



UPDATE – for period 21th – 28th March 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **3rd April** - Board meeting Comfort Inn Portlaoise.
- ✚ **1st May** – Board meeting, Ten Years of ICBF Operations, and AGM. O’Callaghan Alexander Hotel Dublin.

2 Ballydague Open Day – Thursday 27th March



Some 1,500 people attended the cattle breeding open day on the TEAGASC Ballydague research farm near Fermoy.

The open day involved a series of stands at which TEAGASC staff discussed latest research results and finding. The cattle breeding industry was represented by the AI organisations, ICBF and Cork Marts.

ICBF’s stand (see picture on left) focused on HerdPlus and the EBI. There was a great deal of interest in the latest version of the sire advice facility now available to herd owners through the ICBF website.

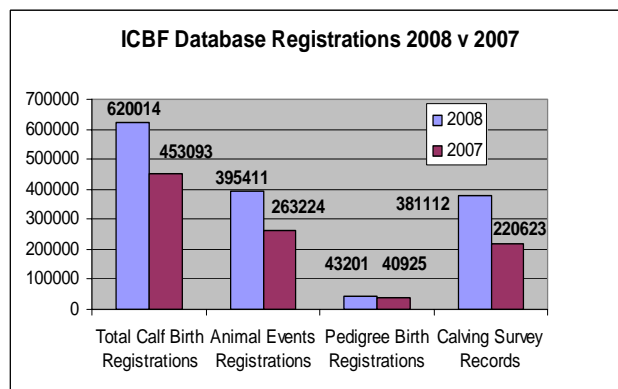
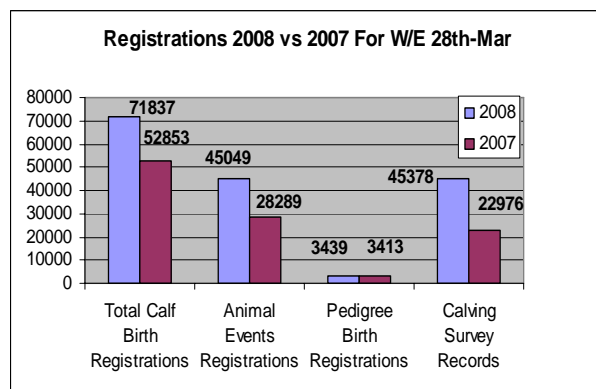


The open day provided dairy farmers with an opportunity to see the different breeds involved in trials at Ballydague (see picture on left).

Also featured was the outdoor pad and simple facilities for drafting cows for AI.

The key message was: **use AI to access high EBI bulls and breed a more profitable herd.**

3 Database Update



- ✚ 40,034 inseminations have been received so far in 2008 from the AI handhelds, compared with 27,906 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ ICBF have received 47,172 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. Over 140,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- ✚ An initial batch of ‘Missing Sires/Sire Errors have gone out to Suckler Scheme participants this week. The remaining reports will be issued at the end of next week.
- ✚ The 2008 Sire Advice Programme is getting extensive use at the moment by farmers, with relatively few problems reported.



- ✚ Work on the 'On-Line Herdbook' is continuing – an initial test version will be issued next Monday.
- ✚ The final batch of Annual Milk Recording reports has been processed this week.
- ✚ A further release of updates to the Taurus Herdbook processing program has taken place this week.

4 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 28/03/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 28/03/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 28/03/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 28/03/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 28/03/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,439	316	22%	87,363	19,712	23%
Dairygold	833	159	19%	40,376	8,468	21%
Kerry	574	34	6%	27,483	1,907	7%
SWS	678	49	7%	30,990	2,562	8%
Tipperary	60	5	8%	2,752	270	10%
Arrabawn	48	29	60%	2,636	1,662	63%
Connacht	90	16	18%	4,183	717	17%
Donegal	4	4	100%	214	214	100%
Total	3,726	612	16%	195,997	35,512	18%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 28/03/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 28/03/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 28/03/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	87,401	86,950	87,363	0.5%
Dairygold	39,251	34,602	40,376	14.3%
Kerry	27,423	27,487	27,483	0.0%
SWS	31,356	31,310	30,990	-1.0%
Tipperary	2,964	2,596	2,752	5.7%
Arrabawn	2,385	2,480	2,636	5.9%
Connacht	4,221	4,517	4,183	-8.0%
Donegal	372	259	214	-21.0%
Total	195,373	190,201	195,997	3.0%

5 Tully

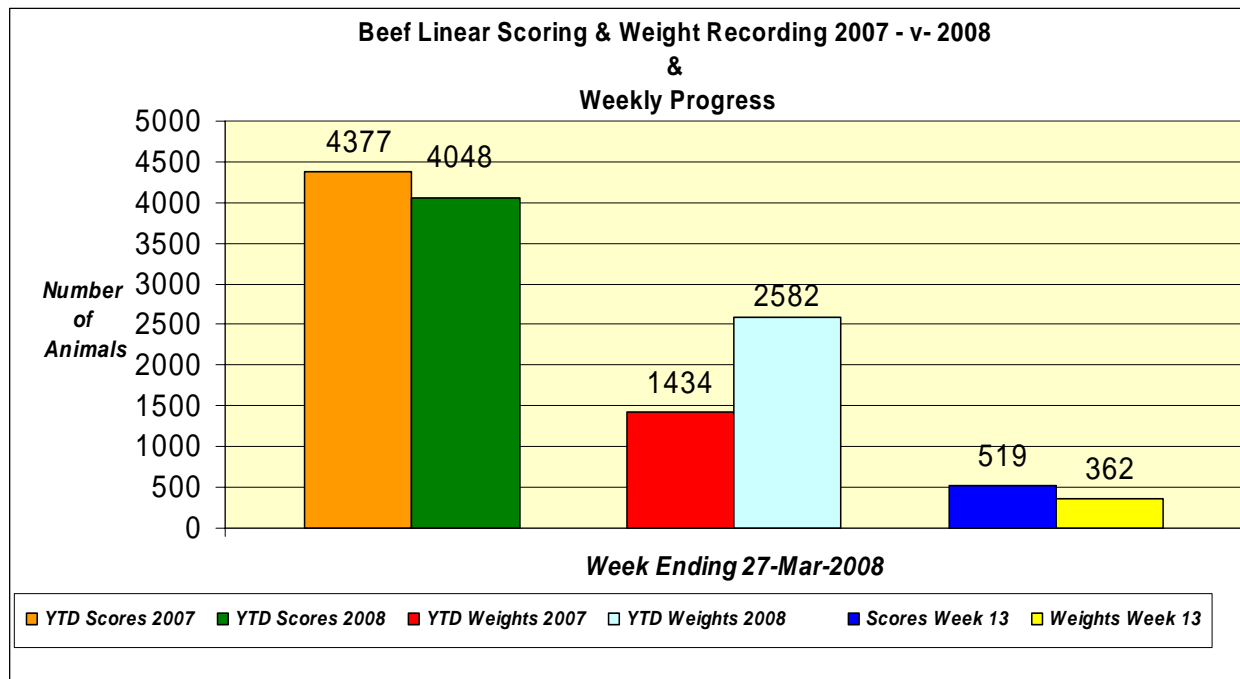
- ✚ The weights from the December intake will be sent out to breeders and breed societies on the 1-4-08
- ✚ The final weighing of the December intake will take place on the 7-4-08.
- ✚ A draft catalogue including Eurostar indexes and performance figures for the December intake will be available before the 4-4-08.



6 Genetic Evaluations

- ✦ Evaluations for the next routine update of dairy and beef bulls proofs are ongoing.
- ✦ INTERBULL files will be processed early next week.
- ✦ A new ASREML maternal weaning weight evaluation has been completed.
- ✦ A new beef performance evaluation is running which will include liveweight, feed intake and linear score data on the current Tully test bulls.
- ✦ New files from the 2008 French evaluations for all French beef breeds have been received and will be used in the next release of Euro-Star Beef Proofs.

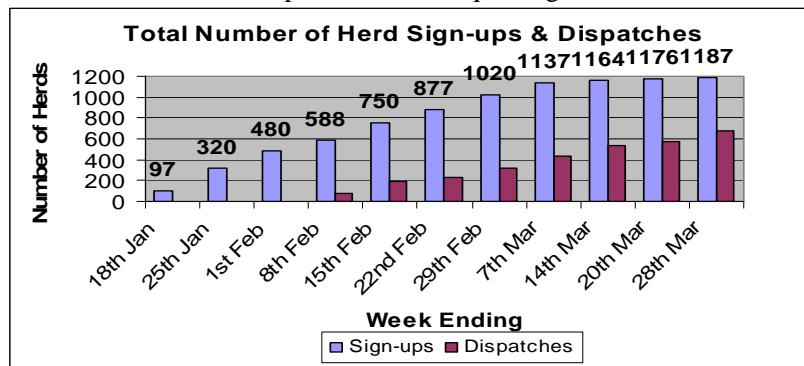
7 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



8 GENRELAND®

DAIRY SPRING 2008

- ✦ Sign-ups are now finished, with the exception of herds requesting the Mixed Breed Pack (Red Breeds).





- ✦ Currently dispatching the remaining herds that are due to start AI prior to the 10th April.
- ✦ To date, 32 bulls have been fully dispatched and we are currently working with another 15.

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