



UPDATE – for period 21st to 27th January 2006

1 Important Dates

- **31st January – 3rd February.** ICBF Herd Health Meetings for owners of high genetic index animals.
- **Thursday 2nd February.** ICBF Board meeting.
- **Wednesday 8th February at 2.00pm at Moorepark Conference Centre.** AI Industry Meeting with AI members and PAIO.
- **Saturday 18th February.** Tully Open Day 11.30am – 2.30pm. *On show will be the bulls for sale on the 4-3-06 and the 6-5-06.*
- **Saturday 4th March Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.
- **Saturday 6th May Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, Sale Commences at 12.00pm.

2 ICBF Herd Health Meetings for owners of high genetic index animals

These meetings are currently underway with 2 out of the 7 regional meetings now completed. The meetings are focused on giving support (short-term and long-term) to those herd-owners that have bulls of interest to the Tully performance test centre and to AI. In addition, time is allocated at the end of each meeting to discuss the new beef indexes. Feed-back on the 2 meetings to-date has been hugely positive, with very positive interaction between breeders and the speakers. *All herd-books are encouraged to ensure that their “key breeders” please attend these meetings. They will not be disappointed.*

Dates and venues for next weeks meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 31 Jan 2006	Meadow Court Hotel, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	6.30 PM
Wednesday 1 Feb 2006	Dolmen Hotel, Carlow Town, Co. Carlow.	2.00 PM
Thursday 2 Feb 2006	Munster Arms, Bandon, Co Cork.	2.00 PM
Friday 3 Feb 2006	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.	2.00 PM

3 ICBF Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting, Tuesday 24th January

A consultation meeting on beef genetic evaluations took place with the Irish beef industry on Tuesday 24th January in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. Some 50 people from various sectors of the industry attended the meeting. Key outcomes from the meeting were as follows;

1. **Optimal Beef Breeding Program for Ireland.**
 - Impact of varying the scheme size on optimal genetic gain.
 - Sensitivity of optimal gain to changes in economic assumptions
 - Impact of selecting for “terminal traits only” as opposed to “terminal and maternal traits” on genetic gain.
 - Importance of having information on feed intake on genetic gain.
 - Balance between accuracy (for traits such as survival) and generation interval on genetic gain.
2. **Developments in beef genetic evaluations.**
 - ICBF should proceed with a further beef evaluation run including latest data from Tully (for bulls on test).
 - ICBF should proceed with a further linear type “test” evaluation incorporating correlations between traits and historical data.
 - ICBF should update reliability calculations to include latest methodology.
 - ICBF should continue development work on international evaluations for beef traits.
 - ICBF and herd-books should actively encourage other countries (and herdbooks) to become involved in international evaluations
 - Beef EBI reports to be sent out by ICBF on behalf of ICBF and relevant herdbooks. Reports to include all pedigree animals on the farm and commercial sucklers.



4 Genetic Evaluations – Beef & Dairy

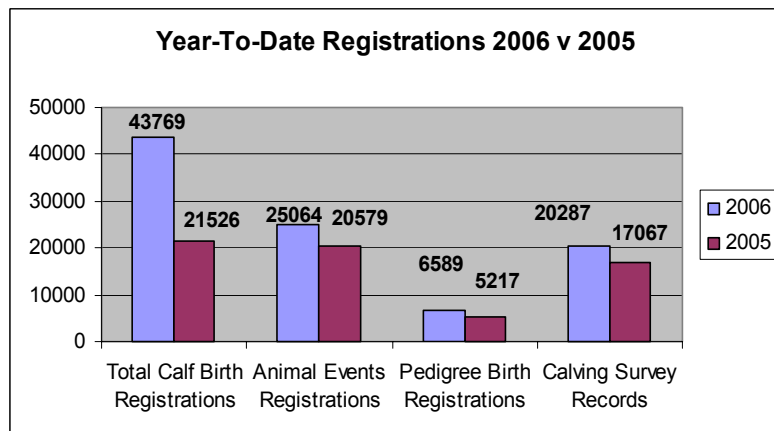
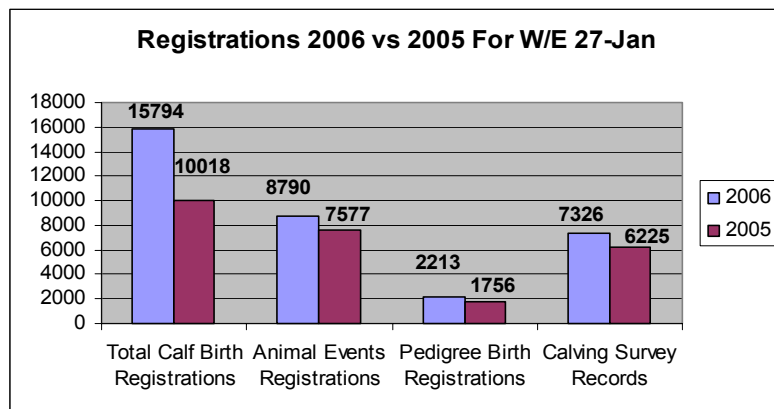
- Interbull files are currently being prepared for international evaluations.
- New CI and SURV evaluations for dairy breeds are currently being completed.
- A further beef evaluation (incorporating latest Tully data) has been completed.
- A new calving performance evaluation is due to start this weekend.

5 Tully

- Linear scoring of the bulls for the March sale will take place on the 31-1-06. The Final blup figures will be in the catalogue on the ICBF web site from the 8-2-06.
- The final weighing of the bulls for sale on the 4-3-06 will take place on the 13-2-06 and final EBI figures will be available on the ICBF web site from the 23-2-06.
- The catalogue for the November intake of bulls will be finalised on the 27-1-06 and will be up on the ICBF web site from the 31-1-06.
- A group of 10 beef farmers from Tyrone will visit Tully on the 31-1-06.

6 Database Update

- 608 new herds added to the database last week. This week, the majority were Dairygold and Dovea AI customers. About 400 New Herds forms received from PG will be incorporated in next weeks figures.
- The training of the AI technicians from Dairygold continued this week. Training also begun in Dovea this week. Training of call centre staff in PG will begin next week.
- The upgrade of the production database was completed last weekend. The upgrade was very successful, and only a couple of minor issues have arisen this week, which are being worked on.
- Programming of the herd-book rule changes have continued this week – it is expected that the majority of changes will be completed next week.
- New updates of the linear scoring handhelds are in process – this involves the updating of animals and herds as well as some reallocation of scoring areas to scorers.
- The work on the Stock Inventory report was finalised this week and will be available on the internet in the coming week.





7 Milk Recording

Electronic DIY Milk Recording Update

- **Tipperary/Arrabawn**
 - Arrabawn Lab can now output results from barcoded samples – tested OK
 - Jerry Ryan continuing his €DIY presentations at Milk Advisory meetings in Arrabawn area
 - Recruitment moving on a pace - 70 farmers scheduled to date with another 30 at least expected
 - Good response to Technician Advert – Interviews scheduled for Mon 30th and Tue 31st.
- **Connacht Gold**
 - Scheduled Meeting Feb 09th with Farm Services Management in Connacht Gold re EDIY service in 2006
- **SWS**
 - SWS Tech interviews - scheduling for Thu 02nd Feb
- **Kerry**
 - Lab software in process of modification to output EDIY barcoded samples
 - Kerry Management in process of deciding Cell location
- **Progressive Genetics**
 - Promotional Farm walk planned for Thurles Jan 31st
 - Promotional Farm walk planned for Athlone Feb 09th
 - Recruitment progressing well – working with Tipp/Arrabawn to ensure we maximize coverage between Tipp/Arrabawn Co-ops and Progressive Genetics cell - guarding against unnecessary overlap
 - ICBF forwarded software company contacts to Progressive to initiate Lab software changes to handle barcodes
- **Dairygold**
 - Herd recruitment going ahead full steam – early calvers now being trained on first recordings.
- **Donegal**
 - Recruitment drive continuing by area within county – farmers issued with info packs

Weekly Processing 27/01/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 20/01/06 - 27/01/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 20/01/05 - 27/01/05
Progressive	279	358
Dairygold	46	74
Kerry	61	58
SWS	58	74
Tipperary	4	9
Connacht	15	15
Arrabawn	4	1
Others (Donegal, OAD)	2	0
Total	469	589



Year to Date Stats: up to 27/1/06

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2006 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 1st - Jan 27th	2005 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2006 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 1st - Jan 27th	2005 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	1,159	2087	53,833	154,992
Dairygold	227	1529	8,794	98,832
Kerry	164	1066	7,107	68,193
SWS	257	939	8,794	56,257
Tipperary	18	142	793	9,412
Connacht	66	110	2,581	7,359
Arrabawn	14	109	494	7,188
Others (Donegal, OAD)	2	57	105	4,837
Total	1,907	6,039	82,501	407,070

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