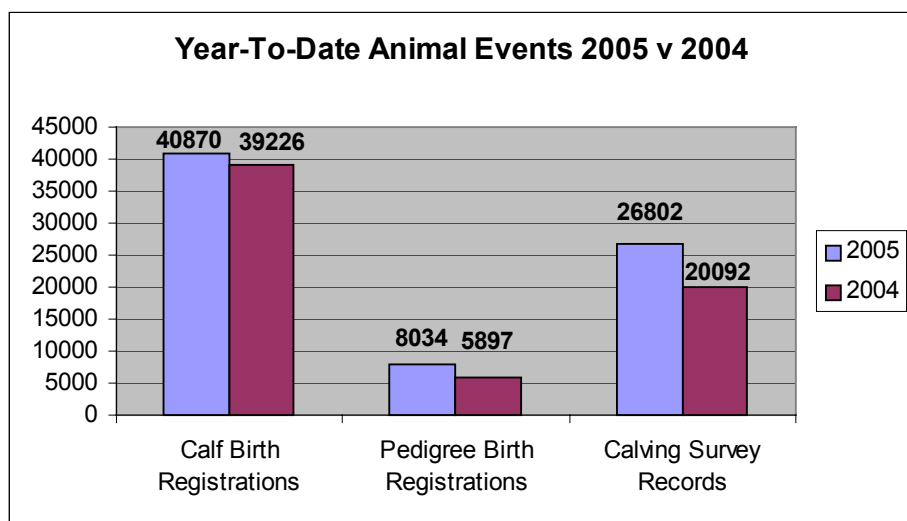
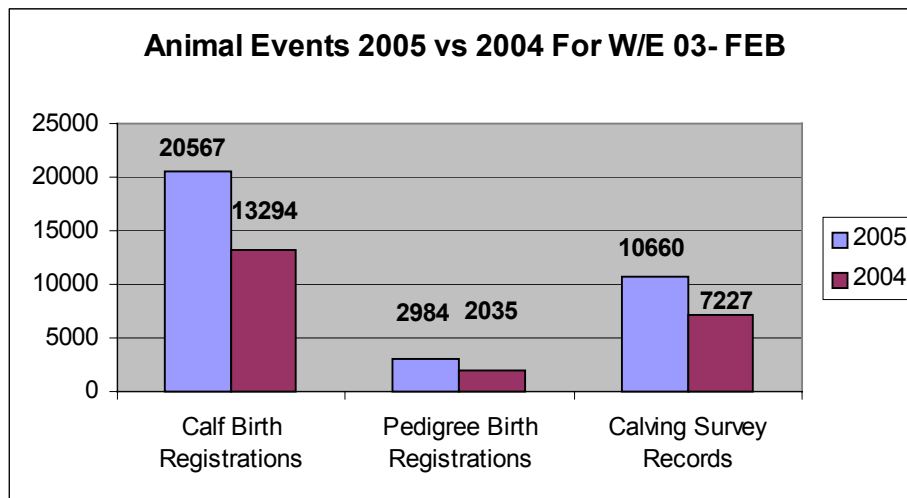




UPDATE – for period 7th – 11th February 2005

1 Database Update

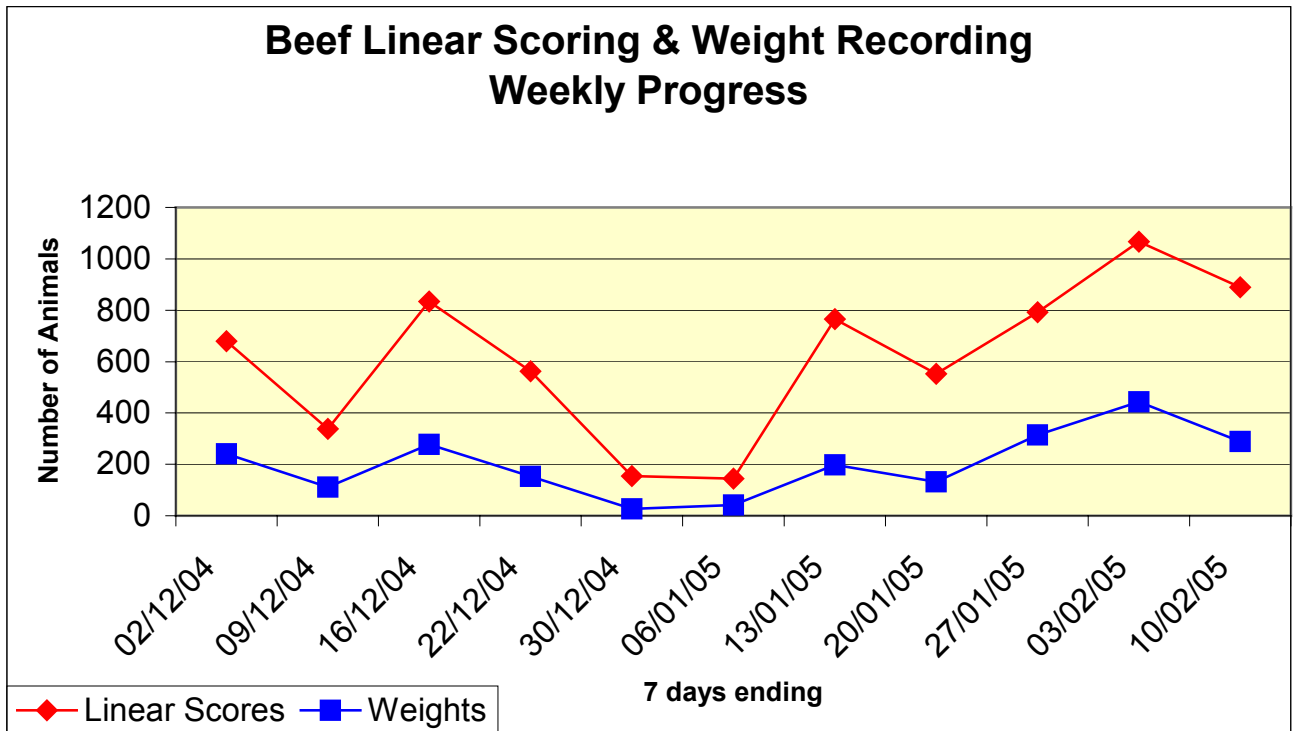
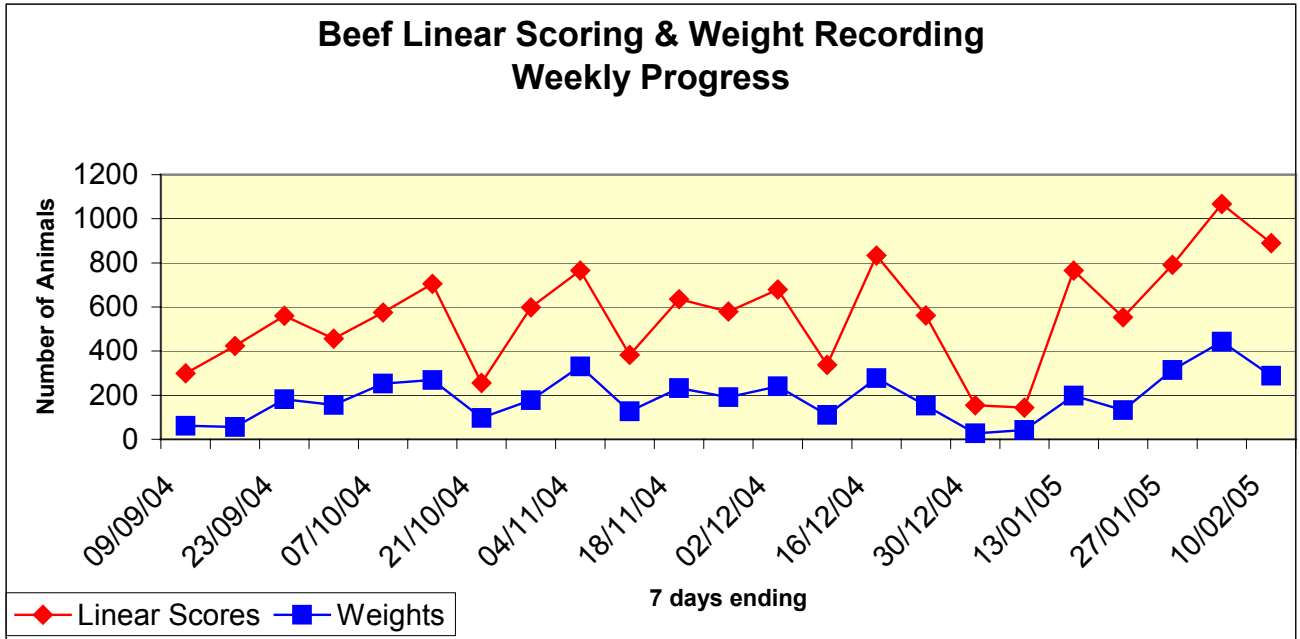
- 228 New Herds added to the database - The new herds this week are primarily those who are members of AI organisations



- A meeting was held with the AI member organisations this week about the roll-out of the AI handheld - decisions by the organisations are expected shortly.
- 2963 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. A meeting with Teagasc this week has mapped out a process to have all advisor/client relationships finalised by the end of February.
- The process of loading of the latest dairy genetic evaluations is beginning this weekend.
- The remaining Annual Milk Recording reports will be generated this weekend and sent to the milk recording organisations
- Work on the generating of complete statistics from the database for 2004 is on-going.
- A very productive visit by two team members to CR-Delta now allows ICBF to more efficiently produce reports from the database.
- Further training of the Irish Angus herdbook staff took place this week. Implementation of pedigree registration rules received will allow 2005 pedigree certificates to begin flowing next week.
- Work on the full integration of SMS text messaging to the database is continuing.



2 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





3 Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 04/02/05 - 11/02/05
Progressive	369
SWS	102
Dairygold	62
Kerry	52
Connacht	16
Tipperary	9
Arrabawn	5
Total	610

4 Tully

- Official blups for the bulls for sale on the 5th March will be up on the ICBF web site by 14-2-05.
- Advertising for the March sale will start from the 17-2-05.
- An open day will be held at Tully on the 19-2-05, all bulls for sale in March and May will be on view.
- A group of breeders from England visited Tully on 8-2-05 and were very impressed with the standard of bulls on show.
- The December intake of bulls will be sold at Tully on the 30-04-05.

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.

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iris
news
no. 1 February 2005

A word from NRS

When Hans Wilmlink asked me to join the IRIS team in 1999, the first thing I had to do was to find out what IRIS was! Until then I had been working in a different part of the organisation and was mainly involved with our regional offices and the Milk recording- and AI-software they used. The ideas behind the IRIS program had plenty of appeal to me and so I accepted Hans' offer. Now, five years later, I have decided to leave the IRIS team, to pursue an old dream of becoming become a Spanish translator. In those five years, IRIS has developed into a solid software package. I have had a wonderful time as part of the IRIS team and want to thank you for all the interesting contacts we have had over the years. I would like to conclude by sending you my best wishes for the future, both in the personal sphere and in your business.

Petra Keppel



SireMatch

SireMatch is an independent mating programme developed by NRS for dairy producers throughout the world. It helps dairy farmers to achieve the optimal genetic gain and takes the herd in the breeding direction of the dairyman's choice.

Personal advice

SireMatch mates each cow to the most appropriate sire, resulting in a profitable cow that lasts. It is a sophisticated tool to avoid inbreeding and genetic defects. The program selects from a worldwide sire stack and provides custom-made breeding advice to each dairyman.

Therefore there are many opportunities to adapt the programme to an individual farmer's preferences:

- You could precisely define your personal breeding goal.
- You could define your personal breeding direction and desired level for each trait.
- You could define your personal sire pre-selection criteria (minimum production, conformation, calving ease etc.).
- You could choose your own sires and create different sire groups.
- Identify groups of cows to be mated to your personal sire groups (e.g. mate heifers to calving ease sires).
- Set your own maximum degree of inbreeding.

- Manage your semen inventory by setting the minimum number of doses to use.
- Identify cow traits for attention.
- The mating functions can be adapted for use in the specific management system of your country.

The program supplies comprehensive sire advice, based on all available data sources: genotype, phenotype and pedigree index, and all available information on production, conformation, durability, health, pedigree and genetic defects.

Reports before mating:

- Overview of sires and grandsires used in the herd that have an influence of more than 2% in the herd.
- Overview of scores



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per trait grouped by 1st and later lactations.

- Overview of all cows with their pedigrees ranked on sire name.

Reports after the mating:

- Overview of cows with their 1st and 2nd choice recommendation.

- Overview of why certain bulls were not used.
- Overview of bulls advised as 1st and 2nd choice.
- Overview of bulls being recommended so they can be ordered.

And last but not least, SireMatch is user-friendly. The reports can be printed on-

farm and exported to PDF or Excel files. It runs quickly and stores herd and mating data for future use.

SireMatch puts the dairy producer in charge! The choice is yours!

*Petra Galesloot
Marketing & Sales*

SireMatch in Brasil

The first user of SireMatch is Lagoa da Serra in Brasil, a satellite company of CRV since 1998. They played a key role in the development and testing of the mating program. Cauê Nascimento tells of their experiences.

Lagoa da Serra is the largest AI company in Latin America. Next to the beef breeds Lagoa provides semen for all dairy breeds in Brasil: Holstein (B&W and R&W), Jersey and Brown Swiss, also the dairy Zebu breeds: Dairy Gir, Guzerá and a cross breed called Girolando (Holstein X Dairy Gir) (see pictures). As in most countries, there is a clear trend in the Brazilian dairy industry: the number of dairy producers has decreased and herds have become larger and more productive. Meanwhile, these customers have become more powerful and demanding. The herd owners want a

tool to make better matings and control inbreeding and genetic defects in the herd. For these reasons, Lagoa had an urgent need for a mating program like SireMatch. As the original user, we tested the program extensively in the field and provided many suggestions for improvement during its development. One of our ideas was to include Bar Charts. The appearance of the presentation is very important so, as we liked to develop a program that is really better than the others, we invested in the presentation of the reports.

Before SireMatch, we used to score the cows on paper and all the pedigree information was collected by hand. Now, the pedigree and production information are collected through a palm top or using an excel spreadsheet. When the customer orders an AI service, we send an excel sheet by e-mail to collect the necessary information. It is much faster and more professional.

Cauê Nascimento, Coordinator dairy services of Lagoa da Serra



Dairy Gir



Guzerá



Girolando

Customer profile

Recently the Holstein Association of Hellas in Greece (HAGR) decided to start using IRIS-ASP. HAGR is a young association of progressive farmers in Greece. Prof. Andreas Georgoudis, vice-president of HAGR and professor in Animal Genetics and Breeding at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, provides us some background.

What kind of organisation is HAGR?

The Holstein Association of Hellas is a non-governmental non-profit organisation founded in 2001. It is a nation-wide organisation, based in Thessaloniki. HAGR's membership includes some 200 individual dairy farmers with 21,500 registered animals.

What are characteristics of the cattle industry and recent developments in Greece?

The total number of cattle in Greece is about 450,000 animals with dairy cows comprising 165,000 head, of which 99% are Holstein-Friesian. The total number of dairy herds is close to 18,000 with 21% of them consisting of more than 50 cows. Dairy herds are located mainly in the plain regions in the central and north-east part of the country and are not necessarily associated directly with farmland. Feed tends to consist predominantly of maize silage offered to cows with reasonable high levels of concentrates. After a long period of importing superior in-calf Holstein-Friesian



heifers and wide use of semen from progeny tested bulls, the improved management conditions resulted in a 305 days national average of 6,550 kg milk. HAGR will make every effort to promote these achievements of the Greek dairy industry.

What is the objective of HAGR?

The Association's fundamental aim is the improvement of the Holstein dairy breed and, through this, the endorsement of its members' economic position. The following main activities are included in the operational scheme of the Association:

- Organisation and maintenance of the herdbook and issue of pedigrees.
- Application and monitoring of the identification of registered animals.
- Performance recording and linear estimation of conformation characteristics of the breeding animals.
- Planning and application of genetic improvement programs.
- Provision of technical advice and improvement of the technical and financial management of the dairy farms.
- Promotion of trading and the organisation of fairs and auctions for breeding animals.

The above services are made possible in collaboration with the



Michalis Tsaklidis (Milk Recording Supervisor, HAGR), Stamatis Milioudis (Technical Director, HAGR), Chaido Mizeli (Head of Information Systems, HAGR), Tatianos Georgakoudis (President, HAGR), Jan Dommerholt (Chief executive, NRS), Andreas Georgoudis (Vice-President, HAGR).

relevant Greek authorities and support from the Ministry for Agricultural Development and Food.

What are your plans for the future?

Having as a basis a population of dairy cows representing the genetically superior part of the total population of the national dairy herd, and focusing on expanding this basis, the Association aims to dynamically contribute to the organisation of the dairy cattle sector according to the high standards of quality and competition that come from modern and environmentally friendly production methods. With this in mind, the Association takes every opportunity to inform consumers and enhance their trust of Greek products and the skills of Greek professional dairy breeders, within the framework of the recently introduced Common Agricultural Policy. To accomplish its mission and to realise its plans for the future, HAGR will introduce the IRIS-ASP solution, as a universal state-of-the-art globally proven tool for the cattle industry.

News bulletin

Development of IRIS4.0 progresses

The building of the IRIS4.0 system has reached the final phase and many new functionalities are currently being developed, both on the input and output side of the system. Data entry facilities for milk recording, herdbook and DNA research are under construction. The development of a wide range of output products is also progressing, including all milk recording reports, reproduction management report, pedigree and export certificate and the animal registration reports, like MINAS (mineral administration system) and related EDI reports for accountants. Next to be prepared will be the standard data exchange with farm management packages. Meanwhile maintenance of the first parts of the system that are in production is ongoing. Suggestions for improvements from the users are followed up to increase the user friendliness.

Export of breeding cattle increases

The export of Dutch breeding cattle is recovering. In the previous season 21 per cent more breeding animals were exported. Veeopro, the organisation that promotes the export of Dutch cattle, estimates the number of cattle exported last year as 37,000. This is less than in the top years 1995 and 2000, but more than the years since then. At the end of the nineties the Netherlands exported 50,000 head of cattle, but due to the BSE and FMD crises this decreased. The recovery of the export is

explained by a strong demand from Algeria, among others. Within Europe, Greece, Spain and Poland especially purchased a large number of in-calf heifers.

More large dairy herds

The number of Dutch dairy herds with more than 150 cows increased with about 60 percent in the last ten years. In 1993 there were 194 herds with this size and in 2004 468 herds were counted. Most of these farms are in the northern part of the country.

HG imports Swedish Red

HG has expanded its sire offer in the domestic market with the addition of Swedish Red. One of the reasons is the durable profile of this breed. Therefore HG is cooperating with the Swedish breeding organisation Svensk Avel. This type of cattle is characterised by its good fertility, udder health and vital calves. The Swedish Red is comparable with Montbéliarde and Fleckvieh, but is a dairy breed not a dual purpose one.

Average milk production stabilised

The average milk production in the Netherlands has hardly changed in the last year, contrary to the previous year when milk production per cow did increase. This is shown by the annual statistics. It seems that farmers are changing their focus slightly; they are not only selecting for milk production, but are paying more attention to traits like longevity, animal health and type. The average herd size has increased to 65 cows. The average production is 7,907 kg milk at 4.45 percent fat and 3.51 percent protein. The amount of fat and protein was 621 kg, one kilo more than the previous year. The number of Black & White cows in milk recording increased slightly from 643,745 to 638,251 cows. These animals produced in the last year on average 9,218 kg milk at 4.37 percent fat and 3.48 percent protein in 351 days. The number of Red & White cows decreased.

IRIS User Group Meeting 2006

Host: ICBF
Date: May 29-31, 2006
Location: Cork, Republic of Ireland