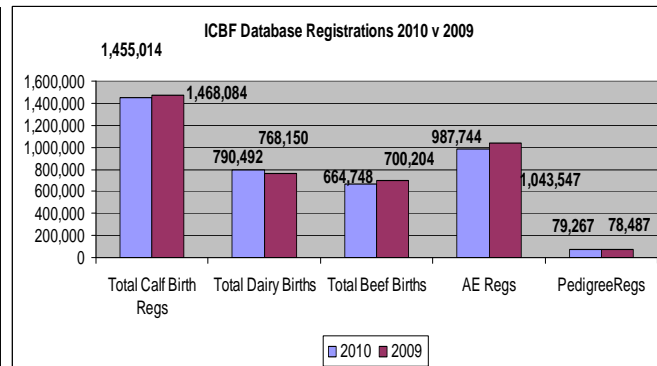
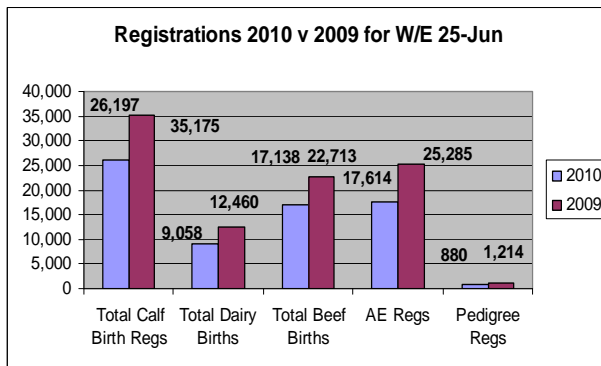


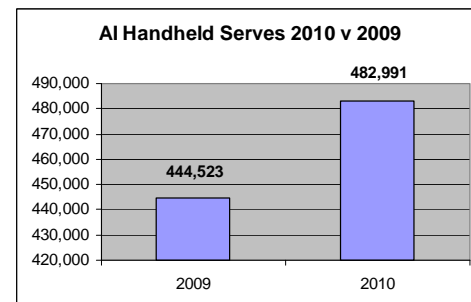
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep 2010, Lyons Estate, UCD** – Saturday 26th June. This is a major day for the Irish Sheep industry. We look forward to seeing lots of people there next Saturday. Sheep Ireland is playing a prominent role as this is a great opportunity to demonstrate to sheep farmers how sheep breeding is developing in Ireland.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 15th July, 10:30 to 14:00 – Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 15th July, 14:00 to 16:30 – Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Dairy Industry Consultation Meeting** – Wed. 21st July, 10:00 to 13:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Beef Industry Consultation Meeting** – Wed. 21st July, 14:00 to 17:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise

2. Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 643,633 with the number of animals weaned at 578,166.
- ✚ A significant update to the suckler scheme screens is being designed and developed at the moment to help make the process more efficient.
- ✚ Vets wishing to begin interacting with the AHI/ICBF system can register at <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/registerpage.php>.
- ✚ Work is continuing on a web tool to help manage the storing of samples used in the genomics process at ICBF.
- ✚ Development work continued this week which will allow those involved in the Embryo transfer process to view/input data. The aim is that this will facilitate better recording of data, and more accurate fertility evaluations for donor cows. This should be ready for testing next week.
- ✚ Work is ongoing on the window server infrastructure, involving a move to a more resilient infrastructure for email, file servers, etc.
- ✚ A new infrastructure for communicating with marts is currently being designed, 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.



3. A Climate for Change – Brian Wickham reports

This Teagasc organised conference took place on Thursday and Friday this week. Some of the key points from the meeting include:

- ✚ Cattle and sheep account for a large part (12%) of the green house gases (mostly methane from rumen fermentation) produced in Ireland.
- ✚ Human activities are affecting the world climate through the production of greenhouse gases (mainly carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) and if left unchecked will result in drastic global warming.
- ✚ Ireland, as part of the EU and global community has committed to taking steps to mitigate (reduce) the production of green house gases.
- ✚ I took part in this meeting to help me understand the state-of-the-art and to decide if and to what extent ICBF should become involved with helping Ireland achieve its goals for green house gases.
- ✚ The state-of-the-art has developed rapidly and there is still a lot of research work required on a wide range of topics. International co-operation and collaboration is needed to ensure best use of scarce knowledge resources.
- ✚ There are a number opportunities for dairy farmers to reduce green house gas emissions per unit of milk solids. Many of these will also result in improved farm profitability. The main ones being; use of high EBI animals, extending the grazing season, and incorporating clover in pastures. These steps alone can reduce green house gas emissions per kg of milk solids by 15% to 20%.
- ✚ It is important that farmers can clearly benefit from adopting practices that reduce green house gases per unit of product sold.
- ✚ In time those farmers that can demonstrate that they are producing milk (and meat) with lower green house gas emissions can expect to enjoy advantages in marketing their production.
- ✚ ICBF needs to ensure the breeding objectives for dairy and beef fully account for the implications of green house gases for farm profitability.
- ✚ The ICBF database has considerable potential as a tool, when used in combination with other databases, enable farmers to measure the green house gas emissions for their production system.
- ✚ Green house gases are a very important issue for Irish farmers and ICBF needs to engage with other stakeholders in ensuring Irish agriculture is pro-active in ensuring all available opportunities are fully exploited to the benefit of farmers and the wider industry.

4. Grow

- ✚ A Referencing Session for the Linear Scorers was held on the Dovea Farm on Wednesday. A good selection of breeds was available on the day. A number of breed societies attended and a good discussion on the future of Linear Scoring was held.
- ✚ Thanks to Noel Ryan and the staff at Dovea for their help and the use of the facilities

5. Tully

- ✚ This week, all 51 bulls have been trained to use the electronically controlled Calan-Broadbent gates. This system allows bulls which are grouped to be fed only out of the feeding box allocated to them. It works by attaching a collar to the animal's neck with an enclosed device on it, which will then allow the animal access to feed once the device attached comes into contact with the Calan-Broadbent gate. Then by weighing in and out the feed from the individual feeding boxes, individual feed intake of each bull can be recorded daily.
- ✚ The final of three blood samples which are obtained weekly during the 30 day isolation period for bulls, have come back clear. As a result, all bulls in off-farm isolation will be moved back into Tully today.

- ✚ The performance test of bulls will start on Thursday, 1st of July with the initial live-weights on all bulls being obtained on this date. Bulls are now on ad-lib concentrates, so individual feed intake will also be recorded from the start of the performance test.
- ✚ Bulls have received booster vaccinations for RSV, PI3, Pasteurella (strains of pneumonia), Blackleg and various other clostridia diseases.

6. Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The cut off data to be recorded for the next routine evaluation is July 5th. The official publication date is the 23rd August.
- ✚ Work continues on various updates and improvements to the dairy and beef evaluation systems. These will be discussed in more detail with anticipated timelines for implementation at the dairy and beef industry meetings on Wednesday 21st July.

7. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 25/06/10						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 25/06/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 25/06/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 25/06/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 25/06/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,526	981	28%	262,358	79,739	30%
Progressive	1,963	737	38%	163,835	59,953	37%
Tipperary	130	55	42%	10,897	5,030	46%
Connacht	141	53	38%	8,995	3,285	37%
Total	5,760	1,826	32%	446,085	148,007	33%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 25/06/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 25/06/10	2010 vs. 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	241,841	262,358	7.8%
Progressive	164,743	163,835	-0.6%
Tipperary	10,595	10,897	2.8%
Connacht	8,002	8,995	11.0%
Total	425,181	446,085	4.7%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 15/06/10 to 25/06/10								
	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	12	787	66	23.2	3.64	3.40	1.63	291
CAVAN	38	2,323	61	27.5	3.62	3.33	1.91	338
CLARE	27	1,414	52	28.5	3.53	3.33	1.96	309

CORK STH	340	24,511	72	24.8	3.78	3.34	1.77	284
CORK NTH	233	17,727	76	25.9	3.80	3.43	1.87	256
DONEGAL	9	876	97	25.8	3.92	3.33	1.87	420
DUBLIN	6	284	47	30.5	3.46	3.53	2.13	372
GALWAY	22	1,851	84	24.0	3.89	3.30	1.73	377
KERRY	158	10,075	64	27.6	3.60	3.34	1.92	320
KILDARE	21	1,543	73	25.2	4.03	3.43	1.88	371
KILKENNY	60	4,866	81	24.6	3.64	3.29	1.70	271
LAOIS	30	2,507	84	24.5	3.68	3.38	1.73	312
LEITRIM	6	308	51	31.5	3.60	3.29	2.17	281
LIMERICK	138	9,701	70	25.9	3.61	3.33	1.80	290
LONGFORD	12	665	55	27.6	3.62	3.33	1.92	229
LOUTH	17	1,517	89	23.9	3.36	3.30	1.59	451
MAYO	19	1,095	58	24.8	3.61	3.54	1.77	268
MEATH	41	4,247	104	22.9	3.75	3.36	1.63	350
MONAGHAN	24	1,314	55	27.5	3.72	3.30	1.93	296
OFFALY	25	1,666	67	25.8	3.71	3.40	1.83	298
ROSCOMMON	1	86	86	22.8	3.65	3.35	1.60	118
SLIGO	6	439	73	20.5	3.92	3.44	1.51	222
TIPPERARY NTH	41	3,297	80	24.0	4.01	3.38	1.77	351
TIPPERARY STH	67	5,604	84	24.7	3.89	3.41	1.80	237
WATERFORD	57	5,165	91	24.2	3.93	3.46	1.79	275
WESTMEATH	17	1,324	78	25.7	3.61	3.27	1.77	286
WEXFORD	54	4,065	75	23.5	3.80	3.43	1.70	316
WICKLOW E	21	1,620	77	24.8	3.42	3.33	1.67	301
WICKLOW W	9	938	104	25.5	3.74	3.42	1.83	439
	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	1,511	111,815	74	25.4	3.71	3.37	1.80	308

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 15/06/10 to 25/06/10

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	1061	77,494	73	25.7	3.77	3.38	1.84	290
Leinster	325	26,029	80	25.2	3.66	3.37	1.77	330
Connacht	54	3,779	70	24.7	3.73	3.38	1.76	253
Ulster	71	4,513	64	26.9	3.75	3.32	1.91	351

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