

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee** – Friday 27th November 10:30 to 14:00 – Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 3rd December
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 3rd December.
- ✚ **Dairy Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Wednesday 9th December, 10:30 to 15:00 – Moorepark.
- ✚ **G€N€IR€LAND® & HerdPlus® Dairy Conference** – AM Thursday 10th December, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy. Organised by ICBF and Sponsored by FBD.
- ✚ **EBI Discussion Group Competition Awards** - PM Thursday 10th December, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy. Organised jointly by ICBF, Teagasc, Irish Farmers Journal and the ACC Bank.

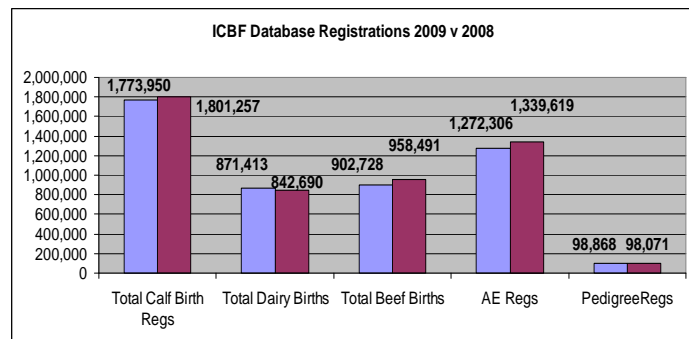
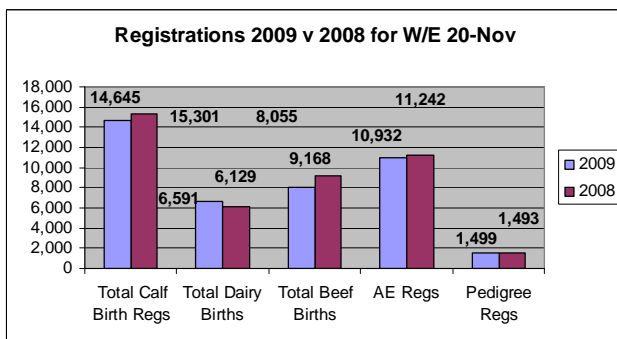
2. Flooding

Severe flooding in Bandon last night caused serious disruption to our network. While the main database computer and backup are located in separate buildings well away from flooding risk we are still reliant on the phone network and in particular the Bandon exchange. Eircom have advised they expect to have the current problems resolved over the weekend.

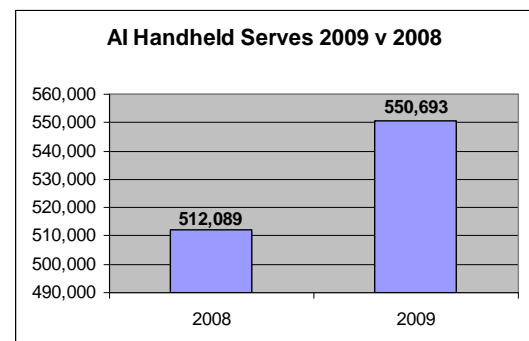
As part of our renovations at Highfield house we have secured access to the BT Fibre Cable that goes from Cork to Clonakilty and bypasses the Bandon exchange. This access is in the process of being commissioned and in the near future will provide added security in the event of a further failure at the Bandon exchange.

With the hardware changes we will be making next weekend, we will also have a ‘microwave line’ available as a back-up for future broadband outages.

3. Database



- ✚ All suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 have now received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 491,000, with the number of animals weaned at 275,000.
- ✚ All systems will be unavailable over next weekend from 3pm Friday (27th November) till 9:00am on Monday (30th Nov) to facilitate a major infrastructure upgrade.



- ✚ All four milk recording organisations are working well on the new Milk Recording system. We are continuing to update the software based on feedback from the organisations.
- ✚ The graph (previous page) shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, overall inseminations for the season will be down.

4. Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- ✚ During the week Ross Evans gave a lecture to Agriculture and Veterinary student in UCD on the various aspects involved in beef cattle breeding.
- ✚ Work on the test runs for the new calving interval and survival proofs and the calving performance proofs continued this week.

Sheep

- ✚ The genetic evaluation for sheep has been run globally, i.e., all breeds in the same run. Thierry is working on this in NZ with Peter Amer and Tim Byrne. He incorporated the pedigree and the MALP data and fitted heterosis and recombination coefficients. The results looked promising so far with more work to be completed next week..
- ✚ Next week, Thierry plans to run an across breed genetic evaluation using Mix99 for sheep.

5. GENÉIRÉLAND[®], HerdPlus[®] and EBI Discussion Group Competition Awards



ICBF will be holding its annual farmer user meeting on Thursday 10th December in Corrin Mart. This is an annual event in the dairy calendar where ICBF shares the latest on breeding developments with its users and the wider industry.

ICBF have put together a stimulating programme for the day and are guaranteeing short, snappy presentations (10 minutes) in a friendly and conducive environment for farmers. Cattle breeding trade stands will also be present on the day, ensuring an excellent opportunity for farmers to get the latest information on dairy breeding developments.

The day will kick off with at 10am, with the morning session, sponsored by FBD, providing updates to farmers on; Genomics, EBI Developments, GENÉIRÉLAND[®] and HerdPlus[®] services, plus giving recognition and awards to the top GENÉIRÉLAND[®] breeders.

After lunch the afternoon session will focus on the EBI Discussion Group competition where the winning groups' data and performance will be shared and prizes awarded. The EBI Discussion group competition is a joint effort involving Teagasc, the Irish Farmers Journal, ICBF and ACC Bank.

Over the next two weeks we in ICBF will be busy putting together a stimulating programme, we are heartily looking forward to seeing all dairy breeders on the day.

6. GENÉIRELAND® - Dairy

- ✚ Sign ups for the Autumn programme are now complete.
- ✚ 128 herds partaking, taking a total of 4,648 straws.

7. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 10/11/09 to 20/11/09.

	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	773	59	17.4	4.49	3.67	1.42	360
CAVAN	23	1,028	45	13.0	4.17	3.56	1.00	437
CLARE	8	310	39	11.0	4.47	3.72	0.90	454
CORK STH	224	12,768	57	15.7	4.47	3.76	1.29	352
CORK NTH	214	13,585	63	13.2	4.67	3.87	1.13	373
DONEGAL	15	1,096	73	13.2	4.47	3.70	1.08	330
DUBLIN	3	149	50	22.7	4.38	3.45	1.78	455
GALWAY	16	917	57	18.1	4.18	3.52	1.39	333
KERRY	82	4,521	55	12.3	4.32	3.65	0.98	449
KILDARE	12	742	62	19.5	4.22	3.41	1.49	491
KILKENNY	16	1,065	67	15.5	4.37	3.77	1.26	334
LAOIS	27	1,758	65	15.0	4.55	3.73	1.24	467
LEITRIM	6	264	44	17.7	4.06	3.36	1.31	323
LIMERICK	85	4,948	58	14.2	4.32	3.67	1.13	449
LONGFORD	3	109	36	16.5	4.51	3.77	1.37	405
LOUTH	15	1,098	73	18.4	3.82	3.48	1.34	375
MAYO	23	921	40	16.9	4.15	3.59	1.31	446
MEATH	37	3,213	87	18.7	4.04	3.51	1.41	385
MONAGHAN	19	823	43	16.9	4.10	3.58	1.30	441
OFFALY	12	872	73	16.1	4.24	3.41	1.23	328
ROSCOMMON	3	152	51	14.6	4.35	3.81	1.19	439
SLIGO	2	78	39	20.4	4.08	3.32	1.51	499
TIPPERARY NTH	24	1,474	61	13.8	4.59	3.91	1.17	404
TIPPERARY STH	31	1,869	60	13.7	4.73	3.98	1.19	338
WATERFORD	36	3,130	87	12.3	5.18	4.14	1.15	340
WESTMEATH	12	747	62	17.9	4.35	3.65	1.43	482
WEXFORD	54	3,450	64	16.8	4.34	3.66	1.34	398
WICKLOW E	15	919	61	18.4	3.91	3.52	1.37	296
WICKLOW W	7	627	90	21.6	3.82	3.29	1.54	264
	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	1,037	63,406	59	16.3	4.32	3.64	1.29	395

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 10/11/09 to 20/11/09.

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	704	42,605	61	13.3	4.59	3.84	1.12	395
Leinster	226	15,522	69	18.0	4.23	3.56	1.41	388
Connacht	50	2,332	47	17.5	4.16	3.52	1.35	408
Ulster	57	2,947	52	14.4	4.25	3.61	1.13	403

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 20/11/09

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 20/11/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 20/11/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 20/11/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 20/11/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,082	850	41%	179,909	72,776	40%
Dairygold	1,508	567	38%	117,155	46,272	39%
Kerry	891	66	7%	62,474	4,253	7%
SWS	857	114	13%	61,915	8,945	14%
Tipperary	137	56	41%	11,153	5,012	45%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,891	10,132	85%
Connacht	144	53	37%	9,807	3,586	37%
Donegal	33	33	100%	3,918	3,918	100%
Total	5,793	1,855	32%	458,222	154,894	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 20/11/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 20/11/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	185,275	179,909	-3.0%
Dairygold	126,695	117,155	-8.1%
Kerry	79,449	62,474	-27.2%
SWS	62,850	61,915	-1.5%
Tipperary	13,134	11,153	-17.8%
Arrabawn	12,966	11,891	-9.0%
Connacht	10,613	9,807	-8.2%
Donegal	4,814	3,918	-22.9%
Total	495,796	458,222	-8.2%

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Registered Office: Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: www.sheep.ie