

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 15th September, 10:30 to 14:00 – ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 22nd September, 14:00 to 16:30 – ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.

2 Breeding Consultation Meeting

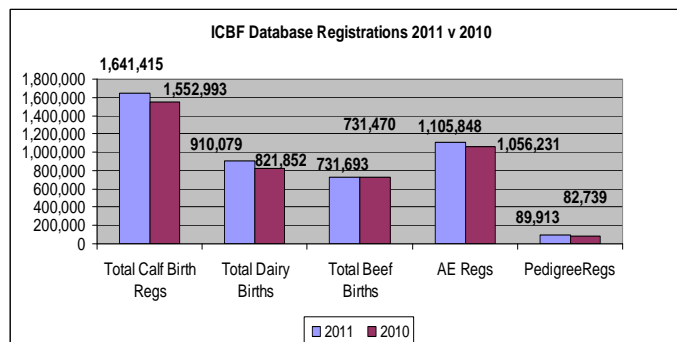
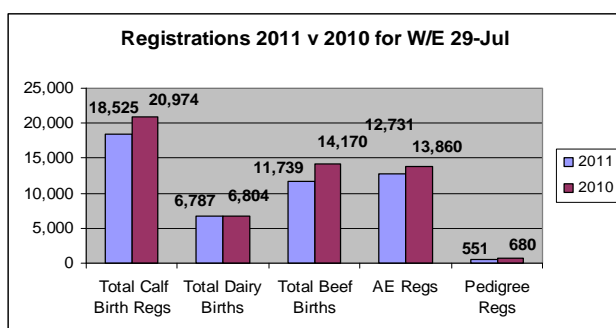
The key actions arising from this week's meetings included:

- ✚ For dairy linear scoring:
 - Dairy linear scoring should move to an across breed basis, based on the Holstein system and priority is to be given to collecting data on other breeds in Gene Ireland herds from 2011.
 - ICBF are to develop and implement dairy linear trait genetic evaluations in early 2012 including participation in Interbull evaluations for the main dairy breeds.
 - A dairy linear trait research project should be initiated forthwith to examine a range of questions relevant to genetic evaluations and linear scoring.
- ✚ A new “5%” rule for determining which animals qualify for genomic evaluations is to be implemented and:
 - Options are to be investigated to allow farmers to know in advance if an animal will pass the 5% rule.
 - Important outcrosses that won't make the rule can still be tested through the GI scheme.
- ✚ Operations work for genomic evaluations of linear type traits is scheduled for the end of September.
- ✚ Proceed with rolling out Friesian Genomic EBI for August 2011.
- ✚ For the new dairy fertility evaluations:
 - Test proofs will be available next week with feedback welcome.
 - Data to be submitted to the September Interbull test run and results presented at the next industry meeting.
- ✚ For the Beef Breeding Review:
 - The outcome of the work underway as part of the review will be updated at a technical meeting with the Herdbooks on 18th of August and also at the Industry consultation meeting on 7th of September.
 - This will include the work being carried out on the cost benefit analysis of beef genetic improvement options by Peter Amer.
- ✚ For ICAR 2012:
 - All participants at the meeting are to keep the week Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June free for 2012.
 - Attendance is recommended for board members of all Irish cattle breeding organisations.
 - More details available at www.icar2012.ie.
- ✚ For the new beef maternal weaning weight and fertility traits:
 - The new test proofs will be circulated to all who have not yet received them.
 - An update will be given at a technical meeting with the Herdbooks on 18th of August.

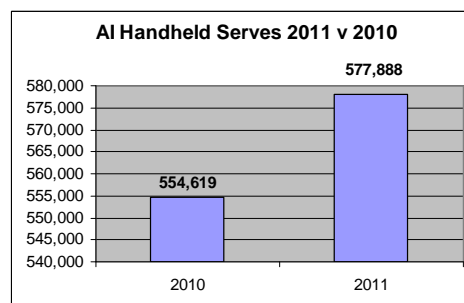
- ✚ A list of the 3,408 bulls that have been chosen to be genotyped in 2011, for beef genomics research, is to be circulated to all relevant stakeholders.
- ✚ For the question of the need for new or different beef indexes:
 - ICBF to develop a proposal for consideration at the next consultation meeting.
 - All attendees to give further thought to the issues and best solutions. These to be further considered at herd book and consultation meetings.

A copy of the presentations to the meeting is available in the publications section of www.icbf.com.

3 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 626,584 with the number of animals weaned at 565,141.
- ✚ A significant block of work to further enhance the efficiency of generation and distribution of Suckler Scheme form is nearing completion.
- ✚ The first prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software is being shipped from the US today.
- ✚ Work is on-going in building the systems that will support the up-coming national BVD eradication programme.
- ✚ Some minor revisions to the Co-op milk solids reports have been completed this week.
- ✚ Some further work on the screens to support the transfer of genotypes to and from the ICBF database is on-going.
- ✚ This week, the work continued on a major upgrade to one of the key software platforms used at ICBF. The tool used to generate our farmer forms and reports, (Streamserve), will undergo a major upgrade over the coming months.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



4 Beef HerdPlus®

- ✚ Three Beef Herdplus service users had Farmwalks on their farms this week:

- Robin Talbot, Ballacolla, Co. Laois.
- JD Leahy, Lismore, Co. Waterford.
- Ger Dineen, Macroom, Co. Cork.

✚ The relevant Beef Herdplus reports were used at these walks. The Breeding/Purchasing of replacement heifers for the Suckler Herd was one of the main topics that was discussed.

Pictures show:



Martina Moran speaking at JD Leahy's Farmwalk.



Martina Moran speaking at Ger Dineen's Farmwalk.



Suckler cows on JD Leahy's farm.



Replacement heifers in Robin Talbot's herd.



Suckler cows in Ger Dineen's herd.

- ✚ Euro-Star reports are also being generated for pedigree Angus and Hereford Cattle which are being exported to Kazakhstan over the coming weeks.
- ✚ Work is on-going on increasing the level of weight recording in Suckler Herds Nationally. Discussion Groups are being contacted to gauge the level of weight recording already taking place and to establish the interest there would be amongst group members for such a service.

5 GROW[®]

Beef

- ✚ 1439 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in June (up by 344 on June 2010).
- ✚ 625 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in June (up by 36 on June 2010).
- ✚ 100% of beef animals that were scored were also weighed in June.

Work is continuing on the review of the GROW service.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 29/07/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 29/07/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 29/07/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 29/07/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 29/07/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,657	1,038	28%	297,721	93,553	31%
Progressive	2,355	887	38%	208,924	78,923	38%
Tipperary	144	64	44%	12,933	6,205	48%
Total	6,156	1,989	32%	519,578	178,681	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 29/07/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 29/07/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	271,565	297,721	8.8%
Progressive	185,820	208,924	11.1%
Tipperary	11,377	12,933	12.0%
Total	468,762	519,578	9.8%

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 19/07/11 to 29/07/11								
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	1014	77,023	76	22.8	3.84	3.42	1.65	273
Leinster	295	24,478	83	23.2	3.69	3.38	1.64	290
Connacht	63	4,030	64	24.4	3.68	3.30	1.70	282
Ulster	65	4,726	73	22.0	3.81	3.35	1.58	273

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 19/07/11 to 29/07/11

	<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>
CARLOW	17	1,074	63	23.2	3.89	3.42	1.70	280
CAVAN	27	1,734	64	22.7	3.69	3.30	1.59	220
CLARE	43	2,598	60	24.3	3.69	3.37	1.72	287
CORK STH	271	19,732	73	22.6	3.85	3.39	1.64	229
CORK NTH	263	20,730	79	22.3	3.96	3.50	1.66	238
DONEGAL	12	1,436	120	19.8	4.05	3.46	1.49	348
DUBLIN	6	312	52	27	3.22	3.36	1.78	342
GALWAY	17	1,055	62	23.7	3.93	3.28	1.71	298
KERRY	165	10,981	67	23.7	3.72	3.34	1.67	302
KILDARE	22	1,755	80	24.3	3.88	3.39	1.77	352
KILKENNY	41	3,608	88	22.8	3.75	3.46	1.64	188
LAOIS	34	2,848	84	20.9	3.89	3.46	1.54	248
LEITRIM	5	277	55	22.5	3.58	3.19	1.52	293
LIMERICK	109	8,477	78	24.5	3.68	3.36	1.72	281
LONGFORD	6	386	64	21.4	3.58	3.25	1.46	259
LOUTH	15	1,356	90	24.2	3.57	3.35	1.67	247
MAYO	33	2,180	66	25.9	3.34	3.34	1.73	378
MEATH	48	4,959	103	23.4	3.63	3.31	1.62	273
MONAGHAN	26	1,556	60	23.6	3.69	3.28	1.64	251
OFFALY	22	1,577	72	24.1	3.83	3.37	1.74	323
ROSCOMMON	1	74	74	24.3	3.87	3.36	1.76	152
SLIGO	7	444	63	25.5	3.66	3.34	1.79	287
TIPPERARY NTH	45	4,556	101	20	4.06	3.50	1.51	339
TIPPERARY STH	55	4,369	79	22	3.95	3.43	1.62	284
WATERFORD	63	5,580	89	22.7	3.82	3.50	1.66	223
WESTMEATH	11	824	75	22.2	4.06	3.44	1.67	273
WEXFORD	54	4,140	77	23	3.69	3.44	1.64	283
WICKLOW E	14	1,118	80	23.3	3.44	3.41	1.60	323
WICKLOW W	5	521	104	21.7	3.55	3.34	1.50	385
	<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	1,437	110,257	77	23.2	3.74	3.38	1.65	282

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