

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tully Advisory Committee Meeting** – Friday 28th January, 10:00 to 14:00 – Tully.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 10th March, 10:00 to 14:00 – Horse & Jockey Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 10:00 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th March, 14:00 to 17:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 ICBF Board

At its meeting on Thursday the ICBF Board:

- ✚ Adopted recommendations from its Audit & Finance Sub-Committee to: adopt the financial report for 2010, adopt the budget for 2011, to investigate options for reducing the level of uncertainty associated with some sources of funding, and to review its charter.
- ✚ Adopted the outcome of the Breeding Consultation meetings held on 16th November and 8th December 2010.
- ✚ Was briefed on the dairy breeding scheme review and advised that consultations with the industry are on-going.

3 Sheep Board

At its meeting on Thursday the Interim Sheep Board:

- ✚ Adopted recommendations from its Audit & Finance Sub-Committee to: adopt the financial report for 2010, adopt the budget for 2011, and to review its charter.
- ✚ Received the project managers report (copy can be found in the publications section of www.sheep.ie).
- ✚ Agreed a plan for addressing concerns raised by the MALP flock owners.

4 GEN€IR€LAND®

Dairy

- ✚ Sign-ups to the programme commenced this week.
- ✚ The list of potential bulls is available on the website.
- ✚ Letters and bull details were posted to last year's participants today.

Beef

- ✚ 52 herds have signed up so far.
- ✚ Work is continuing on identifying extra bulls for the Spring program.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GEN€IR€LAND section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	HE	LM	PT	SA
CODE	MLJ	KCE	KYR	LGL	CXY	GCT	CZH	CBQ	BHU
# STRAWS	286	330	635	162	681	88	343	149	616

5 Dairy Breeding Conference sponsored by **FBD Trust**

On Wednesday this week some 250 farmers attended a very successful ICBF dairy cattle breeding conference at Cork Mart's Corrin facility near Fermoy. This was the 4th annual breeding conference for **HerdPlus®** & **G€N€IRELAND®** users.

The morning session which was sponsored by FBD Trust comprised five presentations covering developments in Dairy Genetic Evaluations, Genomics, HerdPlus® & G€N€IRELAND®. At the conference the HerdPlus® team launched their new **Genomic Service** which opens up genotyping to dairy farmers for both male and female animals. This service is an application of the successful research done by Teagasc and introduces the low cost 3K chip which brings the cost of genotyping down to €50 (inc. VAT) per animal. The service will be available from February 2011. Further details of this service and all presentations from the breeding day can be found in the publications section of our website http://www.icbf.com/publications/files/All_AM_Corrin_260111_final.pdf.

The **FBD G€N€IRELAND® Awards** completed the morning program. The awards were as follows:

Top Bulls & Breeders from 2007 G€N€Ireland programme:

Code	Bull Name	Breeder	Address	EBI	Rel	Dtrs	Sire
GVV	GREENVALLEY HARVEY	CHRIS KENNEALLY	MOGEELY CURRAGLASS MALLOW CO CORK	€202	70	58	TIH
JRU	JOHARRA RUUD	JOHN DONOHOE	MEAGH FERNES ENNISCORTHY CO WEXFORD	€190	76	138	RUU
BYH	BALLYBRIDE SHERRY DANO	PATRICK O'LEARY	BALLYBRIDE UPPER CONNA MALLOW CO CORK	€177	67	78	HZO
BHZ	BALLYBROOK ASHLING	MAUREEN HORAN	BALLYDEAGUE BALLYHOOLEY CO CORK	€174	70	72	OJI
WLO	MILEWATER LEO	KEVIN KELLEHER	LONGSTONE COTTAGE WHITECHURCH CO CORK	€162	68	79	TIH
LTW	LEETOWN RAY	MARGARET BURKE	VICARSTOWN CORK CO CORK	€155	75	65	RUU
				€177	71	82	



Each of the 6 Bull Breeders received a cheque for €3,333 kindly sponsored by FBD Trust.

Top Data Recording Herds from 2007 G€N€Ireland programme:

NAME	ADDRESS	CATEGORY	Score
MITCHELL HAYES	DAWSTOWN HOUSE DAWSTOWN, BLARNEY CO. CORK	150+ COWS	486
MICHAEL HYDE	KILLEENS, COMMONS ROAD, CORK	150+ COWS	354
LIAM BURKE	BARNA, INNISHANNON, CO. CORK	150+ COWS	328
DAN O'SULLIVAN	BELLMOUNT, CROOKSTOWN, CO. CORK	80-150 COWS	363
NICHOLAS FLAVIN	CLASHADONNA, YOUGHAL, CO. CORK	80-150 COWS	247
LIAM DELAHUNTY	RAHEENLEIGH, CULLOHILL, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS	80-150 COWS	242
MICHAEL FLYNN	KNOCKALAVALLA, CARRICK ON SUIR, CO WATERFORD	<80 COWS	242
DONAL DINEEN	DERRY, BERRINGS CO. CORK	<80 COWS	204
JAMES LENIHAN	BALLINVARISCAL, CASTLEISLAND, CO. KERRY	<80 COWS	182



Each of the winners received a cheque for €1,000 kindly sponsored by FBD Trust.

ACC Bank / TEAGASC EBI Discussion Group Winners 2010

The €5,000 first prize in the EBI Discussion Group Competition was won by the **Deise 1250 Dairy Discussion Group** based in Waterford. The prize was presented to the winning group in Fermoy, Co. Cork, on Wednesday, 26th January 2011. A very high standard of performance was achieved by farmers this year, with the winning group achieving 402 marks out of 500 in the competition.

Over one thousand dairy farmers, members of eighty dairy discussion groups from around the country participated in this hotly contested competition, judged against set performance criteria focusing on; Breeding, Year-on-year Improvements made in the Group, and ultimately Business/Profit indices. (Judges were George Ramsbottom Teagasc, Andrew Cromie & Kevin Downing ICBF, and Jack Kennedy from the Irish Farmers Journal).

In addition to the top prize there were three regional winners which each received €2,000 prize money (namely **The South Offaly Group, The Acorn Group and the DairyMis Group**). A further seventeen 17 groups nationally were also commended, each receiving €500.

In addition to the “Established” Group competition, this year we also saw the inaugural competition for **NEW** Discussion Groups for which there were some one hundred Groups entered. This, as the name suggests, is to encourage the set up and development of new Discussion Groups throughout the country. These will be judged on a county basis and winners will be announced over the next weeks.

The EBI competition promotes better breeding on dairy farms. Its €50,000 prize fund was sponsored by ACCBank and the competition is run in association with Teagasc, ICBF and the Irish Farmers Journal. Speaking at the EBI awards Sean Farrell, National Agri Manager at ACCBank said *“ACCBank is delighted to continue our sponsorship of the EBI Competition. The improvements in EBI being achieved in some herds throughout the country is an example to all milk producers of what can be achieved within local discussion groups.”*

Continuous Improvement

Commenting on the event, ICBF chief executive, Brian Wickham complimented the improvements made by group members in the last 12 months. *“The fact that this year the judges added criteria to measure year on year improvement means those Groups who constantly strive for improvement were rewarded and scored well”.*

Table 1. 2010 Groups’ KPI improvements 2010 V’s 2009

Measure	Average	Top groups
Herd EBI	+ €8.1	> €8.8
Ins/100 cows	+ 9.1	> 11.7
Ins/100 heifers	+ 20.4	> 32.7
Bulls used EBI	+ €34.1	> €35.1

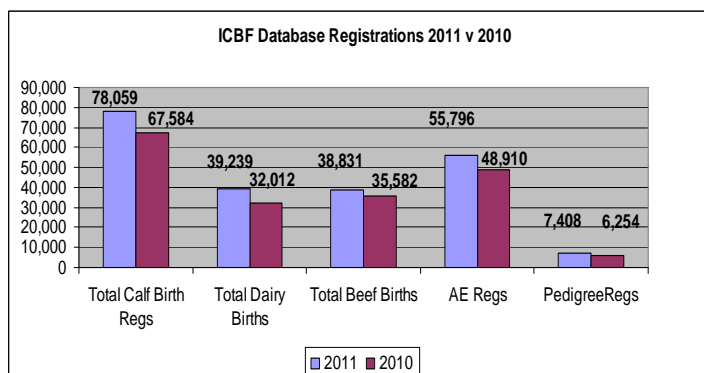
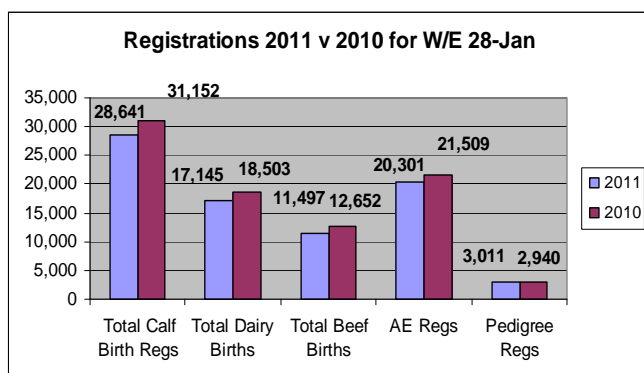


Photo shows George Ramsbottom Teagasc announcing the Deise 1250 Group as 2010 winners.

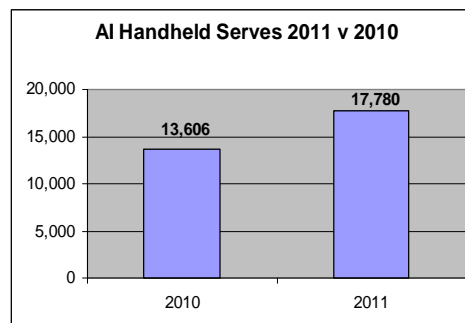
The Group consists of 16 dairy farmers, is chaired by Liam Budds and facilitated by Teagasc Advisers Owen Power & Brian Hilliard.

Members have an average herd EBI for the group of €94. For 2010 the group averaged 940 kilograms of milk solids per hectare.

6 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 563,401 with the number of animals weaned at 471,208.
- ✚ The distribution of the '5 Year Trend' report for suckler herds is continuing. A sample report can be seen at the end of the update.
- ✚ The first of the 3k Chip genotypes are being run through the new Genotype Storage infrastructure this week.
- ✚ A new 'Expected Calving' profile was put live this week for Herdplus users.
- ✚ A new infrastructure for capturing and loading mart weights and slaughter weights is nearing completion.
- ✚ The final tweaks to the new process for the reporting to breeders of sire errors on calf registrations are being worked on this week.
- ✚ Testing on a new authorisation module for farmers and their service providers will begin next week. This will give farmers more flexibility and control in providing authorisation to others to see their data.
- ✚ Work continues with AHI on the integration of laboratory health test results to the ICBF database.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



Brian Wickham (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email bwickham@icbf.com.

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Registered Office: Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: www.sheep.ie.



21st Jan 2011

JOE BLOGGS
HIGHFIELD
BANDON
CO CORK

National ID: IE1234567

Dear Herd-Owner,

Re: Suckler Scheme 2011

Please find enclosed:

- Your pocket notebook to help you record 2011 Suckler Events
- Your supply of FREEPOST envelopes in which you will return your 2011 Animal Events Calf Registration Sheets
- A complimentary 5 Year Trend report for your herd comparing selected measures with other herds across the country. This report can be used to target areas where your farm profitability can be improved.
- An optional 'Cow Docility and Milk' survey which we would like you to complete and return to us in the FREEPOST envelope provided. You can also complete it online at www.icbf.com using your username and password:

Username: **IE1234567**

Password: **SECRET**

Do you know that you can view all your reports and record all your data online at www.icbf.com? This gives you immediate access to all your information and is proving very popular with farmers. Use the username and password above to access the site.

The results of this survey have the potential to provide very valuable data to ICBF which ultimately can be returned to you in the form of breeding information to help increase the profitability of Irish beef farms.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian', written in a cursive style.

Brian Wickham
Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

Some Explanatory Notes for the 5 Year Trend Report

In preparing the report, the figures for the 'Top 15%' are calculated individually for each measure, and for each year - i.e. herds in the 'Top 15%' for one measure may not be in the 'Top 15%' for another measure.

The following outlines how each of the measures is calculated:

Calving Interval

The average Number of days between successive calving's for cows during the report period.

Calves per Cow per Year

The number of live calves born in the period, expressed as a proportion of all beef cows in the herd.

Average Age of First Calf

The Average age at which heifers calved in the report period.

Average Number of Calving's Per Cow

The average number of calvings for cows that had a calf in the report period.

Cows Not Calving In the Period (%)

The percentage of cows that have previously had a calf that did not calve in the report period.

Number of Months with a Calving

This is the number of months in the year in which the herd had a calf born.

* Please note one calving period is from the 1st of July to the 30th of June the following year

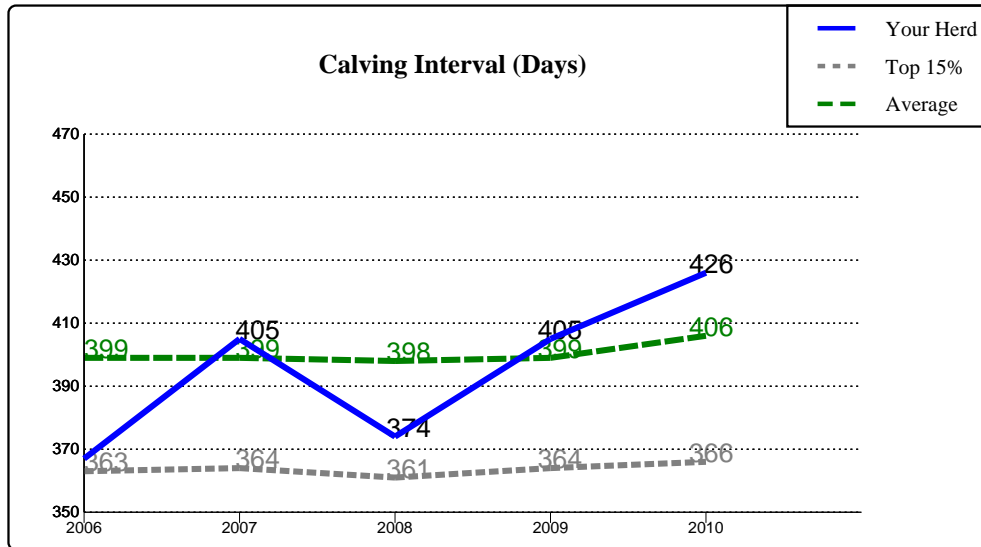
LoCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: **JOE BLOGGS**

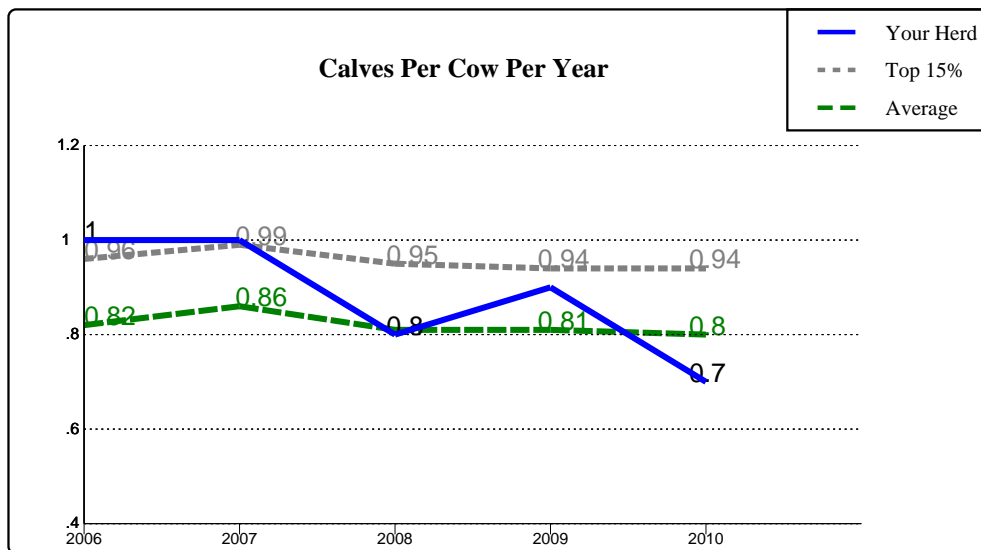
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Print Date: **21st Jan 2011**

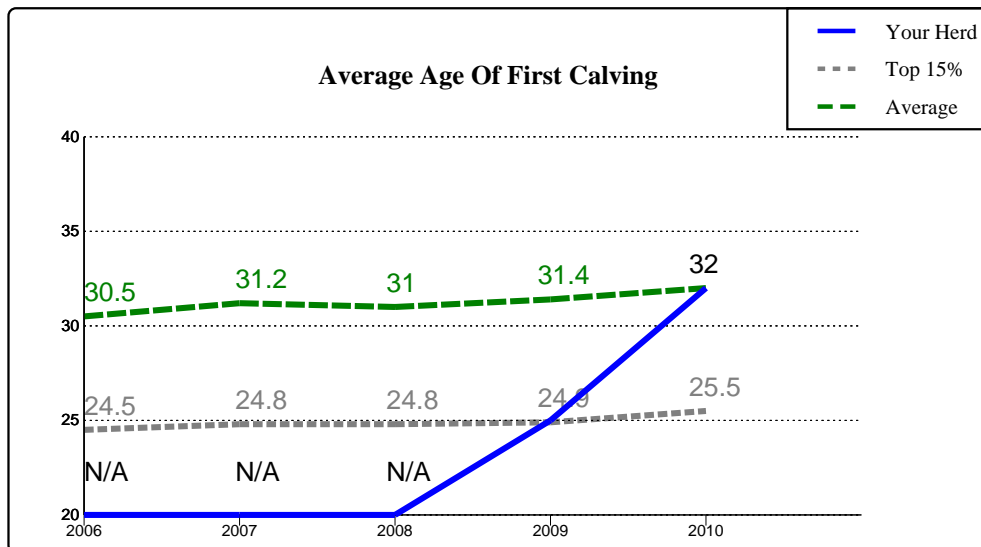
Days



Calves



Months



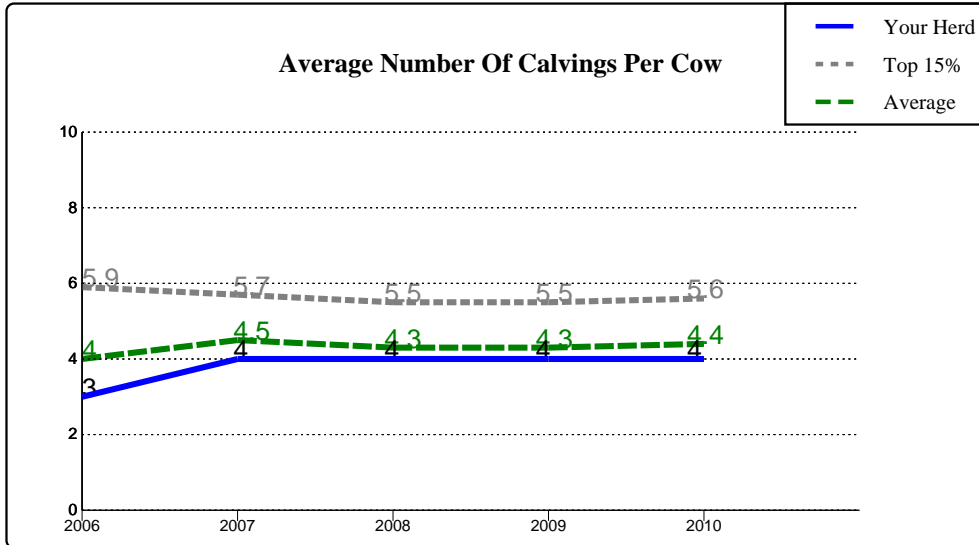
* When lines are very close only one label is shown for display purposes

5 Year Beef Trend

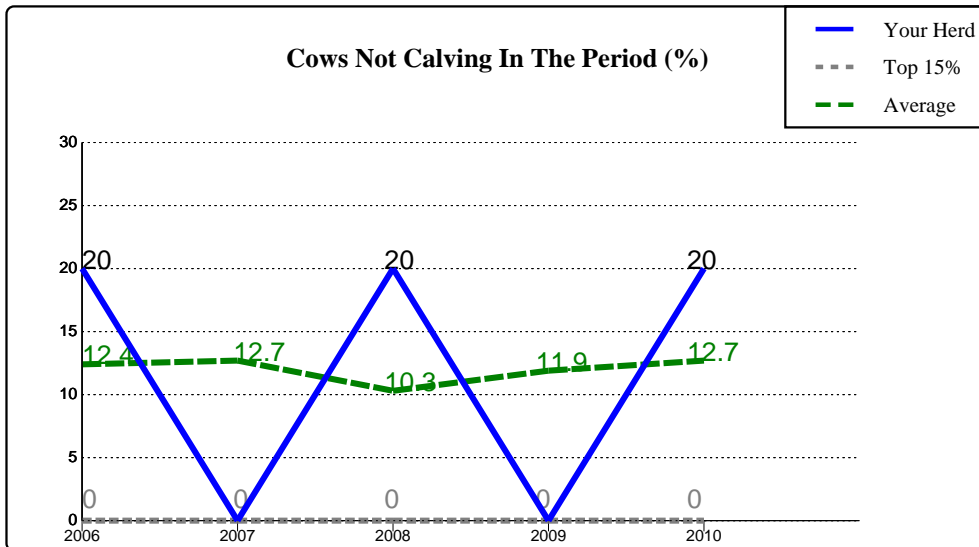
LoCall 1850 600 900

Herd Owner: **JOE BLOGGS**
 Herd Designator: **IE1234567**
 Print Date: **21st Jan 2011**

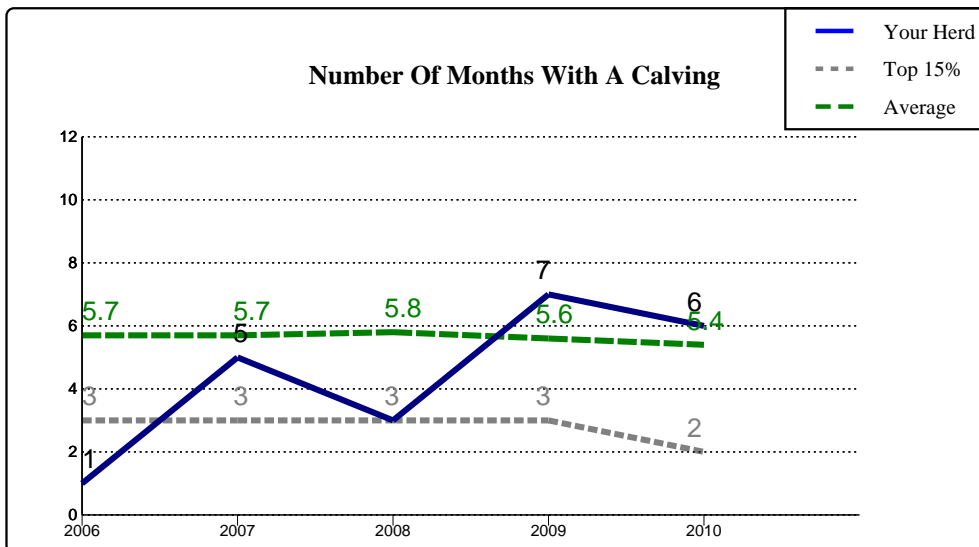
Calvings



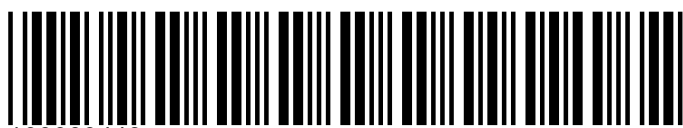
% Not Calved



Months



* When lines are very close only one label is shown for display purposes



100000446



Optional Cow Survey

Herd owner: JOE BLOGGS

Herd No: IE1234567

Print Date: 21/01/2011

Please give your best estimate of your cows as they were in the period from 'Calving to 3 months calved' for docility/temperament and from 'Calving to 3 months calved' for the milk score.

Cow Jumbo	Tag number	Date of Birth	Breed	<u>Cow Docility score</u>					<u>Cow Milk score</u>				
				VG = Very Good	G = Good	A = Average	P = Poor/Nervous	VP = Very Poor/ Aggressive	(Ensure a value is circled)	VG = Very Good	G = Good	A = Average	P = Poor
032	IE123456750032	10/03/2000	HE (44%),HO (41%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
51	IE123456770051	10/07/2007	LM (44%),HE (22%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
069	IE123456770069	15/03/2004	LM (66%),HE (13%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
092	IE123456760092	27/12/2006	BB (50%),SI (22%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
095	IE123456790095	05/06/2007	LM (69%),SI (25%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
161	IE123456720161	25/09/1999	SI (44%),HO (38%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
240	IE123456710240	17/12/2004	SI (59%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
243	IE123456710243	20/05/2007	HE (44%),HO (41%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP
456	IE123456760456	28/12/2006	BB (50%),SI (22%)	VG	G	A	P	VP	VG	G	A	P	VP