



UPDATE for period 5th – 9th September 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Tuesday 13th September** – “*EBI 100*” farm-walk on farm of Pat & Pauline Ryan, Cappagh, Co. Waterford. EDIY milk recording will be featured on this day. The previously planned EDIY farm walks have been replaced by this event.
- **Thursday 15th September** ICBF Board Meeting.
- **Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September** Ploughing Championships, Midleton, Co. Cork.
- **Thursday 3rd November** – Beef and Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings in Abbeliex Manor Hotel.

2 Beef & Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings, Wednesday 7th September

- Beef & Dairy genetic evaluation consultation meetings were held this week to discuss developments in dairy and beef cattle evaluations. Over 100 people attended the two meetings, with positive feed-back on each of the proposed developments.

Agreed actions from the beef industry meeting were as follows:

- ICBF should proceed with the implementation strategy regarding test-proofs for beef performance traits. This will involve the release of test-proofs to breeders for AI bulls and pedigree cattle on their farm, i.e., stock-bulls, cows and young-stock.
- ICBF should undertake a further calving performance evaluation incorporating calving data gathered since the last “official” calving evaluation in March 2005.
- ICBF should examine options for assigning “reliabilities” to the new beef evaluations.
- ICBF should develop “test” evaluations for maternal traits, when sufficient data on “missing sires” has accumulated.
- ICBF should develop new evaluations for all important linear type traits.
- ICBF should develop a “roll-out” plan for the new beef evaluations. This to be presented at the next beef industry consultation meeting.
- ICBF should re-examine feed intake, in light of the reduction in variance for this trait compared to other traits.
- ICBF should review genetic parameters, in light of move to animal model evaluations and new data.
- ICBF should review the price differential of €150 between top1/3 and bottom 1/3 of weanlings.

Agreed Actions from the dairy industry meeting were as follows:

- ICBF should proceed with the following changes to the EBI; (i) update economic values, and (ii) include a new udder health sub-index.
- ICBF should examine options for presentation of SCC proofs.



- ICBF should continue work on across-breed evaluations for CI & SURV traits. The outcome of this work should be communicated as soon as possible to the dairy industry, including the release of test proofs.
 - ICBF should initiate projects to gather the following data at farm-level; (i) clinical incidence of mastitis and (ii) lameness, with a view to including this data in the EBI.
 - ICBF should review differences between the Friesian breed and the Holstein breed for beef sub-index within the EBI. Relevant areas to review include; beef price (including quality premiums), feed intake (efficiency), differences in calf prices & contribution of replacement females to the beef suckler herd.
 - Teagasc & IHFA should meet to discuss some remaining concerns regarding economic values for winter/liquid milk systems.
 - ICBF should continue work on the collection and evaluation of data on “farmer satisfaction”.
 - ICBF should review the optimum time for release of the ICBF Active Bull List, in conjunction with the Irish dairy industry.
- A further consultation meeting of the dairy and beef industry groups has been scheduled for Thursday 3rd November 2005 in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.

3 Tully

- Inspections of bulls for the September intake have finished. A total of 189 bulls have been sent for health testing. The quality of bulls in this intake appears to be the best to date. Letters will be sent to breeders on the 9-9-05 and health testing will begin from the 12-9-05.
- Applications for the next intake to which covers bulls born from the 1-2-05 to the 30-4-05 will be sent out to breeders from the 19-9-05.
- Brendan O’Shea from Co. Laois started work on the 5-9-05. Brendan replaces John Finnan.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- Genetic evaluation consultation meetings were held this week. All staff within the ICBF evaluation unit were involved in the preparation and presentation of proposed developments. In addition we acknowledge the excellent work being done by other collaborators in these projects, notably Roel Veerkamp & Marco Poole (ID Lelystad), Donagh Berry & Laurence Shalloo (Teagasc, Moorepark), Peter Amer (Abacus Bio, New Zealand) and Arnold Harbers (CR Delta).
- Work has started on the release of new animal model beef test evaluations. This will involve the design of new genetic evaluation reports for economic beef indexes and the development of relevant explanatory material relating to the new indexes.
- Work is continuing on the correction of some identification problems in the Interbull file for dairy evaluations. These mainly relate to sires in the German herd-book.



5 Milk Recording

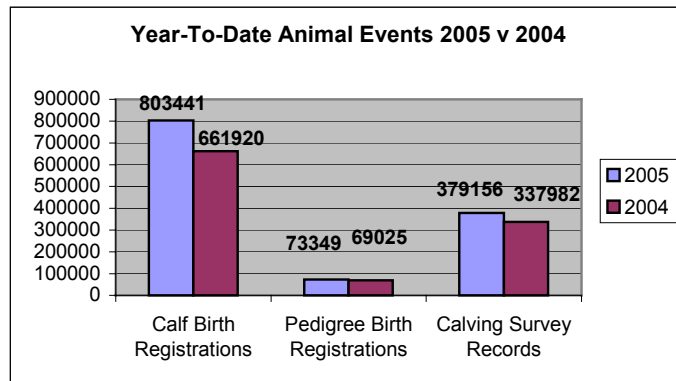
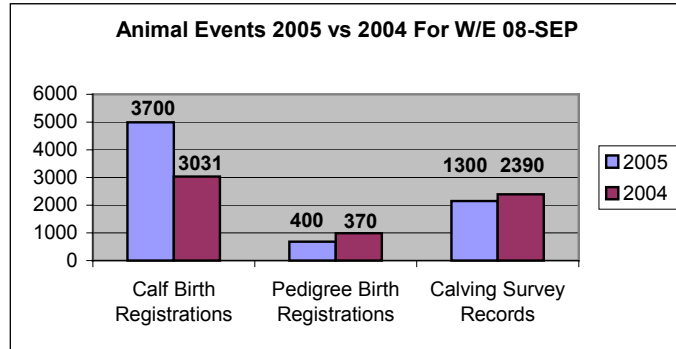
Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 02/09/05 - 09/09/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 02/09/04 - 09/09/04
Progressive	382	528
Dairygold	245	170
Kerry	196	226
SWS	156	172
Arrabawn	44	16
Tipperary	41	51
Connacht	21	15
Others (Donegal, OAD)	1	0
Total	1,085	1,178

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Sept 9th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Sept 9th (All)	2004 No. Cows at Year End (Min 2 tests)
Progressive	2,076	2,233	145,491	156,588
Dairygold	1,520	1,620	96,532	102,778
Kerry	1,063	1,098	66,485	66,886
SWS	935	964	53,925	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,200	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,074	7,597
Arrabawn	108	120	7,069	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	34	0	3,540	0
Total	5,987	6,303	389,316	407,239



6 Database Update

- 32 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- 5,063 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The new linear scoring application is live as of this week and is working well.
- Some 8,000 herds who received breeding charts in the spring have been written to requesting the return of those charts. FREEPOST envelopes were included. 'Expected Calving' and a number of other fertility reports will be issued to those returning completed breeding charts.
- Work is continuing on developing the sale and show catalogue functionality and putting it into a self-service package for farmers. This will be completed in two weeks.
- The details of over 1200 'Missing Beef Sire' reports have been keyed to the IRIS database. There are roughly another 1000 herds to have their reports keyed over the coming week.



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](tel:+3532320222), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](tel:+3532320222) 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.