



## Update for period 8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> July 2006

### 1 Important Dates

- **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July**, 10:30 – 13:00. Tully & Beef Linear Scoring Review Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. **Please note time.**
- **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July**, 14:00 – 15:00. Meeting of with ICBF Herd Book Members to discuss charges and services.
- **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**, 10.30-1.00pm, **Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting**, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. **Please note change of date – previously 20<sup>th</sup> July.**
- **September 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Ploughing.** The new breeding information service will be the main focus of the ICBF stand.

### 2 Beef Breeding Scheme and Data Review meeting, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

- A meeting to discuss developments in beef breeding programs for Ireland took place in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Some 40 people attended the meeting from a cross section of the beef industry.
- **Key actions from the meeting were as follows:**
  1. **Developments in beef progeny test proposition.** There was strong support from the meeting for the beef progeny test proposition. It was agreed that the proposition would be updated based on feed-back from the meeting and then forwarded to all relevant industry organisations for their comment. At the same time, the submission would be forwarded to DAF for their initial feed-back. Based on feed-back from the industry and DAF, a final submission would be presented to the ICBF board for their approval, before formal submission to DAF in mid-September. In developing & updating the beef progeny test proposition, the meeting was asked to consider four key questions, relating to the proposition. Listed are the main issues identified.
    - i. **How do we ensure that the best bulls are entered into the program?**
      - Must be excellent incentives for breeder:
        - Avoid increasing Tully charge (in interim).
        - Consider semen royalties (for breeder).
        - Consider cash awards for “top bulls” as program progresses, e.g., calving, weaning, slaughter, maternal & overall.
      - Ensure that all organisations are involved in the bull selection process.
      - Ensure an open program with the flexibility to bring in bulls based on “on-farm” test and/or performance abroad.
    - ii. **How do we ensure that commercial farmers will get involved in the program (as progeny test herds)?**
      - Ensure a low cost & attractive package for farmers (cash incentives, regional co-ordinator & high genetic merit semen).
      - Provide farmers with a range of options including a “complete package”, i.e., semen, synchronisation program, technician service & scan.
      - Expand target range of herds to include; (i) smaller beef herds, and (ii) dairy herds (both these groups of herds should be allowed to “trade-on” program animals with their incentives included).
    - iii. **How do we ensure that sufficient “elite-progeny test” bulls are available for commercial AI?**
      - Ensure attractive & flexible packages between AI organisation & breeder. For example:
        - AI involved at an early stage of program (e.g., planned matings & elite bull calves).
        - Provide semen royalty (commission) packages for breeders/owners.
        - Facilitate sale of bulls outside of Tully sale (i.e., between breeder & AI station).
      - Consider establishing a “contract lay-off” facility as part of the program.
      - Consider “export levy” (cash or semen) to cover the progeny test cost of bulls leaving Ireland.
    - iv. **How do we ensure the long-term sustainability of the program?**
      - Program must deliver more profit for Irish beef farmers (higher genetic merit stock bulls & increased AI usage).
      - Program must deliver increased export opportunities for breeders & AI industry (embryos, semen & live animals).
      - Program should look to establish medium-long term DAF & EU support (i.e., 8-10 years as opposed to 5-6).

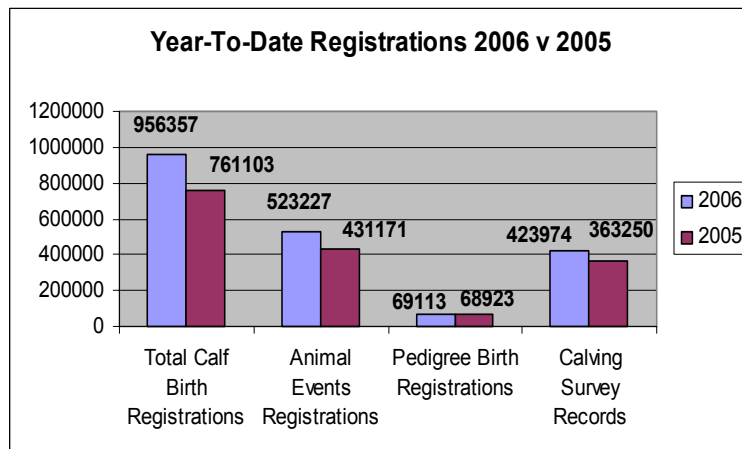
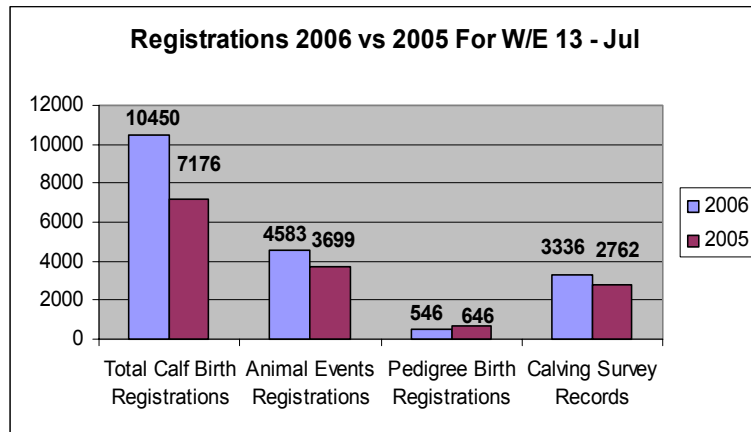


2. *Default permission & changes to "white cards"*. ICBF should consider including a second component to the default permission (for making information available to ICBF for research and genetic evaluations), that is that farmers could make their information available to all organisations for cattle breeding purposes.
3. *Efficiency of progeny testing*. ICBF should liaise with DAF & AI organisations regarding the number of straws released per bull. This figure should then be correlated with number of births and number of records with calving performance and carcass data for progeny test sires.

End. Andrew Cromie. 14<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

### 3 Database Update

- 21 new herds added to the database last week.
- The 125,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds. At peak season, we were getting around 2000 inseminations per day from handhelds, now its down to around 750.
- Dairygold will go live with AI handhelds next week with the first group of technicians.
- The list of updates to the AI handhelds has been finalised, and work has begun on them.
- The extraction process for the next dairy genetic evaluation run will be completed this weekend.
- Work to update the ICBF.com website continued this week. It is intended that an updated look to the site will be applied at the end of July.



- Web development work continues with a focus this week on designing the authorisations around the new breeding information service.



#### 4 Milk Recording Update

##### Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 14/07/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 14/07/06	Year on Year Herds Difference (%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 14/07/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 14/07/06	Year on Year Cows Difference (%)
Progressive	2,037	2,073	2%	142,929	149,243	4%
Dairygold	1,516	1,540	2%	93,786	99,888	7%*
Kerry	1,064	1,073	1%	65,529	68,144	4%
SWS	934	954	2%	53,089	57,066	7%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,101	11,514	27%*
Arrabawn	107	157	47%	6,772	10,640	57%*
Connacht	110	132	20%	7,090	8,353	18%
Donegal	32	56	75%	3,190	4,861	52%*
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>6,153</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>381,486</b>	<b>409,709</b>	<b>7%</b>

\* For these Co-ops increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

##### Milk Recording Stats week ending 07/07/06

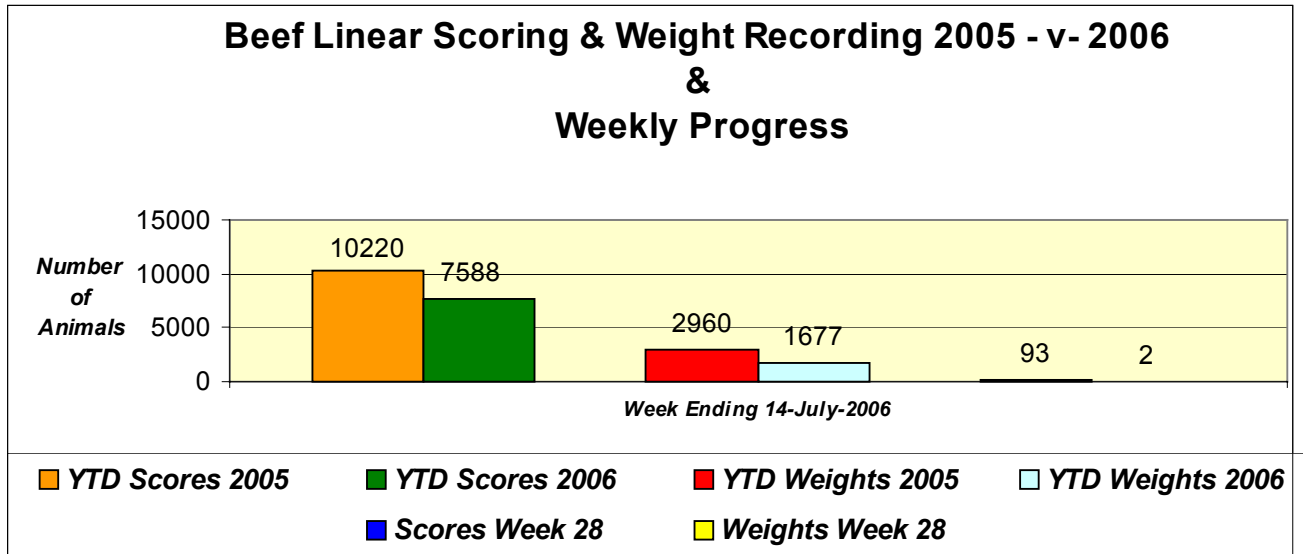
Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 07/07/06 - 14/07/06
Progressive	463
Kerry	257
Dairygold	211
SWS	171
Connacht	34
Arrabawn	26
Tipperary	12
Donegal	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,177</b>

#### 5 Tully

- Applications for the next intake to Tully will be sent out to breeders on the 24-7-06. All breed Societies will receive a list of bulls that will be targeted for this intake on the 17-7-06.
- A meeting was held with the Department of Agriculture to review the health testing procedures for entry to Tully on the 13-7-06. An update will be given at the Tully meeting on the 20-7-06.
- A group of suckler farmers from Fermanagh will visit on the 21-7-06.



## 6 Beef Linear Scoring



## 7 GENE IRELAND® Update

All 615 GENE IRELAND® herds have been written to this week. The key messages included:

### Spring AI 2006

This spring saw 45 young bulls being tested across 487 herds. In general herd recruitment and semen dispatch went smoothly, with a few exceptions associated with collecting semen from some of the test bulls. With bull calves now being purchased at a younger age and reared at a central unit these problems should be eliminated in the future.

### Calving Performance Evaluations

Work is currently underway on the next round of calving performance evaluations. We are hoping to have these figures available in August, which will include the first genetic evaluations on GENE IRELAND® young bulls (Spring 2005 test bulls). These results will be published on the ICBF website for those wishing to follow the progress of the GENE IRELAND® bulls.

### Insemination Recording

It is essential that ALL inseminations are recorded on the ICBF database. This information is required when calculating calving performance evaluations. Insemination dates can be returned to ICBF via:

- i) Online recording through the ICBF website
- ii) Farm Computer Packages
- iii) AI handhelds
- iv) Animal Events Sheets

The new “Online Recording” system was recently launched at the Kildalton Open Day. It is a new service available on the ICBF website, which allows farmers to view reports associated with their herd (i.e. EBI report) and gives them control over recording Animal Events.



### Sire Codes

Errors have been identified in the Sire Codes that have been recorded. Accurate record keeping is a key component of a Progeny Testing herd so please ensure all data is recorded correctly and is legible. Use the new “Online Recording” system, to help reduce the occurrence of keying errors associated with handwritten documents.

### DNA Testing

To establish a level of accuracy in the data that ICBF is receiving, it is intended that random DNA testing will be carried out on the progeny of test bulls. The procedure for this is currently being defined and further details will be available shortly.

### Website

The GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> section on the ICBF website is currently being revamped. It will give a more detailed description of the overall programme, including the bull acquisition process and what is involved in being a Progeny Test herd.

## 8 Genetic Evaluations - Beef

- Transfer of genetic evaluation systems for calving performance and beef from ID Lelystad to ICBF is continuing.
- A review of beef linear scoring and genetic evaluations is currently being undertaken. This work will be presented at next weeks beef industry meeting (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July) on Tully & linear scoring.
- Work on the identification of top25% young bulls (by breed) has been completed. These lists are now being used to identify potential bulls for the next Tully intake.

## 9 Genetic Evaluations - Dairy

- Preparation for the next genetic evaluation run (dairy traits) is continuing.

## 10 ICBF Website – On-line Recording

The ICBF website is now supporting on-line recording of a range of animal events. The following is a copy of the instructions for using this service. Farmers are being encouraged to make use of the service as it saves cost and reduces errors.

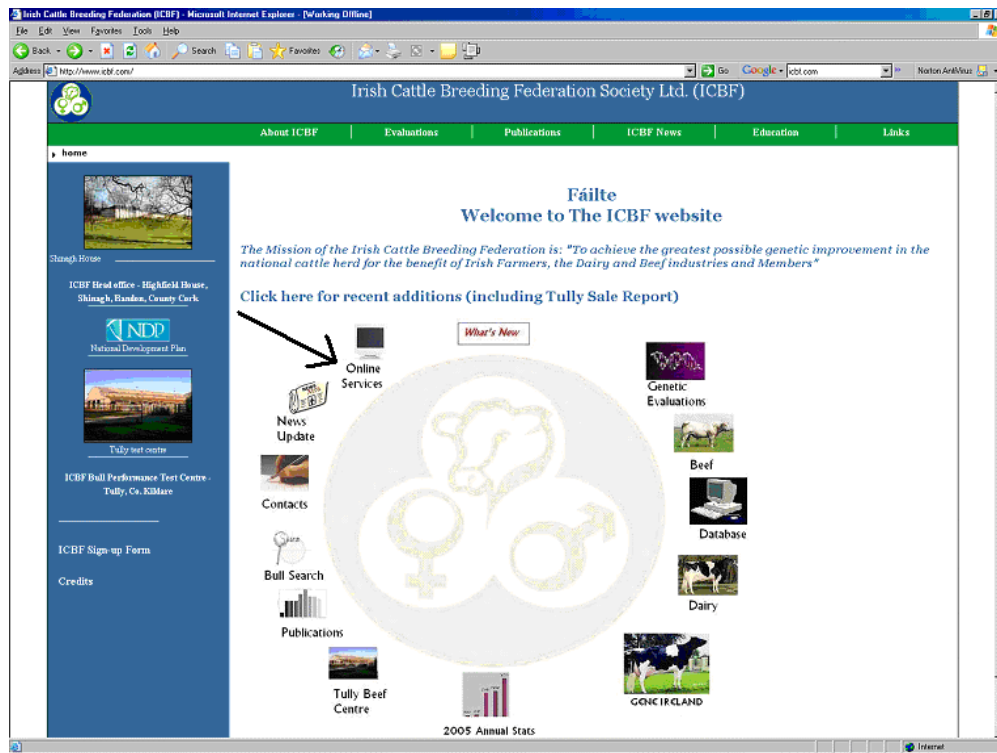
Today some 7,740 herds will receive a text message encouraging them to use this service. We are also sending an email to all herds with email addresses explaining how to use the service.

The procedure to be followed is:

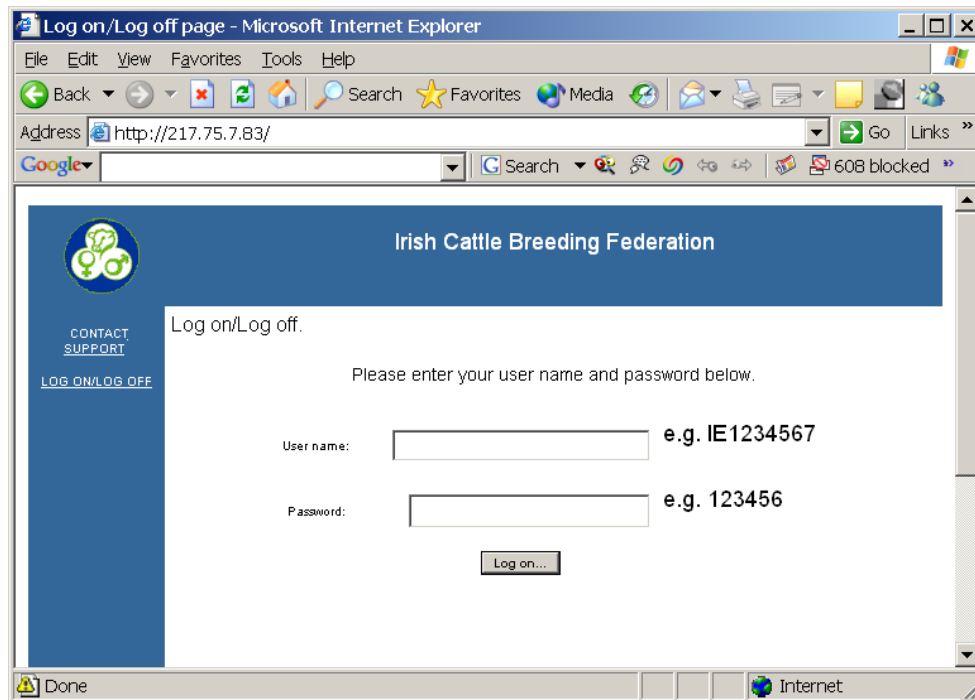
### Step one – go to ICBF website and find log-on page

Start-up your Internet browser (e.g. Internet Explorer) and enter the ICBF web page address [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)

This displays the page below. To access any of your personal information, click on the “Online Services” section.



This log-on page will then appear.



## Step 2 – Log on

In the Log-on page you will be asked for a username and password (this is on the front page of herd reports – and will be texted to your mobile phone if you have forgotten it).



**Your Username is:** «HERD»

**Your Password is:** «PWD»

After entering your Username and Password, click the 'Log On' Button.

### Step 3 - Record Animal Events Data

You can now record the following Animal Events online:

1. AI / Natural Serves.
2. Pregnancy Diagnosis.
3. Dry-offs.
4. Health/Culling Events.
5. Weighings.
6. Allocation of Freeze Brands/Jumbos.
7. Adding Missing Sires.
8. Body Condition Scores.

To record these Animal Events, click on the "Event Recording" link on the left of the screen. Then click on the relevant events you wish to record. Note that it may take 10-15 seconds to retrieve your data depending on the speed of your Internet connection and the size of your herd.

Below is an example of the AI/Natural Serve recording screen for a dairy herd.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "AI/Natural Serve Recording - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://217.75.7.83". The page header is "Irish Cattle Breeding Federation". The main content area is titled "AI/Natural Serve Recording" and features a date selector set to "12-Jul-2006". A summary indicates "Total: 160 animals Selected: 3 animals".

FB Jumbo	Animal Number	Lact Number	Last Calved Date	Last Served Date	Num Serves	Last Served Bull	Bull used	Sire Check
8	IESNYH0008G	9	07-FEB-06		0		KTX	Breed:HO Name:KILLINGLEY BET EXCELLENCY
67	IESNYH0067P	8	04-DEC-05	06-FEB-06	1	LLD		
136	IESNYH0136W	8	19-APR-06	10-MAY-06	1	BYJ		
148	IESNYH0148P	6	20-MAR-05	21-DEC-05	3	RUU		
167	IESNYH0167K	8	05-APR-06		0			
200	IESNYH0200Q	5	05-MAR-05	26-DEC-05	5	BXC		
205	IESNYH0205E	4	28-FEB-04	24-MAY-05	10	KDG	BXC	Breed:HO Name:BAWNCROSS EXCELLENCY 3
208	IESNYH0208X	5	15-NOV-05		0		KLR	Breed:HO Name:KEALFINCHEON J RUUD
226	IESNYH0226V	5	09-FEB-05	16-JAN-06	4	DGZ		
231	IESNYH0231D	5	13-NOV-04	20-FEB-05	2	LBO		
244	IESNYH0244T	6	19-NOV-05	10-JAN-06	1	RUU		
262	IESNYH0262R	7	14-FEB-06	09-MAY-06	2	KLR		
263	IESNYH0263P	6	19-OCT-05		0			
273	IESNYH0273L	5	05-OCT-05	12-JAN-06	2	RUU		



How to use the AI/Natural Serve Recording screen:

- First, record the serve date by clicking on the small calendar with the red border next to the date box. Note that today's date is always the default date.
- Next, type in the Bull used on each cow on that date. Note that the number of animals Selected as well as the Total animals displayed is shown for each event, at the top and bottom of the web page.
- Finally, click on the "Save Data" button at the bottom of the screen. The data is immediately sent to the ICBF database and an updated report presented.

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](tel:+3532320222), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](tel:+3532320222) [Fax office +353 \(0\)23 20229](tel:+3532320222) E-Mail [bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com) ICBF Web site [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com) Assistant: Mary Madden. © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.