UPDATE – for period 18th – 24th August 2007
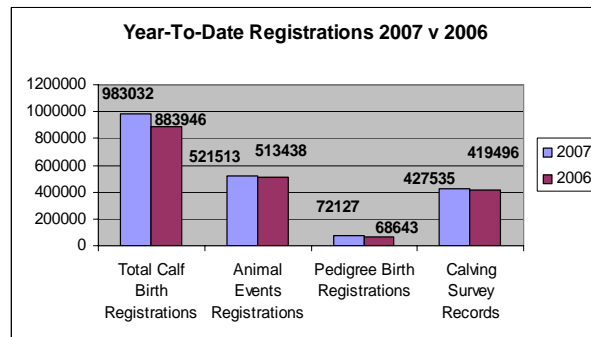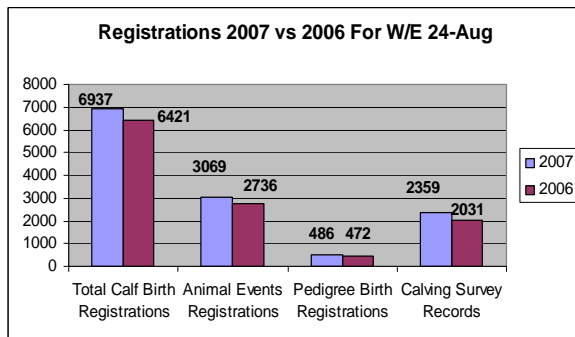
1   Important Dates

- **August 24th to 30th.** Interbull and EAAP Annual Meetings, UCD, Dublin.

- **Wednesday, August 29th.** EAAP Field Trip – Cattle Breeding in Ireland. Visit a beef & dairy farm.

- **Tuesday, September 11th.** EBI €100 Open Day. On farm of Pat & Noreen Cronin, Macroom, Co. Cork.

- **Thursday September 13th.** ICBF Board Meeting, Portlaoise.

- **September 25th to 27th.** Ploughing Championships, Tullamore.

2   Database Update

Registrations 2007 vs 2006 For W/E 24-Aug

	2007	2006
Total Calf Birth Registrations	6937	6421
Animal Events Registrations	3069	2736
Pedigree Birth Registrations	486	472
Calving Survey Records	2359	2031

Year-To-Date Registrations 2007 v 2006

	2007	2006
Total Calf Birth Registrations	983032	883946
Animal Events Registrations	521513	513438
Pedigree Birth Registrations	72127	68643
Calving Survey Records	427535	419496

- 337,058 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 145,898 in 2006 for the same period.

- The majority of herdbooks are continuing to use the new Web Front end as the main means of completing Herdbook administration activities. Focus is now switching towards ensure that the catalogue process is in order for the coming sales season.

- Further work on HerdPlus modules is on-going, focusing around the data recording aspects, and the new 'look and feel' to the farmer interface.

- Development on a number of reports for Suckler Beef Herds is ongoing in advance of the Ploughing championships.

- Work is continuing on the Sire Advice module for the new season.

- Progress continues on the redesign of the Animal Events file processing which will be completed over the coming months.

- Work on Gene Ireland reports and user interfaces is also on-going, in advance of the Autumn Gene Ireland programme kicking off for both dairy and beef.

3   G€N€IR€LAND

- Deadline for recording Spring inseminations onto the Cattle Breeding Database is 31st August, with an aim of having payments for Recorded Inseminations completed by the Ploughing.

- As of last Monday, 56% of straws dispatched to G€N€IR€LAND herds had an associated insemination on the Database.

4   Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/08/07						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/08/07	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/08/07	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/08/07	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/08/07	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,123	644	30%	162,695	48,767	30%
Dairygold	1,586	551	35%	109,773	39,797	36%
Kerry	1,032	70	7%	70,976	5,599	8%
SWS	932	109	12%	59,881	7,017	12%
Tipperary	170	71	42%	12,196	5,209	43%
Arrabawn	167	126	75%	11,745	8,958	76%
Connacht	153	67	44%	9,851	4,155	42%
Donegal	43	43	100%	3,861	3,861	100%
Total	6,206	1,681	27%	440,978	123,363	28%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organistaion - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 24/08/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 24/08/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 24/08/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	145,962	152,662	162,695	6.2%
Dairygold	95,997	102,342	109,773	6.8%
Kerry	66,487	69,379	70,976	2.3%
SWS	53,809	58,397	59,881	2.5%
Tipperary	9,264	11,717	12,196	3.9%
Arrabawn	7,081	10,929	11,745	6.9%
Connacht	7,188	8,869	9,851	10.0%
Donegal	3,364	5,133	3,861	-32.9%
Total	389,152	419,428	440,978	4.9%

5   Tully

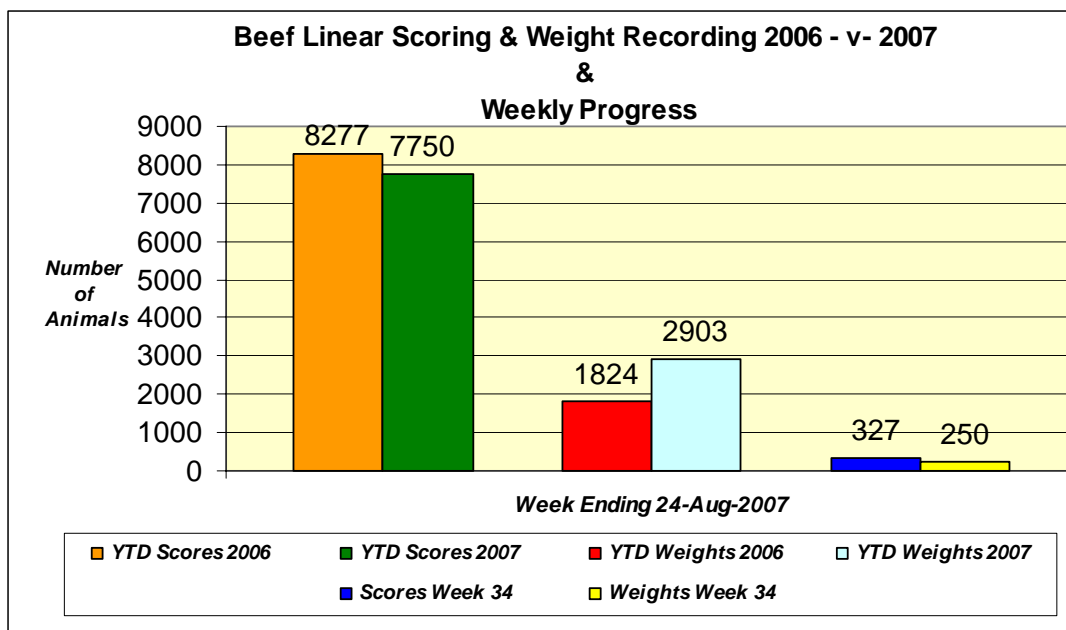- Security fencing to divide the office area from the bull housing area will commence next week.

- Maintenance of feed box circuit boards has commenced.

- Criteria for selecting the next intake have been received from the Charolais, Limousin and Simmental breed societies.

6   Interbull and EAAP Meetings

These meetings have commenced at UCD in Dublin and will continue over the weekend and through to Wednesday of next week. A special publication on Cattle Breeding in Ireland has been prepared in conjunction with the Irish Farmers Journal to mark Irelands hosting of these meetings. Copies will be distributed to member organizations next week.

7   Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording

Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording 2006 - v- 2007 & Weekly Progress

Chart — Number of Animals, Week Ending 24-Aug-2007:
- YTD Scores 2006: 8277
- YTD Scores 2007: 7750
- YTD Weights 2006: 1824
- YTD Weights 2007: 2903
- Scores Week 34: 327
- Weights Week 34: 250

Legend:
- ☐ YTD Scores 2006
- ☐ YTD Scores 2007
- ☐ YTD Weights 2006
- ☐ YTD Weights 2007
- ☐ Scores Week 34
- ☐ Weights Week 34

8   HerdPlus

Linear Scoring & Weighing Survey –

- The Herdplus Office recently conducted a Survey on Linear Scoring & Weight Recording to a random sample of Breeders from all of the various Breed Societies.

- The Survey was split into 2 sections.

  - **Section 1:** General Impressions about Linear Scoring & Weight Recording
  - **Section 2:** Specific Opinions on traits relevant to each Breed.
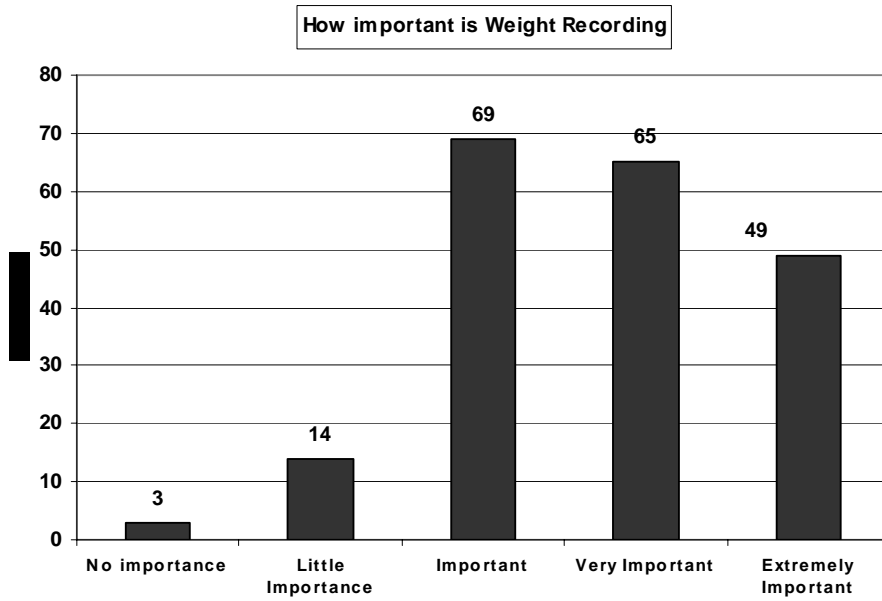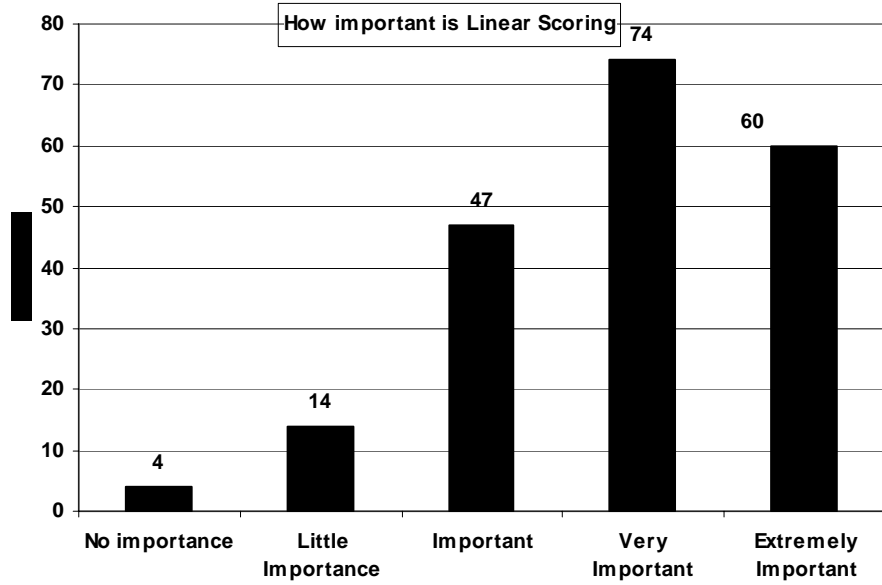
- We have presented the results of **Section 1** below:

- The questions that were included in **Section 1** of the Survey are as follows:
  1. How important do you think Linear Scoring is?
  2. How important do you think Weight Recording is?
  3. Why do you partake in Linear Scoring & Weight Recording?
  4. ICBF is considering launching a DIY Weanling Recording Service for Beef Farmers. 3 pieces of data could be recorded by the farmer and sent to ICBF for inclusion in Weanling Performance reports:
     a. Weight   b. Calf Quality   c. Docility
     How valuable do you think Beef Farmers would find such a service?
  5. Are you satisfied with the current Linear Scoring & Weight Recording Service?
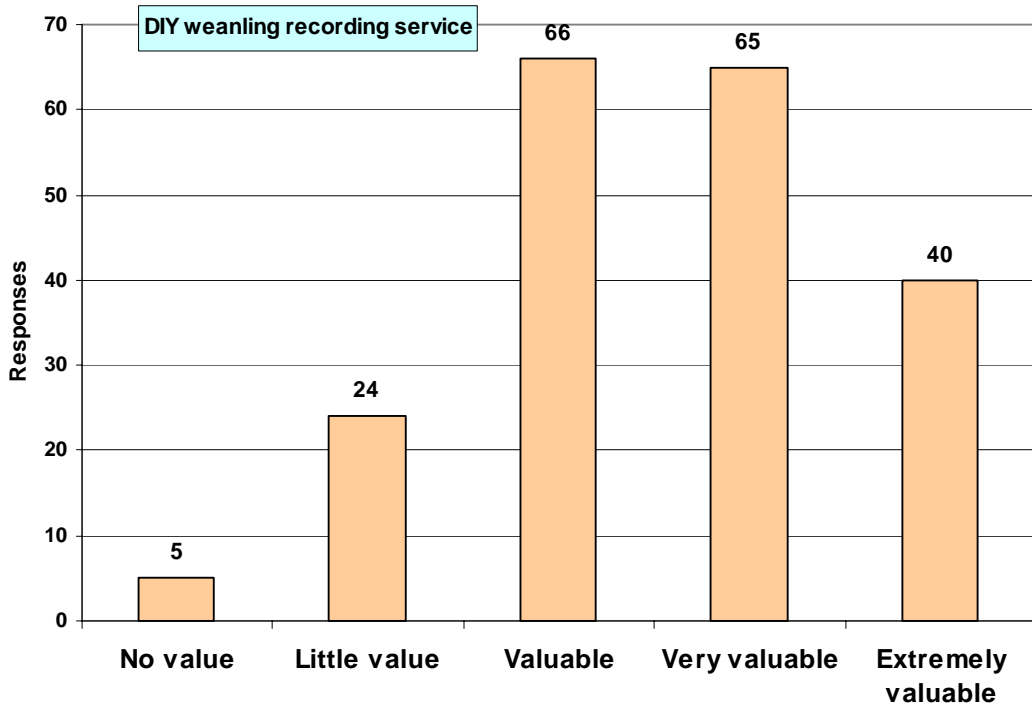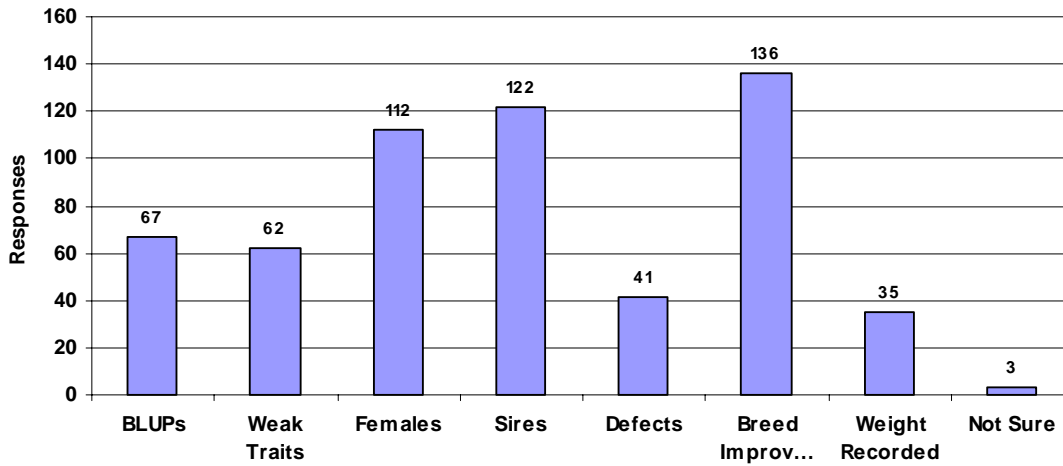
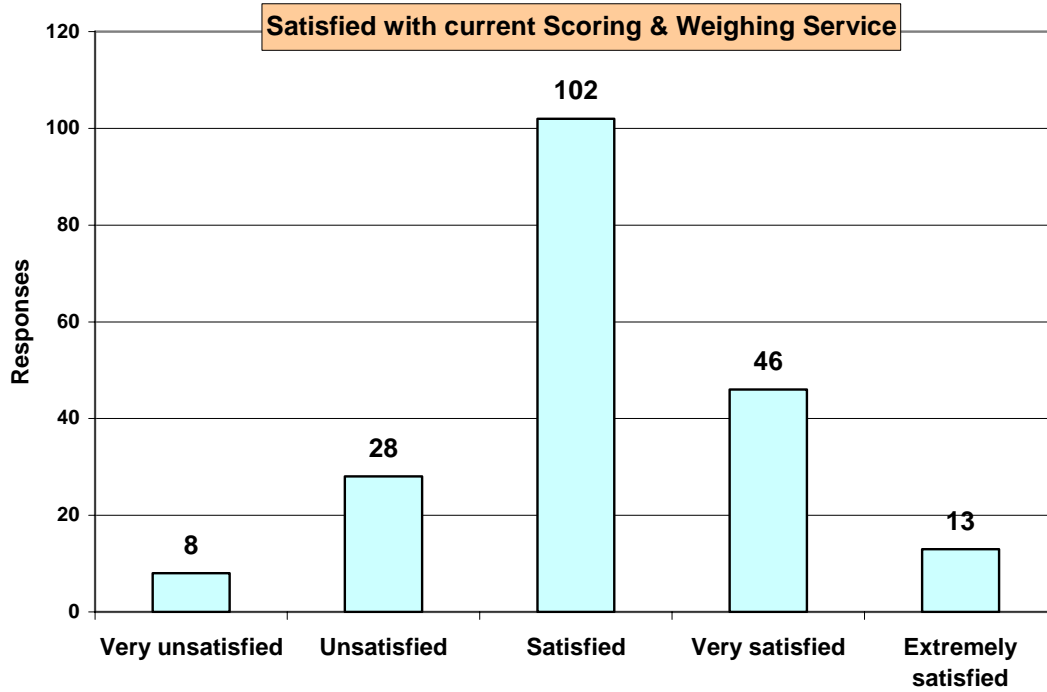- The results of **Section 2** will be distributed to each Herdbook in the next week.

- We will then be liaising with each Herdbook regarding the results of the survey.

How important is Linear Scoring

Category	Value
No importance	4
Little Importance	14
Important	47
Very Important	74
Extremely Important	60

How important is Weight Recording

Category	Value
No importance	3
Little Importance	14
Important	69
Very Important	65
Extremely Important	49

Why do you partake in LS and weight recording?

DIY weanling recording service

Satisfied with current Scoring & Weighing Service

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