



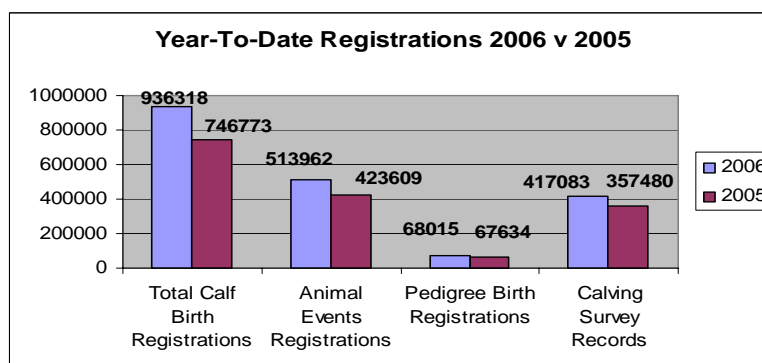
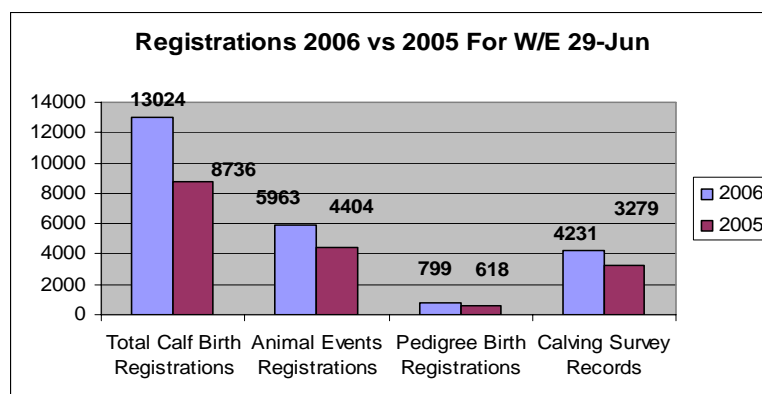
Update for period 24th – 30th June 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Wednesday 12th July**, 10:30- 4.00pm, Beef Breeding Scheme and Data Review, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. This meeting is for breed associations and AI organizations to discuss the breeding scheme proposals currently under development in ICBF.
- ✚ **Thursday 20th July**, 10:30 – 13:00. Tully & Beef Linear Scoring Review Meeting, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. **Please note change of time.**
- ✚ **Thursday 20th July**, 14:00 – 15:00. Meeting of with ICBF Herd Book Members to discuss charges for services.
- ✚ **Tuesday 1st August**, 10.30-1.00pm, **Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting**, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. **Please not change of date – previously 20th July.**

2 Database Update

- ✚ 57 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ Over 115,000 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds. This is an average of 1,500 per handheld.
- ✚ Nearly 500 separate animal events have been recorded since the launch of online animal events in Kildalton last week. This is proving to be very popular with the farmers who are using the system with the most popular comment being the benefit of the data checking, which checks the data before its saved and highlights any potential issues e.g. incorrect tags.
- ✚ The review of AI handheld system began this week and is proving very productive.
- ✚ An update of slaughter data was received from DAFF and loaded into the database. This was in the region of 208,000 records.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the procurement of mart data.. Sample data from one mart has been loaded to the database.
- ✚ John Moloney (A.I Handheld Field Support Team) leaves ICBF today. We are very grateful to John for the contribution he has made to the success of the handheld system at Dovea and wish him the very best for the future.





3 Breeding Information Service

Planning

Planning for the launch of this new service later this year is gathering momentum. For the next few months we will be reporting progress here every week. Planning is under four main headings:

- a. Financial – budget, payment methods, order processing
- b. Technical – security, authorisations
- c. Marketing – product, promotion, sales, launch
- d. Operations – call centre, web site, printing & distribution

Name Challenge

We will be promoting the service over the next few months in the press, at the EBI 100 Day, Ploughing etc. However, we must first give the service a good name. We're looking for suggestions from sources. We originally came up with "Breeding Information Services" but it maybe a little flat...we need something punchy! So we are asking you to get your thinking hats on – if your suggestion gets chosen there will be a meal voucher winging its way to you!

✚ Please email your suggestions to query@icbf.com by Friday 7th July.

✚ To help the creative process along remember some key tenets of the ICBF brand are;

- *Profit for farmers*
- *Data for Management & Breeding Decisions*
- *Science*
- *Independence (no commercial bias)*
- *Farmer Ally*
- *Trust*

✚ To help with thinking about names here is a brief outline of the services/products we are planning on offering in this service to farmers;

1) Animal Events (Postal):

- Recording Book and Notebook for event recording
- Freepost Envelopes
- Calf Reg./CMMS feeds to your herd
- Web access to all reports

2) Animal Events (Electronic):

- Internet access for event recording + Notebook
- Web access to all reports
- PC Downloads for Farm Packages
- Calf Reg./CMMS feeds to your herd

3) Herd Reports – available on internet or hard copy EBI report – Dairy

- Milk Quality Report
- Inventory of animals
- Calving summary
- Slaughter summary
- Reproductive performance
- Expected calving
- Breeding chart



4) Breeding Information Service Helpdesk:

- Events support – animal and data queries
- Reports support – how to use the information (distinction here – it's not advice rather information and how to use it).

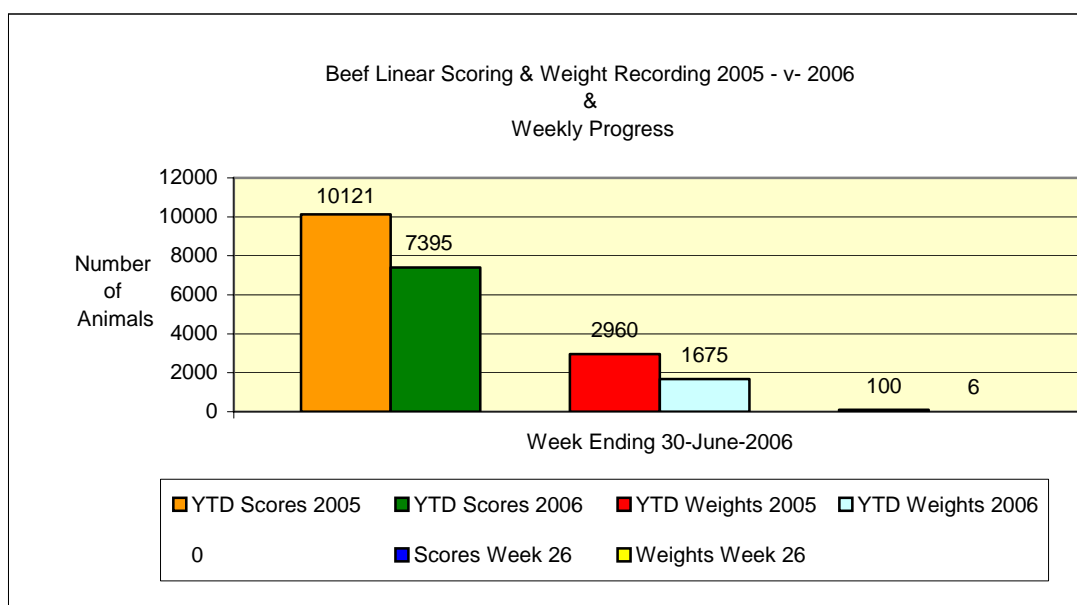
5) High EBI Animal referral

- Elite males and or females notified to AI & HB orgs and for Tully participation.

4 Tully

- ✚ Timothy Byrne the student that was on placement in Tully, since last September, finished up on Monday. We are currently in the process recruiting another student to join us in September. If you know of anybody who might be interested please ask them to contact Brian Wickham.
- ✚ The performance test for the May intake of bulls started on the 28-6-06.
- ✚ A group of pedigree breeders from Germany visited Tully on the 26-6-06.

5 Linear Scoring



6 Milk Recording Update

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

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 30/06/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 30/06/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 30/06/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 30/06/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,066	2,065	0%	141,403	146,611	4%
Dairygold	1,512	1,537	2%	91,951	98,174	7%*
Kerry	1,064	1,073	1%	64,482	67,337	4%
SWS	934	953	2%	52,577	56,129	7%*
Tipperary	141	167	18%	9,044	11,247	24%*
Arrabawn	107	157	47%	6,663	10,394	56%*
Connacht	110	128	16%	6,979	7,963	14%
Donegal	30	56	87%	2,756	4,758	73%*
Total	5,964	6,136	3%	375,855	402,613	7%

* For these Co-ops increase in cow numbers attributed to EDIY cells



Milk Recording Stats week ending 30/06/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 23/06/06 - 30/06/06
Progressive	249
SWS	250
Kerry	244
Dairygold	229
Tipperary	32
Connacht	21
Arrabawn	8
Donegal	0
Total	1,033

7 Developments in Dairy Genetic Evaluations - ICBF Dairy Breeding Industry Meeting

- ✚ An industry consultation meeting to discuss developments in dairy breeding evaluations took place on Thursday 29th June in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. The key objective of the meeting was to discuss priorities for dairy genetic evaluations over the coming 5 months ahead of possible implementation in November.
- ✚ A list of possible work areas were presented to the consultative group). The meeting was then divided up into 5 groups with each group asked to discuss each of the areas and then come back with its top priorities for possible implementation in November. The results of the group consultative process are given in Table 1.
- ✚ As a result of the consultative process, ICBF and its project partners, have a clear list of work priorities for the coming 5 months. These are:
 - a. Update economic values in EBI
 - b. Consider multiple indexes.
 - c. Genetic evaluations for farmer satisfaction.
 - d. Across breed evaluations.
 - e. Genetic evaluations for mastitis incidence and lameness.
 - f. Update calving performance.
- ✚ The next meeting of the dairy industry consultative group will take place in early September (date to be finalised).



Table 1. Summary of key work areas identified by the consultative groups from higher to lower priority.

Item	Description	Working Group					Tot.
		1	2	3	4	5	
Update economic values in the EBI	Update the economic values in the EBI to consider milk value, beef value, nitrates directive.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
Consider multiple indexes.	Consider multiple indexes, e.g., liquid milk index, high fertility index.	Y	Y	Y		Y	4
Genetic evaluations for farmer satisfaction	Continue work to record and evaluate farmer satisfaction.	Y		Y	Y		3
Across breed evaluations	Expand current EBI to cover all dairy breeds (and cross-breeds).		Y	Y		Y	3
Genetic evaluations for mastitis incidence and lameness	Develop new evaluations for mastitis and lameness incidence.	Y	Y				3
Calving performance	Review calving performance evaluations in light of industry concerns (especially for easy calving sires)	Y		Y	Y		3
Genetic evaluations for fertility traits	Update current female fertility evaluations to include insemination data.	Y	Y				2
Male fertility	Use of insemination data to evaluate male fertility.				Y	Y	2
Timing of proofs	Reduce time between release of Interbull evaluations and release of official proofs in Ireland.	Y			Y		2
Beef profit (HO vs. FR).	Support trial to establish Holstein vs. Friesian beef profit.			Y			1
Presentation of linear type (& SCC data)	Review approach to presenting linear type and SCC data (e.g., bar-charts, traffic lights).				Y		1
Others.ICBF Active Bull List	ICBF should publish 2 active bull lists; one for domestic bulls and a second for imported bulls.	Y					1
Herd Health initiative	ICBF should become more involved in supporting herd health initiatives.	Y					1
Inbreeding	Address the growing problem of inbreeding at farm level.			Y			1
Sub-indexs	Increase knowledge at farm level regarding use of EBI sub-indexes.			Y			1