



1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 13th December.** 10:30 to 13:00. **Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation** meeting.
- ✚ **Tuesday 13th December.** 14:00 to 15:30. **Tully review** meeting.
- ✚ **Thursday 15th December.** 9:00 to 11:00. **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee.**
- ✚ **Thursday 15th December.** 11:00 to 14:00. **ICBF Board** meeting.
- ✚ **Thursday 19th January.** **Tully review** meeting to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.
- ✚ **Herds Not Using Animal Events** – a campaign to encourage more herds to use the Animal Events forms for calf registration will be run jointly with TEAGASC and ICBF's members in January 2006.
- ✚ **Herds with high EBI dairy and beef bulls** – a series of five meetings spread throughout the country are being planned for January 2006 to help beef and dairy farmers with high EBI bulls to ensure they can meet the health requirements of AI Centres and Tully. These meetings are being organised jointly with CVERA, Veterinarians, TEAGASC and AI service providers. The key presentations will address the steps a herd owner can take to ensure freedom from diseases such as Johnes, IBR, and BVD.

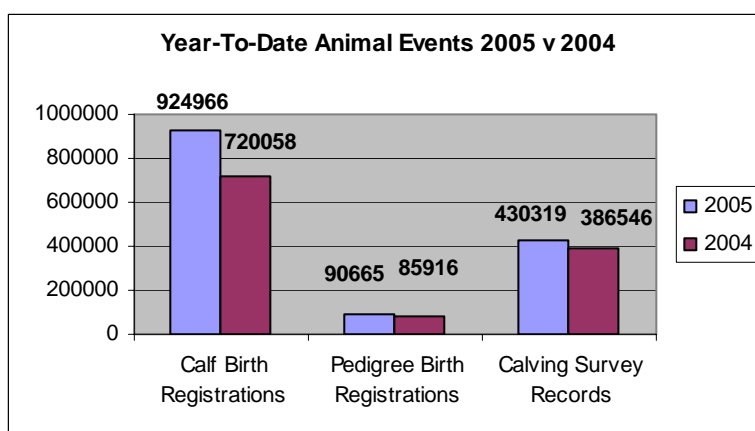
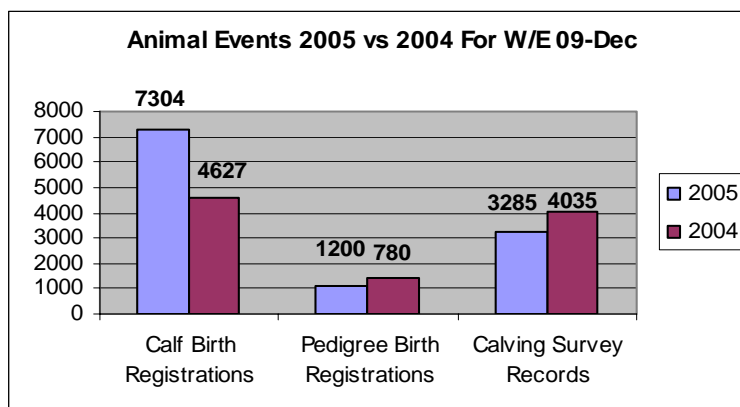
2 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ New beef and dairy proofs for all AI sires have been published on the ICBF website (www.icbf.com) this week. The bull search now contains information on some 140,000 AI bulls from around the world with information on beef and/or dairy traits. In addition various listings, e.g., top Holstein Friesian cows on EBI and top AI sires on EBI, have been published on the website for downloading.
- ✚ New beef indexes were released for Tully bulls this week. These 58 bulls have just completed their beef performance test. This is the first time that Tully bulls have received indexes based on the new evaluations. The top bull based on the new indexes was Dunlon Veinard, a Charolais bull owned by Edward Hanlon, Wicklow. This bull had a BPSI value of €152 and a WCSI value of €171, placing him in the top 0.5% of the breed for each of these indexes.
- ✚ A new beef performance evaluation has just been completed, incorporating additional slaughter data, new linear score/weaning weight data (from the commercial AI weaning project) and improved ancestry data. Results from this evaluation will be reported at next Tuesdays beef industry meeting. Additional work on beef linear score and maternal evaluations is being completed and will be reported at next weeks meeting.
- ✚ Testing of the new beef EBI reports is currently underway, with a view to sending these reports to a sub-sample of farmers for their comment and feed-back next week. It is anticipated that these new reports (including explanatory material) will then be sent to all pedigree beef farmers early in the New Year.



3 Database Update

- ✚ 141 new herds added to the database last week. There has been a surge in new herds from Dairygold AI again this week.
- ✚ 5,222 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- ✚ The dry-off sheets are continuing to be returned at a high rate.
- ✚ Testing has begun on the revised Annual Milk Recording report. Testing internally and with the milk recording organisations will continue next week.
- ✚ Solid progress continues to be made with preparations for the roll-out of AI handhelds. The sign-up of herds continues to be a cause for concern, though very good progress is being made in certain pockets.
- ✚ Testing of the upgraded development system has been on-going this week, with involvement from milk recording and herdbooks. This testing will be completed next week.
- ✚ Testing of the new Beef EBI reports is now taking place based on the latest proofs, and the first issue of this report will be released on a pilot basis prior to Christmas.



4 Milk Recording

Weekly Stats: Fri 9/12/05

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 2/12/05 - 09/12/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 2/12/04 - 09/12/04
Progressive	368	451
Dairygold	101	76
Kerry	98	80
SWS	128	128
Connacht	5	10
Arrabawn	8	10
Tipp	6	17
Others (Donegal, OAD)	5	N/A
Total	719	772



Year to Date Stats: up to 9/12/05

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Dec 09th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Dec 09th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,086	2,233	153,528	156,588
Dairygold	1,529	1,620	98,832	102,778
Kerry	1,065	1,099	67,869	66,952
SWS	937	964	55,878	56,753
Tipperary	142	147	9,392	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,286	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,177	7,369
Others (Donegal/OAD etc)	54	N/A	4,688	N/A
Total	6,032	6,304	404,650	407,305

Electronic DIY Milk Recording

- ✚ EDIY promotional article sent to Wexford Creamery for inclusion in their newsletter this week.
- ✚ First batch of meters (Qty 288) arrived in Cork 05/12/05. Second batch will be here Dec 13th.
- ✚ Tru Test's Nick Howarth was in ICBF for meeting on 07/12/05. 2005 review and 2006 plans were discussed.
- ✚ ICBF met with SWS 09/12/05 to plan EDIY roll out in SWS area in 2006.

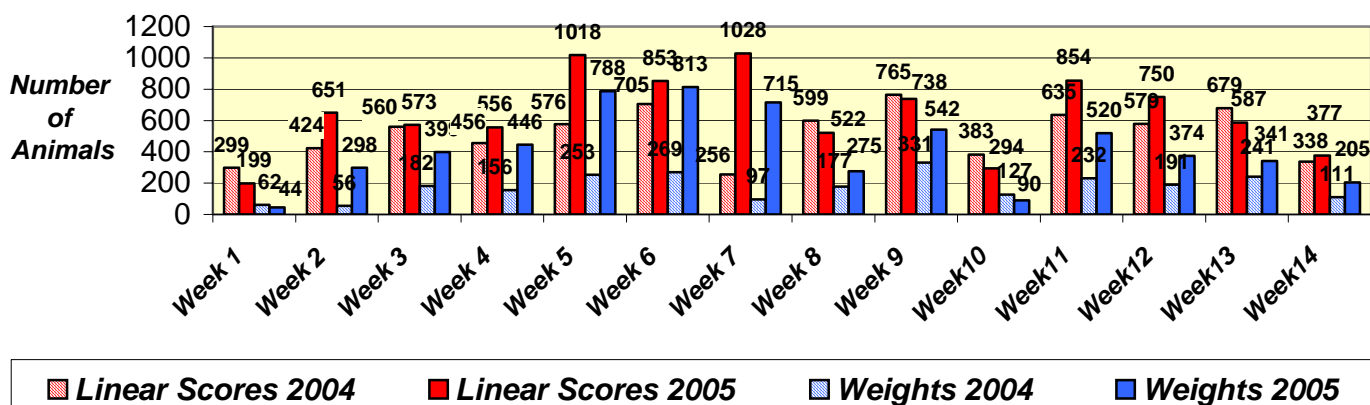
5 Tully

- ✚ Results for the May intake of bulls were posted out to breeders on the 6-12-05. This is the first intake of bulls to come out of Tully on the new EBI system. The report and a detailed explanation of the figures was also sent out.
- ✚ Health test results of the November intake are returning and all bulls will be in Tully by the 15-12-05.
- ✚ A report on the progress of Tully since ICBF took over from the Department of Agriculture in September 2002 will be presented at the Tully review meeting on 13-12-05.



6 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording

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



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