



UPDATE for period 8th – 14th October 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Tomorrow.** National Dairy Show Millstreet.
- **Thursday 3rd November.** Genetic evaluation consultation meetings – Beef in AM, Dairy PM.
- **Thursday 3rd November.** ICBF Board Meeting after Genetic evaluation consultation meeting.
- **Thursday 15th December.** ICBF Board meeting.
- **Thursday 19th January.** Tully review meeting to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.

2 Genetic Evaluations

- Results from Interbull centre indicate that we have passed all of the required tests for international evaluations of SCC. As a consequence, Irish data will be included in the next routine evaluation of international data for this trait. This is the first time Ireland will have participated in the international evaluation for SCC.
- New calving performance evaluations for all AI bulls (dairy and beef) are being processed. These will be released to industry next week.
- Work on the across-breed evaluation for dairy calving interval and survival is continuing. The release of new test evaluations for EBI is on-hold, pending the completion of this work.
- Work on the genetic evaluation of lameness in dairy cattle has commenced with a view to including this trait into the EBI. Results of this work will be reported at the next dairy industry meeting (3rd November 2005).

3 Genetic Conservation

- Work on the degree of relationship between all stallions in the Irish, UK & US studbooks with Irish draught mares in Ireland has been completed. This work will help determine whether stallions standing abroad, should be used to increase the genetic diversity of Irish Draught bloodlines here in Ireland.

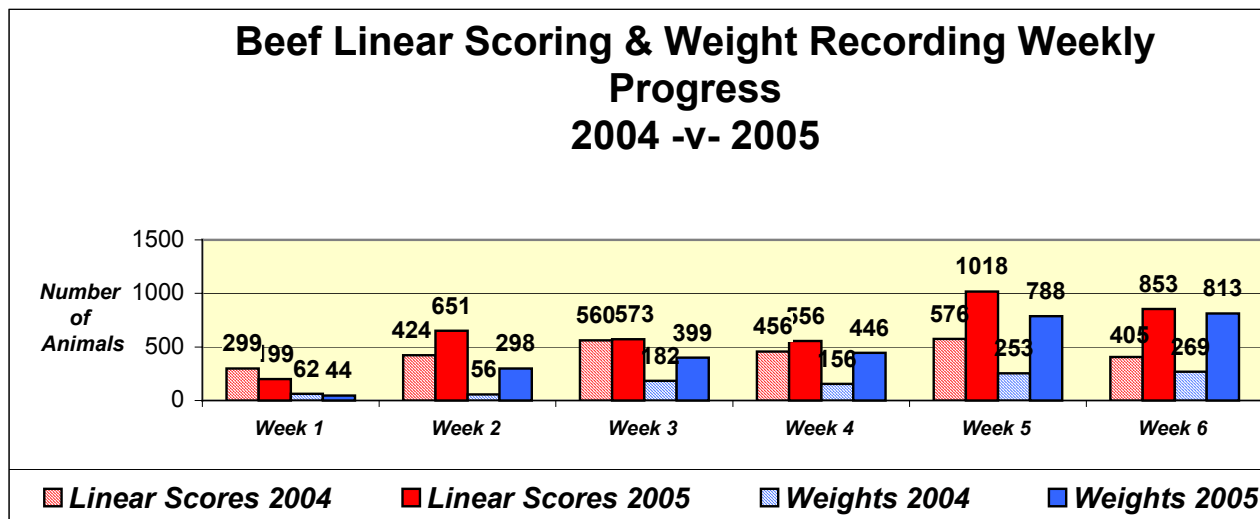
4 Tully

- ❑ 111 bulls are now at Tully for the new intake. The remainder should be in early next week, to fill the sheds to capacity (130 bulls).
- ❑ Application forms for the November intake have been sent to the linear scorers, so inspections are due to start next week.
- ❑ A researcher and his group of students, from UCD, are planning on coming out late next week when the young bulls are being weighed to take bloods for a growth study.



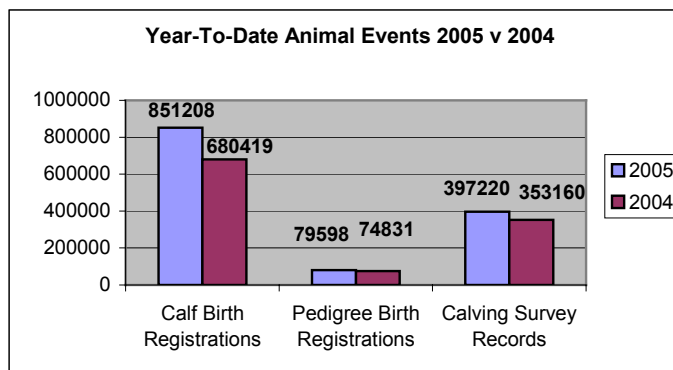
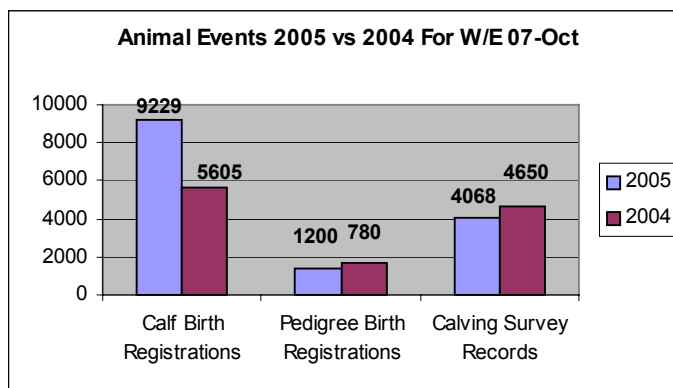
5 Beef Linear Scoring

- Collection of linear score and weight records on commercial AI weanlings has continued this week. To date, over 2,500 animals have been weight recorded and scored as part of this project.



6 Database Update

- 31 new herds added to the database last week.
- 5,141 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The keying of the missing sire reports has been completed. 1492 herds returned data and as a result, 7,800 extra animals now have had sires added. This figure may grow slightly as we do some further work analysing some of the incorrect sire details that were provided. The exercise proven to be a success, and we have also learned some valuable lessons for future exercises.
- 214 breeding charts have been keyed. The first of the Expected Calving and Fertility reports will be tested and released next week.





- Work has begun on the new beef genetic evaluation reports, work which will continue for the next four to six weeks.
- The October issue of the EBI reports will start to flow next week, after some testing has been completed.
- Preparations for the database upgrade have been on-going, with the new disks required having been ordered.
- The National Dairy Show at Millstreet will again offer farmers a chance to see the latest technical developments at ICBF.

7 Milk Recording

Weekly Stats: Fri 14/10/05

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 07/10/05 - 14/10/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 07/10/04 - 14/10/04
Progressive	394	486
Dairygold	315	271
Kerry	183	198
SWS	151	178
Connacht	31	37
Arrabawn	19	26
Tipp	32	22
Others (Donegal, OAD)	4	N/A
Total	1,129	1,218

Year to Date Stats: up to 14/10/05

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Oct 14th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Oct 14th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,080	2,233	148,057	156,588
Dairygold	1,522	1,620	97,340	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,098	66,965	66,886
SWS	936	964	54,480	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,245	9,268
Connacht	109	121	7,146	7,597
Arrabawn	110	120	7,097	7,369
Others (Donegal/OAD)	35	N/A	3,606	N/A
Total	5,997	6,303	393,936	407,239