



Update for period 25th – 31st March 2006

1 Important Dates

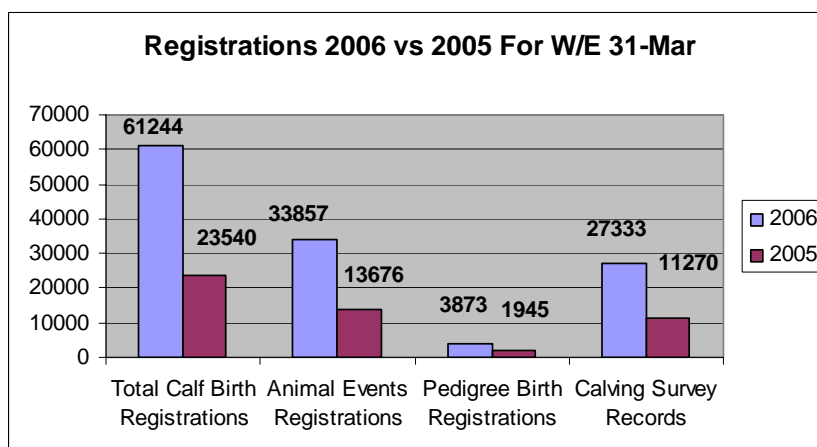
- ✚ **AI Promotion MART Events.** The schedule is:
 - **Nenagh** Mart – Thursday 6th April.
 - **Ballybay** Mart – Friday 7th April.
 - **Bandon** Mart – Tuesday 11th April.
 - **Killmallock** Mart – Wednesday 12th April.
 - **Dungarvan** Mart – Thursday 13th April.
- ✚ **Wednesday 3rd May, 10:30 – 13:00.** Heritage Hotel, Port Laoise, **ICBF Board Meeting.**
- ✚ **Wednesday 3rd May, 15:00 – 16:00.** Heritage Hotel, Port Laoise, **ICBF Annual General Meeting.**
- ✚ **Saturday 6th May, Tully Sale.** Show at 11.00am, sale commences at 12.00pm.
- ✚ **Tuesday 9th May, 10:30 – 16:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation Meeting.**
- ✚ **Tuesday 9th May, 16:00 – 17:00,** Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, **Tully Review Meeting.**

2 Summary of Decisions from yesterdays Board meeting

- ✚ It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive would meet as soon as possible representatives of the AI, MR and HB members to discuss the Breeding Information Service discussion paper.
- ✚ The Audited Accounts for 2005 were adopted.
- ✚ A four year financial plan is to be developed and reviewed by the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee prior to presentation to the Board.

3 Database Update

- ✚ 228 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ PG and Dovea continue to make good progress this week with the AI handhelds. A number of minor data issues are being sorted out at the moment, but in general, the system is holding up well.
- ✚ Development work to support the back end activities of the AI handheld are continuing, including reporting, and billing functions, for both PG and Dovea.
- ✚ Further inbreeding charts are being generated for those herds participating in Gene Ireland.



Same week in 2005 included Easter thus explaining some of the large increase in registrations this week.



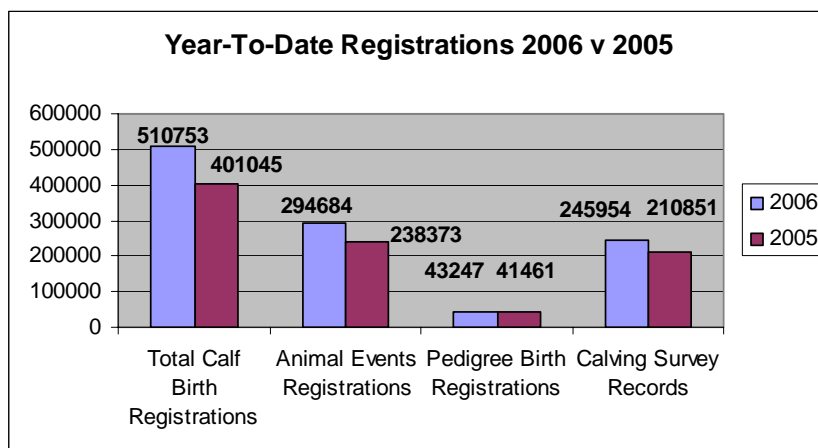
Some 150 herds have recorded bulls for which they would like to have the sire advice programme run. This programme will be run next week for those herds. The initial run will focus on avoiding inbreeding and the maximisation of EBI.

The first of the breeding charts will be generated next week, with the remaining herds having the breeding charts issued the following week.

The development of Fertility Reports for the coming AI season is continuing, and next week will see the completion of testing of the first report.

The network speed continues to be an issue for users. This week, Dairygold were moved onto an ISDN line, which seemed to be far less busy than the broadband line. This has been very helpful in trying to isolate the issue, and we will hopefully resolve the issue next week.

Work on the 2005 ICBF Statistics report is on-going at the moment and this should be available within the next couple of weeks.



4 AI Promotion

A new series of press advertisements commenced this week. These are focused on encouraging farmers to attend the Mart Events.

Radio Advertising commenced this week. The wording of these adverts is:

Dairy Farmers we want to help you breed more profitable cows.

Talk to your breeding advisor, AI technician or TEAGASC advisor if you would like help to increase your dairy herd profit by half a cent per litre every year.

Perhaps your worry is how to solve a dairy herd infertility problem?

Or maybe you would like to learn easy ways of detecting heat and confidently use AI?

Help is there for the asking as part of the joint dairy industry collaborative effort to breed future profits.

Just contact your local advisor or check out the advertisements in the farming media.

AI Organisations have been organizing farmer meetings. ICBF participated in one in Clonakilty last Friday afternoon and two in Kerry early this week. Some 450 farmers attended these three meetings.

A copy of the material used in the Workshops is now available on the ICBF Website as a PDF file or a PowerPoint file in the publications section of the ICBF Website.

Lists of high EBI heifers and calves for the Mart Events are currently being finalized. Catalogues are being produced with the assistance of IHFA and will be available on the ICBF website by Monday evening next week. The number of entries, so far, for each event are:

Nenagh	19
Ballybay	41
Bandon	80
Kilmallock	59
Dungarvan	32



5 Tully

- ✚ Preparations for the May intake which covers bulls born from the 1-7-05 to the 20-10-05 will now be sent out to breeders by the 7-4-06 and not the 31-3-06 as stated in last weeks update. This will be the first intake to be selected under the new EBI indexes.
- ✚ A group of Ag Science students from Offaly visited Tully on the 28-3-06.
- ✚ A report summarizing the March sale and outlining the May sale has been prepared and will be sent out to all breed Societies and AI stations early next week.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Preparation for a new beef evaluation is still ongoing. Reliabilities for this new evaluation will be calculated based on new and more complete methodology developed in recent weeks.
- ✚ Ross Evans undertook a very successful trip to Italy this week and helped establish better links and transfer of data between the Ireland and Italy for the Pietmontese breed. It is also hoped that Italian factory data on Irish cattle from all breeds can be retrieved and used to enhance the Irish beef evaluations.

7 International Evaluations

- ✚ The genetic study of the Irish Charolais files (501, 502, 504, 510, 511) has commenced at INRA in France.
- ✚ A complete and updated set of Limousin files has also been sent today.
- ✚ Thierry Pabiou has now also started to work with the Irish Hereford and Simmental data for use in international beef evaluations.

8 GENÉIRLAND® - Dairy

- ✚ Semen allocation for the second 10 GENÉIRLAND® bulls has nearly all been packed and is in the process of distribution.
- ✚ It is anticipated that enough semen from 10 more test bulls, to create the third team of bulls will be available this coming week.
- ✚ Inbreeding Charts have been sent to the 120 herds that received semen from the first team of bulls.
- ✚ Inbreeding Charts for the 120 herds that received the second team of bulls are being finalized.
- ✚ The signing up of Herds to the GENÉIRLAND® program is going well. 320 herds have been signed up to date.
- ✚ A Third Year Ag Science student from UCD will be helping us with different aspects of the test program over the next few weeks.

9 Milk Recording Update

MR Stats week ending 31/03/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 24/03/06 - 31/03/06	2005 Herds Recorded Week 24/03/05 - 31/03/05
Progressive	377	329
Kerry	173	154
SWS	146	135
Dairygold	144	181



Tipperary	16	18
Connacht	12	37
Arrabawn	3	0
Others (Donegal, OAD)	2	0
Total	873	854

EDIY Milk Recording

- ✚ **Kerry.** Updated their numbers this week - they now have in total 137 new herds that were not recording last year – 77 of these are on EDIY (29 of which are recorded to date). Some 60 new herds on manual recording.
- ✚ **Connacht Gold.** Brian Coughlan trained up the Connacht Gold technician John Diamond and two other trainers in the area this week. So service is now on the road in Connacht. ICBF will be working with Connacht re promotion over next few weeks.



Picture shows John Diamond and Connacht van.

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