



UPDATE – for period 9th– 15th August 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tue. 26th August, 10:00** – Beef Industry Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting, Tullamore Court Hotel.
- ✚ **Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th August** – Sheep breeding consultation meetings, Tullamore Court Hotel.
- ✚ **Thursday 18th September** – ICBF Board meeting 10:30 to 14:00.
- ✚ **Thursday 18th September** – Interim Sheep Board meeting 14:00 to 17:00.
- ✚ **23rd to 25th September** – Ploughing Championships, Kilkenny.
- ✚ **9th to 11th October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet. For details see www.ihfa.ie.
- ✚ **11th and 12th October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart. For details see www.beefexpoireland.ie.

2 Sheep Breeding Consultation meetings

- ✚ Workshop - Monday 25th August
Planning for the sheep breeding workshop for Monday 25th August has been finalised. Attached is a copy of the program for the day. Invitations are being sent to stakeholders in the sheep industry.
- ✚ Feedback & Review – Wednesday 27th August
The outcome from the workshop will form the basis of a series of recommendations that will be reviewed on the afternoon of Wednesday 27th August. Invitations will go to the reviewers over the next few days.
- ✚ Current Schemes
On Tuesday this week a group from ICBF met DAFF and TEAGASC staff to review sheep identification, the current Pedigree Sheep Breed Improvement Program (PSBIP). Our findings will contribute to the Workshop.

3 Tully

Manager

- ✚ Today we say farewell Michael Barron. Over the last six years Michael has lead the redevelopment of Tully and made many very positive contributions to beef cattle breeding in Ireland. We wish him well in his new job.
- ✚ Thirteen applications for the vacant position have been received and interviews will take place next week. In the meantime Niall Kilrane will be the acting manager.

4 Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- ✚ A test beef performance evaluation was carried out to evaluate the effect of incorporating the recipient dam into the evaluations for animals which were born from ET matings. The recipient dam (where known) was included for these ET animals for the trait maternal weaning weight. The aim of the test run was to establish the bias in evaluation of maternal weaning weight from not accounting for the favourable milk yield effects of most recipient dams. Results will be presented at the beef industry meeting on 26th August.



- A further test run will commence early next week to evaluate the incorporation of Foreign EBV data into the Irish beef performance evaluation. Monday is set as the deadline for receipt of foreign proofs. So far weaning weight and maternal weaning weight proofs have been received for all breeds in the French evaluations and a subset of UK Simmental.

Calving

- A new calving evaluation is currently being undertaken. The volume of data has increased substantially due to the advent of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme.

Dairy

- The receipt of INTERBULL files has commenced and are currently being processed and will be loaded to the database.
- The domestic milk and fertility files are also being loaded to the database at present.

5 Genomic Selection

- A further 11 bulls were obtained from herd owners this week, bringing the total to 182.

6 GENEIRELAND®



Dairy

- Letters were sent to participants of the spring programme informing them of how many inseminations they have recorded on the database, and requesting they record any outstanding serve information as soon as possible.
- At the beginning of the week we had 50% recorded inseminations in relation to the number of straws dispatched.
- We're hoping to make a first round of payments at the end of August.
- Communication has been made with participating AI companies requesting details of the bulls they wish to put forward into the Autumn programme.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 15/08/08

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 15/08/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 15/08/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 15/08/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 15/08/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,215	891	40%	176,060	68,809	39%
Dairygold	1,652	601	36%	119,535	45,265	38%
Kerry	1,156	247	21%	78,158	16,166	21%
SWS	913	132	14%	60,940	9,322	15%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	12,886	5,687	72%
Arrabawn	165	137	83%	12,595	10,599	84%
Connacht	154	62	40%	9,525	3,647	38%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,620	4,620	100%
Total	6,475	2,191	34%	474,319	164,115	35%



Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 15/08/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 15/08/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 15/08/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	152,257	162,404	176,060	13.5%
Dairygold	101,925	109,479	119,535	8.4%
Kerry	69,241	70,770	78,158	11.4%
SWS	58,271	59,697	60,940	2.0%
Tipperary	11,679	12,166	12,886	5.6%
Arrabawn	10,895	11,718	12,595	7.0%
Connacht	8,783	9,782	9,525	-2.7%
Donegal	5,029	3,840	4,620	16.9%
Total	418,080	439,856	474,319	7.3%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 05/08/08 to 15/08/08.								
	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	18	1,074	60	22.0	3.93	3.41	1.61	316
CAVAN	63	3,387	54	22.3	3.63	3.36	1.56	297
CLARE	19	1,015	53	21.4	3.84	3.43	1.56	231
CORK STH	314	18,995	60	20.6	3.94	3.49	1.53	256
CORK NTH	243	17,331	71	21.3	3.87	3.51	1.57	276
DONEGAL	17	1,211	71	21.4	3.8	3.42	1.55	299
DUBLIN	6	284	47	26.9	3.66	3.41	1.90	278
GALWAY	26	1,883	72	23.8	3.82	3.35	1.71	331
KERRY	133	7,937	60	21.3	3.77	3.4	1.53	281
KILDARE	13	890	68	23.8	3.66	3.38	1.68	370
KILKENNY	53	3,822	72	19.5	3.96	3.51	1.46	297
LAOIS	36	2,349	65	19.8	3.9	3.46	1.46	284
LEITRIM	4	232	58	20.8	3.5	3.27	1.41	347
LIMERICK	131	7,798	60	21.9	3.71	3.41	1.56	272
LONGFORD	6	385	64	20.2	3.89	3.38	1.47	226
LOUTH	21	1,639	78	21.3	3.68	3.42	1.51	285
MAYO	14	773	55	23.2	3.44	3.45	1.60	369
MEATH	69	5,722	83	21.9	3.84	3.41	1.59	294
MONAGHAN	43	2,214	51	23.7	3.71	3.34	1.67	298
OFFALY	19	1,142	60	22.5	3.86	3.4	1.63	260
ROSCOMMON	7	407	58	24.9	4.18	3.27	1.86	271
SLIGO	7	278	40	25.0	3.65	3.47	1.78	282
TIPPERARY NTH	19	1,574	83	18.0	4.44	3.62	1.45	338
TIPPERARY STH	80	5,789	72	20.0	3.88	3.44	1.46	245
WATERFORD	59	4,972	84	19.2	3.96	3.47	1.43	292

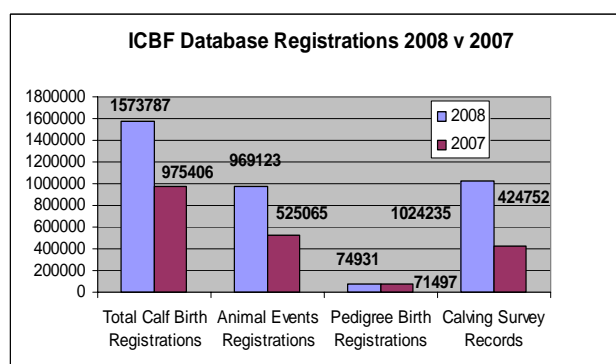
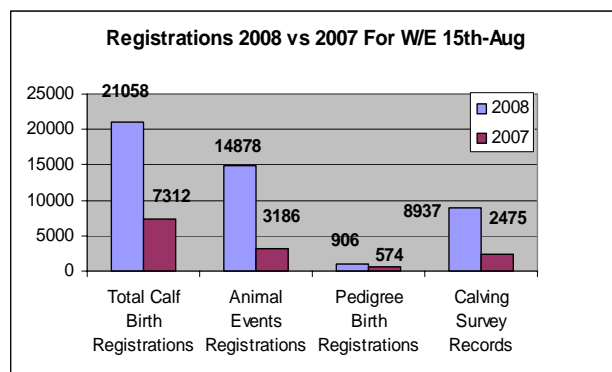


WESTMEATH	28	1,883	67	23.6	3.79	3.38	1.69	325
WEXFORD	75	5,140	69	20.5	3.88	3.48	1.51	266
WICKLOW E	18	1,144	64	20.8	3.63	3.41	1.46	295
WICKLOW W	10	755	76	22.2	3.73	3.23	1.55	349
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,551	102,025	65	21.9	3.81	3.41	1.58	294

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 05/08/08 to 15/08/08.

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	998	65,411	66	20.5	3.93	3.47	1.51	274
Leinster	372	26,229	71	21.9	3.80	3.41	1.58	296
Connacht	58	3,573	62	23.5	3.72	3.36	1.67	320
Ulster	123	6,812	55	22.5	3.71	3.37	1.59	298

8 Database



- ✚ 482,522 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 333,399 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ The work on reviewing the AI software for next season is continuing. We expect to have a session with each of the AI organisations using handhelds in early September.
- ✚ Over 600,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received as part of the Suckler Scheme.



- ✦ Approximately 9000 suckler preweaning forms have been received and processed thus far. It is very important that these forms get returned on time.
- ✦ It is now possible to record all Suckler Events online through the ICBF website.
- ✦ Work on enhancing the Teagasc Discussion Group reports has continued this week.
- ✦ New developments have continued this week, including a revamp of the bull search output, further development of the Gene Ireland application, and the update of the milk recording data entry screens.

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, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden.

Workshop - A New National Breeding Program for Sheep.

Why: *To increase the profitability of the Irish sheep sector through better breeding.*

Who: Key sheep industry stakeholders including; (i) Interim sheep board, (ii) breeders involved in current DAF pedigree sheep breed improvement program (PSBIP), (iii) representatives from flock books, (iv) commercial sheep producers, (v) farming organisations (IFA & ICMSA), (vi) DAF, (vii) Teagasc, (viii) meat processors, (ix) Bord Bia, (x) Universities, (xi) ICBF, & (xii) International geneticists from AbacusBio (NZ) and Wageningen (NLD).

Where: **Tullamore Court Hotel.**

When: **Monday 25th August 2008 (9.30 AM – 5.30 PM).**

How: Sheep Industry Workshop.

Approximately 60 people from across the Irish sheep industry.

Four key areas identified; (i) identification, (ii) data recording, (iii) breeding objectives & genetic evaluations, & (iv) breeding programs (see Table 1 for details).

Workshop will be co-ordinated by a project team involving people from ICBF (Brian Wickham & Andrew Cromie), Teagasc (Seamus Hanrahan & Michael McHugh), AbacusBio, New Zealand (Pete Fennessy, Peter Amer, Murray Rohloff & Tim Byrne) & Wageningen, the Netherlands (Roel Veerkamp).

Each session will include introductory comments from a member of the project team (15 minutes), followed by break-out sessions in groups (30 minutes) and finishing with a reporting back session, where key areas will be identified and discussed (30 minutes).

It is anticipated that there will be 6 groups (~ 10 people per group), with each group having a co-ordinator & scribe (from within the project team).

Table 1. Draft schedule for Sheep Industry Workshop (25th August 2008).

Time	Item	Key Questions	Areas to consider
9.30	Tea & Coffee		
10.00	Welcome; Brian Wickham, ICBF	<i>Welcome & background perspective.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malone Strategy Report, DAF involvement (pedigree sheep breeding improvement program), ICBF – future role.
10.10	Introduction Peter Amer, AbacusBio.	<i>Overview of workshop.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting out the plan; objectives, groups, team-work, debate, consolidation of views.
10.15	Introduction. Murray Rohloff, AbacusBio.	<i>State of the Sheep World.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International perspective on sheep farming and supply.
10.30	Session 1: Sheep Identification Seamus Hanrahan, Teagasc.	<i>How should we identify breeding sheep in the future?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of ID; ENSIS, Electronic ID, Tattoo, Management tag. Linking together current systems – can we create a single ID for breeding? Can we develop an ID system that covers both sheep breeding & traceability requirements?
11.45	Session 2: Performance recording. Andrew Cromie, ICBF.	<i>What are our options for “on-farm” recording of sheep data?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for recording; Paper-based, pre-printed lists/notebooks, web-based farm management systems & PDA’s. Role of industry data e.g., abattoirs & marts.
1.00	Lunch		
2.00	Session 3: Breeding Objectives & Genetic Evaluations. Peter Amer & Tim Byrne, Abacus Bio.	<i>What is our overall objective in Irish sheep breeding?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profit indexes. Key traits for genetic improvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How important is each trait? Can we improve it? How easy is it to measure?
3.15	Session 4: Breeding Programs. Michael McHugh, Teagasc.	<i>How can we help a commercial farmers & breeders select better rams in the future?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selecting rams (within & across breeds) Ensuring we have reliable information (within & across breed links). Simple & easy to use breeding information. Demonstrating the benefits of breeding.
4.30	Session 5: Summary. Peter Fennessy, Abacus Bio.	<i>What are the key messages coming from the day?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open discussion forum. List of key messages.
5.15	Close; Brian Wickham ICBF.	<i>Close of workshop</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens from here?