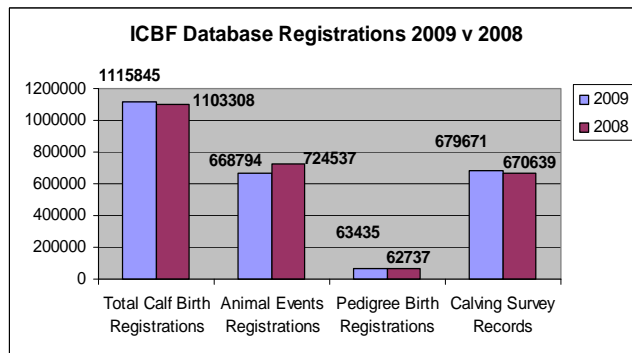
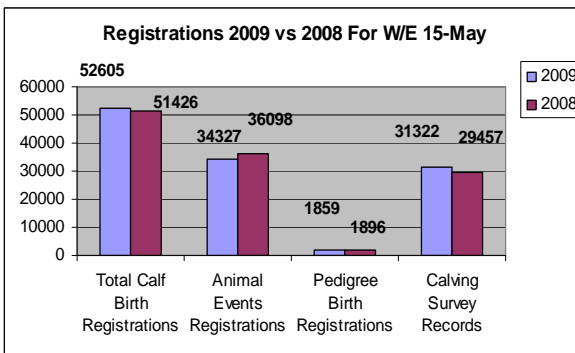


1. Important Dates

- # **Wednesday 20th May 2009.** 10:30 – 15:00. **Sheep Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting.** Maldron Hotel Portlaoise.
- # **Tuesday 9th June.** **Irish Grasslands Assn Sheep Meeting.** This meeting will feature recent developments by Sheep Ireland. Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny.
- # **Tuesday 30th June.** **Irish Grassland Assn Beef Meeting**

2. Database



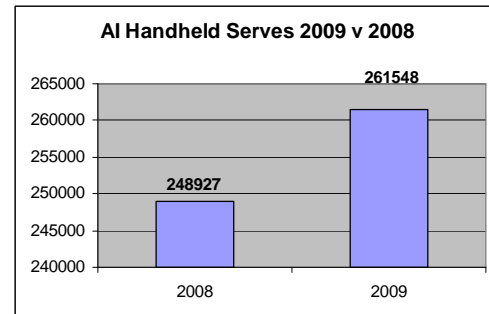
- # The 2009 Suckler Scheme calving continue to flow in. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 781,000, with just over 689,000 of these having been weaned.

- # The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has been slower than planned, but we are still expecting to have the system live for some users within the next few weeks.

- # Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is continuing.

- # Development on the sheep genetic evaluation extracts are continuing.

- # The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008.



3. ICAR Meetings

- # Attached is a report from Brian Wickham on this weeks ICAR meetings in Porec, Croatia.

4. Tully

- # A small number of bulls are coming in this weekend with the rest of bulls that have passed there health test coming in before Saturday the 24th of May. There are still some results being analysed at present and those results are due back today. We won't know the final breakdown of bulls for the next intake until all results are in but there seems to be a high percentage of herds not meeting the health status requirements.

- Tully performance tested bulls from the previous intake made the top four prices at the Limousin Premier sale in Roscrea last Saturday as seen below. The trend in prices is also quite reflective of the performance of the bulls.

| Bull owner | Price | Tag number | Avg Daily Gain (kg/day) | efficiency (DMI/ADG) Dry matter intake / Average Daily Gain | fat depth (mm) | muscle depth (mm) | Sire name |
|----------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| MICHAEL SEXTON | €7,800 | IE131306660422 | 2.6 | 4.9 | 2.69 | 90.4 | RONICK HAWK |
| CLAIRE GRIFFIN | €5,100 | IE131511750284 | 2.2 | 5.7 | 5.59 | 87.0 | RONICK ICEMAN |
| CLAIRE GRIFFIN | €4,600 | IE131511790288 | 1.8 | 5.8 | 2.99 | 80.3 | RONICK ICEMAN |
| RAY CAROLAN | €4,300 | IE121133360210 | 1.8 | 5.5 | 3.54 | 86.5 | ROUNDHILL SATURN |

5. GENE IRELAND®

Dairy

- The Spring 2009 programme is now complete. All dispatches have been filled.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank everything that has been involved this season. Unfortunately it hasn't gone as smoothly as last year, mostly from semen availability causing a few problems over the past month. But overall, with the introduction of Genomic Selection and a positive uptake of the programme this can only lead well for the future of the scheme.

Beef

- Sign ups have reached 390 herds taking an average of 17 straws each. 130 herds ahead of last year.
- Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.
- RSA reached the 700 straw mark this week becoming the second BB bull tested through Gene Ireland.

| BREED | CH | CH | LM | SI | SI | BB | PT | BA | AA | AA | AA | SH |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CODE | RHI | CWB | RHF | RWV | SKU | RSA | KCP | WOA | RWB | FPG | LZE | CZB |
| STRAWS | 580 | 22 | 355 | 173 | 573 | 712 | 277 | 451 | 307 | 139 | 261 | 207 |

6. Sheep Ireland

Lambplus®



- The Sheep Ireland Genetic Evaluation system has been built.
- A Pedigree File has been extracted for the first evaluation run.
- Other Data Extract files are also being progressed.
- To-date 20 Flocks have had a scanning visit from the Donegal FRS team.

- # Stephen Potterton has also been assisting the Scanning team in those flocks that had not entered their lambing data at the time of scanning.
- # The keying of the Ewe NSIS tag numbers into the database for the MALP flocks is now completed.
- # The keying of the MALP flock lambing data is now underway.
- # Notification emails & letters were sent out to all Flockbook Secretaries and also to Lambplus & MALP Flockowners about 2 important upcoming meetings;

Wednesday 20th May 2009 Sheep Genetic Evaluation Meeting.

A genetic evaluation consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May at the Maldron Hotel from 10:30 to 15:00. This is an open meeting at which the research team will be presenting their initial findings on the breeding objective for Irish sheep. This is a very important meeting for the sheep breeding industry. If you intend coming to this meeting please let us know by contacting Mary Madden (023-88-20222) (mmadden@icbf.com).

Tuesday 9th June 2009 Irish Grasslands Association Sheep Conference.

This is a key event in this year's Sheep Ireland Activities and will feature all of the developments to-date as well as what is planned by Sheep Ireland in the future. It will be held on the farm of John Renehan, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny and afterwards at the Horse & Jockey Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Registration begins at 9.30am at The Horse & Jockey. Relevant literature has been enclosed.

7. GROW® – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



- # The percentage of beef animals scored & weighed continues to maintain its high levels.
- # For the month of April:
 - o 90% of all Pedigree Weanlings that were scored were also weighed.

The Linear Scorers were all also involved in the inspection of Bulls for Tully.

The graph shows the level of weight recording this year in pedigree herds compared to the last 2 years.

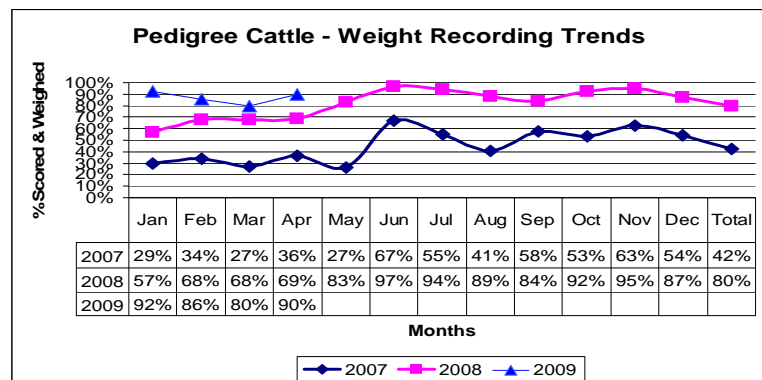
The new GROW report is awaiting final development work to be completed on it.

It will then be sent out to all breeders following a visit from a Scorer.

Crucially, it will show a Breeder how many of the animals that they put forward for scoring & weighing will have their own data included in their evaluations.

This will depend on:

1. Age – 150-300 days is desired age window
2. Group size – Group of 5 is minimum required group size.



- ✚ A constant issue following a Scoring session is that a Breeder assumes that all data recorded is subsequently used in genetic evaluations. This is not always the case, however up to now this has not been clearly communicated to Breeders. The new GROW report will address this issue.
- ✚ This report will also be available on the web.

8. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 05/05/09 to 15/05/09.

| | 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 | 16 | 998 | 62 | 27.8 | 3.86 | 3.38 | 2.01 | 289 |
| CAVAN | 30 | 1,305 | 44 | 29.4 | 3.45 | 3.31 | 1.99 | 341 |
| CLARE | 39 | 1,984 | 51 | 27.3 | 3.65 | 3.32 | 1.90 | 243 |
| CORK STH | 232 | 14,823 | 64 | 25.1 | 3.87 | 3.35 | 1.81 | 272 |
| CORK NTH | 217 | 15,425 | 71 | 25.2 | 3.93 | 3.41 | 1.85 | 278 |
| DONEGAL | 14 | 846 | 60 | 27.1 | 4.10 | 3.32 | 2.01 | 266 |
| DUBLIN | 4 | 333 | 83 | 25.0 | 4.21 | 3.37 | 1.90 | 391 |
| GALWAY | 18 | 1,098 | 61 | 29.1 | 3.81 | 3.29 | 2.07 | 298 |
| KERRY | 88 | 5,357 | 61 | 27.7 | 3.76 | 3.21 | 1.93 | 330 |
| KILDARE | 23 | 1,631 | 71 | 26.5 | 3.82 | 3.38 | 1.91 | 291 |
| KILKENNY | 40 | 3,165 | 79 | 24.9 | 3.67 | 3.35 | 1.75 | 256 |
| LAOIS | 37 | 2,476 | 67 | 23.5 | 3.99 | 3.38 | 1.73 | 281 |
| LEITRIM | 4 | 144 | 36 | 25.4 | 3.81 | 3.03 | 1.74 | 310 |
| LIMERICK | 97 | 6,594 | 68 | 25.9 | 3.65 | 3.28 | 1.79 | 333 |
| LONGFORD | 5 | 425 | 85 | 25.3 | 3.95 | 3.31 | 1.84 | 171 |
| LOUTH | 23 | 1,713 | 74 | 27.2 | 3.65 | 3.29 | 1.89 | 299 |
| MAYO | 19 | 1,170 | 62 | 27.3 | 3.28 | 3.31 | 1.80 | 392 |
| MEATH | 62 | 5,563 | 90 | 24.5 | 3.85 | 3.33 | 1.76 | 344 |
| MONAGHAN | 38 | 1,854 | 49 | 27.6 | 3.75 | 3.30 | 1.95 | 289 |
| OFFALY | 18 | 1,087 | 60 | 25.3 | 3.79 | 3.31 | 1.80 | 324 |
| ROSCOMMON | 5 | 243 | 49 | 26.9 | 3.72 | 3.28 | 1.88 | 223 |
| SLIGO | 5 | 231 | 46 | 28.5 | 3.49 | 3.35 | 1.95 | 379 |
| TIPPERARY NTH | 33 | 2,232 | 68 | 25.7 | 3.72 | 3.44 | 1.84 | 242 |
| TIPPERARY STH | 44 | 3,586 | 82 | 22.6 | 3.95 | 3.39 | 1.66 | 213 |
| WATERFORD | 44 | 3,709 | 84 | 25.5 | 3.86 | 3.37 | 1.84 | 258 |
| WESTMEATH | 17 | 1,187 | 70 | 26.9 | 3.73 | 3.40 | 1.92 | 290 |
| WEXFORD | 71 | 5,043 | 71 | 24.3 | 3.55 | 3.42 | 1.69 | 267 |
| WICKLOW E | 17 | 1,129 | 66 | 23.7 | 3.28 | 3.41 | 1.59 | 327 |
| WICKLOW W | 18 | 1,344 | 75 | 26.0 | 3.59 | 3.39 | 1.81 | 226 |
| National | 1,278 | 86,695 | 66 | 26.1 | 3.75 | 3.33 | 1.85 | 290 |

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 05/05/09 to 15/05/09.

| Provincial | No. | No. Cows | Average | Average | Average | Average | Average | Average |
|------------|-----|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|------------|-----|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

| | Herds Recorded | Recorded | Herd Size | 24hr Milk kg/Cow | Fat % | Protein % | F + P kg | SCC |
|----------|----------------|----------|-----------|------------------|-------|-----------|----------|-----|
| Munster | 794 | 53,710 | 68 | 25.6 | 3.76 | 3.35 | 1.82 | 271 |
| Leinster | 351 | 26,094 | 74 | 25.5 | 3.74 | 3.36 | 1.81 | 289 |
| Connacht | 51 | 2,886 | 57 | 27.4 | 3.59 | 3.25 | 1.88 | 320 |
| Ulster | 82 | 4,005 | 49 | 28.0 | 3.89 | 3.31 | 2.02 | 299 |

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 15/05/09

| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 15/05/09 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 15/05/09 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 15/05/09 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 15/05/09 | % Cows EDIY |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Progressive | 1,936 | 735 | 38% | 144,561 | 53,707 | 37% |
| Dairygold | 1,405 | 506 | 36% | 94,101 | 35,041 | 37% |
| Kerry | 853 | 55 | 6% | 51,149 | 2,840 | 6% |
| SWS | 839 | 109 | 13% | 51,659 | 7,054 | 14% |
| Tipperary | 114 | 37 | 32% | 8,362 | 3,246 | 39% |
| Arrabawn | 132 | 108 | 82% | 8,634 | 7,166 | 83% |
| Connacht | 103 | 22 | 21% | 5,796 | 1,095 | 19% |
| Donegal | 8 | 8 | 100% | 720 | 720 | 100% |
| Total | 5,390 | 1,580 | 29% | 364,982 | 110,869 | 30% |

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 15/05/08 | YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 15/05/09 | 2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Progressive | 146,579 | 144,561 | -1.4% |
| Dairygold | 93,424 | 94,101 | 0.7% |
| Kerry | 62,660 | 51,149 | -22.5% |
| SWS | 50,577 | 51,659 | 2.1% |
| Tipperary | 9,785 | 8,362 | -17.0% |
| Arrabawn | 10,404 | 8,634 | -20.5% |
| Connacht | 6,301 | 5,796 | -8.7% |
| Donegal | 587 | 720 | 18.5% |
| Total | 380,317 | 364,982 | -4.2% |

9. Genetic Evaluations

International beef

- The results of the spring 2009 InterBeef genetic evaluation were made available to member countries this week. The result files for Charolais and Limousine limited to the proofs of sires with at least 10 progenies across countries is being analysed and a summary will be available soon for the relevant breed societies.

- ✚ A new set of conversion equations is being currently calculated between France & Ireland for Charolais and Limousine breeds. This equation will enable the industry, when choosing an animal in France, to have a rough estimation of its Euro-star value in Ireland.

Beef

- ✚ Work is progressing on genetic parameter estimation for the farmer scored calf quality trait. Initial estimates indicate heritability in the region of 30 to 40%. The next phase involves determining the genetic correlations between this trait and the other traits in the routine beef evaluation before the trait can become part of the routine evaluation.

10. 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 until May of 2009.

| Old Number (example) | New Number (example) |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Phone: 023 20222 | 023 88 20222 |
| Fax: 023 20229 | 023 88 20229 |

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 882 0222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 882 0229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com

ICAR Meetings – Porec, Croatia

This week I have been in Croatia attending a series of ICAR related meetings.

ICAR Board & Chairpersons Meeting

As the Chairperson of the Interbeef Working Group I was involved in a meeting with the ICAR Board. This meeting reviewed the activities of the many groups that undertake the bulk of ICAR’s work in developing guidelines and services. The key priorities for the groups of greatest interest to Ireland are summarised in the following table.

| Group | Key priorities | Notes |
|---|--|--|
| Subcommittee for Animal Identification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Test of plastic ear tags: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. First round of field test with three products must start now in Germany and USA. b. Second round of tests to start as soon as possible. ▪ The functions as Registration Authority of ISO and the conditions under which these functions can be performed. ▪ Website with results from performance tests and approval criteria agreed by ISO for transponders to be used in different applications are to be published on the ICAR website so that EU and other authorities can reference these criteria. ▪ Approve new test centres. ▪ International issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keep up attempts to establish closer cooperation with OIE. b. Keep up informing competent authorities internationally about ICAR test protocols and approvals. c. Promote ICAR and ICAR approvals in countries where they are scarcely known to the benefit of decision makers, users and manufacturers. | <p>So far some 200 identification devices have been tested by ICAR.</p> <p>This group is the world-wide authority on electronic identification of farm animals.</p> <p>All test results and other information can be found on the ICAR website (www.icar.org).</p> |
| Sub-Committee on Milk Analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines for laboratories. ▪ ICAR Reference Laboratory Network. ▪ Guidelines for on-farm analytical devices (evaluation, calibration, quality control). ▪ Implementation of international reference systems for routine analysis: IDF/ICAR project on reference system for somatic cell counting. ▪ Development of training & education in analytical matters. | <p>This group works closely with IDF in establishing systems for ensuring the accuracy of milk analysis for both farmer payment and animal performance.</p> |
| Conformation Working Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize survey on trait definitions for other than Holstein breeds. ▪ Organize survey on trait definitions for beef breeds. ▪ Organize survey on trait definitions for goats. ▪ Organize survey on monitoring classifiers. ▪ Extend group with people from beef breed societies. | <p>This group initially focused on Holsteins and is now seeking to cover all cattle breeds (dairy & beef) and goats.</p> |
| Lactation Calculation Methods Working Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analyze data from on-farm analyzers in order to draft guidelines for milk recording in farms with daily milkings and analysis. | <p>There are no standards for computing lactations yields using daily yield records.</p> |

ICAR MEETING REPORT

| Group | Key priorities | Notes |
|--|---|---|
| Artificial Insemination and Relevant technologies Working Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop necessary tools for use of international bar-code in accordance with ICAR recommendations. ▪ To keep watch on new development in straw labeling and / or automatic reading systems ▪ To update existing recommendations on straw labeling. | Straw labelling standards are the key issue for this group. |
| Working Group on recording, evaluation and genetic improvement of functional traits in dairy cattle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Circulating female fertility guidelines and getting them approved. ▪ Writing feet and legs guidelines (FLG). ▪ Circulating FLG and getting them approved. ▪ Writing calving ease and stillbirth guidelines (CESG). ▪ Circulating CESG and getting them approved. | This work is very important to Ireland where these traits have high economic importance. |
| Interbeef Working Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report to Stakeholders. ▪ Development of service for international evaluations of beef breeds and traits. ▪ Research on methods for international beef evaluations. | ICAR has the provision of an Interbeef service in 2011 as a strategic priority. |
| Sub-Committee for Recording Devices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inline/online milk meters jointly with SC for Milk Analysis. ▪ System testing. ▪ Guideline revisions for 2010. ▪ Sub-Committee promotion material. | Martin Burke of ICBF is a member of this group. |
| Interbull Sub-Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve international genetic evaluations of cattle. ▪ Develop national and international methods for genomic evaluation of cattle. ▪ Improve communication with members and final beneficiaries. ▪ Provide harmonization, monitoring and quality assurance. ▪ Provide services that are accurate, independent, timely, transparent, unbiased and cost effective. | Ireland, along with the UK and Holland, is represented on the Sub-Committee by Hans Wilmink of the Netherlands. |

ICAR General Assembly

The General Assembly is the AGM of ICAR and provides the formal mechanism for the members of ICAR to determine its direction, approve the finances and adopt new guidelines.

Key points this year included:

- The four long term goals of ICAR are to: grow membership, increase country & continent representation, increase the number of quality certificates and to launch the Interbeef service in 2011.
- Financial result for 2008 was a surplus of €12,000 bringing reserves to €300,000. Budgets for 2009 and 2010 are for small surpluses and retention of reserves.
- The procedures for approving new and amended guidelines are being reviewed and a final proposal will be put to the General Assembly in 2010.
- Six new members were welcomed including Holstein UK, two tag manufactures from Switzerland, and cattle breeding organisations from Chile, Iran and Portugal.
- ICAR is reporting to the EU Commission through Interbull on the subject of Genomics. A final report will be provided following the Interbull meeting in August 2009.
- The next ICAR General Assembly will be held in Latvia in the first week of June 2010.

Other ICAR Matters Relevant to Ireland

- Ireland's proposal to host a future ICAR conference has been accepted for 2012 (May/June) subject to finalisation of details.
- The ICAR Benchmarking and Quality Certificate services are of potential benefit to all cattle breeding organisations in Ireland. We need to give serious thought to taking full advantage of these services for the benefit of Irish farmers.
- I was surprised and honoured to be the recipient of the 2009 ICAR President's award "*as a recognition for the outstanding contribution to ICAR and its objectives*". My involvement with ICAR started in 1982 and included 13 years as the Chairman of Interbull during its formative years. In January 1998 I chaired the organising committee for the ICAR conference held in NZ and served for a number of years on the Board of ICAR.

Herd Recording Managers Workshop

This workshop over three days, including a field trip, covered a number of topics of great relevance to all involved in recording, breeding and providing services to farmers. Copies of all presentations will be put on the ICAR website.

The themes and some of the messages I took from the presentations are summarised here.

1. Manufacturers Showcase

- Finnzymes have developed a very accurate and rapid PCR based diagnostic test for mastitis causing bacteria that can be used on preserved samples from milk recording.
- Afimilk continue to develop and market their on-farm package that takes data from a range of sensors (in-line analyser, pedometer, scales) to detect disease and other abnormalities so that the farmer can take corrective actions. 2,000 of these systems operate worldwide.
- The AgSource Co-op based in Wisconsin has been able to gain significant market share by focusing on its staff, products and services to farmers.

2. Recording and logistics - Vials, cow ID and practical solutions

- France is conducting extensive studies of systems for linking EID (electronic identification) to milk recording systems, Mart and Meat Factory systems.
- Many countries have moved to using PDAs for collecting milk weights and sample identifications to eliminating paper based recording for milk recorders.

3. Genomics

- Interbull has made a great deal of progress in leading the development of an international approach to genomic selection.
- Ireland is leading Europe in the delivery of the benefits of genomic selection to dairy farmers. There is a great deal of interest in our approach which is much more open than in most other countries.

4. New services based on new technical and biological developments

- A US DHI lab has introduced an Elisa based Johne's test as part of their milk recording service. This has been well received by herd owners who are only just becoming aware of how serious the problem is (95% of herds with 500+ cows are infected with Johne's).
- Research at the Scottish Agriculture College (SAC) has developed a very effective camera based system for condition scoring dairy cows.

- Croatia has made rapid progress by increasing milk recording from 40,000 to 120,000 cows since 2004. The Croatian milk recording system makes heavy use of PDA devices to gather milk weights and other data from farms and to send it to the central recording database. A range of informative reports are returned to herd owners.
- Slovakia is milk recording 200,000 cows and has implemented a fully web based recording system and have developed a wide range of novel reports.

5. Traceability – Electronic system applications

- The identification and traceability systems being introduced in south east Europe with the objective of facilitating trade with the EU have had to overcome a number of major hurdles. Costs are high especially for some of the lower value species – sheep and goats. EID does provide some opportunities but the cost benefits are not always positive.
- A large-scale trial of EID for sheep, cattle and goats in France has identified the key considerations in successful application. We need to review this valuable experience before finalising plans in Ireland.
- Experience in Latvia has identified that many dairy farmers with existing EID systems for farm management may be reluctant to switch to new “official” EID systems.
- Experience with EID in the US (based on 50,000 tags) has identified opportunities for farmers with large herds to get considerable benefit from the technology and a number of practical considerations affecting the successful use of EID.
- The ICAR identification sub-committee has done an enormous amount of work to establish standards and to test EID devices for conformance and performance. Some 200 devices have been tested.

6. ICAR Services: Benchmarking, Patent Monitoring & Certificate of Quality

- The ICAR Certificate of Quality has a number of benefits for members and is relatively straightforward to obtain. Feedback from organisations that have obtained the Certificate has been positive.
- ICAR provides a patent monitoring service in conjunction with EAAP with full information on a dedicated website (www.psas-web.net).
- The Benchmarking service is a management tool to help members of ICAR improve their business by providing performance comparisons with like organisations in the same country or in other countries.

7. Changes in Herd Recording business structures: Real Experiences

- The three presentations covered recent developments in Denmark, Switzerland and Canada.
- All three were driven by the need to improve efficiency and to remain relevant in the light of new technologies.
- In one case (Switzerland) a merger proposal developed over a number of years failed to obtain shareholder approval.
- In the other two cases mergers occurred and enabled the organisations to achieve efficiency savings and ensure the availability of funds for investing in service development.
- In all cases the need for further sharing and merging is accepted as being required.

Brian Wickham, Friday 15th May 2009.