



UPDATE – for period 31st July to 6th August 2004

1 Tully

- The December '03 intake of bulls has tested clear of TB and is no longer subject to movement restrictions. This good news was received earlier today. The bulls will be advertised in next weeks Farmers Journal.
- All Tully Staff reviews were completed this week. The last year was particularly challenging as a result of the TB outbreak and it is pleasing to reflect on the willingness of our staff at Tully to “go the extra mile”. The year ahead will hold further challenges as the number of bulls tested increases up to the limit of the facilities and all records are moved from in-house systems to the ICBF database.
- There has been a substantial increase in interest from breeders to submit bulls for the September '04 intake. The use of the ICBF database to identify candidates bulls has helped stimulate this increase in interest.

2 Database

Newly Live Herdbooks

- 141 new attempted pedigree registrations received during the past week.
- 11 new Beef Herds added to the database.
- The re-designed DNA processing function on the intranet will be available for testing on Tuesday of next week.
- The development around the birth acknowledgement form for the Limousins has been completed.
- The weekly BLUP run for Limousin, Charolais, and Simmental animals was executed and the results will be available on Monday.
- The Embryo Transfer data input development is in its testing phase and should be available for issue to all herd books by the end of next week.

Other database activities

- The installation of the NRS Sire Mating advisory program has begun - this will take a number of weeks.
- The technical strategy for publishing database information through the internet has been finalised and the work on setting up the relevant technical infrastructure has begun.
- Work on Milk Recording billing files has been continuing for the milk recording organisations.
- Further work on Network security has been started and will be ongoing over the coming weeks.

3 Milk Recording

No. Herdowners Milk Recorded in IRIS YTD = 6,064

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| • Progressive | 2,049 |
| • Dairygold | 1,580 |
| • Kerry | 1,088 |
| • SWS | 963 |
| • Tipperary | 146 |
| • Connacht Gold | 120 |
| • Nenagh | 118 |



Weekly Update - No. herd tests processed in last 7 days = 1,013

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| • Progressive | 318 |
| • Dairygold | 246 |
| • Kerry | 189 |
| • SWS | 184 |
| • Connacht Gold | 47 |
| • Tipperary | 21 |
| • Nenagh | 8 |

Industry Test Results Turnaround Time, July 2004

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| No. Tests: | 4,734 |
| No. Animals: | 269,442 |
| Average no days: | 5.83 days |

- 5.83 days is a reduction of 0.41 days in turnaround time compared with last month. The June figure was 6.24 days.
- The Organisation with the best turnaround time this month is **SWS** who tested 724 herds in the period with an average of 4.43 days turnaround from recording date to date of print. A number of other milk recording organizations recorded substantial improvements.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- The new calving survey results are currently being examined in ICBF. Current plans are for them to be released on Monday for consideration by the cattle breeding industry.
- Milk production and linear trait evaluations have been received back from INTERBULL with clearance for their release. These results are scheduled for publication by ICBF towards the end of next week.

5 Holstein Friesian Breed Development

On Tuesday IHFA's Breed Development Committee met with Andrew Cromie and Brian Wickham. The Committee has been focused on the EBI and has questioned its suitability for herds with year-round calving supplying milk into the liquid milk market. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Committee with an update on commitments made by ICBF to review aspects of the EBI. ICBF reported good progress emphasizing that the timetable calls for progress to be reported to the industry in October '04 and then to follow the consultation process of previous years.

The Committee made a request that a second index, in addition to the EBI, be introduced specifically for herds where fertility and milk composition is of less importance than in the EBI. During the discussion a number of potential problems with this approach were identified. For example, which index would go onto the Pedigree Certificate for an animal and its ancestors? ICBF indicated that the Sire Advice facility currently under development will facilitate the selection of sires for farmers with breeding objectives different from those embodied in the EBI and that this might be a better way of satisfying the varying needs of farmers. However, it was agreed that the request would be given further consideration when the current round of research has been completed in October.

Development of the Holstein Friesian breed is a subject of major economic importance to virtually all Irish dairy farmers. ICBF's work on breeding scheme design has estimated that a very large sum of future farm income is at stake. Farm income could be increased by €100 million in 2014 if the right decisions are made in 2004. There is a real need for the cattle breeding industry, including the Committee, to focus its attention on the delivery of these benefits to those Irish farmers who milk Holstein Friesians. Failure to do so in 2004 will result in Irish dairy farmers being less profitable in the future.

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