



**UPDATE – for period 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**1 Important Dates**

- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee.** Thursday 22nd March, Horse & Jockey, 9.00am
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting.** Thursday 29th March, Comfort Inn, Portaloise.

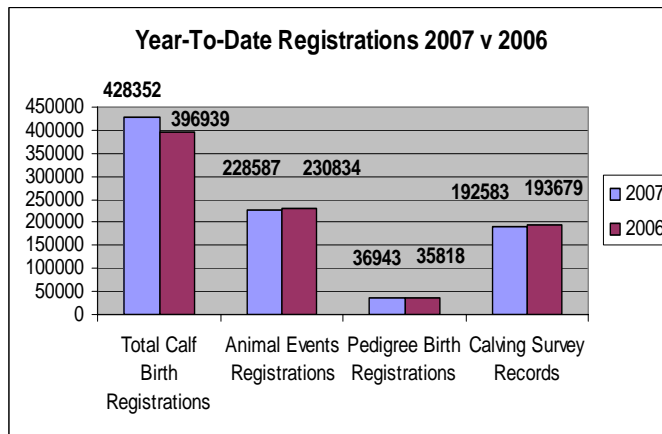
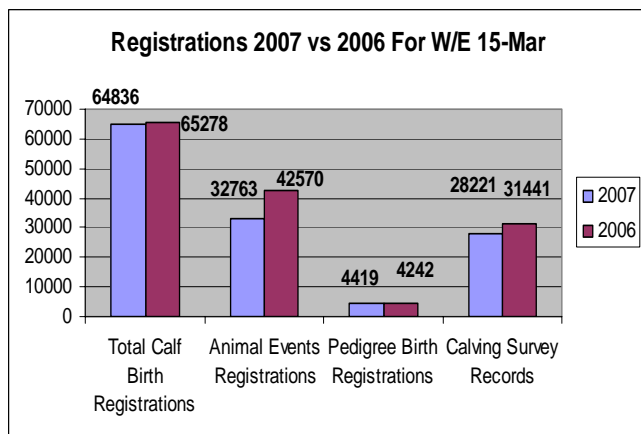
**2 Meeting with Breed Assns and representatives of Tully Bull Owners 12th March**

- ✚ The meeting on Monday resulted in agreement on the basis for resolving the current difficulties arising from the presence of IBR at Tully.
- ✚ All bull owners were written to on Wednesday with an offer which provided two choices – take the bull home or to leave it for ICBF to dispose of. In both cases an ex gratia payment will be made by ICBF to the bull owner.
- ✚ A special note of thanks to all those people who have worked so hard to achieve a resolution that retains good-will and ensures that beef cattle breeding in Ireland continues to make good progress.

**3 Tully**

- ✚ Judging of the FBD prize winners took place on the 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> March 07. Results can be viewed on the ICBF Web site. A letter has been sent to all bull owners qualifying for one or more awards.
- ✚ Linear Scoring of the December intake of bulls will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> March '07.
- ✚ TB and brucellosis testing of the December intake took place on the 20-3-07.

**4 Database Update**



- ✚ 197,722 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds. Dairygold have moved their technicians across to the new server. PG, Dovea, and Eurogene will move over next week.
- ✚ The new EBI reports have been issued this week to HerdPlus clients.
- ✚ The use of the Sire Advice program is on-going. 400 herds have now run the Sire Advice programme. We are introducing a change next week which will allow farmers to enter a different set of bulls for the cows and for the heifers.
- ✚ The new Teagasc Discussion Group application is getting good use and feedback continues to be positive.
- ✚ We are now on the last phase of work in the completion of the Herdbook front end. We will begin engaging with herdbooks towards the end of next week on planning the roll-out of the application.



## 5 International Beef Evaluations

### Interbull workshop dedicated to international beef evaluation – Paris – 9 & 10 march 2007

The sub-committee of ICAR, Interbull, in charge of international evaluations had set up a workshop dedicated to international beef evaluation last week in Paris. About 50 persons from different countries (France, Ireland, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Morocco, The United States, Canada & New Zealand) attended the meeting.

1. On the first day of the workshop different presentations were made:
  - Beef recording and national beef evaluation in different countries: UK, Ireland, France, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Czech Republic and New-Zealand.
  - ‘Genetic improvement in the Irish suckler beef herd: industry expectation & experience so far’ by Ross Evans.
  - The Interbeef experience so far:
    - ‘Review of research on beef international genetic evaluations’ by Eric Venot (INRA SGQA – France)
    - ‘Data exchange for international beef genetic evaluations’ by Thierry Pabiou
2. The second day was dedicated to group discussion to outline the future work of InterBeef. The main outcomes were:
  - **Traits:** currently working on weaning weight, the general consensus was to move to carcass related traits, other live traits and calving traits
  - **Breed:** all the participants agreed that the main breeds to work with in regards to connexion between the countries should be Limousine & Charolais. The other breed considered could be Simmental.
  - **Organisation:** InterBeef would be based in Sweden; to facilitate data management, web based applications would be created with a strict protocol of security.

**To summarise:** the InterBeef project has been very well perceived by the participants of the workshop. The actual international evaluation between France, Ireland & the UK will be extended to the Scandinavian countries in a near future.

## 6 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ This week staff from the evaluations office attended AI promotion meetings for technicians in Blarney, Mitchelstown and Enfield.
- ✚ Staff also attended EBI open days in Cork and Tipperary.
- ✚ The Active Dairy Bull list is now updated on the website.

## 7 HerdPlus

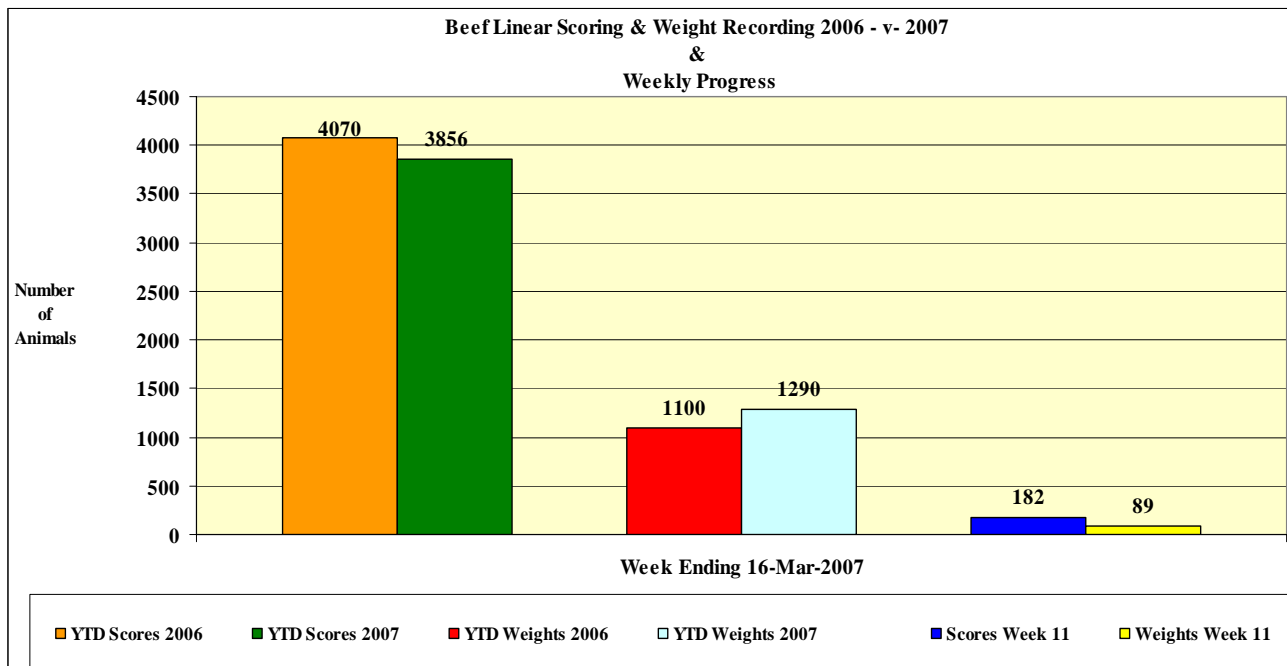
- ✚ Spring '07 EBI reports were posted out and/or put on web this week - to be used with Active Bull list and Sire Advice tool.
- ✚ Active Bull list also posted and put on web.
- ✚ HerdPlus staff supported EBI Farm walks in Templemore (Ormonds) and Macroom (Cronins) this week.
- ✚ Reminder - €40 FBD direct debit offer closes this weekend, Mar 16th.



## 8 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 09/03/07 - 16/03/07
Progressive	216
SWS	157
Dairygold	174
Kerry	156
Connacht	15
Tipperary	20
Arrabawn	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>

## 9 Beef Linear Scoring



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