



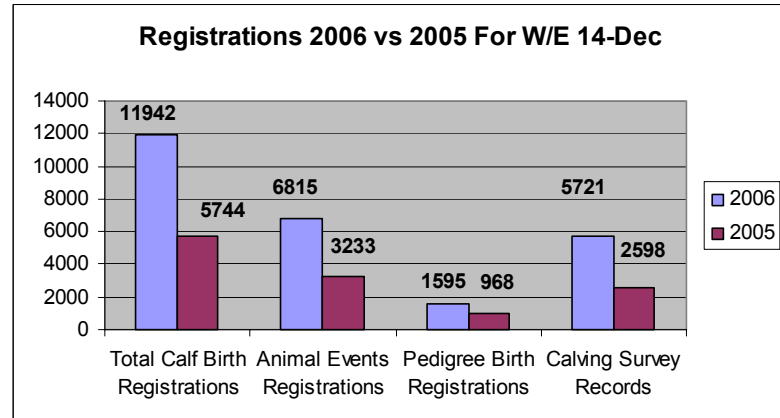
Update for period 9th-15th December 2006

1 Important Dates

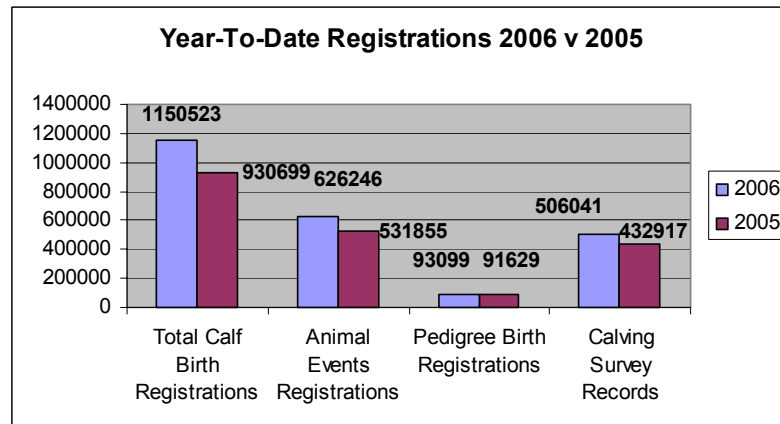
- **Thursday 25th January.** 10:30 to 13:00. Board Meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- **Thursday 1st February.** 10:30 to 13:00. Board Meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.

2 Database Update

- 21 new herds added to the database last week.
- 168,918 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds.
- Dry-off sheets are coming in at a good rate and are currently being keyed. The online dry-off notification method is also getting steady usage this week. Some modifications to make this function more user-friendly have been completed and are now in place.



- The final fertility reports continue to be issued based on insemination data and pregnancy diagnosis information in the database. These will be run on a weekly basis incorporating the latest data available on the database.



- Feedback on the first drafts of the personalised Animal Events notebook for farmers has been received this week and actions are being taken accordingly.

- Meetings have been held with two of the larger herd-books this week to get initial feedback on the work done on the front end for herd-books. This feedback is now being taken on board and further discussions with other herdbooks will take place after Christmas.

3 Sire Advice Services Working Group

The Chairman of ICBF, John O'Sullivan, has announced the membership of the working group formed at the most recent ICBF Board meeting. The members are: Doreen Corridan, Terry Dillon, Bernard Zwaferink, Seamus Hughes, Richard Whelan, Jim Delahunty, Philip Kinnane and Jim O'Dwyer. The group will be led by Sean Coughlan, and supplemented with ICBF technical staff as appropriate.

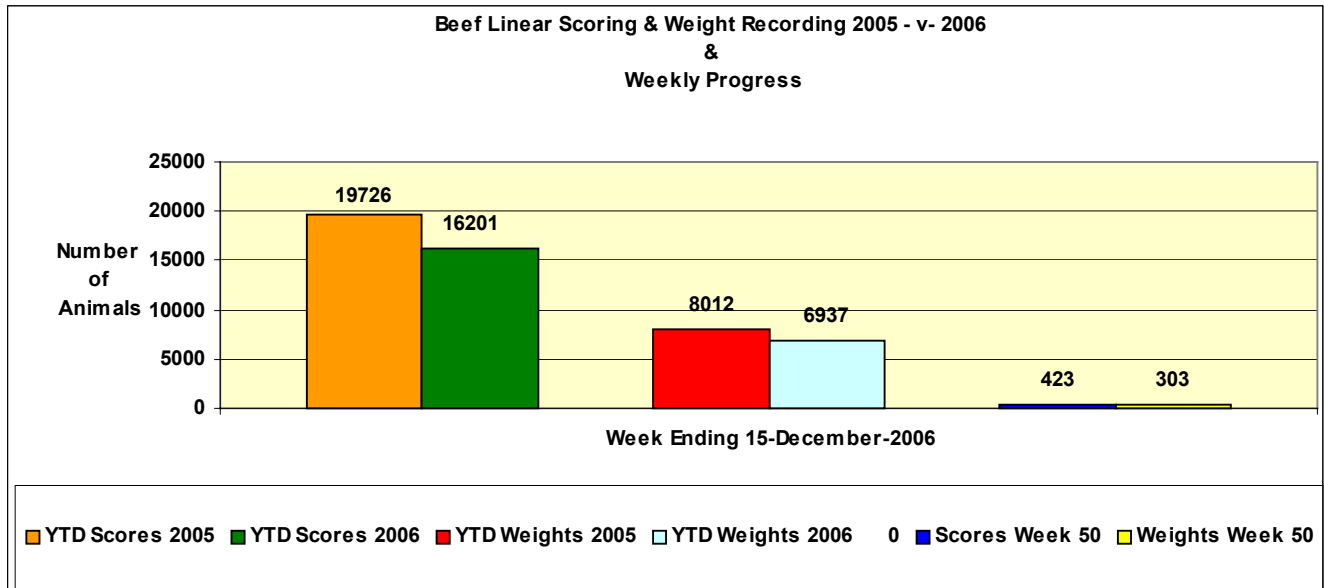
4 Tully

- The October intake of bulls will be sold at Tully on the 3-3-06.
- The October intake of bulls were weighed on the 14-12-06 and a report was sent out to breeders on the 15-12-06.



- The catalogue for the October intake will be up on the ICBF web site before the 21-12-06.
- The December intake to Tully will start their performance test on the 21-12-06.

5 Beef Linear Scoring



6 Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- An unofficial beef bull list of known active AI sires will be placed on the website this evening. This list includes all bulls which have information contributing to the genetic evaluations resulting in each of the 5 sub indexes. This is only a preliminary list. Further lists will be placed on the website in the coming weeks following parental averaging. Additional information relating to the amount of information on these bulls going into the evaluation will also be on the website.
- A presentation on the new beef indexes was made upon request to Dovea AI.

International Beef

- Work on enhancements to the conversion equations for Limousin and Charolais continues.

7 HerdPlus

1. Teagasc - finalised design of Web Reports for Teagasc Advisors and Discussion group Chairmen (EBI, Fertility etc.).
2. HerdPlus staff attended Discussion Group meetings in Cork this week to get feedback on design.
3. Sign up forms continue to come in at rate of 75 - 100 a week.



8 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 - 15/12/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 15/12/06	Year on Year Herds Difference (%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 15/12/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 15/12/06	Year on Year Cows Difference (%)
Progressive	2,087	2,113	1%	155,102	162,428	5%
Dairygold	1,529	1,552	2%	98,891	104,498	6%
Kerry	1,067	1,075	1%	68,093	70,770	4%
SWS	939	958	2%	56,099	60,624	8%
Tipperary	142	168	18%	9,473	11,888	25%
Arrabawn	109	159	46%	7,185	11,099	54%
Connacht	110	140	27%	7,501	9,400	25%
Donegal	55	58	5%	4,747	5,281	11%
Total	6,038	6,223	3%	407,091	435,988	7%

Milk Recording Stats week ending 15/12/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 01/12/06 - 15/12/06
Progressive	267
Dairygold	81
SWS	114
Kerry	57
Connacht	19
Arrabawn	2
Total	540