



**UPDATE – for period 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**1 Important Dates**

- ❑ **15<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January**, Regional EBI / HerdPlus meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Venue</u>
<i>Monday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>2.30pm – 4.00pm</i>	<i>Horse &amp; Jockey</i>	<i>Horse &amp; Jockey</i>
<i>Tuesday, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>2.30pm – 4.00pm</i>	<i>Enniscorthy</i>	<i>Riverside Hotel</i>
<i>Wednesday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>2.30pm – 4.00pm</i>	<i>Kells</i>	<i>Headford Arms</i>
<i>Tuesday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>2.30pm – 4.00pm</i>	<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>Radisson Hotel</i>
<i>Wednesday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>11am – 1.00pm</i>	<i>Knock</i>	<i>Belmont Hotel</i>

- ❑ **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.** 10:30 to 13:00. Board Meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- ❑ **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.** 10:30 to 13:00. Board Meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- ❑ **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.** Tully beef bull sale. Show 11.00 am Sale 12.00 pm.

**2 A week of progress**

This week the first three of the planned eight regional ICBF farmer meetings were held. The material presented by the ICBF & TEAGASC team focused on the latest developments in information available for cattle breeding decisions. Topics covered included EBI developments, HerdPlus services, Sire Advice services and Gene Ireland. Copies of all four presentations are available on our website (<http://www.icbf.com/publications/index.php>). Attendance has been better than expected and farmers attending have provided very positive feedback about the way cattle breeding information services are being developed by ICBF. A feature of particular interest has been latest developments in the sire advice facility which:

- uses genetic evaluations to help farmers choose AI sires that suit their breeding goals,
- uses the ancestry and genetic evaluation information of the cows in each herd, and the selected bulls, to allocate the bulls to cows, and
- passes the final mating plan onto breeding charts and AI handhelds for technicians.

This means that farmers can better plan their breeding and be more confident that their decisions will be carried out.

Also this week the new customised HerdPlus animal events notebooks (see example pages below) were posted to some 1,500 herds. These Notebooks save farmers a considerable amount of time when recording calvings and other events by being pre-printed with the known details of each cow in the herd.

The rapid progress ICBF is making in the provision of improved breeding information services to farmers was further stimulated by the decision taken by the Board of ICBF last year to launch HerdPlus as a user-pay service. We are focused on providing, through HerdPlus, a service that farmers want and are prepared to pay for. Customer feedback is providing many ideas for improving our service and by making intelligent use of the full range of computer technologies we are able to deliver service improvements rapidly. Individual farmers are making wonderful contributions to our developments through their suggestions for improvements they would like to see. As a result, ICBF is now very well placed to grow HerdPlus into a service that is used widely by dairy farmers and in the future by beef farmers. As HerdPlus grows we also expect to see increased uptake of milk recording, AI and pedigree registration services.

**3 Tully**

- Weights for the December intake were sent out to breeders on the 17-1-07.
- Eye muscle scanning of the December by UCD will take place on the 23-1-07.
- A group of pedigree beef farmers from Louth will visit Tully on the 20-1-07.



FB	Comp Lact	(Expected) Calving Date	(Expected) Sire of Calf	(Exp) EBI
806	0	14/01/07	MBH	58
818	0	23/01/07	NDI	96
834	0	24/01/07	NDI	115
853	0	24/01/07	MBH	83
467	4	25/01/07	RUU	128
728	1	26/01/07	LLO	89
815	0	26/01/07	NDI	97
441	4	27/01/07	LLO	84
761	1	27/01/07	RUU	128
839	0	27/01/07	MBH	79
604	2	28/01/07	KLR	68
852	0	29/01/07	MBH	90
567	3	31/01/07	GYK	75
847	0	31/01/07	MBH	88

8

Date Calved	Sex	Last 5 Digits of Calf Tag	Calving Ease				Notes
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	
			1	2	3	4	

9

Example pages from calving section of the customised Animal Events notebook provided to HerdPlus clients this week.

#### 4 Genetic Evaluations (Dairy)

The production evaluation has been completed. The calving interval and survival evaluation is ongoing. The calving performance evaluation has commenced and the beef evaluation will commence next week.

#### 5 Genetic Evaluations (Beef)

New slaughter data received for the latter 6 months of 2006 is now being prepared. New weaning weight, liveweight and linear score data from recording herds and also from the marts is also being prepared. A new evaluation will commence for beef performance traits next week.

#### 6 International Beef Genetic Evaluations

Genetic parameter estimation has been completed for the Charolais breed and the first joint genetic evaluation between France and Ireland can now take place. This will be run INRA in France.

The prototype across countries genetic evaluation for the Limousine breed between France & the UK has run and is now completed. The Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh is responsible for the UK beef cattle evaluation has received the results. This InterBeef ranking takes into account and reflects the farming practices, the environmental conditions & specific to the UK.

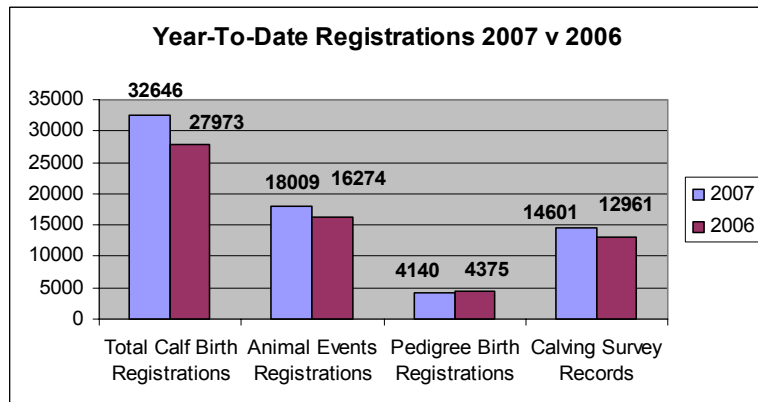
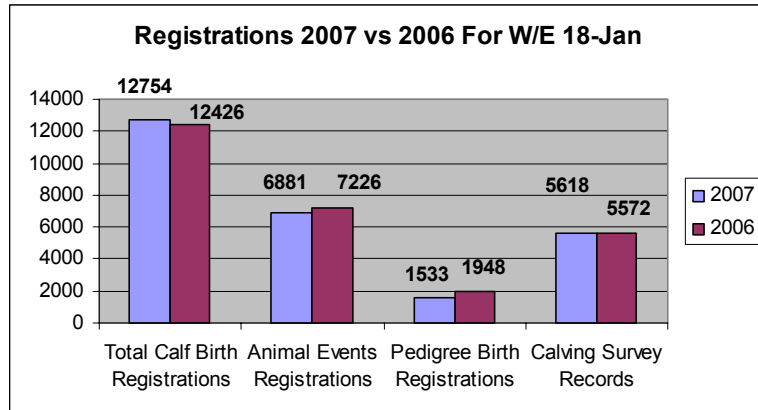
The next step currently running is the across country evaluation between France Ireland & the UK for the Limousine breed.



Thierry Pabiou will present work on international evaluations at the British Cattle Breeders Club Conference in Birmingham next Tuesday 23 January.

## 7 Database Update

- 181,044 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds.
- The flow of dry-off sheets is starting to slow – another batch of Annual Milk Recording Reports will be issued next week.
- The input of new insemination data for 2006 is also starting to slow with the result that the number of new Final Fertility reports being generated has also slowed.
- Production of the personalised Animal Events notebook for farmers is continuing and the first batches of notebooks have been issued to farmers this week.
- Good progress is being made on the Sire Advice development. The first release will be available before the end of January. A very positive response has been received from farmers at the HerdPlus regional meetings.
- The new Teagasc Discussion Group application is in progress, and it is expected this will be released within two weeks.
- Development on a Gene Ireland application which will assist in the management of the programme for the upcoming season has begun.



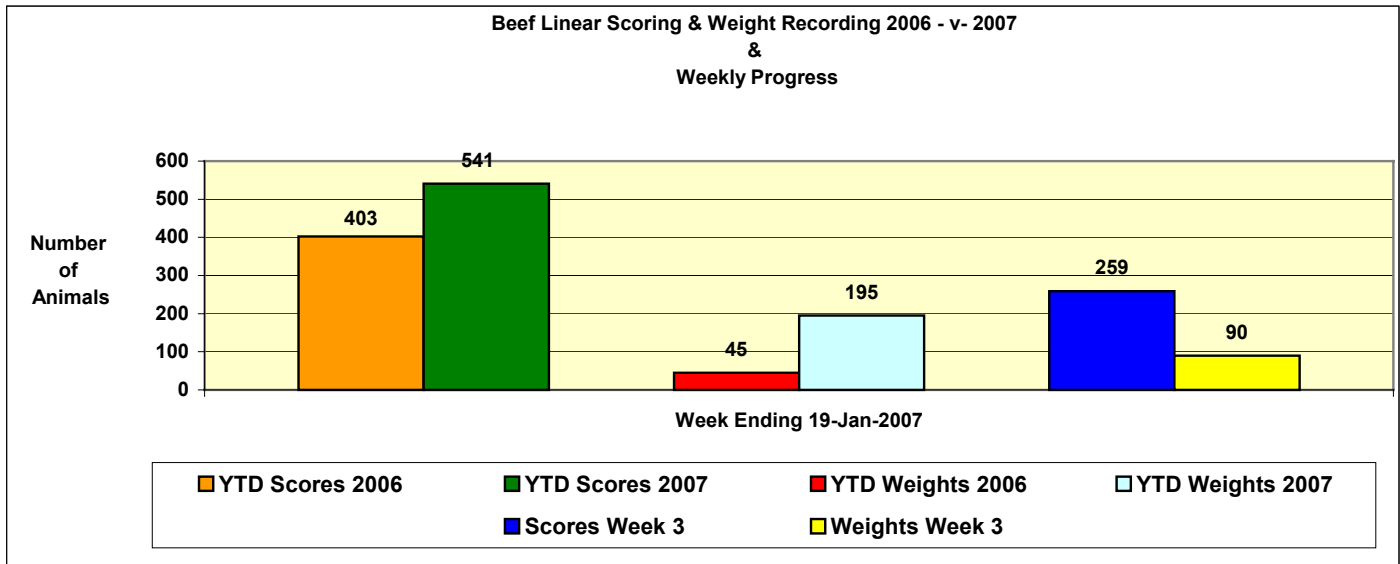
## 8 Milk Recording

### Weekly Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 12/01/07 - 19/01/07
Progressive	323
SWS	96
Dairygold	32
Kerry	63
Connacht	13
Arrabawn	5
Tipperary	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>536</b>



## 9 Beef Linear Scoring



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](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com) ICBF Web site [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com) Assistant: Mary Madden. © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.