



UPDATE – for period 2nd to 8th April 2005

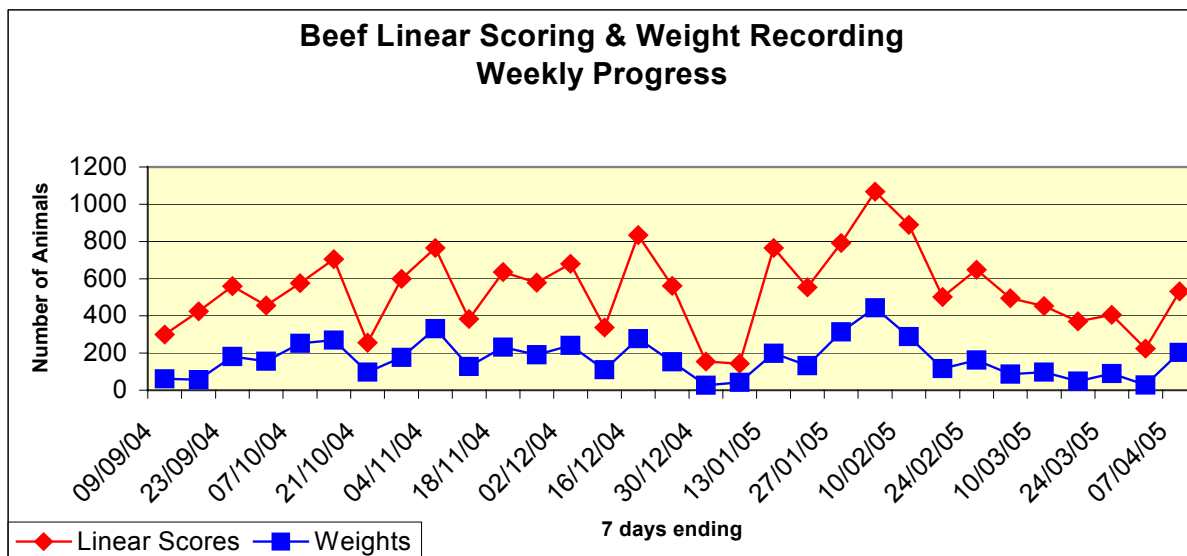
1 Cattle Breeding – Important Dates

- **10:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00, Tuesday 19th April. The Keadean Hotel, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.** Meeting of Numerically Small Herd Books, Herd Book Operations Review, Beef Technical Meeting. **Please note change of venue.**
- **14:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 3rd May, Heritage Hotel, Port Laois.** ICBF Annual General Meeting.

2 Beef Breeding Resources

- Dr Al Grogan has been promoted within DAF thus bringing to an end his five-year secondment to ICBF. Over the next four weeks he will move fully to his new responsibilities within DAF.
- On Tuesday an advertisement was distributed to the international community of professional animal breeders seeking a geneticist to join the ICBF team. This position has been created to ensure that ICBF has the capability of delivering the new beef genetic evaluations to pedigree breeders, suckler herd owners, herd books and the AI companies.
- In the year ahead ICBF will be involved in a major effort to extend the new beef evaluations to all beef breeding stock, to make full use of linear scoring data and to further develop international evaluations for beef cattle. In addition to our current team we will also be working closely with TEAGASC to ensure breeders have the information they need to make full use of the new evaluations.

3 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



4 Tully

- Plans for the sale on April 30 have started, advertising for the sale started on 7-4-05. Linear scoring of the 97 bulls was completed on 5-4-05. Official Blup figures will be up on the ICBF web site on the 14-04-05. Performance figures will be available on the 21-4-05.
- A group from the Swedish Bull Performance Test Centre will visit Tully on 12-04-05.
- A group of veterinary students from UCD will visit Tully on 13-4-05.



5 Database Update

- 106 New Herds added to the database
- "Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office: *"Still high numbers of AE sheets coming in, though the number of registrations per sheet is not as high on them. New Herd permission forms staying steady. Very little missing sire reports coming back*
- 4572 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. Teagasc advisor web access to reports is now live. The Breeding Charts have been printed and are currently being packed and posted. Farmers will be receiving reports from today.
- Work on generating complete statistics from the database for 2004 is almost completed. Below is a sample of the statistics being generated.

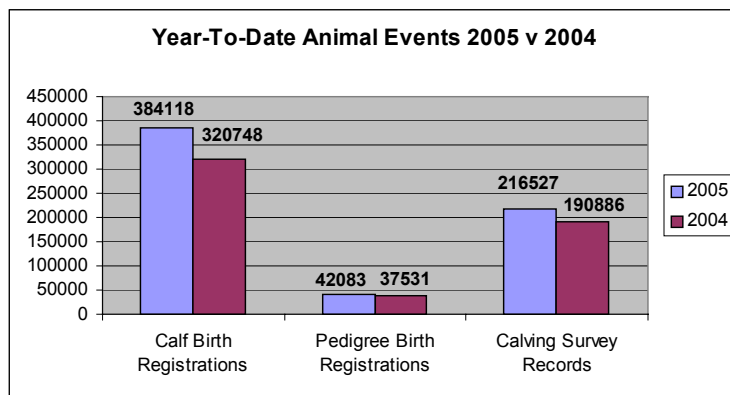
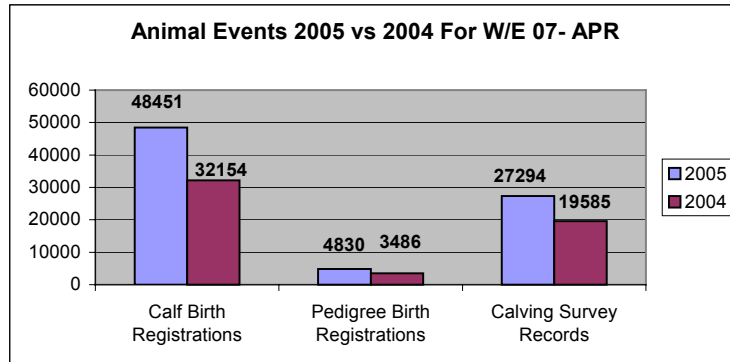


Table 2.7 - Average Production for All Milk Recorded cows (2004)

	Records	Days in Milk	Milk KG	Fat KG	Fat%	Ptn KG	Ptn%
2003	310,456	273	6,166	226.9	3.68%	209.5	3.40%
2004	381,430	288	6,553	242.6	3.70%	220.5	3.37%

Table 2.9 - Average Milk Performance by Parity (2004)

Lact No.	Records	Milk KG	Fat KG	Ptn KG	Fat%	Ptn%	SCC	Lact Length
1	56,689	5,339	202.73	179.79	3.80%	3.37%	133	274
2	82,660	6,193	232.75	209.03	3.76%	3.38%	132	295
3	67,141	6,802	253.09	230.68	3.72%	3.39%	159	293
4	51,269	7,070	263.24	238.93	3.72%	3.38%	192	292
5	39,013	7,091	263.76	238.46	3.72%	3.36%	233	291
6-10	77,883	6,472	238.03	215.11	3.68%	3.32%	335	279
11-15	3,869	5,382	194.77	176.47	3.62%	3.28%	263	263

- We are finalizing the loading of AI records to the database from the various AI organisations to complete the AI data-set for 2004.
- The BLUP files for the Charolais, Limousin, Simmental, and Hereford breeds are being run in Bandon this week, having been taken over from AI Grogan.
- The development work to get all herdbooks available on-line is completed. Feedback has been received from a few herdbooks which is being reviewed.
- A redesign of the Milk Recording Reports farmer batch will be completed within two weeks. This, along with other work we will be doing over the next few weeks, should help to relieve some of the problems which have caused the database to be slow at times for the member organisations.



6 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 01/04/05 - 08/04/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 08/04/04
Progressive	493	443
Dairygold	214	204
Kerry	181	196
SWS	164	285
Arrabawn	38	20
Tipperary	9	5
Connacht	8	24
Total	1,107	1,177

• **MR Reports Update:**

From a recent MR Managers meeting it was agreed to remove the “Herd Index” ranking from the MR Farmer Reports. It was creating confusion among farmers. The ICBF development team are currently optimising how we generate farmer reports in IRIS (working on improved speed/processing). This work will be complete in the next few weeks – with this release we plan to omit the “Herd Index” from reports

7 Genetic Evaluations

Results from the Interbull test evaluation has been released. In this test evaluation, Ireland included data from the across breed evaluation. Data for Simmental and Montbeliarde bulls from Ireland were found acceptable and included in the International evaluation. Data for Jersey bulls were not included on grounds of small number. The implication of this development is that International breeding values for Simmental and Montbeliarde bulls will now be available in the Irish base and scale in addition to the Black and white population with effect from the next round of evaluation. Data extraction for the next round of genetic evaluation is in progress.

8 “GENE IRELAND” PROGENY TEST PROGRAM 2005

So far 90 herds out of the 110 herds with contracts have been contacted. Well over half of these are IHFA members. 35 herds are due to start AI in the next week (or have already started AI). For these herds NCBC will send 5 straws * 10 bulls (which are all standing in Dairygold), to these herdowners. One of the key objectives of the GENE Ireland program is to have a minimum of 500 straws dispatched/bull at the end of the season. The average number of straws requested by farmers is 65.

A series of information meetings are also being planned whereby participants in the GENE Ireland program will be brought together for a meeting on the program.

A number of herds have also returned contracts stating that they wish to test only Friesian bulls or a mixture of HO and Friesian bulls. For these herds we will be testing a small number of Dovea AI Friesian bulls in conjunction with the NCBC Holstein bulls. This will ensure that we have adequate genetic links into the Dovea program going forward.

Brian Wickham 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 ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden. © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.