

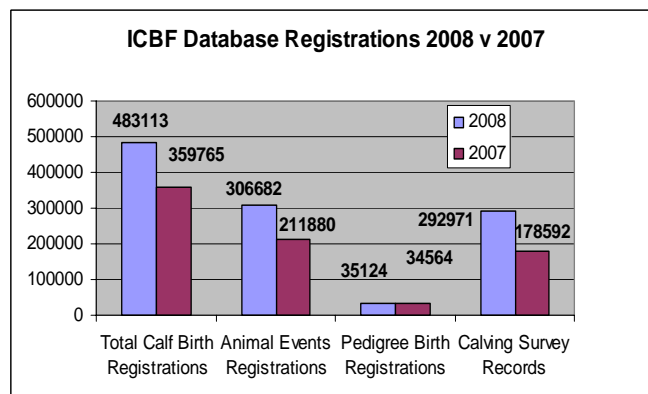
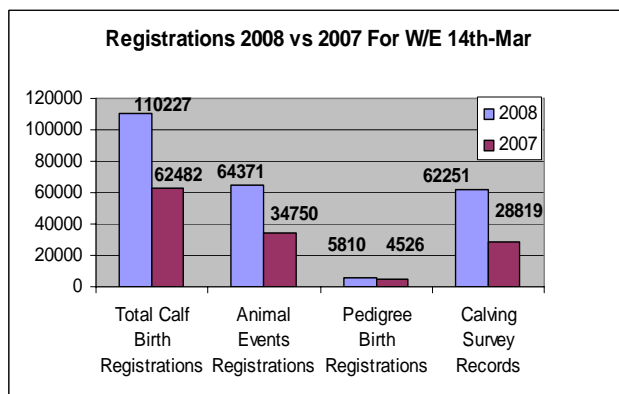


**UPDATE – for period 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**1 Important Dates**

- # **27<sup>th</sup> March** - Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting Horse & Jockey.
- # **3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Board meeting Comfort Inn Portlaoise.

**2 Database Update**



- # 32,965 inseminations have been received so far in 2008 from the AI handhelds, compared with 23,647 in 2007 for the same period.
- # All AI Handhelds are now live on the 2008 version of the AI software.
- # ICBF have received 44,912 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. Over 100,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- # Sire recording and calving survey recording on Animal Events continues to be of good quality. Work is beginning on the first batch of 'Missing Sires/Sire Errors' which will go to Suckler Scheme participants over the coming weeks.
- # The new program for loading Animal Events records to the database went live last Monday, and the transition has been quite smooth. Significant improvements in the processing of nightly files have resulted.
- # The 2008 Sire Advice has been released today.

**3 Genetic Evaluations**

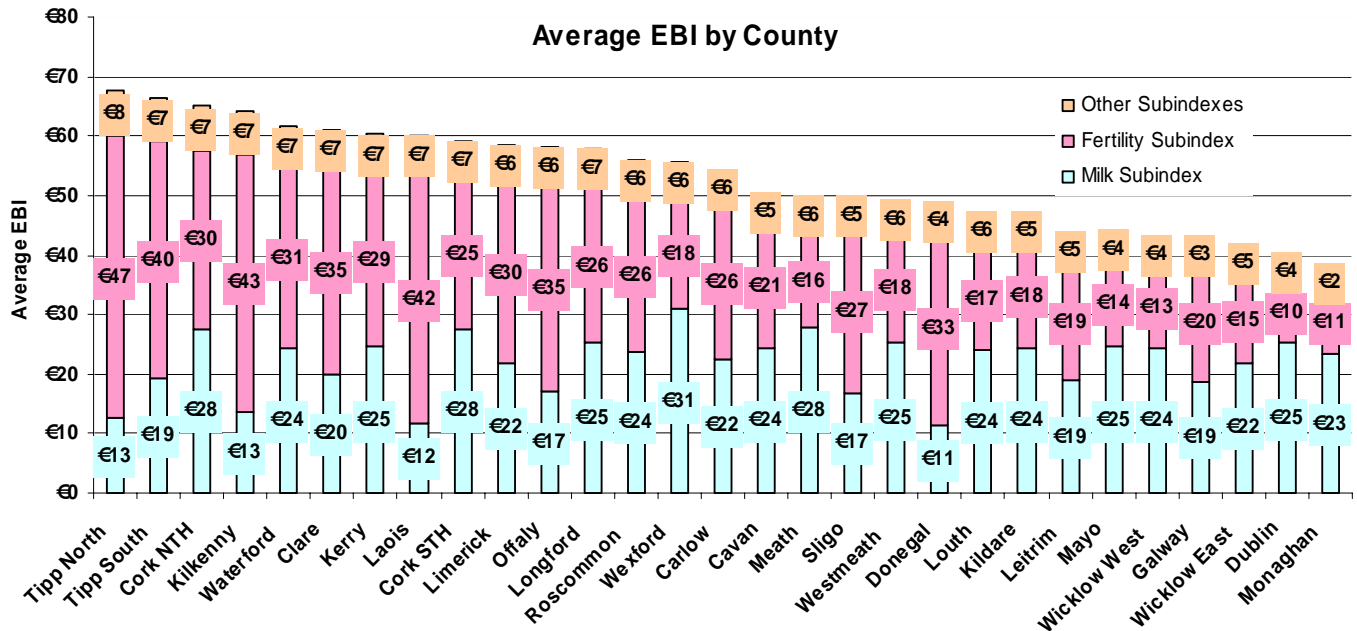
- # New domestic evaluations for milk production, SCC, calving interval, survival and type traits have been completed and the INTERBULL files are being prepared for sending to the INTERBULL centre for the upcoming routine evaluation.
- # A new maternal weaning weight evaluation was kicked off during the week in ASREML. This is expected to take 4-5 days with results hopefully by next week. Comparisons will then be made with the evaluation results from MIX99 and a decision made after that as to which proofs will form the official maternal weaning weight proofs for the next evaluation.
- # New slaughter, mart and Tully data extracts are being extracted for the end of test Tully proof run. These evaluations will commence next week.
- # Considerable time has been invested over the last couple of weeks in creating code to help in identifying errors in pedigree files. Animals displaying these errors will be omitted from



evaluations where identified. Lists of pedigree animals with these errors will be made available to the breed societies so that they can be amended and allowed back into the evaluations.

### County Average EBIs

County average EBIs have been calculated for milk recorded herds. The following graphs shows the counties from highest (on left) to lowest (on right) and the breakdown of the subindexes that make up the EBI.



## 4 GENRELAND®

### Dairy Spring 2008

Sign-ups continue. At this point in time the break-down of the herds signed up are presented in table 1 below. The graph below shows progress with herd recruitment and semen dispatches.

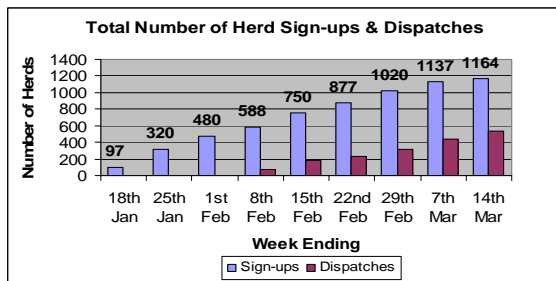


Table 1: Breakdown of herd sign-ups.

| Breed          | Total Herds | Total Straws | No bulls  |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| FR             | 185         | 6371         | 9         |
| HOFR           | 863         | 33230        | 47.5      |
| XBRED          | 123         | 4514         | 6.4       |
| MIXED          | 70          | 2563         | 3.5       |
| <b>Overall</b> | <b>1164</b> | <b>46704</b> | <b>66</b> |

Inbreeding reports continue to be posted.

Due to semen availability, we will be unable to deliver straws from the MIXED BREED group until early-mid April. Consequently we have been in touch with the herd-owners requesting this pack and informed them of the situation. Most were happy to stick with their request.

We are still working with the 5 HOFR bulls listed in last weeks report.



- More straws from the list of Friesian bulls were made available this week allowing further dispatches for these herds. The Friesian bulls we are currently working with are shown in table 2. Please note that the indexes for the UK born test bulls are based on Sire Pathway as information required for conversion equations were unable to be obtained at this point in time. Information on the Dovea bulls are available in their catalogue and on the ICBF website, under the GENÉIRLAND<sup>®</sup> section.

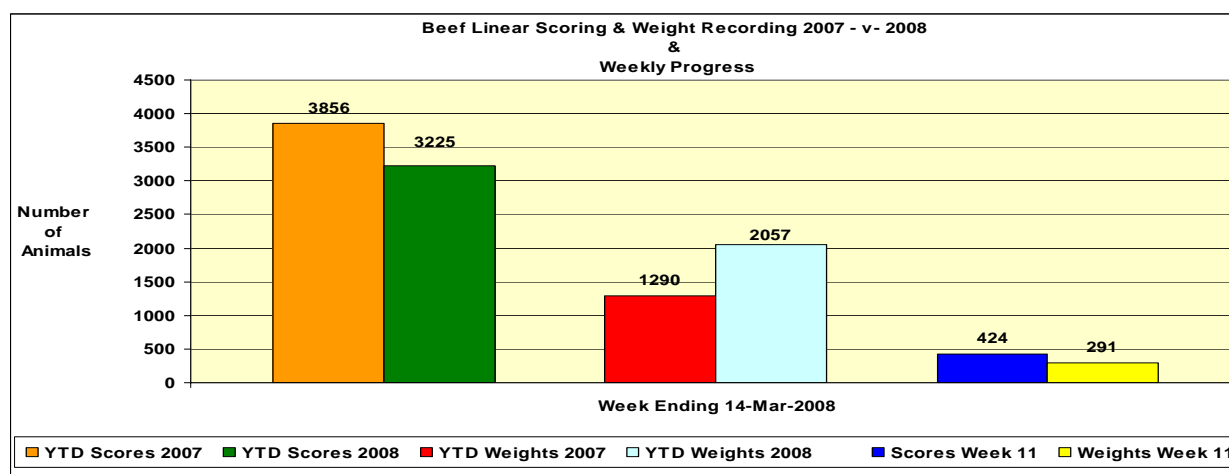
| AI CODE | NAME                   | SIRE           | MGS              | EBI | MILK | FERT |
|---------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----|------|------|
| BZK*    | BLACKISLE MAGNETIC     | GNP            | HLM              | 56  | -23  | 59   |
| CZF*    | CATLANE SPITFIRE       | CTZ            | 100396573        | 94  | -17  | 92   |
| CZI*    | CATLANE MISSILE        | SKX            | 100396573        | 47  | -20  | 62   |
| KJY*    | KIRKBY JAYSON          | S354           | 100433575        | 90  | -11  | 85   |
| RHS#    | RAHEENARRAN MEB SOCHAR | MEB            | TIH              | 114 | 7    | 91   |
| RVJ#    | RAHEENARRAN BCG SOCHAR | BCG            | TIH              | 134 | 5    | 101  |
| HZP     | DOVEA DYNAMO           | Heidehipper 22 | ADM              | -   | -    | -    |
| VLN     | DOVEA ERMELO           | Rivelino 434   | Rivelino 372     | -   | -    | -    |
| NZB     | DOVEA NORBERT 115      | Piet Adema 158 | Klooster Synaeda | -   | -    | -    |
| VIA     | DOVEA MICHAEL          | Lambris        | Mantei           | -   | -    | -    |

\* UK born test bulls  
 # Irish bred

### Beef Spring 2008

- Payments for recorded insemination from last Spring's programme are currently being processed and will be posted in the coming days.
- 176 herds signed up taking 3375 straws, 3315 of which have been sent to farmers.
- Promotional piece with photos planned for next weeks farming newspapers.
- Extra staff working on recruitment this week with good results.
- Working on getting GENÉIRLAND<sup>®</sup> beef section on website with photos of bulls.

## 5 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





## 6 Tully

- ✦ The weights and updated Euro-Star indexes from the last weighing on the 7-3-08 were sent out to breeders on the 13-3-08.
- ✦ The up to date performance figures and Euro-Star indexes were sent out to breed societies and AI stations on the 14-3-08.
- ✦ The Tully Advisory Committee and our Veterinary advisors are working closely with us to maintain the health status of the Centre.

## 7 HerdPlus<sup>®</sup>

### BEEF

- ✦ HerdPlus staff attended NE Charolais Club meeting this week, where we updated members on GROW, Euro-Stars and GENÉIRÉLAND<sup>®</sup>.
- ✦ **Euro-Star Report.** The spring 2008 evaluation was generated from data extracted in Dec '07. As we have since received a significant amount of further data (Marts, Factories and ancestry due to the massive amounts of data in the suckler cow scheme) the Genetic Evaluation team decided to do another evaluation run in April. This means we will hold off sending out Beef Euro-Stars and Suckler Cow Reports to HerdPlus farmers until this new evaluation run is complete.

### DAIRY

- ✦ Herdplus staff presented "HerdPlus" training to Munster AI group staff this week.
- ✦ **New Sire Advice Released** - today Friday 14th March 2008 we released the new version of Sire Advice. Herdplus clients have 3 options to run this;
  - i. Use the preselected "**Suggested**" bulls, where the programme auto selects for the herd based on;
    - Maximise Average EBI,
    - minimise inbreeding,
    - minimise Straw Price and
    - minimise Production / Fertility variation.
  - ii. Use "**Traits**" to select bulls, where the farmer selects the traits most important to him to select bulls, or
  - iii. Manually enter "**Known**" bulls - where the farmer already knows what bulls he wants to use and enters them into the programme.
- ✦ The new Sire Advice programme can be run as many times as farmer wants to - when satisfied with his selection, the output can be saved so that it appears on his **breeding chart** and is also automatically saved to the **AI Handhelds** operated by AI technicians.
- ✦ See below an example of the first screen a farmer will see when he logs in - based on the "Suggested bulls" for his herd, the New Sire Advice Programme generates a graph with predicted EBI's for 2009 calves.



ICBF Web Application - Windows Internet Explorer  
http://www.icbf.com/taurus/sa\_2008/sa\_home.php

ICBF Web Application

ICBF Sire Advice  
Logged in at: 14-Mar-2008 09:58

HOME - HerdPlus CONTACT SUPPORT LOG OUT

**Sire Advice Home Page**

\* The red bar on the graph below shows the results that you would expect to achieve if you use the list of suggested bulls (specific to your herd). See button on right for suggested bulls specific to your herd.  
Note that help is available on each page by clicking on the "Help on this page" link at the very bottom of each page

**Breakdown of your Herd EBI.**

| Category      | My Herd | Top 15 % of Herds | Potential 2009 Calves |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall EBI   | 87      | 78                | 126                   |
| Milk EBI      | 63      | 39                | 58                    |
| Fertility EBI | 16      | 47                | 52                    |

**Criteria Used to Choose "Suggested Bulls"**

- Maximise Average EBI.
- Minimise Inbreeding.
- Minimise Straw Price.
- Minimise Production / Fertility Variation.

**Select Program**

- Suggested Bulls
- Select Bulls using Traits
- Manually Enter Bulls

Click [here](#) for help.  
[Herd Trait Breakdown](#)

## 8 Milk Recording

### National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 14/03/08

| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 14/03/08 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 14/03/08 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 14/03/08 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 14/03/08 | % Cows EDIY |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Progressive                 | 1,323                             | 251                         | 19%          | 78,761                               | 15,659                     | 20%         |
| Dairygold                   | 636                               | 98                          | 15%          | 30,295                               | 5,299                      | 17%         |
| Kerry                       | 450                               | 17                          | 4%           | 20,679                               | 1,062                      | 5%          |
| SWS                         | 600                               | 31                          | 5%           | 25,719                               | 1,751                      | 7%          |
| Tipperary                   | 47                                | 2                           | 4%           | 1,890                                | 92                         | 5%          |
| Arrabawn                    | 25                                | 14                          | 56%          | 1,206                                | 746                        | 62%         |
| Connacht                    | 89                                | 15                          | 17%          | 4,021                                | 641                        | 16%         |
| Donegal                     | 4                                 | 4                           | 100%         | 214                                  | 214                        | 100%        |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>3,174</b>                      | <b>432</b>                  | <b>14%</b>   | <b>162,785</b>                       | <b>25,464</b>              | <b>16%</b>  |

### Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 14/03/06 | YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 14/03/07 | YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 14/03/08 | 2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Progressive                 | 79,399                                     | 75,283                                     | 78,761                                     | 4.4%                                     |
| Dairygold                   | 26,735                                     | 23,742                                     | 30,295                                     | 21.6%                                    |
| Kerry                       | 18,322                                     | 19,764                                     | 20,679                                     | 4.4%                                     |
| SWS                         | 25,146                                     | 25,954                                     | 25,719                                     | -0.9%                                    |
| Tipperary                   | 1,574                                      | 1,499                                      | 1,890                                      | 20.7%                                    |
| Arrabawn                    | 1,481                                      | 1,300                                      | 1,206                                      | -7.8%                                    |
| Connacht                    | 3,912                                      | 3,877                                      | 4,021                                      | 3.6%                                     |
| Donegal                     | 326  | 75   | 214  | 65.0%                                    |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>156,895</b>                             | <b>151,494</b>                             | <b>162,785</b>                             | <b>6.9%</b>                              |

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