

## 1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Beef Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- ✚ **G€N€IR€LAND<sup>®</sup> Tully Open Day** – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Tully, Co. Kildare.
- ✚ **G€N€IR€LAND<sup>®</sup> Dairy Conference** – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **ICBF & Sheep Ireland Board Meetings** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Portlaoise.

## 2. Board Meetings

Yesterday (Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept) the Boards of ICBF and Sheep Ireland met at Highfield House. This occasion provided a good opportunity for them to meet the ICBF Team and to see the recently renovated facilities.

### ICBF Board

At its meeting the Board endorsed the ICBF Strategic Plan for the period 2010 to 2014. Key elements of ICBF strategy includes:

- To continuously improve the genetic evaluations, for beef and dairy cattle, by making full use of all available data, including genomic data, using the best available statistical and economic tools.
- To ensure organisations providing cattle breeding services to Irish farmers are well informed on all aspects of cattle breeding.
- To maintain and build a high quality data collection system that makes increasing use of electronic systems to reduce costs and improve data accuracy.
- To provide high quality information services to cattle farmers through service providers and through HerdPlus<sup>®</sup>.
- To grow the uptake of HerdPlus<sup>®</sup> to 30,000 herds.
- To provide a high quality information infrastructure for Animal Health Ireland.
- To promote best practice in cattle breeding.
- To achieve near optimal rates of genetic gain in the dairy and beef cattle population of Ireland by engaging with those breeders and organisations who share in this goal.
- To establish a service that facilitates the availability of useful information in the trading of cattle.
- Supporting research initiatives, nationally and internationally, that can benefit Irish farmers, by providing access to data and expertise.

### Sheep Ireland Board

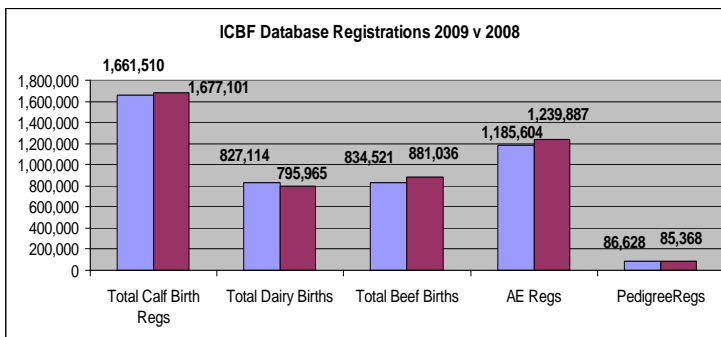
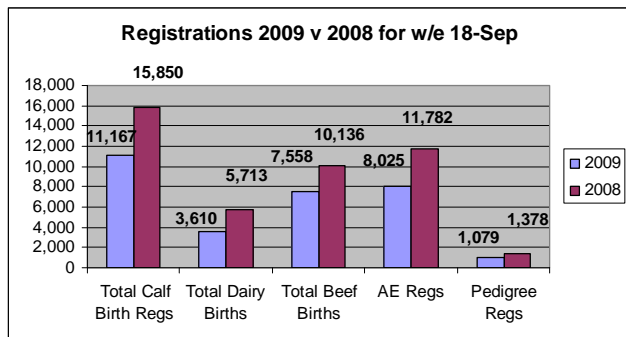
At its meeting the Board of Sheep Ireland reviewed recent progress in the project to establish a world class sheep breeding infrastructure for Ireland. A copy of the presentation provided to the Board can be found in the publications section of the Sheep Ireland website ([www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie)).

It was agreed that technical discussions should be held with DAFF on the details of the electronic identification system to be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. The objective is to ensure that the system is one that farmers can effectively use to facilitate recording and management of their animals.

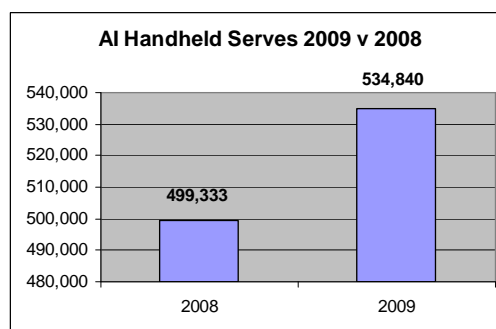
## 3. HerdPlus Beef

The Beef €uro-Star report will be available on-line from today and the postal version will be in the post early next week.

#### 4. Database



- All suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 have now received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 260,000.
- The revamp of the Milk Recording system will go live next Monday, with PG being the first users. The system will go live on a phased basis.
- The final developments which will allow the Herdbook users to fully migrate to a web-based solution are being completed.
- Work is continuing on the new Beef Discussion Group Reports, the slaughter report was completed this week, and is now being tested.
- The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008.



#### 5. Genetic Evaluations

- The executive summary on the recent Interbull meeting is available at the end of the update. The most notable decisions are the changes in the release dates effective from December **2010**. The release dates will be April, August and December. The means that the January run will be brought back to December from the end of next year. Information on the status of genomics as well as other Interbull activities are also included in the document.
- Thierry Pabiou will be visiting AbacusBio for the next two months to work on sheep genetic evaluations. Thierry will work closely with Peter Amer and Tim Byrne on integrating data from pedigree and commercial flocks to increase the accuracy of the evaluations.

#### 6. Milk Recording

| National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 08/09/09 to 18/09/09. |                    |                   |                   |                          |               |                   |                  |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
|   | No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Average Herd Size | Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow | Average Fat % | Average Protein % | Average F + P kg | Average SCC |
| <b>CARLOW</b>   | 21                 | 1,415             | 67                | 18.1                     | 4.06          | 3.50              | 1.37             | 479         |
| <b>CAVAN</b>  | 28                 | 1,265             | 45                | 18.4                     | 4.09          | 3.54              | 1.40             | 420         |
| <b>CLARE</b>  | 8                  | 455               | 57                | 16.8                     | 4.13          | 3.67              | 1.31             | 333         |
| <b>CORK STH</b>   | 237                | 15,593            | 66                | 17.6                     | 4.27          | 3.65              | 1.39             | 326         |

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 08/09/09 to 18/09/09.

|               | No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Average Herd Size | Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow | Average Fat % | Average Protein % | Average F + P kg | Average SCC |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| CORK NTH      | 265                | 17,823            | 67                | 18.0                     | 4.29          | 3.73              | 1.44             | 313         |
| DONEGAL       | 8                  | 671               | 84                | 14.2                     | 4.58          | 3.64              | 1.17             | 312         |
| DUBLIN        | 4                  | 213               | 53                | 22.4                     | 3.44          | 3.57              | 1.57             | 349         |
| GALWAY        | 14                 | 854               | 61                | 19.5                     | 4.16          | 3.46              | 1.49             | 412         |
| KERRY         | 91                 | 6,088             | 67                | 17.9                     | 3.98          | 3.50              | 1.34             | 401         |
| KILDARE       | 15                 | 987               | 66                | 18.7                     | 3.74          | 3.54              | 1.36             | 353         |
| KILKENNY      | 36                 | 2,585             | 72                | 16.1                     | 4.38          | 3.72              | 1.30             | 338         |
| LAOIS         | 39                 | 2,777             | 71                | 16.3                     | 4.17          | 3.66              | 1.28             | 361         |
| LEITRIM       | 5                  | 213               | 43                | 21.4                     | 3.86          | 3.39              | 1.55             | 375         |
| LIMERICK      | 106                | 7,494             | 71                | 17.6                     | 4.09          | 3.64              | 1.36             | 339         |
| LONGFORD      | 4                  | 249               | 62                | 17.5                     | 4.52          | 3.62              | 1.42             | 373         |
| LOUTH         | 19                 | 1,522             | 80                | 29.0                     | 3.80          | 3.54              | 2.13             | 499         |
| MAYO          | 22                 | 1,218             | 55                | 20.5                     | 3.74          | 3.55              | 1.49             | 357         |
| MEATH         | 56                 | 4,587             | 82                | 17.4                     | 4.05          | 3.57              | 1.33             | 439         |
| MONAGHAN      | 21                 | 1,062             | 51                | 17.7                     | 4.09          | 3.51              | 1.35             | 437         |
| OFFALY        | 24                 | 1,666             | 69                | 17.4                     | 4.31          | 3.61              | 1.38             | 368         |
| ROSCOMMON     | 2                  | 124               | 62                | 18.8                     | 4.39          | 3.51              | 1.49             | 218         |
| SLIGO         | 7                  | 297               | 42                | 17.1                     | 3.88          | 3.64              | 1.29             | 393         |
| TIPPERARY NTH | 46                 | 3,995             | 87                | 16.2                     | 4.34          | 3.70              | 1.30             | 304         |
| TIPPERARY STH | 45                 | 2,926             | 65                | 15.6                     | 4.17          | 3.62              | 1.22             | 326         |
| WATERFORD     | 51                 | 3,834             | 75                | 15.2                     | 4.36          | 3.74              | 1.23             | 340         |
| WESTMEATH     | 15                 | 970               | 65                | 18.4                     | 3.95          | 3.53              | 1.38             | 378         |
| WEXFORD       | 52                 | 3,435             | 66                | 16.4                     | 4.25          | 3.69              | 1.30             | 391         |
| WICKLOW E     | 18                 | 1,267             | 70                | 16.3                     | 3.85          | 3.57              | 1.21             | 351         |
| WICKLOW W     | 3                  | 180               | 60                | 20.1                     | 4.14          | 3.60              | 1.56             | 465         |
|               | No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Average Herd Size | Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow | Average Fat % | Average Protein % | Average F + P kg | Average SCC |
| National      | 1,262              | 85,765            | 65                | 18.2                     | 4.11          | 3.59              | 1.40             | 371         |

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 08/09/09 to 18/09/09.

| 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    | 849                | 58,208            | 69                | 16.9                     | 4.20          | 3.66              | 1.33             | 335         |
| Leinster   | 306                | 21,853            | 71                | 18.8                     | 4.05          | 3.59              | 1.44             | 396         |
| Connacht   | 50                 | 2,706             | 54                | 19.5                     | 4.01          | 3.51              | 1.46             | 351         |
| Ulster     | 57                 | 2,998             | 53                | 16.8                     | 4.25          | 3.56              | 1.31             | 390         |

| National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 18/09/09 |                                   |                             |              |                                      |                            |             |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation                                      | Total Herds Recorded YTD 18/09/09 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 18/09/09 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 18/09/09 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 18/09/09 | % Cows EDIY |
| Progressive  | 2,071                             | 844                         | 41%          | 175,391                              | 71,274                     | 41%         |
| Dairygold  | 1,500                             | 560                         | 37%          | 115,832                              | 45,461                     | 39%         |
| Kerry  | 890                               | 66                          | 7%           | 62,206                               | 4,231                      | 7%          |
| SWS  | 856                               | 114                         | 13%          | 61,402                               | 8,892                      | 14%         |
| Tipperary  | 135                               | 55                          | 41%          | 11,018                               | 4,900                      | 44%         |
| Arrabawn   | 141                               | 116                         | 82%          | 11,838                               | 10,086                     | 85%         |
| Connacht   | 139                               | 49                          | 35%          | 9,396                                | 3,297                      | 35%         |
| Donegal  | 33                                | 33                          | 100%         | 3,886                                | 3,886                      | 100%        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>5,765</b>                      | <b>1,837</b>                | <b>32%</b>   | <b>450,969</b>                       | <b>152,027</b>             | <b>34%</b>  |

| Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Milk Recording Organisation  | YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 18/09/08 | YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 18/09/09 | 2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%) |
| Progressive  | 178,821                                    | 175,391                                    | -2.0%                                    |
| Dairygold  | 123,780                                    | 115,832                                    | -6.9%                                    |
| Kerry  | 78,731                                     | 62,206                                     | -26.6%                                   |
| SWS  | 61,385                                     | 61,402                                     | 0.0%                                     |
| Tipperary  | 12,962                                     | 11,018                                     | -17.6%                                   |
| Arrabawn   | 12,769                                     | 11,838                                     | -7.9%                                    |
| Connacht   | 10,237                                     | 9,396                                      | -9.0%                                    |
| Donegal  | 4,751                                      | 3,886                                      | -22.3%                                   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>483,436</b>                             | <b>450,969</b>                             | <b>-7.2%</b>                             |

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Interbull is a sub-committee of the  
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September 9, 2009

## 2009 INTERBULL MEETING

**AUGUST 21 - 24, 2009**

**BARCELONA, SPAIN**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Interbull meeting was well attended with 151 registered participants from 32 countries.
2. Operational issues
  - a. Discussion on the new IB evaluation schedule has been finalised and leads to 3 release dates for routine runs per year (August, December and April). The new schedule becomes effective in December 2010, since for August 2010 the release date will stay on third Tuesday in August, having the submission of data been set to July 27 in order to accommodate the involvement of Interbull and the national evaluation centers staff in the WCGALP in Leipzig, Germany. The new schedule (release dates) from December 2010 is, i.e.
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in December
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in April
    - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in August
  - b. A new schedule for test runs has been decided (effective from January 2011)
    - i. 3 weeks after August release; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in January

3. Modification of current procedures for conventional genetic international evaluations:
  - a. Research run for male/female pedigree in MACE is planned for second half of 2009, which will be followed by a possible approval during the Paris meeting in March 2010 and, if approved, used for the test run in May 2010.
  - b. Streamlining of MACE procedures will be used effectively from the September 2009 test run onwards and from the January 2010 routine run onwards.
  - c. Implementation of minimum number of daughters/minimum EDC during the September 2009 test run
  - d. Implementation of Interbull database for both pedigree and EBV exchanges during the May 2010 test run.
4. Incorporation of genomics
  - a. Task Force:

Considering the numerous issues that still require special advice from specialists, the SC decided to extend the mandate of the genomics Task Force until the next annual meeting, to be held in Riga, Latvia, from May 31 to June 4, 2010.
  - b. Validation:

This issue received high priority, and the IB Technical Committee, under assistance of the IB genomic Task Force, will finalise a validation test for GEBV's (a method III-G) in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009. The SC will then evaluate the proposal and eventually approve this validation test method. The SC will then recommend the proposed validation procedure to ICAR for approval. Evaluation systems for genomic EBVs that pass this test should be considered valid within the EC.
  - c. GMACE:

Likely in November or December 2009 a first research run for GMACE will be conducted by Interbull under guidance of the IB genomics Task Force. The results will be reviewed by the Task Force and the IB Technical Committee. Results will be discussed during a workshop in March 2010
  - d. Conversion factors:

The use of conventional conversion equations from one country scale to another were tested by the Interbull Centre by running genetic correlations between countries including GEBVs from one country at a time. Although correlations varied within the range usually observed in Interbull runs, both ITC and SC considered inappropriate to apply any form of conversion before a methodology to validate GEBVs is in place.
  - e. Brown Swiss Genomics:

A research project to create a common reference population for the Brown Swiss breed at the Interbull Centre has been approved by the SC and was presented at the business meeting. SNP prediction equations will be calculated in each country scale at the Interbull Centre. The project is

funded by the European Brown Swiss Federation, European Commission and SLU. Other Brown Swiss populations are welcome to join the project.

5. Workshop of Genomics
  - a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Interbull workshop on genomics will be held in Paris, France, from March 4-5 2010.
6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> industry meeting with Interbull will be held also in France after the genomics workshop on March 5, 2010.
7. New SC members
  - a. The Interbull business meeting endorsed the proposal of Dr. Bevin Harris as successor of Mr. Bill Montgomery from New Zealand and of Dr. Marj Faust as successor of Dr. Paul VanRaden from the United States of America.
  - b. The ICAR board will receive the nominations and most likely appoint these two individuals for a four years term.
8. New member of the Technical Committee
  - a. The Interbull Steering Committee appointed Dr. Paul VanRaden as new member of the Interbull TC.
9. Interbull strategic plan
  - a. The strategic plan prepared in January 2009 was reviewed by the Steering Committee and presented in the business meeting.
  - b. A more detailed version of the plan will be sent to the members for comments and suggestions in October 2009, and the final version should be approved in March 2010, at the Paris workshop.
10. Interbeef
  - a. The working group had a strategic planning session to prepare the transition between research and service.
  - b. The Scientific Advisory Committee for Beef Cattle was formed and had its first meeting with the working group. The members of the SAC-Beef are Dr. Dorian Garrick, from Iowa State University, and Dr. Roel Veerkamp, from Wageningen University.