



UPDATE – for period 28th May – 3rd June 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Thursday 23rd June.** ICBF Board Meeting.
- **1st – 9th June 2005 ICAR, Interbull & EAAP meetings Sweden.** *1st June ICAR General Assembly, 2nd – 4th June Interbull meeting, 5th – 9th June EAAP meeting.* Brian Wickham & Victor Olori will attend these meetings in Sweden. A summary report will be issued mid June.

2 ICAR General Meeting – Wednesday 2nd June 2005

- Task Force on International Beef Genetic Evaluations identified a good opportunity for Interbull to extend its range of services. Will be discussed further over the next few days.
- A benchmarking service for Milk Recording organisations is being expanded with a lot of interest being expressed by member countries. Ireland will participate in 2005.
- Biennial Conference of ICAR & Interbull will be held in Finland in early June 2006. This represents a good opportunity for Irish breeding organisations to learn more about developments in other countries. Any ICBF member interested in participating should contact Brian Wickham for details.

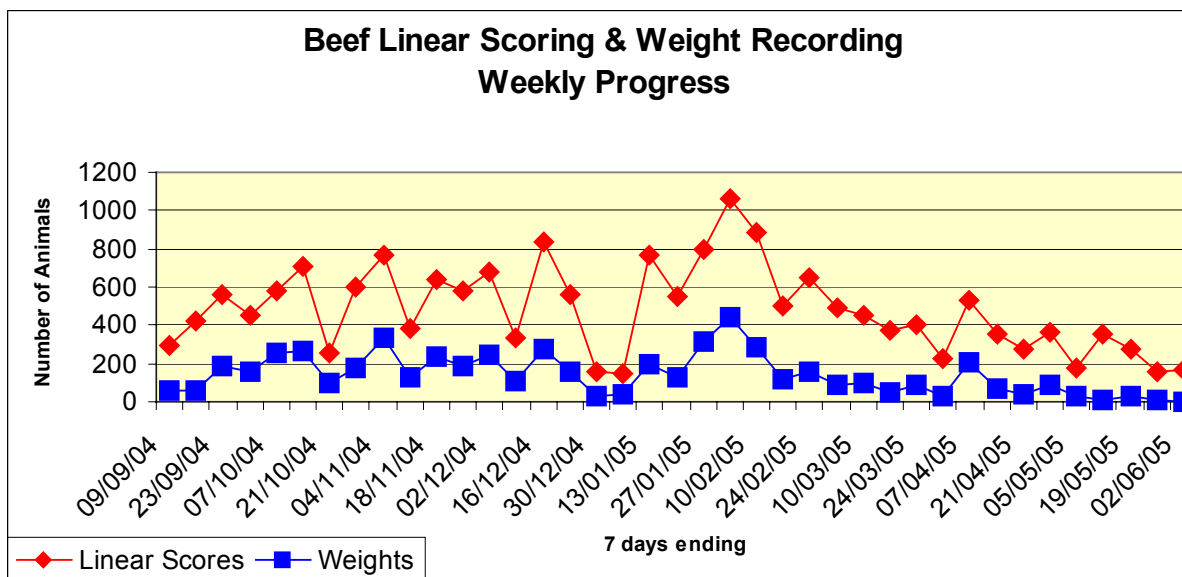
3 Code of Ethics for Breeding Organisations – Workshop on Thursday 2nd June 2005

- A voluntary code of ethics has been developed for use by European animal breeding organisations.
- This code has value for Irish organisations by helping to ensure all issues are considered when breeding strategy is being decided in providing transparency and in ensuring the wider community supports our activities.
- Details will be discussed with the Board of ICBF at its next meeting.

4 Interbull meeting – Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th June 2005

Several papers from Ireland describing beef and dairy genetic evaluation work are being presented, a report will be provided in next weeks update.

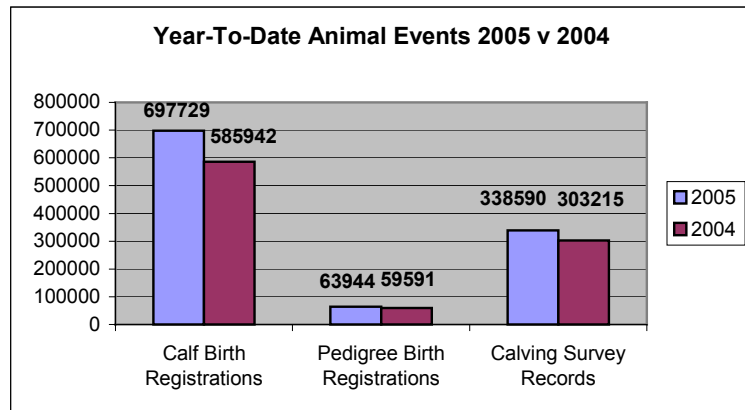
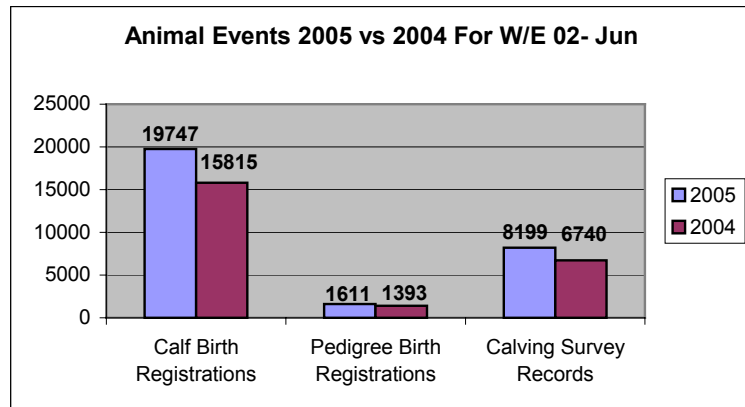
5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





6 Database Update

- 35 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office: "*AE registrations decreasing weekly as is new herd permission forms. Large numbers of missing sire reports are still being returned.*"
- 4899 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- Initial feedback from the linear scorers on the re-designed linear scoring application has been positive. The building of the application is expected to be finished on June 15th, with two weeks of testing planned subsequently.
- The Tully developments for data entry were handed over to Michael Barron this week and will be used during the performance test of the current intake.
- The development work on enhancing the catalogue generation functionality from the database is continuing.
- A test Dairy Genetic Evaluation run will begin this weekend with the beginning of the extraction process. The purpose is to ensure an effective knowledge transfer between the outgoing and incoming geneticists.
- 8,500 Spring Dairy Calving reports were distributed this week. Work has begun on the Beef Calving Report.



7 Tully

- The minutes from the Tully review meeting were sent out to all who attended on the 30-5-05.
- A total of 54 bulls for the May intake have entered Tully, another 15-20 bulls will enter before the 6-6-05.
- A group of 33 Limousin breeders from Germany will visit Tully on 4-6-05.
- A group of 18 beef farmers visited Tully on 2-6-05.

8 Staffing - Geneticists

- As part of our ongoing strategy to ensure Dr. Grogans contributions are continued we have appointed Timothy Byrne to a nine month position at Tully. Timothy has a Masters Degree in animal breeding from Massey University in New Zealand and considerable experience in beef cattle. His main task at Tully will be to help ensure a smooth changeover to the use of the new beef evaluations.



9 Milk Recording

Industry Test Turnaround May 2005.

Industry national average for May was 6.55 days. The Organisation with the best turnaround was **Kerry** with an average of **5.08 days**. Each month every MRO gets an ICBF Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 27/05/05 - 03/06/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 04/06/04
Progressive	326	344
Dairygold	285	267
Kerry	233	245
SWS	144	187
Connacht	31	28
Arrabawn	25	21
Tipp	23	30
Total	1,067	1,122

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 03rd	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 03rd	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,053	2,231	135,500	145,976
Dairygold	1,456	1,620	84,433	95,817
Kerry	1,056	1,098	61,101	63,995
SWS	929	964	50,425	53,970
Tipperary	141	147	8,277	8,851
Connacht	110	121	6,480	7,120
Arrabawn	107	120	6,375	7,005
Total	5,852	6,301	352,591	382,734

May 2005 Industry Test Turnaround	
No. Animals Recorded	236,011
No. Herd Tests Processed	4,211
Average Turnaround (No. Days)	6.55



10 Teagasc Moorepark Open Day 2nd June 2005

Curtin's farm open day was held on June 2nd, and ICBF staff Martin Burke & Francis Kearney were "manning" the stand on "Genetic selection for Increased profit – EBI and Milk Recording". George Ramsbottom of Teagasc was also speaking. Francis & George were addressing profit through selection of top EBI AI bulls while Martin addressed the advantages of Milk Recording. Also at the stand Mary O' Keeffe of Dairygold demonstrated the EDIY Tru Test Meters which received a lot of interest and enquiries. The day was very successful with an estimated 1,700 to 2,000 farmers passing through the stands.

[Brian Wickham](#) Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: [Mary Madden](#). © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.