Update for period 13th – 19th May 2006
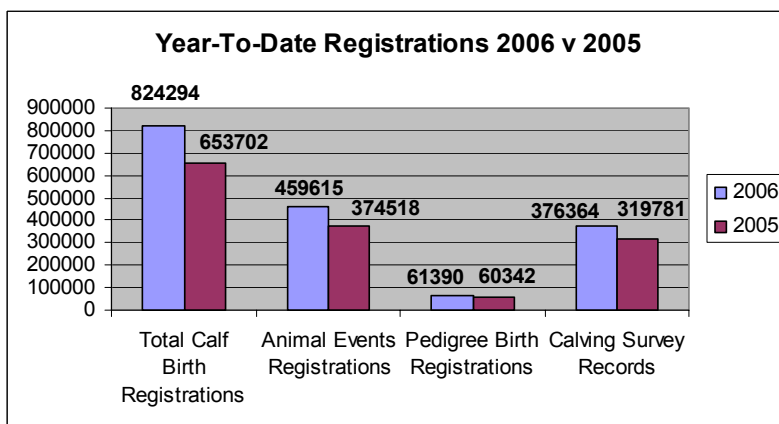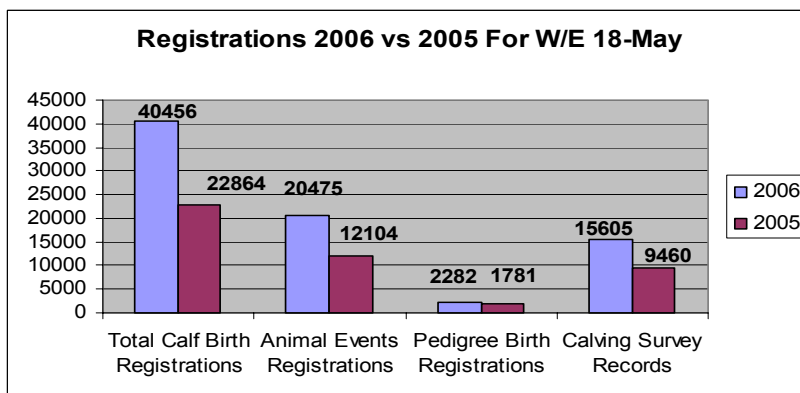
1   Important Dates

- **Thursday 25th May, 10:30–1:30,** Finance Sub-Committee meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Thursday 22nd June**, **10:30-1:00**, Board Meeting, Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **30-31st May 8.30am – 6.00pm**, IRIS User Group Meeting, Rosscarbery.
- **3rd – 9th June**, ICAR Session & Interbull Meeting, Kuopio, Finland.

2   Genetic Evaluations – Beef & Dairy

- Preparation of files for the next proof run has been completed and they are currently being loaded to the database. Proofs for bulls with AI codes will be available early next week with the bull search being fully functional the week after.
- Work continues on the issues highlighted at the last Beef industry meeting including the maternal sub-index, genetic parameters and linear type evaluations.
- Further improvements have been made to the Simmental and Hereford International Pedigree File for use in International beef evaluations.

3   Database Update

- 70 new herds added to the database last week.
- The 60,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds.
- Further report development to support the AI handheld application is on-going.
- A new set of disks have been installed in the ICBF standby server (the fail-over machine for the main database). These will be fully active next week.
- 246 'Week 3' Fertility reports have been issued to date. Feedback to date has been very positive.
- A revamp of the authorisations for the on-line reports section of the ICBF website has been completed.
- The new load of dairy genetic evaluations is on-going and should be completed in the next 10 days or so.

Registrations 2006 vs 2005 For W/E 18-May

	2006	2005
Total Calf Birth Registrations	40456	22864
Animal Events Registrations	20475	12104
Pedigree Birth Registrations	2282	1781
Calving Survey Records	15605	9460

Year-To-Date Registrations 2006 v 2005

	2006	2005
Total Calf Birth Registrations	824294	653702
Animal Events Registrations	459615	374518
Pedigree Birth Registrations	61390	60342
Calving Survey Records	376364	319781

- A front-end to streamline the sending and receiving of text messages from/to ICBF is currently being developed. The aim is to continue to expand the use of text messaging as a means of reducing the ICBF postage costs.

4 Milk Recording Update

MR Stats week ending 19/05/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 12/05/06 - 19/05/06
Progressive	449
Dairygold	216
Kerry	185
SWS	163
Arrabawn	41
Tipperary	28
Donegal	19
Connacht	14
Total	1,101

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 19/05/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 19/05/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 19/05/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 19/05/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)	
Progressive	2,034	1,928	-5%	129,516	128,710	-1%	
Dairygold	1,444	1,478	2%	77,073	86,176	12%	*
Kerry	1,055	1,060	0%	56,821	60,023	6%	
SWS	929	925	0%	48,168	50,517	5%	
Tipperary	140	152	9%	7,858	9,511	21%	*
Arrabawn	106	147	39%	5,620	9,014	60%	*
Connacht	108	107	-1%	6,046	6,015	-1%	
Donegal	15	29	93%	1,293	2,034	57%	*
Total	5,831	5,826	0%	332,395	352,000	6%	

* Increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

5 Tully

- Health testing of the May intake will now take place from the 22-5-06. It is planned to have this intake in Tully by the 5-6-06.
- Minutes of the Tully meeting on the 9-5-06 were sent out to all herdbooks on the 18-5-06.
- A group of pedigree breeders from England will visit Tully on the 22-5-06.

6 Linear Scoring

- A review of the linear scoring system is being conducted.
- The following are the areas that ICBF are looking into and a meeting will be held in July to discuss them:
  o Scoring window for age.
  o Incomplete contemporary groups.

- o Commercial scoring.
- o Heifer scoring.
- o Hand held problems.
- o Linear scoring standards.
- o Linear scoring reports.
- o Scorer areas.