



Update for period 20th – 26th May 2006

1 Important Dates

- **Thursday 15th June**, Finance Sub-Committee.
- **Thursday 22nd June**, 10:30-1:00, Board Meeting, Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **30-31st May** 8.30am – 6.00pm, IRIS User Group Meeting, Rosscarbery.
- **3rd – 9th June**, ICAR Session & Interbull Meeting, Kuopio, Finland.

2 IRIS User Group Meeting

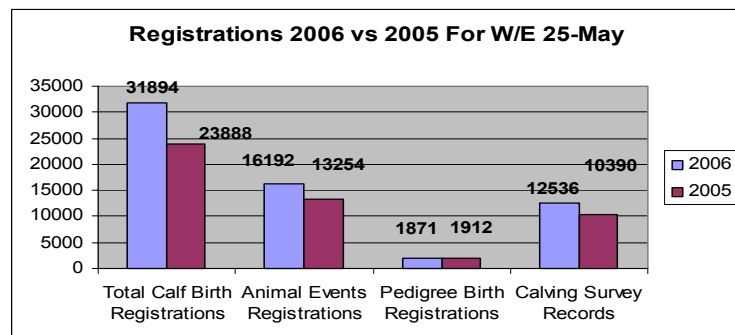
- ICBF is hosting a meeting of the IRIS User Group next week. This meeting will be attended by representatives of the countries and organisations who use the IRIS database to support the information needs of their breeding industries.
- The topics being discussed include experiences with IRIS and priorities for future development.
- Field trips have been organized to show how ICBF, and its service providing members, use IRIS to support data recording and cattle breeding information services to Irish farmers.

3 Genetic Evaluations – Beef & Dairy

- Draft Proofs for bulls with AI codes were distributed to the industry for comment. Official Proofs will be released next week.
- Work continues for the GENE IRELAND[®] Dairy Test bulls from Spring 2005 re: Insemination records, On-Farm record keeping etc.
- Work continues on the issues highlighted at the last Beef industry meeting including the maternal sub-index, genetic parameters and linear type evaluations.
- Further improvements have been made to the Hereford International Pedigree File & the Limousin file for the prototype genetic evaluation.

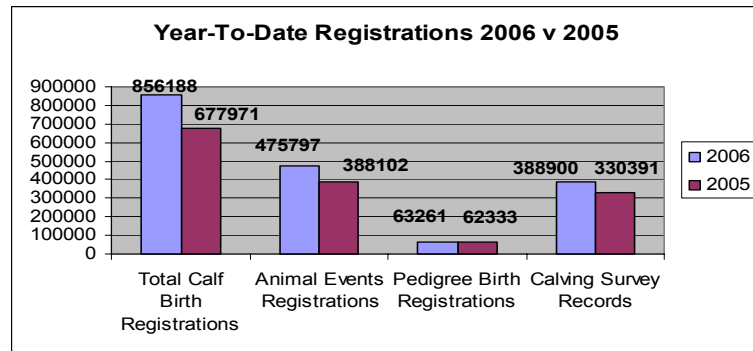
4 Database Update

- 72 new herds added to the database last week
- Over 75,000 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds. This is an average of 1000 per handheld.
- Further report development to support the AI handheld application is on-going.
- The standby database is now operational.





- 507 week 3 fertility reports have been issued so far. 129 week 6 reports have also issued. Feedback is very positive.
- The new load of dairy genetic evaluations is nearing completion and will be available next week.
- Development of a front end for sending text messages from ICBF is ongoing.



- A web page that allows farmers enter pregnancy data directly is now available on the Online Reports part of the website.
- Development has started on an internal system for entering GENE Ireland data into the database.

5 Milk Recording Update

MR Stats week ending 26/05/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 19/05/06 - 26/05/06
Progressive	417
Dairygold	208
Kerry	180
SWS	164
Arrabawn	28
Tipperary	17
Donegal	9
Connacht	30
Total	1,023

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 26/05/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 26/05/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 26/05/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 26/05/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,048	1,975	-4%	132,733	134,318	1%
Dairygold	1,460	1,501	3%	80,395	89,136	11% *
Kerry	1,058	1,065	1%	59,229	61,933	5%
SWS	929	935	1%	49,561	52,402	6%
Tipperary	141	154	9%	8,108	9,736	20% *
Arrabawn	107	154	44%	6,065	9,671	59% *
Connacht	108	113	5%	6,268	6,419	2%
Donegal	15	36	140%	1,384	2,886	109% *
Total	5,866	5,933	1%	343,743	366,501	7%

* Increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

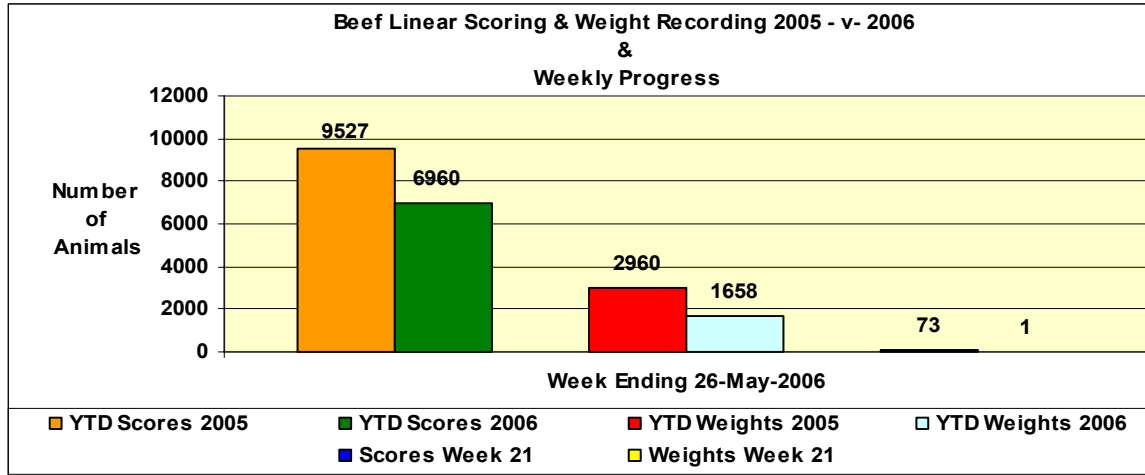


6 Tully

- All bull inspections are complete for the next intake and 140 bulls have been sent for health testing.
- It is expected that all bulls will be in the station by mid June and test will begin shortly after that.
- New troughs are being installed in the second shed and this is almost complete.

7 Linear Scoring

- Training of linear scorers will take place from the 17-19 of July.



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