



UPDATE – for period 30th April – 5th May 2005

1 Board meeting 3rd May 2005

Decisions at Tuesdays Board meeting included:

- To recommend to the AGM the appointment of Ernst & Young as auditors for 2005, and to review auditing arrangements and seek tenders in 2007.
- The Management Accounts for Qtr 1 2005 were adopted.
- That the CE would develop a case for further NDP funding for the next six year period.
- To accept the Aberdeen Angus herdbook into membership of ICBF.

2 Annual General Meeting 3rd May 2005

Features of Tuesdays AGM included:

- In his Chairman's report John O'Sullivan said ICBF's goal is to identify the genetics to required to produce the most profitable animal for Irish conditions. Great progress towards this goal was made in 2004 on both beef and dairy fronts. He paid tribute to all who had contributed to such a successful year.
- Dr Brian Wickham in the Chief Executive's report illustrated, by using the information now available on ICBF's website, the benefits of the growing collaboration between ICBF and TEAGASC.
- The Audited Accounts for year ended December 2004 were adopted and Ernst & Young were appointed as Auditors for 2005.
- That Board's policy for the reimbursement of Board member expenses and the Chairman's honorarium was endorsed.
- A full copy of ICBF's Annual Report for 2004 is available on our website (www.icbf.com).

3 ICBF Beef & Dairy Industry Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meetings

Meetings were held on Wednesday this week to discuss developments in genetic indexes for Irish dairy and beef farmers. The meetings were well attended with some 40 people present for the beef meeting and 25 people in attendance for the dairy meeting. In addition, Peter Amer (Abacus International, New Zealand), Roel Veerkamp (ID Lelystad, the Netherlands) and Donagh Berry (Teagasc) were present to discuss proposed developments along with ICBF staff (Andrew Cromie & Victor Olori).

The objectives of the meetings were to define research priorities for the next 6 months ahead of proposed implementation. It was agreed at both meetings that the target for implementation would be November 2005 (as opposed to February 2006). Moving the implementation to an earlier date would allow all organisations more time to prepare material on the new developments ahead of the Spring AI season.

Key recommendations from each meeting were as follows:

Beef Industry Meeting

- The project team should proceed with test evaluations for economic sub indexes for all pedigree animals. These test evaluations should include information for linear type traits and information from the Tully beef performance test centre. The test evaluations would then be released to pedigree beef farmers for their comment and feedback. Target date for the release of these proofs to breeders is 1st August 2005.
- The project team should continue work on genetic evaluations for Calving Interval and Survival as soon as sufficient data is available from commercial beef cows.
- The project team should consider refinements to the current economic sub indexes. These would include:
 - Carcass price projections - including price differentials for conformation and fat.



- Replacement heifer costs - i.e., the differential between cull cow price and the cost of rearing a replacement heifer.
 - Costs of labour - especially for calving & AI.
 - Calving assistance costs.
 - Costs of feed intake across a range of diverse finishing systems.
- The project team should undertake sensitivity analysis on the impact of price projections and quality differentials.
 - ICBF should examine the use of foreign data in the genetic evaluation for beef traits.

ICBF Dairy Industry Meeting.

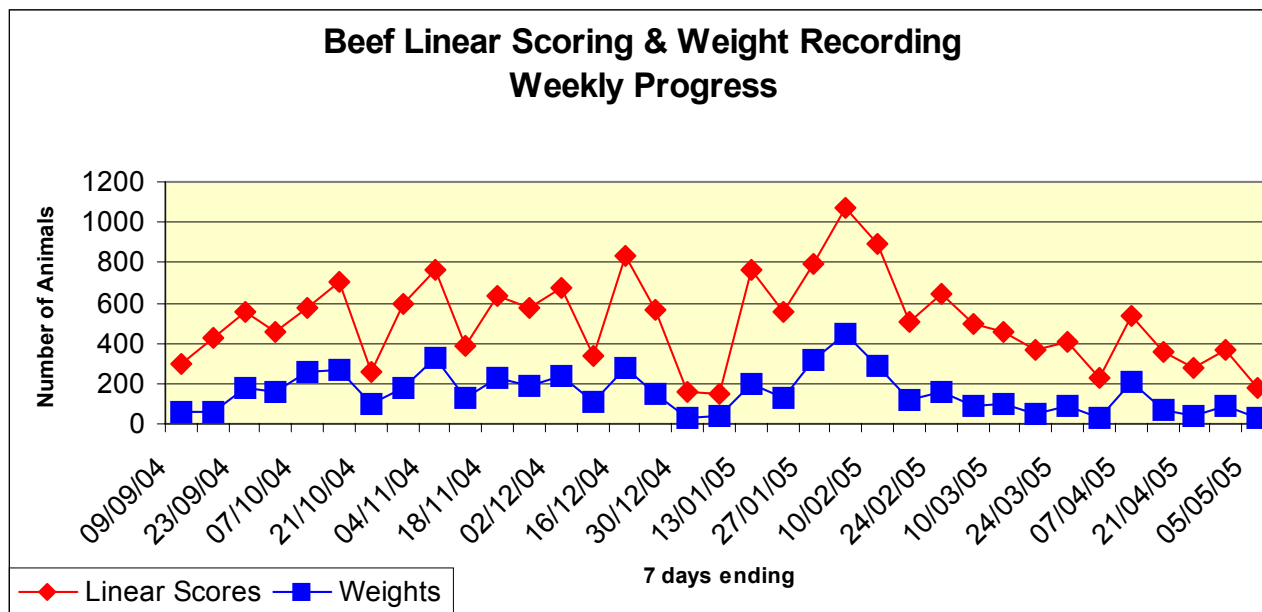
- The project team should proceed with work on the development of an economic sub index for udder health (SCC & linear type traits)
- The project team should continue work on developments in CI and SURV proofs. Developments to include:
 - Use of linear type data as a predictor of CI & SURV.
 - Review use of information for animals with lactation > 4 (e.g., lifespan).
 - Review data edits for CI.
 - Review of genetic parameters for CI & SURV.
 - Review definition of Herd Year Season sub-classes.
 - Across breed evaluations for CI & SURV.
- The project team should initiate work to evaluate management traits on farm. This work would involve surveying herd-owners as to their views of individual animals on their farms. The animals surveyed would include daughters of sires on the progeny test program (2005) and their contemporaries. In addition, work to evaluate "speed of milking" and "temperament" using data from the new electronic DIY milk meters should be undertaken.
- The project team should continue work on across breed evaluations for dairy production traits. Work on milk production, calving and beef traits has now been completed. Specific focus must be now given to fertility traits (CI & SURV).
- The project team should continue work on the sensitivity of the EBI formula to winter milk costs & prices.
- ICBF in conjunction with Holstein UK should review the presentation of linear type data to establish if there are better alternatives. The present approach of using bar charts is confusing to farmers as it implies everything to the right is good, when in fact many of the traits have an intermediate optimum.
- ICBF in conjunction with HUK should initiate the development of an across breed evaluation of linear type traits for all dairy breeds in UK & Ireland.

4 Milk Recording

Industry Test Turnaround	April 2005	April 2004
No. Animals Recorded	215,505	222,857
No. Herd Tests Processed	4273	4614
Average Turnaround (No. days)	5.98	7.29



5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording

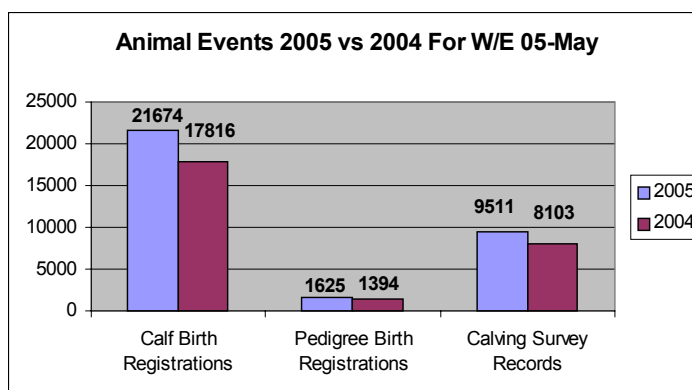


6 Database Update

- 45 New Herds added to the database in the past week.

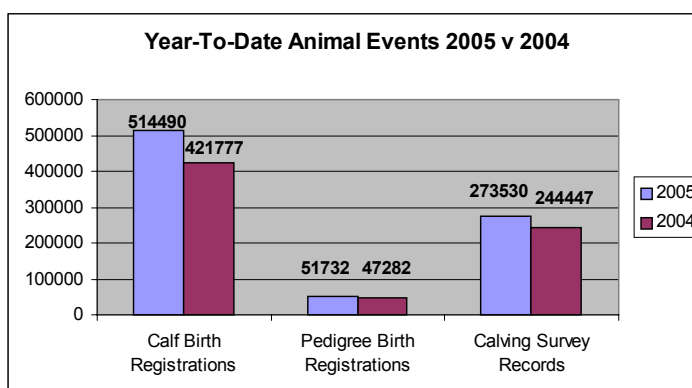
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office:
"Number of AE sheets coming in is starting to fall and the inflow of new herd permission forms is also falling."

- 4790 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. This week, the discussion group summaries were added to the Teagasc part of the internet reporting function.



- The 2004 statistics are available on the ICBF website. They are available in both html and excel format, for anyone who may want to use them in presentations, etc.

- The redesign of the linear scoring application is moving forward and the formal design has begun. Implementation date is expected to be July 7th.



- The proofs for the May Dairy Genetic Evaluation run have been received from Interbull and loading will begin over the weekend.



- Work is continuing on the development to support the entry of Tully performance test data directly to the ICBF database. This will continue for the next week and will be implemented prior to the May 05 intake beginning their performance test.
- The implementation of changes to the scheduling of nightly jobs on the database is has been largely completed and there is a marked improvement in the efficiency of the processes. The milk recording batch rebuild is being tested and once implemented should also have a significant impact.
- The first set of test data for the Aberdeen Angus herdbook has been received and is being reviewed.
- Work will begin next week on the 2005 Calving reports.

7 Tully Bull Sale Saturday 30th April

A successful sale of performance tested bulls was held on Saturday 30th April at Tully. 56 bulls across 8 breeds were sold for an overall average of €3,105. The Angus FBD prize winning bull 'Bunlahy Powerhouse' sired by 'Darlene Cruz' with an overall beef merit index of 132 and bred by Gerry Reynolds was sold to Nicholas Birchhill Co. Kildare. The Angus bull 'Mohedian Arkle' by the sire 'Drumdeevin Dancer' and bred by John Keane was sold for €3,500 to John O'Sullivan Co. Cork. The Angus bulls sold for an average of €2,925 with a top price of €4,000.

In the Blonde breed, 'Clifden Vincent' sired by 'Richelieu' with an overall beef merit index of 113 bred by Willie John Kehoe sold for €4,000 to Robert Ronan Carrick on Suir Co. Tipperary. Vernon Buckley sold 'Ardclone Vega' sired by 'Malinois' with an overall beef merit index of 123 to Sean Heeward Co. Meath. The Blonde bulls sold for an average of €3,430 with a top price of €4,000.

In the Charolais breed, 'Dromiskin Viceroy' with an index of 114 out of 'Doonally New' bred by Patrick Farrelly, was sold to N.C.B.C. for €20,500. This is the first beef bull bought by N.C.B.C. since it was formed in February 2005. This bull also won the FBD top prize in the Charolais breed. The FBD prize winner 'Trim Volvo' out of 'Domino' bred by John Mc Loughlin and bought by Peter Hazard from Northern Ireland made €6,600. P. & S. McGreals FBD 3rd prize winner 'Heathvale Versailles' sired by 'Doonally New' was sold to Kieran Kelly Northern Ireland €5,600. The Charolais bulls sold for an average of €4,795 with a top price of €20,500.

In the Hereford breed, 'Grianan Captain' out of 'Churchill Storm' bred by T. & A. Fitzgerald was sold for €2,300 to Pat Brophy Co. Kilkenny. The Herefords sold for an average of €2,000 with a top prize of € 2,300.

In the Limousin breed, the 2nd FBD prize winner in his class, 'Iniseoghain Viking' with a beef merit index of 116 out of 'Mas du Clo' and bred by Bernard Lynch, sold for €5,400 to Eugene Mc Dermott Northern Ireland, while €4,400 was paid by Fergus Turner Co. Wexford for the Limousin 1st prize FBD bull, 'Pelletstown Vagabond' with a beef merit index of 120 out of 'Pelletstown Newman' and bred by Roger Mc Carrick. Daniel Tynan also sold the 115 indexed bull 'Ardlea Vinny' out of 'Lino' for €3,900 to Daniel Briody Northern Ireland. Limousins sold for an average of €2,780 with a top price of €5,400.

In the Saler section Michael McKeons 'Moygara Esquire' with an overall beef merit index of 118 sold for €2,500 to Marcella Phelan Co. Laois. The Salers sold for an average of €2,400 with a top price of €2,500.

In the Simmental breed, the 116 indexed FBD first prize winner 'Riverbank Rover' out of 'Raceview King' bred by Liam Waldron was sold for €3,000 to Steven Roe Northern Ireland. The 2nd prize FBD award winner 'Raceview Riley' with an index of 115 out of 'Camus Brandy' and owned by Peter O'Connell, was sold for €2,700 to Pat Lynch Co. Clare. John Murphys 121 indexed 'Knockaun Ricky' out of 'Antrim Jacob' was sold for €2,900 to John McDonnell Co. Kilkenny. The Simmental bulls sold for an average of €2,450 with a top prize of €3,000.

In the Piedmontese breed 'Castle Avenue Brendan' with an overall beef merit index of 129, out of 'Lugano' and bred by Michael Martyn, and an FBD prize winner in his class was sold for €3,500 to Dermot Tobin Carrick on Suir Co. Tipperary.

The next intake for entry to Tully is being assembled for bulls born in the period 17th of July to 25th of October, which will be offered for sale in November 2005.



8 Important Dates

- **Wednesday 25th May.** AM - Tully Review Consultation Meeting. PM - meeting of cattle breeding industry to discuss 2005 plans for Ploughing.
- **Thursday 23rd June.** ICBF Board Meeting.

9 Staffing

- Francis Kearney started work this week at ICBF's Bandon office. Francis is on a three-month contract to help with the development of conservation strategy for rare breeds on animals in Ireland. His initial focus is the Irish Draught Horse. Francis has been studying for his PhD in Animal Breeding at Edinburgh University.
- Dr Olori has announced that he will be leaving ICBF effective 1st July 2005. Recruitment of a replacement has commenced.
- Eighteen applications from all over the world have been received for the two vacancies created by Dr Grogan's return to DAF and Dr Olori's resignation. Five candidates will be interviewed starting next week.

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