



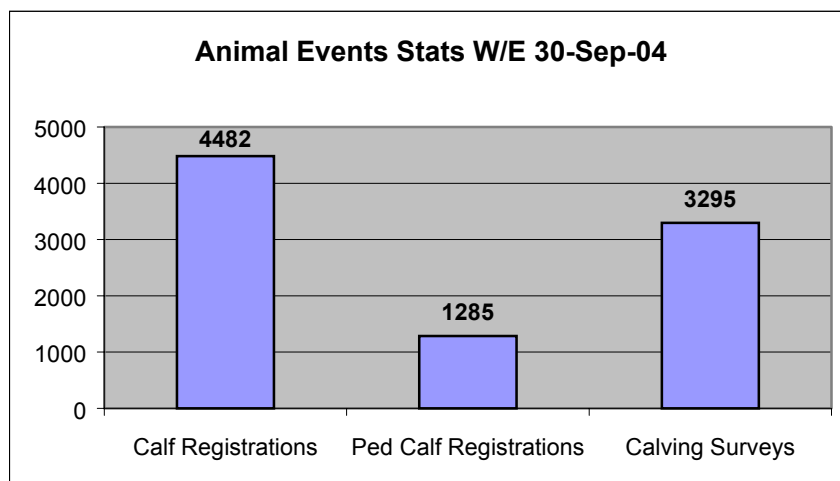
## UPDATE – for period 25<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004

### 1 Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meetings

- Attached are copies of the agendas for the beef meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October and dairy meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>.
- These two meetings represent very important steps in beef and dairy cattle breeding in Ireland. Now that the ICBF database is fully operational for beef and dairy our focus is moving to ensuring our genetic evaluations make the best possible use of all data.
- The beef meeting will be considering the results of further research on the development of an economic index for beef (the beef equivalent of the EBI). It will also review the first results of research to develop a new system of evaluations for growth, feed conversion efficiency and carcass traits. The concept for these new evaluations is that they will enable animals of all breeds to be compared fairly and they will make full use of data from Tully, Central Progeny Tests, Pedigree herd linear scoring and slaughter data.

### 2 Database Update

- 35 new herds added to the database.
- The October EBI reports are being generated over the weekend and all farmers eligible to receive EBI reports should begin receiving those by the end of next week.
- Development has begun on the development of the facility which will allow Internet users to query ancestry and performance on IHFA registered animals, via a link from the IHFA website to the ICBF database. This will be launched by IHFA at the National Dairy Show in Millstreet.



- All AI data for 2004 has been received from ICBF members. This data will help us to establish those herds that are participating in AI but are not yet on Animal Events. These herds will be targeted over the coming months.
- The extract for the November genetic evaluation run will take place over this weekend.
- Attached is a sample of the Grade-Up report that was developed for the Irish Shorthorn Society. The advantage is that any data that is already available in the database is preprinted on the form, helping to reduce errors. The individual doing the Grade-Up populates the missing information in conjunction with the farmer and this is then keyed to the database, at which stage a full certificate can be generated.
- A sample of one of the management reports that has been issued to the beef breed societies is also attached. The report gives an analysis of both commercial and pedigree offspring registered from a given pedigree registered bull. Obviously, the commercial birth figures will be more representative of what is really happening on the ground when all AI customers are on the ICBF database and participating in Animal Events.



### 3 Milk Recording

#### Summary of Milk Recording to date

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 24/09 - 01/10	Herds Recorded year to date 2004
Progressive	498	2,203
Dairygold	214	1,599
Kerry	275	1,092
SWS	124	963
Tipperary	35	147
Connacht	23	120
Arrabawn	19	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>6,242</b>

#### Industry “Test Turnaround” performance for September 2004.

**No Tests:** 4,671  
**No Cows:** 251,981  
**Average No. Days:** 5.97

- 5.97 days is an improvement of 0.15 days in turnaround time compared with last month. The August figure was 6.12 days.
- The Organisation with the best turnaround time in August was SWS who got under the 4-day turnaround time with an average of 3.95 days.
- Each Organisation gets a “Herd Test Turnaround Analysis” Report via the ICBF intranet – gives breakdown where time is lost each month.

#### Electronic DIY - Commercial Trial Update (24/09/04)

- Further to last weeks update here is a continuation of the report from the project team.
- **Materials & Equipment.** To ensure safe handling and storage of equipment & samples, a customised van was procured and stocked with 90 meters and 9 data handlers plus ancillary charging equipment. The Van has been insured for fully comprehensive cover and open driving, including meter value plus employee and public liability. The van will transport meters and data handlers to farms – currently hitting 3 to 4 farms per day but with goal of 7 to 8 farms per day to maximize meter utilization. Van has been fitted with a second battery for charging on the move. It is also lined and sealed inside to facilitate power hose washing. Shelving has been installed in back for sample transport.



Ford Transit 2.4dsl Hi Roof



Meters charging "en route"



Pat preparing for a "run."



Back shelving for samples.

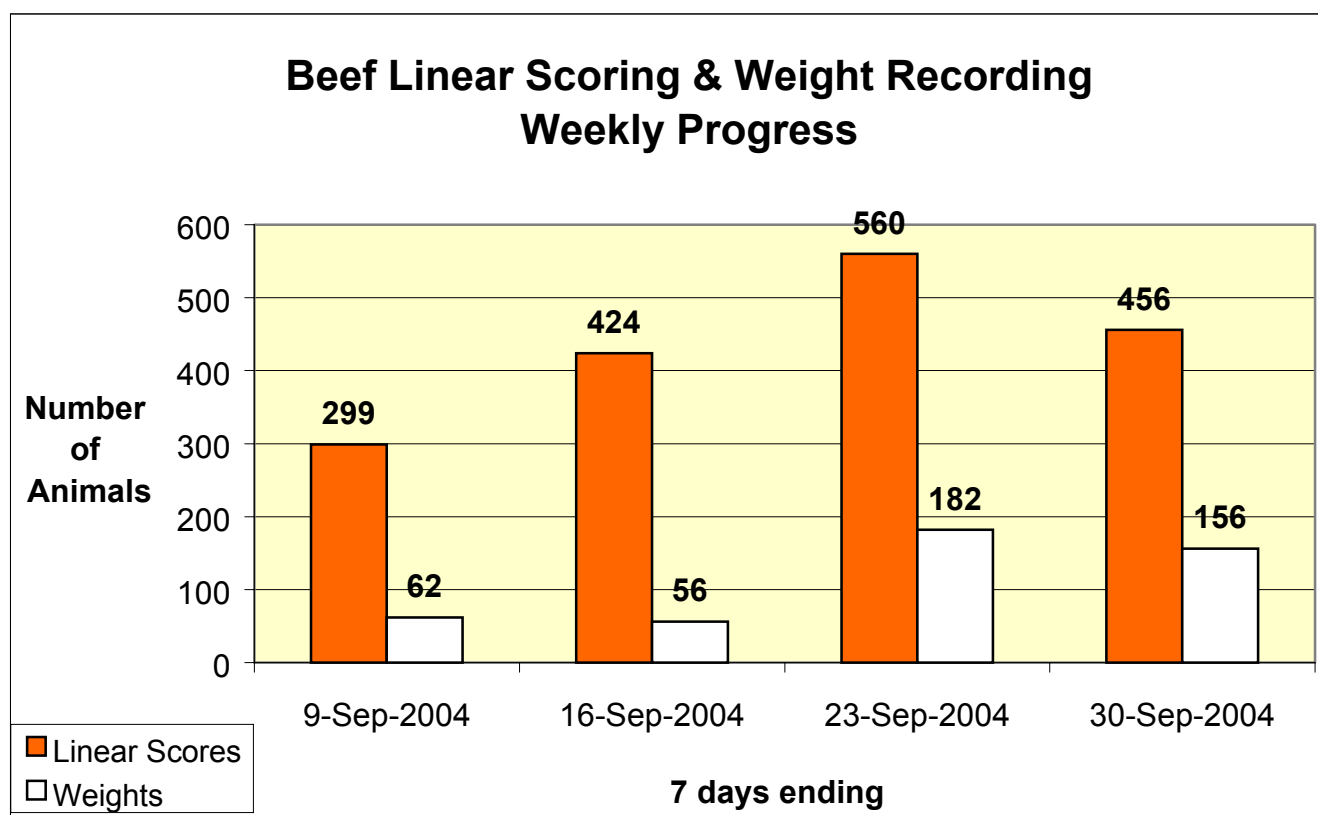
- **How it works.** Pat organises schedule by clustering farmers by area. For example, on one day Pat will do 7 farmers within a 15 mile radius. ICBF has installed a PC into Pat O Connors home - & via the ICBF intranet he uploads the 7 herds' cow numbers to the 7 data handlers. He drops each data handler plus the required number of meters and sample bottles to each of the 7 farmers in turn. Remember, with the Electronic DIY system there is no writing on bottles in parlour (meter reads and links cow no., volume and barcode no), there is no manual sample taking (meter auto samples), there is no writing on Input sheets – there are no Input sheets! No office keying of results. Next day he picks up data handler (which now has all results) samples and meters. He leaves a print out of cows AM and PM volumes from the data handler if the farmer wants it. At the end of the day Pat drops samples to Lab and uploads results to database from his PC at home. Results/Report turn around time to farmer is down to how quickly the lab can test samples.
- **Charges.** No charges have been set for 2005 as of yet - this commercial trial over next months will be used to determine cost break. All costs (equipment, transport, insurance, recruitment etc) are being captured under the project and will be set against income from the trial. The results will be presented to Milk Recording Sub committee to determine price setting for 2005 season.
- **Progress** - The recruitment rate of non-recording farmers and the response to date from farmers using the system is very encouraging. Summer/Autumn has proved a good time to do the training as the



parlour is stable as opposed to trying to train in February when it's a lot busier. As per the pilot group, the majority of farmers have mastered the Data handler after two milkings. A good feature of the system is that the data handler tells the user when an error is made - it displays "prompts" to the farmer to correct immediately. As we continue to sign up farmers into late September we are running into the issue of Herds beginning to dry off (especially in an "over quota" season we are hitting this earlier than expected). We will continue right up until end of season.

- **Milk Recording Committee** - The ICBF Board have appointed a Sub Committee for Milk Recording and the Project team are hoping to present more detailed results and costings to this committee in the next few weeks. Expansion of this DIY system into other areas through additional cells will be discussed. Please look out for further progress reports in this update over the winter months.

#### 4 Beef Linear Scoring and Weight Recording



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**IRISH SHORTHORN SOCIETY LIMITED  
CARROWCARDEN, ENNISCROME, CO SLIGO**

096 37694 Email shorthornsoc@eircom.net

**APPLICATION FORM FOR GRADING REGISTER**

		<b>Sire</b>	<b>Sire's Sire</b>
Date of Application	21/09/2004	Animal Name:	Animal Name:
HerdName:	SHINAGH	Animal Tag:	Animal Tag:
Herd Number:	IE1234567	Animal Tattoo:	Animal Tattoo:
Name:	MICHAEL MURPHY	% SH	% SH
Address	HIGHFIELD HSE BANDON CO CORK		
Phone	023-20222		
Mobile	35386800741		
		<b>Dam</b>	<b>Dam's Sire</b>
Animal Name:		Animal Name:	Animal Name:
Animal Tag:	IEKZYS0076Q	Animal Tag: PSA706407	Animal Tag:
Animal Tattoo:		Animal Tattoo:	Animal Tattoo:
Date of Birth:	26/09/1998		
% SH	50	% SH 32	% SH
Colour			
Grade:			
			<b>Dam's Dam</b>
			Animal Name:
			Animal Tag: PSA706564
			Animal Tattoo:
			% SH 25

I \_\_\_\_\_ being (the Owner/Keeper/Agent) of the above animal, hereby declare that the particulars given are true and correct, and that no animal mentioned above has been previously inspected and rejected.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Inspectors Declaration**

We the undersigned have inspected the above cows, and in our opinion are of Shorthorn Type and Conformation. These animals conform to the Shorthorn Society Limited Breed Standard.

Inspectors Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

## 1.1 Regs by AI Sire

**Description:** Commercial & Pedigree offspring registered for each AI Sire.

Generated from the ICBF (Production) database: 01-OCT-2004 09:57:45

### IRISH SIMMENTAL CATTLE SOCIETY Offspring/Registrations by AI Sire Number of AI Sires registered with herdbook: 232.

AI Sire	Name	2002 Total Offspring in Database	2002 Ped Registered Offspring	2003 Total Offspring in Database	2003 Ped Registered Offspring	2004 Total Offspring in Database	2004 Ped Registered Offspring
BDJ	BALLYDUFF JEWELLER	297	180	383	221	373	139
FBX	FREIGHDUFF BRENDAN	412	220	230	127	180	79
HKG	HILLCREST KING	118	83	221	115	311	135
MWN	MOUNT ROYAL WESTERN	198	19	196	30	105	7
SAM	SAMUEL	172	1	225	0	81	0
LAL	LACKABAWN ALY	106	26	116	17	148	13
DDI	DOVEA DISKO (IMP89)	112	7	95	0	127	1

- 1) Number of AI Sires with progeny registered with the Herdbook.
- 2) AI Code & Name of Bull.
- 2) Total number of progeny (commercial & pedigree) born in each year also given.

**ICBF Beef Index Development Meeting for members & beef industry organizations.**

**Venue: Heritage Hotel, Portlaois**

**Date : 13<sup>th</sup> October 2004.**

**ICBF Project Team:** Dr. Roel Veerkamp (ID-Lelystad), Dr Peter Amer (Abacus Biotech Ltd.), Dr Theo Meuwissen (Dept of Animal Sciences, NLH, Norway), Dr. Gerry Keane (Teagasc), Dr. Michael Drennan (Teagasc), Dr. Donagh Berry (Teagasc), Dr. Brian Wickham (ICBF), Dr. Al Grogan (ICBF), Dr. Andrew Cromie (ICBF), Dr. Victor Olori (ICBF), Pat Donnellan (ICBF), Nicholas Grubb (ICBF).

***Invitees:*** ICBF Member Organisations (IFA, ICMSA, herdbooks & AI)  
Private AI organizations.  
Bord Bia & beef processors.  
Marts & exporters.  
Teagasc, DAF, UCD & link organizations.

***Chairperson:*** Dr. Brian Wickham.

**Session 1: Economic Indexes for selection of beef cattle in Ireland – Peter Amer.  
10.30 AM – 12.45 PM**

- **Summary of industry meetings (December 2003).**
- **Economic beef indexes.**
  - Beef calving
  - Weaned calf
  - Production & slaughter
  - Maternal
  - Overall

**Lunch: 12.45 PM – 1.30 PM.**

**Session 2: Breeding values for economic beef indexes – Roel Veerkamp.  
1.30 PM – 3.00 PM**

- Calving performance.
- Beef performance & slaughter traits.
- Maternal traits.

**Tea & coffee: 3.00 PM – 3.15 PM.**

**Session 3 : Beef Breeding Programs for Ireland – Theo Meuwissen.  
3.15 PM – 4.00 PM.**

- National perspective
- Bulls & breeds.

**Session 4: General discussion & summing up – Brian Wickham  
4.00 PM – 4.30 PM**



**ICBF Dairy Index Development Meeting for members & dairy industry organizations.**

**Venue: Great Southern Hotel, Cork Airport**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004. Time: 1.30 PM – 4.30 PM**

**Chairperson: Dr. Brian Wickham**

Invitees : ICBF Members (IFA, ICMSA, AI, Herdbooks)  
Private AI organizations  
Teagasc, DAF & link organizations.

**Agenda.**

- 1. Developments in the estimation of breeding values for dairy & dual purpose animals – Roel Veerkamp (ID Lelystad).**
  - Calving performance
    - Direct & maternal effects
  - Beef performance
    - Weight & slaughter information
  - Calving Interval & Survival.
    - New data, models & genetic parameters
    - Linear type data
- 2. Economic Values for calving & beef performance - Dr. Peter Amer (Abacus Biotech Ltd.)**
  - Calving performance
    - Calving difficulty, gestation length, mortality
  - Beef performance
    - Weight & slaughter information.
  - Impact on EBI?
- 3. Economic values for milk production, CI & SURV – Dr. Pat Dillon/Dr. Laurence Shaloo/Dr. Andrew Cromie**
  - Economic values for winter milk systems
  - Future value of butterfat.
  - Demographics of National dairy herd.
- 4. Ongoing developments in national and international genetic evaluations - Dr. Victor Olori (ICBF).**
  - Across breed evaluations (production & non-production traits)
  - Update of genetic base (production & non-production traits)
  - International evaluations (longevity, fertility and calving traits)
- 5. Widespread usage & ICBF active bull list – Andrew Cromie/Pat Donnellan (ICBF)**
- 6. Any other business.**