



UPDATE for period 29th August to 02nd September 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Wednesday 7th September** Beef & Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.

Beef Meeting Agenda 10:30 to 13:00

1. Developments in beef performance evaluations – Roel Veerkamp
 - New animal model beef evaluations
2. Results & trends from new animal model evaluations – Ross Evans & Francis Kearney
 - Comparison of sire vs. animal model for beef performance traits.
 - Genetic trend analysis.
3. Economic beef indexes – Peter Amer & Andrew Cromie
 - Updating economic values for beef indexes
 - Bull listings (including AI & young bulls)
4. Linear scoring of commercial AI weanlings – Pat Donnellan.
5. Rolling out new beef proofs – Andrew Cromie.

Dairy Meeting Agenda 14:00 to 17:00

1. Developments in CI & SURV proofs – *Donagh Berry & Marco Poole.*
 - Use of linear type traits as predictors of CI & SURV
 - Inclusion of information on lifespan.
 - New genetic parameters.
 - Across breed evaluations.
 2. New SCC evaluations – *Ross Evans.*
 3. Interbull update – *Francis Kearney & Ross Evans.*
 - Test evaluations for calving performance, SCC & Survival.
 4. Developments in genetic evaluations for beef & carcass traits – *Roel Veerkamp.*
 - Animal Model proofs vs. sire model proofs.
 5. Developments in linear type evaluations – *Donagh Berry & Andrew Cromie.*
 - Farmer satisfaction.
 - Presentation of linear type proofs.
 - Across breed linear scoring.
 6. Updating the EBI – *Donagh Berry.*
 - Inclusion of information on health traits.
 - Updating economic values for milk, fertility, beef & calving traits.
 7. Economic values for winter milk & liquid milk – *Laurence Shalloo.*
 8. EBI “test run” incorporating all proposed changes – *Andrew Cromie.*
- **Tuesday 13th September** – “*EBI 100*” farm-walk on farm of Pat & Pauline Ryan, Cappagh, Co. Waterford. EDIY milk recording will be featured on this day. The previously planned EDIY farm walks have been replaced by this event.
 - **Thursday 15th September** ICBF Board Meeting.
 - **Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September** Ploughing Championships, Midleton, Co. Cork.

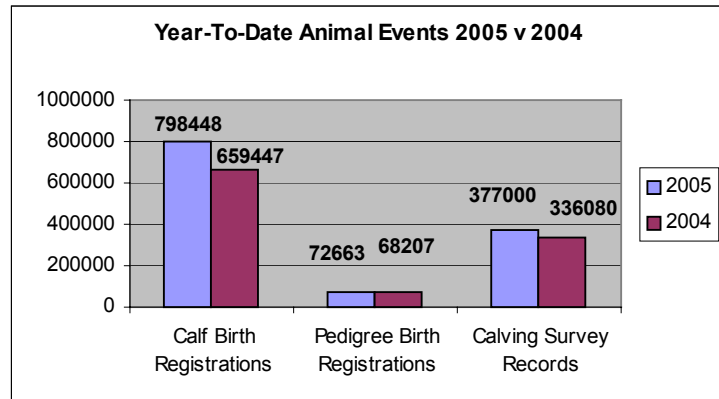
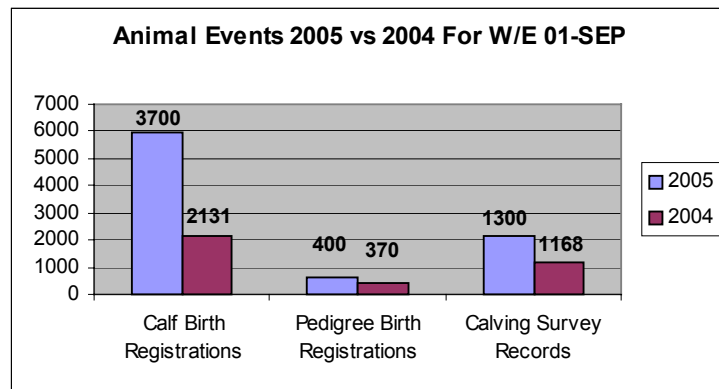


2 Tully

- A group of 16 beef farmers from Kerry visited Tully today and were impressed.
- A group of Limousin breeders from Wales will visit Tully on Saturday.
- Timothy Byrne an Agricultural student from New Zealand started his 8-month placement on Monday.
- Inspection of bulls for the September intake will be finished by Thursday next week and health testing will be carried out by the local vets from the 12th of September. All bulls will be in Tully by the 26th of September.

3 Database Update

- 25 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- 5,053 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The first of the linear scoring hand-helds with the new application will be issued next week. Testing has been progressing well.
- The calving reports for both dairy and beef have been re-run and are now available on the ICBF website for farmers/advisors to download.
- Work is continuing on developing the sale and show catalogue functionality and putting it into a self-service package for farmers.
- Both 'Missing Beef Sire' reports and 'Beef Cows in Milk Recording' reports are continuing to be returned at a very solid rate – this data is being loaded on a daily basis to the database
- Work has begun on the expected calving report which will be issued to farmers upon return of the Breeding Chart. FREEPOST envelopes will be posted to all farmers who got breeding charts next week, in order to encourage the return of the breeding charts.





4 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 26/08/05 - 02/09/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 26/08/04 - 02/09/04
Progressive	449	413
Dairygold	220	255
Kerry	203	191
SWS	154	180
Connacht	26	21
Arrabawn	2	7
Tipp	28	25
Others (Donegal, OAD)	9	N/A
Total	1,091	1,092

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Sep 02nd	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Sep 02nd	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,076	2,233	145,239	156,588
Dairygold	1,520	1,620	96,375	102,778
Kerry	1,063	1,098	66,403	66,886
SWS	934	964	53,826	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,195	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,054	7,597
Arrabawn	108	120	7,040	7,369
Others (Donegal/OAD)	34	N/A	3,540	N/A
Total	5,986	6,303	388,672	407,239

Industry Test Turnaround Time August 2005

Industry national average for August was 6.72 days. (July was 6.55). The Industry average is hovering between 6-7 days over the last few months. For August, Kerry, SWS and Dairygold were all under 6 days turnaround with Kerry coming out best with an average of 5.33 days. Each MRO has an intranet report for their action that gives a breakdown of their own turnaround performance.

August 2005 Industry Test Turnaround

No. Animals Recorded	240,755
No. Herd Tests Processed	4,209
Average Turnaround (No. Days)	6.72



Electronic DIY Update

Test Rig

This week ICBF commissioned the Fast Flow Test rig (FFTR) for checking the Tru Test Electronic meter. Each meter in the country from Wexford to Donegal is tracked via its own serial number. A schedule is being developed so that over the next few weeks every meter will get its annual service (seals replaced etc) and put through the rig to ensure its reading per manufacturer's spec. Picture shows ICBF Technician Brian Coughlan putting first meter through the program 01/09/05.



Connacht Gold & EDIY

In July 2005 representatives from Connacht Gold asked ICBF to look at what we could do to offer EDIY Milk Recording to their suppliers. To assess market interest we sent out information packs this week to all Connacht Gold suppliers over 40,000gals that were not Milk Recording to date. We will follow up by offering one or two tests this year to any interested farmers. This will serve two purposes for these farmers;

- They will be trained in readiness for 2006 season (autumn is a good time to train as the herd is relatively stable as opposed to the busy time of next spring).
- With two tests under their belt in 2005 these farmers' cows will get EBIs ahead of the breeding season in 2006.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- Data for participation in the Interbull test evaluations for SCC and longevity was submitted this week.
- Analysis of the latest EBI figures including changes made to fertility and survival, and the addition of SCC to the index are currently ongoing and results will be presented at the Dairy Industry Meeting next week.
- Work on the new Animal Model test proofs for beef and carcass traits has been completed. Approximately 250,000 records on 33 breeds were used in the evaluation. New proofs on over 1900 AI bulls have been released to the industry.

6 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording

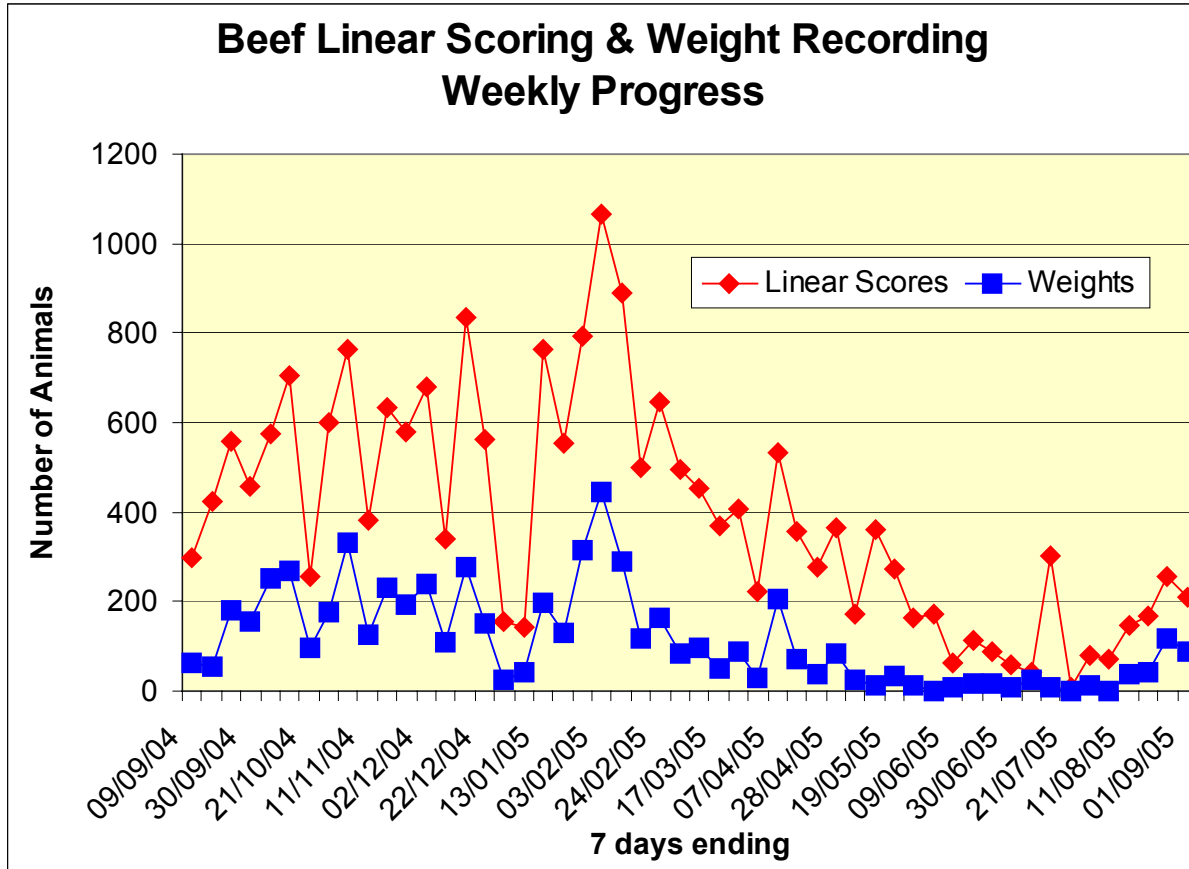
Linear Scoring Workshop

- On 30th & 31st of August, a Linear Scoring 'Training and Referencing' session was held at Tully. Females were also scored on a nearby pedigree herd. All ten Beef Linear Scorers took part in the session.
- The Scorers spent the first day scoring male and female pedigree beef cattle from a variety of breeds and discussing the results with each other.
- On the second day the scorers were examined for; 1. Repeatability, 2. Harmonization, 3. Use of Scale.
- The Scorers also completed a session on the scoring of Breed Specific Traits.
- Suggestions as to how the overall Linear Scoring Service could be improved were also received from the group.



- The session went very well and everyone involved found it very beneficial. A report summarizing the session is currently being drafted.

Linear Scoring Statistics



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