



**Update for period 21<sup>st</sup> –28<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

**1 Important Dates**

- ✚ Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10:30 – 13:00. Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, **ICBF Board Meeting**.
- ✚ Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 15:00 – 16:00. Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, **ICBF Annual General Meeting**.
- ✚ Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, **Tully Sale**. Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.
- ✚ Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30 – 16:00, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation Meeting**.
- ✚ Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 16:00 – 17:00, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Tully Review Meeting**.

**2 Breeding Information Services**

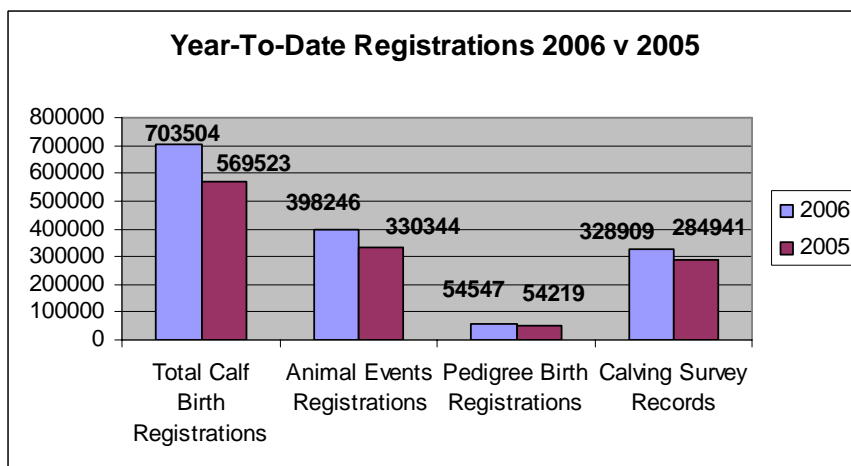
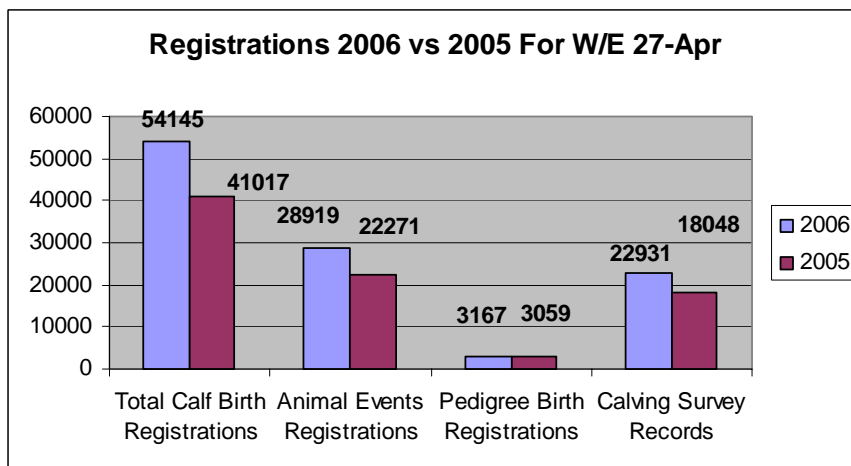
At a meeting involving ICBF and service providers on Tuesday it was agreed to proceed with further discussions, involving those present plus extra technical input from ICBF, to:

- i. explore the establishment of a management committee comprising representatives of service providers and ICBF, and
- ii. to ensure the delivery, through service providers, of the full benefits that the ICBF database can provide to farmers.

This next meeting has been scheduled for next week and all involved have been advised.

**3 Database Update**

- ✚ 135 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ Approximately 23,000 inseminations have now been captured across around 75 AI handhelds. A number of teething problems concerning data are being dealt with.
- ✚ Backend work in the area of pricing and billing files for the AI service is continuing.
- ✚ A performance audit of the SQL-Server database was carried out in conjunction with a consultant from Version-1.
- ✚ In-breeding charts for a number of G€N€ Ireland herds have been completed.
- ✚ The sire advice reports will continue to be distributed as input from farmers is received.





- The development of Fertility Reports for the coming AI season is complete, and a small number have been distributed for initial feedback.
- Work is continuing on improvements to the Tully section of the website.
- New disks are currently being sourced for the standby database to cover the increased capacity since the Oracle database upgrade.

#### 4 Milk Recording Update

##### MR Stats week ending 28/04/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 21/04/05 - 28/04/05	2006 Herds Recorded Week 21/04/06 - 28/04/06
Progressive	364	342
Dairygold	166	282
SWS	169	206
Kerry	223	180
Connacht	23	36
Tipperary	10	25
Arrabawn	11	24
Donegal	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,096</b>

#### Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 28/04/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 28/04/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 28/04/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 28/04/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	1,989	1,817	-9%	117,312	112,413	-4%
Dairygold	1,342	1,327	-1%	63,667	70,706	11%*
Kerry	1,013	979	-3%	49,052	50,308	3%
SWS	923	886	-4%	43,808	44,725	2%
Tipperary	130	126	-3%	6,012	7,003	16%*
Connacht	106	104	-2%	5,571	5,579	0%
Arrabawn	90	105	17%	3,508	5,758	64%*
Donegal	4	6	50%	307	535	74%*
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,597</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>289,237</b>	<b>297,027</b>	<b>3%</b>

\* Increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells

#### 5 Genetic Evaluations

- Test and development continue on the new genetic parameters.
- A new linear evaluation run for beef traits has been completed.



- ✚ The proofs for the next Tully sale have been calculated and incorporated in the Tully catalogue for the sale next Saturday – 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## 6 Tully

- ✚ The final EBİ, BLUP, and performance figures are in the catalogue on the ICBF web site for the May 6<sup>th</sup> sale.
- ✚ A group of 25 veterinary students from UCD visited Tully on the 26-4-06.
- ✚ Judging of the FBD prize winners will take place on the 2-5-06 and results will be published in the Irish Farmers Journal on the 4-5-06.
- ✚ Inspection of the bulls for the May intake will be finished by the 13-5-06.

## 7 Beef Breeding Quality Initiative

- ✚ ICBF's contract with Nicholas Grubb has been extended to the end of October 2006 to enable the completion of outstanding commitments.
- ✚ Over the next few months Michael Barron will be progressively taking over responsibility for the beef linear scoring and weight recording service from Nicholas.
- ✚ Nicholas' focus for the next few months will be the replacement of the catalogue production systems used by the Beef herd books and for the Tully sales.

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