

1 Important Dates

- + **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** - Thursday 24th November, 10:00 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey.
- + **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 1st December, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 1st December, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.
- + **HerdPlus[®] and GENRELAND[®] User Day** - Wednesday 7th December, 10:00 to 14:00, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac.

2 Breeding Consultation Industry Meetings – Thursday 17th November

The ICBF Breeding Industry consultation meeting held on Thursday was well attended with a wide representation of the dairy and beef breeding industry. The main outcomes of the meeting included:

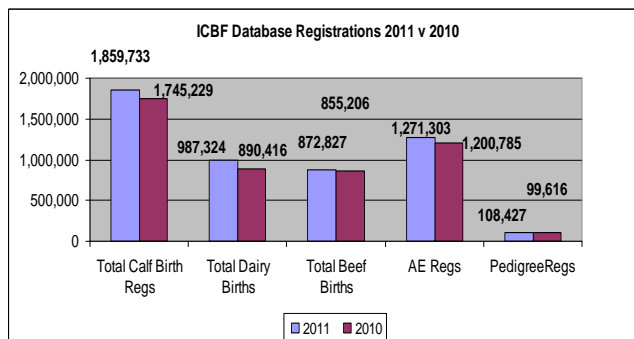
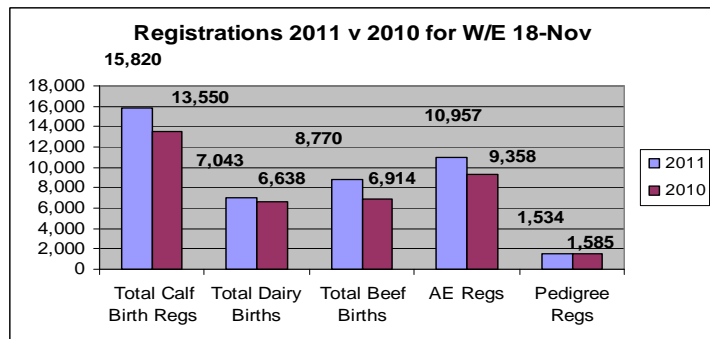
- + Four evaluation system updates are ready for implementation in December 2011. Implementation is subject to approval by the Board of ICBF and a number of quality checks. The changes are:
 1. **Dairy Fertility** – new model, use of insemination data, use of more lactations, breed specific heterosis adjustments, use of data from herds not milk recording and computation of an evaluation for age at first calving.
 2. **Dairy genomic evaluations** – to include a bias adjustment.
 3. **Beef maternal weaning weight** – new model, use of predictor traits, more lactations, use of data from SCWS (Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme), and a modified trait definition.
 4. **Beef maternal fertility** – more lactations, new definition for contemporary groups, better statistical model and use of predictor traits.
- + The DEP (Dairy Efficiency Program) has resulted in mastitis, lameness and temperament data which is useful in genetic evaluations and provides greater accuracy for these economically important traits.
- + Further work is to be undertaken before the revised calving trait evaluations will be implemented. This work is expected to be completed in 2012 and to include consideration of birth weights and updated economic values.
- + There will be no changes made this year to the economic values in the EBI.
- + A major push to increase the level of weight recording is to be initiated. The new weighing infrastructure will support this push. The elements of this infrastructure include:
 1. A new weighing data collection system linked to the ICBF database via handheld computers.
 2. A new web interface for users of the TruTest weighing systems. This web interface is operational and includes both downloads of animals for weighing and uploads of the resulting weights.
 3. A new database report which will be produced immediately after each set of weights are uploaded.
 4. A new field service which will promote and service the weight recording needs of cattle farmers. Details of this service are currently being discussed with potential service providers.
- + The group that developed the Euro-Star indexes is to review future development of these indexes for beef breeding.

3 Genetic Evaluations

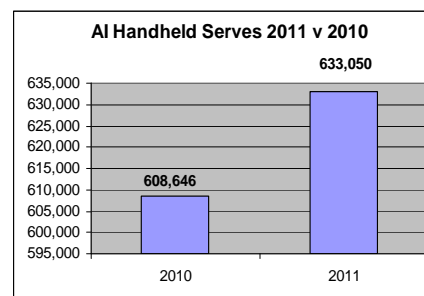
- + Evaluations are currently underway for the next routine evaluations. The expected official publication date is Dec 10th 2011.

✚ Results from on-going work were given at the industry consultation meetings yesterday. Presentations from the meeting are available on the ICBF website.

4 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 462,523 with the number of animals weaned at 266,052.
- ✚ Around 5,500 herds have already completed their Dairy Efficiency Programme (DEP) health recording requirements for 2011.
- ✚ Testing continues on the prototype of the new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software. 493 animals were weighed across 3 farms in a single day this week (one set of scales) without any significant issues.
- ✚ The development of a new 'Bull-Tracker' report for pedigree herds is on-going. The focus of the report is to show the performance of stock-bull offspring.
- ✚ Work is on-going in building the systems that will support the upcoming national BVD eradication programme.
- ✚ The loading of the high density beef genotype files to the ICBF database is on-going.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



5 GROW[®]

- ✚ 815 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in October (down by 472 from October 2010).
- ✚ 509 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in October (down by 683 from October 2010).
- ✚ Ongoing dual scoring sessions are being held with the scorers.

6 GENÉIRLAND[®]

Beef

- ✚ 164 herds have signed up to the Autumn program so far.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GENÉIRLAND section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approximate total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below

BREED	BB	BB	CH	HE	PT	SI	SI
CODE	BZP	RWS	DZP	GCT	CBQ	SXD	APZ
# STRAWS	440	380	365	245	405	420	570

Dairy

- ✚ There are 100 herds signed up to the programme so far taking a total of 3,260 straws.
- ✚ Straws of 4 bulls are available now. 2 more bulls will be available in December.
- ✚ Calls continue to be made to potential participants.
- ✚ Call 1850 600 900 to take part in the programme.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 18/11/11

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 18/11/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 18/11/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 18/11/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 18/11/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,672	1,042	28%	304,317	95,556	31%
Progressive	2,393	918	38%	219,377	83,575	38%
Tipperary	144	64	44%	13,121	6,326	48%
Total	6,209	2,024	33%	536,815	185,457	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 18/11/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 18/11/11	2011 vs 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	279,013	304,317	8.3%
Progressive	196,441	219,377	10.5%
Tipperary	11,959	13,121	8.9%
Total	487,413	536,815	9.2%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 10/11/11 to 18/11/11

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	13	672	52	19.6	4.43	3.59	1.57	349
CAVAN	45	2,248	50	16.0	4.20	3.47	1.23	252
CLARE	24	1,086	45	14.6	4.31	3.66	1.16	395
CORK STH	280	15,366	55	15.7	4.42	3.64	1.27	293
CORK NTH	218	14,292	66	14.9	4.68	3.88	1.28	299

DONEGAL	20	1,766	88	13.5	4.52	3.71	1.11	313
DUBLIN	6	288	48	24.1	4.03	3.36	1.78	315
GALWAY	22	1,263	57	16.2	4.17	3.38	1.22	327
KERRY	126	7,706	61	16.0	4.10	3.45	1.21	346
KILDARE	16	1,081	68	19.4	4.37	3.51	1.53	316
KILKENNY	25	1,930	77	14.9	4.42	3.79	1.22	306
LAOIS	23	1,636	71	14.2	4.43	3.64	1.15	351
LEITRIM	7	342	49	18.7	4.14	3.43	1.42	202
LIMERICK	106	6,524	62	15.9	4.29	3.60	1.25	330
LONGFORD	12	611	51	14.8	4.43	3.48	1.17	248
LOUTH	20	1,464	73	22.4	3.84	3.41	1.62	311
MAYO	11	609	55	17.1	3.86	3.48	1.26	313
MEATH	58	5,266	91	18.8	4.09	3.33	1.39	285
MONAGHAN	34	1,554	46	16.1	3.88	3.30	1.16	281
OFFALY	16	909	57	16.9	3.91	3.35	1.23	372
ROSCOMMON	2	115	58	13.0	4.51	3.69	1.07	337
SLIGO	6	210	35	15.3	4.34	3.55	1.21	471
TIPPERARY NTH	18	1,414	79	16.0	4.52	3.89	1.35	329
TIPPERARY STH	34	2,649	78	11.6	4.71	3.93	1.00	295
WATERFORD	30	2,278	76	14.7	4.44	3.53	1.17	312
WESTMEATH	24	1,658	69	16.9	4.22	3.38	1.28	246
WEXFORD	56	3,686	66	17.9	4.33	3.55	1.41	292
WICKLOW E	18	1,406	78	16.8	4.33	3.45	1.31	293
WICKLOW W	9	716	80	22.7	4.15	3.31	1.69	320
	<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	1,279	80,745	63	16.7	4.28	3.54	1.31	314

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 10/11/11 to 18/11/11

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	842	51,315	61	15.0	4.40	3.63	1.21	315
Leinster	296	21,323	72	18.4	4.20	3.47	1.41	308
Connacht	48	2,539	53	16.1	4.20	3.51	1.24	330
Ulster	99	5,568	56	15.2	4.20	3.49	1.17	282

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