



UPDATE – for period 14th to 20th January 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 24th January.** Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting starting at 10.30 AM (and finishing at 1.00 PM). Meeting venue will be The Abbeyleix Manor, Agenda is as follows:

1. *Beef Breeding Programs for Ireland – Theo Meuwissen*
2. *Beef Genetic Evaluations*
 - a. *Reliability of evaluations – Roel Veerkamp*
 - b. *Maternal proofs – Roel Veerkamp.*
 - c. *Beef performance evaluations – Ross Evans*
3. *Rolling out new beef indexes – Andrew Cromie*
4. *International evaluations – Thierry Pabiou.*
5. *Any other business*

- ✚ **25th January – 3rd February.** Below is the summary of dates for the forthcoming **“High Index Herd Health” Meetings for breeders**. The meetings are specifically focused on those high index breeders that are providing bulls into Tully and into AI. The objective is to provide herd owners with the information they need to ensure their high index bulls have the greatest possible chance of passing pre-entry health tests.

25 Jan 2006	Headfort Arms Hotel, Kells, Co. Meath.	2.00 PM
26 Jan 2006	Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.	6.30 PM
27 Jan 2006	Kilcoran Lodge, Cahir, Co. Tipperary.	2.00 PM
31 Jan 2006	Meadow Court Hotel, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	6.30 PM
1 Feb 2006	Dolmen Hotel, Carlow Town, Co. Carlow.	2.00 PM
2 Feb 2006	Munster Arms, Bandon, Co Cork.	2.00 PM
3 Feb 2006	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.	2.00 PM

The agenda for these meetings will be as follows;

- **Introduction – ICBF - Genetic Gain - The role of breeders in providing bulls for Tully & AI.**
- **A background to disease – Simon More & Damien Barrett (CVERA)**
 - *Key principles of how diseases operate in individuals & among groups.*
 - *Specific information [JD, IBR, BVD]*
- **Disease control – Simon More (CVERA) & Doreen Corridan (Dairygold)**
 - *Key principles of disease control on farms.*
 - *Practical preventive steps this spring [JD, IBR, BVD]*
- **Forum discussion**
- **The herd health initiative – Simon More (CVERA)**

All meetings will last approximately 2 hours. In addition, each meeting will be followed by a 1-hour open session explaining the new beef indexes. This **session will be focused on the needs of pedigree beef breeders.**

- ✚ **Thursday 2nd February.** ICBF Board meeting.
- ✚ **Saturday 18th February.** Tully Open Day 11.30am – 2.30pm. *On show will be the bulls for sale on the 4-3-06 and the 6-5-06.*
- ✚ **Saturday 4th March Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.
- ✚ **Saturday 6th May Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.



2 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Domestic milk productions (milk, fat, protein & SCC) were completed and are currently being prepared for international evaluations.
- ✚ New beef performance evaluations have been completed, with an additional 22,000 animals added to the evaluations (some 258,000 beef animals are now included in the beef production evaluation). These results will be presented at next Tuesdays beef industry meeting (24th January, 10.30 AM, Abbeylax Manor Hotel).
- ✚ A further beef linear type evaluation is currently being completed. This run includes information from multiple traits and additional “historical” data. Again, results from this evaluation will be presented at next weeks beef industry meetings.
- ✚ A meeting took place involving Irish Limousin Cattle Society (ILCS), UK Limousin Cattle Society and ICBF to discuss developments in international evaluations. Good progress is being made in the resolving of international ID problems, with agreement to proceed on a further international evaluation involving Irish, UK and French data.

3 Herd Health Visit to the Netherlands

Andrew Cromie and Sean Coughlan visited GD (originally Animal Health Services), along with Doreen Corridan (Dairygold), Simon More (CVERA) and Billy Kelleher (Teagasc). The purpose of the visit was to evaluate systems for Herd Health accreditation and support as operated by GD on behalf of Dutch farmers. The visit was very successful with an agreement to pursue the possibility of running a pilot “Herd Health Project” involving Dairygold suppliers (some 50 farmers), Teagasc, CVERA and ICBF.

4 International Cattle Breeders Round Table

Ross Evans and Francis Kearney attended the “International Cattle Breeders Round Table” held in Milan, Italy. The ICBF team also included John Hickey (currently pursuing a PhD program at ID Lelystad) and Marco Poole (ID Lelystad). Three papers were given by the Irish team; (i) Development of Health index for Irish dairy cattle, (ii) Calving Interval & Survival Evaluations in Irish Beef Cattle and (iii) Genetic parameters for carcass traits for Irish beef & dairy cattle. Each of the papers was very well received by the international breeders group, with positive comments about the rate of progress currently being achieved in Ireland. At the end of the meeting a request was put to the Irish team to host the next biennial meeting of this group. Naturally this request was accepted. We look forward to hosting this important event in January 2008.

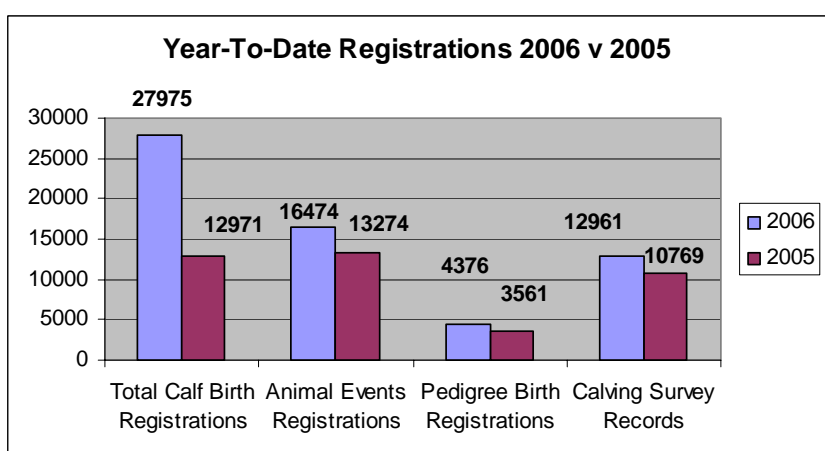
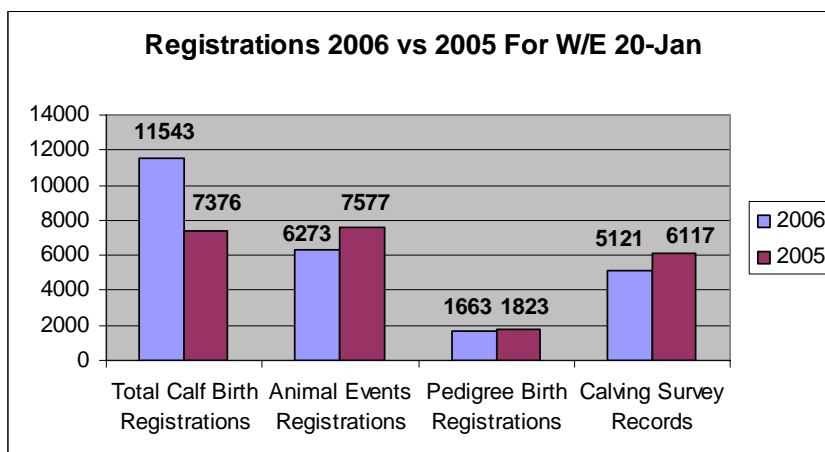
5 Tully

- ✚ Plans for the Tully sales were presented at the Tully review meeting yesterday. A very productive meeting was held. The minutes of this meeting will be sent out to all who attended by the 30-1-06.
- ✚ Weights for the September intake were sent out to breeders on the 18-1-06. Each breeder also received a full explanation of the new EBI index system. The sale at Tully in March will be the first sale to include the new EBI indexes in the catalogue.
- ✚ A group of 24 agricultural students from Tipperary will visit Tully on the 26-1-06 and not the 18-1-06 as originally planned.



6 Database Update

- ✚ 208 new herds added to the database last week. This week, the majority were Dovea AI customers.
- ✚ The first of the AI technicians from Dairygold were trained this week. Training will begin in Dovea next week.
- ✚ The upgrade of the production database to the next release of Oracle will be completed this weekend. ICBF staff will be working throughout the weekend on the task and it is expected that the database will be available from 1.30pm on Monday.
- ✚ A number of issues relating to the system speed this week will be addressed by the upgrade at the weekend and some process changes that will be implemented in addition to the upgrade.
- ✚ Programming of the herd-book rule changes have continued this week. Some significant changes are required and it will be the end of January before these are fully completed.
- ✚ A new 'Stock Report' for farmers is in the final stages of testing. While it contains quite a lot of detail, this level of detail in this format is required. It will be especially useful to any farmers in completing REPS documentation or indeed Profit Monitor documentation. A sample copy of the report is attached below.
- ✚ The 2006 Animal Events Notebook distribution has been largely completed this week.



7 Milk Recording

Electronic DIY Milk Recording Update

✚ Tipperary/Arrabawn

1. Technician job vacancy in Tipperary Star and Tipperary Nationalist.
2. Visited Arrabawn Lab and trials continuing for file transfer.
3. Herd Inventories sent (to get FBs on database) to some 140 Farmers who are interested in €DIY
4. Jerry Ryan presenting €DIY service details at milk advisory meetings in next weeks

✚ Donegal

1. Farmers in area driving project forward - meeting held this week and recruitment campaign planned by area within county.



SWS

1. SWS office staff training held on Thu 19th.
2. SWS herd recorded Thu/Fri as part of SWS Field staff training.
3. Meeting held with SWS management re 2006 launch - Technician recruitment is priority now.

Dairygold

1. Herd recruitment going ahead full steam - three technicians now fully trained and ready to roll for calving season.

Weekly Processing 20/01/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 13/01/06 - 20/01/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 13/01/05 - 20/01/05
Progressive	320	383
Dairygold	76	68
Kerry	52	48
SWS	92	116
Tipperary	4	0
Connacht	7	39
Arrabawn	2	1
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	0
Total	553	655

Year to Date Stats: up to 20/1/06

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2006 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 1st - Jan 20th	2005 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2006 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 1st - Jan 20th	2005 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	880	2087	41,190	154,992
Dairygold	181	1529	7,205	98,832
Kerry	103	1066	4,045	68,193
SWS	199	939	6,894	56,257
Tipperary	14	142	671	9,412
Connacht	53	110	2,114	7,359
Arrabawn	10	109	365	7,188
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	57	0	4,837
Total	1,440	6,039	62,484	407,070



Stock Report For Herd IE1234567
31-Oct-04 -> 31-Dec-05



Animal Category	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Average
Cows																
Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stock Out	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
End of Month	0	0	0	48	41	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	44	44	36
In-Calf Heifers																
Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
End of Month	0	0	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cattle 0-6mths																
Female Births	0	0	0	8	5	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Male Births	0	0	0	5	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Male Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male Stock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female Stock Out	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
End of Month Males	0	0	0	19	23	28	29	29	15	10	6	1	0	0	0	11
End of Month Females	0	0	0	6	8	14	17	17	16	11	9	4	0	0	0	7
Cattle 6-12mths																
Male Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male Stock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	1
Female Stock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
End of Month Males	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	14	19	23	28	29	29	15	11
End of Month Females	0	0	0	10	4	1	0	0	1	6	8	13	17	30	28	8
Cattle 12-18mths																
Male Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male Stock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Female Stock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
End of Month Males	0	0	0	11	16	18	17	17	14	6	2	0	0	0	14	8
End of Month Females	0	0	0	27	33	34	33	31	20	10	4	1	0	2	4	13
Cattle 18-24mths																
Male Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male Stock Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Female Stock Out	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	1
End of Month Males	0	0	0	15	8	0	1	1	3	11	15	17	16	16	14	8
End of Month Females	0	0	0	22	14	7	7	9	18	27	32	33	32	20	15	16
Cattle 24+mths																
Male Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male Stock Out	0	0	0	0	1	15	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	2
Female Stock In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female Stock Out	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
End of Month Males	0	0	0	15	21	14	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	2	4	7
End of Month Females	0	0	0	2	1	10	4	4	6	7	7	9	11	12	17	6
Total Cattle																
Total Males	0	0	0	67	70	60	53	53	52	52	52	52	52	47	47	44
Total Females	0	0	0	120	106	112	106	106	106	106	105	105	105	108	108	86
Total	0	0	0	187	176	172	159	159	158	158	157	157	157	155	155	130