



**UPDATE – for period 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005**

**1 Cattle Breeding – Important Dates**

- **10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, at the Punchestown Event Centre, Naas, Co. Kildare. National Spring Fair.** ICBF and its member organisations will have a stand at this event featuring: the database, electronic DIY milk recording, recent enhancements to the EBI and progeny testing. This promises to be a day where dairy farmers interested in cattle breeding can obtain the latest information on all aspects of breeding.
- **10:30 – 12:30 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Dublin.** Launch of National Cattle Breeding Centre.
- **Please Note:** **The Beef and Herd Book Meetings Scheduled for Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** at Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork **are being rescheduled** to avoid the conflict with the Launch of the National Cattle Breeding Centre.

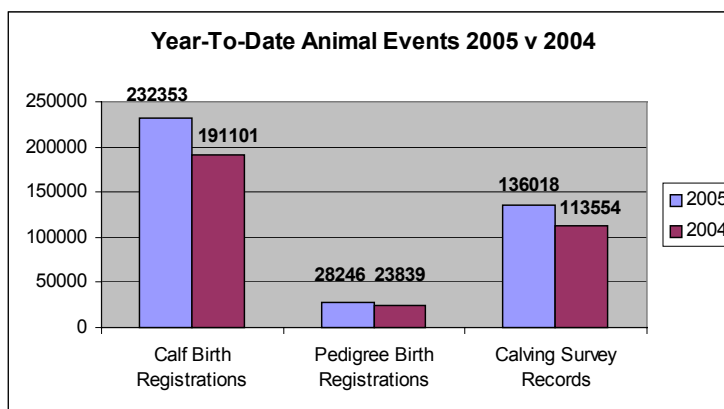
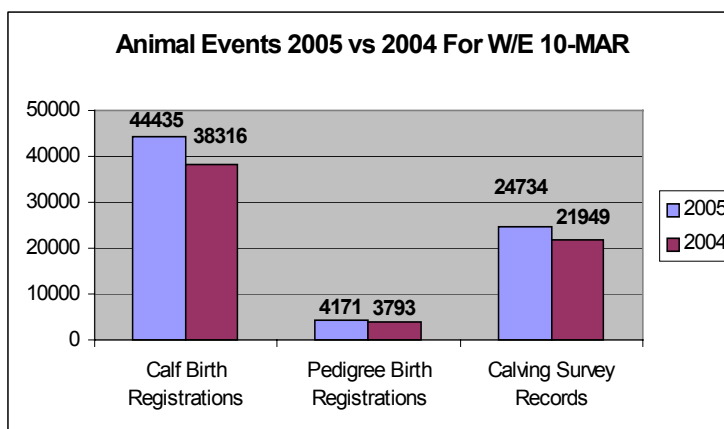
**2 Database Update**

- 370 New Herds added to the database

• Comment from the staff in the Animal Events office: *"The numbers of AE Sheets coming in is staying high, a low number of Missing sire reports and dry off sheets are coming in. We are now getting jumbo assignment sheets for processing and we also very busy with new herd permission forms."*

• 3,690 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. The Teagasc Beef Client forms are beginning to come back and are coming back at the rate of 50-75 per day. The total number of Teagasc Beef herds signed up is now standing at some 600.

• Work on the latest EBI reports will be finished next week and the printing and distribution will begin towards the end of next week. We expect farmers to have received their reports by March 25<sup>th</sup>.



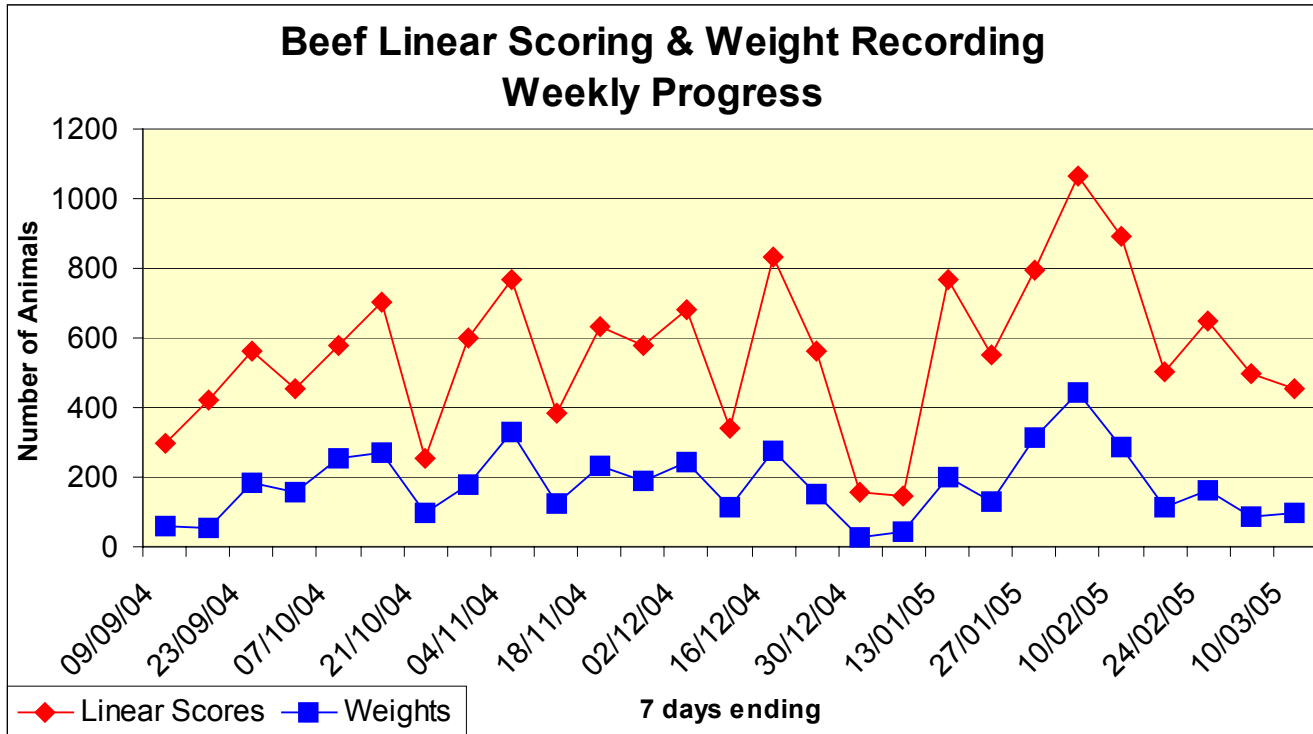
- The rollout of the AI handhelds is continuing in partnership with SWS AI. The first of the Handhelds has gone live today.
- Work on the generating complete statistics from the database for 2004 is on-going. This work will be finished at the end of March.
- The full integration of SMS text messaging to the database is continuing. The basic infrastructure is now in place and is being tested. The ability to receive insemination data from farmers using text messaging is being tested. The functionality will be available for demonstration at the Spring Fair in



Punchestown on March 19th.

- The development work to get all herdbooks available on-line is on-going and will be finished within two weeks.

### 3 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



### 4 Tully – Report of ICBF March Sale of Performance Tested Bulls

- A very successful sale of highly selected performance tested bulls was held on Saturday the 5th of March at Tully. 76 bulls across 10 breeds were sold, for an overall average price of €3,700.
- Eight of the nine Angus bulls offered were sold for an average price of €4,050. The FBD prize winning Angus bull ‘Cahirmee Westy’ sired by ‘Moymrum Samson’ with an overall beef merit index of 129 and bred by Richard Smith was sold to Dovea AI €8,400. The Angus bull ‘Crerogue Evian’ by the sire ‘Derrykirk Tony’ and bred by O. Mc Fadden and A. Armstrong was sold for €7,100 to John Carlin, Co Donegal. The Angus bulls sold for an average of €4,050 with a top price of €8,400.
- The Belgian Blue bull, ‘Ballymacsimon Victor’ by the sire ‘Notez le et du pont du Messe’ and owned by Patrick J. Hegarty, was sold for €3,500 to John Dunne from Co Offaly, while Jarlath Duggan’s FBD prizewinner, ‘Ross Valient’ out of ‘Gypse De Haute Somme’ sold for €3,750 to Brian Mathews, Co. Offaly.
- In the Charolais breed, ‘Castlemartin Venison’ with an index of 132 out of ‘Doonally New’ from the Castlemartin herd of Dr. A. J. F. O’Reilly, was sold to Rosemary Murphy from Armagh in Northern Ireland for €12,400. This bull also won the FDB top prize in the Charolais breed. ‘Boulera Vester’ out of ‘Dovea Pinocchio’ bred by Willam Bergin and bought by Ann Marie Connolly from Scots House, Co Monaghan made €6,000. Pat McClean’s FBD 3rd prize-winner, ‘Roughan Val’ sired by ‘Doonally New’, was sold to Alan Fahey of Galway for €6,000. The Charolais bulls sold for an average of €3,550 with a top price of €12,400.



- In the Herefords ‘Udel R51 WWW Dot’ out of ‘Doonbiddie Hustler’ bred by David & Daithi Carroll, was sold for €3,700 to Sam Coleman, Northern Ireland. David & Daithi Carroll also sold ‘Udel 1 T62 Webb Ellis’ sired by Udel 1 R51 Trailblazer to John Appleby of Co. Cork for €3,600. Herefords sold for an average of €2,390 with a top price of €3,700.
- In the Limousin breed the 2nd FBD prize winner in his class, ‘Ardlea Uboy’ with a beef merit index of 120 out of ‘Sheedagh Solomon’ and bred by Daniel Tynan, sold for €17,000 to Michael Fox of Monieva, Co. Galway while €11,500 was paid by Ian Davidson from Northern Ireland for the Limousin 1st prize FBD bull, ‘Milbrook Vic’ with a beef merit index of 132 out of ‘Mas Du Clo’ and bred by William Smith. William Smith also sold the 126 indexed bull ‘Millbrook U487’ out of ‘Mas Du Clo’ for €8,400 to Sean Doyle, Co Louth. Daniel Tynan also sold the 121 indexed bull ‘Ardlea Vector 2’ out of ‘Seigneur’ for €8,000 to Fergus Turner, Co. Wexford. Limousins sold for an average of €5,000 with a top price of €17,000.
- H. N. Evans Dier’s Piemontese bull ‘Carrickbawn Aiden’ sold for €1,900. John Keating’s Saler bull, ‘Ballymackeogh Eddie 2’ out of ‘Igor’ sold for €3,700 and was bought by Jim Ryan from Co Limerick to run with a pedigree herd.
- In the Simmental Breed, the 118 indexed FBD first prize winner ‘Milton Rupert’ out of ‘Carnkern Titan’ bred by Sandra Stone was sold for €4,700 to Sean McEroy. The second prize FBD award winner ‘Knockane Richard’ with an index of 120 out of ‘Ballyduff Jeweller’ and owned by John Murphy, was sold for €4,700 to S. Kelly from Northern Ireland. John Finnegan’s 115 indexed ‘Leeherd Rockie’ out of ‘Freighduff Brendan’ was sold for €4,400 to James Alexander from Northern Ireland, who also purchased a number of other bulls at the sale. The 18 Simmental bulls sold for an average of €2,800 with a top price of €4,700.

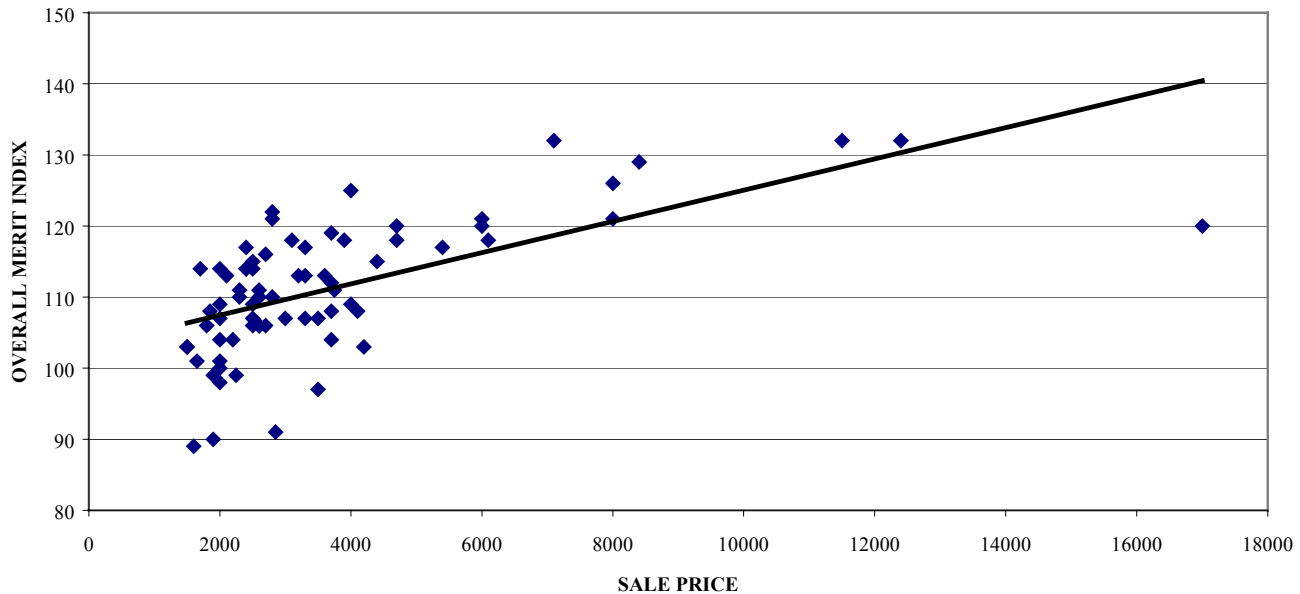


**Figure 1. FBD Prizewinners at Tully Sale on 5th March.**



- In the Blonde breed ‘Beechmont Ulick’ out of Drop and bred by John Tierney, and an FBD 2nd prize winner in his across breed class was sold for €3,700 to Henry Chamrey from Co Wexford. In the Aubrac Breed the 109 indexed bull ‘Urbano’ sired by Egyptien and bred by Edward Walsh was sold for €4,000 to the Laurens Syndicate to be used in AI.
- The graph below shows, for the bulls sold, the relationship between sale price and overall merit index.

#### OVERALL MERIT/ SALE PRICE FOR ALL SOLD ANIMALS



- The next intake for entry to Tully is being assembled for bulls born in the period 17th July to 25th October 2004. The next sale of performance tested bulls at Tully will be held on Saturday 30th April when some 97 bulls will be offered for sale.

## 5 Milk Recording

### Milk Recording Managers – Review – Moorepark 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005

At a meeting of ICBF and Milk Recording Managers activities in 2004 were reviewed and plans and goals for 2005/6 considered. The items discussed and main points/actions included the following:

- **MR database - 2004 review.**
  - i. All herds and all milk recording organizations (MROs) now fully on board and processing some 1,000 herds per week as routine.
  - ii. MRO staff and Recorders job is now more streamlined as data is now coming directly from farmer (Animal Events). Very positive.
  - iii. Suite of Reports and information contained therein (eg Lact certs, Annual Summaries etc) are to be reviewed from farmer viewpoint.
  - iv. Constants and parameters for database processing of milk recording are to be reviewed. These were set in 2002 and are thus due for review.
- **Uptake of Milk Recording – only 24% herds recording – what to do?**
  - i. Need national campaign - educate, and market the service.



- ii. Electronic DIY seen as way to grow – no capital impediment, more convenient for farmer, and competitive cost
- iii. Offer incentive for farmers that send and receive data reports via E mail and internet

- **Lab Proficiency test results**

ICBF in collaboration with the TEAGASC Moorepark Lab operates an ICAR approved Lab proficiency programme. This is where samples are sent each month to each Milk Analysis Lab for testing and results are sent back to Moorepark where they are compared to standard references. Each Lab is rated by a penalty points system where points are amassed for out of tolerance conditions. Each Labs results were discussed and respective MR Managers have been asked to formally review any non compliances with their MR Lab managers.

- **EBI update**

As the EBI Reports are being posted in the next two weeks it is important that there is good understanding of EBI by milk recording staff. To this end the new subindexes of Calving Difficulty and Beef Carcass weight were discussed.

### Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 11/03/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 12/03/04
Progressive	437	348
Dairygold	162	210
SWS	150	200
Kerry	145	169
Connacht	20	24
Tipperary	16	18
Arrabawn	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>972</b>

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