



UPDATE for period 3rd – 10th June 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Thursday 23rd June.** ICBF Board Meeting.

2 Interbull meeting – Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th June 2005

- As usual some 150 people involved with providing genetic evaluations in many countries covering all continents attended the meetings.
- There were a number of presentations covering aspect of our work on beef and dairy cattle in Ireland. These were well received with a general view being that Ireland is now leading the world especially in relation to the beef evaluations.
- Discussions in relation to international evaluations for beef made excellent progress. INTERBULL adopted the recommendations of the ICAR Task Force. The next steps are the finalising of funding and allocation of resources.
- A large number of topics were covered during the meeting with many opportunities for our team to learn from the experiences in other countries.

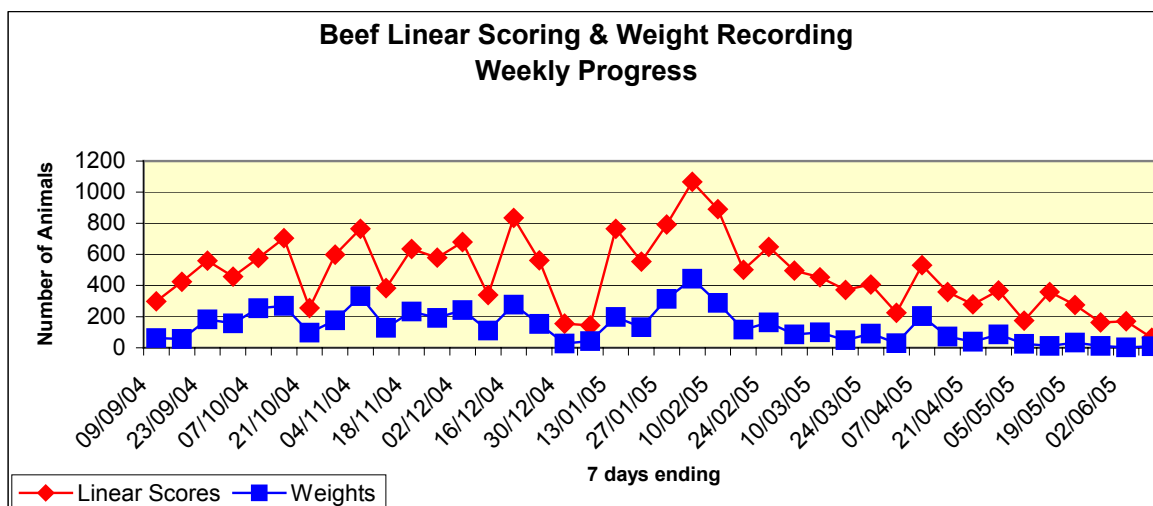
3 EAAP meetings – Sunday 5th to Thursday 9th June 2005

The European Association of Animal Production (EAAP) is a mainly scientific forum and this year was attended by some 900 Scientists covering the full range of disciplines associated with cattle, sheep, pig and goat production. There were some 450 papers presented at the meeting.

One of the most exciting papers was the work of Theo Meuwissen from Norway. His paper showed that, theoretically at least, by using a new approach to cattle breeding based on the latest DNA technology, very substantial increases of the rates of genetic gain could be achieved. We will be following these ideas up in association with TEAGASC.

Victor Olori presented an invited paper to a session (of 4 hours) covering practical breeding schemes chaired by Brian Wickham. Victor's paper described the developments at ICBF over the last seven years. It created great interest and many compliments from some of the most advanced countries in cattle breeding.

4 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





5 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 03/06/05 - 10/06/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 11/06/04
Progressive	237	330
Dairygold	211	246
Kerry	174	148
SWS	158	142
Connacht	16	15
Arrabawn	13	10
Tipp	18	27
Total	827	918

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 10th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 10th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,058	2,231	91,268	145,976
Dairygold	1,472	1,620	48,610	95,817
Kerry	1,062	1,098	45,193	63,995
SWS	932	964	36,443	53,970
Tipperary	141	147	4,335	8,851
Connacht	110	121	4,659	7,120
Arrabawn	108	120	4,250	7,005
Total	5,883	6,301	234,758	382,734

6 Tully

- A total of 61 bulls have entered Tully for the May intake. The performance test for these bulls will start from 14-6-05.
- A meeting will be held with the Department of Agriculture on the 15th June to discuss the future plans for health testing bulls entering Tully and the CMMS system at Tully.
- A group of 33 German Limousin breeders visited Tully on the 4th June.
- A group of 25 beef farmers from Derry will visit Tully on the 14th June.



7 Database Update

- 44 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office: "Big fall in calf registrations this week, as one would expect. Permission forms steady at a low rate."
- 4919 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The re-designed linear scoring application is nearing completion, with testing expected to begin at the end of next week. Roll-out is planned for July 12th at Tully.
- A full genetic evaluation extract has been completed and work on a new test evaluation will begin on Monday. The purpose is to ensure an effective knowledge transfer between the outgoing and incoming geneticists.
- The development work on enhancing the catalogue generation functionality from the database is continuing and will be available for testing at the end of next week.
- Feedback on the calving reports has been positive. The beef calving reports should be completed at the end of next week.
- A file of data has been received from the Aberdeen Angus Society and this will be loaded to the database over the coming weeks, with the relevant animal reconciliations taking place with the Irish Angus herdbook which is already on the database.
- A herd health meeting with Vets from both North and South took place this week in Enniskillen, and some further developments to support the herd health initiative will begin over the coming weeks.

