

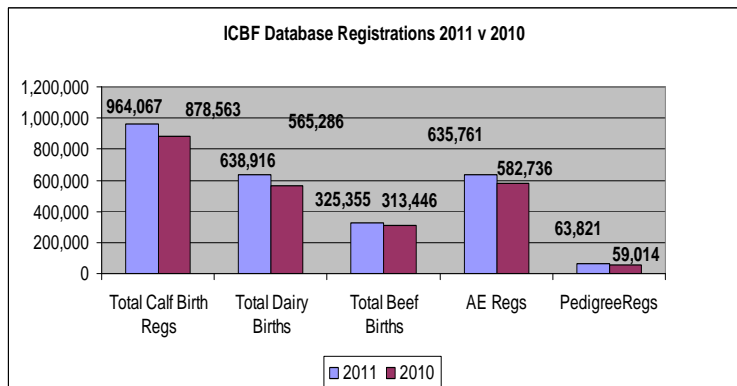
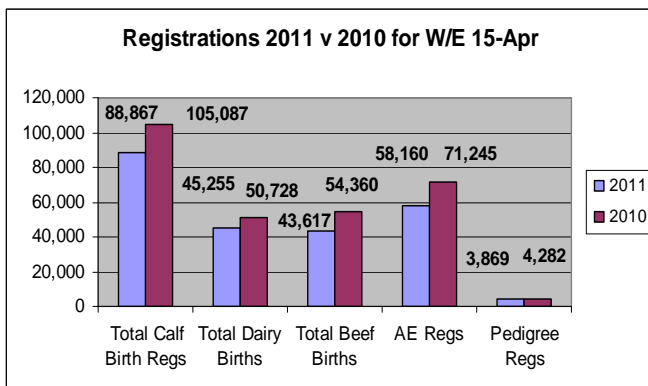
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 21th April, 10:00 to 12:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM** – Thursday 21th April, 12:30 to 13:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland - Flock Book, AGM & Board - Meetings** – Thursday 21th April, 14:00 to 17:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 25th April, 12:00 to 16:00 – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.

2 Breeding Consultation Meetings – Thursday 14th April

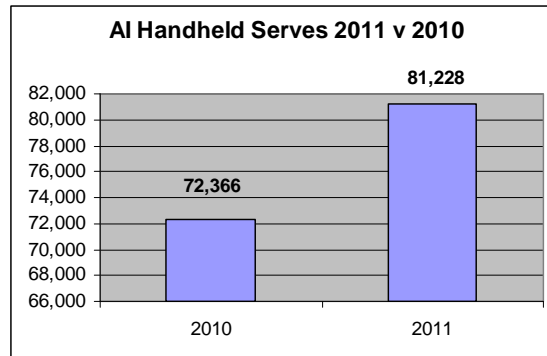
- ✚ The meeting on Thursday was well attended – 65 people representing all aspects of the cattle industry.
- ✚ Highlights of the meeting included:
 - Completion of research on genomic evaluations for Linear Type traits and for Friesians. This is expected to be implemented later in 2011.
 - Further progress on fertility evaluations for beef and dairy. Enhanced evaluations will be the subject of test runs over the summer with a plan to implement in the autumn.
 - A presentation of the initial results of a comprehensive review of beef breeding including the outcome of the Grow review. These findings will be discussed further with the industry before final decisions are taken.
- ✚ Copies of the presentations can be found in the publications section of www.icbf.com.

3 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 594,684 with the number of animals weaned at 519,033.
- ✚ A new initiative with Farm Relief Services (FRS) will kick off in the coming weeks whereby hoof-care operators will use handhelds to record the visit data and farmers will subsequently receive reports generated from the ICBF database.

- ✚ Testing on a new authorisation module for farmers and their service providers is on-going. This will give farmers more flexibility and control in providing authorisation to others to see their data. The intention is to have this live at the end of April.
- ✚ The first batch of the new 'Sire Error' forms will be sent out early next week.
- ✚ Work is on-going in establishing electronic links to the commercial animal health laboratories. The first files were received this week.
- ✚ Updates to the catalogues, with particular focus on the dairy catalogues are now completed and will be rolled out next week.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



4 GENEIRELAND®

Beef

- ✚ The average order is 17 straws per herd.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GENEIRELAND section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.
- ✚ 237 herds have signed up so far.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	HE	LM	PT	SI
CODE	MLJ	KCE	BZP	CSQ	DZP	GCT	ERE	CBQ	SXD
# STRAWS	445	470	230	275	85	155	68	240	265

Dairy

- ✚ Straws have been dispatched to all the participants.
- ✚ Herd-owners who didn't receive their complete order will receive more straws as they become available.
- ✚ Two more Holstein Friesian bulls have come on to the programme.
- ✚ A large panel of Jersey and Crossbred bulls are available.
- ✚ Call 1850 600 900 to order.

5 Tully

- ✚ This week saw the champion beef bulls selected from each of the main breeds that participated in the latest Tully intake. All bulls at Tully completed their 90 day performance tests on the 4th April. Now that the test has been completed, bulls will have their concentrate offering gradually decreased leading up to the sale, to ensure they are acclimatised to their new on-farm environment. The champion bulls are a reflection of the exceptional quality of bulls available for purchase at the upcoming sale. They achieved excellent performance figures, for instance average daily gain ranged from 2.0 to 2.6 kg per day, across breeds. Also, all champion bulls have excellent star ratings for Suckler Beef value, with 5 bulls in the top 1% of their respective breed. All measurements at Tully are incorporated in the Euro-Star indexes to give more accurate genetic evaluations

whilst also increasing the reliability on key production traits. All bulls at Tully boost a high health status as they are tested free of IBR, BVD, Johnes, EBL, TB and Brucellosis.

- The Champion bulls (Table 1) were identified within each breed based on 3 main criteria. These criteria were visual assessment (33%), Euro-Star indexes (33%) and Tully performance data (33%).
- These bulls (pictured below) will be among the 96 offered up for sale at Tully on Monday, 25th April, which consists of 24 Limousins, 28 Charolais, 17 Angus, 1 Aubrac, 4 Belgium Blues, 3 Herefords, 2 Blonde d'Aquitaine, 7 Salers and 10 Simmentals. The sale is located minutes from Kildare town, exit 13 of the M7 motorway. For more information or a copy of the catalogue, contact Stephen or Niall on 045 521573. The catalogue is also available at <http://www.icbf.com/services/tully/index.php>. On the day of sale bulls will be between 13 and 18 months of age.

Table1. Performance and Indexes of Champion bulls at Tully

Breed	Name	Average Daily Gain (kg/day)	Feed Conversion Efficiency (DMI/ADG)	Scan Muscle Dept (mm)	Scan Fat Dept (mm)	SBV ¹ (€)	SBV ¹ Stars within breed (Stars)	Milk within breed (Stars)
AA	Home Farm Ebony Ahead K894	2.4	4.9	85	8.8	107	*****	*****
BB	Drumole Elite Et	2.0	4.8	80	1.9	96	****	****
CH	Dereskit Echo Et	2.6	4.8	89	4.0	179	*****	****
LM	Milbrook Filio Et	2.1	4.5	93	2.6	144	*****	****
SA	Sligo Kethro	2.2	6.3	82	4.6	133	*****	****
SI	Leeherd Barclay	2.8	4.8	89	4.3	172	*****	*****
HE ²	Gouldingpoll 1 Crusader Et	2.3	5.4	80	7.0	82	*****	*****
BA ²	Mountbrown Armani D40230	2.5	4.9	96	1.9	64	*****	*
AU ²	Parknageragh Frank	2.3	4.6	91	2.0	92	****	*

¹ Suckler Beef Value.

² Selected from low numbers within breed.



Millbrook Filio Et, sired by Sauvignon and owned by William Smith, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.



Mountbrown D40230, sired by Ballinascraw Armani and owned by Philip Lyons, Westport, Co. Mayo.



Dereskit Echo Et, sired by Major and owned by Basil Bothwell, Killeshandra, Co. Cavan.



Leeherd Barclay, sired by Kilbride Farm Newry and owned by John Finnegan, Coachford, Co. Cork.



Parknageragh Frank, sired by Raynaldy Ulysse and owned by Michael McAuliffe, Castleisland, Co. Kerry.



Sligo Kethro, sired by Voltaire and owned by Bernard Hunt, Lisbaleely, Co. Sligo.



Drumole Elite Et, sired by Ballygrange Alex and owned by Dan Brady, Cootehill, Co. Cavan.



Goulding 1 Crusader Et, sired by Romany 1 Captain R22 C1 and owned by Matthew Goulding, Ballyduff, Co. Kerry.



Home Farm Ebony Ahead K894, sired by Rawburn Rommel E423 and owned by Fintan Keown, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- The new dairy and beef proofs are now published on the ICBF website. The extra evaluation files for AI sires, profile of records in evaluations by breed and breed percentiles will be available in the usual place on the website under genetic evaluations by next Monday.
- Updates on work in progress were presented at the dairy and beef industry meetings held in Portlaoise yesterday.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 05/04/11 to 15/04/11

	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	11	679	62	28.1	4.12	3.20	2.06	267
CAVAN	35	1,687	48	26.2	3.76	3.24	1.83	256
CLARE	34	1,638	48	28.4	3.77	3.26	2.00	340
CORK STH	284	17,498	62	27.4	3.97	3.42	2.02	251
CORK NTH	245	17,510	71	27.6	3.86	3.41	2.01	240

DONEGAL	7	764	109	24.6	4.80	3.44	2.03	515
DUBLIN	2	76	38	39.3	3.20	3.12	2.48	186
GALWAY	28	1,771	63	26.6	4.39	3.35	2.06	388
KERRY	126	7,341	58	29.7	3.86	3.25	2.11	291
KILDARE	15	1,187	79	30.0	3.73	3.25	2.09	405
KILKENNY	44	3,443	78	25.3	3.81	3.26	1.79	207
LAOIS	31	2,169	70	25.6	3.98	3.30	1.86	307
LEITRIM	3	145	48	34.0	3.71	3.24	2.36	145
LIMERICK	142	9,901	70	28.9	3.74	3.33	2.04	281
LONGFORD	8	341	43	28.9	4.03	3.29	2.12	205
LOUTH	18	1,867	104	28.8	3.91	3.30	2.08	261
MAYO	26	1,305	50	25.4	3.56	3.19	1.71	385
MEATH	51	5,288	104	25.8	3.96	3.15	1.83	288
MONAGHAN	31	1,345	43	29.1	3.51	3.14	1.94	296
OFFALY	14	697	50	28.5	3.81	3.22	2.00	342
ROSCOMMON	6	340	57	30.1	4.10	3.33	2.24	366
SLIGO	6	168	28	23.3	3.24	3.23	1.51	335
TIPPERARY NTH	38	2,924	77	26.4	3.93	3.30	1.91	274
TIPPERARY STH	41	2,629	64	27.0	3.75	3.33	1.91	223
WATERFORD	51	4,501	88	27.8	4.08	3.40	2.08	244
WESTMEATH	13	924	71	29.2	3.63	3.25	2.01	279
WEXFORD	41	2,868	70	26.6	3.69	3.36	1.88	274
WICKLOW E	12	1,012	84	27.3	3.67	3.23	1.88	203
WICKLOW W	8	534	67	30.0	4.01	3.14	2.15	234
	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	1,371	92,552	66	28.1	3.85	3.27	2.00	286

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 05/04/11 to 15/04/11

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	961	63,942	67	27.9	3.87	3.34	2.01	268
Leinster	268	21,085	79	28.7	3.79	3.24	2.02	266
Connacht	69	3,729	54	27.9	3.80	3.27	1.97	324
Ulster	73	3,796	52	26.6	4.02	3.27	1.94	356

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 15/04/11

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 15/04/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 15/04/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 15/04/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 15/04/11	% Cows EDIY

Munster	2,704	532	20%	168,091	37,604	22%
Progressive	1,611	424	26%	117,731	30,187	26%
Tipperary	59	16	27%	4,094	1,524	37%
Connacht	70	6	9%	3,656	326	9%
Total	4,444	978	22%	293,572	69,641	24%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 15/04/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 15/04/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	140,318	168,091	16.5%
Progressive	103,096	117,731	12.4%
Tipperary	3,658	4,094	10.6%
Connacht	5,262	3,656	-43.9%
Total	252,334	293,572	14.0%

8 Irish Grasslands Association Newsletter

✚ Pat Donnellan has an article on beef cattle breeding in the Irish Grasslands newsletter. This can be found on the Irish Grasslands Association website www.irishgrassland.com.

A copy of Pat's article is in the publications section of the ICBF website.

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