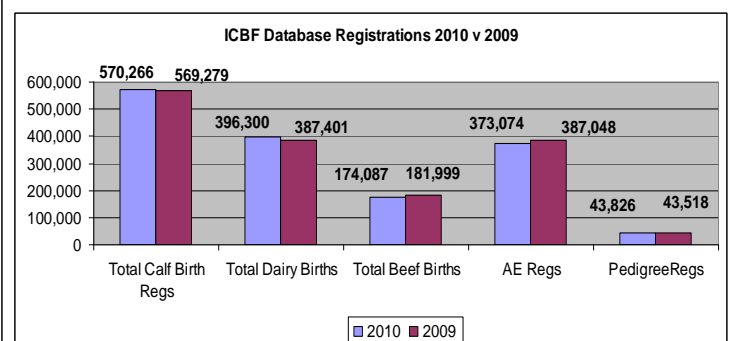
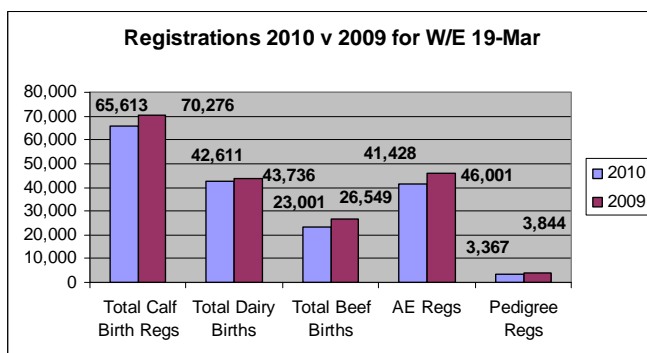


1. Important Dates

- + **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 25th March 2010, **10:00 to 14:00** – Horse & Jockey.
- + **Sheep Breeding Consultation Meeting – Genetic Evaluations** – Wednesday 31st March 2010, **10:30 to 14:00** – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep Board Meeting** – Wednesday 31st March 2010, **14:00 to 16:00** – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 1st April, 10:30 to 14:00 Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 3rd May 2010 **11:00 to 16:00** – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.
- + **ICBF AGM** – 14:30 – 16:00, Thursday 27th May at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **ICAR and Interbull Meetings**, Riga Latvia 31st May to 4th June. Organisations interested in attending can find further information on the conference website - www.icar2010.lv.
- + **Sheep 2010, Lyons Estate, UCD** – Saturday 26th June. This is a major day for the Irish Sheep industry.
- + **EBI Winner Discussion Group Farm Walks: 11:00am – 2:00pm**

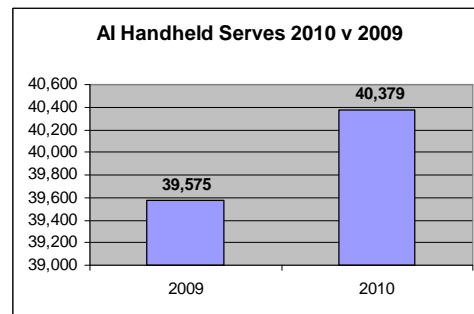
Wednesday 24 th March	Paul & Tom McCullagh's Farm	Piercetown, Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath	Navan Discussion Group
Wednesday 24 th March	Michael Quinn's Farm	Clonacusha, Ballinasloe, Co Galway	Killimor Discussion Group
Thursday 25 th March	Tom Horan's Farm	Clonmel Rd, Cashel, Co. Tipperary	Outrath Discussion Group

2. Database



- + The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- + In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 611,315 with the number of animals weaned at 529,920.
- + Work is on-going to update the ICBF website to handle the requirements of Animal Health Ireland, beginning with their BVD programme.

- ✚ Work on a number of issues in relation to the IHFA pedigree certificate is underway.
- ✚ Final updates to a revised Beef Slaughter report were completed this week. This report will be issued in the coming weeks.
- ✚ The updates to the Suckler Cow report have been completed and are currently being tested. This is to reflect the split in milk and fertility in the latest evaluations.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



3. Dairy Genomics – Benefits of Collaboration – Summary from Donagh Berry

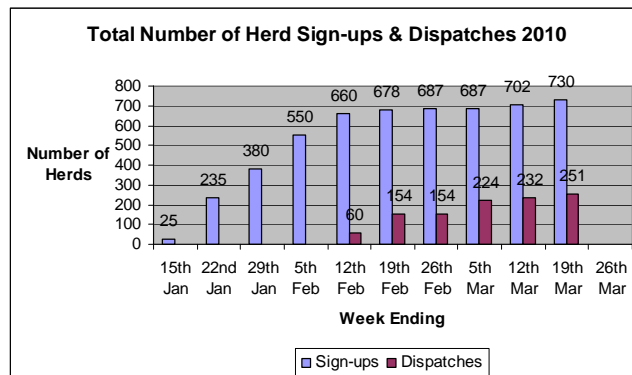
Ireland is leading the way in developing an open strategy for sharing information on bulls that have been genotyped in different countries. The motivation for this initiative is to avoid squandering money by genotyping prominent sires more than once. To date Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, Poland and Spain have contributed information on the genotypes they are willing to share and other countries such as the UK are in the process of collating their data to add to this list. In total, genotypes on some 12,000 Holstein-Friesian bulls are either currently available for swapping or genotyping in the country is underway and will therefore soon be available for swapping. Ireland more than tripled the size of its training population for genomic selection in the past few months through bilateral genotype swapping agreements with countries such as New Zealand and others. Through this new venture Ireland can potentially double its training population again. However, the generation of this list is hopefully only the start of a fruitful and open collaboration between these countries. The group of countries are and will be constantly seeking potential collaborators either with genotypes currently available or in the process of acquiring them.

4. GENEIRELAND®

Dairy

- ✚ There are 730 herds signed up to the programme. Dispatch of the remaining Friesian and Holstein Friesian packs will commence as soon as the straws become available, which we expect to be early April.
- ✚ There is still some availability for the Friesian, Crossbred and Mixed Breed packs.
- ✚ The number of straws requested by breed pack is in the table below.

HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN	18,978
FRIESIAN	3,701
CROSSBRED	7,776
MIXED	2,699



5. Tully

- Preparations are on-going for the up-coming sale at Tully on Monday, 3rd of May, with yards and other facilities being power-washed at present. The sale for the current crop of bulls is being advertised through various forms of media in Ireland, N. Ireland and UK. More details about the sale can be found by clicking on the Tully page, which is on the ICBF website i.e. icbf.com.
- The fourth live-weight was obtained on all bulls on Monday of this week (Table 1). Bulls are performing very well with an average daily gain of 2.00 kg, across all breeds. All bulls are due to finish their performance test on the 5th of April, with one more live-weight and 21 days of individual feed intake yet to be obtained. Bulls are to be scanned for muscle and fat depth, early next week.

Table 1. Live-weight and average daily gain (21 day period) of bulls, averaged by breed

Breed	AA (n = 13)	AU (N = 1)	BB (n = 4)	CH (n = 26)	HE (n = 5)	LM (n = 40)	SA (n = 4)	SI (n = 10)	SP (n = 2)
Average Live-weight (Kg)	620	512	596	645	571	594	562	700	615
Average Daily Gain (Kg)	2.26	1.90	2.0	2.12	2.0	1.95	2.15	2.35	2.19

- Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date, along with the latest Euro-Star figures. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.
- There will be a champion bull selected from each breed at Tully, where there are four or more bulls. The criteria for the top bull will be based on the performance test, Indexes and visual assessment. Basil Bothwell (Linear scorer) was nominated at a recent Tully Advisory Committee Meeting (made up mainly of representatives from breed societies and ICBF) to visually assess all the bulls for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits. He will assess the bulls next week for the relevant traits. It should also be noted that the champion must be in the top 20% of all three traits i.e. visual, Indexes and Performance test results. A photograph of the bull that comes out on top in each breed will then be in the Irish Farmers Journal, leading up to the Tully sale on the 3rd of May.
- Letters are being posted out at present to bull owners who have bulls eligible for the next Tully intake, which starts on the 22nd of May. The selection criteria is based on 5 star Suckler Beef Value, 3 star Milk and Fertility and bulls born between 1st of May and 31st October 2009. A list of the numbers being targeted in each beef breed is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Eligible bulls for the Spring 10 Tully GENE IRELAND program

Breed	AA	AU	BA	BB	CH	LM	PT	SA	SI	SH	HE	PI
No. of Bulls	73	13	6	8	314	431	2	15	85	9	114	7

6. Genetic Evaluations

- Data extraction has been completed for the next run of genetic evaluation and all data available as of 15/03/2010 will be included in the evaluation.

7. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 09/03/10 to 19/03/10								
	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	676	52	27.4	4.09	3.41	2.06	409
CAVAN	14	507	36	26.0	4.14	3.30	1.93	363
CLARE	6	178	30	29.4	3.74	3.35	2.08	242
CORK STH	181	9,149	51	24.4	4.18	3.27	1.82	321
CORK NTH	153	7,435	49	24.3	4.13	3.23	1.79	327
DONEGAL	4	200	50	23.7	4.24	3.33	1.79	445
DUBLIN	3	108	36	29.2	3.76	3.25	2.05	348
GALWAY	22	903	41	23.7	4.20	3.28	1.77	438
KERRY	100	4,341	43	25.9	3.87	3.14	1.82	397
KILDARE	15	726	48	25.0	3.65	3.27	1.73	362
KILKENNY	33	2,206	67	23.3	4.03	3.22	1.69	277
LAOIS	20	1,288	64	20.3	4.16	3.44	1.54	492
LEITRIM	1	24	24	14.2	3.73	3.24	0.99	172
LIMERICK	84	3,599	43	24.3	4.10	3.21	1.78	313
LONGFORD	5	163	33	24.4	4.34	3.47	1.91	428
LOUTH	18	1,136	63	24.9	3.99	3.30	1.82	344
MAYO	10	346	35	22.9	4.06	3.35	1.70	352
MEATH	30	2,664	89	24.5	4.01	3.25	1.78	320
MONAGHAN	16	661	41	26.5	3.89	3.16	1.87	453
OFFALY	9	452	50	22.7	4.08	3.31	1.68	456
ROSCOMMON	2	62	31	23.9	5.06	3.31	2.00	772
SLIGO	4	155	39	25.4	3.89	3.45	1.86	385
TIPPERARY NTH	16	901	56	22.8	4.17	3.27	1.70	397
TIPPERARY STH	19	1,053	55	22.8	4.41	3.20	1.74	391
WATERFORD	35	2,126	61	24.5	4.26	3.27	1.84	303
WESTMEATH	10	461	46	24.6	3.69	3.11	1.67	247
WEXFORD	53	2,793	53	23.2	4.07	3.37	1.73	379
WICKLOW E	16	927	58	22.5	3.60	3.27	1.55	303
WICKLOW W	5	439	88	26.5	4.14	3.27	1.96	200
	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	897	45,679	51	24.2	4.06	3.29	1.78	367

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 09/03/10 to 19/03/10.								
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	594	28,782	48	24.8	4.11	3.24	1.82	336
Leinster	230	14,039	61	24.5	3.96	3.30	1.78	351
Connacht	39	1,490	38	22.0	4.19	3.33	1.65	424
Ulster	34	1,368	40	25.4	4.09	3.26	1.87	420

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