

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 25th November, 10:00 to 14:00 – Horse & Jockey, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 2nd December, 10:30 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 2nd December, 14:00 to 16:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2. Upcoming Events

- ✚ EBI Discussion Group Competition – jointly sponsored by ICBF, Teagasc, the Irish Farmers Journal and ACC Bank - entry forms have been distributed this week and can be obtained from the ICBF and Teagasc websites.

3. ICBF Board

At its meeting on Thursday the Board:

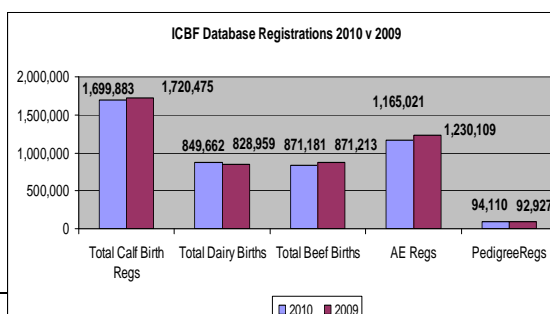
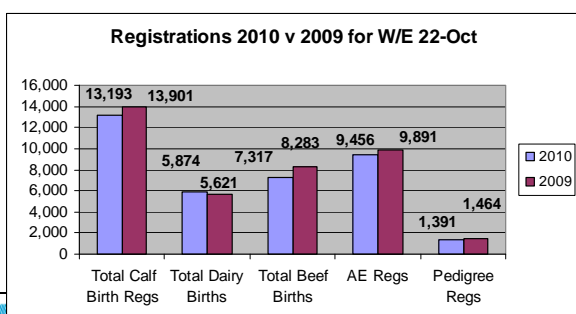
- ✚ Considered and adopted Strategic Priorities for 2011. These will be used in formulating the budget for 2011, which will be considered firstly, by the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee (in November) and then the Board at its December meeting.
- ✚ Viewed a demonstration of the catalogue service launched in the last few weeks in association with ICBF's Herd Book members.
- ✚ Was informed of consultation plans arising from the decision to review the GROW[®] service. Consultation with stakeholders will commence shortly with the following objectives:
 - a. To establish a weight recording service.
 - b. To review the traits included in the beef linear scoring service, the ages at which animals are scored and means by which the service is provided. The overall objective is to ensure the service provides information that is valued by bull breeders and bull (and semen) buyers.
 - c. To review and identify strategies for ensuring data recorded in bull breeding and commercial herds can be reliably used in genetic evaluations, which are valued by bull buyers.

4. Sheep Ireland Board

At its meeting on Thursday the Sheep Board:

- ✚ Appointed John Carty of DAFF to replace Oliver Molloy as Company Secretary.
- ✚ Adopted the thirteen recommendations arising from a review of Sheep Ireland Strategy. A copy of this review can be found in the publications section of the Sheep Ireland website (www.sheep.ie).
- ✚ Received the Project Managers progress report. A copy of this report can be found in the publications section of the Sheep Ireland website (www.sheep.ie).

5. Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 405,086 with the number of animals weaned at 158,749.
- ✚ The new dairy catalogue functionality was launched very successfully by IHFA at the Millstreet Dairy Show last weekend. There has been a very encouraging uptake by IHFA members this week. Next week, the focus will switch to assisting the beef herdbooks get the message out in relation to the beef catalogue functionality.

6. GROW[®]

- ✚ Yet again the total number of animals weighed and scored in September exceeds the corresponding month in 2009.
- ✚ 882 Pedigree and 923 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in September.
- ✚ The overall percentage of beef animals scored and weighed in September was 97%.
- ✚ 95% of Pedigrees and 100% of Commercials were weighed and scored.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the review of the GROW[®] service

7. GEN~~E~~IR~~E~~LAND[®]

Beef

- ✚ The Autumn 2010 GEN~~E~~IR~~E~~LAND Beef Catalogues were sent out to target farmers this week
- ✚ 15 Bulls from various breeds are now available
- ✚ 75 herds have signed up so far
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull so far are in the table below

BREED	AA	BA	BB	BB	CH	CH	CH	CH	HE	LM	LM	LM	PT	SA	SH
CODE	MLJ	KCE	KYR	STQ	DEZ	GHX	LGL	CXY	GCT	ADX	NHL	CZH	CBQ	BHU	LYJ
#STRAWS	40	15	75	100	230	35	50	30	5	130	130	15	10	15	0

Dairy

- ✚ There are 115 herds signed up to the Autumn programme so far, taking a total of 3450 straws.
- ✚ Phone calls continue to be made to potential participants.
- ✚ Dispatch of straws will commence as soon as possible.

8. Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- ✚ The extracts for the October beef genetic evaluation have taken place and this evaluation has commenced. The new proofs (for linear scored animals scored between 15th September and 16th October) will be loaded to the database ahead of GROW reports being sent out on the 1st November.

9. Sheep Ireland

Sheep Genetic Evaluation

- Across breed genetic evaluation is currently being tested. This is facilitated by the improved genetic linkage between breeds provided by Malp & CPT flocks. Two software systems are currently being tested in addition to the present one (ASreml): that is, MixBlup and DMU. The outputs are analysed on breeding values estimation, reliability computation, and running time.

10. Tully

- A total of 265 bulls across 12 different breeds have been entered by breeders for the November Tully intake (Table 1). Bulls are being inspected on farms by Linear scorers. They are assessing the bulls for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits and it is hoped to have inspections completed by Tuesday, 2nd of November. Once on farm inspection has been completed, breeders whose bulls have passed will receive the health testing requirements by mail.

	AA	AU	BB	BA	CH	LM	PT	PI	SA	SI	SH	HE	SP
Number of bulls	36	3	10	1	84	70	0	2	13	33	5	6	2

11. Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/10/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/10/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/10/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/10/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,557	1,000	28%	276,730	85,534	31%
Progressive	2,003	766	38%	177,797	67,325	38%
Tipperary	133	57	43%	11,939	5,766	48%
Connacht	151	59	39%	10,006	3,785	38%
Total	5,844	1,882	32%	476,472	162,410	34%

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 22/10/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 22/10/10	2010 vs. 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	257,238	276,730	7.0%
Progressive	177,779	177,797	0.0%
Tipperary	11,136	11,939	6.7%
Connacht	9,697	10,006	3.1%
Total	455,850	476,472	4.3%

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	1129	78,747	70	17.0	4.37	3.88	1.40	293

Leinster	339	24,489	72	20.0	4.12	3.71	1.57	348
Connacht	54	3,398	63	18.2	4.03	3.69	1.41	320
Ulster	73	4,580	63	18.3	4.20	3.72	1.45	349

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

	<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	10	604	60	17.9	4.22	3.87	1.45	296
CAVAN	40	2,448	61	18.5	4.24	3.80	1.49	334
CLARE	50	2,800	56	16.9	4.10	3.79	1.33	294
CORK STH	345	23,020	67	17.3	4.46	3.87	1.44	307
CORK NTH	262	18,969	72	17.9	4.38	3.94	1.49	267
DONEGAL	9	708	79	16.9	4.35	3.77	1.37	341
DUBLIN	7	358	51	23.7	3.87	3.62	1.78	389
GALWAY	26	1,992	77	16.5	4.58	3.88	1.40	369
KERRY	142	8,447	59	18.0	4.13	3.74	1.42	350
KILDARE	20	1,540	77	25.1	3.90	3.58	1.88	439
KILKENNY	54	4,183	77	17.1	4.33	3.91	1.41	305
LAOIS	41	2,771	68	16.9	4.33	3.87	1.39	364
LEITRIM	2	151	76	16.2	3.80	3.41	1.17	366
LIMERICK	158	10,946	69	17.9	4.19	3.84	1.44	303
LONGFORD	3	153	51	17.9	4.29	3.74	1.44	273
LOUTH	9	810	90	23.7	4.16	3.68	1.86	419
MAYO	17	746	44	21.3	3.80	3.83	1.63	348
MEATH	45	3,764	84	19.7	3.83	3.55	1.45	353
MONAGHAN	24	1,424	59	19.4	4.02	3.59	1.48	371
OFFALY	43	2,810	65	17.2	4.41	3.86	1.42	361
ROSCOMMON	2	203	102	19.4	3.99	3.62	1.48	201
SLIGO	7	306	44	17.8	3.98	3.73	1.37	316
TIPPERARY NTH	42	3,537	84	15.8	4.49	3.91	1.33	273
TIPPERARY STH	59	4,539	77	15.6	4.51	3.94	1.32	269
WATERFORD	71	6,489	91	16.6	4.66	3.99	1.44	281
WESTMEATH	15	990	66	20.6	4.28	3.62	1.63	359
WEXFORD	58	4,081	70	17.7	4.20	3.77	1.41	332
WICKLOW E	24	1,545	64	19.8	3.74	3.59	1.45	311
WICKLOW W	10	880	88	23.3	4.06	3.53	1.77	321
	<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	1,595	111,214	70	18.7	4.18	3.75	1.48	328

Brian Wickham (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email bwickham@icbf.com.

Registered Office: Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd trading as "ICBF", Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 4914R, Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1978. Web: www.icbf.com.

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.