

1. Important Dates

- # **Tully Advisory Committee** – Tuesday 21st July.
- # **Tullamore Show** - Sunday 9th August. ICBF and Sheep Ireland will have stands featuring recent developments in cattle and sheep breeding.
- # **Interbull Meetings** – Sat. and Sun. 22nd & 23rd August. In Barcelona before EAAP meeting.

2. ICBF Board Meeting

At its meeting on Thursday the Board:

- # Reviewed membership of the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee membership is now: Derek Deane, Kevin Kinsella, Liam Foley, John Comer, John O’Sullivan and John Carty. Brian Wickham and Sean Coughlan report to the Sub-Committee.
- # Discussed progress on the Strategic Review. Of particular interest to the Board was the value of within breed improvement versus cross-breeding as a strategy for improving dairy herd fertility. The Strategic Review will be considered in full at the next Board meeting.
- # Endorsed a submission to DAFF in relation to future grant and NDP funding.

3. Sheep Ireland Board Meeting

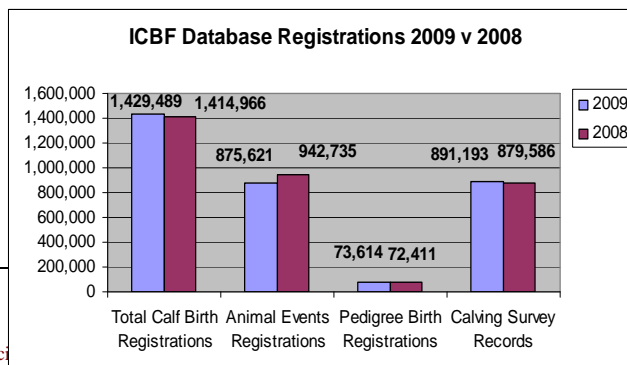
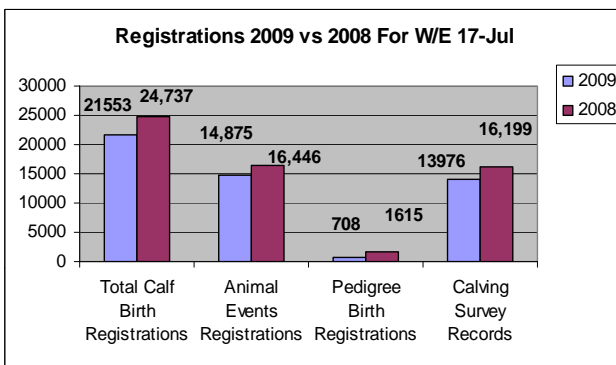
At its meeting on Thursday the Interim Sheep Board:

- # Was advised that the finances for 2009 would be tight as there are a number of once only costs associated with establishing the MALP flocks.
- # Was briefed on progress with implementing the 20 strategy recommendations. Excellent progress has been made with the recent release of Euro-Star evaluations for several breeds and a range of production and maternal traits.
- # Endorsed proposals in relation to future funding.
- # Was briefed on progress with establishing a policy for including genetic resistance to scrapie in the breeding objective.

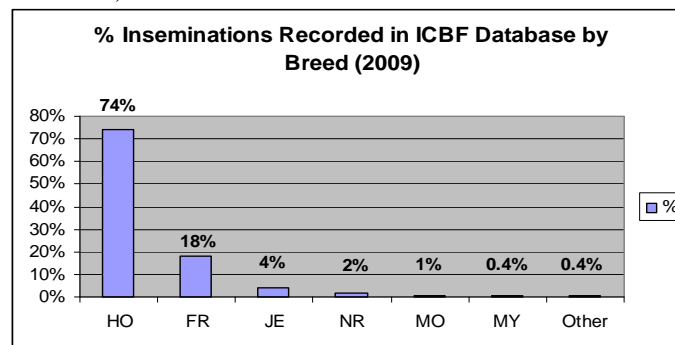
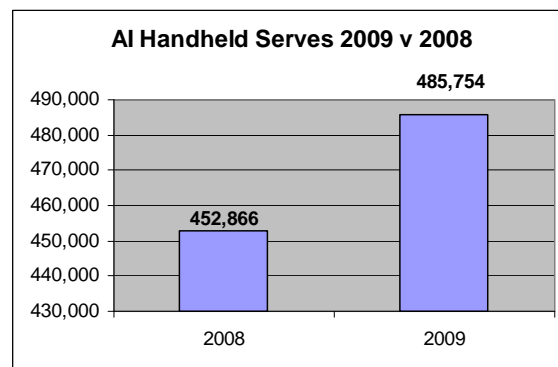
4. Tully

- # Tully Advisory Committee Meeting will take place in Tully on Tuesday, 21st July at 11.00am.
- # All bulls at Tully are now DNA profiled, whilst parentage is being verified at present.
- # The second recorded live-weight of bulls will be carried out next Monday. Average daily gain can then be calculated, which will be a good indicator of the performance of bulls to date.

5. Database



- ✚ The revised 2009 suckler forms (pre and post weaning) continue to go out to farmers. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 832,000, with just over 719,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has continued this week, with the development of a number of screens and the changing of some of the infrastructure to support the reports that the milk recording organisations need.
- ✚ In conjunction with the finalisation of the milk recording solution, a number of other developments are taking place that will allow the migration of all users to a completely web-based front end, and the removal of the need for the Wide Area Network.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is now in the final stages of testing.
- ✚ Work on updates to the calving report have been completed. The revision to the final fertility report is on-going and will be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- ✚ The design of an upgrade to the security of log-ons to the ICBF site is being finalised and testing will be completed next week.
- ✚ Design of a new on-line application for AI companies to manage their interaction with ICBF on bull codes is underway.
- ✚ 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, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, it looks like the overall inseminations for the season will be down.
- ✚ The graph below shows the % of dairy inseminations by breed recorded in the ICBF database to date in 2009 (both technician and DIY).



6. Genetic Dairy & Beef Evaluations

- ✚ Extracts for the August routine dairy and beef evaluations have begun.
- ✚ Work on the development of an across breed linear type evaluation for beef cattle is ongoing. The focus at the moment is on the estimation of genetic parameters between 13 linear type traits which will form the basis of the across breed muscle, skeletal and functional composites. A specification for a new sales catalogue incorporating this information is being finalised and will be discussed with the relevant breed societies in coming weeks.

7. LambPlus



- ✚ The first run of Euro-Star evaluations have been distributed for the following breeds:

1. Vendeen
2. Suffolk
3. Charollais

- ✚ The evaluations for the Texel & Belclare breeds are being finalized with a view to distributing them to the relevant Lambplus Flock Owners on Monday 20th July.
- ✚ The Vendeen Breed will be the first breed to publish the new Euro-Star evaluation figures in a Sheep Sales Catalogue.
- ✚ Following is an example of one Ram with Euro-Stars in their catalogue:

Lot: 6	Name: Cottage Imperial	Reg. no.: JGS9017
Sire name: Quitrent Gossip OCQ7036		Dam: JGS6040
Sire's sire: F1424108		Dam's sire: Cottage Europa JGS5036
Sire's dam: OCQ4021		Dam's dam: JGS3051
DOB: 16/12/2008	Birth type: Twin	Scrapie genotype: ARR/ARR
Lambplus Total: *****	Production: *****	Maternal: **
		Lambing: *****

- ✚ A copy of the catalogue displaying the Euro-Stars can be found at:
<http://vendeensheep.ie/doc/Premier%20sale%2009.pdf>
- ✚ The other Breeds that will have Euro-Stars in their catalogues are having their premier sales on the following dates & venues:

Premier Sale Dates 2009

Vendeen	Wednesday 29th July	Roscommon Mart
Charollais	Saturday 1st August	Tullow Mart
Belclare	Tuesday 4th August	Kilkenny Mart
Suffolk	Saturday 8th August	Roscrea Mart
Texel	Saturday 15th August	Blessington Mart

- ✚ The first results from the DNA Parentage Ram – Lamb Analysis continue to be received.
- ✚ A meeting was held with the Texel Sire Referencing Group to discuss the structure of their Scheme as well as the initial evaluations for their Rams.
- ✚ A promotional drive is now underway so as to promote the new Euro-Star evaluations. This will include:
 1. Articles in the farming press.
 2. Articles in Flockbook Yearbooks.
 3. Farmwalks in conjunction with Teagasc (Michael McHugh).
 4. Demonstration of Pratley & Euro – Stars at Tullamore Show.
 5. Meetings with Producer Groups re: Ram Purchasing Premiums for Rams with Euro- Stars.
- ✚ The first results from the DNA Parentage Ram – Lamb Analysis continue to be received.
- ✚ The 'Job Description' & advert for recruiting the CPT flocks is also now about to take place

8. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 07/07/09 to 17/07/09.

	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
CARLOW	13	866	67	22.6	3.91	3.36	1.64	279
CAVAN	36	1,913	53	22.5	3.68	3.21	1.55	442
CLARE	31	1,903	61	23.0	3.68	3.23	1.59	296
CORK STH	245	16,043	65	22.1	3.86	3.39	1.60	290
CORK NTH	243	17,398	72	22.3	3.95	3.39	1.64	307
DONEGAL	3	382	127	22.1	3.54	3.21	1.49	383
DUBLIN	3	133	44	30.6	3.91	3.28	2.20	320
GALWAY	25	1,588	64	28.4	3.60	3.27	1.95	346
KERRY	94	6,252	67	23.3	3.64	3.24	1.60	367
KILDARE	19	1,662	87	21.7	3.86	3.40	1.58	342
KILKENNY	45	3,134	70	20.8	3.91	3.37	1.51	311
LAOIS	44	2,951	67	21.2	3.89	3.37	1.54	374
LEITRIM	6	257	43	25.7	3.63	3.08	1.72	332
LIMERICK	103	6,709	65	22.1	3.68	3.27	1.54	317
LONGFORD	7	494	71	21.2	3.67	3.19	1.45	253
LOUTH	14	1,202	86	21.2	3.51	3.34	1.45	325
MAYO	25	1,307	52	26.1	3.23	3.34	1.71	352
MEATH	46	4,327	94	22.4	3.95	3.36	1.64	442
MONAGHAN	32	1,713	54	25.0	3.69	3.24	1.73	402
OFFALY	20	1,710	86	20.4	4.21	3.31	1.53	423
ROSCOMMON	2	111	56	23.5	4.13	3.49	1.79	299
SLIGO	3	86	29	24.1	3.27	3.39	1.61	464
TIPPERARY NTH	26	1,998	77	19.7	4.08	3.45	1.48	345
TIPPERARY STH	36	3,118	87	17.0	4.07	3.37	1.26	254
WATERFORD	41	3,828	93	21.5	3.86	3.35	1.55	363
WESTMEATH	11	940	85	21.7	4.10	3.29	1.60	359
WEXFORD	67	5,002	75	22.0	3.84	3.38	1.59	320
WICKLOW E	19	1,571	83	20.9	3.41	3.35	1.41	309
WICKLOW W	14	1,077	77	21.4	4.18	3.44	1.63	468
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,273	89,675	71	22.6	3.79	3.32	1.61	348

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 07/07/09 to 17/07/09.

Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	819	57,249	70	21.4	3.89	3.34	1.55	317
Leinster	322	25,069	78	22.2	3.76	3.34	1.57	348
Connacht	61	3,349	55	25.6	3.74	3.31	1.80	359
Ulster	71	4,008	56	23.2	3.78	3.22	1.62	409

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 17/07/09

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 17/07/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 17/07/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 17/07/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 17/07/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,047	828	40%	169,660	68,048	40%
Dairygold	1,493	556	37%	113,015	43,933	39%
Kerry	887	66	7%	60,939	4,074	7%
SWS	855	113	13%	60,058	8,499	14%
Tipperary	134	55	41%	10,667	4,677	44%
Arrabawn	139	114	82%	11,297	9,534	84%
Connacht	132	43	33%	8,522	2,740	32%
Donegal	32	32	100%	3,556	3,556	100%
Total	5,719	1,807	32%	437,714	145,061	33%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 17/07/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 17/07/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	174,012	169,660	-2.6%
Dairygold	117,291	113,015	-3.8%
Kerry	77,270	60,939	-26.8%
SWS	59,826	60,058	0.4%
Tipperary	12,744	10,667	-19.5%
Arrabawn	12,447	11,297	-10.2%
Connacht	8,956	8,522	-5.1%
Donegal	4,157	3,556	-16.9%
Total	466,703	437,714	-6.6%