

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 21st October, 10:30 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 21st October 14:00 to 16:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Event** – 14:00 to 17:00 Friday 8th October ICBF Tully Central Performance Test Centre, Tully Co. Kildare. This is an invitation only event. Copy of invitation to HerdPlus and Gene Ireland beef herd owners attached.
- ✚ **Tully Bull High Health Status Sale** – 17:00 Friday 8th October, ICBF Tully Central Performance Test Centre.

2. Analysis of AI Sired Dairy Births

A recent analysis of AI sired dairy births (male plus female) recorded in the ICBF database has been conducted.

The total number of AI bred dairy births (“Total” line in figure 1) has shown good growth year-on-year increasing by 23% from 2006 to 2009.

The break down by semen supplier (figure 1) shows considerable growth for LIC + Eurogene, some growth for Dovea and a static picture for NCBC. These results relate to births in the respective calendar years and mostly to inseminations in the previous calendar year. 2010 results-to-date show a significant recovery by NCBC.

The analysis also looked at the place of birth for the AI sires (figure 2). This shows a steady increase in the % born in Ireland, from 4% in 2001 to 32% for 2010 year-to-date. This trend reflects the move by the Irish studs to supply dairy semen from high EBI bulls born locally.

The ratio of female to male AI sired births recorded on the ICBF database over the last five years has been static at 51%.

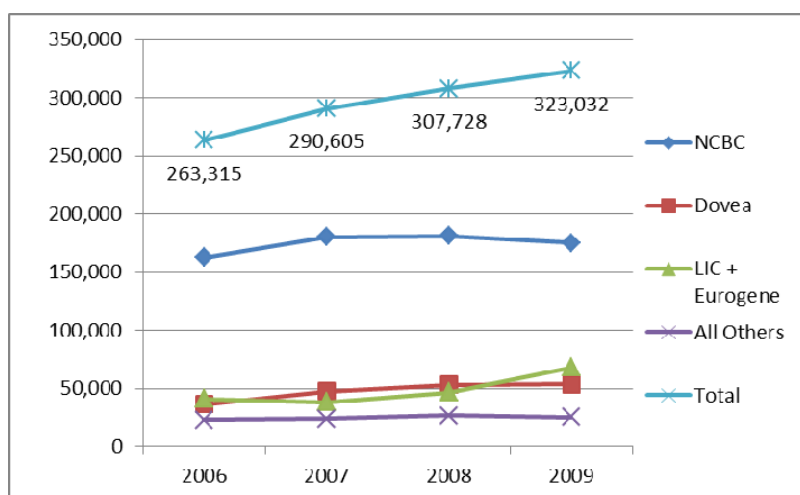


Figure 1. Semen supplier for AI sired dairy births in each of four most recent complete years.

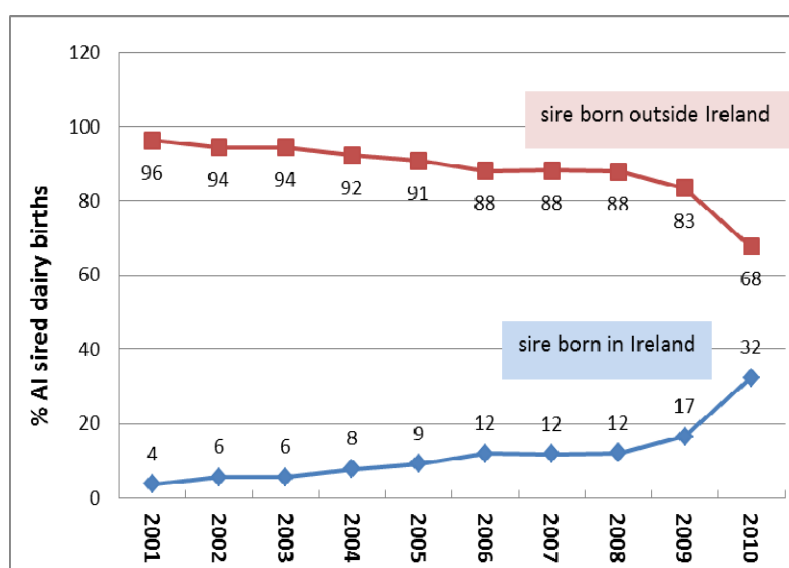
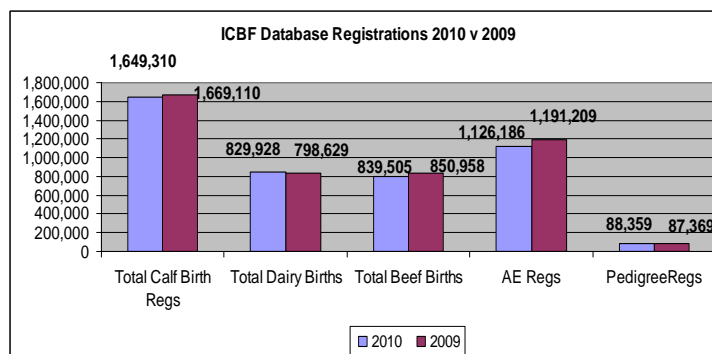
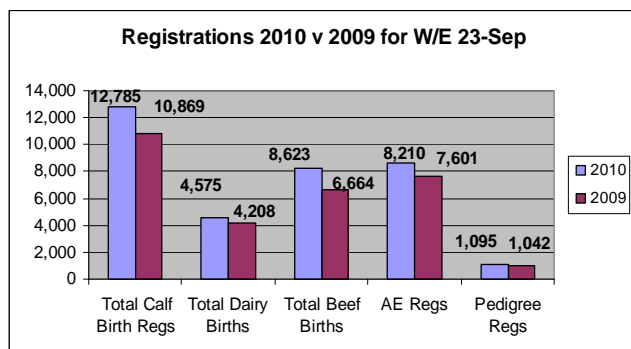
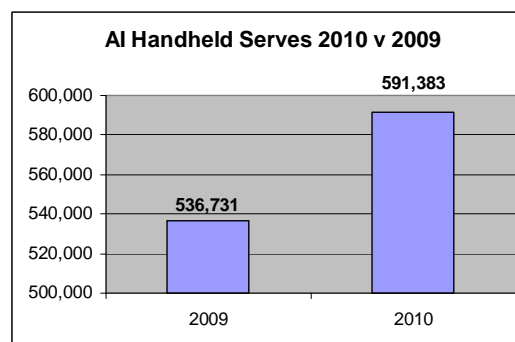


Figure 2. Place of sires' birth.

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 302,028 with the number of animals weaned at 52,811.
- ✚ Work is continuing 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>.
- ✚ A development update to the Beef Slaughter report began this week.
- ✚ The design of a new infrastructure to manage genotypes at ICBF is continuing.
- ✚ The migration of the Teagasc advisor application to a new infrastructure has been completed this week and will be rolled out to Teagasc next week. This will standardise how Teagasc, Vets, private consultants, etc access the ICBF database.
- ✚ Work on a new infrastructure for communicating with marts is on-going, 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. Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Files were submitted to the Interbull production test run for Jersey and Red Dairy Breeds. Results of whether or not we have enough data to enter the routine run will be known in a few weeks. A successful participation would enable us to get Interbull production proofs for bulls of these breeds for next Spring.
- ✚ Work continues on updates to the evaluations for both dairy and beef traits.

5. Tully

- ✚ The final live-weight was obtained on all bulls at Tully on 23-09-2010 (Table 1). Bulls gained an impressive 2.0 kg across breed over the final 21 days of the test. All 50 bulls finished their 90 day performance test on the 23rd of September. Concentrates offered to the bulls will be gradually decreased over the two week period leading up to Elite High Health status sale. This is to ensure that all bulls are acclimatised to a diet that will reflect their new on-farm environment.

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 = 31)	PT (n = 1)	SH (n = 2)	SI (n = 1)	SP (n = 2)
Average Live-weight (kg)	622	730	604	641	662	560	646	638	611
Average daily gain (kg)	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	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.

Top bulls selected at Tully pre-sale

- This week saw the top beef bulls selected from each of the 9 breeds that participated in the latest Tully intake.
- The 50 bulls will be sold at Tully performance test centre, Kildare town, Co. Kildare on Friday 8th of October, starting at 5pm. The top bulls (pictured below) are among the bulls available for purchase at the upcoming Tully sale. The bulls on offer consist of 2 Speckle Park, 3 Blonde d'Aquitaine, 1 Parthenaise, 2 Shorthorn, 5 Angus, 3 Charolais, 1 Simmental, 2 Belgian Blue & 31 Limousin and are listed in order of sale. Bulls will be between 12 and 17 months of age. For more information you can contact Stephen Conroy, manager of the test centre by email at sconroy@icbf.com or by phone at 045 521573. A free copy of the catalogue will be available for download at <http://www.icbf.com/services/tully/index.php> early next week.
- Tully's focus is to increase profits for the national beef herd by testing for both performance and health. There is also a big emphasis on selecting bulls with strong maternal lines in terms of Milk & Fertility to ensure that when they are used for breeding heifer replacements, daughter of the selected bulls have the potential to produce a calf with superior weaning weights, excellent conformation and good growth rates, and the ability to calf regularly for many lactations. Details of the winning bulls are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Performance and Indexes of top bulls at Tully

Breed	Name	Average Daily Gain (kg/day)	Feed Conversion Efficiency (DMI/ADG)	Scan Muscle Dept (mm)	Scan Fat Dept (mm)	SBV (€)	Rank out of 100
AA	Newstar Fabien	2.4	5.0	77	5.8	86	98
BA	Glack Darragh	2.3	5.3	100	3.0	123	99
BB	Gaggin Dancer Et	2.3	4.3	76	1.8	139	92
CH*	Carly Earl	2.1	4.8	89	2.0	19	2
LM	Elite Erasmus Et	2.4	4.5	89	2.2	215	99
PT	Keelties Echo	1.8	5.1	73	2.0	82	62
SH	Mogeely Liberty (H)	2.4	5.3	63	6.5	65	84
SI	Addinstown Alvin	2.5	4.8	81	3.8	180	98
SP	Knockane Warrior Et	2.0	4.7	72	8.8	-	-

* New bloodline

How the bulls were selected

The top bulls (pictured below) were identified within each breed based on three main criteria. These criteria were;

- Visual Score (33%).** All bulls were assessed by one "master scorer", working on behalf of ICBF and each of the beef herdbooks.
- Euro-Star indexes (33%).** These were based on the latest official indexes from ICBF (August 2010). Four of the bulls ranked in the top 2% within each of their relevant breeds on Suckler Beef Value (Table 1).

- **Tully performance data (33%).** The Tully performance test involves subjecting the bulls to uniform feeding, housing and management conditions. During the performance test, bulls are weighed every 21 days with individual feed intake being obtained daily. Other measurements taken at Tully include;
 - Average daily gain (kg/day):** A key indicator of growth rate,
 - Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG):** The ratio describing the amount of feed consumed per unit of production. It is important to identify animals that are efficient users of feed, with low values representing more efficient animals,
 - Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm):** These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield, and
 - Scrotal circumference (cm):** Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality.

All bulls were scored according to the above criteria, and the top bulls were then selected from within each breed based on this analysis. These bulls are a reflection of the exceptional quality of bulls available for purchase at the up-coming sale, with each having excellent performance figures (Table 1). For example, average daily gain ranged from 1.8 to 2.5 kg per day across the nine breeds. It is now clear that the objectives of Tully are being achieved; to provide elite high genetic merit and high health status bulls to the beef industry, thereby allowing breeders to increase the profitability of their beef herds.



Glack Darragh, sired by Levant and owned by Philip Doherty, Lifford, Co. Donegal



Carly Earl sired Thrunton Voldemort and owned by John Vincent McDonnell, Belmullet, Co. Mayo



Newstar Fabien, sired by Idvies Paris B102 and owned by Patrick Kilkenny, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan



Mogeely Liberty (H), sired by Chapelton Liberty and Albert De Cogan, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork



Addinstown Alvin, sired by Delfur T-Bone, and owned by David Caffrey, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath



Elite Erasmus Et, sired by Elite Abel Et and owned by Edward Tynan, Mountrath, Co Laois



Keelties Echo, sired by Bolide and owned by Dermot O' Brien, Killarney, Co. Kerry



Gaggin Dancer Et, sired by Ober Van Het Hubkeshof and owned by Patrick Hegarty, Bandon, Co. Cork



Knockane Warrior Et, sired by Star Bank Lacerta 68l and owned by Ivan Ryall, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork

Next intake at Tully (November 2010)

- ✚ Bulls have been identified for the next intake which is due to commence on 26th of November 2010. Application forms will be sent out next week to breeders with eligible bulls. The targeted bulls must have a birth date between the 1st November 2009 and 30th April 2010.
- ✚ A flyer was distributed at the ploughing championships with details of the up-coming sale at Tully and next intake (**see attached**). This flyer is also being enclosed with the application forms for the next intake, along with 3,000 copies being sent out to HerdPlus and GENÉIRÉLAND users. Also, a 4 x3 ft sign with details on the next sale was on view in each of the breed society tents at the ploughing.
- ✚ **Key dates for the November 2010 Intake include:**
 - 28th September Send out application forms

- 15th October Return applications to Tully.
- 29th October Complete linear inspections.
- 13th November Complete “on-farm” health testing & send bloods to Tully.
- 26th November Start pre-entry isolation in Tully.
- 24th December Start Tully performance test.
- 20th March 2011 End Tully performance test.

6. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 14/09/10 to 24/09/10

	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	17	991	58	19.4	4.13	3.67	1.51	383
CAVAN	35	1,984	57	19.2	3.96	3.51	1.43	306
CLARE	19	1,030	54	20.0	3.99	3.61	1.52	338
CORK STH	232	15,341	66	19.1	4.08	3.54	1.46	314
CORK NTH	258	19,658	76	19.5	4.21	3.74	1.55	272
DONEGAL	15	1,470	98	17.2	4.34	3.64	1.37	335
DUBLIN	6	274	46	22.3	3.89	3.52	1.65	336
GALWAY	29	1,709	59	22.2	3.94	3.51	1.65	314
KERRY	108	7,454	69	21.5	3.92	3.55	1.61	338
KILDARE	24	1,638	68	20.8	3.99	3.58	1.57	381
KILKENNY	47	3,870	82	17.9	4.14	3.63	1.39	321
LAOIS	26	2,172	84	19.7	4.13	3.56	1.51	279
LEITRIM	2	147	74	15.2	3.87	3.43	1.11	267
LIMERICK	120	8,813	73	19.7	3.99	3.61	1.50	300
LONGFORD	8	552	69	21.2	4.02	3.58	1.61	283
LOUTH	20	1,733	87	24.0	3.90	3.48	1.77	353
MAYO	16	793	50	22.3	3.95	3.63	1.69	376
MEATH	60	5,577	93	19.6	3.81	3.42	1.42	344
MONAGHAN	30	1,653	55	19.5	3.88	3.48	1.44	257
OFFALY	20	1,593	80	18.9	4.37	3.50	1.49	343
ROSCOMMON								
SLIGO	6	195	33	21.2	3.92	3.67	1.61	393
TIPPERARY NTH	44	3,520	80	18.3	4.33	3.70	1.47	263
TIPPERARY STH	45	3,669	82	17.6	4.15	3.70	1.38	257
WATERFORD	42	3,791	90	19.1	4.39	3.78	1.56	290
WESTMEATH	17	1,309	77	19.4	3.82	3.56	1.43	248
WEXFORD	56	4,170	74	18.1	3.99	3.63	1.38	335
WICKLOW E	15	923	62	19.8	3.54	3.38	1.37	288
WICKLOW W	4	364	91	21.3	4.53	3.47	1.70	581
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
National	1,321	96,393	71	19.8	4.04	3.57	1.51	325

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 14/09/10 to 24/09/10

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	868	63,276	73	19.4	4.13	3.65	1.51	297
Leinster	320	25,166	79	20.2	4.01	3.54	1.52	344
Connacht	53	2,844	54	20.2	3.92	3.56	1.51	338
Ulster	80	5,107	64	18.6	4.06	3.54	1.42	299

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/09/10

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/09/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/09/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/09/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/09/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,557	999	28%	275,349	85,214	31%
Progressive	1,999	763	38%	175,463	66,621	38%
Tipperary	133	57	43%	11,921	5,764	48%
Connacht	150	59	39%	9,906	3,724	38%
Total	5,839	1,878	32%	472,639	161,323	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 24/09/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 24/09/10	2010 vs. 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	255,860	275,349	7.1%
Progressive	175,827	175,463	-0.2%
Tipperary	11,087	11,921	7.0%
Connacht	9,552	9,906	3.6%
Total	452,326	472,639	4.3%

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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.

24th September 2010

Dear Herdowner,

HerdPlus User Breeding Event.
Tully Bull Performance Test Centre, Tully, Kildare

ICBF in conjunction with **FBD** will be holding a HerdPlus User - Beef Breeding Event **on Friday 8th October 2010 at 2pm**, at the Tully Bull Performance Test Centre, Tully, Co.Kildare.

This new Beef Breeding Event is specifically for HerdPlus & **GENE IRELAND** Farmers and is aimed at informing you about the **latest ICBF Beef Breeding Developments**. In the table below you will see an example of HerdPlus Calving Information for your herd (where possible).

Beef HerdPlus Data Example

	Your Herd	National Average
Calving Interval	408	406 Days
Calves/Cow/Year	0.88	0.78
Number of Months Calving in the Year	7	5.66

The Event Programme for the day is as follows:

2.00 pm	Beef HerdPlus Demonstration.
2.30 pm	Beef GENE IRELAND Update.
3.00 pm	Genomics Overview.
3.30 pm	€uro-Star Bull Demonstration.
4.00 pm	Complimentary Dinner for attendees.
5.00pm	Elite High Health Bull Sale (See enclosed flier).

To confirm your attendance please text the word **CONF** to **51101** or call us on **1850-600-900**.

As we are organising catering it is important that you confirm numbers for dinner with us. (**Note:** Dinner vouchers will only be presented before the first talk at 2pm.)

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Wickham
Chief Executive

Tully & **GENE IRELAND**® Breeding future Profits

Elite High Health Status Beef Bull Sale

Friday, 8th October 2010

Sale starts at 5pm (Delivery can be arranged)

50 pedigree bulls (ranging from 12 to 17 months of age):

2 Speckle Park, 3 Blonde d'Aquitaine, 1 Parthenaise, 2 Shorthorn, 5 Angus,
3 Charolais, 1 Simmental, 2 Belgian Blue & 31 Limousin (listed in sale order)



Go with the safer, proven option for your herd!

**Tully Bull Performance Test Station, Kildare Town
(Beside National Stud)**

For more information contact

Stephen or Niall on 045 521573 or Michael Taaffe on 041 9881288

Attention all Pedigree breeders!

Next Tully intake (November 2010)

- Bulls born between 1st November '09 & 30th April '10 are eligible.
- Currently bulls are being identified for the next intake which is due to start in November 2010.
- Application forms will be sent out in late September to breeders with eligible bulls.
- If you have a superior bull(s) that you feel would be suitable for entry to Tully and born between the dates specified above, please contact your Breed Society or Tully bull performance testing centre.

Key dates for the up-coming November 2010 Intake include:

28 th September	Sending out application forms.
15 th October	Return applications to Tully.
29 th October	Complete linear inspections.
13 th November	Complete "on-farm" testing and send bloods to Tully.
26 th November	Start pre-entry isolation in Tully.
24 th December 2010	Start Tully performance test.
20 th March 2011	End Tully performance test.

Tully – increasing farm profits through testing for performance & health

1. Performance testing

Bulls are tested over a 90 day period identifying those superior for key traits such as:

- **Average daily gain (kg/day):** A key indicator of growth rate, which is an important factor in all aspects of beef production.
- **Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG):** This ratio identifies animals that are efficient users of feed.
- **Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm):** These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield (very important with the new pricing GRID in place).
- **Scrotal circumference (cm):** Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality.

2. Health testing

All bulls are tested free of IBR, BVD, Johne's, EBL, TB & Brucellosis due to:

- **On-farm testing**
This involves a maximum of 20 animals in the herd (including the candidate animal) being tested for the above diseases in order to build a profile of the health status of the whole herd.
- **Continuous screening at Tully**
Bulls that meet the on-farm health testing criteria are accepted into Tully where further health testing is carried out to ensure no bull became infected during on-farm testing and entry into Tully. Bulls are strictly monitored in terms of their health throughout their performance test.