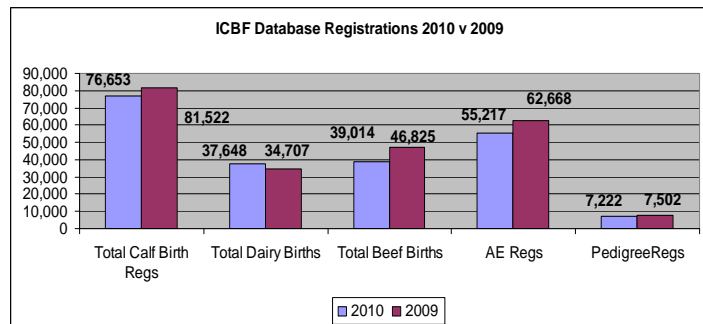
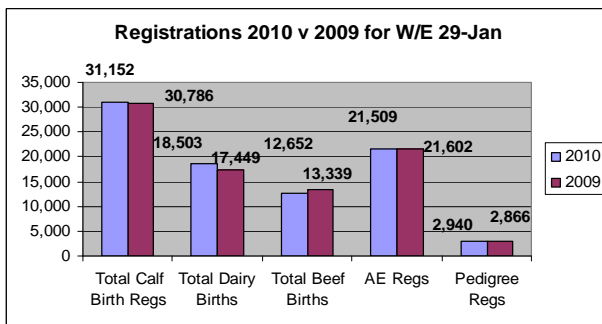


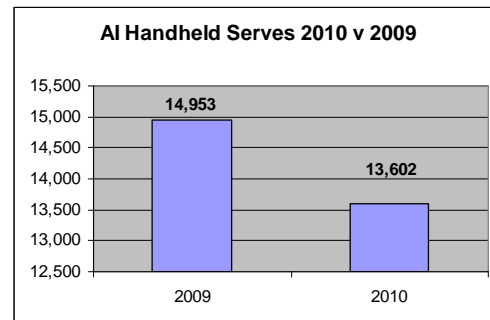
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 25th February 2010, **10:00 to 14:00** – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 25th February 2010, **14:00 to 16:30** – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interbull Breeding Industry Workshop** – Friday 5th March, Paris. This meeting is open to the cattle breeding industry. To get further details and to register follow the *Interbull* link on the International Representation page of our website (www.icbf.com).

2. Database



- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 580,807 with the number of animals weaned at 478,366.
- ✚ Notebooks and envelopes for Suckler herds will start to go out next week. A complimentary Herdplus Beef Calving Report is being included for all suckler scheme participants.
- ✚ All four milk recording organisations continue to work well on the new Milk Recording system. A significant release of the final changes will happen during the next week, bringing the major developments in the milk recording application to an end. Obviously, as any issues arise, these will be dealt with.
- ✚ A number of changes to facilitate the migration to the new Beef Linear evaluations will be released next week. These include the new linear score report, the herd-book catalogues, Taurus, the on-line bull search among others.
- ✚ The AI code application will go live next week.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



3. Interbeef

Key points arising at the Interbeef Working Group meeting held in the UK on Monday included:

- ✚ Some countries wish to replace their national beef evaluations with the envisaged Interbeef evaluations. When this is achieved the Interbeef service will be financially attractive.
- ✚ Countries that retain national evaluations can expect to benefit from the Interbeef service through the facilitation of imports and exports of beef breeding animals.

- ✚ To facilitate Interbeef evaluations it is important that all pedigree and performance data included in national evaluations should be provided to the Interbeef database to be held at the Interbull Centre.
- ✚ The transfer of the prototype genetic evaluation system from INRA to the Interbull Centre will take place in the next few weeks.
- ✚ The Interbeef Business Plan is being finalized and will cover the research & development of services as well as the provision of routine international genetic evaluations.
- ✚ Priority is being given to having the first Interbeef international evaluation services ready for presentation to the ICAR conference in May 2010.
- ✚ The activities of the ICAR Beef Working Group will be merged into the Interbeef Working Group. Details on terms of reference, membership and activities will be finalized prior to the ICAR meeting in May 2010.

4. ICBF Beef Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting

A meeting of the beef breeding industry stakeholders took place yesterday, Thursday 28th January in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. There was an excellent turnout of over 30 people from across the beef breeding industry including herdbooks, AI companies, Teagasc, UCD and farmers. The presentations have been posted on the ICBF website.

Key outcomes from the meeting were as follows:

1. ICBF to generate comparative statistics (and lists) of pedigree beef herds that are not currently using the ICBF GROW (linear scoring & weight recording) service. These lists would then be used to recruit herds to the GROW service.
2. A number of changes were agreed in the format of the standard pedigree sale catalogues. These included;
 - Omitting comments from the other key traits section.
 - Changing the linear bar graph for feet & legs traits to include an intermediate optimum.
 - Removing the % value from the rank column and instead presenting this column as “rank %”.
 - Omitting genetic index data which falls below a certain reliability threshold for a given trait. The exact threshold will vary depending on the heritability of the relevant trait. ICBF will undertake an analysis of the data, and suggest relevant thresholds for each trait. This work will be undertaken in the next 1-2 weeks.
 - Including a comments section for young bull reliability. Again, ICBF will undertake an analysis of this data, to establish relevant cut-offs for reliability. It was agreed that there should be 3 cut-off points (low, medium and high), with the exact thresholds varying by trait. This work will be undertaken in the next 1-2 weeks.
 - The new catalogue page would include an explanation of terms, a summary of the publication rules and a diagram of the traits scored.
 - A draft of the revised pedigree catalogue page is attached. The schedule for implementation will be advised next week.
3. ICBF to forward a list of “most wanted bulls” to AI companies and herdbooks for the purpose of genomic selection research.
4. ICBF to undertake an analysis of maternal weaning weight evaluations for a number of bulls, whose results appear inconsistent with feedback from the ground. *[Note: This work has now been completed, with the results indicating strong agreement between ICBF evaluations and UK evaluations for the same bulls]*

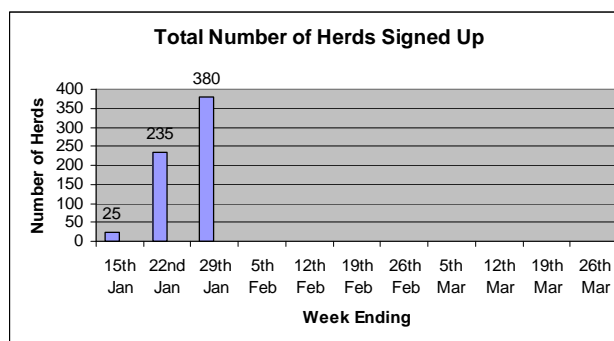
(based on independent BreedPlan figures). A more detailed analysis of the investigation has been forwarded to the herdbook in question.] ICBF welcomes these queries as it ensures the quality of ICBF's genetic evaluations is always off the highest level possible – based on available data.

5. ICBF to continue its work on developing a “breeding program” for the beef breeding industry. Areas currently being investigated (and presented at the meeting) included; (i) trends in size of the National suckler herd, relative use of AI and stock bulls, longevity of stock bulls, progeny per sire and level of genetic gain. A further update on this work will be presented at next weeks Tully advisory committee meeting.
6. ICBF to improve its “house-keeping” procedures, including greater notice of meetings, more formal minutes and forwarding of relevant material (e.g., new proofs) in advance of meetings.

5. GENÉIRELAND®

Dairy

- + Telephone calls to participants of last years programme are ongoing.
- + The total number of straws requested to date is 18,306.
- + Below please see the breed pack breakdown:



BREED PACK	HOFR	FR	XBRED	MIXED
STRAWS	13,116	1,494	2,746	950

Beef

- + Sign ups are going well with 85 herds taking part so far.
- + The majority of previous participants are signing up again.
- + Work continuing on identifying bulls for inclusion on the Spring panel.
- + Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.

BREED	CH	LM	LM	SI	BB	BB	PT	SA	AA	SH	HE
CODE	VHC	FL29	MBP	HSY	EVG	SEU	KCP	BHU	RWB	CZB	AGI
STRAWS	520	460	480	215	355	640	670	355	550	455	210

6. Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- + Beef evaluations have been completed and uploaded to the database. The bull search and bull files will be available on Monday along with the dairy proofs (see below).

Dairy

- ✦ A new genomic run is ongoing and should be completed over the weekend. If the testing of the proofs is satisfactory then the proofs will be uploaded to the database and all proofs will be available at 5.00pm on Monday evening Feb 1st.
- ✦ In the event that more time is needed for the completion of the genomic proofs the bull search for Proven Bulls will be made available at 12.00pm on Monday Feb 1st. Bulls that are to receive a genomic or a part genomic proof will not be displayed until this information has been updated.

Carcass Cuts

- ✦ Over 560,000 carcasses have been converted into meat yields to this date: the breakdown by sex category is 29%, 26%, 23%, and 21% for heifers, bulls, cows, and steers, respectively. The genetic parameter estimation will start on Monday; so far 151,000 (27%) of the total carcasses converted had a known sire. Conversions are still running.

7. Sheep Ireland

LambPlus

- ✦ 2009 members have all been contacted to confirm their participation in 2010.
- ✦ Members are currently updating their flock Inventory and Lambing screens.
- ✦ A meeting has been organised with Mayo Blackface Mountain Ram group to develop LambPlus for mountain sheep.
- ✦ LambPlus is still receiving sign up forms for 2010, and will do so until the end of February.

MALP/CPT

- ✦ DNA collection from MALP ewes is continuing.
- ✦ Preparations are being made for lambing in CPT flocks in 2010.
- ✦ The conception rate figures for the Lyons UCD flock following scanning is 85%.
- ✦ Initial conception % figures for the other CPT flocks are also close to 80%.
- ✦ Exact conception rates will be confirmed following scanning.

8. Tully

- ✦ A reminder that there is a scheduled meeting of the 'Tully Advisory Committee' to take place in Tully on Wednesday, 3rd of February at 10.00am.
- ✦ A blood sample was obtained on all 105 bulls in Tully this week for use in the on-going Genomics research. All bulls over the last 3 intakes in Tully (n = 203), have had blood samples obtained for Genomics research.
- ✦ Bulls were again washed this week, due to the favorable weather conditions. Also, all outside pens had clean woodchip applied.
- ✦ Bulls are due to be weighted next Monday, which will allow the Average Daily Gain figures to date, to be calculated. This will be a key indicator of how bulls are performing to date.
- ✦ All up to date feed intake data has being inputted into the ICBF database.
- ✦ A number of bulls were linear scored for muscular and skeletal traits last week, by ICBF linear scorer Karl O'Connell.

- ✚ Breeders, AI companies and Breed Societies will be notified early next week of the changes in the new evaluation to the Euro-Star indexes for bulls at Tully.
- ✚ Milbrook Dartangan (see picture), which was purchased from Tully in April 2009 by Dovea AI, is the top selling Limousin bull in the UK, this week. This bull is currently available through the GENIRELAND program.



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DRAFT LAYOUT OF STANDARD PEDIGREE SALE CATALOGUE PAGE
AS AGREED AT BREEDING INDUSTRY CONSULTATION MEETING 28TH
JANUARY 2010.

Lot 52 Charlie Watford		Breed: Limousine			
IE111022270211		DOB: 01-Oct-2005			
Owner: John Jones - Co. Longford					
Sire: LM8177132385 SBV = €120 (40%)		Brefni			
		Lancelot SBV = €123 (60%)	Steve		
			Gaufrette		
		Cecelia SBV = €43 (23%)	Sylvio		
			Leontine		
Dam: StoneLake Sabina VHB245978 SBV = €80 (40%)		Jimmy-Dollar SBV = €97 (60%)	Martine		
			Uberta		
		Lucinda SBV = €45 (22%)	Kilboy Tom		
			Abbey Jennifer		
€uro-Star Indexes					
Rank %	Star Rating (within breed)	Indexes & Traits	€uro-Value	Data Reliability	Relative Data Reliability comment
81	★★★★★	Suckler Beef Value (SBV)	€108	37%	Medium
90	★★★★★	Weanling Export	€80	41%	Medium
88	★★★★★	Beef Carcass	€100	42%	Medium
50	★★★	Daughter Fertility	€20	10%	Low
57	★★★	Daughter Milk	€15	12%	Low
Other Key Traits					
N/A	N/A	Calving Difficulty (% 3 and 4)	N/A	15%	Too low
N/A	N/A	Gestation Length		15%	Too low
90	★★★★★	Docility		35%	Medium
Linear Trait Genetic Evaluation Scored and weighed in a group of 5 and in age range 150 - 300 days				BLUP Composites (Within Breed)	
Width at withers	Narrow		Wide		
Width Behind withers	Narrow		Wide		
Loin Development	Thin		Thick		
Dev Hind quarter	Low		High		
Thigh width	Narrow		Wide		
Height at withers	Small		Tall		
Length of back	Short		Long		
Length of pelvis	Short		Long		
Width at hips	Narrow		Wide		
Locomotion	Poor		Good		
breed percentile			0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100		
Muscle	110	80%	85		
Skeletal	99	80%	49		
Function	95	40%	42		
Comments					
Bull is full brother to Hollychamp Lisa, Champion female at Society Premier Show & Sale, August 2008. Sold for €5,700 at sale.					
Feet and Leg descriptions					
Hind leg side view	straight		sickled		
Hind leg rear view	Toes out		Toes in		
Fore leg front view	Toes out		Toes in		
		0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9			