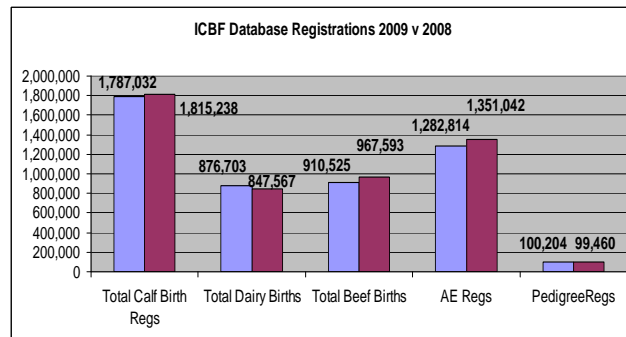
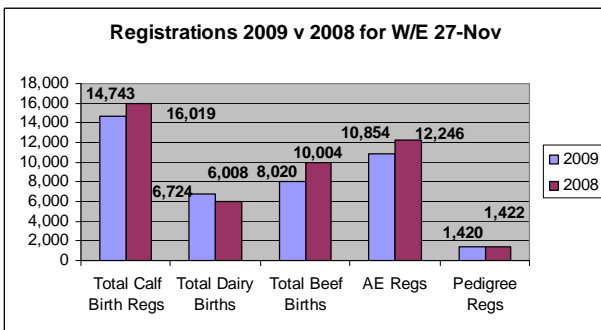


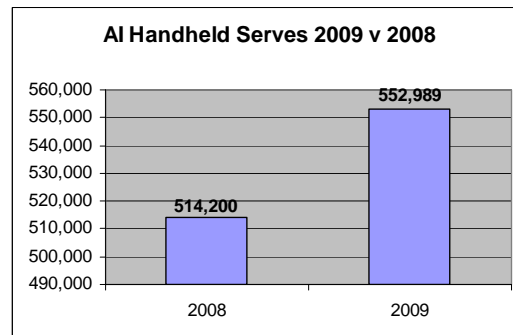
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 3rd December, 10:30 to 1:00 – Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. (please note change of venue).
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 3rd December, 14:00 to 16:00– Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise. (please note change of venue).
- ✚ **Dairy Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Wednesday 9th December, 10:30 to 15:00 – Moorepark.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® & HerdPlus® Dairy Conference** – Thursday 10th December, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy. Organised by ICBF and Sponsored by FBD.
- ✚ **EBI Discussion Group Competition Awards** - PM Thursday 10th December, Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy. Organised jointly by ICBF, Teagasc, Irish Farmers Journal and the ACC Bank.

2. Database



- ✚ All suckler scheme herds with a calving in 2009 have now received their first pre-weaning form. The number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 507,000, with the number of animals weaned at 314,000.
- ✚ All systems will be unavailable from 3pm today to facilitate a major infrastructure upgrade over the weekend.
- ✚ All four milk recording organisations are working well on the new Milk Recording system. We are continuing to update the software based on feedback from the organisations.
- ✚ We are working on a few of the final pieces of functionality that are being migrated from IRIS, to the web applications, and we'll be working with milk recording and herdbook organisations to tidy up the last loose ends next week.



- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008.

3. Computer Upgrade

- ✚ This weekend sees a significant infrastructure upgrade take place at ICBF. A new production server will be fully commissioned, and there will be some reorganization of existing development and back-up servers. These servers are the most recent version of the HP-Unix range that we have been using since ICBF's first database was installed. The servers will provide more processing power and have more internal memory

available to them than the current machines. We expect users will see improved performance in terms of access speed to the database.

- ✚ As part of the upgrade, we are also moving to a new storage solution, a Storage Area Network (SAN), which will provide ICBF with more storage space and the capability add more storage space to this platform as required over the coming years. The total disk capacity will be 50TB of space, based on current disk sizes.
- ✚ This weekend will also see the ICBF Wide Area Network (WAN) disbanded. The WAN was installed in 1999/2000 to facilitate the migration of the myriad of cattle breeding databases to the current central database. Technology has now moved on, and with access to the database now fully web enabled, the WAN has become obsolete, saving the service providers in the region of €20,000 per annum.

4. Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ A production evaluation is currently underway. This evaluation will be submitted to Interbull for the next routine evaluation in early December. This run will form the production evaluation for the next round of proofs.
- ✚ Work continues on updates to the calving interval and survival evaluations. The steps to include calving interval to first service and extended the number of parities is nearing completion. Once finished breeding values will be estimated using Mix99 software. Testing of the current model in Mix99 is also underway to ensure no significant differences are observed between the different software programs.
- ✚ A new genomic run has commenced and results will be as soon as the analysis is complete, hopefully early next week.
- ✚ Francis Kearney & Pat Donnellan gave Presentations at the Pure Friesian AGM during the week.

5. GENÉIRELAND®

Beef

- ✚ Sign ups are going well with 259 herds taking part so far.
- ✚ The Simmental bull RWV has become the 6th Simmental bull to be fully tested.
- ✚ Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.

BREED	CH	CH	LM	LM	SI	BB	BB	BA	PT	SA	AA	SH	HE
CODE	VHC	CWB	FL29	MBP	HSY	EVG	SEU	WOA	KCP	BHU	RWB	CZB	AGI
STRAWS	320	655	335	100	50	150	560	640	545	235	435	350	155

Dairy

- ✚ The Autumn programme is now completed. There are 129 herds signed up, taking a total of 4,697 doses.
- ✚ Inseminations from these test bulls are starting to be entered onto the ICBF database and will be monitored over the coming months.
- ✚ All participating herds have received breeding charts, along with inbreeding reports.

6. Tully

- ✚ Blood samples taken on-farm have being completed by the end of last week, with samples received from 170 of the 209 bulls i.e. 82%, that passed on-farm inspections. Results from around 50 herds have being received to date, with bulls from herds that have met the health testing criteria coming into pre-entry

isolation at present. 15 herds from the 50 received have not met the health criteria to enter Tully, with IBR the main stumbling block.

- ✚ All bulls will be in pre-entry isolation at Tully by Saturday the 5th of December. It had being hoped to have all animals in isolation a few days earlier, but blood analysis results are coming back slower than anticipated.
- ✚ Once, the final bull is in isolation, a single bloods sample will be obtained from all animals, and tested for IBR. These blood samples testing for IBR, help ensure that any bull that became may have become infected between on-farm testing and Tully, can be identified immediately.
- ✚ Pictured are 6 high index bulls which have being purchased by AI stations from the previous intake Tully. These bulls will now graduate onto the GEN€IR€LAND program and will be available to beef farmers starting this winter. This brings a total of 11 bulls purchased by AI companies in 2009, with NCBC and Dovea AI purchasing 9 and 2, respectively.
- ✚ When the feed intake data and measurements were obtained on all bulls from the previous intake, these six animals (Table 1) were found to excel for key traits such as Average Daily Gain, Feed Conversion Efficiency and Scanned muscle and fat depth (indicators of meat and fat yield). For instance, Carrigroe Earl is the first 5 star Angus bull for SBV across breed, while another Angus bull Friarstown Dan Carter gained an astonishing 3.0 kg a day over the 90 day performance test.

Table 1. Performance of recent graduates from the Tully Performance Test.

Breed	Name	Ave Daily Gain (kg/day)	Feed Conversion Efficiency (DMI/ADG)	Scan Muscle Depth (mm)	Scan Fat Depth (mm)	SBV (€)	M&F (Stars)
AA ¹	Friarstown Dan Carter H094 ET	3.0	4.8	82.1	10.0	€32	****
AA ¹	Carrigroe Earl	2.9	4.5	77.7	7.94	€108	**
AA ²	Mogeely Joe H979	2.5	6.0	83.6	12.6	€23	*
CH ¹	Skeaf Damien	2.6	4.7	95.2	6.48	€168	****
CH ¹	Liscally Domino 1	2.3	4.8	84.9	3.85	€126	****
SI ¹	Ballindrennan Wilbert ET	2.8	4.9	85.4	4.38	€91	*****

¹. Purchased by NCBC

². Purchased by Dovea AI



Ballindrennan Wilbert ET, sired by Raceview King and bred by John and Rose Conroy Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Carrigroe Earl, sired by Cashelane Bowie A337 and bred by Frank and John Appelbe, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

Bred by Jeremiah Henchy, Co. Limerick



Sired by TC Freedom104

Average Daily Gain = 3.0 kg



Friarstown Dan Carter H094 ET, sired by TC Freedom and bred by Jeremiah Henchy, Grange, Co. Limerick

Liscally Domino 1, sired by Domino and bred by John Regan, Castlegal, Co. Leitrim



Mogeely Joe H979, sired by Young Dale Touch Down 36M and bred by Albert De Cogan, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork

Skeaf Damien sired by Nelson and bred by Dermot O' Driscoll, Bandon, Co Cork

7. Genomics

- In the last 6 weeks we collected over 962 blood samples from Irish farms, targeted stock bulls and cows of high EBI reliability. In our small Genomics lab (see photo) we subsampled 1ml from each animal's blood and dispatched the subsamples for genotyping to a laboratory in the USA (GeneSeek Inc, extraction based on the Illumina 50K SNP chip). The remainder of each sample (approx 6 – 8mls) was then stored in a freezer in our Genomics Laboratory. This is in fact akin to database storage as the DNA genotype of these animals is readily accessible for future needs, some maybe yet unforeseen.
- This week we received the file from GeneSeek with the 962 genotypes, containing some 54,000 SNPs for each animal!



- ✚ The measure of the quality is the number of SNPs that get “called” correctly. The higher the call rate the better and low call rates indicate some contamination of the DNA.
- ✚ The average call rate for the 962 samples was **98.6%** which is excellent. Thanks to the top job done by Mary McCarthy in the lab, we are now in a position to analyse and blend these genotypes into the next genetic evaluation run.
- ✚ For more on information on ICBF’s Genomics, including international collaborative efforts, see <http://www.icbf.com/services/genomic/index.php>

8. Sheep Ireland®

- ✚ Testing of the new Lambplus recording screens is continuing.
- ✚ A Presentation which gives an overview of the Sheep Ireland® Breeding Program has been given over the past 10 days at the following meetings:
 - Belclare AGM
 - Texel AGM
 - Teagasc Sheep Seminar
 - Northern Irish Producer Group
- ✚ A Presentation is also scheduled to be given at the Vendeen AGM on Saturday the 28th November in Tullamore.

9. Lambplus

- ✚ Cathal McNulty has started work with Sheep Ireland® this week. Cathal’s main role is in the running of the Lambplus® Program.
- ✚ Cathal, who is from a Sheep Farm in Ardnaleask, Donegal Town, Co.Donegal will be based at the ICBF Offices in Highfield House, Bandon, Co.Cork. Cathal’s contact number is 023-8820454 (cmcnulty@icbf.com).

10. Northern Ireland Visit

- ✚ On Tuesday the 24th November, 30 members of the ‘Strangford Down Lamb Producer Group’ came down for a meeting with Sheep Ireland® to learn more about the Breeding Program.
- ✚ This Producer Group has 160 shareholders and produces 18,000 lambs/annum. It is one of the biggest Producer Groups in Northern Ireland.
- ✚ Some Beef Cattle are also produced by the group.
- ✚ Included in the group was
 - Crosby Cleland – UK Sheep Farmer of the Year 2008
<http://www.lantra.co.uk/businesses/fencing/case-studies/crosby-cleland/>
 - Samuel Wherry - Chairman of NSA - National Sheep Association of Northern Ireland
<http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/>
 - Reggie Annet – Chairman of the Strangford Down Lamb Producer Group.
 - Ronald Annet – Agri Food & Biosciences Institute Hillsborough <http://www.afbini.gov.uk/>
 - Alan Montgomery – a noted sheep farmer from Northern Ireland was also amongst the group.
- ✚ The trip consisted of 2 parts:
 1. Overview Presentation on Sheep Ireland by Pat Donnellan in the Hamlet Court Hotel Enfield in the morning.
 2. A visit was made in the afternoon to the farm of Andrew Moloney who is one of the CPT

flockowners.

- Stephen Potterton had the Sheep Ireland Pratley on display. A working demonstration of how the Pratley works was given using Andrew Moloney's Pratley which is in place in his covered sheep shed.
- Lambs with Sheep Ireland® EID tags were run through the Pratley & individually weighed.
- Godfrey Potterton (MALP Farmer) & Yvonne Johnston (Pedigree Breeder) were also present throughout the day to answer questions and give their input on progress so far in the Sheep Ireland Initiative.

🚩 Everyone found the day very informative & enjoyable.



Strangford Down Lamb Producer Group being shown how the Pratley Autodrafter works by Stephen Potterton (Sheep Ireland®) & Andrew Moloney (CPT Flockowner)



Andrew Moloney setting drafting criteria into the Pratley Autodrafter prior to lambs being ran through the unit.



Lambs with EID tags being put through the Pratley Autodrafter



Members of the Strangford Down Lamb Producer Group with some of the Sheep Ireland team

11. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 17/11/09 to 27/11/09

	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
CARLOW	7	394	56	16.6	4.49	3.70	1.36	332
CAVAN	22	1,151	52	16.3	4.26	3.54	1.27	396
CLARE	4	140	35	14.1	4.06	3.47	1.06	375
CORK STH	161	8,990	56	16.1	4.29	3.62	1.27	367
CORK NTH	156	9,758	63	14.5	4.55	3.74	1.20	423
DONEGAL	19	1,324	70	14.4	4.44	3.64	1.16	335
DUBLIN	4	173	43	19.3	4.10	3.46	1.46	313
GALWAY	10	601	60	19.6	4.21	3.65	1.54	322
KERRY	60	3,353	56	13.0	4.34	3.62	1.03	466
KILDARE	13	1,168	90	21.1	4.18	3.50	1.62	521
KILKENNY	12	634	53	15.4	4.30	3.66	1.23	357
LAOIS	23	1,494	65	16.1	4.41	3.68	1.30	410
LEITRIM	3	113	38	17.5	4.00	3.48	1.31	243
LIMERICK	60	3,520	59	15.0	4.28	3.66	1.19	393
LONGFORD	6	291	49	13.7	4.56	3.78	1.14	409
LOUTH	14	1,106	79	18.8	4.11	3.53	1.44	390
MAYO	17	988	58	16.4	3.93	3.54	1.23	445
MEATH	41	3,212	78	18.8	4.23	3.48	1.45	420
MONAGHAN	14	615	44	15.4	3.96	3.47	1.14	375
OFFALY	11	693	63	18.3	4.18	3.40	1.39	303
ROSCOMMON	2	81	41	17.3	3.77	3.52	1.26	463
SLIGO	4	86	22	21.1	3.73	3.35	1.49	237
TIPPERARY NTH	14	813	58	13.7	4.59	3.84	1.15	341
TIPPERARY STH	24	1,448	60	13.0	4.67	3.83	1.11	373
WATERFORD	18	1,291	72	13.9	4.45	3.86	1.16	358
WESTMEATH	11	640	58	17.1	4.15	3.54	1.31	359
WEXFORD	44	2,836	64	14.8	4.13	3.63	1.15	466
WICKLOW E	12	820	68	18.2	3.88	3.47	1.34	405
WICKLOW W	8	717	90	21.1	3.96	3.32	1.54	290
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	794	48,450	59	16.6	4.21	3.59	1.29	375

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 17/11/09 to 27/11/09

<i>Provincial</i>	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
Munster	497	29,313	59	14.2	4.40	3.71	1.15	387
Leinster	206	14,178	69	17.6	4.21	3.55	1.37	383

Connacht	36	1,869	52	18.4	3.93	3.51	1.37	342
Ulster	55	3,090	56	15.4	4.22	3.55	1.19	369

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 27/11/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 27/11/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 27/11/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 27/11/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 27/11/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,083	850	41%	180,532	72,969	40%
Dairygold	1,508	567	38%	117,431	46,272	39%
Kerry	891	66	7%	62,603	4,253	7%
SWS	857	114	13%	62,115	8,945	14%
Tipperary	136	56	41%	11,155	10,132	91%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,892	10,132	85%
Connacht	144	53	37%	9,822	3,588	37%
Donegal	33	33	100%	3,926	3,926	100%
Total	5,793	1,855	32%	459,476	160,217	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 27/11/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 27/11/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	185,886	180,532	-3.0%
Dairygold	126,817	117,431	-8.0%
Kerry	79,527	62,603	-27.0%
SWS	62,985	62,115	-1.4%
Tipperary	13,134	11,155	-17.7%
Arrabawn	12,976	11,892	-9.1%
Connacht	10,644	9,822	-8.4%
Donegal	4,817	3,926	-22.7%
Total	496,786	459,476	-8.1%

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