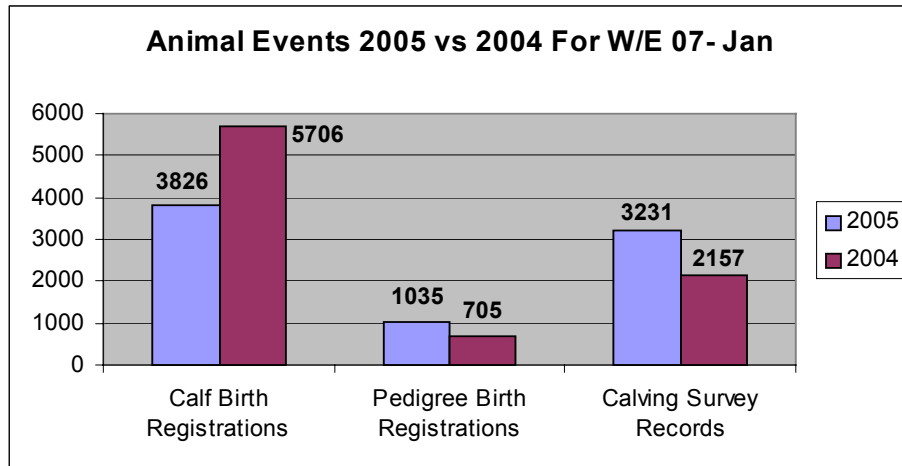




**UPDATE – for period 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

**1 Database Update**

- 326 New Herds added to the database - The strong influx of new herds is a combination of Irish Angus members, and AI organisation members.



- Some preliminary statistics for 2004 vs 2003 show a strong increase in Animal Events usage, driven by a dramatic increase in the uptake of Animal Herds in Beef Herds.

	2004	2003	%Increase
<b>Total Births in ICBF database herds</b>	<b>585,309</b>	<b>491,595</b>	<b>19.06%</b>
<b>Births through Animal Events</b>	<b>423,552</b>	<b>320,302</b>	<b>32.24%</b>
<b>Number of Births with Dairy Dam</b>	<b>452,771</b>	<b>439,295</b>	<b>3.07%</b>
<b>Number of Births with Dairy Sire</b>	<b>285,037</b>	<b>285,771</b>	<b>-0.26%</b>
<b>Number of Births with Beef Dam</b>	<b>132,538</b>	<b>52,300</b>	<b>153.42%</b>
<b>Number of Births with Beef Sire</b>	<b>300,272</b>	<b>205,824</b>	<b>45.89%</b>
<b>Number of Records with Calving Survey</b>	<b>351,603</b>	<b>274,527</b>	<b>28.08%</b>
<b>Number of Pedigree Registered Births</b>	<b>77,912</b>	<b>53,162</b>	<b>46.56%</b>
<b>Number of Dead/Aborted Calves</b>	<b>17,570</b>	<b>13,615</b>	<b>29.05%</b>
<b>No of births with Sire Recorded</b>	<b>387,666</b>	<b>316,432</b>	<b>22.51%</b>

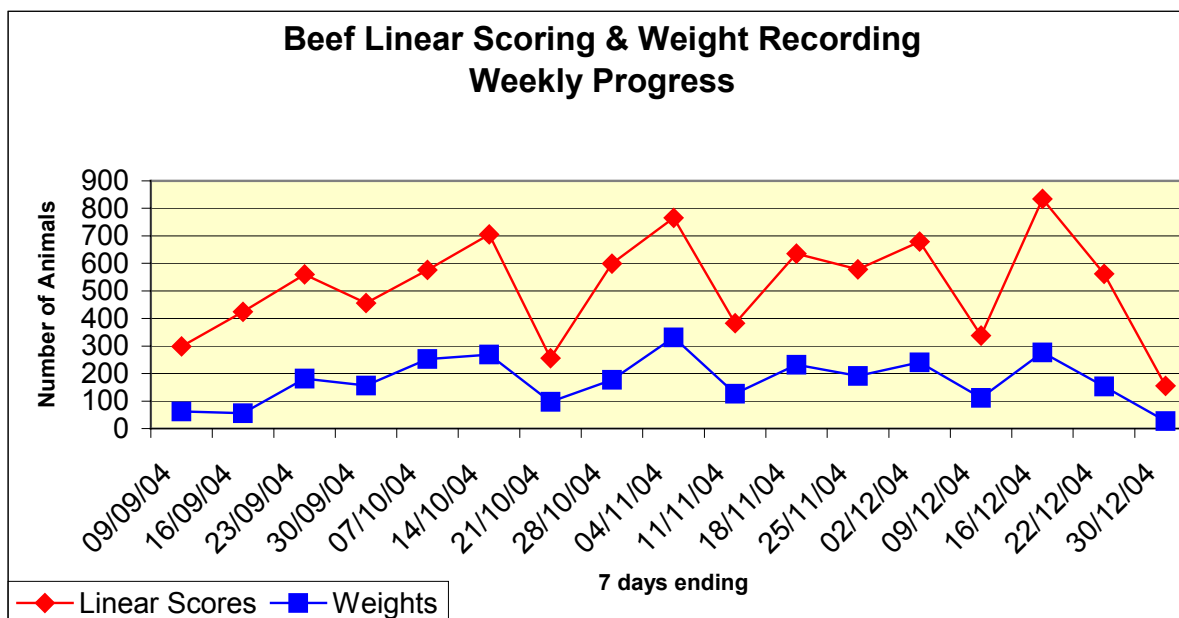
- The AI handheld trials continued in PG this week. The software is proving to be stable. We have had a few problems with handhelds not being charged over the Christmas period and technicians then having trouble getting the system up and going again. We are taking measures to ensure that this is not an issue going forward.
- 2544 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. The initial target was to get 2,500 herds signed up, and this target has now been reached. The initiative will continue and the focus will change to Teagasc beef clients over the coming weeks. Development is continuing on the solution which will make farmer report available on-line to those whom the farmer wishes to have access to his/her reports. The main development of this solution will be finished next week, with 3 weeks of testing planned subsequent to that before a release of the solution in early February.
- Database work on finalising annual milk recording reports has continued this week.
- A further 25,000 slaughter records were loaded to the database this week.
- Dairy and Beef extracts for the up-coming genetic evaluations will be run over the weekend and early next week.



## 2 Tully

- A final total of 94 bulls have passed all health tests for the December intake, performance test started on the 23-12-04. The quality of bulls across all breeds is of a high standard.
- Construction of a purpose built seating area in the Sales ring will be erected for the two sales in 2005.
- A group of commercial beef farmers will visit Tully on 13-1-05

## 3 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



## 4 Genetic evaluation update

During this week, Staff of the animal evaluation unit have been making preparations for the next round of data extraction for evaluating all dairy and beef traits. This work has focused on updating information on animals available in IRIS to ensure that data extracted for the next evaluation is the latest available.

We notice from the first round of across breed evaluation, that 51% of the bulls that are sires of cows with records from breeds other than the Black and White have neither sire nor dam known in IRIS. Another 21% have only sires missing. The corresponding percentage for the BW breed is 9% with both parents missing and 20% with sires missing. So, more effort is required, to identify the pedigree of bulls, especially AI bull of other dairy breeds in IRIS, this is required to improve linkage in genetic evaluation. We would like to implore all herd book managers and administrators to make this task a priority by working with ICBF staff to rectify the situation.

Data extraction for the evaluation of type traits was completed on Thursday. Data extraction for the evaluation of beef traits will commence today and through out the weekend. Improvements have been made that will facilitate the use of slaughters data from bulls that went through central performance test stations. Data extraction for dairy trait evaluation is scheduled for next weekend.



## 5 Milk Recording Processing

### Milk Recording Turnaround for December 2004

- The industry average turnaround has levelled off in the last quarter. December performance of 5.94 days is consistent with previous two months (Oct 6.07, Nov 5.88).
- The Organisation with the best turnaround time in December was **SWS** which came in at 4.13 days.
- Each month Milk Recording Organisations get an ICBF Intranet report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisation. The details on how much time is lost in the different steps in the Milk Recording process.

December 2004 Industry Test Turnaround	
No. Animals Recorded	111,116
No. Herd Tests Processed	2,517
Average Turnaround (No. days)	5.94

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 01/01/05 - 07/01/05	Herds Recorded in 2004
Progressive	242	2,232
Dairygold	0	1,618
SWS	29	964
Kerry	20	1,099
Connacht	19	121
Tipperary	13	147
Arrabawn	6	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>6,301</b>

### Milk Recording Annual Reports

- Those herds which have sent in 100% of MR cows' dry-off dates will be getting their reports next week. Each Milk Recording Organisation will be sent list of posted herds plus pdf. copies of report for file.

## 6 Important Date in January

**Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting – Beef and Dairy. 25<sup>th</sup> January.** The Heritage Hotel Portlaois.