



UPDATE – for period 20th - 26th January 2007

1 Important Dates

- ❑ **30th January – 1st February**, remaining Regional EBI / HerdPlus meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Venue</u>
<i>Tuesday, Jan 30th</i>	<i>2.30pm – 4.00pm</i>	<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>Radisson Hotel</i>
<i>Wednesday, Jan 31st</i>	<i>11am – 1.00pm</i>	<i>Knock</i>	<i>Belmont Hotel</i>
<i>Thursday, Feb 1st</i>	<i>2.30pm – 4.00pm</i>	<i>Limerick</i>	<i>Lynch South Court Hotel</i>

- ❑ **Thursday 1st February.** 10:30 to 15:00. Board Meeting. Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- ❑ **Saturday 3rd March.** Tully beef bull sale. Show 11.00 am Sale 12.00 pm.

2 Reflections on another busy and productive week

This week, like many others in the life of ICBF included a number of very important and significant developments. These included:

- A meeting on Monday in Birmingham at which the development of official international evaluations for beef cattle was progressed (for details see below). This collaboration is the result of a long process by ICBF in building good relations with the international beef cattle breeding community. A clear and consistent message is that consistent international animal identification is key to establishing international evaluations. This can only be achieved through an open sharing relationship between breeding organisations in different countries. While good progress has been made for some of the beef breeds there is room for a lot more progress in others.
- The Beef Genetic Consultation meeting on Wednesday was attended by thirty breeding industry representatives. The meeting provided feedback on the proposal developed by the beef genetic evaluation Working Group lead by Andrew Cromie. This Working Group was established by the Board of ICBF at its December meeting to provide advice on the implementation of the new beef indexes. The group was appointed by the Chairman of ICBF and have made a lot of progress over the last few weeks. The Euro Star concept proposed by the Working Group received strong support from the meeting and their report will be considered by the Board of ICBF when it meets next week. It is proposed that the new beef indexes will be launched in February and be a feature at the 3rd of March Tully bull sale.
- The Board of ICBF met on Thursday to give further consideration to the report of the review conducted by Deloitte's. After agreeing that the findings relating to financial issues had been fully addressed the Board considered the other findings of the report and agreed to three actions:
 1. For the Chairman and a number of Board members and key executives to meet with herdbook representatives to ensure all operational issues of concern to herdbooks had been identified, prioritised, and addressed.
 2. For a statement giving service provider members assurances is to be prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the ICBF Board, and
 3. That a proposal for a stakeholder conference to review the direction of cattle breeding be prepared for consideration at next weeks Board meeting.
- A further three HerdPlus meetings were held this week. These meetings are providing a clear demonstration of the value of ICBF being able to focus on the needs of farmers. There has been an excellent response to the improvements made to the EBI, and the various reports that make up HerdPlus. Farmers are also coming forward with ideas for further improvements to the services. It is only through this close engagement with our end customers that we can deliver services they really value and are prepared to pay for.



3 Tully

- Linear scoring of the December intake of bulls will take place on the 30-1-07.
- Final Blup figures will be added to the catalogue and up dated on the ICBF web site before the 1-2-07.
- A group of beef farmers from Wales will visit Tully on the 27-1-07.

4 Genetic Evaluations (Dairy)

- Production, SCC, and CIS evaluations are almost complete. Files are being prepared to forward to Interbull on Tue 30th for inclusion in the International evaluations. This will be the first time a routine fertility evaluation will be carried out by Interbull.
- Staff attended the HerdPlus meetings to discuss the developments for EBI in 2007.

5 Genetic Evaluations (Beef)

- A calving performance evaluation is currently being run. This evaluation includes about 325k new records since July.
- New figures were presented to Teagasc Beef advisors in Kildalton during the week.
- Work on a new beef performance evaluation is taking place.

6 International Beef Genetic Evaluations

- An Interbeef meeting including representation from Ireland, France, UK and Interbull was held on Monday 22nd to discuss current work and future plans. A workshop on International Beef evaluations will be conducted in Paris in March. This will allow any country interested in participating in International Beef evaluations to discuss technical aspects.
- A presentation on the France & UK joint Limousin evaluation was discussed at the British Cattle Breeders meeting in the UK. The next step is to conduct a joint France, UK & Ireland evaluation.

7 HerdPlus

Open Meetings – to date we have held 6 meetings.

- Turn out - very satisfactory with average of 110 farmers per meeting.
- Feedback – Sire Advice is generating a lot of interest with farmers anxious to get using the tool.
- Also received good suggestions on personalised pocket book and improvements we can make there.

Limerick Meeting

- We received numerous calls from Limerick farmers requesting we hold a meeting in their area. In response we have added an extra meeting to be held on Thursday 01st February in the South Court Hotel, Limerick.

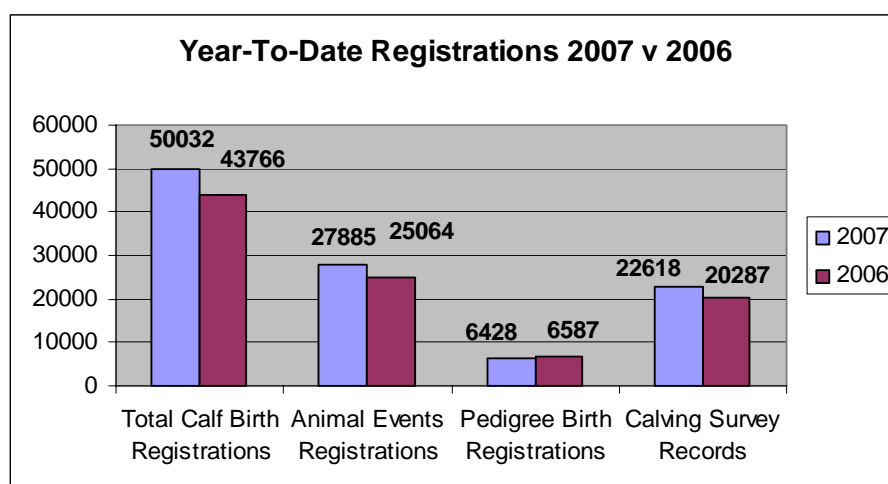
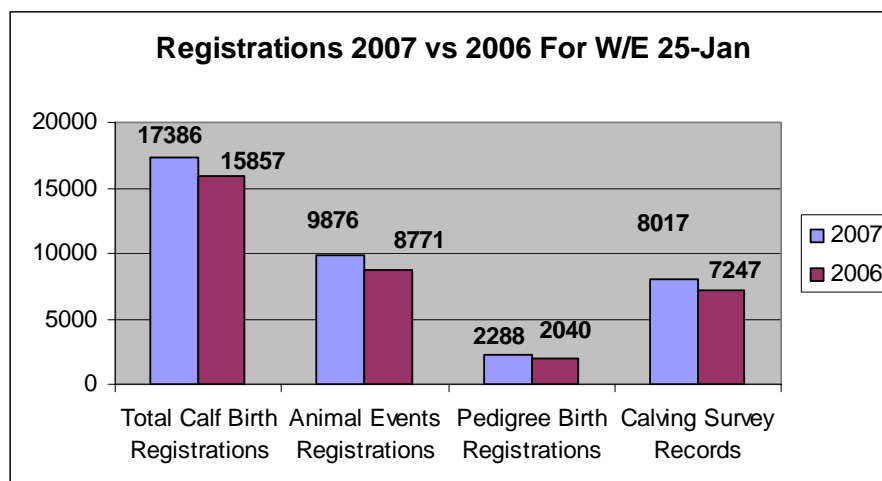
Other

- HerdPlus staff were represented at Grasslands meeting in Silver Springs Cork on 25th January.



8 Database Update

- 183,463 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds.
- The input of new insemination data for 2006 is also starting to slow with the result that the number of new Final Fertility reports being generated has also slowed.
- Production of the personalised Animal Events notebook for farmers is continuing as farmers sign up. A few notebooks have been reprinted due to some collating errors.
- Good progress has been made on the Sire Advice development. The changes agreed by the Sire Advice working group have been implemented and these will be reviewed at the groups meeting next Monday.
- The new Teagasc Discussion Group application is in progress, and should be available in the first week of February.
- Development on a Gene Ireland application which will assist in the management of the programme for the upcoming season has begun.



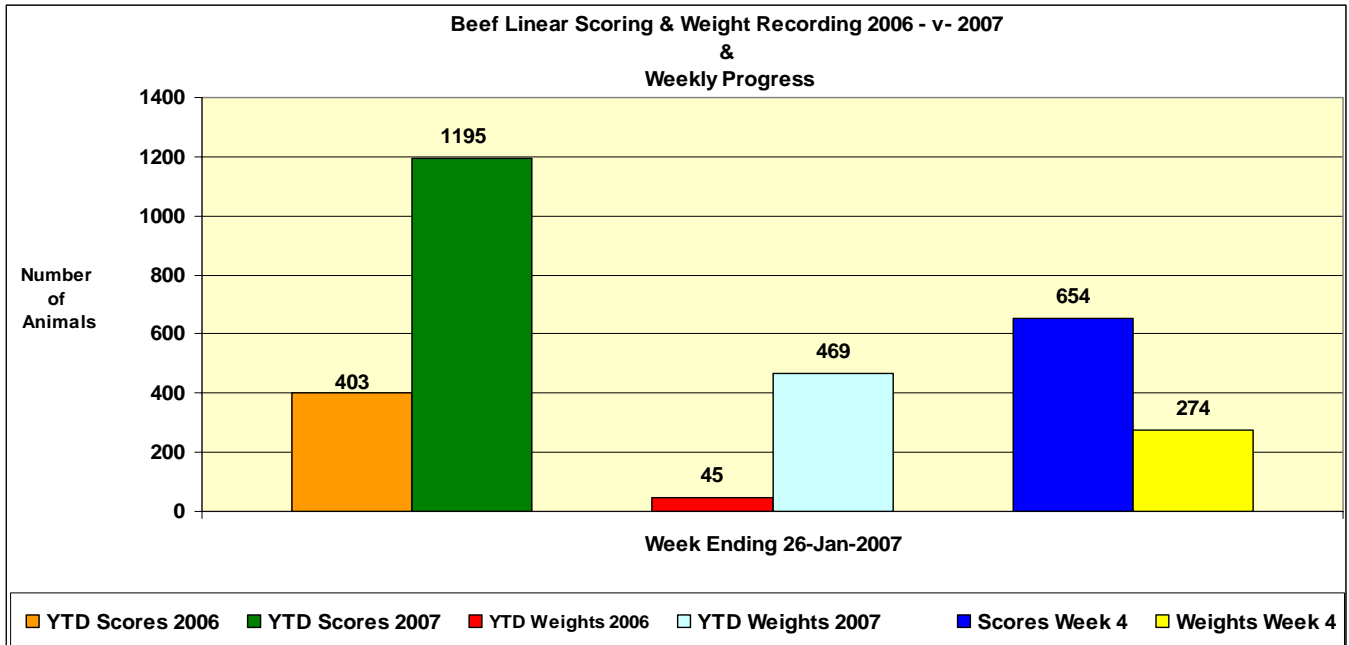
9 Milk Recording

Weekly Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 19/01/07 - 26/01/07
Progressive	223
SWS	68
Dairygold	49
Kerry	47
Connacht	32
Tipperary	2
Total	421



10 Beef Linear Scoring



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