



UPDATE for period 1st –7th October 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Saturday 15th October.** Millstreet Dairy Event.
- **Thursday 3rd November. Genetic evaluation consultation meetings** – Beef in AM, Dairy PM.
- **Thursday 3rd November. ICBF Board** Meeting after Genetic evaluation consultation meeting.
- **Thursday 15th December. ICBF Board** meeting.
- **Thursday 19th January. Tully review meeting** to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.

2 Genetic Evaluations

- New calving performance evaluations have been completed. The evaluations were based on some 1.1 million Animal Events records. This is the first time that the calving performance evaluations have gone over the 1 million mark. This milestone (1.1 million records collected since January 2002), confirms the benefits of Animal Events as a means of accurately recording large volumes of high quality data at minimal expense to farmers and the industry.
- Domestic milk production evaluations have been completed and files prepared for the next Interbull evaluation (November)
- New linear type data has been extracted and forwarded to Edinburgh University for the joint UK & Ireland evaluation of dairy linear type data. This includes records from this year's group of dairy progeny test sires.
- Development work on across breed evaluations for Calving Interval and Survival proofs is continuing. We expect to have new dairy proofs released to the industry ahead of the meeting scheduled for 3rd November.
- Development work on new beef index reports (incorporating information of beef production sub index, weaned calf sub index and calving performance sub index for all pedigree animals) has commenced. We expect these reports to be forwarded to farmers in the next number of weeks.

3 Genetic Conservation

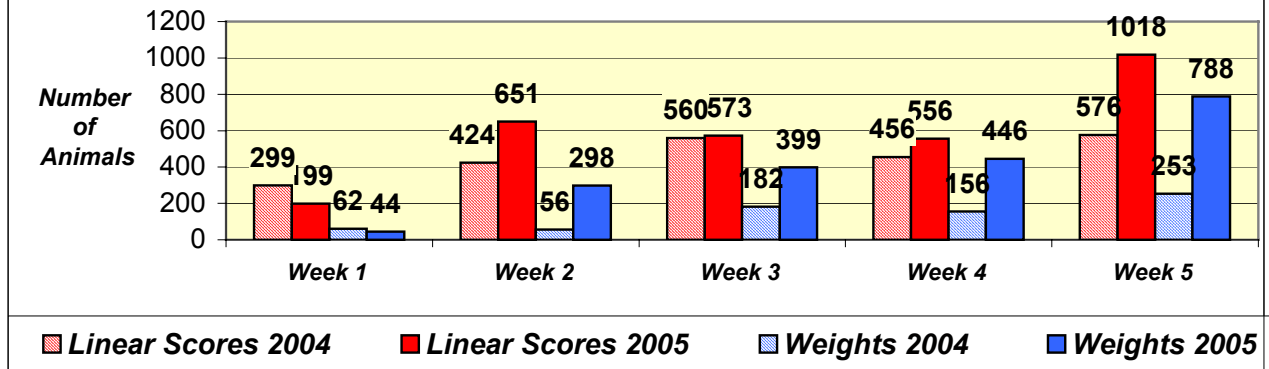
- ICBF are currently involved in conservation work for Irish Draught horses and Kerry cattle.
- Conservation work this week focused on the integration of UK & US studbooks for Irish Draughts into the Irish population and the calculation of inbreeding % for all animals in the 3 studbooks (Ireland, UK & the US). Results of this work will be presented to the project sponsors (DAF, RDS & Irish Draught Horse society) in the coming weeks.

4 Beef Linear Scoring

- The recent introduction of the “ICBF beef linear scoring & weight recording service” has resulted in a marked increase in the number of linear score and weight records being collected by field staff in recent weeks (see figure below).
- The service is focused on “commercial” weanlings, with the objective of collecting linear score and weight records on some 5,000 weanlings over the next 4-6 weeks. The subsequent slaughtering of these animals will provide ICBF with valuable data for the estimation of genetic parameters for beef performance data.



Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording Weekly Progress 2004 -v- 2005



5 Milk Recording

Industry Test Turnaround Sep 2005.

Industry national average for Sep was 6.16 days. The Organisation with the best turnaround was SWS, with an average of **5.13 days**. Each month every MRO gets an ICBF Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.

September 2005 Industry Test Turnaround	
No. Animals Recorded	235034
No. Herd Tests Processed	4274
Average Turnaround (No. Days)	6.16

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 30/09/05 - 07/10/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 30/09/04 - 07/10/04
Progressive	378	398
Dairygold	68	239
Kerry	203	194
SWS	119	171
Connacht	5	16
Arrabawn	26	12
Tipp	24	31
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	N/A
Total	823	1,061

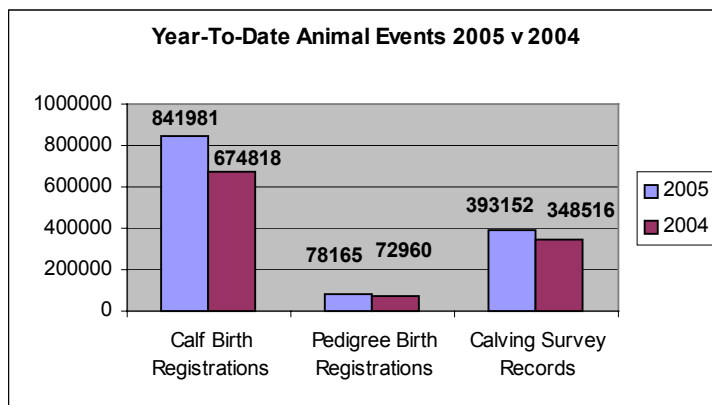
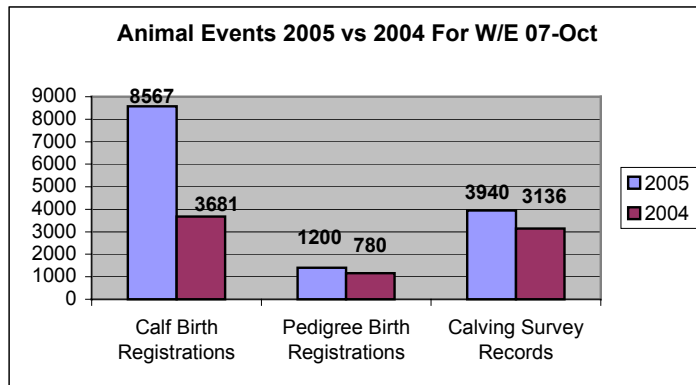


Year to Date Stats: Fri 30/09/2005

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Oct 07th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Oct 07th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,080	2,233	147,329	156,588
Dairygold	1,522	1,620	97,172	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,098	66,879	66,886
SWS	936	964	54,335	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,216	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,140	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,084	7,369
Others (Donegal/OAD)	35	N/A	3,601	N/A
Total	5,997	6,303	392,756	407,239

6 Database Update

- 13 new herds added to the database last week.
- 5,127 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The new linear scoring handheld application, and the transfer of scores over GPRS is continuing to work well.
- Breeding charts are continuing to be returned at a very good rate. Farmers have filled out a lot of data on the charts, and they are taking quite a while to key. The first reports will be returned to farmers within two weeks.
- The first 'official' farmer sale catalogue was completed this week, and feedback has been positive. ICBF and IHFA are jointly launching the catalogue next week at the ploughing. Be sure to check it out if you are on the respective stands.
- The keying of the missing sire reports is continuing. This task will finally be completed next week, and relevant stats will be available.





- A significant amount of time was spent this week doing detailed planning for the database upgrade, and good progress was made in that regard. Because of the growth of the size of the database, we will be sourcing some new disk hardware. The configuration of this hardware is also being finalised.

7 Tully

- Almost half of the bulls for the September intake have arrived at Tully and are settling in well, with the rest expected to be in by the end of next week.
- New drinkers have been installed and are working well.

[Brian Wickham Ph.D.](#) Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, [Phone office +353 \(0\)23 20222](#), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](#) [Fax office +353 \(0\)23 20229](#) [E-Mail \[bwickham@icbf.com\]\(mailto:bwickham@icbf.com\)](#) ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: [Mary Madden](#). © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.