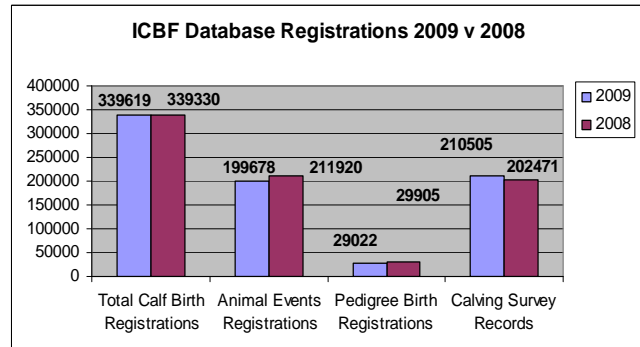
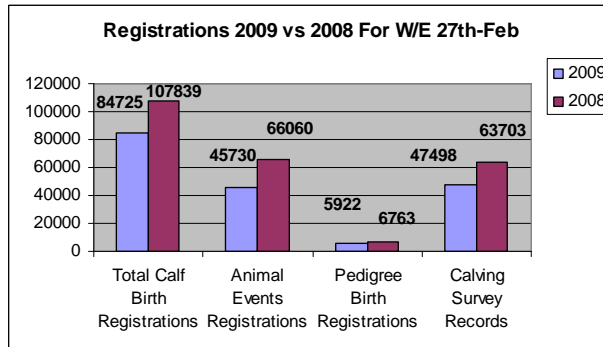


1. Important Dates

✚ **Thursday 2nd April 2009.** ICBF Board Meeting Portlaoise 10:30-14:00

✚ **Thursday 2nd April 2009.** Sheep Ireland Board Meeting, Portlaoise. 14:00 – 16:30

2. Database

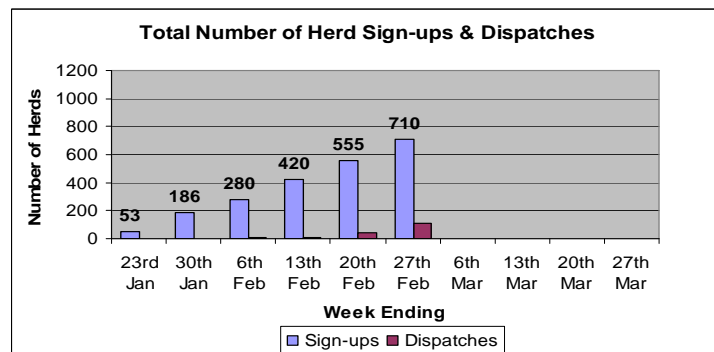


- ✚ 28,815 inseminations have been received so far in 2009, compared with 28,134 in 2008 for the same period.
- ✚ The final group of AI technicians (PG-South Midlands) will migrate to the 2009 AI software on Monday and Tuesday next.
- ✚ The 2009 Suckler Scheme calvings are continuing at a solid rate. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 747,000, with just over 649,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Testing will begin next week, and it is envisaged that the milk recording organisations will begin to see the application for testing the week after (week beginning March 9th).
- ✚ Updates to the Sire Advice application are now live.
- ✚ Development on the sheep application continues, with on-going updates being released.

1. GENÉIRELAND[®]

Dairy

- ✚ There are 44 new herds to the program that didn't take straws in spring 2008, taking an average of 55 straws each.
- ✚ The pack option of 3 HOFR and 2 pure FR is proving quite popular, with 68 herds taking 25 or 35 straws of this mix. Another 28 herds are taking a combination of these breeds but with greater straw numbers (i.e. 49, 70, etc).
- ✚ Analysis of the 667 herds to date, that took part last spring:
 - Approximately 20% of the herds have chosen a different breed pack (e.g. HOFR to Mixed or XBRED or vice versa).



- 421 herds (63%) have requested the same number of straws.
- 127 herds (19%) have requested a greater number of straws.
- 118 herds (18%) have requested a smaller number of straws.

Beef

- ✚ Sign ups have reached 207 herds taking an average of 18 straws each. 67 herds ahead of the same week last year.
- ✚ The Simmental bull SEV is now finished, becoming the 4th Simmental bull tested.
- ✚ He has been replaced by the interesting new bull RWV. See picture on right.
- ✚ Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.



BREED	CH	LM	SI	SI	BB	PT	BA	BA	AA	AA	AA	HE	SH
CODE	KLU	CWI	RWV	SKU	RSA	KCP	WOA	CDK	RWB	FPG	LZE	BXD	CZB
#	594	349	40	329	418	197	296	35	217	65	130	251	35
STRAWS													

3. Tully

- ✚ Bulls are being weighed today with letters and emails being sent out to bull owners and breed society secretaries.
- ✚ Application forms will be sent out early next week to farmers who own bulls that meet the criteria for the next intake in May.
- ✚ Bulls are again being advertised this week in the Irish Farmers Journal and are attracting a lot of interest.

2. Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

- ✚ A draft ICBF Active Bull List will be released to the dairy industry today for comment and feedback. The list will be made official on Tuesday 2nd March and will then be published in next weeks IFJ Spring AI supplement.
- ✚ This list includes the changes agreed at the most recent ICBF board meeting regarding the addition of bulls which have genomic information included in their proof and with a minimum reliability for calving difficulty of 50% and a minimum reliability for overall EBI of 35%.
- ✚ ICBF staff gave introductory presentations on the science behind genomic selection and its effect on the Active Bull List at three Munster dairy roadshows this week in Dungarvan, Cahir and Blarney.

Beef

- ✚ Work continues on the joint evaluation of docility data from the linear scoring and the AWRBS scheme. A new list of prototype bull proofs will be sent to the industry next week.

Carcass Meat Cut Project

- The final results of the regressions from the digital images to predict selected meat cut weight (Meat cut file provided by Teagasc Grange and a commercial outlet) has been received from E+V GmbH this week. Analysis of these results has started.

4. Lambplus[®]

- Final changes are being made to some of the Lambplus screens based on feedback that was received. We expect to have these changes in place next week.
- Lambing, Mating & Rearing sheets for Flockowners signed up to the 'Paper' service will be sent out this week. The posting of these forms was held up until now to ensure as many completed inventory sheets as possible were returned for keying.
- The retrieval & keying of NSIS tag numbers for ewes & rams in the MALP flocks is ongoing.
- A system for ordering, delivering & applying EID tags to lambs & ewes in these flocks has also been agreed.
- A trial run for performing FEC analysis has been agreed so as to investigate whether there is a necessity for setting up a laboratory to perform this work in the short term.



3. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 17/02/09 to 27/02/09

	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	6	360	60	25.5	4.09	3.49	1.93	336
CAVAN	27	982	36	23.4	3.94	3.36	1.71	352
CLARE	3	61	20	22.0	3.88	3.35	1.59	249
CORK STH	183	8515	47	24.1	4.06	3.31	1.78	386
CORK NTH	138	7101	51	23.0	4.27	3.40	1.76	382
DUBLIN	6	393	66	22.4	4.35	3.53	1.77	568
GALWAY	4	177	44	24.6	4.21	3.39	1.87	274
KERRY	65	2563	39	23.8	4.03	3.27	1.74	351
KILDARE	12	696	58	22.9	4.04	3.41	1.71	384
KILKENNY	17	945	56	23.0	4.11	3.47	1.74	356
LAOIS	15	657	44	23.2	4.12	3.47	1.76	398
LEITRIM	9	335	37	23.9	3.77	3.26	1.68	265
LIMERICK	61	2520	41	25.3	4.09	3.36	1.88	394
LONGFORD	4	164	41	21.6	4.27	3.47	1.67	352
LOUTH	14	835	60	23.7	3.98	3.50	1.77	289
MAYO	6	171	29	18.4	3.51	3.24	1.24	368
MEATH	42	2891	69	23.9	3.90	3.36	1.74	385
MONAGHAN	35	1151	33	24.3	3.91	3.26	1.74	269
OFFALY	11	384	35	21.2	4.07	3.31	1.56	378
ROSCOMMON	3	161	54	23.5	4.57	3.64	1.93	240
SLIGO	5	190	38	22.4	3.31	3.15	1.45	195
TIPPERARY NTH	7	304	43	23.9	3.97	3.49	1.78	501
TIPPERARY STH	6	358	60	16.3	4.05	3.23	1.19	322
WATERFORD	21	1356	65	22.7	4.20	3.30	1.70	276
WESTMEATH	17	1036	61	25.8	4.28	3.39	1.98	440

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 17/02/09 to 27/02/09

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
WEXFORD	45	2312	51	23.4	4.04	3.35	1.73	291
WICKLOW E	18	1122	62	22.9	3.68	3.34	1.61	309
WICKLOW W	10	903	90	25.7	3.58	3.35	1.78	280
	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	790	38,643	50	23.1	4.01	3.37	1.71	343

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 17/02/09 to 27/02/09

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	484	22,778	47	22.6	4.07	3.34	1.68	358
Leinster	226	13,033	58	23.5	4.02	3.41	1.74	359
Connacht	27	1,034	38	22.6	3.87	3.34	1.63	268
Ulster	62	2,133	34	23.9	3.93	3.31	1.73	311

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 27/02/09

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 27/02/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 27/02/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 27/02/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 27/02/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,057	210	20%	63,206	12,929	20%
Dairygold	323	28	9%	17,898	1,870	10%
Kerry	257	2	1%	11,447	173	2%
SWS	397	8	2%	17,946	805	4%
Tipperary	20	3	15%	933	193	21%
Arrabawn	13	6	46%	589	291	49%
Connacht	56	0	0%	2,512	0	0%
Donegal	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Total	2,123	257	12%	114,531	16,261	14%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 27/02/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 27/02/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	65,982	63,206	-4.4%
Dairygold	14,715	17,898	17.8%
Kerry	12,556	11,447	-9.7%
SWS	17,639	17,946	1.7%
Tipperary	560	933	40.0%
Arrabawn	1,026	589	-74.2%
Connacht	3,493	2,512	-39.1%
Donegal	214	0	0.0%
Total	116,185	114,531	-1.4%

4. Change in our phone numbers

The ICBF phone numbers have changed. Our new numbers have “88” added to them after the area code (023). Please amend your files as soon as possible. The old numbers will continue to work until May of 2009.

Old Number (example)	New Number (example)
Phone: 023 20222	023 88 20222
Fax: 023 20229	023 88 20229

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