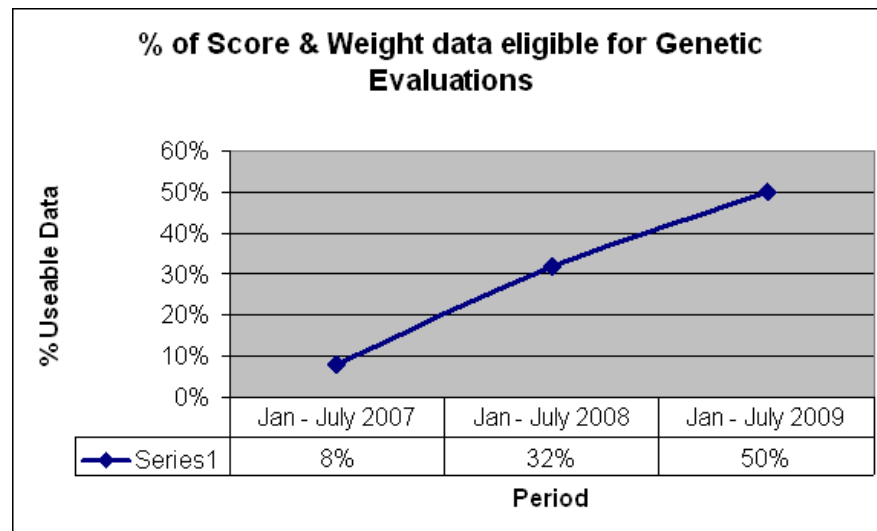
- # The number of Commercial Cattle Scored & Weighed has also increased over the last 3 years.
- # The percentage of Commercial animals being scored & weighed has also improved from last year.
- # This is mainly due to:
 - Pedigree Breeders including Commercial cattle in order to make up the group of 5.
 - GENIreland Progeny Test Herds



Overall

- # The GROW Service has had a positive impact on the amount of score & weight data collected on-farm that can be used in Genetic Evaluations.
- # This is shown by the following graph which illustrates the increase in the quality of data recorded since the GROW Scheme has been launched. It also shows how much more room for improvement still exists in this area.

- # Increasing the number of Pedigree & Commercial farmers getting their cattle scored & weighed will be a priority going forward.
- # The new GROW report which has been sent out to 20 Suckler farmers on a trial basis has been well received with improvements being suggested.
- # The new Across Breed Linear Evaluations will be released in September.



- # The new Sales Catalogue page that is being developed will reward those that have scored & weighed and will act as an incentive to encourage others to do the same.



ICBF Display at the Tullamore Show.



John Mc Enroe preparing his cattle in front of a board showing the page in his Herdplus Suckler Cow Report for the cow on the right.



Lambplus Boards on display at the Tullamore show.



The Irish Charollais Society displayed a 'Star' on any sheep at their sale last week that had Euro-Star evaluations.



Martin Kerrigan & Sam Mathews using the Pratley to put EID tags into lambs on the farm of Joe Scahill near Croagh Patrick.



Stephen Potterton explaining the Euro-Star system to visitors to the Sheep Ireland stand at the Tullamore show.



Sheep Ireland stand at Tullamore Show.



Sheep Ireland Stand at Tullamore Show.

8. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 14/08/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 14/08/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 14/08/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 14/08/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 14/08/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,059	835	41%	173,088	69,914	40%
Dairygold	1,499	559	37%	114,968	45,091	39%
Kerry	888	66	7%	61,716	4,198	7%
SWS	856	114	13%	60,970	8,761	14%
Tipperary	135	55	41%	10,989	4,890	44%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,791	10,012	85%
Connacht	136	47	35%	9,024	3,056	34%
Donegal	32	32	100%	3,670	3,670	100%
Total	5,746	1,824	32%	446,216	149,592	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 14/08/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 14/08/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	176,291	173,088	-1.9%
Dairygold	120,519	114,968	-4.8%
Kerry	78,164	61,716	-26.7%
SWS	60,919	60,970	0.1%
Tipperary	12,886	10,989	-17.3%
Arrabawn	12,595	11,791	-6.8%
Connacht	9,346	9,024	-3.6%
Donegal	4,620	3,670	-25.9%
Total	475,340	446,216	-6.5%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 04/08/09 to 14/08/09.

	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	12	864	72	21.8	3.74	3.30	1.53	445
CAVAN	34	1,863	55	20.2	3.81	3.33	1.44	377
CLARE	25	1,451	58	20.0	3.59	3.31	1.38	242
CORK STH	213	13,277	62	19.9	3.94	3.46	1.47	295
CORK NTH	205	14,562	71	19.8	3.98	3.50	1.48	306
DONEGAL	7	525	75	20.8	3.74	3.33	1.47	283
DUBLIN	1	44	44	32.6	2.88	3.31	2.02	264
GALWAY	23	1,511	66	20.5	3.86	3.39	1.49	254
KERRY	100	6,023	60	20.5	3.72	3.33	1.45	300
KILDARE	17	1,473	87	17.3	3.95	3.41	1.27	308
KILKENNY	41	3,179	78	17.7	3.95	3.50	1.32	328
LAOIS	32	2,524	79	16.7	4.37	3.48	1.31	378
LEITRIM	5	228	46	25.5	3.53	3.23	1.72	357
LIMERICK	83	5,506	66	21.8	3.73	3.38	1.55	311
LONGFORD	8	393	49	21.4	3.57	3.26	1.46	315
LOUTH	21	1,825	87	20.3	3.64	3.36	1.42	339
MAYO	10	585	59	21.6	3.47	3.41	1.49	244
MEATH	61	5,200	85	19.9	3.77	3.42	1.43	429
MONAGHAN	39	2,110	54	20.7	3.82	3.32	1.48	373
OFFALY	21	1,414	67	19.5	3.85	3.40	1.41	332
ROSCOMMON	6	409	68	23.7	3.64	3.33	1.65	326
SLIGO	3	174	58	20.8	3.25	3.49	1.40	383
TIPPERARY NTH	28	1,791	64	20.0	3.77	3.44	1.44	356
TIPPERARY STH	58	4,320	74	19.3	3.87	3.41	1.41	293
WATERFORD	57	4,915	86	18.6	4.17	3.59	1.44	336
WESTMEATH	17	1,085	64	20.2	3.80	3.39	1.45	320
WEXFORD	46	3,405	74	18.7	3.99	3.50	1.40	336
WICKLOW E	17	1,383	81	18.4	3.57	3.41	1.28	322
WICKLOW W	8	564	71	23.8	3.79	3.38	1.71	277
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
National	1,198	82,603	68	20.8	3.75	3.39	1.48	325

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 04/08/09 to 14/08/09.

Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	769	51,845	67	20.0	3.80	3.43	1.44	305
Leinster	302	23,353	77	20.6	3.54	3.39	1.43	338
Connacht	47	2,907	62	22.4	3.78	3.37	1.60	313
Ulster	80	4,498	56	20.6	4.13	3.33	1.53	344

Page from Suckler Cow Report for Herdplus Farmer – John Mc’Enroe, Liss, Oldcastle, Co.Meath

Animal Details			Ancestry Details				Euro-Star Index				
Jumbo: 434			Sire's Sire:	812009		Within Breed		Index	Rel%	Across Breed	
Official Tag: IE281074250434				STEVENSON ROYCE 741C		★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value	€98	34%	★★	
Animal Name: LISS MIYLO B434			Sire's Dam:	KFA9Y		Beef Value					
Date of Birth: 12/04/2002				KNIGHTS BLACKBIRD 9Y		★★★★★	Calving Traits	€10	29%	★★★★★	
Breed: AA (100%)			Sire:	S414		★★★★★	Weanling Export	€47	40%	★	
Herdbook:				GIGGINSTOWN ROLLS ROYCE E.T.		★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€34	39%	★★	
Scored:			Dam:	BJA755783		Replacement Value					
Weighed:				MIYLO OF LISS		★	Milk & Fertility	€93	15%	★★★★★	
BLUP Index			Dam's Sire:	IBBD414		★★★★★	Calf Quality	€174	40%	★★	
MUSCLE	SKELETAL	DOCILITY		CARTRON-ROE DAVID		Other Key Traits					
			Dam's Dam:	MQUG22							
				MAYLONG OF LISS							

Calving & Fertility Performance										Weanling & Carcass Performance								
Calving Date	Tag Number	Calving Survey	Calving Interval	Sex	Current Status	Sire	Sire Breed	Age days	Weight Kgs	Growth Kg/Day*	Loin (1-15)	Hind Quarter (1-15)	Calf Quality	Docility	Age at Slaught. (months)	Carcass Conf. & Fat	Carcass Weight	
1	16/05/2004	IE281074250599			F	In herd	CA)28	AA										
2	06/05/2005	IE281074230688	Normal	354	F	In herd	S257	AA										
3	28/10/2006	IE281074260798		539	M	Sold	RAW	AA	364	520	1.32	9	9		V.Quiet			
4	03/09/2007	IE281074250863		ET	F	Sold	RAW	AA	301	400	1.2	11	10		V.Quiet			
5	12/11/2007	IE281074290875	Normal	379	F	In herd	F150	AA	308	295	0.85	8	8		V.Quiet			
6	07/06/2008	IE281074260939		ET	M	In herd	RAW	AA	305	290	0.97	9	10		V.Quiet			
6	07/06/2008	IE281074250938		ET	F	In herd	RAW	AA	305	230	1.03	11	10		V.Quiet			
6	07/06/2008	IE281074240937		ET	F	In herd	RAW	AA	305	250	1.14	11	10		V.Quiet			
7	20/12/2008	IE281074260971	Normal	403	M	In herd	F150	AA										

* Birthweight of 40kgs is assumed and is added to the Weaning Weight when calculating Growth Kg/day.

**Docility - If animal is Linear Scored then this value is printed instead of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme value.