



## Update for period 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006

### 1 Important Dates

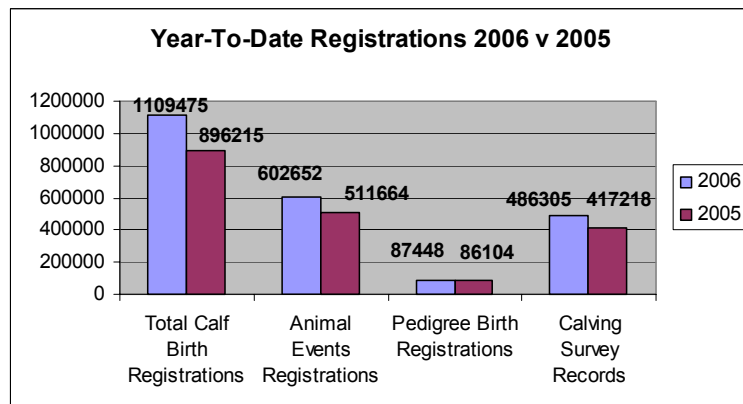
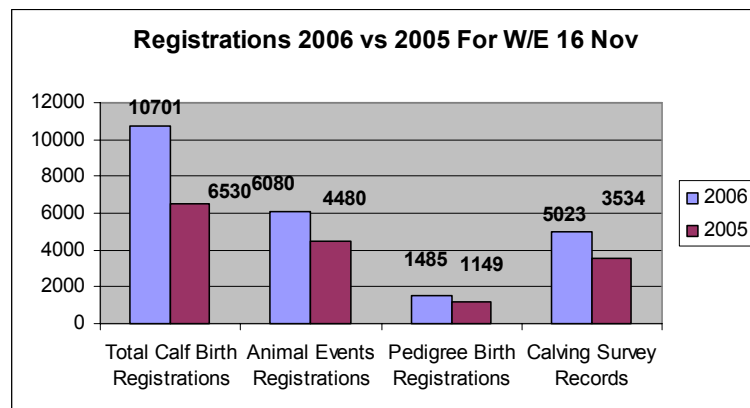
- **Saturday 18th November**, Tully Bull Sale.
- **Tuesday 28th November**, Audit & Finance Sub-Committee.
- **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November**, 10:30 – 16:00. Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation meeting, Abbeyleix.
- **Thursday 30th November**, ICBF Board Meeting in Bandon.
- **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**, 10:30 to 13:00. Tully and Linear Scoring Consultation meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.

### 2 Tully

- The May intake of 71 bulls will be sold at Tully tomorrow. Show at 11.30 and Sale at 12:00.
- Judging of the FBD prize winners from the May intake took place on the 14-11-06. Results were printed in the Farmers Journal on the 16-11-06. Please see results attached.
- The December intake of bulls will be sent for health testing on the 22-11-06.

### 3 Database Update

- 46 new herds added to the database last week.
- 161,600 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds.
- The Tully catalogue for this Saturday's sale is printed and also on the ICBF website.
- Dryoff sheets are coming in at a good rate and are currently being keyed. The online dryoff notification method is also getting steady usage this week.
- Work has commenced on the 2006 Milk Recording Annual Reports.
- Work is continuing on the personalised Animal Events notebook for farmers.
- Work is continuing on the web-enabled herdbook processing application and on the background infrastructure of the platform for other applications to be migrated to the web.
- Work is continuing on the herdbook front end to IRIS.





## 4 Genetic Evaluations

### Dairy

- Files for the last EBI run of 2006 have been processed and are currently being uploaded to the database.
- It is anticipated that the initial proofs will be released on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- This latest run will incorporate the new changes agreed at the last ICBF board meeting:
  - a) Update of economic values to reflect the future prediction of land based constraints as opposed to quota.
  - b) Change of base for beef sub-index from a Holstein-Friesian base to an across-breed dairy and beef base. Previously the base used was 102 Holstein Friesian AI sires born between 1988 and 1992 and with progeny in the carcass evaluation. The new base used will be 96,000 animals born between 2000 and 2002 across all the breed beef and dairy and with carcass records in the evaluation.
  - c) Change of base for calving sub-index from a Holstein-Friesian base to an across-breed dairy and beef base. Previously the base used was the same 102 Holstein Friesian AI sires born between 1988 and 1992 and with progeny in the calving evaluation. The new base used will be AI sires across all breeds born between 1996 and 2000 with at least 20 calving records in the evaluation.
  - d) New adjustment for calving difficulty direct and maternal proofs which will increase the variation in calving proofs within and across breeds.

### Beef

- A new genetic evaluation was completed this week incorporating the latest Tully intake data and these results were used in the catalogue for the sale. An updated list of AI sires for calving and beef evaluations will be released to the industry early next week.
- A new linear evaluation has also been completed and will be released next week also. This will include composites for muscle, skeletal and functional traits.

### International Beef

- The results of the international Limousine evaluation will be forwarded today to the Irish Limousine society. An analysis of these results will also be attached to the proofs.
- The calculations on the Charolais have started this week at INRA in France. The first analysis will be the computation of the genetic parameters.
- Following the feedback from the Simmental society, the Irish database is in the process of being updated: creation of international type tag for the animals identified in the UK and their ancestors.

## 5 HerdPlus

- HerdPlus staff were in attendance at the TEAGASC Dairy Conferences held in Limerick and Cavan. We had a HerdPlus stand there to take farmers through the reports and services, answering queries and taking sign ups.
- Helpdesk lines are busy with sign ups - with over 100 farmers a week joining the service.
- Initial Fertility Reports are being run this weekend. We will continue to text farmers to get as much serve info in, before we generate Final reports.
- Testing of Personalised Notebook (with each farmers animals pre printed) continues.



## 6 Gene Ireland

- A further 615 letters were sent out to herdowners on Friday last week, inviting them to participate in this winters programme.
- Signing up of herds has been continuing throughout the week with some 50 herdowners currently signed up.
- Straws for these herds will be dispatched early next week.
- Initial response in relation to calves being born from last years winter programme is positive.

## 7 Milk Recording Update

### Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

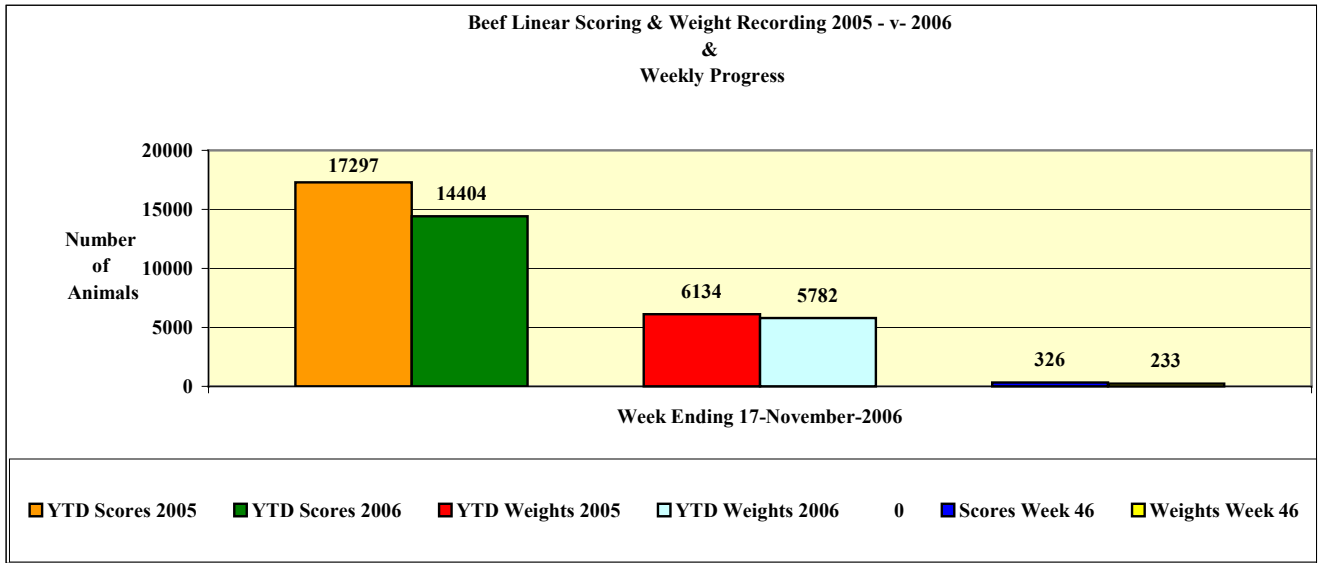
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 17/11/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 17/11/06	Year on Year Herds Difference (%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 17/11/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 17/11/06	Year on Year Cows Difference (%)
Progressive	2,084	2,107	1%	152,342	159,677	5%
Dairygold	1,529	1,551	1%	98,436	103,966	6%
Kerry	1,065	1,074	1%	67,575	70,377	4%
SWS	937	958	2%	55,353	59,921	8%
Tipperary	142	168	18%	9,392	11,869	26%
Arrabawn	109	159	46%	7,135	11,058	55%
Connacht	110	140	27%	7,422	9,301	25%
Donegal	35	58	66%	4,292	5,274	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>6,215</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>401,947</b>	<b>431,443</b>	<b>7%</b>

### Milk Recording Stats week ending 17/11/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 10/11/06 - 17/11/06
Progressive	438
Kerry	173
SWS	173
Dairygold	282
Arrabawn	13
Connacht	31
Tipperary	36
Donegal	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,176</b>



**8 Beef Linear Scoring**



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### Tully Performance Test Centre Bull Sale - FBD Trust Prize Winners November 2006

Breed	FBD Trust Prize	Bull Name	Sire	Breeder	D.O.B.	BLUP		EBI (€)		Av. Daily gain on test (kg)
						MUS	SKE	BPSI	WCSI	
LM	1 <sup>st</sup>	Ballydaniel Alexander	Rosscahill Uri	James Smyth	01-Jul-05	129	120	100.2	82.2	2.62
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coravackan Aladdin	Epson	Reuben Forde	11-Jul-05	118	110	95	72.9	1.97
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Milbrook Adder	Milbrook Tanko	William Smith	10-Sep-05	122	123	101.7	95.4	2.27
CH	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mountlodge Adam	Enfield Plexus	Mark Hughes	16-Jul-05	124	108	140.4	112.7	2.17
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Colmar Arlington	Cloneygowan Rebel	Francis Keogh	01-Jul-05	121	97	132.4	127.4	2.32
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rossy Abeauty	Doonally New	J J McKeon	24-Jun-05	111	127	135.1	103.1	1.8
SI	1 <sup>st</sup>	Celtic Starbuck	Max	Gerard Brickley	05-Sep-05	108	94	78.3	79.6	2.38
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Knockane Stass	Hillcrest Master	John Murphy	20-Jul-05	120	107	79.5	59.8	2.35
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Anatrim Strongbow	Anatrim Jacob	David Brickley	20-Sep-05	115	103	85.3	74.8	1.95
Other Breeds	1 <sup>st</sup>	Killoe Eric (HE)	Churchill Storm	Peter Hagan	10-Jul-06	121	111	34	31.7	1.75
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gaggin Yaris (BB)	Ober Van Het Hubkeshof	Patrick J Hegarty	18-Apr-05	-	-	118.3	115.7	1.83
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cullaghmore Ben (AA)	Kbj Jetta	Cecil Barber	02-Jul-05	-	-	-	-	1.9

The above bulls are the FBD Trust Prize Winners for sale in the Tully Performance Test Centre Bull Sale. The sale will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November with a parade of bulls at 11.00 am, the sale will commence at 12.00. Also available to view will be 126 bulls on the September 06 – March 07 performance test.