



UPDATE – for period 30th October to 5th November 2004

1 Milk Recording Sub Committee

- The Sub Committee met on Wednesday to review progress with the electronic DIY milk recording trials.
- The main conclusions of the meeting were as follows:
 - It is highly desirable that the level of milk recording be increased from the current 35% of cows to 70%.
 - To achieve this increase a new way of recording is required.
 - The electronic DIY option is proving to be very attractive to Irish dairy farmers and based on experience to date in Ireland priority should now be given to expanding its availability.
 - A proposal to expand to four cells (800 herds) in spring 2004 is to be refined and considered at a further meeting of Sub-Committee on 23rd November.

2 Audit & Finance Sub Committee – Budget for 2005

- In preparation for the Sub-Committee meeting on 18th November a year-end forecast for 2004 is being finalised and budgets for 2005 developed.
- The 2005 budget is focused on delivering on ICBF's strategic plan as recently agreed by the Board.
- The budgets for 2005 will include three new projects – Electronic Data Collection & Distribution, Genetic Evaluations, and National Progeny Testing along with a continuation of one current project – Electronic DIY Milk Recording.

3 Tully

- The May '04 intake have finished test and performance test figures will be available from Monday 8th November. This intake has been advertised in the Farmers Journal for the last two weeks and a total of 8 bulls have been sold to date.
- The October '04 intake which is the March '05 sale intake have settled in well. All pedigree information will be on the ICBF web site from the 11th November.
- Inspections for the December '04 intake will be finished by 9th November. Health testing will take place from the 12th November.

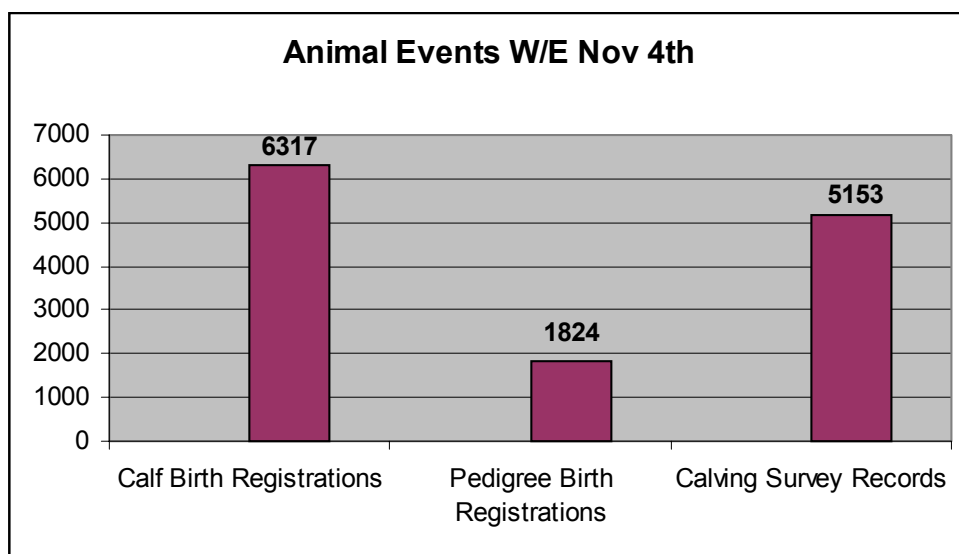
4 Animal Health

- A meeting took place on Tuesday 2nd November involving ICBF, CVERA (centre for veterinary epidemiology & risk analysis), Veterinary Ireland and DAF. The objective of the meeting was to re-state each partners commitment to a national herd health strategy aimed at ensuring healthier herds (and animals) for Irish farmers and consumers.
- There were a number of agreed outcomes from the meeting:
 - Future meetings must involve direct representation from farmers (the ultimate beneficiaries of improved herd health).
 - In addition to farmers, other potential partners should be approached to seek their involvement in the initiative (most notably Teagasc).
 - Options for pilot projects should be examined, particularly in the areas of Johne's control and SCC/mastitis incidence.
 - The ICBF database should be expanded to include further animal health data (i.e., animals remedies on farm, DAF laboratory data and data from veterinary hand-helds).
 - Veterinary Ireland should continue its work to "up-skill" vets in the area of whole herd health.



5 Database Update

- 54 New Herds added to the database.



- Essential work on the database back-up process will be taking place this weekend and the database will be unavailable over the weekend. Significant work has taken place this week in preparation for this weekend work.
- Dry-off recording sheets that were issued to farmers two weeks ago are being returned at the rate of 120 or so per day - a very positive response.
- Development is continuing on the solution that will make available farmer reports available on-line to those whom the farmer wishes to have access to his/her reports. While a prototype is already up and running, the production version will be in development until after Christmas.
- Testing is on-going on the AI handheld. A number of infrastructure issues around the GPRS communication to the database are being dealt with at the moment, but these are not holding up the testing of the application itself.
- The letters and materials to be issued to TEAGASC and AI clients over the coming weeks have been finalised and printing will begin next week.

6 Genetic Evaluations - Dairy

- Genetic evaluations for all traits have now been complete. Interbull results are expected to be released officially on Monday November 8th. If these happens, ICBF will release the latest official Irish proofs on Friday 12th November, 2004.
- The International production and linear type evaluations included data from 26 and 22 countries respectively. Italy introduced production trait breeding values based on a random regression model in this run as well as updating their genetic base. Interbull used a modified procedure for estimating the genetic correlations which were used in this run. Details of this can be found on the Interbull website at: http://www.interbull.org/documents/genetic_correlation_estimation_procedure_042t.pdf. This change might cause unexpected reductions in the reliability of some proofs for bulls progeny tested outside of Ireland.



7 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 29/10 - 04/11	Herds Recorded year to date 2004
Progressive	529	2,223
Dairygold	236	1,616
Kerry	175	1,098
SWS	158	964
Tipperary	0	147
Connacht	26	120
Arrabawn	25	119
Total	1,149	6,287

Turnaround Time for October

- The industry average turnaround has levelled off in last quarter. October performance of 6.07 days is consistent with previous two months (Sept 5.97, and Aug 6.12).
- The Organisation with the best turnaround time in October was Kerry which came in at 4.07 days.
- Each month Milk Recording Organisations get an ICBF Intranet report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Org. the details on how much time is lost in the different steps in the MR process.

October 2004 Industry Test Turnaround

No. Animals Recorded	236,159
No. Herd Tests Processed	4,522
Average Turnaround (No. days)	6.07

8 Beef Linear Scoring and Weight Recording

