



Update for period 10th – 16th June 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Wednesday 21st June.** Agriculture & Food 06 at Kildalton College from 10:30am to 8:30pm. ICBF will be participating in stands on beef, dairy and information technology. We look forward to seeing many farmers and industry personal.
- ✚ **Thursday 22nd June,** 10:30-1:00, Board Meeting, Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Thursday 29th June,** 2.00-4.00pm, Developments in dairy evaluations, in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel (*Please note change of date of this meeting from Wednesday 28th to Thursday 29th*).
- ✚ **Wednesday 12th July,** 2.00- 4.00pm, Beef Breeding Scheme and Data Review
- ✚ **Thursday 20th July,** 10.30-1.00pm, Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel (*Please note change of date of these two meetings from Wednesday 19th to Thursday 20th July*)
- ✚ **Thursday 20th July,** 2.00-4.00pm, Tully Review Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel

2 Finance Sub-Committee meeting yesterday

At yesterdays meeting the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that:

- ✚ ICBF should adopt a services contribution model for the presentation of management accounts forthwith in tandem with the standard accounts presentation adopted to date.
- ✚ ICBF should ensure that there is full cost recovery on all services provided by the organization.
- ✚ That the CE should provide the Board with proposals as to how cost recovery can be achieved.

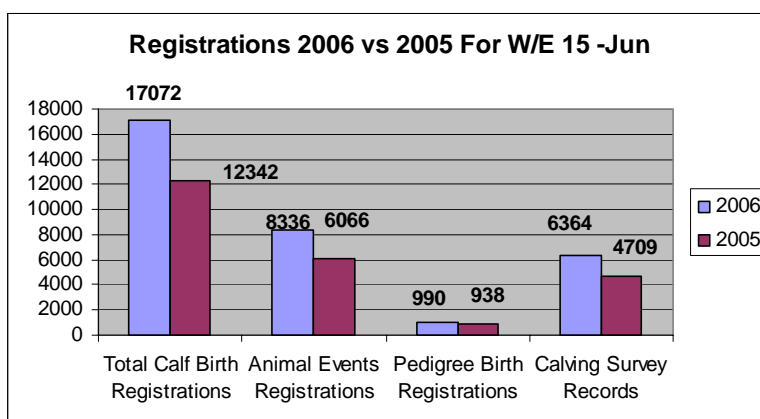
3 Board Meeting next week

Papers have been prepared and distributed. Items on the agenda include:

- ✚ Recommendations of Finance Sub-Committee.
- ✚ CE's plans achieving cost recovery on services.
- ✚ Breeding Schemes for Ireland.

4 Database Update

- ✚ 45 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ The 100,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds.
- ✚ We will be having a review of the AI system over the coming weeks with the various organisations with a view to refining the system and making any changes required based on lessons learned over the last three months.



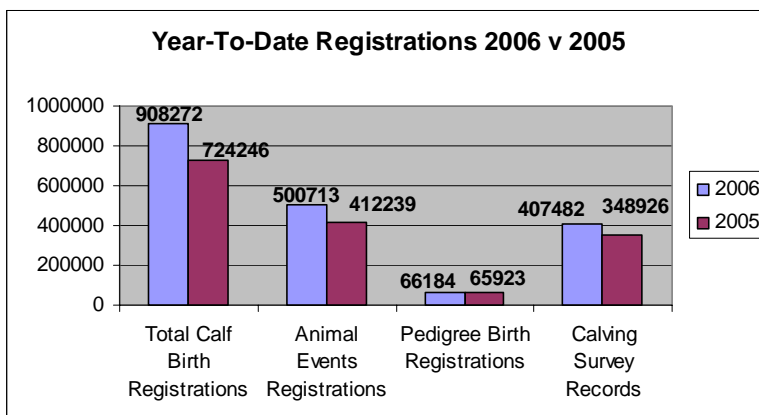


A meeting with the beef herdbooks will take place next week to discuss the on-going development of the IRIS application, as well as the roll-out of the catalogue service.

Solid progress has been made on expanding the number of Animal Events (inseminations, weight recording, freeze branding, etc) that can be recorded on-line. This will be launched at the Kildalton Agricultural event next week.

Development of a front-end to streamline the sending and receiving of text messages from/to ICBF is nearing completion. The aim is to continue to expand the use of text messaging as a means of reducing the ICBF postage costs.

The design of an application to assist with the management of the progeny testing schemes is on-going. As the programmes expand, this will be key to the efficient management of them.



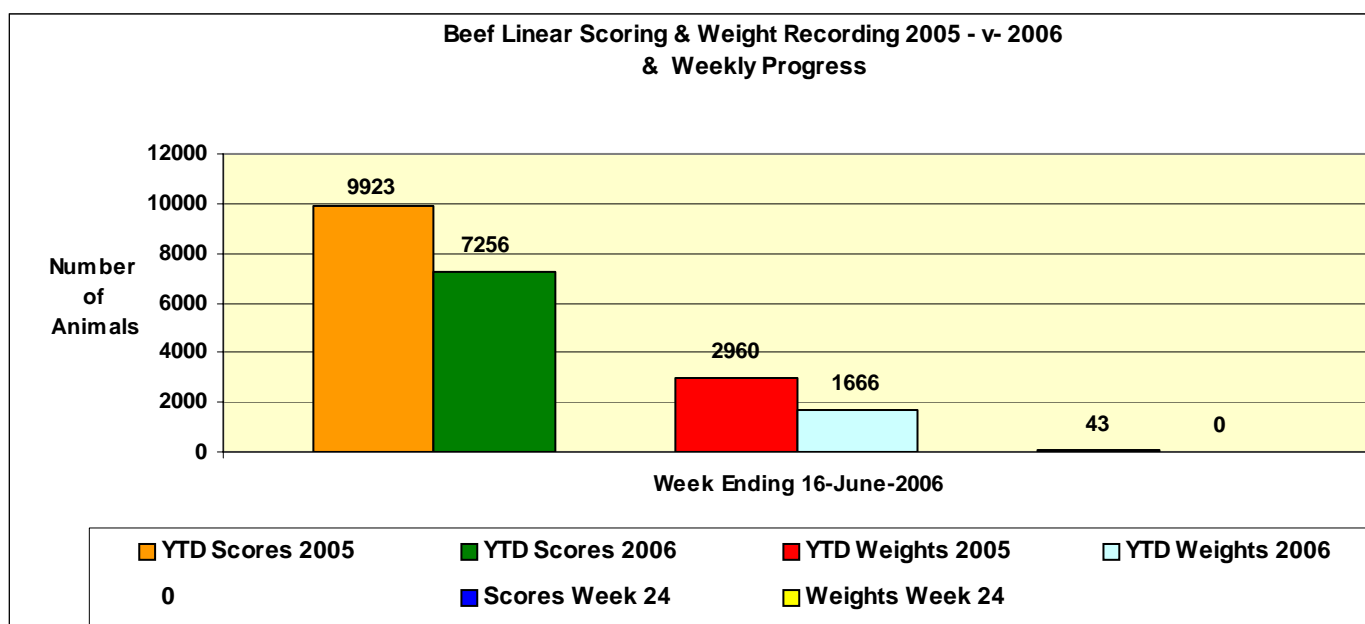
5 Tully

The 3 bulls (Hereford, Saler & Simmental) purchased by Dovea at the sale on the 6-4-06, and a Simmental bull owned by Dovea AI station have passed all health tests and will enter Dovea early next week.

A meeting will be held with the Department of Agriculture before the next intake to discuss the health testing criteria associated with entry to Tully.

A group of suckler farmers from Derry will visit Tully on the 22-6-06.

6 Linear Scoring





7 Genetic Evaluations – Beef & Dairy

- ✚ Work on a new calving performance evaluation has commenced. This new run will include an additional 250,000 calving records collected in Spring 2006.
- ✚ Work on new evaluations for beef performance, linear type and maternal traits is continuing. The current focus of work is on data edits, model definitions and new genetic parameters.

8 Interbeef Meeting, Lelystad, The Netherlands – Thursday 15th June

- ✚ A meeting of countries involved in international beef evaluations took place in Lelystad, the Netherlands on Thursday 15th June. The meeting was organised to discuss on-going developments in international evaluations for beef cattle and included representatives from Ireland, the Netherlands, France, UK and the USA. Key outcomes from the meeting were as follows:
 - A central system for storing international ID's (and pedigrees) should be established between participating countries. This would allow the easy recording of ID's for imported animals (including AI sires).
 - The current evaluations for weaning weight should be extended to include; (i) cross-bred data, and (ii) additional traits (e.g., carcass weight).
 - ICBF should continue work on developing conversion equations for additional traits of interest e.g., calving performance and maternal traits. INRA agreed to forward relevant files to ICBF, to help in this regard.
- ✚ The next meeting of the Interbeef group was scheduled for early December in Edinburgh.

9 Visiting USA Beef Breeding Scientists

Two leading beef cattle breeding scientists from the USA visited ICBF this week. Discussions focused on the value of an integrated database, the best approach to establishing and maintaining an integrated database, national and international beef genetic evaluations.



10 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 - 16/06/05 | YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 16/06/06 | Year on Year Herds Difference(%) | YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 16/06/05 | YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 16/06/06 | Year on Year Cows Difference(%) |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Progressive | 2,063 | 2,048 | -1% | 138,358 | 143,082 | 3% |
| Dairygold | 1,504 | 1,527 | 2% | 89,230 | 94,989 | 6% * |
| Kerry | 1,063 | 1,073 | 1% | 63,133 | 65,542 | 4% |
| SWS | 934 | 952 | 2% | 51,745 | 55,022 | 6% |
| Tipperary | 141 | 166 | 18% | 8,672 | 10,813 | 25% * |
| Arrabawn | 107 | 156 | 46% | 6,525 | 10,105 | 55% * |
| Connacht | 110 | 119 | 8% | 6,816 | 7,240 | 6% |
| Donegal | 27 | 51 | 89% | 2,460 | 4,428 | 80% * |
| Total | 5,949 | 6,092 | 2% | 366,939 | 391,221 | 7% |

* For these Co-ops increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

Milk Recording Stats week ending 16/06/06

| Milk Recording Organisation | 2006 Herds Recorded Week 09/06/06 - 16/06/06 |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Progressive | 421 |
| Dairygold | 226 |
| Kerry | 103 |
| SWS | 91 |
| Arrabawn | 17 |
| Connacht | 16 |
| Tipperary | 8 |
| Donegal | 3 |
| Total | 885 |