



Update for period 22nd – 29th September 2006

1 Important Dates

- **September 27th to 30th** - Ploughing. **HerdPlus** will be the main focus of the ICBF stand.
- **Wednesday 11th October** – **Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation** meeting – Moorepark.
- **Wednesday 18th October** **Beef Breeding Consultation** meeting

2 Board Meeting

The Board of ICBF met on Friday last week (22nd September). Decisions taken included:

- That the Board of ICBF would only take decisions to extend the range of reports included in HerdPlus after member organizations had been consulted. Further consultations in relation to catalogues and sire advice will take place in the near future.
- To offer an insemination recording service, based on the use of AI Handheld computers, to all AI organizations (members and non-members of ICBF) holding field service licenses and operating in Ireland.
- To support, in principle, the Beef and Dairy breeding scheme proposals and to continue discussions with stakeholder interests and to take a decision when a detailed proposal has been finalized.
- To endorse the Beef and Dairy breeding scheme proposals as the basis for a proposal to DAF to seek financial support.

3 Ploughing

This week ICBF has been busy at Ploughing. With the event covering four days there has been a considerable load on our limited resources. Our stand is focused on the HerdPlus service. There has been a lot of positive interest. The features of HerdPlus that are proving attractive include the EBI Report, Customised Notebook and the fact that all the information is readily available from our website once the herd is signed-up.

4 HerdPlus

- From this week on, we will include an update on progress with HerdPlus here.
- With 360 herds signed-up as at 12 noon on Thursday 28th September, it is clear that the service is attractive to farmers and that it will achieve a high level of uptake. Sign-ups have been mostly for the electronic version (some 75% so far) as many farmers have computers and internet access.
- The first HerdPlus report will be the autumn EBI report which is due for release in the middle of October. Only those herds signed-up to HerdPlus will receive this report. Please encourage all farmers interested in breeding more profitable cows to get signed-up as soon as possible.
- As was expected there has been some discussion about the move to user-pays for HerdPlus. We are finding that once the reasons for the move are explained most farmers are more than happy to sign-up.

5 Tully

- The Weights for bulls in the May intake were sent out to breeders on 26th September.
- A group of 40 beef farmers from Estonia visited on the 27-9-06.
- A group of 25 Piedmontese breeders from Italy visited on the 30-9-06.

6 International Beef Genetic Evaluations

- Work currently done on Hereford and Simmental pedigrees (animals with beef performances): number of generations with known ancestors, evolution of the breed fractions with the generations.

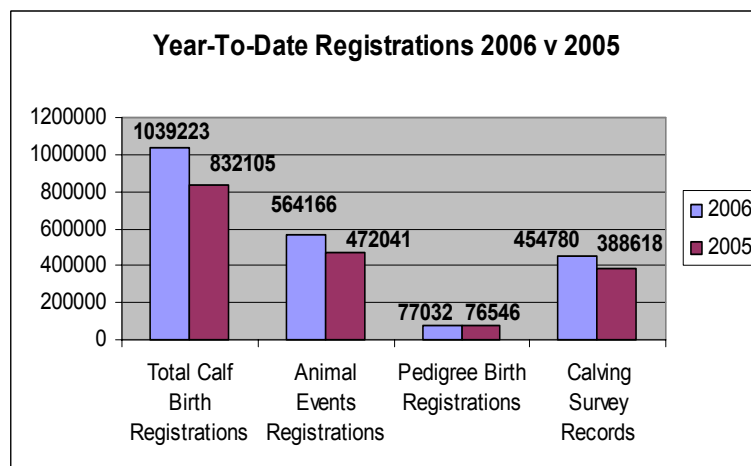
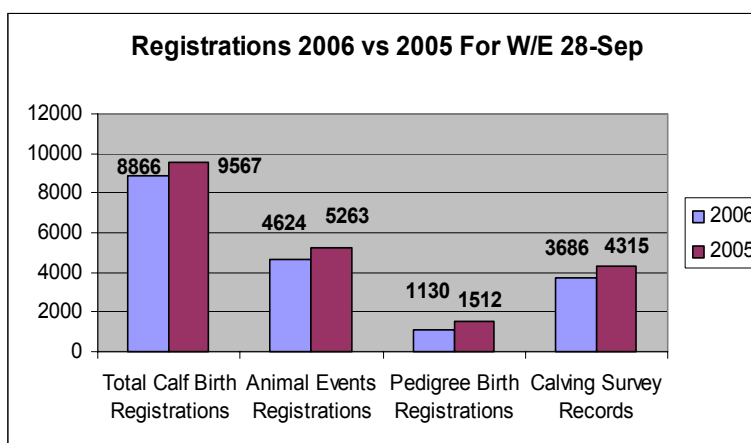


7 Genetic Evaluations

- This week was mainly focused on the visit of Peter Amer and attendance at the National Ploughing championships.
- A meeting was held with the Teagasc beef specialists on various aspects of the new beef economic indexes including presentation, assumptions and economic values. Suggestions are currently being evaluated by Peter and ICBF, and will be presented at the next beef industry meeting.
- Work continues on the maternal sub-index with mart data and linear scoring data being collected. This new data will be utilised in a new evaluation in the near future.

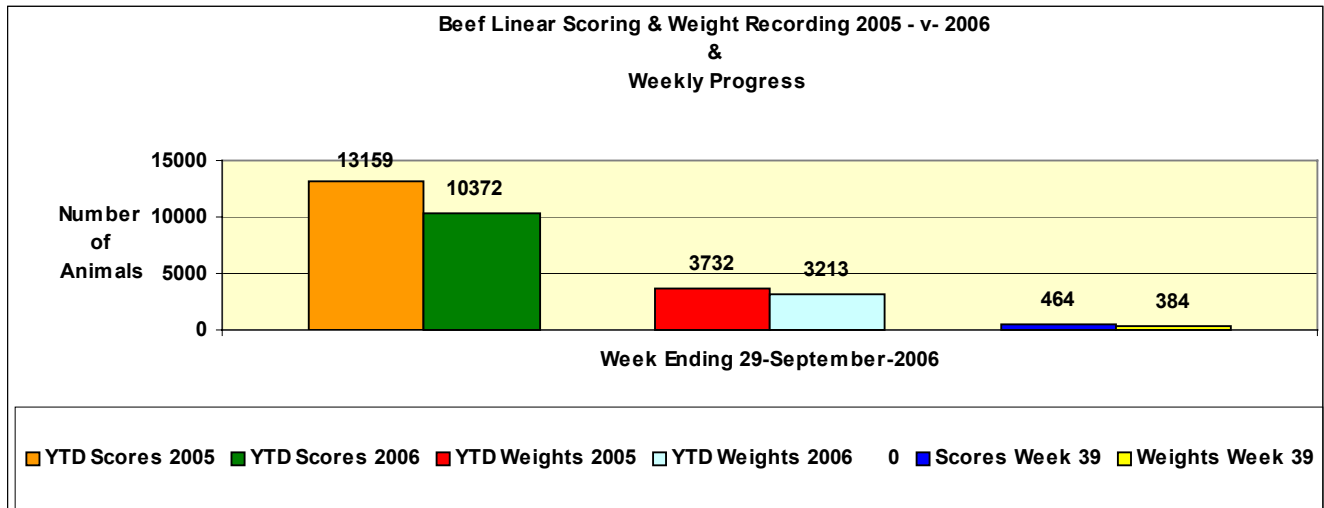
8 Database Update

- 27 new herds added to the database last week.
- The number of inseminations recorded on handhelds this year now stands at 154,410.
- 36 Dairygold technicians have now recorded live inseminations. The current plan remains to have all Dairygold technicians currently working live by the end of September.
- Progressive Genetics are also making good progress in cleaning up the data before going live with the North East technicians. It is expected that the training of these technicians will begin in early October, with all technicians up and running by through November and December.
- The linear scoring of dairy progeny test heifers has continued this week, 1794 progeny test heifers have now been scored.
- The commercial beef scoring project also kicked off continued this week, with 1210 animals now scored.
- The commercial scoring report was issued to all herds scored to date this week. A copy of the report is included below.





9 Beef Linear Scoring



10 Milk Recording Update

Milk Recording Stats week ending 29/09/06

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 29/09/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 29/09/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 29/09/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 29/09/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,080	2,099	1%	147,610	154,765	5%
Dairygold	1,521	1,549	2%	97,085	102,911	6%
Kerry	1,064	1,074	1%	66,902	69,742	4%
SWS	936	958	2%	54,247	58,842	8%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,292	11,760	27%
Arrabawn	109	157	44%	7,085	10,960	55%
Connacht	110	138	25%	7,316	8,994	23%
Donegal	35	56	60%	3,601	5,163	43%
Total	5,996	6,199	3%	393,138	423,137	8%

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 22/09/06 - 29/09/06
Progressive	402
Dairygold	223
Kerry	191
SWS	159
Tipperary	45
Arrabawn	33
Donegal	5
Total	1,053

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Weanling Performance Herd Report

Herd Owner: N
Herd Number: IE1234567
Date Printed : 28-SEP-2006

1. Summary Statistics

Date of weight recording & linear scoring visit	25-SEP-06
Number of calves weighed and scored	65
Number of calves weighed and scored within target range (150-300 days)	45
Number of calves weighed and scored outside target range (150-300 days)	20

2. Overall Herd Performance (150-300 day records only)

Group	Number of records	Weight Gain			Conformation**	
		Weight (kg)	Age (days)	Gain* (kg/day)	Loin Dev (1-15)	Dev HQ (1-15)
<i>i. Overall</i>						
All Calves	45	278	214	1.1	8	9
<i>ii. Overall Herd Performance by Calf Age</i>						
150 - 200 days	11	248	179	1.2	8	9
200 - 250 days	32	286	223	1.1	9	9
250 - 300 days	2	313	256	1.1	8	9
<i>iii. Overall Herd Performance by Calf Sex</i>						
M	19	290	206	1.2	9	9
F	26	269	219	1.1	8	9
<i>iii. Overall Herd Performance by Dam Age</i>						
1st calvers	8	261	220	1.0	8	9
2nd and 3rd calvers	10	271	204	1.1	9	9
4th+ calvers	27	286	215	1.2	9	9
<i>iii. Overall Herd Performance by Sire ID (5 most used sires shown)</i>						
IE911355230448	17	268	214	1.1	8	9
IE911371590737	15	286	201	1.2	9	9
IE911371590415	12	285	230	1.1	9	9
MIU	1	245	209	1.0	8	8

* Average birth weight of 40kg assumed for all calves.

** Of the 14 traits scored, loin development & hind-quarter development are the best predictors of carcass conformation.

3. Comparative Herd Performance (150-300 day records only)

			Btm 15%	Average	Top 15%
<i>i. Weaning weight (kg)</i>			210		300
Average weight (kg) at target weaning age (150-300 days)	Herd	278			
	National Average	264			
<i>ii. Weight Gain (ADG)</i>			0.65		1.2
Average weight gain (kg/day) from birth to weaning	Herd	1.1			
	National Average	0.8			
<i>iii. Loin Development</i>			7.8		11.1
Scored on a 1-15 scale, 1 being poor & 15 being best	Herd	8.0			
	National Average	8.5			
<i>iv. Development HindQ</i>			7.5		10.1
Scored on a 1-15 scale, 1 being poor & 15 being best	Herd	9.0			
	National Average	8.1			

Weanling Performance Herd Report

Herd Owner: AN
Herd Number: IE
Date Printed : 28-SEP-2006

1. Calves weighed and scored within target range (150-300 days)

ID & Ancestry Information				Weight Gain			Conformation	
Calf ID Breed	DOB Sex	Sire ID Breed	Dam ID Breed	Weight (kg)	Age (days)	Gain (kg/day)	Loin Dev (1-15)	Dev HQ (1-15)
IE71511050 BB 50% CH 22% SI 19%	08-Jan-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IE211371550312 CH 44% SI 34%	308	260	1.0	6	8
IE1551054 BB 50% AA 25% LM 13% SI 9%	16-Jan-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IENQMZ0025D AA 50% LM 25% SI 19%	317	252	1.1	9	10
IE561055 BA 50% LM 22% FR 16% HO 6%	18-Jan-2006 Female	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE211371540773 LM 44% FR 28% HO 13%	265	250	0.9	6	8
IE1571056 BB 50% CH 22% SI 13%	23-Jan-2006 Male	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IEGNXP0042E CH 44% SI 25%	317	245	1.1	9	10
IE1581057 BB 50% LM 41%	24-Jan-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IE211403630095 LM 81%	200	244	0.7	9	9
IE1591058 BA 50% BB 22% SI 13% HO 9%	24-Jan-2006 Female	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE211371590753 BB 44% SI 22% HO 19%	252	244	0.9	7	8
IE1541061 BB 50% LM 25% HO 19%	30-Jan-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IE131541480097 LM 50% HO 38%	264	238	0.9	8	10
IE531060 BB 72% LM 22%	30-Jan-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IE341303950651 LM 44% BB 41%	290	238	1.1	11	10
IE61063 CH 72% BB 19%	02-Feb-2006 Male	IE211371590737 CH 100%	IE211371590324 CH 44% BB 34%	384	235	1.5	9	8
IE81065 BA 50% LM 25% CH 22%	05-Feb-2006 Male	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE211371550733 LM 50% CH 44%	285	232	1.1	10	10
IE511067 BA 50% CH 34%	06-Feb-2006 Female	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IEPGHH0003M CH 69%	290	231	1.1	8	8
IE531069 BB 50% CH 34%	08-Feb-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	JSA657187 CH 69%	293	229	1.1	9	9
IE551070 BA 50% LM 22% CH 13% SI 13%	08-Feb-2006 Male	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE211371510738 LM 44% CH 22% SI 22%	285	229	1.1	8	8
IE561071 CH 50% LM 34%	11-Feb-2006 Male	IE211371590737 CH 100%	IEFKSL0195C LM 69%	304	226	1.2	9	8
IE71072 BB 50% SI 22% CH 19%	12-Feb-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IE211371510457 SI 44% CH 34%	322	225	1.3	9	9
IE511075 CH 50% LM 34% HO 9%	14-Feb-2006 Male	IE211371590737 CH 100%	IE341303930625 LM 66% HO 19%	312	223	1.2	9	11
IE91074 BB 50% BA 13% HE 13%	14-Feb-2006 Female	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IE301331320233 BA 25% HE 25%	257	223	1.0	10	10
IE521076 BA 50% LM 25% SI 13%	16-Feb-2006 Female	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IEDTLL0056M LM 50% SI 25%	268	221	1.0	8	9
IE541078 BA 72% CH 19%	17-Feb-2006 Female	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE131317440080 BA 44% CH 38%	254	220	1.0	8	8
IE531077 BA 50% BB 22% HE 19%	17-Feb-2006 Male	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE211371550543 BB 44% HE 38%	324	220	1.3	9	10
IE571080 CH 50% BB 22% LM 19%	18-Feb-2006 Female	IE211371590737 CH 100%	IE341303910664 BB 44% LM 34%	324	219	1.3	11	11
IE551079 BA 50% BB 22% LM 13%	18-Feb-2006 Female	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE371374480174 BB 44% LM 22%	288	219	1.1	7	8
IE81081 BA 50% LM 22% AA 13% HE 9%	19-Feb-2006 Female	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE211371520524 LM 44% AA 22% HE 19%	238	218	0.9	7	8
IE91082 BA 50% LM 44%	20-Feb-2006 Male	IE211355230448 BA 100%	IE211371580728 LM 84%	285	217	1.1	8	9
IE21084 CH 72% SI 13%	23-Feb-2006 Female	IE211371590737 CH 100%	IE211385050110 CH 44% SI 25%	253	214	1.0	8	8
IE11083 CH 50% SI 41%	23-Feb-2006 Male	IE211371590737 CH 100%	IEBVHM0035W SI 81%	321	214	1.3	9	9
IE31085 BB 50% BA 13% HE 13%	24-Feb-2006 Male	IE211371590415 BB 100%	IE301331350260 BA 25% HE 25%	324	213	1.3	10	11