



UPDATE – for period 20th September – 26th September 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✦ **9th to 11th October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet. For details see www.ihfa.ie.
- ✦ **11th and 12th October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart. For details see www.beefexpoireland.ie.
- ✦ **Thursday 23rd October** – ICBF Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.
- ✦ **Thursday 23rd October** – Interim Sheep Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.

2 Sheep

Actions this week included:

- ✦ The Sheep Ireland database is now being setup. This will take some time to complete and will be used to support the Sheep Ireland performance recording and genetic evaluation services for spring 2009.
- ✦ All breeders (including existing and past users of the PSBIP service provided by DAFF) will be invited to join the Sheep Ireland performance recording and genetic evaluation service for spring 2009.
- ✦ Lists of rams and ewes are to be sent to existing breeders to identify the animals that will participate in the Sheep Ireland performance recording and genetic evaluation service for spring 2009.
- ✦ Protocols are being developed for the recording of new traits.
- ✦ The breeding scheme (central progeny test and maternal lamb producers) structures and operational aspects are being designed in detail and will be presented to interested parties in the near future.
- ✦ Planning of workshops for service users has commenced.
- ✦ Planning of a meeting with sheep flock books has commenced. A date has yet to be finalized.
- ✦ Discussions with DAFF in relation to the use of the NSIS identification system for breeding are scheduled for Tuesday next week.
- ✦ Tim Byrne has been contracted to provide further technical support for our sheep breeding developments.



3 Genetic Evaluations

General

- ✦ Staff from the evaluation unit were in attendance at the ICBF stand at the Ploughing Championships in Kilkenny.
- ✦ Work this week continues on the implementation of a sampling tool for ongoing assessment of breed information in genetic evaluations and its consequences for the accuracy of EBVs.

Beef carcass cut yields project

- ✦ The work of estimation of genetic parameters for carcass cut yields in Irish beef cattle has been submitted to a scientific journal this week.
- ✦ The next part of the work has started in collaboration with E+V, the company that created and manage the carcass grading machines used in Ireland, and Teagasc. The objective of this work is to predict the beef cuts from the digital images taken after slaughter.



4 Ploughing

The ICBF stand at Ploughing was busy over all three glorious days. Our focus was on the services that ICBF provides directly to beef and dairy herd owners. That is, HerdPlus[®], GENE IRELAND[®] and GROW.



ICBF's stand at Ploughing (on left behind HerdPlus sign) was in the livestock area and was visited by many dairy and beef farmers interested in HerdPlus, GENE IRELAND[®], GROW and other services provided by ICBF. Note the Ice Cream van – we saw a lot of ice cream each day!



The ICBF genetic evaluation system for computing the EBI (for dairy) and SBV (for beef) was discussed with many interested farmers. Ross Evans (on right) participated in many such discussions over his two days on the ICBF stand.



A live connection (via the web) to the ICBF database provided farmers with the opportunity to discuss their own herds and the information services now available to them. Martin Burke (left) is seen here with an interested farmer.

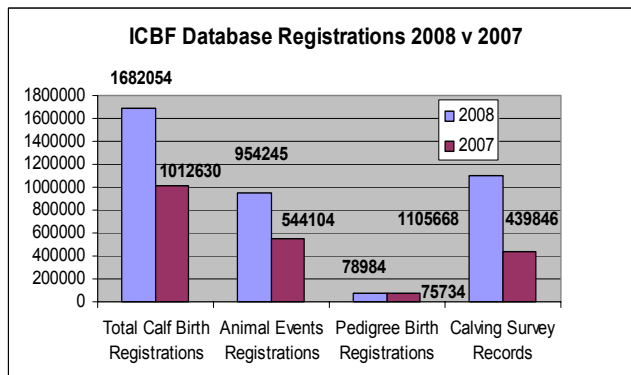
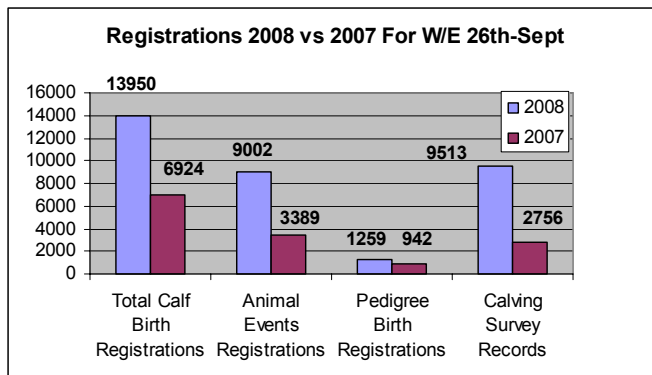


Visitors to our stand included Michael Murphy and his family, seen here with Rachel Wood (in foreground). Michael bred one of the bulls used in the 2005 GENE IRELAND[®] program.

A special thanks to all the members of the ICBF Team whose efforts ensured our presence at Ploughing was a success. Only by going above and beyond the “call of duty” were our team able to deal with the logistics of setting up (and dismantling) the site and ensuring our onsite team of 7 to 9 were readily available to all visitors over the three day event.



5 Database



- 501,138 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 349,989 in 2007 for the same period.
- The work on revamping the AI software for next season is continuing. Next week we will meet with the Munster and Dovea groups.
- At this stage, over 50,000 suckler herds have had at least one calving in 2008. The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 350,000.
- Work on the Teagasc Discussion Group reports is coming to an end. The revised reports are available through the Discussion Group application.
- The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues, with the work focused on the back-end. Once this piece of work is completed, we will engage with the milk recording organisations in terms of how screens/functionality etc will need to be updated to take account of their needs.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 16/09/08 to 26/09/08.

	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	607	51	16.8	4.47	3.74	1.38	348
CAVAN	37	2,308	62	18.6	4.56	3.61	1.52	226
CLARE	25	1,411	56	18.0	4.56	3.68	1.48	273
CORK STH	231	14,607	63	19.5	4.53	3.65	1.60	298
CORK NTH	261	17,518	67	17.9	4.56	3.66	1.47	284
DONEGAL	13	1,198	92	14.8	4.54	3.54	1.20	264
DUBLIN	6	395	66	18.0	4.42	3.51	1.43	434
GALWAY	20	1,325	66	22.0	4.52	3.48	1.76	369
KERRY	99	6,460	65	18.7	4.49	3.52	1.50	339
KILDARE	18	1,259	70	20.3	4.5	3.63	1.65	313
KILKENNY	49	3,260	67	16.2	4.47	3.69	1.32	257
LAOIS	42	2,955	70	15.9	4.49	3.71	1.30	276
LEITRIM	4	192	48	19.4	4.49	3.52	1.55	378
LIMERICK	113	7,022	62	18.0	4.54	3.55	1.46	342
LONGFORD	6	363	61	17.5	4.5	3.6	1.42	321



LOUTH	23	1,737	76	21.7	4.54	3.48	1.74	257
MAYO	23	1,322	57	21.3	4.56	3.59	1.74	332
MEATH	61	5,124	84	18.2	4.53	3.6	1.48	321
MONAGHAN	42	1,880	45	20.4	4.54	3.43	1.63	276
OFFALY	19	1,568	83	17.6	4.53	3.67	1.44	302
ROSCOMMON	2	168	84	20.8	4.45	3.39	1.63	255
SLIGO	15	624	42	19.8	4.52	3.62	1.61	499
TIPPERARY NTH	48	3,483	73	15.2	4.52	3.87	1.28	297
TIPPERARY STH	55	3,546	64	16.5	4.48	3.63	1.34	321
WATERFORD	49	3,827	78	15.8	4.5	3.74	1.30	271
WESTMEATH	27	2,053	76	18.5	4.54	3.6	1.51	276
WEXFORD	80	5,003	63	18.2	4.48	3.67	1.48	288
WICKLOW E	18	1,116	62	18.2	4.51	3.53	1.46	335
WICKLOW W	12	872	73	18.6	4.53	3.6	1.51	338
	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	1,410	93,203	66	18.4	4.51	3.60	1.49	313

"The Average Fat and Protein percentage values in this (September 26th) Update were posted incorrectly on Friday 26th. These values have now being amended. We apologise for the error".

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 16/09/08 to 26/09/08.

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	881	57,874	66	17.5	4.50	3.66	1.43	303
Leinster	373	26,312	71	18.1	4.50	3.62	1.47	313
Connacht	64	3,631	57	20.7	4.52	3.52	1.66	367
Ulster	92	5,386	59	17.9	4.50	3.53	1.44	255

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 26/09/08

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 26/09/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 26/09/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 26/09/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 26/09/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,228	908	41%	179,134	70,792	40%
Dairygold	1,685	632	38%	123,144	48,100	39%
Kerry	1,159	247	21%	78,792	16,124	20%
SWS	913	132	14%	61,503	9,467	15%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	12,980	5,755	73%
Arrabawn	165	137	83%	12,786	10,783	84%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,262	4,279	42%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,779	4,779	100%
Total	6,529	2,246	34%	483,380	170,079	35%



Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 26/09/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 26/09/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 26/09/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	154,851	164,404	179,134	13.6%
Dairygold	103,056	110,522	123,144	10.2%
Kerry	69,851	71,362	78,792	11.3%
SWS	58,786	60,197	61,503	2.1%
Tipperary	11,753	12,228	12,980	5.8%
Arrabawn	10,998	11,833	12,786	7.5%
Connacht	8,994	10,011	10,262	2.4%
Donegal	5,160	3,885	4,779	18.7%
Total	423,449	444,442	483,380	8.1%

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