



UPDATE for period 29th October – 4th November 2005

1 Important Dates

- ✚ Thursday 15th December. **ICBF Board** meeting.
- ✚ Thursday 19th January. **Tully review meeting** to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.
- ✚ Thursday 17th November. **Finance Sub Committee meeting**

2 Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meetings Thursday 3rd November

The two meetings were very well attended with some 60 people at each of the beef and dairy meetings. Following reports from the development team a series of recommendations were discussed as follows for beef and dairy respectively.

Beef

- ✚ Implement the new calving performance evaluations.
- ✚ Implement the new animal model beef evaluations for all animals (ie replace the March '05 sire model).
- ✚ Proceed with implementation of new proofs for BPSI (beef production sub-index), WCSI (weaned calf sub-index), BCSI (beef calving sub-index) and DCSI (dairy calving sub-index):
 - Produce ICBF Active Beef Bull List for Winter AI.
 - Produce and distribute new reports to beef farmers for stock bulls, cows and young-stock (now in period of “dual-running”).
- ✚ Priority for the research team is to develop and test run for the maternal sub-index.
- ✚ Continue with refinements to BPSI and WCSI.
- ✚ Meet to review progress in mid-December - either 13th or 14th of December with date to be finalised.
- ✚ The development team to investigate and report back on results that appear “unusual”.

Dairy

- ✚ Proceed with implementation of somatic cell count evaluations.
- ✚ Proceed with new across-breed calving interval and survival evaluations with only the results for the black and white animals being “official”.
- ✚ Include lameness (predicted from locomotion score) into the new health sub-index and thus the EBI.
- ✚ No further change to economic values (established in Sept 2005) as result of review of winter milk and liquid milk payment systems.
- ✚ Official proofs for black & white animals only and continue work on the across breed evaluations.
- ✚ Target release of spring Active Bull List – 20th February 2006.
- ✚ Develop mechanisms for providing herds paid on “liquid milk” basis with means for locating the most suitable bulls for breeding replacements under this payment system. Consult with



processing and production sector to identify long term strategy for “liquid milk” payment.

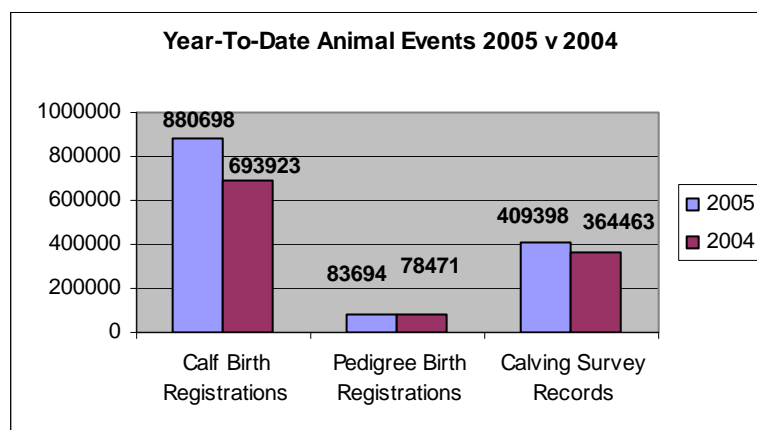
3 Board Meeting Thursday 3rd November

Decisions taken at the Board meeting included:

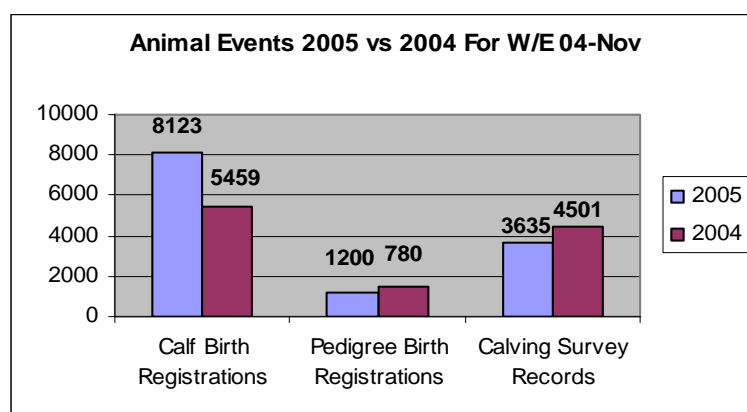
- ✚ Accept the third quarter Management Accounts.
- ✚ To express the industries appreciation for the assistance provided by DAF in the form of additional NDP funding to support the provision of AI Handhelds and EDIY milk recording.
- ✚ Appoint John Carroll to the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee.
- ✚ Endorsement of the recommendations considered at the Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings (see above).

4 Database Update

- ✚ 12 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ 5,186 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- ✚ The first of the Expected Calving and Fertility reports will be issued next week.
- ✚ Good progress continues to be made on the new beef genetic evaluation reports. The first drafts will be available for release within two weeks.



- ✚ The dry-off sheets are beginning to flow. Farmers have also begun to use the on-line dry-off function (over 250 animals dried off), as well as the dry-off facility through mobile phone text messages (63 animals dried off).



- ✚ Work has begun on a revised Annual Milk Recording report. This will be ready for issue on Dec 1st.

- ✚ The Oracle upgrade has begun this week. This process will take 5 weeks.

- ✚ Preparations are continuing for the roll-out of the AI handhelds, with a number of organisations sending out letters to farmers yet to be signed up to the database.

5 Tully

- ✚ The May intake of bulls are currently advertised in the Irish Farmers Journal. The trade for good quality bulls with good BLUP and performance figures is good. 18 bulls have been sold to date. Prices range from €2,400 to €3,500.



- ✚ A national record for a bull has been set at Tully again. Millbrook Vintage Et a Limousin bull bred by William Smith, Oldcastle, Co. Meath has been sold to Harry Emslie from Aberdeenshire for a record of €30,000. This adds to the Charolais bull Kilcullen Ted who sold for €23,000 in 2003 and Lisduff Dandy an Angus bull who sold for €16,000 in 2004.
- ✚ The November intake of bulls have been selected and will be sent for health testing by the 11-11-05.
- ✚ A group of beef farmers from Wales will visit Tully on the 8-11-05.

6 Milk Recording

Weekly Stats: Fri 4/11/05

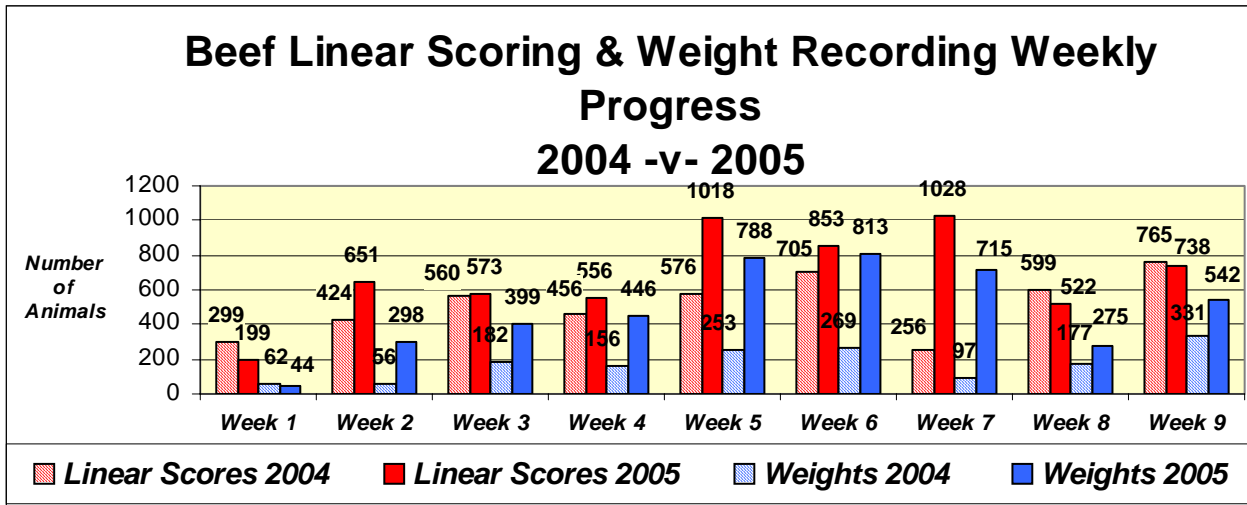
Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 28/10/05 - 04/11/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 28/10/04 - 04/11/04
Progressive	291	578
Dairygold	190	248
Kerry	108	194
SWS	139	183
Tipperary	8	0
Connacht	22	16
Arrabawn	6	14
Others (Donegal, OAD)	2	0
Total	766	1,233

Year to Date Stats: up to 4/11/05

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Nov 4th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Nov 4th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,082	2,233	149,821	156,588
Dairygold	1,526	1,620	98,041	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,099	67,295	66,952
SWS	937	964	54,969	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,294	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,206	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,115	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	45	0	4,139	0
Total	6,014	6,304	397,880	407,305



7 Beef Linear Scoring



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