



UPDATE – for period 12th – 18th April 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **1st May** – Board meeting, Ten Years of ICBF Operations, and AGM. O’Callaghan Alexander Hotel Dublin. Member organisations have been notified of the AGM and the lunch to mark ten years of ICBF operations. Please remember to let us know who will be attending. A number of other people, who have contributed to ICBF’s success since its inception, have been invited to attend the lunch marking ten years of ICBF operations.
- ✚ **8th May** – Teagasc, Grange open day.
- ✚ **16th to 20th June** – ICAR and Interbull meetings, Niagara Falls, USA.
- ✚ **20th June** - Farmfest '08, Teagasc Major Event of the Year, Athenry.

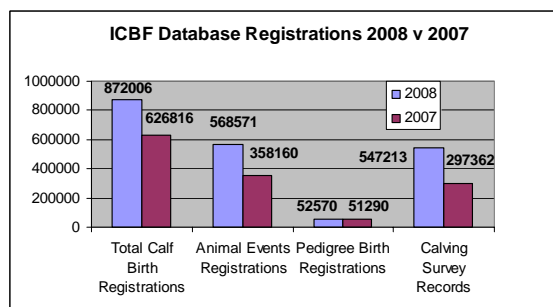
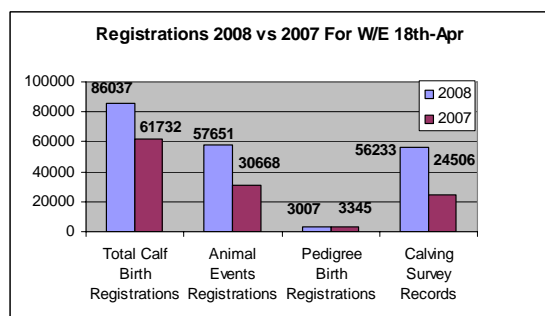
2 FABRE – TP

This week I participated in a meeting in Brussels to consider the challenges being faced by animal breeding organisations. Some 50 people attended representing a number of species (cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, horses and fish) with most EU countries being represented. More information can be found on the FABRE-TP website (<http://www.fabretp.org/>) and a copy of my presentation is on the publications section of the ICBF website.

The main messages that I took from the meeting were:

- Animal breeding has an important role to play in ensuring farmers are able to be efficient and profitable producers of animal products.
- Breeding in all species is paying increased attention to a wide range of health, welfare, animal robustness and ethical considerations.
- Animal breeders need to consider the expectations and understanding of the wider society when making decisions on technologies and practises. Breeders need to be proactive in ensuring the wider community supports the technologies and practises they use.
- Cattle breeding is fundamentally different to poultry and pig breeding and requires different industry structures to achieve optimal rates of genetic progress.
- For European animal breeding to remain competitive it is essential that the EU supports research to enhance and develop the underlying technologies including: trait measurement, reproduction, genetic evaluation, genomics and economics.

3 Database Update





- ✚ 76,669 inseminations have been received so far in 2008 from the AI Handhelds, compared with 51,424 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ ICBF have received 52,927 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. Over 225,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- ✚ Responses to the initial batch of the Suckler Scheme 'Missing Sires/Sire Errors' have continued to come back this week. Further batches have been issued.
- ✚ All Breeding Charts have now gone out, and usage of Sire Advice continued this week.
- ✚ There has been a slight delay in the implementation of our Microwave broadband solution by Smart Telecom, but it is expected it will be implemented next week. In the meantime, broadband speed continues to be a problem between the users of Iris/Taurus and ICBF.

4 Tully

- ✚ Six bulls from the intake that just finished their test have been purchased by AI Organisations: 3 by NCBC and 3 by Dovea.
- ✚ Preparations are underway for the next intake. Breed Societies are returning the list of bulls with their recommendations.
- ✚ The disease testing regime for the next intake has been simplified.
- ✚ If a farmer doesn't receive an application form but feels he has a bull suitable he can contact Tully directly and his bull will be considered.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ A new calving evaluation is currently underway and will form part of the updated Euro-star indexes which will be made available in the coming weeks.
- ✚ Research work on issues identified at the last dairy and beef industry meetings is ongoing.

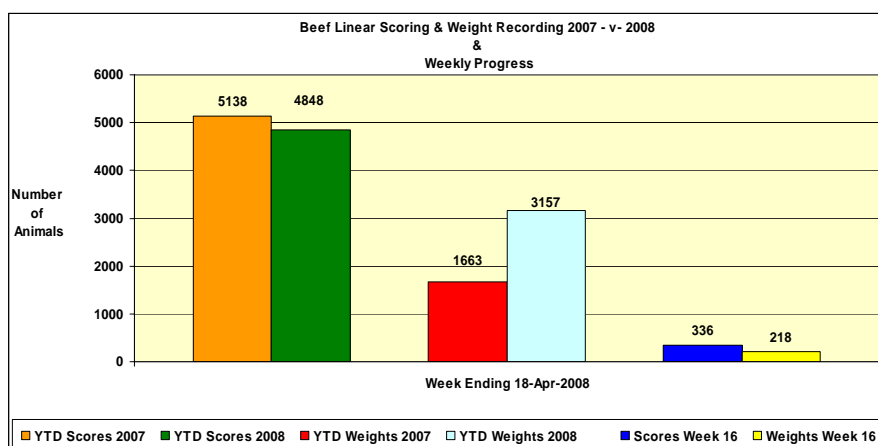
6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 18/04/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 18/04/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 18/04/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 18/04/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 18/04/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,674	441	26%	110,145	28,932	26%
Dairygold	1,145	289	25%	65,755	17,366	26%
Kerry	820	99	12%	43,310	5,318	12%
SWS	817	96	12%	42,034	5,031	12%
Tipperary	109	32	29%	6,043	1,885	31%
Arrabawn	92	70	76%	5,515	4,181	76%
Connacht	114	31	27%	5,702	1,434	25%
Donegal	5	5	100%	349	349	100%
Total	4,776	1,063	22%	278,853	64,496	23%



Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 18/04/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 18/04/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 18/04/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	104,085	103,225	110,145	6.3%
Dairygold	58,280	60,484	65,755	8.0%
Kerry	42,095	44,102	43,310	-1.8%
SWS	39,098	41,996	42,034	0.1%
Tipperary	5,307	5,378	6,043	11.0%
Arrabawn	4,396	5,470	5,515	0.8%
Connacht	4,622	5,295	5,702	7.1%
Donegal	486	556	349	-59.3%
Total	258,369	266,506	278,853	4.4%

7 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



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