



UPDATE – for period 11th October – 17th October 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 23rd October** – ICBF Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.
- ✚ **Thursday 23rd October** – Interim Sheep Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.
- ✚ **Thursday 6th November** – ICBF Cattle Breeding Conference, Cork Mart Rathcormac. This major event is being sponsored by the FBD Trust.



2 Beef Expo – Sunday 12th

- ✚ The Beef Expo at the Cillin Hill Mart in Kilkenny was a great success. Some 8,000 people attended this one day event which featured the best of Irish beef cattle breeding.

- ✚ The Cillin Hill facility handled the crowds, cattle and trade stands effortlessly. Although the weather was favorable on the day it was very comforting to know that even the worst weather would have had little impact on the day.

- ✚ Congratulations to **Ger Brickley** and his committee, to **Grainne Dwyer** the *Beef Expo Manager*, and to the hundreds of breeders who exhibited their cattle for ensuring a successful event.



- ✚ This event benefited from substantial financial support by DAFF. In the current climate there is little reason to expect similar funding in the future. However, as a breeding industry we should give serious consideration to building on this success.
- ✚ I would also like thank the members of the ICBF team who went the extra mile to ensure our contributions to the event were of the highest standard. ICBF's contributions included:
 - a 44 page booklet titled Beef Cattle Breeding in Ireland (a copy is in the publications section of our website – www.icbf.com) free to all participants,
 - a Euro-Star catalogue for each breed with a page for each animal on show,
 - an A3 information page for each animal (these can be seen over the head of each animal in the photo above),
 - Niall Kilrairie represented ICBF on the organizing committee,
 - Andrew Cromie spoke on beef breeding in the forums and
 - the ICBF stand was manned for the duration of the Expo.

3 Millstreet Show – Saturday 11th

- ✚ ICBF supported the Millstreet show on Saturday. These shows are organised by the Cork Club of the Holstein Friesian Assn and this year involved an extra effort as delegates to the World Holstein Friesian conference were in attendance. ICBF sponsored the award for the highest EBI animal in the show.



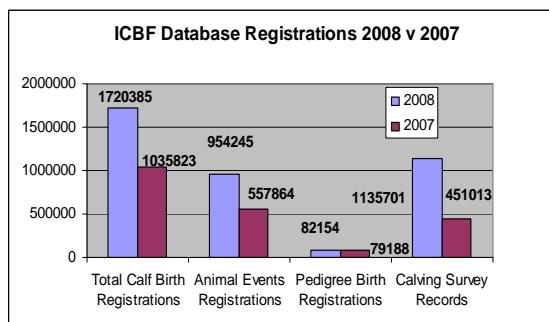
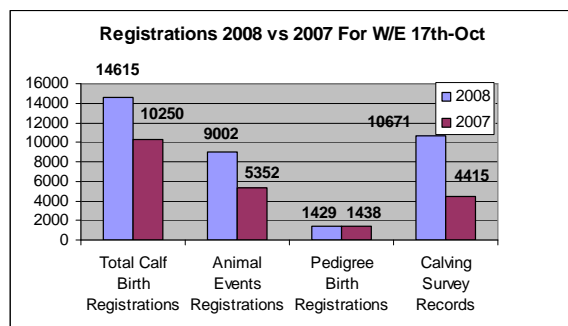
- A special thanks to the ICBF team members who prepared, assembled, manned and dismantled our stand in Millstreet.
- It is very satisfying to reflect on the progress that ICBF has made over the years since we first participated in this event. This year there was a steady stream of farmers and international visitors seeking information. We can be proud of our achievements and the recognition that comes from satisfied customers, new customers and impressed visitors.

4 ICBF Board Meeting

Papers for next weeks Board meeting include:

- A draft strategic plan for 2009. This plan, as adopted by the Board, will provide the basis for formulation of the 2009 budget.
- A progress report on ICBF's strategy for Genomic Selection. There has been a lot of activity over the last month and the Board is being kept well informed of developments as this technology which will have a major impact and dairy cattle breeding in the next six months.

5 Database



- 505,026 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 354,095 in 2007 for the same period.
- The work on revamping the AI software for next season is continuing. The new servers were tested this week, and we are generally pleased with the results. Testing will continue next week.
- The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 470,000, with just over 100,000 of these having been weaned.
- The new development work on the Bull Search output is being finalised and will be live in the next few weeks.
- Next Wednesday, an upgrade of the web-server infrastructure will be completed. In order to complete the work, the **website will be unavailable from 6pm-10pm on Wednesday 29th Oct.**
- The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. The 'back-end' work is now almost completed, and the focus will switch to the design of the screens for inputting and data correction.

6 Genetic Evaluation

- Genetic evaluations have commenced to incorporate all new information including Tully performance data for the end of the Tully test in mid-October. New information will include new calving, weanling, slaughter and maternal trait information since the August evaluation.
- A new dairy genetic evaluation has also commenced and new proofs will be available at the same time.
- Work continues on fine tuning the new dairy and beef bull searches which should also be ready for the middle of November.



7 Sheep

- ✚ The Interim Sheep Board meets on Thursday next week. The papers for this meeting include:
 - A progress report on the strategy adopted at the September 18th meeting.
 - Resolving a way forward to establish an acceptable identification system for sheep breeding.
 - Results of a cost benefit study of the investment being made in Sheep Ireland.
- ✚ Good progress has been made with establishing commercial flocks in which the benefits of breeding can be demonstrated.



8 GENEIRELAND®

Dairy

- ✚ Insemination data is still coming in from the Spring programme. Currently at 65% of straws dispatched.
- ✚ Payments for Calvings from the Spring 2007 programme will be processed next week.
- ✚ A further 320 letters were posted this week targeting herds for the Autumn 2008 programme. Currently 25 herds signed up.



Beef

- ✚ Insemination data still coming in from the Spring programme. Currently at 50% of straws dispatched.
- ✚ A good number of calves born in the spring are now being targeted for linear scoring and weight recording.
- ✚ Sign-ups are going well, with 130 herds now partaking. Straws for a majority of these herds have been packed and dispatched.

Genomic Selection

- ✚ We now have straws from 1,012 AI bulls. Need a final push to get this up to the target of 1,200.
- ✚ Payments to herd owners that have sent in AI straws are currently being processed.

9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 07/10/08 to 17/10/08.								
	<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	15	805	54	18.2	4.10	3.82	1.44	339
CAVAN	39	1942	50	17.3	4.30	3.79	1.40	336
CLARE	22	1241	56	18.2	4.13	3.75	1.43	294
CORK STH	206	12312	60	16.8	4.32	3.83	1.37	287
CORK NTH	238	15333	64	17.1	4.32	3.82	1.39	307
DONEGAL	7	394	56	16.4	4.39	3.73	1.33	309
DUBLIN	3	151	50	21.5	4.07	3.69	1.67	370



National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 07/10/08 to 17/10/08.

	<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>
GALWAY	24	1787	74	15.4	4.77	3.87	1.33	428
KERRY	105	6497	62	17.1	4.19	3.71	1.35	332
KILDARE	13	974	75	23.5	4.12	3.64	1.82	371
KILKENNY	64	4546	71	15	4.44	3.89	1.25	323
LAOIS	37	2323	63	16.3	4.43	3.82	1.34	346
LEITRIM	6	358	60	19.6	4.08	3.52	1.49	359
LIMERICK	107	6834	64	16.5	4.20	3.72	1.31	340
LONGFORD	7	518	74	16	4.42	3.68	1.30	312
LOUTH	19	1588	84	28.5	3.99	3.42	2.11	269
MAYO	1	39	39	19.1	4.70	4.10	1.68	415
MEATH	37	3405	92	18.1	4.16	3.67	1.42	332
MONAGHAN	26	1287	50	19.5	4.11	3.60	1.50	341
OFFALY	24	1562	65	16.7	4.49	3.71	1.37	410
ROSCOMMON	1	16	16	18.8	4.05	3.92	1.50	255
SLIGO	58	3984	69	16.7	4.38	3.89	1.38	315
TIPPERARY NTH	80	5311	66	15.4	4.40	3.85	1.27	267
TIPPERARY STH	55	3871	70	15.8	4.48	3.87	1.32	267
WATERFORD	23	1487	65	16.6	4.34	3.70	1.33	299
WESTMEATH	71	4816	68	16.7	4.35	3.80	1.36	350
WEXFORD	19	1229	65	18.3	4.06	3.63	1.41	327
WICKLOW E	13	894	69	20.8	4.29	3.66	1.65	381
WICKLOW W	17	1147	67	19.8	4.15	3.61	1.54	397
	<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	1,337	86,651	63	18.1	4.28	3.75	1.46	334

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 07/10/08 to 17/10/08.

Provincial	<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>
Munster	836	52,886	63	16.7	4.30	3.78	1.35	299
Leinster	339	23,958	71	19.2	4.25	3.70	1.52	348
Connacht	90	6,184	69	17.9	4.21	3.86	1.45	354
Ulster	72	3,623	50	17.7	4.51	3.71	1.46	329



Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 17/10/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 17/10/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	171,998	181,343	5.2%
Dairygold	112,284	123,983	9.4%
Kerry	72,710	78,970	7.9%
SWS	61,890	61,749	-0.2%
Tipperary	12,353	13,007	5.0%
Arrabawn	12,096	12,816	5.6%
Connacht	10,219	10,312	0.9%
Donegal	3,901	4,781	18.4%
Total	457,451	486,961	6.1%

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden.