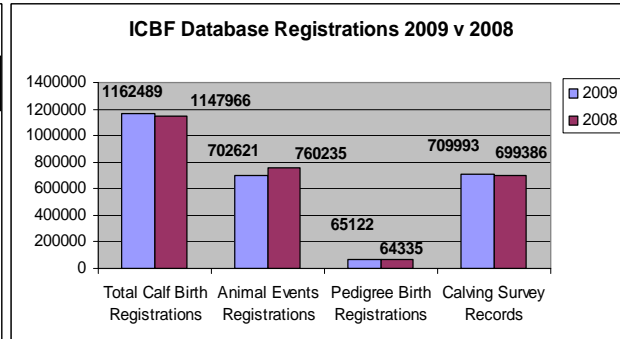
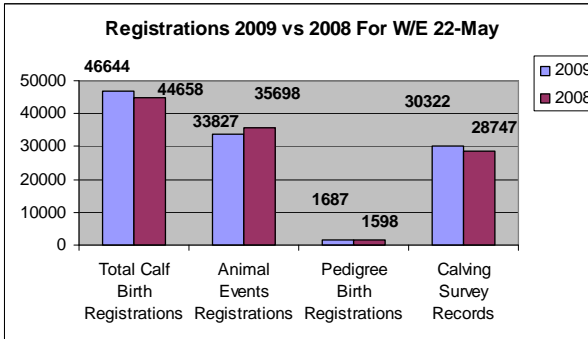


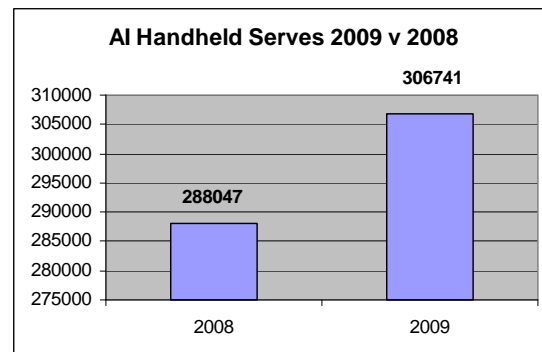
## 1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June.** Irish Grasslands Assn Sheep Meeting. This meeting will feature recent developments by Sheep Ireland. Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny.
- ✚ **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June.** Irish Grassland Assn Beef Meeting.

## 2. Database



- ✚ The revised 2009 suckler forms (pre and post weaning) will begin to go out to farmers next week. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 786,000, with just over 694,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has been slower than planned, but we are still expecting to have the system live for some users within the next few weeks.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is continuing.
- ✚ Development on the sheep genetic evaluation extracts are continuing.
- ✚ The graph 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, it looks like the overall inseminations for the season will be down.



## 3. Tully

- ✚ Forty-two bulls have passed the on-farm health testing which lead to an average of 55% meeting the health testing criteria. All bulls are on target to be in pre-isolation by the end of this week where they will be tested for IBR early next week and built up to *ad-libitum* concentrates. Bulls are being vaccinated for RSV, PI3 and Pasteurella as well as clostridia diseases on point of entry into pre-entry isolation.
- ✚ Pictured are Limousin and Shorthorn bulls that were performance tested in the previous Tully intake and purchased by NCBC A.I centre. NCBC in all have purchased four young high index bulls (Table 1) from the last Tully intake which finished on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Each of these bulls have now met the criteria to be selected for the G-EN-IR-ELAND<sup>®</sup> program and will most likely enter the Autumn 2009 G-EN-IR-ELAND<sup>®</sup> program.

Breed	Average daily gain (KG)	Feed Conversion Efficiency (DMI/ADG)	Scanned Eye Muscle Depth (mm)	SBV(€)	M & F Stars*
BB	2.1	5.1	93.9	177	***
<sup>1</sup> LM	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>193</b>	****
SI	2.3	6.2	84.0	268	***
<sup>1</sup> SH	<b>2.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>133</b>	***

\* Within breed star rating for Milk & Fertility.

<sup>1</sup> Photographed



#### 4. Sheep Ireland



##### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 Sheep Genetic Evaluation Meeting.

- ✚ Work on the genetic evaluation system, including data checking and loading, continues.
- ✚ The growth and carcass data extract has now been produced and is being checked.
- ✚ Live weight and ultrasonic records continue to come in as the scanners make good progress around the flocks.
- ✚ The industry consultation meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May provided very good questions and constructive discussion about the breeding objective and indices; the presentation (Breeding Objective - Indices and Economics) from the meeting is available on the website ([www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie)).

##### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Irish Grasslands Association Sheep Conference.

- ✚ This is a key event in this year's Sheep Ireland activities and will feature all of the developments to-date as well as plans for the future. It will be held on the farm of John Renehan, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny and afterwards at the Horse & Jockey Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Registration begins at 9.30am at The Horse & Jockey.

#### 5. Genetic Evaluations

##### Genomics Update

The latest genomic proofs will be uploaded to the database today. The following rules were used for inclusion of genomic information in a bulls proof:

- Domestic Bulls with greater than 70% for milk, calving and beef will have domestic figures only, less than 70% will receive a blended (genomic, parent average and progeny) proof.
- Domestic Bulls with greater than 50% for fertility and health traits will have domestic figures only, less than 50% they will receive a blended proof.
- Foreign bulls with no daughters in Ireland will receive an Interbull proof where available and all other traits will be a blended (genomic & parent average).
- Bulls who do not have a parent average due to lack of information on the sire and dam received a 100% genomic proof.

The publication rules differ from the previous run in that only bulls who had no daughters had genomic information included. Bulls with limited daughter information now receive a blended proof. It is anticipated that in future foreign bulls will also have genomic information blended with Interbull information.

## 6. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 22/05/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/05/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/05/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/05/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/05/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,977	771	39%	149,668	56,513	38%
Dairygold	1,440	529	37%	98,925	37,379	38%
Kerry	868	61	7%	53,392	3,214	6%
SWS	846	109	13%	53,096	7,054	13%
Tipperary	121	44	36%	8,960	3,699	41%
Arrabawn	133	109	82%	9,106	7,530	83%
Connacht	114	31	27%	6,484	1,631	25%
Donegal	12	12	100%	1,159	1,159	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>380,790</b>	<b>118,179</b>	<b>31%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 22/05/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 22/05/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	150,801	149,668	-0.8%
Dairygold	97,948	98,925	1.0%
Kerry	65,575	53,392	-22.8%
SWS	52,891	53,096	0.4%
Tipperary	10,871	8,960	-21.3%
Arrabawn	11,014	9,106	-21.0%
Connacht	6,746	6,484	-4.0%
Donegal	1,157	1,159	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>397,003</b>	<b>380,790</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 12/05/09 to 22/05/09.

	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	16	985	62	27.8	3.72	3.40	1.98	289
CAVAN	37	1,813	49	28.5	3.48	3.28	1.93	310
CLARE	27	1,447	54	26.6	3.65	3.27	1.84	216
CORK STH	226	15,474	68	26.2	3.80	3.38	1.88	266
CORK NTH	250	17,558	70	25.9	3.82	3.43	1.88	290
DONEGAL	13	1,038	80	25.1	4.49	3.28	1.95	404
DUBLIN	3	301	100	24.8	4.23	3.37	1.88	394
GALWAY	19	1,506	79	23.4	4.07	3.29	1.72	461
KERRY	79	5,315	67	26.8	3.70	3.20	1.85	319
KILDARE	17	1,350	79	26.9	3.55	3.41	1.87	343
KILKENNY	45	3,560	79	25.0	3.77	3.39	1.79	221
LAOIS	39	2,689	69	24.4	3.86	3.42	1.78	311
LEITRIM	2	117	59	30.7	4.00	3.16	2.20	194
LIMERICK	118	8,226	70	26.3	3.63	3.32	1.83	323
LONGFORD	8	435	54	23.6	4.14	3.47	1.80	380
LOUTH	32	2,174	68	27.3	3.61	3.35	1.90	313
MAYO	18	988	55	25.2	3.53	3.28	1.72	425
MEATH	69	6,204	90	24.4	3.94	3.31	1.77	316
MONAGHAN	32	1,725	54	28.1	3.70	3.29	1.96	314
OFFALY	17	1,276	75	25.3	3.82	3.32	1.81	334
ROSCOMMON	8	490	61	28.2	3.96	3.30	2.05	374
SLIGO	5	211	42	25.1	3.30	3.30	1.66	329
TIPPERARY NTH	39	2,354	60	25.5	3.70	3.38	1.81	249
TIPPERARY STH	48	3,151	66	23.9	3.92	3.38	1.74	243
WATERFORD	56	4,030	72	26.1	3.81	3.43	1.89	253
WESTMEATH	15	1,110	74	23.6	3.98	3.48	1.76	222
WEXFORD	79	5,572	71	24.5	3.54	3.42	1.71	289
WICKLOW E	21	1,604	76	25.2	3.32	3.40	1.69	288
WICKLOW W	14	1,219	87	25.0	4.17	3.35	1.88	455
	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	1,352	93,922	69	25.8	3.80	3.35	1.85	315

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 12/05/09 to 22/05/09.

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	843	57,555	68	25.9	3.85	3.35	1.87	270
Leinster	375	28,479	76	25.2	3.83	3.39	1.82	320
Connacht	52	3,312	64	26.5	3.58	3.27	1.82	357
Ulster	82	4,576	56	27.2	3.91	3.28	1.96	343

## 7. 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 no longer work.

Old Number (example)	New Number (example)
Phone: 023 20222	023 <b>88</b> 20222
Fax: 023 20229	023 <b>88</b> 20229

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