



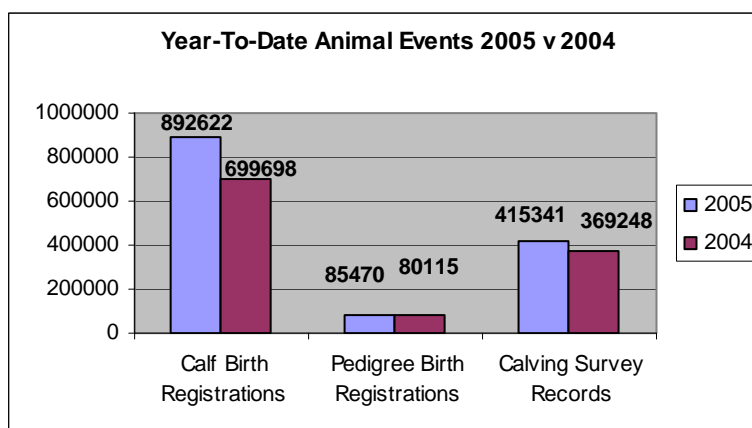
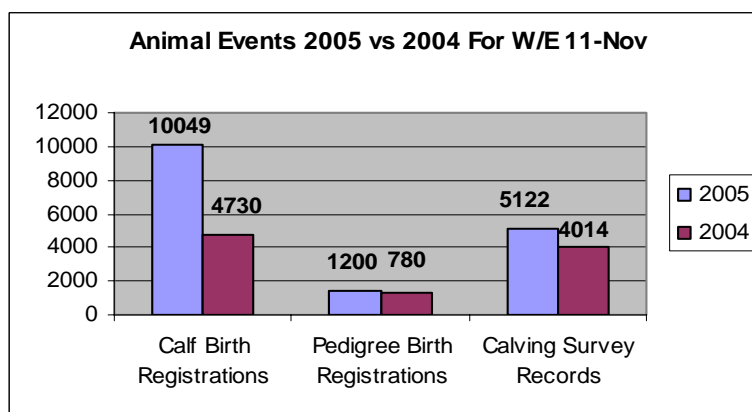
UPDATE for period 5th November – 11th November 2005

1 Important Dates

- ✚ Thursday 15th December. **ICBF Board** meeting.
- ✚ Thursday 19th January. **Tully review meeting** to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.
- ✚ Thursday 17th November. **Finance Sub Committee** meeting.

2 Database Update

- 122 new herds added to the database last week. This has been given a big lift by the recruitment of Dairygold AI herds.
- 5,193 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The first of the Expected Calving and Fertility reports have gone to farmers this week. The rest will be distributed next week. (*see sample Fertility report included below*).
- Good progress continues to be made on the new beef genetic evaluation reports. The first drafts will be available for release at the end of next week.
- The dry-off sheets are continuing to flow. Farmers are continuing to use the on-line dry-off function, as well as the dry-off facility through mobile phone text messages.
- Work is continuing on a revised Annual Milk Recording report. This will be ready for issue on Dec 1st.
- The Oracle upgrade has continued this week, though we have been slowed by a number of problems with hardware on the development machine.
- Preparations are continuing for the roll-out of the AI handhelds, with a number of organisations sending out letters to farmers yet to be signed up to the database. Orders have now been placed for the handhelds.





3 Milk Recording

Weekly Stats: Fri 11/11/05

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 04/11/05 - 11/11/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 04/11/04 - 11/11/04
Progressive	312	461
Dairygold	196	206
Kerry	204	206
SWS	145	152
Connacht	15	27
Arrabawn	12	22
Tipp	35	38
Others (Donegal, OAD)	11	N/A
Total	930	1,112

Year to Date Stats: up to 11/11/05

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Nov 11th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Nov 11th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,084	2,233	151,046	156,588
Dairygold	1,527	1,620	98,268	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,099	67,428	66,952
SWS	937	964	55,222	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,311	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,219	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,119	7,369
Others (Donegal/OAD etc)	46	N/A	4,241	N/A
Total	6,018	6,304	399,854	407,305

Industry Test Turnaround Oct 2005

Industry national average for Oct was 6.6 days. The Organisation with the best turnaround was **Kerry Agri**, with an average of **4.9 days**. Good to break the 5 day barrier. Well done to all in Kerry! Each month every MRO gets an ICBF Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.

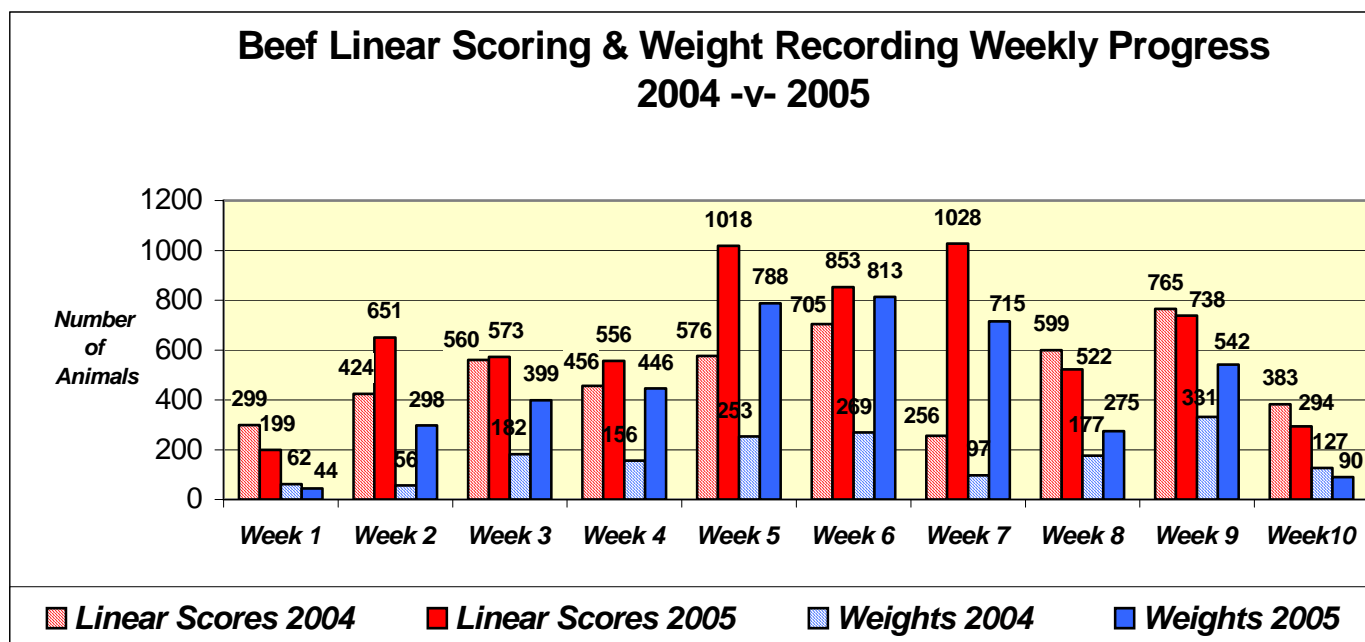
October 2005 Industry Test Turnaround	
No. Animals Recorded	214,529
No. Herd Tests Processed	3,964
Average Turnaround (No. Days)	6.58



Electronic DIY Milk Recording

Good progress has been made this week with expanding the availability of EDIY milk recording in 2006. This follows the recent advice that additional NDP funds are available to facilitate this development.

4 Beef Linear Scoring



5 Tully

- A total of 21 bulls from the May intake of bulls have been sold to date. The trade for good quality bulls with good BLUP and performance figures is good. Prices range from €2,300 to €3,800. Millbrook Vintage the Limousin bull that sold from Tully for a national record will leave for Aberdeenshire on Tuesday.
- The final list of bulls for the September intake was sent to each breed society on the 10-11-05.
- Inspections for the December intake have finished. A total of 140 bulls will be sent for health testing, out of which some 90 bulls will enter Tully in early December.
- A group of beef farmers from Carlow will visit Tully on the 16-11-05.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- Much of the week was spent dealing with issues arising from last weeks beef & dairy industry consultation meetings. These have included;
 - Investigation into evaluations for a number of “easy-calving” AI sires.
 - Comparison of bull rankings for “liquid milk” systems vs. “manufacturing” systems.
 - Investigation into across breed evaluations for milk production & fertility proofs, especially for Jersey, Montbelliarde and Brown Swiss breeds.
- Results from these analyses are currently being compiled and will be forwarded to the dairy and beef industries over the coming weeks.



- Preparation for release of official dairy evaluations has commenced. A number of new developments will be included in the next official proof run. These include; (i) new conversion equations for CI & SURV (due to updating of genetic evaluation model for CI & SURV), (ii) new SCC evaluations for all domestic and foreign sires, (iii) calculation of a new udder health sub-index (including SCC and locomotion score), and (iv) calculation of a new EBI, incorporating updated economic values & an udder health component. Due to the extent of work involved in updating all systems with these changes (database, reports & the ICBF website), there will be no official release of proofs until **Friday 25th November.**

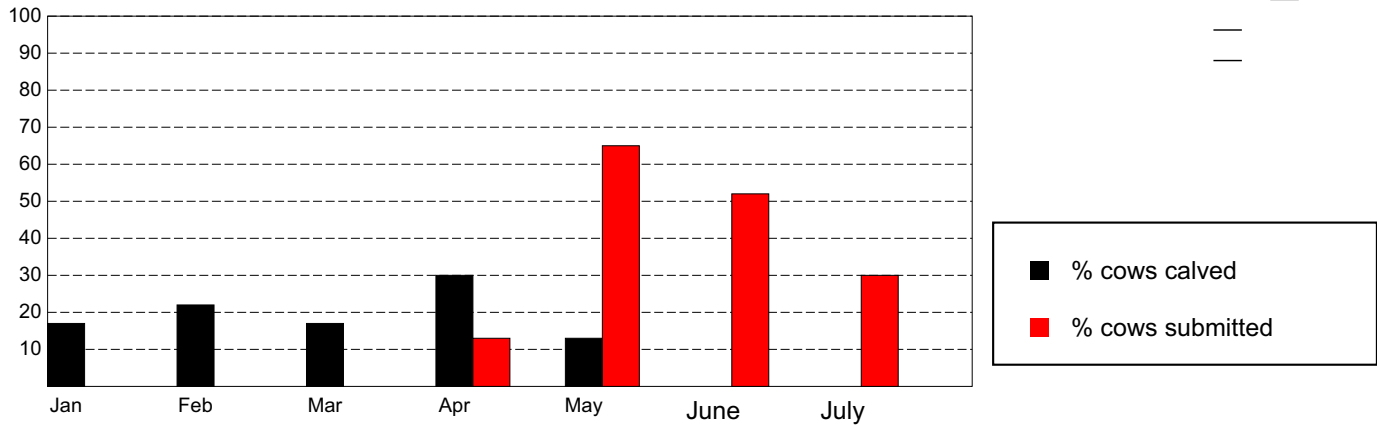
7 Genetic Conservation of Irish Draught Breed

Following extensive work carried out by ICBF with funding provided by the RDS and DAF, a meeting was held to discuss options for conservation of the breed. The meeting involved ICBF, DAF, RDS, Irish Horse Board & the Irish Draught Horse Rare Blood Lines group. An interim report is now being prepared for release and discussion with the Irish Draught horse industry.

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Summary Fertility Statistics Report (Cows) Spring 2005

Herd Owner: **SAMPLE**



2. Performance Statistics - relative to all dairy herds in the database

Where no pregnancy diagnosis data has been submitted, the expected calving is based on the last insemination recorded

			Btm 15%	Achievable	Top 15%
1. 7-day Submission rate(%) % of cows submitted for mating within 7 days of MSD, as a proportion of the herd calved up to 6 days after MSD.	Your Herd	18%	6	14	28
	National Average	18.1%			
2. 14-day Submission rate (%) % of cows submitted for mating within 14 days of MSD, as a proportion of the herd calved up to 13 days after MSD.	Your Herd	43%	14	20	47
	National Average	32.3%			
3. 21-day Submission rate (%) % of cows submitted for mating within 21 days of MSD, as a proportion of the herd calved up to 20 days after MSD.	Your Herd	57%	20	35	64
	National Average	44.7%			
4. 42-day Submission rate (%) % of cows submitted for mating within 42 days of MSD, as a proportion of the herd calved up to 41 days after MSD.	Your Herd	68%	35	39	79
	National Average	64.9%			
5. 1st Service Pregnancy rate (%) * % cows pregnant to 1st service as a proportion of all cows calved and submitted for AI.	Your Herd	26 %	39	37	61
	National Average	48.2%			
6. Six week Pregnancy rate(%) * % cows pregnant at six weeks as a proportion of all cows calved and submitted for AI.	Your Herd	26%	37	69	77
	National Average	68.7%			
7. Overall Pregnancy rate (%) * % cows pregnant	Your Herd	57%	69	2.6	92
	National Average	83.1%			
8. Services/conception * Average number of services per confirmed pregnancy.	Your Herd	3.2	2.6	1.7	1.7
	National Average	2.2			

Explanatory Notes

MSD means Mating Start Date - the date that mating started in the herd. For the cows in your herd this was 23/04/2005

* Where no pregnancy data is available the herd graphs for have been omitted.