



## Update for period 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006

### 1 Important Dates

- **AI Promotion MART Events – first two weeks of April.** The schedule is:
  - Nenagh Mart – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
  - Ballybay Mart – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April.
  - Bandon Mart – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April.
  - Killmallock Mart – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April.
  - Dungarvan Mart – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March Board Meeting.**
- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.

### 2 AI Promotion 2006

- The last of the workshops took place on Thursday. In total 400 people participated in the workshops. Feedback has generally been excellent. The only real issues arising have been associated with a lack of good communication at the local level.
- Preparation for the Mart Events is proceeding.
- The first “fertility” advertisement appeared this week.

# DAIRY FARMERS INFERTILE COWS A PROBLEM? We have the solution.

Use EBI to identify AI bulls from the Active Bull List who leave more fertile, higher producing daughters.

- The evidence – 15 years of TEAGASC research at Moorepark:
  - Highest 20% on EBI achieved 58% pregnancy to first service, 1.74 services per pregnancy, and 9% empty.
  - Lowest 20% on EBI achieved 44% pregnancy to first service, 2.03 services per pregnancy, and 20% empty.
- The Active Bull List AI Sires that have the most fertile daughters are those with:
  - negative calving intervals
  - highest fertility subindexes (€).

How much longer can you tolerate infertility eroding your profits?  
Use AI to solve the fertility problem without compromising production.

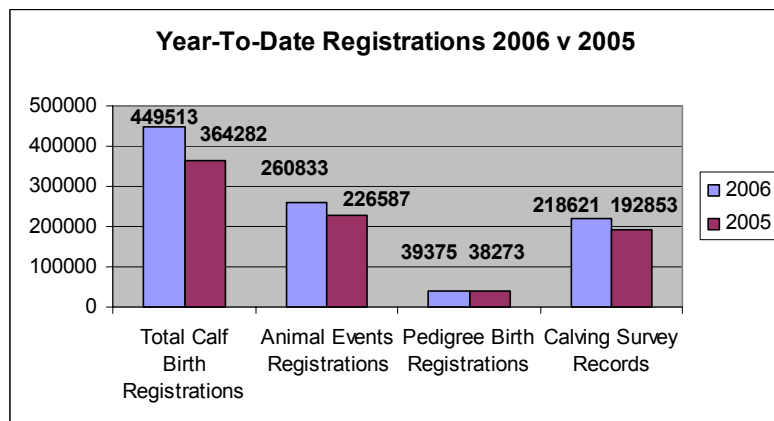
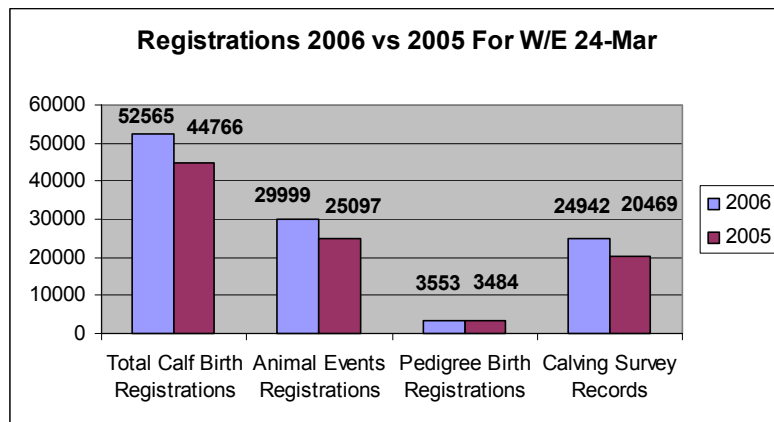
## AI TO BE SURE TO BREED HIGH EBI REPLACEMENTS BREEDING FUTURE PROFITS - A collaborative effort.





### 3 Database Update

- 287 new herds added to the database last week.
- PG and Dovea have made solid starts this week with the AI handhelds which are now live. Both organisations expect to have all handhelds live next week. Kerry will go live with handhelds next week.
- Development work to support the back end activities of the AI handheld are continuing, including reporting, and billing functions, for both PG and Dovea.
- All of the Spring Dairy EBI reports have been issued. This will now be followed up by work on breeding charts.
- Inbreeding charts are being generated for those herds participating in Gene Ireland.
- The development of Fertility Reports for the coming AI season is continuing.
- Issues with the network speed which have impacted on the member organisations ability to access the database are still being worked on. The issue seems to be restricted to those using broadband. We are working closely with Strencom (broadband provider) to get to the bottom of the issue.
- Work on the 2005 ICBF Statistics report is on-going at the moment and this should be available within the next couple of weeks.



### 4 Tully

- A group of agricultural students from Roscrea visited Tully on the 21-3-06.
- Preparations for the sale on the 6-5-06 are underway and advertising will start from the 7-4-06.
- Preparations for the May intake which covers bulls born from the 1-7-05 to the 20-10-05 will be sent out to breeders by the 31-3-06. This will be the first intake under the new EBI indexes.
- A group of Ag Science students from Offaly will visit Tully on the 28-3-06.

### 5 Meetings & Breeding Information Service

One of the three key elements of ICBF's strategic plan is to increase the uptake and reduce the cost of cattle breeding services. This last week we have been heavily involved in this work. By the end of today we will have participated in twelve meetings directly related to this objective. These meetings included five AI Promotion Workshops, two discussion groups, one Breed Assn Club



meeting and an AI Promotion farmer event. This level of activity requires considerable resource and personal commitment. It does not generate extra income for ICBF but it will generate income for our members and more profit for Irish farmers. It is one of the key reasons why ICBF exists.

Also, this was the week that the AI Handheld computers went live, and EBI reports were printed and distributed to 6,000 herds.

It is because we have created an ICBF that is capable of this level of achievement that I believe so firmly that we should extend the model, in cooperation with our service providing members, to introduce a fully functioning Breeding Information Service. At its meeting next week the ICBF Board will give further consideration to this proposal.

## 6 Milk Recording Update

### MR Stats week ending 24/03/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 17/03/06 - 24/03/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 17/03/05 - 24/03/05
Progressive	269	252
Dairygold	180	182
SWS	140	133
Kerry	132	129
Tipperary	36	22
Connacht	19	23
Arrabawn	15	16
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>757</b>

### €DIY Milk Recording

#### **Progressive Genetics**

Wexford – 86 herds signed up with some 45 recorded to date

Kilkenny – 105 herds now signed up. Trainers getting up to speed – some 16 herds recorded to date

Cavan/Monaghan – 120 herds now on the €DIY books with some 25 recorded to date

Enfield lab to kick off outputting barcode results from Wed 29<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **Dairygold**

Some 372 herds now signed up in the 3 cells

North Cork/Lim has 133 herds – with 44 recorded.

Mallow has 124 herds – with 70 recorded

East Cork/Waterford has 115 herds with 50 recorded

#### **Kerry**

60 herds signed up in cell with 18 recorded to date. ICBF's Brain Coughlan trained 2 Kerry trainers in Charleville this week.

#### **SWS**

Cell has 55 on the list with 15 recorded to date. Van Signage being worked on.

#### **Connacht Gold**

Offer made to Technician this week and accepted – Mr John Diamond starting March 27<sup>th</sup>.



### Tipperary/Arrabawn

Replacement van delivered to Paul O'Brien (Tipperary Technician) on Mon 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Following Dairygold's lead we have also put signage on the van. This can only help to promote the Service in Tipperary. It also establishes clearly to the farmer what's coming into his yard as the van pulls up and avoids any identity concerns. Both Arrabawn and Tipperary labs are now testing and outputting barcoded samples successfully. Some 40 herds have had their first test done to date. Balance of 90 or so farmers have been contacted and dates scheduled as requested.



*Pictures shows Technician Mr. Paul O'Brien (Left) and Mr. Matthew Quinlan (Chairman of Tipperary Co-op) after recording on Mathews farm in Cahir on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006.*

## 7 Genetic Evaluations

Preparation for a new beef evaluation is ongoing. This evaluation will include the testing of updated genetic parameters based on a larger and more recent data set but also more utilization of existing performance data. The impact of these changes will also be tested in the ongoing development of international evaluations, initially for the trait weaning weight. Reliabilities for this new evaluation will be calculated based on new and more complete methodology developed in recent weeks.

Ross Evans will be traveling to Italy along with members of the Irish Pietmontese Society. The purpose of the trip is twofold a) in order to establish better links and transfer of data between the Irish and Italian Pietmontese breed. B) It is also hoped that factory data on Irish cattle from all breeds can be retrieved and used to enhance the current beef evaluation.

## 8 GENE IRELAND - Dairy

Semen allocation for the first 10 GENE Ireland bulls has been packed and is in the process of distribution. Semen from the second team of 10 bulls is currently being packed.

Herd Inventory and inbreeding charts for Gene Ireland herds are currently being constructed.