



## 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November** – ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting, Horse & Jockey
- ✚ **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – ICBF Board meeting, The Comfort Inn, Portlaoise
- ✚ **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – Interim Sheep Board meeting, The Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.

## 2 Change in our phone numbers

The ICBF phone numbers have changed. Our new numbers have “88” added to them after the area code (023). Please amend your files as soon as possible. The old numbers will continue to work for until May of 2009.

Old Number (example)	New Number (example)
Phone: 023 20222	023 <b>88</b> 20222
Fax: 023 20229	023 <b>88</b> 20229

## 3 National Dairy Cattle Breeding Day, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November



The Corrin Mart was an ideal facility for the first ICBF National Dairy Cattle Breeding day.

The morning session attended by 310 herd owners focused on GENE IRLAND<sup>®</sup> with a review of progress to date and plans for 2009.

The afternoon session attended by 150 herd owners was targeted at farmers who are potential new customers of GENE IRLAND<sup>®</sup> and HerdPlus.

Copies of the presentations are in the publications section of our website ([www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)).

A special thanks to all who contributed to a very successful day:

- FBD Trust for generous sponsorship.
- ICBF Team members for presentations, delivering the new Dairy Cow Report and ensuring all questions were addressed.
- Cork Mart for a magnificent facility, great food and excellent customer service.
- The cattle breeding industry of trade stands and providing the services that are so important to helping dairy farmers to breed more profitable dairy cattle.





#### 4 FBD Trust GENÉIRÉLAND® Cattle Breeding Awards

The GENÉIRÉLAND® awards are intended to provide recognition to those farmers who follow best practise in breeding dairy cattle for Ireland. The awards were presented at the National Dairy Cattle Breeding day yesterday.

There were awards of €10,000 to the breeders of the two top GENÉIRÉLAND® bulls with progeny test results in 2008 from the 2005 GENÉIRÉLAND® progeny test program.

Award Winner	The Bull – Key Facts	The Herd
<b>Tom &amp; Maureen Horan</b> for breeding <b>RHU</b> . Ballyhooley, Cork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EBI €141, Rel. 67%</li> <li>67 daughters in 65 herds</li> <li>Milk SI €103, Fertility SI €31, Calving SI €10.</li> <li>PTAs: Milk +250kg, Protein +14kg, Protein +0.10%, Calving Interval -2.0 days</li> <li>Sire Hugo, MGS Hairy Breiz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>54 cows, Spring Calving</li> <li>Herd EBI €94, EBI of 1-2 year olds €27, 0-1 years olds €158</li> <li>Av. Production 8,000 litres and 590 kg milk solids (fat + protein)</li> <li>Calving interval 371 days</li> <li>6 week calving rate of 74%</li> <li>20% replacement rate</li> </ul>
<b>John &amp; Anne Kingston</b> for breeding <b>KSY</b> . Ballygarvan, Cork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EBI €35, Rel. 63%</li> <li>70 daughters in 50 herds</li> <li>Milk SI €91, Fertility SI €18, Calving SI €30</li> <li>PTAs: Milk +361kg, Protein +14kg, Protein +0.05%, Calving Interval -0.6 days</li> <li>Sire Coerd, MGS Hugo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>220 cows, Spring Calving.</li> <li>Herd EBI €100, EBI of 1-2 year olds €07, 0-1 €20</li> <li>Av. Production 6,500 litres and 480 kg milk solids</li> <li>Calving interval of 383 days</li> <li>6 week calving rate of 81%</li> <li>30% replacement rate.</li> </ul>

There were nine awards of €1,000 each to Herd-owners achieving excellence in data recording.

- Small Herd category (<80 cows)
- Medium Herd category (81-150 cows)
- Large Herd category (>150 cows)

All GENÉIRÉLAND® 2005 herds were scored on; recorded GENÉIRÉLAND® insemination (1 point), calving performance for each GENÉIRÉLAND® calf birth (2 points) & milk recorded GENÉIRÉLAND® daughter (5 points) to give an overall Score.

Name of Herd-Owner	Categ	No. Cows	No. Insems	Calv Suv	MR Dtrs	Tot Pts
David O'Donnell, Kilmallock	<80	54	44	26	10	146
Michael Clarke, Ballina, Mayo	<80	76	44	22	11	143
Frank Dempsey, Minane Bridge	<80	79	45	22	8	129
Tom Hogan, Cloughjordan.	81-150	126	46	45	17	221
Richard Coughlan, Mitchelstown.	81-150	94	62	37	11	191
David Kent, Mitchelstown	81-150	98	86	29	9	189
Seamus Quigley, Nenagh	150+	346	115	67	29	394
Patrick Kelly, Lifford, Donegal	150+	229	99	54	17	292
Michael Britton, Thurles	150+	163	82	37	13	221



## 5 GENEIRELAND®



- ✚ Letters were sent to the breeders of the bulls that have been part of the GENEIRELAND® program since it began, giving them an update on how their bulls are progressing (number of straws dispatched, alive female progeny, and Milk Recorded Daughters).
- ✚ FBD Trust sponsorship of €500 per bull was paid to the breeders of the Spring 2008 bull panel this week.
- ✚ Sign-ups for the Autumn 2008 program are coming in slowly. We now have 110 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+.
- ✚ We intend to make a final round of payments for the Spring 2008 inseminations the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, so last chance for herd owners to get their inseminations recorded.

## 6 Tully – GENEIRELAND®

- ✚ Health results for the next intake starting to come in.
- ✚ We are still on target to bring the bulls in at the end of next week

### ✚ BREAKDOWN BY BREED TO DATE:

Breed	INVITED	APPLIED	PASSED DVO	PASSED VISUAL	BLOODS IN
AA	95	17	16	12	7
AU	25	15	15	9	7
BA	7	1	1	0	0
BB	16	4	4	3	2
CH	366	71	69	40	10
HE	104	9	9	4	3
PT	5	13	13	7	3
SA	17	4	4	3	2
SH	19	3	3	3	3
SI	113	27	26	19	8
LM	433	89	88	51	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>78</b>

## 7 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The latest evaluation run is currently being uploaded to the database. The switching across of the proofs to the live database has been delayed due to an issue which has been identified in the beef proofs. Provisional dairy EBI proofs will be sent to the dairy industry today with beef evaluations due to be sent out next week.
- ✚ Francis Kearney gave a talk on Genomic Selection at the GENEIRELAND user meeting held at Cork Marts yesterday. A copy of the presentation is on the ICBF website ([www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)).
- ✚ Work on assessing farmer satisfaction is almost complete and will be presented to the industry in due course.

## 8 Sheep

- ✚ LambPlus is progressing well with developments in the following areas:
  - a. Finalising of identification and performance recording protocols through meetings with farmers and industry representatives, including all new traits recorded. A draft version of these is will be available on the publications section of the website [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie)



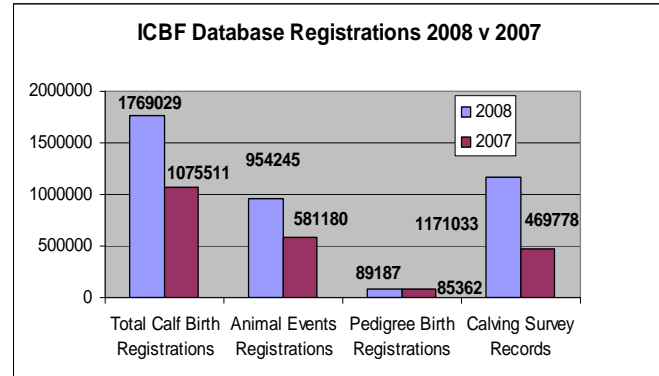
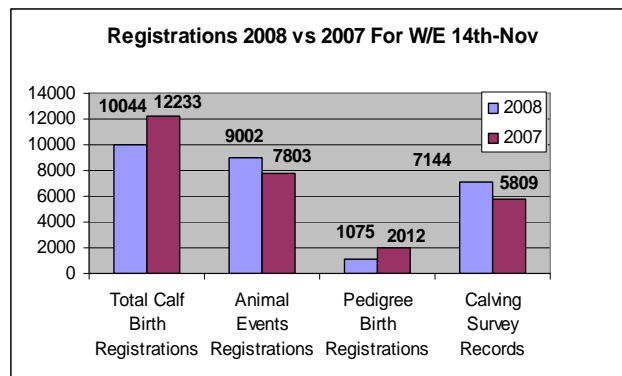


later today.

- b. A draft timeline of the event schedule from sign up, including trait recording, will also be available on website (www.sheep.ie) later today.
- c. Further investigations into service providers for muscle and fat scanning, faecal egg counting, DNA and EID technology are continuing.
- d. Building of web-based service capability progressed this week.
- e. Development of the flock recording documents this week focused on the inventory update and performance recording for the web screens and printed copies.
- f. A set of scales and autodrafting equipment for use in data collection from CPT and MALP flocks has been ordered.

✚ There have been a good number of enquiries about the new scheme and what it offers, which is positive!

## 9 Database



- ✚ 510,316 inseminations have been received from AI handhelds so far in 2008, compared with 359,435 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ The work on revamping the AI software for next season is continuing. Testing of the finalised solution began this week.
- ✚ The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 600,000, with just over 320,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ Work on the catalogue functions for herd-books should be live next week. We will be in contact with the relevant herdbooks.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. The 'back-end' work is will be completed next week, and the focus will switch to the design of the screens for inputting and data correction.
- ✚ This week, work has continued on migrating the Sheep Performance system to the ICBF/Sheep Ireland database.
- ✚ Due to an upgrade of the Electricity Supply to our computer room, our systems will be unavailable from 8am to 9am on next Tuesday morning (18<sup>th</sup> November).



10 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 14/11/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/11/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/11/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/11/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/11/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,239	931	42%	184,138	73,907	40%
Dairygold	1,690	641	38%	125,029	49,260	39%
Kerry	1,159	248	21%	79,303	16,317	21%
SWS	915	134	15%	62,731	9,853	16%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	13,057	5,781	44%
Arrabawn	166	138	83%	12,966	10,957	85%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,357	4,356	42%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,813	4,813	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,548</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>492,394</b>	<b>175,244</b>	<b>36%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 14/11/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 14/11/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	169,195	184,138	8.1%
Dairygold	111,851	125,029	10.5%
Kerry	72,015	79,303	9.2%
SWS	61,070	62,731	2.6%
Tipperary	12,307	13,057	5.7%
Arrabawn	12,062	12,966	7.0%
Connacht	10,128	10,357	2.2%
Donegal	3,911	4,813	18.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>452,539</b>	<b>492,394</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 05/10/08 to 14/11/08								
	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	20	1,056	53	17	4.40	3.75	1.39	301
CAVAN	60	2,610	44	15.6	4.14	3.54	1.20	347
CLARE	34	1,620	48	13.8	4.36	3.70	1.11	385
CORK STH	290	16,169	56	14.9	4.56	3.87	1.26	318
CORK NTH	252	15,955	63	15.1	4.55	3.80	1.26	352
DONEGAL	20	1,510	76	12.3	4.54	3.66	1.01	371
DUBLIN	4	163	41	20.7	4.29	3.42	1.60	334



**Weekly Update**  
**14<sup>th</sup> November 2008**  
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<b>National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 05/10/08 to 14/11/08</b>								
	<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>
<b>GALWAY</b>	30	1,612	54	17.6	4.33	3.53	1.38	299
<b>KERRY</b>	108	6,324	59	14.3	4.18	3.61	1.11	402
<b>KILDARE</b>	14	880	63	19.3	4.42	3.59	1.55	347
<b>KILKENNY</b>	51	3,179	62	14.7	4.56	3.88	1.24	316
<b>LAOIS</b>	40	2,609	65	14.7	4.61	3.81	1.24	278
<b>LEITRIM</b>	7	323	46	17.8	3.99	3.40	1.32	271
<b>LIMERICK</b>	108	6,693	62	16.2	4.28	3.60	1.28	391
<b>LONGFORD</b>	17	876	52	15.2	4.32	3.73	1.22	335
<b>LOUTH</b>	24	1,696	71	20.5	4.09	3.61	1.58	355
<b>MEATH</b>	77	5,713	74	19.6	4.23	3.59	1.53	314
<b>MONAGHAN</b>	51	2,379	47	16.1	4.27	3.64	1.27	319
<b>OFFALY</b>	24	1,546	64	18.1	4.19	3.67	1.42	313
<b>TIPPERARY NTH</b>	34	2,345	69	13.8	4.55	3.84	1.16	362
<b>TIPPERARY STH</b>	39	2,378	61	13.1	4.52	3.79	1.09	307
<b>WATERFORD</b>	57	4,643	81	15.2	4.47	3.76	1.25	309
<b>WESTMEATH</b>	24	1,516	63	19	4.23	3.64	1.50	343
<b>WEXFORD</b>	71	4,423	62	15.9	4.38	3.74	1.29	344
<b>WICKLOW E</b>	23	1,584	69	19.6	3.95	3.51	1.46	265
<b>WICKLOW W</b>	20	1,388	69	21.1	3.93	3.43	1.55	247
	<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>
<b>National</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>91,190</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>4.32</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>328</b>

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