

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 27th November** – ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting, Horse & Jockey
- ✚ **Thursday 4th December** – ICBF Board meeting, The Comfort Inn, Portlaoise
- ✚ **Thursday 4th December** – Interim Sheep Board meeting, The Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.

2 Change in our phone numbers

The ICBF phone numbers have changed. Our new numbers have “88” added to them after the area code (023). Please amend your files as soon as possible. The old numbers will continue to work for until May of 2009.

Old Number (example)	New Number (example)
Phone: 023 20222	023 88 20222
Fax: 023 20229	023 88 20229

3 GENE IRELAND[®]



Dairy

- ✚ Autumn 2008: Now have 125 herds signed up.
- ✚ Hendel Ramos Berland (NRB) has been removed from the Autumn program due to straw unavailability.
- ✚ 1,232 recorded test bull progeny now on the database from the Autumn 2007 program.

Beef

- ✚ Payments were made for recorded progeny test calvings from the Spring 2007 program this week (356 progeny).

4 Tully – GENE IRELAND[®]

- ✚ Good response from eligible herds.
- ✚ Disease test results have been arriving this week.
- ✚ Bull owners are being notified of bulls that have been accepted.
- ✚ Pre-entry isolation facility is ready for occupation.
- ✚ Bulls have started arriving for this intake.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ All evaluations have been completed and the website and bull search has been updated with the new indexes for dairy and beef.
- ✚ The new bull search is now also available and can be used to view phenotypic information that is used in the evaluation for each bull.
- ✚ The bull search now gives the exact ranking of a beef bull in terms of each of the indexes. For example, if a bull is 5 stars and the “% Rank” for SBV is 99 then that bull is in the top 1% of the breed. The higher the rank the better. Also, in response to suggestions from breeders we have included the value of Maternal Weaning Weight (or milk) as a separate key trait. This is to allow a breeder to ascertain the value of the milk of a bull independently of fertility.

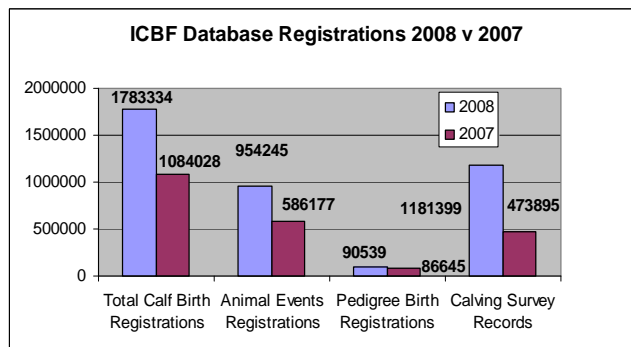
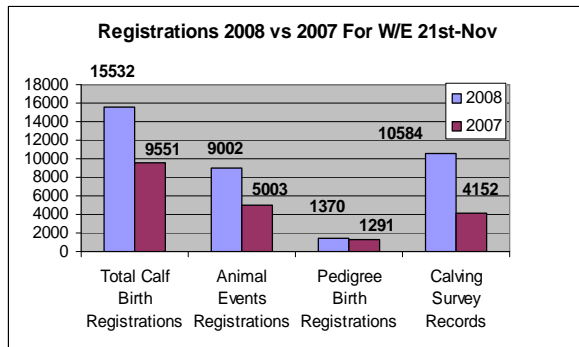
- ✚ Filippo Miglior from the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) visited ICBF on Wednesday and gave a presentation on the status of Genomic Selection in Canada.

6 Sheep

- ✚ Invitations to participate in LambPlus sent this week to flocks who participated in the PSBIP scheme operated by DAFF in 2008.
- ✚ TEAGASC sheep meetings underway with update from Sheep Ireland. A copy of this presentation can be found in the publications section of www.sheep.ie.
- ✚ Design of notebook for on-farm recording is being field tested this week. Thanks to the farmers who are providing very valuable feedback.
- ✚ Design of flock reconciliation element of website is now finalized and building is underway. Expected availability for users is 5th December.
- ✚ LambPlus logo has been finalized.



7 Database



- ✚ 512,410 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 361,373 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ The work on revamping the AI software for next season is continuing. Testing of the finalised solution began this week and will be provided to some users next week.
- ✚ There has been a lot of activity in the Suckler Scheme this week. The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 616,000, with just over 400,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. The 'back-end' work is now completed. The focus now is on the design of the screens for inputting and data correction.
- ✚ This week, work has continued on migrating the Sheep Performance system to the ICBF/Sheep Ireland database.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the Genomic Selection applications, working in conjunction with Donagh Berry at Moorepark.

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 11/11/08 to 21/11/08.

	<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	13	733	56	18.6	4.44	3.79	1.53	276
CAVAN	40	1,687	42	15.9	4.11	3.52	1.21	353
CLARE	17	810	48	17.9	4.15	3.56	1.38	331
CORK STH	258	13,632	53	15	4.48	3.79	1.24	330
CORK NTH	195	11,409	59	14.5	4.50	3.74	1.19	376
DONEGAL	16	1,326	83	12.8	4.54	3.68	1.05	392
DUBLIN	4	187	47	18.1	3.94	3.51	1.35	441
GALWAY	21	1,125	54	17	4.19	3.46	1.30	282
KERRY	95	5,068	53	14.4	4.18	3.54	1.11	436
KILDARE	13	899	69	17.4	4.40	3.53	1.38	300
KILKENNY	29	1,769	61	15.7	4.57	3.85	1.32	307
LAOIS	32	1,808	57	14.6	4.62	3.78	1.23	396
LEITRIM	4	153	38	13.8	4.12	3.54	1.06	251
LIMERICK	83	4,684	56	14.7	4.30	3.57	1.16	413
LONGFORD	9	499	55	13.2	4.38	3.74	1.07	362
LOUTH	26	1,617	62	20.1	4.13	3.54	1.54	298
MAYO	21	1,027	49	19	3.60	3.67	1.38	369
MEATH	60	5,337	89	20.1	4.34	3.59	1.59	376
MONAGHAN	47	2,168	46	17.7	4.29	3.58	1.39	364
OFFALY	11	609	55	15.2	4.20	3.60	1.19	346
SLIGO	4	176	44	16.3	3.79	3.66	1.21	274
TIPPERARY NTH	29	1,885	65	13.6	4.60	3.87	1.15	374
TIPPERARY STH	38	2,294	60	14.7	4.43	3.76	1.20	320
WATERFORD	23	1,737	76	17.2	4.31	3.63	1.37	277
WESTMEATH	14	705	50	16.5	4.34	3.63	1.32	272
WEXFORD	56	3,128	56	17	4.26	3.63	1.34	295
WICKLOW E	20	1,447	72	19.5	3.95	3.57	1.47	261
WICKLOW W	14	1,272	91	23.6	3.83	3.44	1.72	229
	<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	1,192	69,191	59	16.6	4.25	3.63	1.31	332

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 11/11/08 to 21/11/08.

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	738	41,519	56	15.3	4.26	3.68	1.21	357

Leinster	301	20,010	66	17.7	4.09	3.63	1.36	320
Connacht	50	2,481	50	16.5	4.28	3.58	1.30	294
Ulster	103	5,181	50	15.5	4.37	3.59	1.23	370

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 21/11/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 21/11/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 21/11/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 21/11/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 21/11/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,245	936	42%	185,302	74,404	40%
Dairygold	1,697	644	38%	125,733	49,524	39%
Kerry	1,159	248	21%	79,414	16,317	21%
SWS	915	135	15%	62,858	9,978	16%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	13,067	5,781	44%
Arrabawn	166	138	83%	12,966	10,957	85%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,414	4,366	42%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,814	4,814	100%
Total	6,561	2,291	35%	494,568	176,141	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 21/11/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 21/11/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	169,877	185,302	8.3%
Dairygold	112,594	125,733	10.4%
Kerry	72,134	79,414	9.2%
SWS	61,225	62,858	2.6%
Tipperary	12,313	13,067	5.8%
Arrabawn	12,070	12,966	6.9%
Connacht	10,156	10,414	2.5%
Donegal	3,920	4,814	18.6%
Total	454,289	494,568	8.1%

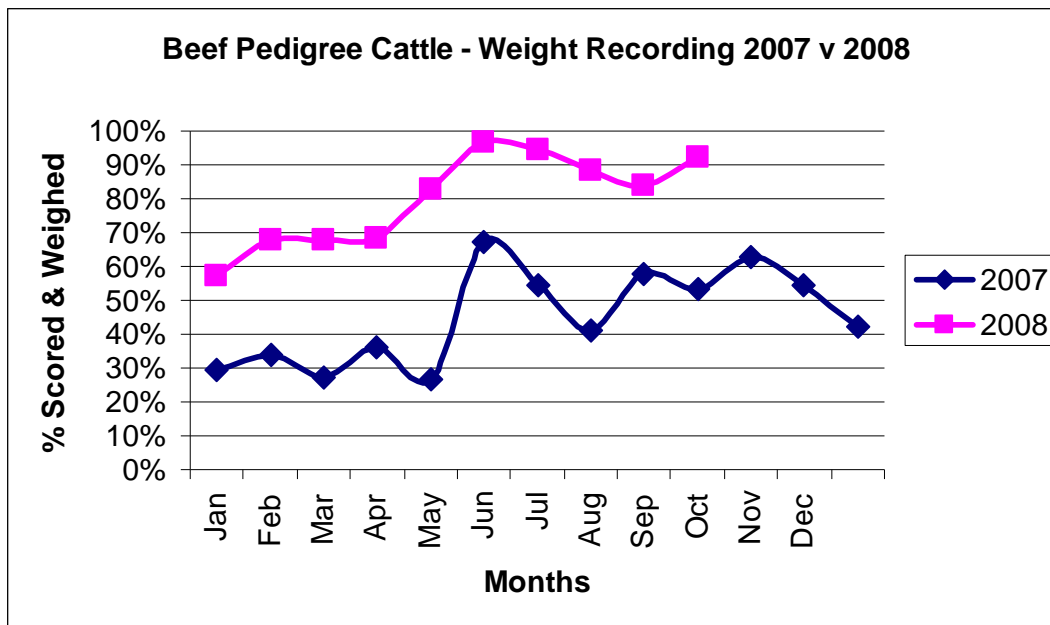
9 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording

- The Weighing figures for the year to-date have maintained their very high percentages with 92% of cattle scored also being weighed. This is in comparison to 53% for the same period last year. See attached graph.
- Scorers have also been issued with their new GROW jackets.
- An article promoting the GROW service as well as describing the growth in the service throughout the year was also published in the Irish Farmers Journal and is in the GROW section of our website.



Pedigrees - 2007			
Month	Scored	Weighed	% Cattle Weighed
Jan	1850	544	29%
Feb	1494	504	34%
Mar	1333	363	27%
Apr	744	268	36%
May	380	101	27%
Jun	287	193	67%
Jul	642	351	55%
Aug	929	380	41%
Sep	718	413	58%
Oct	1314	699	53%
Nov	839	528	63%
Dec	345	187	54%
Total	10,875	4531	42%

Pedigrees - 2008			
Month	Scored	Weighed	% Cattle Weighed
Jan	1354	773	57%
Feb	1437	974	68%
Mar	1320	893	68%
Apr	941	645	69%
May	778	646	83%
Jun	943	914	97%
Jul	1274	1200	94%
Aug	524	464	89%
Sep	790	662	84%
Oct	948	876	92%
Nov			
Dec			
Total			



10 HerdPlus

Teagasc Suckler Beef Breeding Competition

- ✚ Eamonn Egan from Teagasc Roscommon held the presentation night for the winners of the 'Teagasc Suckler Beef Breeding Competition' in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon on Wednesday the 19th of November.
- ✚ Eamonn contacted ICBF Herdplus[®] earlier in the year for assistance in running the competition. He started with a masterlist of 5,000 Beef herds and then used the Beef Euro-Star Herd Indices as the main criteria for shortlisting herds for the competition as well as on-farm weight & linear score data.
- ✚ He then visited each of the 44 finalists to inspect their stock, with the aid of the Beef Herdplus[®] Suckler Cow Report. Each finalist also received a complimentary Suckler Cow Report for each of their herd's.

✚ Other Sponsors of the competition included:

- **Elphin Mart**
- **Castlerea Mart**
- **Roscommon Mart**
- **NCBC**
- **Dovea AI**
- **KEPAK Athleague**

✚ The competition was a huge success as was demonstrated by the huge turnout in the Abbey Hotel on the 19th. All of the finalists received personalised scrolls acknowledging their achievement. Framed Certificates were also awarded to different category winners and a substantial cup (see picture) was then awarded to the overall winner.

✚ A seminar was also held at the presentation night with talks from Teagasc, Kepak & ICBF as well as an overall summary of the competition by Eamonn Egan.

✚ Eamonn deserves tremendous praise for initiating this competition. This competition will hopefully act as a blueprint as to how other Suckler Competitions should be run.

✚ The attached picture shows the Overall Winner of the Cup. Other photographs of prizewinners on the night can be found at www.hursonphotography.com



Members of Teagasc, Sponsors and overall winner of the Teagasc Suckler Beef Breeding Competition 2008 for Longford and Roscommon which took place at the Abbey Hotel on Wednesday night.

Back L-R: Gerry Connellan (Elphin Mart), Michael Geoghegan (KEPAK Athleague), Liam Fitzgerald (Teagasc Athenry), Pat Donnellan (ICBF), Noel Moran (Castlerea Mart), Michael Naughton (Roscommon Mart), Arthur Bredin (NCBC). Front L-R: Oliver Bourke (CAO Teagasc Roscommon & Longford), John Shirley (NCBC), Anthony Moran (Four Roads) Over-All Winner, Eamonn Egan (Teagasc Roscommon).

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