

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 10:00 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 14:00 to 17:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Teagasc Beef Conference** – Tuesday 5th April, Killin Hill Mart, Kilkenny.
- ✚ **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 25th April, 12:00 to 16:00 – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.

2 Board Meetings – Next Thursday

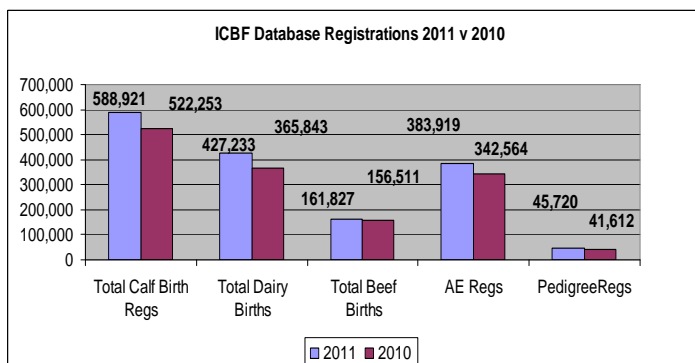
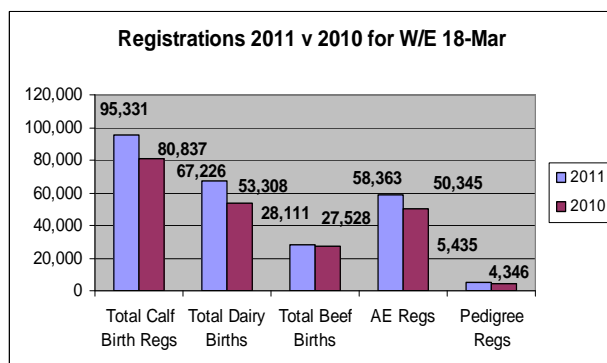
ICBF

Papers have been distributed today. The Board will welcome new members – Michael Doran and Kevin Kiersey replacing Derek Deane and Michael Murphy. Key agenda items are consideration of Audited Accounts for 2010 and a report on ICBF's support for AHI's initiatives in animal health.

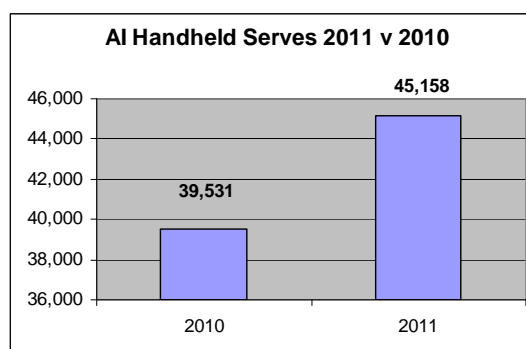
Sheep Ireland

Papers have been distributed today. Key agenda items are consideration of Audited Accounts for 2010 and the project progress report.

3 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 587,293 with the number of animals weaned at 507,376.
- ✚ As the newly launched genotyping process progresses, on-going development tweaks are being carried out. Farmer requests continue to be processed on a daily basis.
- ✚ Development on a number of updates to the Sire Advice programme continued this week.
- ✚ Testing on a new authorisation module for farmers and their service providers is on-going. This will give farmers more flexibility and control in providing authorisation to others to see their data.
- ✚ Further developments on the beef slaughter report took place this week.
- ✚ Work is on-going in establishing electronic links to the commercial animal health laboratories.



- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.

4 GENEIRLAND®

Dairy

- ✚ Sign-ups and allocations are on-going. There is still availability for all the breeds.
- ✚ There is a large panel of Jersey and Crossbred bulls available.
- ✚ Call 1850 600 900 to order.

Beef

- ✚ 180 herds have signed up so far.
- ✚ BHU has become the first Salers bull to be tested through the program.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GENEIRLAND section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	CH	HE	LM	LM	PT	SI
CODE	MLJ	KCE	BZP	CSQ	LGL	DZP	GCT	CZH	ERE	CBQ	SXD
# STRAWS	355	400	70	170	500	55	125	525	400	200	65

5 GROW®

- ✚ 517 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in February (down from 573 in February 2010).
- ✚ 389 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in February (up from 165 in February 2010).
- ✚ The overall percentage of beef animals weighed and scored in February was 99%.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the review of the GROW service.

6 Tully

- ✚ The fourth live-weight on all bulls was obtained on Tuesday (Table 1).

Table 1 Live-weight and average daily gain (last 22 days) of bulls averaged by breed

Breed	AA	AU	BA	BB	CH	HE	LM	SA	SI	SP
	(n = 20)	(n = 2)	(N = 2)	(n = 5)	(n = 30)	(n = 3)	(n = 24)	(n = 7)	(n = 10)	(n = 1)
Average Live-weight (kg)	668	571	726	571	688	619	650	633	698	544
Average Daily gain (kg)	2.3	2.2	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0

- ✚ Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.
- ✚ Bulls are being washed at present to help maintain and promote hair growth.
- ✚ Bulls were ultrasonically scanned for muscle and fat depth. Scrotal circumference measurement was also obtained on all bulls.
- ✚ Applications forms for the next intake were sent out early this week. Breeders have until Friday, 1st April to return the entry forms.

7 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Genetic evaluations are on-going for complete run. The official release date is the 11th April 2011.
- ✚ Andrew Cromie chaired the genetic session at the Agricultural Research Forum 2011 in Tullamore. The session showed results in current research from Teagasc and ICBF, and the main presentations were the relation between farm profit and genetic merit, intake and biology of cows from different genetic background, research on animal prices and carcass cut weights, as well as the latest development in genomic selection.

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