



UPDATE – for period 11th–17th February 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Saturday 18th February.** Tully Open Day 11.30am – 2.30pm. *On show will be the bulls for sale on the 4th March 2006 and the 6th May 2006.*
- ✚ **Saturday 4th March Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.
- ✚ **Thursday 30th March Board Meeting.**
- ✚ **Saturday 6th May Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.

2 Breeding Information Service Proposal

The Chairman (John O’Sullivan), Vice Chairman (Derek Deane) and Chief Executive (Brian Wickham) met with the Pedigree Cattle Breeders Council on Thursday this week.

- ✚ John spoke of the challenges that farmers will face if milk and meat prices decline in the near future. He emphasized that the organizations providing services to farmers can expect to find both the cost and the value of their services being closely examined. John also assured the herd books that ICBF has no intention, or desire, to take over their functions.
- ✚ Derek spoke as a beef producer and explained that what he wanted was good information and excellent quality cattle so that he could run a profitable farm.
- ✚ Brian gave a presentation covering the background to the proposal, the issues that need to be considered and outlined a way forward. His presentation identified a number of opportunities for providing new and improved information services to farmers. These services are made possible by a combination of the ICBF database and new information technologies. It also identified the large number of herds and cattle not currently enjoying the benefits of better breeding information.

3 AI Promotion 2006

Plans for a major promotion of the use of AI in spring 2006 are advancing. This promotion is being planned as a joint effort involving AI organisations, TEAGASC, ICBF and DAF. Details of the plan are under active consideration by a working group representing the industry.

4 Tully

- ✚ The final weighing of the bulls for sale on 4th March took place on Tuesday (13th Feb) this week. The performance figures from Tully have been compiled and will be in the catalogue for the Open Day tomorrow.
- ✚ The final catalogue for the sale on 4th March will be on the ICBF web site from the 22nd February.
- ✚ The bulls for sale will be TB tested on the 21st February with the results read on 24th Feb.
- ✚ An Open Day will be held at Tully tomorrow. All are welcome.

5 Genetic Evaluations – Beef & Dairy

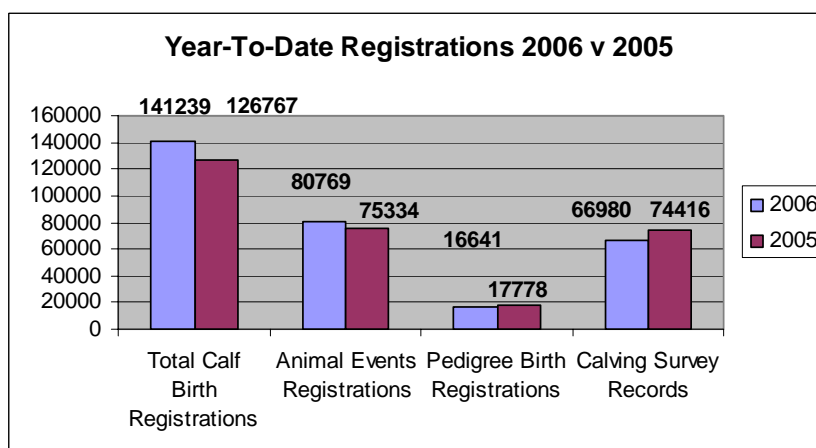
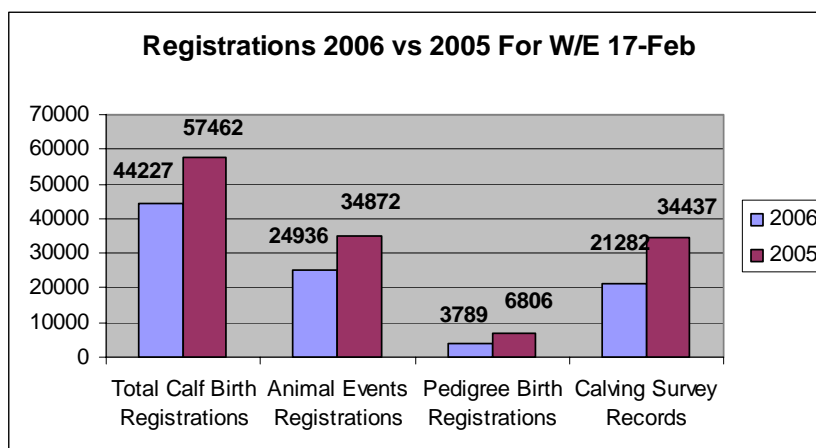
- ✚ Processing of proofs for the next release of Dairy evaluations is nearing completion. Proofs will be released to the industry on Monday next week.
- ✚ A new beef evaluation incorporating the data from the current Tully Intake has been completed. The latest indexes for Tully bulls will be available at the Tully Open day on Saturday.
- ✚ New linear beef type trait evaluations were released to the industry for feedback. In light of some feedback work is continuing on the improvement of these proofs. Further feedback is welcomed.



- Work continues on the updating of the international pedigree and performances files for Charolais and Limousin. These files will be forwarded to INRA early next week for use in the international test beef evaluations.

6 Database Update

- 212 new herds added to the database last week. Again, these were driven by new herds signing up to AI.
- The pace of training of the AI technicians continues to quicken, and training has now been scheduled for the Kerry technicians for the week of Feb 27th.
- The testing of the new herd-book rules has been finished and all herdbooks will be live with the new rules next week. The corresponding changes to pedigree certificates have also been made. An example of the updated certificate for a Hereford AI bull is attached.
- The data upload and printed schedules have been completed and will be distributed to the linear scorers next week.
- The loading of the latest set of genetic evaluations to the database is continuing. These evaluations will be available on the production system in about two weeks (for printing on certificates, milk recording reports, etc).



- The redesign of the internet bull search function is continuing, with a view to having it completed prior to the issue of the Feb 2006 proofs.
- The development of intranet reports to support the AI organisations in the roll-out of the AI handhelds is continuing, and will do so for a number of weeks.
- Work is continuing on a both the beef EBI reports and a new SCC herd health report.

7 Milk Recording Update

Annual Herd Summaries

Final run of 2005 Annual Herd Summary Reports will be run this weekend. This run will include the balance of farmers who milk recorded in 2005 but have not received their reports yet and will be sent irrespective of whether they have sent in dry off dates.



DIY

- ✚ Dairygold. Recruitment going ahead apace with some 360 herds signed so far for the 3 cells. Trainers are in place and new herds are being trained as the season gets underway. Dairygold have put their logos and signage on vans which will help in marketing and also makes clear to the farmer what is coming up his drive! Recommended that all MROs do the same (see pictures).



- ✚ SWS. Recruitment proceeding with over 50 herds now signed up. Technician hired and initial training underway - first herds recorded this week.
- ✚ Progressive Genetics. ICBF supported farmer meetings in Mullinavat on 15th and Kilkenny City on 16th. Also, ICBF supported a farm walk in Ballybay Co. Monaghan on the 16th. Good interest with farmers signing up at all 3 meetings.
- ✚ Kerry. Technician hired in Listowel area and training scheduled for next week. Canvassing by Kerry staff continuing with some 50 herds at this stage.
- ✚ Tipperary/Arrabawn. Technician now on board and initial equipment training conducted this week. Some 70 Nenagh and some 40 Tipperary herds are signed up. Trainers being selected in area to get this cell up and running.
- ✚ Donegal. Some 55 herds now signed up and first tests underway.
- ✚ Connacht Gold. Meeting held with Connacht Gold on 10/02/06 and positive response. Work underway with laboratory modifications. Response to Tech advert good with interviews planned for next two weeks.

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Owner: MUNSTER AI BULLS
WESTEND, MALLOW,
CO CORK

ROUNDHILL ROCKY

Male
100% **Charolais**

Registration
Grade: **PED**

Herd: MUNBULLS

17-FEB-2006

Breeder: TIMOTHY CORRIDAN
CASTLEQUARTER HOUSE FEDAMORE
CO LIMERICK
Tel: 061-390382

Genetic Merit (BLUP) 16/2/2006

MUS	SKE	FUN	REL
122	115	134	92

Identified by Ear Tag Number

IE241280230475 (ROR)

Born : 02-APR-2000

Sire MEILLARD RJ MIR PED 7196103834 MUS SKE FUN REL 130 122 126 97	INVINCIBLE 100% CH IVC PED 1893105503 MUS SKE FUN REL 119 128 111 92	CARIELLOR 100% CH 5887116108 PED DURANDALE 100% CH 1888109737 PED	UNIVERS 100% CH 5883109651 PED SANTOLINE 100% CH 5881113737 PED TANGO 100% CH 1882103906 PED SERVANTE 100% CH 1881106066 PED
	BADINE 100% CH 7186113446 PED MUS SKE FUN REL 110 105 115 35	PINOCHIO 100% CH 4279105269 PED SAMARA 100% CH 7181116405 PED	LILAS 100% CH 4275104847 PED JUDITH 100% CH 4274103863 PED MOUSTIQUE 100% CH 7176120039 PED OLETTA 100% CH 7178127111 PED
	FLAMBEAU 100% CH 0370119503 PED MUS SKE FUN REL 125 96 122 58	CHAMPION 100% CH 580793C28 PED CACHETTE 100% CH 030176C005 PED	ARISTO 100% CH 58119A07 PED RABIOLE 100% CH 58793R50 PED AIGLON 100% CH 58270A38 PED VAGUE 100% CH 03176V04 PED
	INVITATION 100% CH 8593104580 PED MUS SKE FUN REL 125 113 137 47	VICOMTE 100% CH VIE PED 8584100170 TOMBOLA 100% CH 0382112265 PED	MARIO 100% CH 7176127335 PED POUPEE 100% CH 0379109902 PED ORATEUR 100% CH 0378117616 PED PENELOPE 100% CH 0379104822 PED
Dam BALLYBROWN (IMP97F) MARLENE HAB489422 PED 8596102233 MUS SKE FUN REL 125 104 142 63			