



Update for period 14th – 20th October 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Saturday 20th October**, Millstreet Dairy Show. HerdPlus will have a stand and ICBF is sponsoring the EBI awards.
- ✚ **Wednesday 1st November**, 1:30pm to 5:00pm, **Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation** meeting, at Moorpark.
- ✚ **Thursday 2nd November**, **ICBF Board** meeting, Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Wednesday 29th November**, 10:30 – 16:00. Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation meeting, Abbeyleix.

2 Consultation Meeting – Beef Genetic Evaluations Wednesday 18th October

- The 5th in a series of beef industry meetings to discuss developments in beef genetic evaluations took place on Wednesday 18th October, in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. Some 40 people from a cross-section of the beef industry attended the meeting. The key theme of the meeting was development and introduction of the new economic beef indexes for the Irish beef industry. These are now on course, with a proposed roll-out date of **1st December 2006**. The new indexes will include:
 - A new total beef EBI (€) for all AI sires, stock-bulls & cows, which will reflect the expected additional profit from each breeding decision. The Total EBI value will be made up of a number of sub-indexes reflecting profit from; (i) calving performance, (ii) weaned calves for export, (iii) animals for slaughter in Ireland & (iv) maternal performance.
 - Lists of Active AI bulls ranked on the basis of these new indexes. These will operate on an across breed basis.
 - Beef EBI reports for all herd-owners. These will include EBI indexes for all pedigree animals (bulls, cows & young-stock) and commercial females.
 - New evaluations for 14 linear type traits and 3 composite traits (muscle, skeletal and functionality). Again these will operate on an across-breed basis.
 - New “international” evaluations for certain breeds and traits. These evaluations will reflect indexes for foreign animals expressed on an Irish basis (i.e., directly comparable with Irish information).
- Whilst much progress has been made in the development of the new evaluations, a number of outstanding pieces of work remain. These will be the focus of ICBF’s efforts over the next 4 weeks and include:
 - The inclusion of additional lactation data in the genetic evaluation of beef fertility.
 - The inclusion of additional mart & on-farm weight data in the genetic evaluation of maternal weaning weight.
 - The development of a new calf quality evaluation, based on price data from marts.
 - The development of new composite type traits for muscle, skeletal and functionality.
 - The development of new international evaluations for certain breeds & traits.
 - A review of economic values for Calving Interval.
 - A review of the genetic base definition.
 - A review of the means for presenting the new genetic indexes.
 - The development of new reports for publishing all relevant material, i.e., ICBF website, herd EBI reports, Active Bull lists & other relevant listings.
- The next beef industry meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 29th November, in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, starting at 10.30 AM. In the mean-time, ICBF will continue to forward all relevant material to the industry in advance of that meeting. All comments and feed-back on that material will be greatly welcomed.

3 International Beef Genetic Evaluations

Analysis of the first run of the Limousine international evaluation is ongoing. Conversion equations for a range of traits are also being finalised.



4 Genetic Evaluations - Dairy

The domestic genetic evaluation for production and somatic cell count has been completed. The genetic evaluation for calving interval and survival is in the process of completion. Respective files for the production and longevity INTERBULL evaluations will commence in the coming week.

5 Genetic Evaluations - Beef

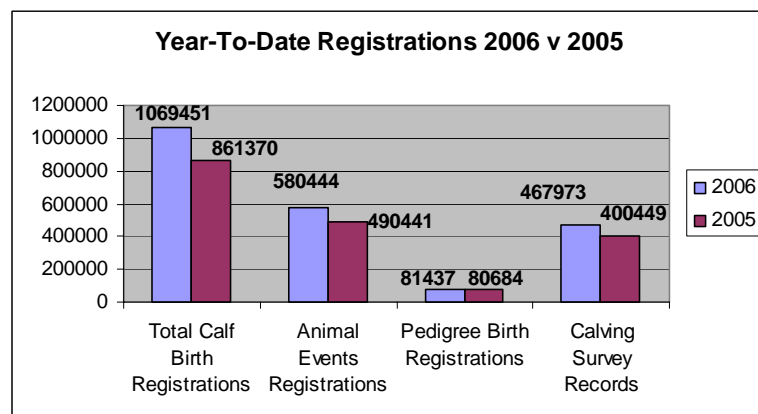
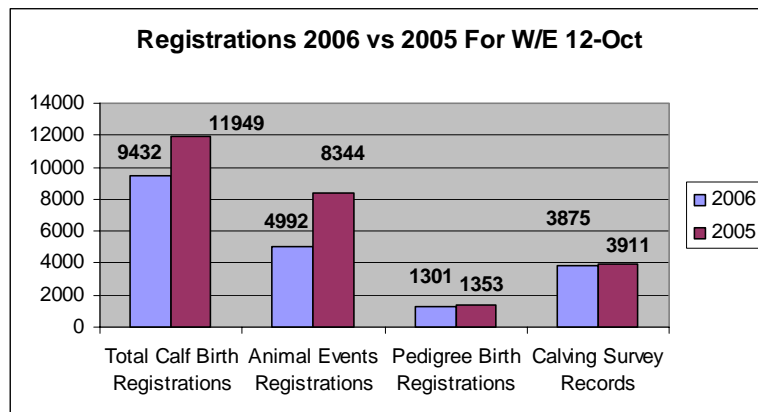
A new beef production evaluation is almost complete. This run incorporates the new slaughter information accumulated in the database since April 06. Work is ongoing on the maternal index in particular for the traits calving interval, survival and maternal weaning weight. A recent addition of Mart weaning weight data has improved the existing levels of data for genetic evaluations.

6 HerdPlus

- Feedback on new look/format EBI Report (sent out last Fri/Mon) was very positive, farmers liked the simple approach.
- On Mon 15th Oct we notified the 394 (77%) “electronic” dairy farmers by text their reports were available on line and on checking our web log on Tue morning we could see 88 had already accessed their reports that night – good sign.
- Direct Debit Sign up Forms continue to come in at a steady rate.
- ICBF be promoting HerdPlus at the National Dairy show in Millstreet on Oct 21st 2006 – do drop in to our stand to learn more about HerdPlus and see the latest developments.

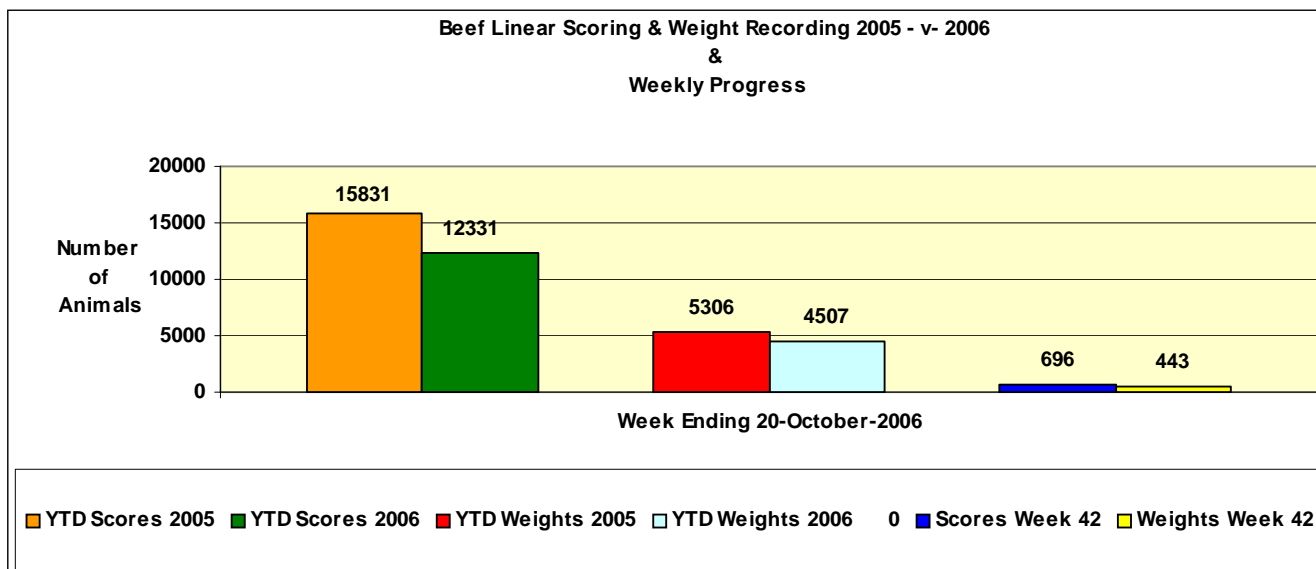
7 Database Update

- 21 new herds added to the database last week.
- The number of inseminations recorded on handhelds this year now stands at 159,235.
- The development of a software upgrade for the AI handheld has been completed and will be installed on technician handhelds prior to Christmas. The upgrade contains some improvements based on technician feedback which will make the software easier to use.
- Work on the development and implementation of a Sire Advice module is continuing, and discussions on the roll-out of the module will be held with stakeholders over the coming weeks.
- The web-enabled herd-book processing application is also progressing. Much of the background infrastructure of this development will be used in the migration of other applications to the web.





8 Beef Linear Scoring



9 Milk Recording Update

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

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 20/10/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 20/10/06	Year on Year Herds Difference (%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 20/10/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 20/10/06	Year on Year Cows Difference (%)
Progressive	2,082	2,103	1%	149,500	156,801	5%
Dairygold	1,523	1,550	2%	97,613	103,274	6%
Kerry	1,064	1,074	1%	67,100	69,931	4%
SWS	937	958	2%	54,635	59,327	9%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,338	11,803	26%
Arrabawn	109	159	46%	7,116	11,036	55%
Connacht	110	138	25%	7,334	9,025	23%
Donegal	41	58	41%	3,666	5,269	44%
Total	6,007	6,208	3%	396,302	426,466	8%

Milk Recording
Stats week
ending 20/10/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 13/10/06 - 20/10/06
Progressive	378
Dairygold	250
Kerry	218
SWS	164
Tipperary	34
Connacht	30
Arrabawn	20
Donegal	8
Total	1,102

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