



UPDATE – for period 14th – 20th June 2008

1 Important Dates

- + **20th June** - Farmfest '08, Teagasc Major Event of the Year, Athenry.
- + **17th July, 10:30am** – ICBF Board Meeting, Comfort Inn Portlaoise.
- + **9th to 11th October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet. For details see www.ihfa.ie.
- + **11th and 12th October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart.

2 ICAR & Interbull meetings, Niagara Falls, USA

- + Ireland's delegation at this weeks meetings in Niagara Falls, USA included representatives from DAF, TEAGASC, ICBF, NCBC and Munster AI & Milk Recording.
- + ICAR (Internation Committee for Animal Recording) holds a full meeting every second year. 450 people from 46 countries are attending the meeting in Niagara. This is the first time ICAR has met in the USA.
- + ICAR is responsible for the guidelines and rule that underpin EU cattle breeding regulations. It also plays an important role in facilitating communication between organisations worldwide involved in all aspect of recording data on farm animals.

The highlights of the meeting include:

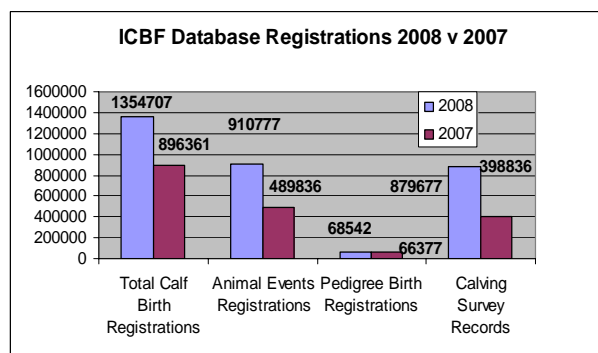
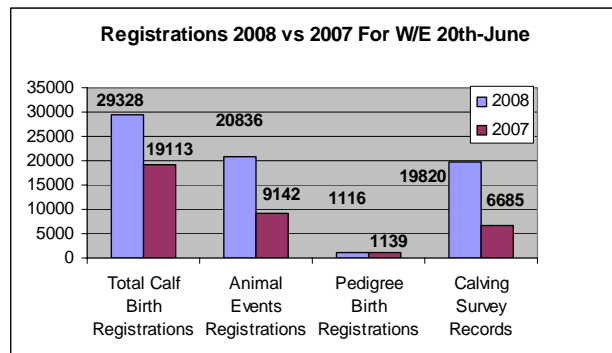
- + **Genomic selection.** Research in USA, Canada, NZ and Holland has established that genomic selection (selection based on information derived from DNA tests) can lead to increased rates of genetic gain and reduce the costs associated with progeny testing in dairy breeding. This technology has many implications and there is a lot of discussion on how the organisations involved in cattle breeding need to adapt.
- + **Electronic Identification.** The use of RFID (electronic identification) of cattle is set to grow rapidly as a consequence of reduced costs. Discussion has focused on how to adapt data recording systems to benefit.
- + **On-farm Data Collection.** In combination with electronic identification there has been a proliferation of devices for collecting data on dairy and beef cattle. There are few standards for the resulting data which is accumulating in increasing volumes. ICAR has committed to develop standards by the end of 2008.
- + **Laboratory testing.** The range of tests that can be conducted on milk and tissue samples is increasing rapidly and provide many opportunities for providing improved breeding, management and health services to farmers.
- + **Meeting and discussing.** The Irish delegation is meeting a wide wide of people from organisations involved in all aspects of recording and breeding in other countries. The knowledge accumulating will be very valuable in future decisions.

3 Tully

- + The final blood samples for the next intake to Tully are expected on the 23-6-08.
- + Results for the next intake are due from the 26th June.
- + A final list of health tested bulls will be sent out to breed society secretaries on the 24-6-08



4 Database Update



- ✚ 391,305 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 272,287 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ A review of the AI software for next season has commenced.
- ✚ Over 440,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received as part of the Suckler Scheme.
- ✚ Further batches of Sire Errors and Pre-weaning forms have been issued to Suckler Scheme participants this week.
- ✚ A re-designed linear scoring and weight recording report is under development and will be ready for testing at the end of next week.
- ✚ A number of new developments will begin over the coming weeks, including a revamp of the bull search output, further development of the Gene Ireland application, and the update of the milk recording data entry screens.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Presentations were giving by ICBF staff at the Interbull/ICAR meetings this week. A summary of the meeting is given elsewhere in the update.
- ✚ Work is ongoing on various aspects of both dairy and beef genetic evaluations including beef linear type and development of a new bull search.
- ✚ The 4th of July is the deadline for getting data into the database for inclusion in the next genetic evaluation run.



6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 10/06/08 to 20/06/08.

	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
CARLOW	17	1074	63	24.4	3.98	3.44	1.81	309
CAVAN	37	2025	55	25.8	3.57	3.31	1.78	233
CLARE	28	1653	59	24.3	3.6	3.35	1.69	305
CORK STH	242	15595	64	25.4	3.73	3.38	1.81	248
CORK NTH	257	17801	69	25.2	3.67	3.37	1.77	280
DONEGAL	3	207	69	26.7	3.74	3.39	1.90	249
DUBLIN	5	284	57	28.8	3.55	3.39	2.00	274
GALWAY	30	2189	73	26.4	3.77	3.3	1.87	340
KERRY	126	7952	63	25.1	3.64	3.31	1.74	297
KILDARE	13	1054	81	25.7	3.59	3.33	1.78	281
KILKENNY	66	4501	68	23.9	3.76	3.38	1.71	204
LAOIS	41	2678	65	23.2	3.84	3.45	1.69	280
LEITRIM	3	128	43	33.7	3.57	3.29	2.31	210
LIMERICK	130	8754	67	26	3.61	3.33	1.80	252
LONGFORD	10	734	73	26.7	3.77	3.36	1.90	226
LOUTH	25	2411	96	29.4	3.6	3.29	2.03	193
MAYO	20	1188	59	28.9	3.26	3.38	1.92	347
MEATH	59	4616	78	24.8	3.78	3.37	1.77	287
MONAGHAN	36	1994	55	26.2	3.61	3.27	1.80	323
OFFALY	19	1417	75	25.7	3.75	3.33	1.82	262
ROSCOMMON	3	224	75	30.6	4.3	3.29	2.32	170
SLIGO	10	599	60	20.1	3.77	3.38	1.44	474
TIPPERARY NTH	40	2764	69	24.1	3.78	3.44	1.74	297
TIPPERARY STH	60	3886	65	23.8	3.68	3.36	1.68	205
WATERFORD	61	4682	77	23	3.75	3.38	1.64	277
WESTMEATH	20	1322	66	24	3.86	3.39	1.74	252
WEXFORD	62	4652	75	24.7	3.77	3.45	1.78	232
WICKLOW E	20	1470	74	23.5	3.43	3.42	1.61	242
WICKLOW W	9	839	93	23.6	3.76	3.38	1.69	328
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,452	98,693	69	25.6	3.71	3.36	1.81	272

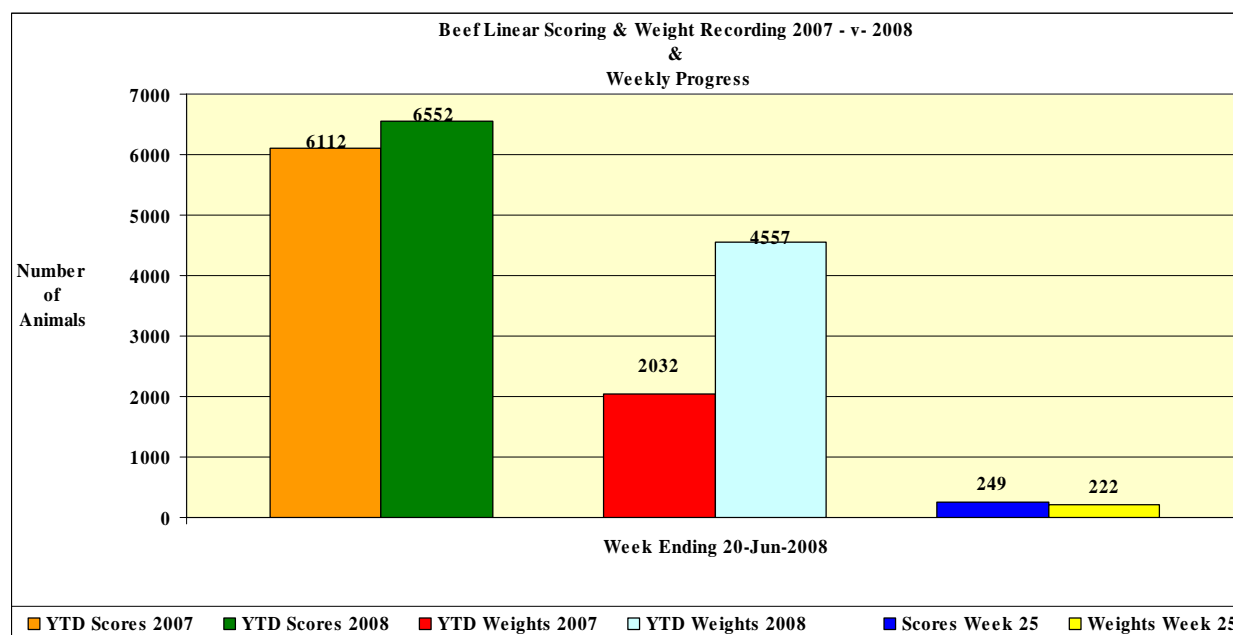
National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 10/06/08 to 20/06/08

Provincial	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
Munster	944	63,087	67	24.6	3.68	3.37	1.73	270
Leinster	366	27,052	74	25.3	3.73	3.38	1.80	259
Connacht	66	4,328	66	27.9	3.73	3.33	1.97	308
Ulster	76	4,226	56	26.2	3.64	3.32	1.83	268



Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 20/06/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 20/06/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 20/06/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	144,311	153,761	166,475	7.6%
Dairygold	96,131	102,302	108,509	5.7%
Kerry	66,227	67,602	74,656	9.4%
SWS	55,035	57,124	57,789	1.2%
Tipperary	10,901	11,619	11,770	1.3%
Arrabawn	10,208	11,120	11,859	6.2%
Connacht	7,464	8,778	8,220	-6.8%
Donegal	4,428	3,222	3,191	-1.0%
Total	394,705	415,528	442,469	6.1%

7 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



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 ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden.