

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 16th September, 10:30 to 14:00 – Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 16th September, 14:00 to 16:30 – Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **9th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production** – 1st - 6th August 2010, Leipzig, Germany.
- ✚ **Tully Bull High Health Status Sale** Friday, 8th of October. ICBF, Tully Central Performance Test Centre.

2. Cattle Breeding Consultation Meeting, Wednesday 21st July.

The meeting held earlier this week as was attended by sixty people representing all sectors of the dairy and beef breeding industry in Ireland. Copies of the presentations can be found in the publications section of www.icbf.com. The following is a summary of the actions and decisions arising from the meeting.

1. Dairy traits & dairy breeding programs. (Agenda 1).

<http://www.icbf.com/publications/index.php>

Topic & Presenter	Actions/Decisions
Index developments, including EBI, new labour sub-index, culling index and other traits – Andrew Cromie.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timetable for official evaluations as outlined. • EBI economic value update to be considered at next meeting. • Research on labour sub-index to proceed with reporting back at future meetings. • Work on update of health index to continue, update at future meeting with view to implementation in 2010. • Research on culling index proceeding – updates a future meetings.
Test-day evaluations; milk production traits – John McCarthy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on test-day-model for milk traits to proceed with high priority. • Complete investigation of variance component structure and impact of seasonal calving. • Begin to examine in detail breed effects and what constitutes different genetic groups. • Progress to be reported at future meetings. • Expectation that results will be ready for consideration for implementation in 2011.
Dairy genomics research – Donagh Berry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify high priority dairy bulls to be genotyped and ensure all possible sources of DNA are followed up. • Accuracy of imputation is high particularly where back pedigree is genotyped. • Only impute where sire and MGS genotypes are available. • Bulls used in AI must have 54K SNP genotype. • Continue research into imputation. • Other research continuing including: Breeding programs (Noirin McHugh), multi-breed genomic evaluation (Holsteins versus Friesians), cows and stock bulls in training population and sharing of genotypes.
Genomics operational – Francis Kearney.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with development work. • Ensure duplication of genotyping is eliminated. • Seek ways of ensuring best possible use of DNA material available in Weatherbys. • Update at next industry meeting.

2. DAIRY & BEEF - COMMON AGENDA ITEMS (AGENDA 2). <http://www.icbf.com/publications/index.php>

Topic & Presenter	Actions/Decisions
Female fertility traits – Ross Evans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing. • Target to submit to Interbull test run in Sept 2010. • Test results to be distributed for consideration by Industry prior to future meetings. • Implementation for Spring 2011 evaluation (Dec 2010)
Male fertility traits – Ross Evans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI companies wishing to use this free prototype service to contact ICBF. • Priority to be given to capturing semen batch information and incorporating into this system. • Industry to consider value of male fertility information.
Calving traits – Francis Kearney.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICBF to confirm that full process for recording flushing and implantations result in all ET born calves being recognised at point of calf registration. • Work is to be carried out to examine the effect of dropping elective caesarean sections on cows calving ability. • Feedback on any of the issues raised should be submitted as soon as possible. • Herd books to make full use of new ET recording system. • Test-runs underway. • Target to submit to Interbull test run in Sept 2010. • Test results to be distributed for consideration by Industry and prior to future meetings. • Implementation planned for Spring 2011 evaluation (Dec 2010)
Beef carcass cut data & other beef traits – Thierry Pabiou.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research work proceeding. • Future work will look at: estimating genetic correlations with existing traits used in the evaluation, streamlining the process of cut conversion and integrating the new traits in the current genetic carcass evaluation.
AI application process – Pat Donnellan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As soon as the AI code for a bull is issued the relevant Herdbook is to be notified by ICBF. • Work is to be carried out to provide access on genetic defects to Herdbooks. • Herdbooks are to facilitate AI companies seeking AI codes by ensuring pedigree details are complete and accurate with a short turn-around time. • AI companies to use ICBF web-site AI code application process from now on. • ICBF to review link between AI code application and veterinary regulations for AI with DAFF and report back to a future meeting.
Catalogues – Brian Wickham.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICBF to keep parties informed of progress.

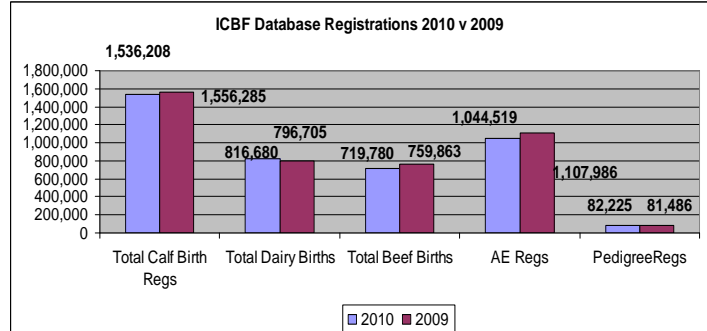
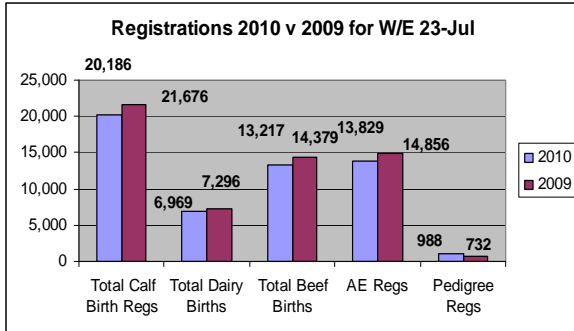
3. BEEF TRAITS & BEEF BREEDING PROGRAMS (AGENDA 3).

<http://www.icbf.com/publications/index.php>

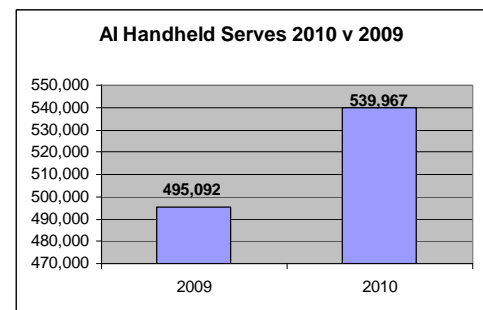
Topic & Presenter	Actions/Decisions
Lessons from Grange research & BETTER farms programs – Pearse Kelly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No actions required. • The presentation demonstrated very clearly that profitability in beef suckler herds is a function of stocking rate, calving interval and calving pattern.
Linking Tully & beef industry data - John Crowley.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No actions required. • The presentation of research result demonstrated that selection using the feed intake information from Tully does result in more efficient commercial beef cattle.

Beef linear traits – Contemporary groups – Ross Evans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed to carry out a thorough review of GROW which may include recording extra weights on farm, monitoring calving births etc. This is to be advanced as much as possible in time for the next meeting. There is to be an update given on the review at the next industry meeting.
Maternal weaning weight – Ross Evans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluations using the old and new maternal weaning weight evaluation will be sent out for review. Feedback is provided to Ross If positive, the evaluation changes for this trait will be implemented in the August evaluation run.
Developments in Euro-Star evaluations – Tim Byrne & Paul Crossan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the revised economic values is to be held pending a review of overall index combining maternal and direct traits. Teagasc is working to develop whole farm models to more accurately calculate costs of maternal traits (calving interval and gestation length) across years. These proposed changes will be developed further and reported on at the next meeting.
Beef genomics research – Donagh Berry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herdbooks and A.I companies to give priority to locating DNA samples for all beef bulls that have been used widely but for which a DNA sample has not yet been obtained.
Beef Specialist – Brian Wickham.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress to be reported at a future meeting.

3. Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 652,992 with the number of animals weaned at 589,587.
- Work has begun on the design of the new catalogue service for both beef and dairy animals.
- Vets wishing to begin interacting with the AHI/ICBF system can register at <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/registerpage.php>.
- Work is continuing on a web tool to help manage the storing of samples used in the genomics process at ICBF.
- Work is ongoing on the window server infrastructure, involving a move to a more resilient infrastructure for email, file servers, etc.
- Work on a new infrastructure for communicating with marts is ongoing, with a view to getting the data flows on a more efficient and effective basis.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



4. GROW

- ✚ For the third month in a row the total number of animals scored this month exceeds the corresponding month in 2009.
- ✚ 658 Pedigree and 412 Commercials were scored in June.
- ✚ The overall percentage of beef animals scored and weighed in the month of June was 99%. 99% of Pedigrees and 100% of Commercials were weighed and scored. This compares to 97% of Pedigrees and 97% of Commercials in June 2009.
- ✚ At the Beef Industry meeting it was decided to keep the minimum contemporary group size at 5 animals. It was also agreed to carry out a review of the GROW service.

5. GENIRELAND®

Beef

- ✚ Payments are due to be made this week to herd owners who have recorded GENIRELAND inseminations
- ✚ Work is continuing on finalising the details of the Autumn program which we hope to have up and running by the end of August.
- ✚ A number of very interesting bulls have been put forward for testing by their owners.
- ✚ CZB has now reached the target and has become the first Shorthorn bull to be tested on the program.
- ✚ Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.

BREED	SI	SA	HE
CODE	HSY	BHU	AGI
STRAWS	645	474	307

6. Tully

- ✚ The second of five live-weights was obtained on all bulls at Tully on 22-07-2010 (Table 1). Bulls gained an impressive 2.2 kg across breed over the last 21 days.

Table 1. Live-weight and average daily gain (21 day period) of bulls, averaged by breed.

Breed	AA (n = 5)	BA (n = 3)	BB (n = 2)	CH (n = 3)	LM (n = 32)	PT (n = 1)	SH (n = 2)	SI (n = 1)	SP (n = 2)
Average Live-weight (kg)	489	585	474	513	530	442	500	495	486
Average daily gain (kg)	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.5	2.6	1.9

- ✚ Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.
- ✚ This week, all out-door pens were cleaned out and fresh woodchip applied. Bulls are also, being halter trained at present in preparation for the up-coming sale.
- ✚ A High Health status sale will take place for the current crop of bull in Tully on Friday, 8th of October. This will follow on from the successful sale held at Tully last Spring, and will allow breeders the opportunity to purchase superior bulls that are pre-selected, have elite genetics, high indexes along with a high health status.

7. Sheep Ireland

- ✚ The 2010 results for the Ram & Ewe Lambs are now up online www.sheep.ie
- ✚ Genetic Evaluations are nearly all distributed to all Lambplus Breeders that have entered data.
- ✚ The Vendeen Sheep Society displayed Euro-Star evaluations at their premier sale in Roscommon mart on Wednesday the 21st July.
- ✚ The Belclare Breed will be the first breed to display the new Euro-Star Sheep Catalogue at their Society Sale (Kilkenny Mart – 3rd August 2010).
- ✚ An insert with Euro-Star evaluations has been requested, and is being compiled for the Suffolk Premier Sale (Roscrea – 7th August).
- ✚ The DNA parentage results are currently being received for the commercial MALP Lambs. Once this data has been loaded and the genetic evaluation results have been created these results will then be distributed and the results also put up on the web.
- ✚ Weight reports are currently being sent to all MALP & CPT farmers. These reports summarise all of the weighings that have taken place on these flocks in 2010.

8. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 13/07/10 to 23/07/10

	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	11	651	59	22.6	3.91	3.40	1.65	404
CAVAN	27	1,569	58	23.2	3.87	3.33	1.67	375
CLARE	39	2,414	62	23.5	3.73	3.33	1.66	268
CORK STH	251	17,730	71	22.8	3.86	3.37	1.65	294
CORK NTH	266	19,986	75	24.0	3.82	3.41	1.74	308
DONEGAL	11	1,275	116	23.2	4.25	3.43	1.78	398
DUBLIN	5	279	56	26.2	3.18	3.54	1.76	524
GALWAY	29	2,139	74	24.5	3.77	3.39	1.75	360
KERRY	137	8,869	65	25.3	3.70	3.35	1.78	326
KILDARE	14	1,131	81	23.1	3.66	3.37	1.62	414
KILKENNY	55	4,509	82	21.0	3.88	3.37	1.52	321
LAOIS	33	2,675	81	23.3	3.81	3.24	1.64	668
LEITRIM	5	285	57	25.4	3.65	3.29	1.76	286
LIMERICK	123	9,628	78	23.4	3.71	3.37	1.66	329
LONGFORD	6	270	45	23.2	3.93	3.27	1.67	420
LOUTH	18	1,454	81	22.9	3.64	3.30	1.59	468
MAYO	24	1,459	61	26.7	3.30	3.38	1.78	387
MEATH	52	5,606	108	23.0	3.79	3.28	1.63	336
MONAGHAN	26	1,505	58	25.3	3.66	3.26	1.75	323
OFFALY	30	2,206	74	23.5	3.88	3.39	1.71	521
ROSCOMMON	3	171	57	23.1	4.11	3.18	1.68	395
SLIGO	12	539	45	25.0	3.64	3.44	1.77	373
TIPPERARY NTH	53	4,283	81	22.5	3.93	3.42	1.65	340
TIPPERARY STH	71	5,879	83	21.3	3.81	3.37	1.53	313
WATERFORD	40	3,852	96	21.4	4.17	3.48	1.64	345
WESTMEATH	16	1,225	77	19.1	4.26	3.25	1.43	354
WEXFORD	67	5,759	86	21.5	3.76	3.41	1.54	409

WICKLOW E	12	1,104	92	23.8	3.55	3.33	1.64	353
WICKLOW W	5	408	82	23.8	3.64	3.19	1.63	578
	<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	1,441	108,860	74	23.4	3.79	3.35	1.67	386

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 13/07/10 to 23/07/10

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	980	72,641	74	23.0	3.84	3.39	1.66	315
Leinster	324	27,277	84	22.8	3.75	3.33	1.62	444
Connacht	73	4,593	63	24.9	3.69	3.34	1.75	360
Ulster	64	4,349	68	23.9	3.93	3.34	1.74	365

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 23/07/10

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 23/07/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 23/07/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 23/07/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 23/07/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,548	993	28%	271,024	83,512	31%
Progressive	1,985	756	38%	170,509	64,160	38%
Tipperary	131	55	42%	11,315	5,228	46%
Connacht	146	55	38%	9,610	3,528	37%
Total	5,810	1,859	32%	462,458	156,428	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 23/07/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 23/07/10	2010 vs. 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	251,321	271,024	7.3%
Progressive	170,607	170,509	-0.1%
Tipperary	10,845	11,315	4.2%
Connacht	8,765	9,610	8.8%
Total	441,538	462,458	4.5%

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.