

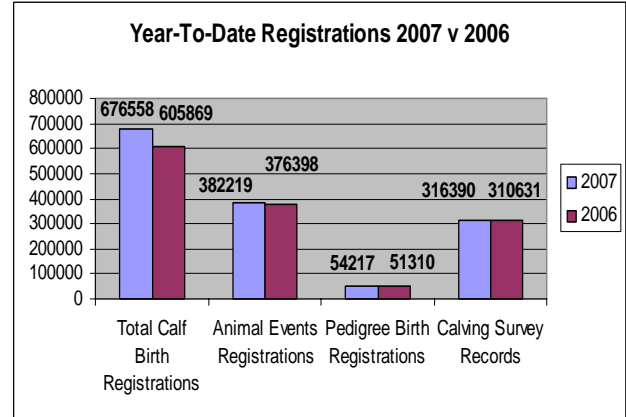
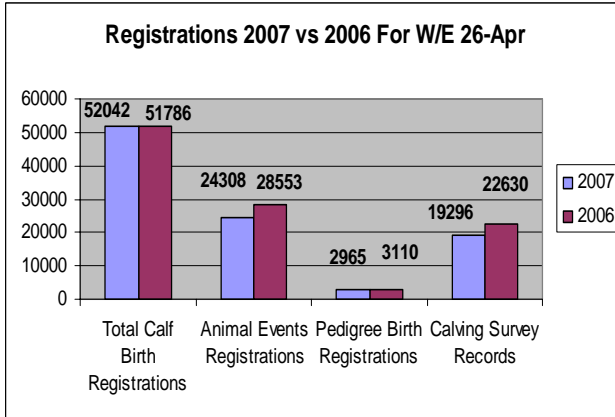


UPDATE – for period 21st – 27th April 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Beef Open Day Tuesday 1st May, starting at 11:00am** Jim Delaney Farm, Portlaoise, Board Bia Quality Producer.
- ✚ **ICBF Board meeting** on Thursday 3rd May 2007. Comfort Inn Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Annual General Meeting** on Thursday 3rd May at 2.30pm. Comfort Inn Portlaoise.

2 Database Update



- ✚ 74,750 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 25,769 in 2006 for the same period. Farmers are continuing to respond very favorably to the inbreeding functionality the handheld provides.
- ✚ The use of the Sire Advice program is on-going at the rate of around 100 'Sire Advice runs' per day. Those herds operating on a technician service have had the results of the Sire Advice loaded to the AI handhelds, where the herd owner had indicated that this was to be the case.
- ✚ Some tweaks to the new Herdbook front end are continuing and further iteration of the facility will be issued next week. Good progress has been made on a number of the tasks arising out of the recent meeting with the Herdbooks.
- ✚ The new season fertility reports are being generated, and are being issued to HerdPlus members – see the HerdPlus section for a sample report.
- ✚ Some further refinements are being made to the Eurostar catalogue for beef herdbooks this week and these are now undergoing final testing.

3 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy Genetic evaluations

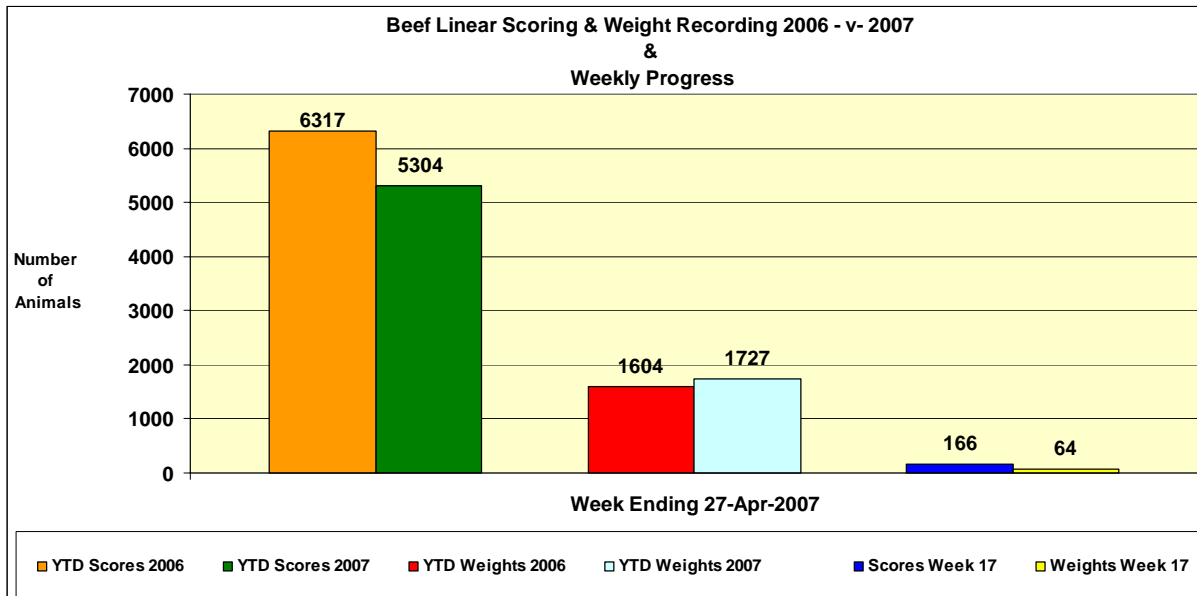
- ✚ Milk production evaluation has been completed and files are being prepared for submission to Interbull next week (Tue 2nd). These are due back on 14th May and an official publication date will be advised next week.
- ✚ Linear type evaluations for Hol-Fr have been completed.
- ✚ Transfer of the calving interval and survival evaluation from Lelystad to ICBF is almost complete. New files will be prepared and submitted to Interbull next week.
- ✚ A new calving performance evaluation is currently being run for inclusion in the next EBI run



Beef Genetic Evaluations

- A new calving performance evaluation is currently being run for all breeds.
- Beef extracts have been completed and a new beef performance evaluation and linear evaluation will commence early next week.
- Staff attended a beef mart event in Tuam during the week.
- Work on constructing Eurostar indexes from French proofs was undertaken. This work is necessary to allow the calculation of Irish indexes for young French born Limousin and Charolais bulls.

4 Beef Linear Scoring



5 Tully

- 63 bulls were sent to the factory on Thursday with the remainder scheduled for next week. Half from the March intake and half from the May intake.
- Bulls will be exported to Italy on Monday and 3 bulls will also go to Scotland on Tuesday.
- 49 survey responses have been received from bull owners. These show a strong desire for Tully to continue. We greatly appreciate the time taken by bull owners to give us their opinions. All opinions are being taken into account in deciding on the future operation of Tully.
- A meeting was held on Tuesday to obtain expert advice on the best strategy for reducing the risk of a future outbreak of IBR. The conclusion reached was that the risk could be substantially reduced with the key steps being the introduction of improved protocols (covering biosecurity, enhanced testing, etc) at all herds of origin, at isolation facilities prior to entry to Tully, and at Tully itself.
- A discussion paper on the future of Tully has been prepared for consideration by the Board of ICBF.

6 Gene Ireland

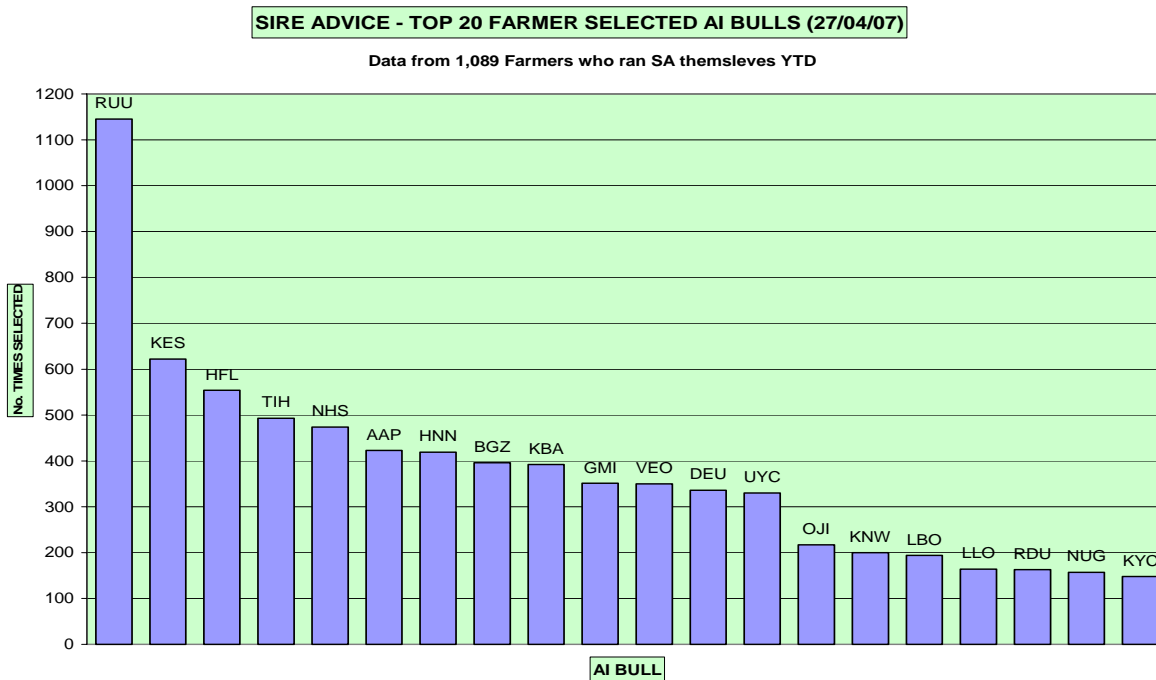
- Signing up of dairy herds is winding down. We now have a total of 667 herds participating in this springs dairy programme.
- Last week there was a backlog of herds for semen dispatch but after a busy week in the Mallow Lab we are almost back on track.
- There are currently 136 herds for which semen has yet to be packed and dispatched.



✚ To date 30 bulls have had their quota of straws sent out to farmers.

7 HerdPlus

✚ **Sire Advice activity:** To date 1,089 dairy farmers ran the program themselves - Graph shows top 20 Bulls selected by these farmers (advanced program).



✚ **2007 Fertility Reports** – those HerdPlus clients who started inseminating more than 21 days ago, will see their 3 week Reproductive Performance reports on www.icbf.com this weekend. (Postal clients will receive printed copies in the post). An example of this Reproductive Performance report is attached to this update.

8 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 27/04/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 27/04/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 27/04/07
Progressive	116,325	110,802	115,925
Dairygold	62,134	67,564	74,709
Kerry	48,388	49,347	50,684
SWS	43,159	44,291	46,033
Tipperary	6,012	6,690	8,108
Arrabawn	3,528	5,606	7,313
Connacht	5,530	5,579	6,017
Donegal	0	535	589
Total	285,076	290,414	309,378



Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 20/04/07 - 27/04/07
Progressive	394
Dairygold	224
Kerry	172
SWS	151
Arrabawn	29
Tipperary	22
Connacht	33
Total	1,025

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**Reproductive Performance,
Week 3 : First report - Spring 2007**

LoCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: TEST HERD
Herd Number: IE1234567
Report Date: 21/04/2007

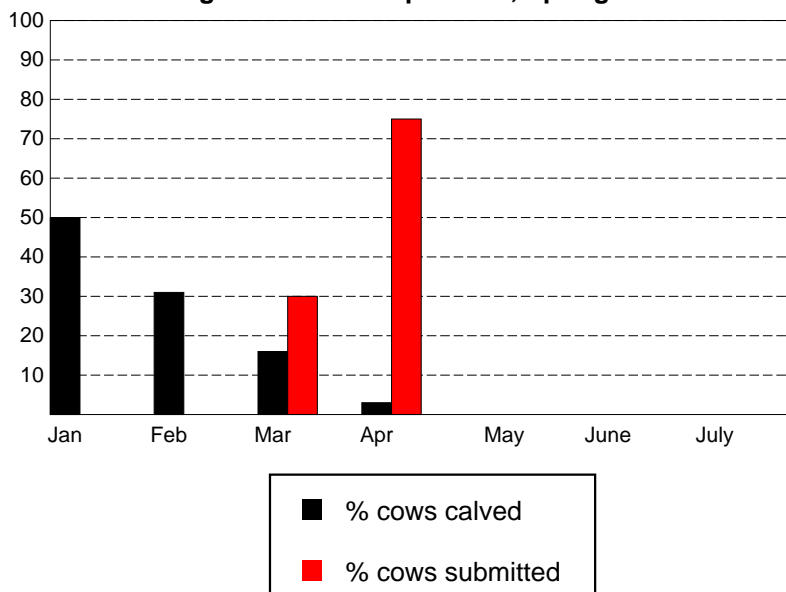
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1. Summary

This report is a summary of the reproductive performance of all cows that calved since **Jan 1st 2007** and are available for service during the current breeding season. Maiden heifers are not included. The data is based on information recorded in Animal Events, online, email packages and AI handhelds.

Calving	
Calving period	
Start	02/01/2007
Median	31/01/2007
Finish/Last calving	09/04/2007
Related events	
Total cows calved during the calving period	32
Calving interval (days)	386 days
% cows calved by 6 weeks	73%
Mating	
Mating Start Date (MSD)	24/03/2007
Cows calved and served within 21 days of MSD	19
Number of serves within 21 days of MSD	19

Calving & submission patterns, Spring 2007



2. Herd Performance

The performance of your herd has been expressed relative to other recorded herds (with a minimum of 30 calvings)

			Btm 15%	Achievable	Top 15%
a. 21-day Submission rate (%) <small>% of cows submitted for mating within 21 days of MSD, (19 cows) as a proportion of the herd calved up to 21 days after MSD (35 cows)</small>	Your Herd	54%	23%		63%
	National Average	43%			
b. % cows calved > 30 days & not yet submitted <small>% of cows calved > 30 days at MSD (27 cows) and not yet submitted within 21 days of MSD (8 cows)</small>	Your Herd	30%	64%		24%
	National Average	45%			
c. % cows calved > 50 days & not yet submitted <small>% of cows calved > 50 days at MSD (20 cows) and not yet submitted within 21 days of MSD (4 cows)</small>	Your Herd	20%	61%		18%
	National Average	41%			

Note : The AI data in this report is based on what is **recorded** in the database so far.

Reproductive Performance, Week 3 : First report - Spring 2007

Herd Owner: TEST HERD
Herd Number: IE1234567
Report Date: 21/04/2007

3. Herd performance by lactation no., BCS, calving history and days calved.

This report is a summary of the reproductive performance of all cows that calved since Jan 1st 2007 and are available for service during the current breeding season. Maiden heifers are not included. The insemination data is based on information recorded in Animal Events, online, email packages and AI handhelds.

Overall	21-day submission rate		
	Cows (*)	Subm. (**)	% Submitted Overall
Overall	35	19	54%
Lactation Number	Cows	Subm.	% Submitted By Lactation
Lactation 1	9	6	67%
Lactation 2	8	4	50%
Lactation 3 - 5	14	8	57%
Lactation >=6	4	1	25%
Body condition score (BCS)	Cows	Subm.	% Submitted By BCS
BCS High (>2.75)			
BCS Medium (2.25-2.75)			
BCS Low (<2.25)			
Calving Ease history	Cows	Subm.	% Submitted By Calving Ease History
Difficult (3 or 4)	0	0	0%
Normal (1 or 2)	34	18	53%
Unknown	1	1	100%
Days calved	Cows	Subm.	% Submitted By Days Calved
< 42 days	6	0	0%
42 - 84 days	13	6	46%
>84 days	16	13	81%

* All cows calved since Jan 1st 2007 and available for service up to MSD + 21

** Number of those cows submitted for service within 21 days of MSD

MSD is 24/03/2007

Reproductive Performance, Week 3 : First report - Spring 2007

Herd Owner: TEST HERD

Herd Number: IE1234567

Report Date: 21/04/2007

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4. Action List

Do not return this sheet to the Animal Events office.

The following cows may have reproductive problems and should be investigated further.

Cows not yet submitted for service that have calved greater than 30 days

FB	Cow ID	Lact	Calving Date	Days in Milk	Problems/Treatments
1	IE123456760291	2	09/02/2007	71 days	
2	IE123456780382	1	06/03/2007	46 days	
3	IE123456740343	1	17/01/2007	94 days	
4	IE123456790274	2	15/01/2007	96 days	
5	IE123456750105	8	27/02/2007	53 days	
18	IE123456750218	2	18/03/2007	34 days	
20	IE123456720320	5	21/03/2007	31 days	
54	IE123456720254	2	22/02/2007	58 days	
134	IE123456760134	3	23/01/2007	88 days	
206	IE123456750206	5	04/02/2007	76 days	
207	IE123456750207	6	02/01/2007	109 days	
364	IE123456750364	1	13/03/2007	39 days	
688	IE123456740688	3	21/02/2007	59 days	