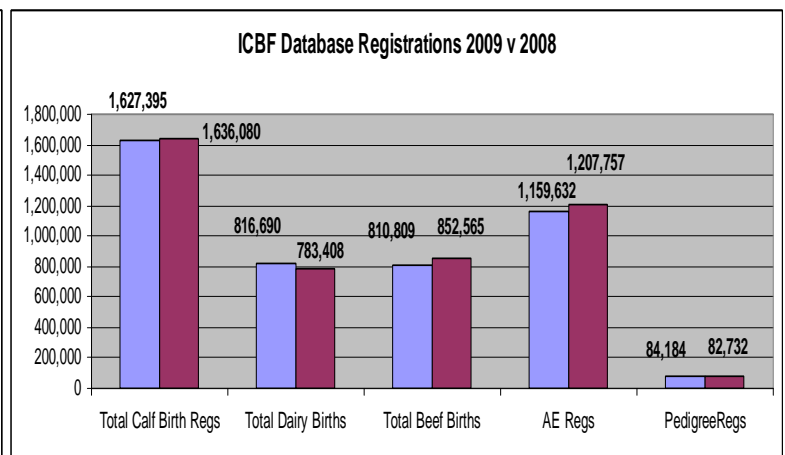
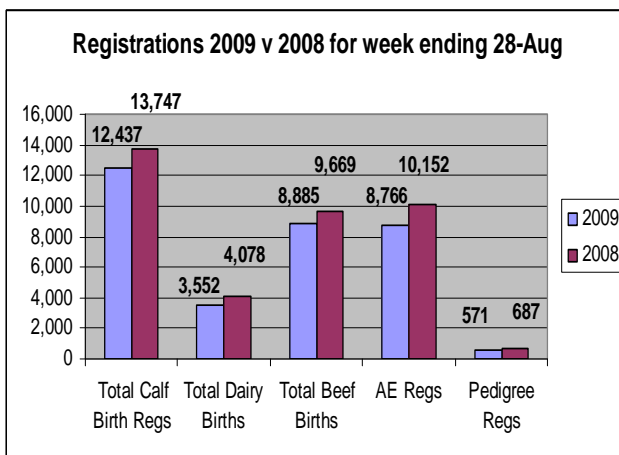


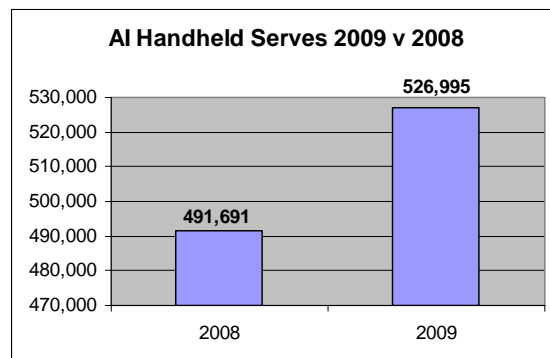
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Beef Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Tuesday 1st September, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- ✚ **EBI €100 Discussion Group Open Day** – Tuesday 8th September, Paddy O’Leary’s Farm, Conna, Co. Cork. This open day is being hosted by the Blackwater Discussion group and features the herd with the highest EBI in Ireland. This herd has bred many GENEIRLAND® bulls in the last few years. **Every farmer and breeder with an interest in the direction of Irish cattle breeding should make the effort to attend this very important event.**
- ✚ **ICBF & Sheep Ireland Board Meetings** – Thursday 17th September, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Tully Open Day** – Saturday 10th October, Tully, Co. Kildare.
- ✚ **GENEIRLAND® Dairy Conference** – Thursday 29th October, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac, Co. Cork.

2. Database



- ✚ The 2009 suckler forms (pre and post weaning) continue to go out to farmers. The total number of calves (2008 & 2009) with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 989,000, with just over 748,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system is progressing. Testing within the milk recording organisations continues this week.
- ✚ Work has begun on the new Beef Discussion Group Reports, with some now in the testing phase.
- ✚ Development of a new on-line application for AI companies to manage their interaction with ICBF on bull codes has begun. We expect this to be live at the end of September.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008, so even though the number of inseminations recorded is up, overall inseminations for the season will be down.



3. Tully

- ✚ The fourth weighing of bulls in Tully is to be done next Monday. All outdoor pens received fresh woodchip this week, which has been changed every 4 weeks, due to the heavy rainfall.
- ✚ All feed intake data (up to 28th August) from the bulls at Tully has being inputted in to the ICBF database.
- ✚ A draft of the Tully Open Day programme is being prepared at present and will be sent to all involved early next week. Those participating in the Tully Open Day have being notified by e-mail, with invitations to be sent out by post over the coming days.

4. Sheep Ireland - LambPlus



Texel Sale

- ✚ The Irish Texel Sheep Society held their Premier sale in Blessington Livestock Mart on Saturday the 15th of August.
- ✚ Following are some of the prices at the sale:
- ✚ Sean McHugh, Speenogue, Burt, Co.Donegal - Lambplus Category Winner - sold for €1800 - 1* Overall Sheep Value & 5* for Production Sub-Index.
- ✚ Pauric Niland, Chessy, Kinvara, Co.Galway - Lambplus Category Second Place - sold for €1550 - 5* Production, 2*Maternal, 5*Lambing. (see picture on right)
 - Lambplus Category Third Place – sold for €850 – 5*Production, 1*Maternal, 1*Lambing.
 - Shearling Ewe – sold for €3200.
 - Ewe Lamb – sold for €1400, 4* Overall Sheep Value, 5* Production, 1*Maternal, 5* Lambing.
- ✚ Liam And Eamonn Walsh, Rathroeen, Ballina, Co.Mayo - 4th Place Prizewinner - sold for €5400 - 4*Production,2* Maternal, 5*Lambing.
- ✚ Neil McArthur, Quartercross, Kilusty, Co.Tipperary – sold for €1000 - 5* Production, 1* Maternal, 4*Lambing.
- ✚ Patrick O’Keefe, Mallow Co.Cork sold a Euro-Star Lamb for over €1000.
- ✚ John McHugh, Co.Donegal also did well selling a Lamb with Euro-Stars for over €1000.



Lambplus

- ✚ A review of the changes that have to be made to the Lambplus Web Screens took place this week.
- ✚ This is work that was scheduled to take place once the bulk of Genetic Evaluation work & Premier Sales were over.

MALP Flocks

- ✚ Work is ongoing to improve the % of Pedigree ‘well linked’ Rams from Lambplus Flocks that are going into MALP Flocks.
- ✚ This link between Pedigree & MALP Flocks will be an area that will receive a lot of attention as it is a crucial part of the Breeding Scheme.

CPT Flocks

- ✚ The selection of CPT flocks is nearing completion.
- ✚ Flocks are being visited with a panel of people from Sheep Ireland, Teagasc, AbacusBio & ICBF.
- ✚ A Decision on what candidates to appoint as CPT Flocks will be made next week.



Stephen Potterton, Sheep Ireland with the McHugh's from Burt, Co. Donegal with the Lambplus Category Winning Lamb



Part of the crowd at the Texel Premier Sale.



Patrick O'Keefe – Lambplus Participant at the Texel Premier Sale



John McHugh – Lambplus Participant - at the Texel Premier Sale

5. Genetic Dairy & Beef Evaluations

Beef

- ✚ The proofs from the latest beef evaluation have been loaded to the database and parental averaging and calculation of percentiles for stars has begun. Proofs should be on the website next week.
- ✚ Development work on an across breed evaluation for linear type traits in beef is almost complete and will be presented at the beef industry meeting next Tuesday. It is hoped to send out a file of test proofs on Monday ahead of the meeting.
- ✚ A new joint docility evaluation (animal welfare and linear score) has also been completed and will also be discussed at the meeting before a decision is made to publish

Dairy

- ✚ A provisional list of Dairy EBI proofs have been sent to the Industry. We are currently doing the parent average and will have the final proofs by Tuesday of next week. Please note the following:
 - 1) The publication rules for GS bulls are that we use domestic information greater than 70% reliability for production, calving and beef, and >50% for fertility and health. The effect of this is that test bulls just getting their first milk proofs will have their production proof based on a daughter proof but the fertility will be still a GS proof
 - 2) For domestically proven bulls (i.e. tested in Ireland or foreign bulls with >90% rel in Ireland) we have used the fertility evaluations from the last run due to larger than expected changes for some bulls. We are investigating this change further. We have however received updated information for foreign bulls for fertility from Interbull
 - 3) Early results from the group of test bulls used in 2006 who got a GS proof in Jan but now have a daughter proof are very much in line with expectations and the GS proofs are providing us with a better handle on the bulls proof compared to parent average. These results were presented at the Interbull meeting last weekend

6. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 18/08/09 to 28/08/09.

	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	10	638	64	18.4	3.85	3.51	1.35	338
CAVAN	30	1,682	56	19.3	3.82	3.38	1.39	453
CLARE	33	1,841	56	19.5	3.88	3.41	1.42	316
CORK STH	242	16,256	67	18.2	3.95	3.49	1.35	296
CORK NTH	262	18,588	71	19.0	4.02	3.55	1.44	288
DONEGAL	15	1,059	71	20.6	3.96	3.44	1.52	345
DUBLIN	5	339	68	19.1	4.33	3.50	1.50	444
GALWAY	18	1,514	84	19.6	4.19	3.47	1.50	310
KERRY	135	8,630	64	19.2	3.85	3.39	1.39	333
KILDARE	16	1,284	80	22.6	3.70	3.38	1.60	447
KILKENNY	46	3,183	69	17.6	4.04	3.51	1.33	277
LAOIS	28	1,897	68	17.8	4.13	3.56	1.37	477
LEITRIM	3	144	48	21.9	4.23	3.30	1.65	305
LIMERICK	133	9,783	74	18.5	3.86	3.43	1.35	343
LONGFORD	6	414	69	21.5	3.96	3.51	1.61	306
LOUTH	10	812	81	20.3	3.83	3.39	1.47	309

MAYO	26	1,457	56	23.2	3.12	3.46	1.53	275
MEATH	46	3,591	78	19.9	3.92	3.44	1.46	420
MONAGHAN	24	1,426	59	21.5	3.74	3.34	1.52	411
OFFALY	23	1,618	70	19.8	4.15	3.50	1.51	305
ROSCOMMON	1	73	73	22.9	3.70	3.36	1.62	330
SLIGO	10	438	44	21.5	3.18	3.47	1.43	296
TIPPERARY NTH	50	3,716	74	18.0	3.98	3.52	1.35	320
TIPPERARY STH	67	6,069	91	16.5	4.05	3.55	1.25	277
WATERFORD	49	4,356	89	17.9	4.06	3.55	1.36	341
WESTMEATH	18	1,339	74	20.5	4.11	3.48	1.56	381
WEXFORD	53	3,275	62	18.9	3.84	3.48	1.38	351
WICKLOW E	14	903	65	17.1	3.62	3.43	1.21	429
WICKLOW W	14	1,005	72	19.2	4.27	3.42	1.48	466
	<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	1,387	97,330	69	19.7	3.91	3.46	1.45	351

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 18/08/09 to 28/08/09.								
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	971	69,239	71	18.4	3.96	3.49	1.37	314
Leinster	289	20,298	70	19.4	3.98	3.47	1.45	381
Connacht	58	3,626	63	21.8	3.68	3.41	1.55	303
Ulster	69	4,167	60	20.5	3.84	3.39	1.48	403

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 28/08/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 28/08/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 28/08/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 28/08/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 28/08/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,064	841	41%	174,025	70,729	41%
Dairygold	1,500	550	37%	115,392	45,272	39%
Kerry	890	66	7%	62,040	4,214	7%
SWS	856	114	13%	61,142	8,795	14%
Tipperary	135	55	41%	11,004	4,894	44%
Arrabawn	141	116	82%	11,813	10,031	85%
Connacht	138	48	35%	9,211	3,181	35%
Donegal	32	32	100%	3,689	3,689	100%
Total	5,756	1,822	32%	448,316	150,805	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 28/08/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 28/08/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	177,270	174,025	-1.9%
Dairygold	121,954	115,392	-5.7%
Kerry	78,406	62,040	-26.4%
SWS	61,107	61,142	0.1%
Tipperary	12,924	11,004	-17.4%
Arrabawn	12,698	11,813	-7.5%
Connacht	10,030	9,211	-8.9%
Donegal	4,699	3,689	-27.4%
Total	479,088	448,316	-6.9%

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 882 0222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 882 0229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com