

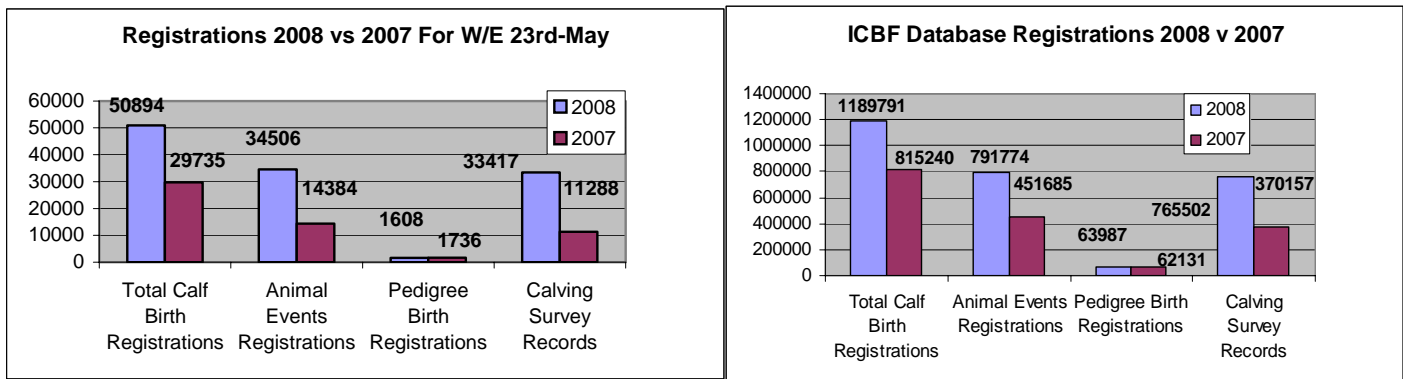


UPDATE – for period 17th – 23rd May 2008

1 Important Dates

- + **16th to 20th June** – ICAR and Interbull meetings, Niagara Falls, USA.
- + **20th June** - Farmfest '08, Teagasc Major Event of the Year, Athenry.
- + **17th July, 10:30am** – ICBF Board Meeting, Comfort Inn Portlaoise.
- + **9th to 11th October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet. For details see www.ihfa.ie.
- + **11th and 12th October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart.

2 Database Update



- + 283,401 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 197,581 in 2007 for the same period. We have made solid progress in resolving the communication issues between the handhelds and the database.
- + Over 370,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received as part of the Suckler Scheme.
- + A second batch of the 'Pre-Weaning' forms went out this week. Further batches will go out next week, along with another batch of Sire Errors.
- + Good progress was made this week in setting up the infrastructure for the joint 'Benchmarking Project' being undertaken with Teagasc. The initial phase will focus on KPI's around milk solids output per cow and per hectare.
- + Work on enhancing the EBI profiles for HerdPlus users is on-going.
- + A re-designed linear scoring and weight recording report is under development and will be completed over the next couple of weeks.

3 Tully

- + The final list of bulls for the next intake to Tully has been returned from NASS DVO and the list has been sent out to Breed Society Secretaries on Wednesday 21st May.



- ✦ Bull inspections started from Wednesday 21st May and will be finished by Wednesday 28th May.
- ✦ Letters re Health Testing will be sent to Breeders on Friday 30th May.

4 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 23/05/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 23/05/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 23/05/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 23/05/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 23/05/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,121	805	38%	152,999	54,597	36%
Dairygold	1,514	492	32%	98,548	32,864	33%
Kerry	1,107	220	20%	66,691	12,891	19%
SWS	895	121	14%	53,278	7,092	13%
Tipperary	164	67	41%	10,871	4,681	43%
Arrabawn	162	134	83%	11,048	9,245	84%
Connacht	124	37	30%	6,746	1,765	26%
Donegal	26	26	100%	1,902	1,902	100%
Total	6,113	1,902	31%	402,083	125,037	31%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 23/05/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 23/05/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 23/05/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	132,979	142,519	152,999	6.8%
Dairygold	88,929	94,540	98,548	4.1%
Kerry	61,677	62,178	66,691	6.8%
SWS	52,067	53,015	53,278	0.5%
Tipperary	9,674	10,633	10,871	2.2%
Arrabawn	9,660	10,215	11,048	7.5%
Connacht	6,383	7,912	6,746	-17.3%
Donegal	2,150	2,367	1,902	-24.4%
Total	363,519	383,379	402,083	4.7%

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✦ Work is continuing on on-going research projects. This included a meeting held in ICBF with Doreen Corridan on Friday 23rd May to discuss developments in beef genetic evaluations ahead of proposed implementations in September.

6 GEN€Ireland



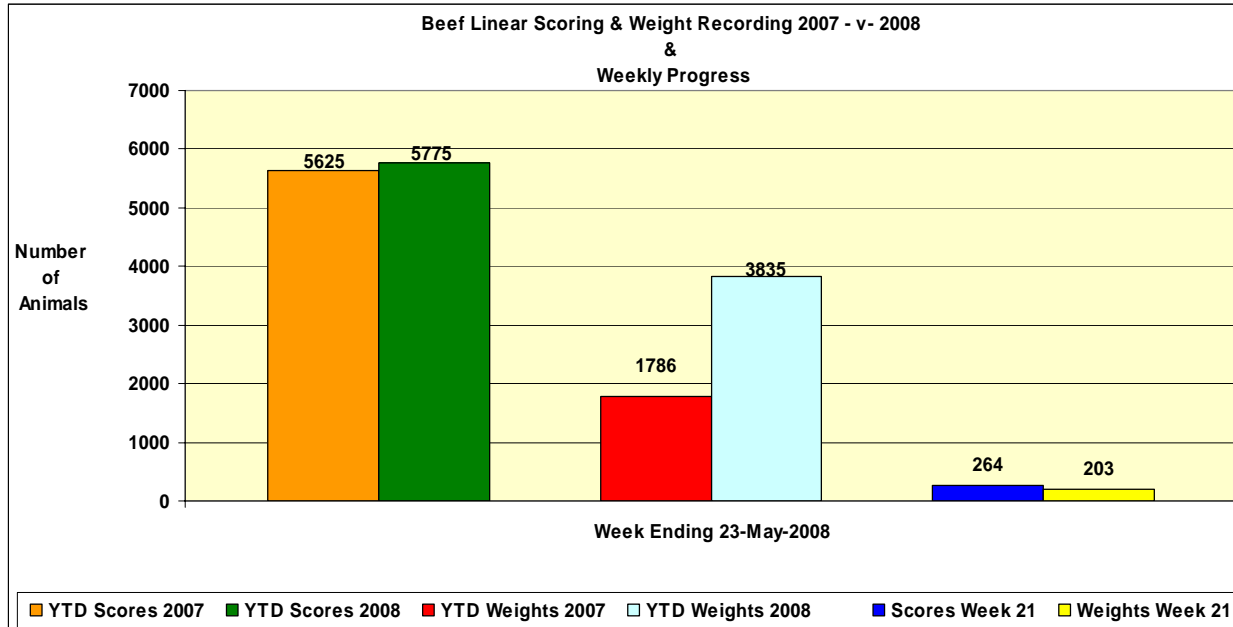
- ✦ Payments were made this week for Autumn 2007 recorded inseminations – 62 via Direct Credit and 30 via cheque. Some 2,580 inseminations currently being paid out on. A second round of payments will be made early to mid June.



- AI companies were emailed this week regarding the LIFT (linear scoring) programme associated with test bulls used in spring 2005. This will include the first crop of 21 Gene Ireland bulls.



7 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



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