

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 30th June.** Irish Grassland Assn Beef Meeting.
- ✚ **Wednesday 1st July.** Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting. Moorepark from 10:30 to 14:00.
- ✚ **Thursday 16th July.** ICBF Board Meeting, Portlaoise. 10.30 -14.00.
- ✚ **Thursday 16th July.** Sheep Board Meeting. Potlaoise 14.30-16.00

1 IHFA Open Day – Tom Kelly’s Farm

On Wednesday the Irish Holstein Friesian Assn (IHFA) held their annual Open Day on the farm of Tom & Rhona Kelly located near Drogheda. ICBF participated with a stand featuring HerdPlus[®] and genetic evaluations. Tom, like many IHFA members, utilises the HerdPlus[®] service and make extensive use of genetic evaluations to select semen and embryos for his world famous pedigree herd.

Joe Patton, of TEAGASC, highlighted the importance of using pasture for milk production. He said that it is the least expensive feed available and in these financially challenging times it is important to utilise it effectively.

Results of the annual IHFA herds competition were announced during the Open Day and it was a pleasure for me to present the awards to the winning herds in the EBI section. These were:

Over 70 cows - Trevor Lockhart, Ballyally Ramelton, Letterkenny, Co Donegal. **Under 70 cows - Joint winners: Liam O’Grady**, Ballyglass, Gurteen, Ballinasloe, Co.Galway and **John & Marion Collins**, Drominacturlough, Newcastle West, Co.Limerick.

SPRING CALVING - Brendan Meade, White Leas, Stamullen,Co.Meath.

The Holstein Friesian breed, with its very large worldwide population, contains a large amount of genetic variation for many traits of importance to Irish dairy farmers. The advent of genomic selection has resulted in improved access to an ideal mix of the traits – production, fertility and long life – that are so important to profitability on Irish farms. The Open Day was an important step towards building a unified approach to Holstein Friesian breeding in Ireland.

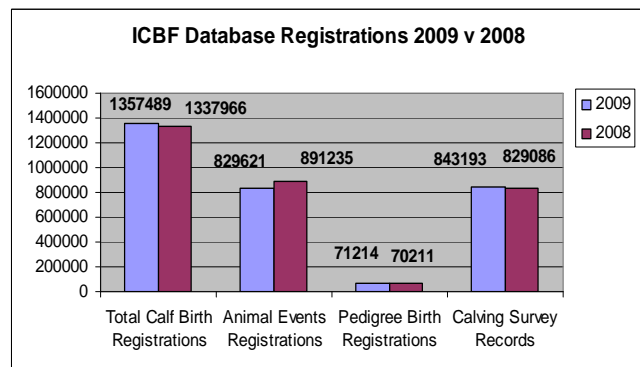
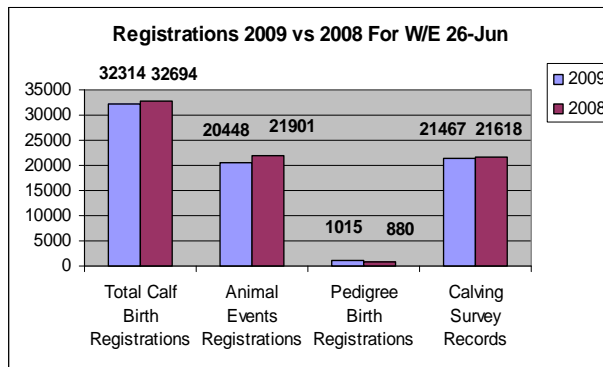


Tom, in shorts, with some of his cows demonstrating the best thing to do with pasture.

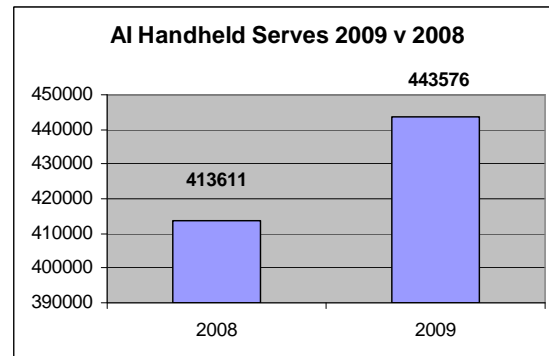


Part of the large crowd at the IHFA Open Day listening to Joe Patton talk about pasture management.

2. Database



- ✚ The revised 2009 suckler forms (pre and post weaning) continue to go out to farmers. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 810,000, with just over 709,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has continued this week, with Munster Milk Recording continuing to test the system. The design of a number of reporting/query screens has now been finalised, and the development of these will begin next week.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is now ready for testing, and testing will be on-going next week.
- ✚ The design of an upgrade to the security of log-ons to the ICBF site is being finalised and will be tested over the coming two weeks.
- ✚ Design of a new on-line application for AI companies to manage their interaction with ICBF on bull codes is underway.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, it looks like the overall inseminations for the season will be down.



3. LambPlus

- ✚ Work on an initial presentation format for the new Euro-Star Indexes has been completed.
- ✚ A Meeting with the relevant Flock Books with members participating in Lambplus will be held shortly to discuss the initial evaluation results.
- ✚ The assignment of sires to lambs in the MALP flocks using DNA parentage analysis has commenced with the results for the first flocks received today. This analysis will be followed up with the Ewe DNA analysis when that material has been collected and tested.
- ✚ The bulk of the Lamb Ultrasound Muscle & Fat Scanning work has been completed. Work is ongoing to match up tags that had to be hand-keyed on the day of scanning with tag numbers that were entered into the system by the Flock-Owner afterwards.
- ✚ Aly Balsom from the UK Farmers Weekly Magazine recently published 2 articles about the recent IGA Sheep Conference:



1. <http://www.fwi.co.uk/Articles/2009/06/11/116062/new-irish-sheep-genetic-index-launched.html>
2. <http://www.fwi.co.uk/Articles/2009/06/23/116294/irish-sheep-conference-shows-benefits-of-eid.html>

4. Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The cutoff date for data entering the new routine evaluation is 10th of July. The deadline for ICBF to submit data to Interbull for the International evaluation is Tue August 4th. Results are due back from Interbull on August 18th.
- ✚ All aspects of the on-going developments to EBI will be discussed at the dairy industry meeting on Wednesday 1st July. The draft agenda for the meeting is as follows:
 1. Developments in Dairy Evaluations
 - Genomic evaluations – technical developments.
 - Calving Interval and Survival Evaluations – use of insemination data
 - Review economic values in EBI.
 - Beef Sub-Index; live-weight/efficiency, cull cow & calf value.
 - Easy-care cow – health & fertility traits.
 - Test-day models for milk production traits.
 - Culling Indexes.
 - Interbull test runs.
 - Linear type.
 2. ICBF Genomic Services – Draft proposition
 3. Any other business.

5. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 16/06/09 to 26/06/09.								
	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	1,045	87	24.2	3.74	3.23	1.69	457
CAVAN	35	1,812	52	25.2	3.70	3.22	1.74	348
CLARE	26	1,360	52	23.9	3.74	3.33	1.69	390
CORK STH	247	16,505	67	23.4	3.86	3.43	1.71	270
CORK NTH	280	20,532	73	23.4	3.80	3.41	1.69	276
DONEGAL	5	259	52	27.3	3.55	3.38	1.89	228
DUBLIN	7	595	85	22.0	3.97	3.35	1.61	518
GALWAY	14	1,441	103	21.9	4.04	3.36	1.62	348
KERRY	94	5,640	60	23.5	3.69	3.22	1.62	367
KILDARE	17	1,356	80	26.0	3.62	3.37	1.82	436
KILKENNY	62	4,353	70	22.9	3.68	3.39	1.62	215
LAOIS	40	2,948	74	21.4	4.01	3.41	1.59	422
LEITRIM	4	197	49	30.4	4.01	3.27	2.21	250
LIMERICK	122	9,031	74	23.5	3.68	3.29	1.64	386
LONGFORD	8	311	39	26.0	3.64	3.34	1.81	167
LOUTH	30	2,475	83	24.9	3.62	3.28	1.72	251
MAYO	25	1,317	53	24.8	3.56	3.40	1.73	485

MEATH	65	6,282	97	23.3	3.70	3.26	1.62	324
MONAGHAN	34	1,896	56	24.8	3.76	3.26	1.74	264
OFFALY	44	2,858	65	23.8	3.77	3.36	1.70	300
ROSCOMMON	3	228	76	28.9	4.10	3.21	2.11	296
SLIGO	11	437	40	27.0	3.38	3.43	1.84	370
TIPPERARY NTH	61	4,848	79	22.7	3.83	3.43	1.65	282
TIPPERARY STH	64	4,388	69	22.5	3.78	3.34	1.60	281
WATERFORD	60	5,410	90	22.4	4.14	3.54	1.72	245
WESTMEATH	26	1,979	76	22.9	3.74	3.23	1.60	291
WEXFORD	70	5,181	74	21.6	3.54	3.48	1.52	321
WICKLOW E	25	1,634	65	24.2	3.49	3.36	1.66	305
WICKLOW W	9	871	97	23.2	3.92	3.30	1.68	313
	<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	1,500	107,189	70	24.2	3.76	3.34	1.72	324

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 16/06/09 to 26/06/09.

Provincial	<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>
Munster	954	67,714	71	23.2	3.73	3.37	1.64	312
Leinster	415	31,888	77	23.6	3.76	3.34	1.67	332
Connacht	57	3,620	64	26.6	3.66	3.33	1.86	350
Ulster	74	3,967	54	25.8	4.06	3.29	1.89	280

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 26/06/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 26/06/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 26/06/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 26/06/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,036	819	40%	165,418	64,968	39%
Dairygold	1,486	551	37%	109,952	42,157	38%
Kerry	883	64	7%	59,180	3,733	6%
SWS	854	112	13%	58,614	8,190	14%
Tipperary	133	54	41%	10,530	4,587	44%
Arrabawn	139	114	82%	11,174	9,412	84%
Connacht	128	41	32%	8,101	2,516	31%
Donegal	28	28	100%	3,090	3,090	100%
Total	5,687	1,783	31%	426,059	138,653	33%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 26/06/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 26/06/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	168,668	165,418	-2.0%
Dairygold	110,855	109,952	-0.8%
Kerry	75,224	59,180	-27.1%
SWS	58,263	58,614	0.6%
Tipperary	11,829	10,530	-12.3%
Arrabawn	12,026	11,174	-7.6%
Connacht	8,302	8,101	-2.5%
Donegal	3,191	3,090	-3.3%
Total	448,358	426,059	-5.2%

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