

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 30th June, 10:00 to 10:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 30th June, 10:30 to 13:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 30th June, 14:00 to 16:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Thursday 14th July, 10:00 to 16:30 – Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
This meeting will cover both dairy and beef. Invitations were distributed today. If you would like to attend and have not received an invitation please contact Mary Madden (mmadden@icbf.com)
- ✚ **Tully Advisory Committee meeting** – Monday 25th July, 10:00 to 14:00 – Tully.

2 ICAR Meeting – Bourg-en-Bresse, France – Brian Wickham

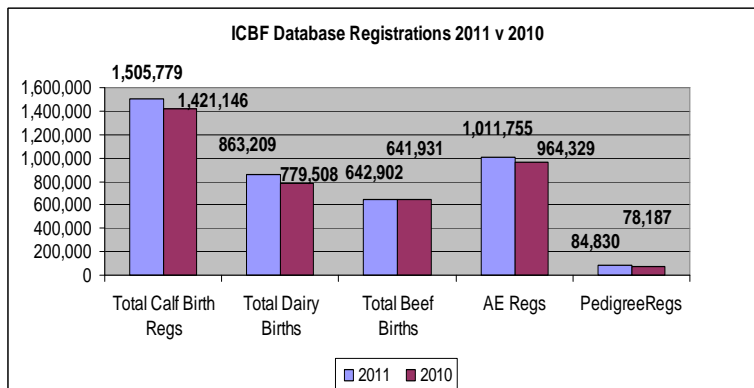
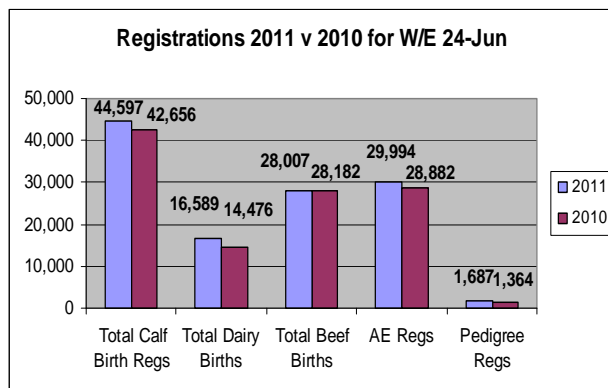
This week ICBF was represented at the annual meeting of ICAR in France. This in-between annual meeting was hosted by the French organizations involved in animal recording and genetic evaluations and focused mainly on performance recording. In 2011 the Interbull annual meeting is being held in association with the EAAP annual meeting in Norway in late August.

Some of the points of interest to ICBF and Ireland arising at this meeting were:

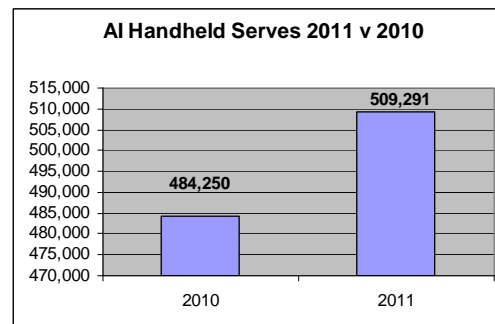
- ✚ The Interbeef Working Group, which I chair, met and agreed to proceed with the launch of a new international genetic evaluation service for beef cattle. The agreement to do so has been under intense negotiation over the last few months and all remaining issues were resolved this week.
- ✚ The Sub-Committee for Recording Devices, now chaired by Martin Burke, met and in the course of the week important issues associated with linking new generation milking machines to milk recording systems were progressed.
- ✚ French and other organisations reported on a range of systems for linking on-farm data capture devices to central databases. These developments cover electronic identification, recording of hoof trimming, heat detection and milk recording. This integration of data capture devices with central databases in enabling milk recording organisations to provide ever better information services to farmers.
- ✚ In a series of presentations addressing the phenotyping of complex traits, such as health and reproduction, the key point to emerge was that solutions to many of the problems currently facing farmers is dependent on the availability of large amounts of such data from commercial herds.
- ✚ Milk recording services stand to benefit greatly from the OptiMIR project that Ireland is a partner in, to use MIR (mid-infra-red) measurements on milk samples to measure a wide range of new traits and to provide more useful management information to herd owners.
- ✚ The ICAR Certificate of Quality has been earned by a number of organisations including ICBF for Ireland's recording and genetic evaluation systems. This quality assurance system is helping organisations improve the quality of the data available to farmers and for use in genetic evaluations.
- ✚ We announced the program for ICAR 2012 which will be held at the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork. Key features of the program (copy attached) is a focus on recording as a means of providing farmers and breeders with information that can be used to improve the profitability of farming. The program features two industry days, dairy on Monday and beef & sheep on Tuesday, where a panel of international speakers will address the topic of "Information for Profitable Farming". These two days are targeted at the decision makers in recording

and breeding organisations world-wide. Over the coming weeks we will be contacting our partners to ensure they benefit as much as possible from this very important event for Ireland. The website for the event is under development – www.icar2012.ie.

3 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 616,334 with the number of animals weaned at 550,224.
- ✚ Weight recording forms have been distributed to all Herdplus Beef herds, with the final batches going out today.
- ✚ A number of updates have been made to the weight recording screens and outputs this week, with a view to streamlining the existing process.
- ✚ The first of the Farm Relief Service operators will go live next week using handhelds linked to the ICBF database to record lameness data. This will be valuable data for genetic evaluations.
- ✚ Work is on-going in establishing electronic links to the commercial animal health laboratories. A number of meetings took place this week with individual labs and good progress was made.
- ✚ Further development is taking place on the screens that vets and labs will use to facilitate the recording of health test results.
- ✚ The DEP scheme recording sheet and web screens have now been completed. Details on what is involved will be presented at the Teagasc stand at the Moorepark Open day next week.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



4 HerdPlus® now using Social Media

- ✚ HerdPlus has now joined Facebook – you'll find us at www.facebook.com/HerdPlus.
- ✚ With over 600 million users, Facebook is receiving more hits than any other web site in the world.
- ✚ Why not spread the word by linking us on Facebook. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/06/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/06/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/06/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/06/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/06/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,643	1,028	28%	287,384	88,927	31%
Progressive	2,320	858	37%	199,673	73,065	37%
Tipperary	142	63	44%	12,249	5,823	48%
Total	6,105	1,949	32%	499,306	167,815	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 24/06/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 24/06/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	261,392	287,384	9.0%
Progressive	176,891	199,673	11.4%
Tipperary	10,897	12,249	11.0%
Total	449,180	499,306	10.0%

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 14/06/11 to 24/06/11								
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	1113	84,746	76	26.1	3.74	3.40	1.86	244
Leinster	383	30,802	80	26.2	3.69	3.35	1.85	261
Connacht	57	3,321	58	25.1	3.60	3.27	1.72	219
Ulster	85	6,020	71	25.3	3.76	3.28	1.78	266

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 14/06/11 to 24/06/11

	<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	8	736	92	27.2	4.05	3.29	2.00	289
CAVAN	34	2,126	63	24.8	3.64	3.32	1.73	236
CLARE	30	1,745	58	29.1	3.61	3.33	2.02	203
CORK STH	287	21,431	75	25.8	3.73	3.41	1.84	224
CORK NTH	321	24,313	76	25.6	3.79	3.43	1.85	227
DONEGAL	13	1,597	123	23.0	4.10	3.29	1.70	323
DUBLIN	5	259	52	31.3	3.48	3.35	2.14	397
GALWAY	15	1,011	67	26.6	3.93	3.23	1.90	288
KERRY	139	9,192	66	27.3	3.59	3.31	1.88	293
KILDARE	14	970	69	26.3	3.48	3.38	1.80	294
KILKENNY	44	3,828	87	24.9	3.63	3.37	1.74	191
LAOIS	50	3,471	69	25.3	3.76	3.44	1.82	251
LEITRIM	7	352	50	25.4	3.55	3.22	1.72	225
LIMERICK	125	8,937	71	26.4	3.66	3.37	1.86	300
LONGFORD	10	804	80	29.1	3.93	3.43	2.14	224
LOUTH	22	1,880	85	25.3	3.62	3.35	1.76	233
MAYO	27	1,585	59	25.8	3.50	3.36	1.77	272
MEATH	68	7,254	107	25.1	3.77	3.20	1.75	261
MONAGHAN	38	2,297	60	28.0	3.54	3.22	1.89	240
OFFALY	39	2,877	74	24.9	3.99	3.40	1.84	247
ROSCOMMON	2	127	64	20.6	3.68	3.21	1.42	96
SLIGO	6	246	41	26.9	3.35	3.34	1.80	214
TIPPERARY NTH	55	4,955	90	23.9	3.85	3.41	1.74	252
TIPPERARY STH	78	5,842	75	25.5	3.81	3.44	1.85	217
WATERFORD	78	8,331	107	25.3	3.89	3.46	1.86	239
WESTMEATH	20	1,426	71	28.4	3.46	3.29	1.92	200
WEXFORD	73	4,817	66	25.4	3.63	3.40	1.79	224
WICKLOW E	22	1,851	84	24.6	3.61	3.39	1.72	271
WICKLOW W	8	629	79	23.1	3.67	3.32	1.61	311
	<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	1,638	124,889	75	25.9	3.70	3.34	1.82	250

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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.

Sunday 27th May 2012

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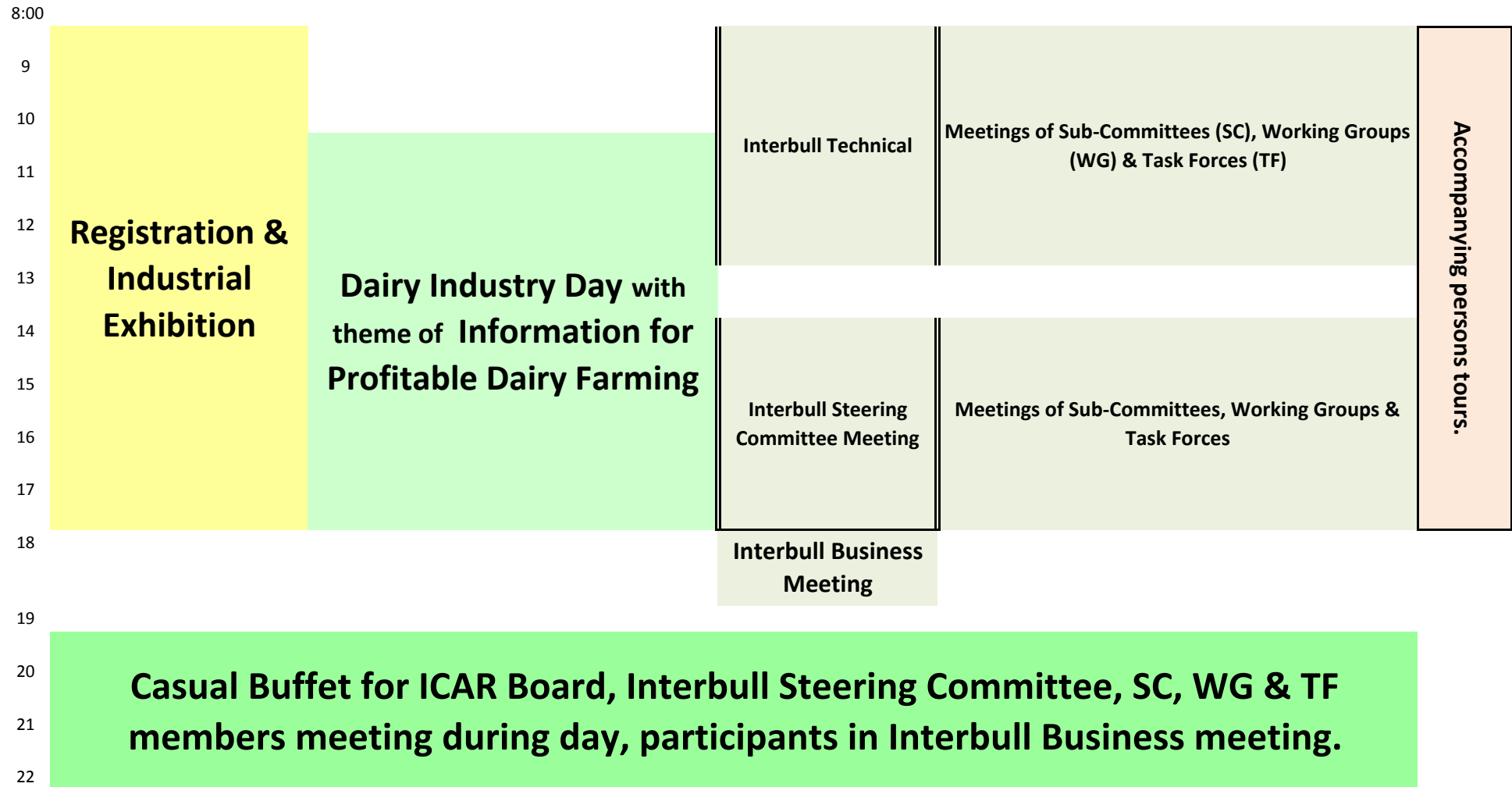
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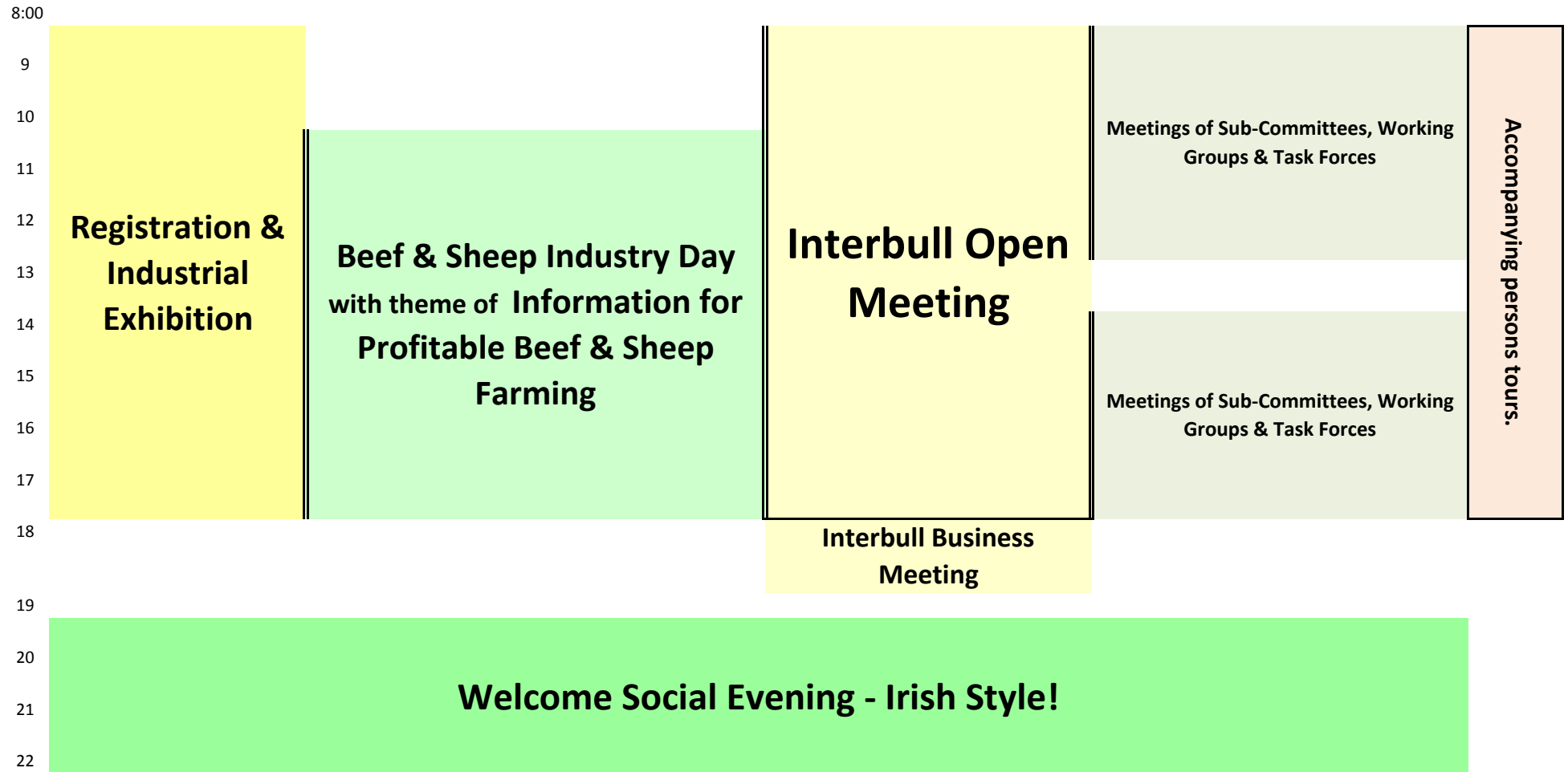
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ICAR Board

Monday 28th May 2012



Tuesday 29th May 2012



Wednesday 30th May 2012

8:00

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**Registration &
Industrial
Exhibition**

**Plenary with theme of How Can Animal Recording Improve the Profitability of
Animal Farming?**

ICAR General Assembly

**Joint Interbull, Interbeef, ICAR: Identifying
the Most Profitable Animals for
Breeding - Dairy, Beef, Sheep.**

**On-Farm and On-Animal Devices for
Identification and Recording.**

Accompanying persons tours.

Evening Free to Enjoy Cork & Environs.

**Interbull Technical
Committee Meeting**

Thursday 31st May 2012

8:00

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**Industrial
Exhibition**

**Plenary with theme of Practical Implications of Genomic Technologies for Animal
Agriculture.**

**Information Systems for Providing Farmers
(and Breeders) with Information Needed to
Increase Profitability.**

**Developments in Off-Farm
Recording & analysis - for Milk,
Meat, ...**

**Interbull Steering
Committee Meeting**

**Technical tours - dairy, beef and sheep farms - how are Irish Farmers increasing the profitability
and sustainability of their farms?**

Gala Dinner & Concert.

Friday 1st June 2012

8:00

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**Industrial
Exhibition**

**Plenary with theme of The Future Organisation of Animal
Recording & Genetic Evaluations - keeping the balance
between Commercial, Industry Good and Public Good.**

**Special Issues for
Sheep, Goats and
other Species.**

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Presentations by TF, SC, & WG

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General Assembly

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ICAR Board meeting with Chairpersons of TF, SC, and WG.

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ICAR Board Meeting.

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