



UPDATE – for period 22nd – 28th September 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **October 20th.** National Dairy Show, Millstreet.
- ✚ **October 25th.** ICBF Board Meeting.

2 Ploughing Championships, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.



ICBF / HerdPlus Stand at Ploughing



ICBF Geneticists host a meeting with the Simmental Breed Society in the HerdPlus tent to discuss selection of bulls for the Tully intake. (Picture shows Andrew Cromie and Ross Evans from ICBF and Paddy Hennelly, Peadar Glennon, John Murphy and Gareth Beehan of the Simmental Society)



Pat Donnellan going over the fine details of the new GROW service (revamped Linear Scoring & Weighing)



Francis Kearney and Niall Kilrane of ICBF taking some farmers through the Sire Advice programme.



3 HerdPlus

The HerdPlus team marked its first year anniversary at the Ploughing this year. We used the event to launch the new **HerdPlus Beef Service**. The Euro-Star Report is the cornerstone of the beef service – it gives a Suckler Beef Value (SBV) score and a corresponding Star rating for each animal in the herd. (Ref last weeks update and this weeks Irish Farmers Journal for further on the Euro-Star). Euro-Star Reports were sent to beef farmers prior to the ploughing so they could come along to our stand and discuss their own details with our staff.

The new Euro-Star system was received well and there was good acceptance that the ratings received were by and large reflective of the animal’s performance. As more data flows into the beef herds (particularly sire info) then the faster the overall genetic gain of the national beef herd. As you can see from the photos above, our team were kept busy serving both existing Dairy clients and new Beef clients with their breeding information.

4 MINISTER COUGHLAN ANNOUNCES INCREASED FUNDING TO ICBF FOR BEEF CATTLE BREEDING

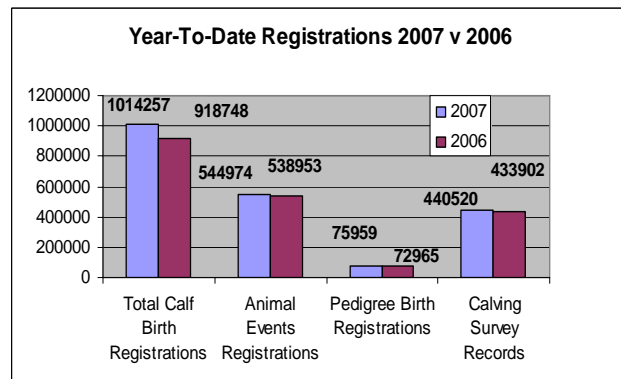
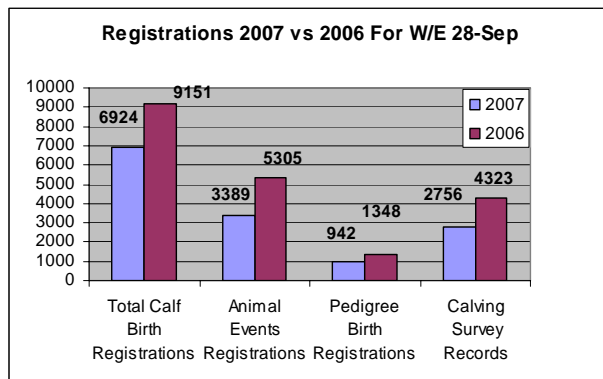
On 25th September, The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mary Coughlan TD, today announced additional financial support of €450,000 to the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) for beef cattle breeding. This funding is additional to the almost €2 million already committed to ICBF for 2007.

The Minister said that she is more than encouraged by the progress ICBF is making on beef cattle breeding in co-operation with the various stakeholders involved in the industry. Following a meeting which the Minister had with ICBF last week, she is satisfied that huge progress is being made in this area.

The launch of HerdPlus for beef by ICBF at the Ploughing Championships this week is indicative of the progress being made on the beef side and represents a major step forward for suckler herd owners and the beef industry generally. HerdPlus will include Euro-Star reports which will reflect the economic breeding values for individual animals and for the herd in the same way as the Economic Breeding Index (EBI) is used in dairy cattle breeding.

The Minister stated that beef cattle breeding is a long term investment and is very important in improving the quality, profitability and competitiveness of Irish beef production. This extra financial support will enable ICBF to progress further beef cattle breeding and she added: *“I look forward to seeing Tully re-open in the near future to ensure that the best of the 2007 Spring born pedigree beef calves across the breeds are performance tested.”*

5 Database Update





- ✦ 349,874 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 153,342 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✦ The new farmer interface to 'HerdPlus' was launched this week. Further updates will be continuing, with a further release expected before Christmas.
- ✦ Refinements of the Eurostar reports that were released to suckler farmers will begin next week based on good, constructive feedback received.
- ✦ Progress continues on the redesign of the Animal Events file processing which will be completed over the coming months.

6 Genetic Evaluations

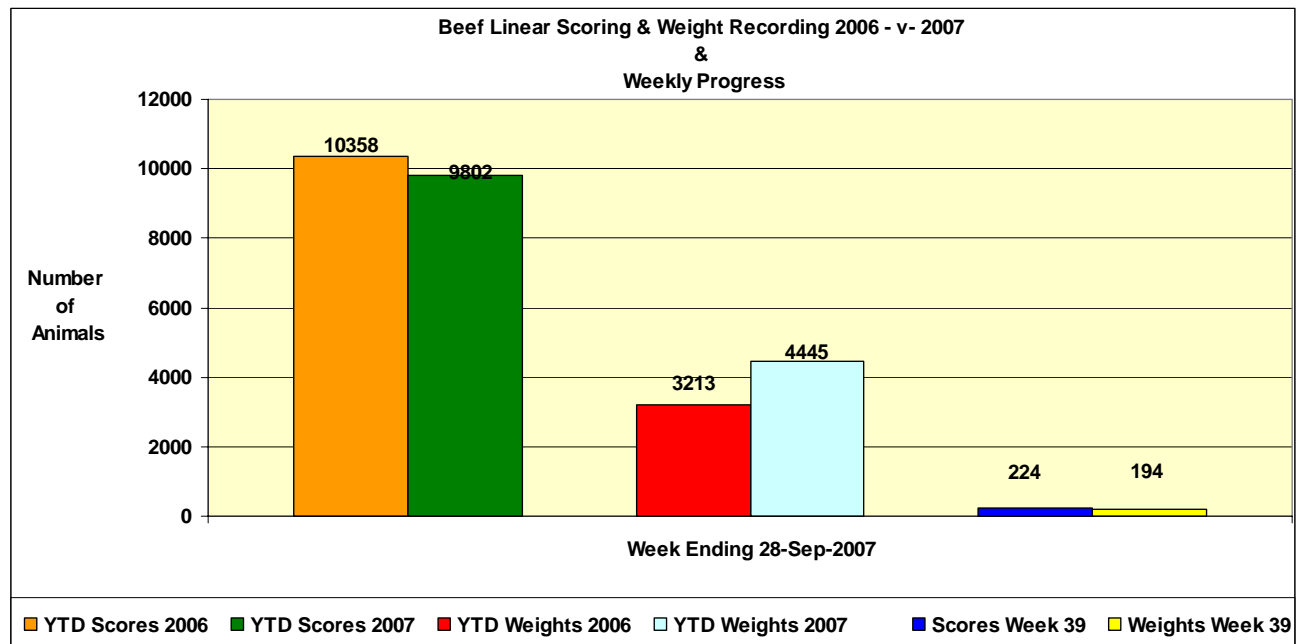
International beef

- ✦ From this week, Thierry Pabiou is working away at Interbull at the Swedish University of Agriculture in Upsalla in Sweden until the end of November as part of his PhD project. During his stay, he will be able to follow a course on quantitative genetic and variance components as well as pursuing the work started on the Pettitts data.
- ✦ If you need to contact Thierry, his email contact remains the same. tpabiou@icbf.com

7 Tully

- ✦ The risk assessment of Tully and pre-isolation units was carried out on 24th September by UCD Vets. A number of changes will have to be made to increase the Bio security. These will be implemented over the coming weeks.
- ✦ The Tully Health protocol will be updated and circulated over the coming weeks.
- ✦ ICBF Staff held meetings with Breed Societies at the Ploughing Championships to decide on the bull selection criteria for and applications will be sent out next week.

8 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





9 Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 28/09/07						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 28/09/07	No. EDIY Herds YTD 28/09/07	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 28/09/07	No. EDIY Cows YTD 28/09/07	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,126	648	30%	164,531	49,412	30%
Dairygold	1,587	553	35%	110,558	40,216	36%
Kerry	1,032	70	7%	71,420	5,635	8%
SWS	932	109	12%	60,222	7,035	12%
Tipperary	170	71	42%	12,228	5,212	43%
Arrabawn	167	126	75%	11,834	9,017	76%
Connacht	153	67	44%	10,031	4,194	42%
Donegal	43	43	100%	3,899	3,899	100%
Total	6,210	1,687	27%	444,723	124,620	28%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 28/09/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 28/09/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 28/09/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	147,766	155,051	164,531	5.8%
Dairygold	97,048	103,089	110,558	6.8%
Kerry	66,846	69,855	71,420	2.2%
SWS	54,212	58,837	60,222	2.3%
Tipperary	9,292	11,754	12,228	3.9%
Arrabawn	7,122	10,998	11,834	7.1%
Connacht	7,316	8,994	10,031	10.3%
Donegal	3,601	5,160	3,899	-32.3%
Total	393,203	423,738	444,723	4.7%

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