



UPDATE – for period 9th to 15th October 2004

1 Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meetings

The beef and dairy genetic evaluations consultation meetings took place on Wednesday and Thursday respectively. The beef meeting was attended by 75 and the dairy meeting by 55 people representing a full range of interests. Developments on beef evaluations are now proceeding rapidly as a consequence of the database being fully operational for all beef breeds and traits. While the amount of useful beef data has increased dramatically there is still a need for many more suckler herds to identify the sires of calves born. In an effort to solve this deficiency in recording one of ICBF's priorities for the remaining few months of 2004 is to recruit suitable suckler herds into Animal Events.

Below is a summary of the outcomes from the meetings.

Beef Index Development Meeting 13th October – Summary of Main Outcomes.

General issues

- Feedback from the meeting was positive with those attending expressing a willingness to proceed with the test evaluations for the various traits, including the ranking of bulls on the basis of the new sub-indexes.
- Lack of sire information was the major obstacle to genetic improvement in beef cattle in Ireland. To that end, ICBF and all beef industry organizations must work together to ensure that a higher proportion of beef and dairy herds are involved in Animal Events and the cattle breeding database.
- Terminology of the various beef indexes should be reviewed to ensure a better understanding of the contents of each index.
- ICBF should continue to give priority to its work on international evaluations, as this work was an important part of the further development of beef cattle breeding in Ireland.

Calving performance sub-index

- Concern was expressed that the relative emphasis on calf mortality in the calving performance sub-index was too low (30%). This may be due to “inaccuracies” in the recording of calf mortality at farm level. ICBF committed to examining this question further.

Calf Quality sub-index

- Given the importance of weaning weight in the various sub-indexes (e.g., 60% of the weighting in the calf quality sub-index is due to weaning weight), ICBF should work with ICOS, the various marts and DAF to ensure access to weight data for the purpose of genetic evaluations.

Beef performance/carcass sub-index.

- ICBF should continue working with DAF and meat factories to ensure access to more complete carcass data, e.g., yield of cuts and mechanical grading as soon as it is available.
- Feed intake is an important economic trait and should be retained within the beef performance/carcass sub-index.

Maternal sub-index.

- Concern was expressed that there was insufficient weighting on “calf quality” within the maternal sub-index. ICBF committed to reviewing the inclusion of maternal weaning weight as a further trait within this index.
- In defining cow survival on beef farms, ICBF should examine the relationship between various predictors and cow survival, e.g., docility.
- ICBF should review maternal breed effects for calving performance.



Breeding Programs.

- In considering the optimal breeding programs (breeds, number of bulls/breed), ICBF should consider the importance of maintaining genetic diversity within the relevant breeds.

Dairy Index Development Meeting 13th October – Summary of Main Outcomes.

Genetic evaluations for calving and beef performance traits.

- ICBF should review all aspects of the calving performance evaluations, to ensure that selective mating of beef bulls was being correctly accounted for.
- ICBF should examine the relationship between various predictor traits (e.g., linear type data) and carcass weight.
- In defining traits for genetic evaluation of carcass traits, ICBF should consider restricting the age limit of males to greater than 20 months at slaughter (due to the common practice of collecting 2 premiums on males before slaughter).
- Concern was expressed at the high heritability for growth and carcass traits (about 50%). ICBF committed to re-estimating these heritabilities with a single breed (e.g., the Holstein Friesian breed).

Proposed changes to the EBI.

- ICBF should carry out various sensitivity analyses around the use of one set of economic values for a range of breeds and production systems.
- Clarification was sought on the make-up of 12% calving performance influence (maternal vs. direct) in the proposed “expanded EBI”.
- Concern was expressed at the proposed reduction in weighting for yield traits from 59% to 44% and on calving interval/survival (from 41% to 33%). As a consequence, ICBF should examine the impact of the “expanded EBI” over 10 years of selection, relative to selection on the current EBI and selection on yield alone.
- ICBF should consider publishing sub-indexes for the various traits contained in the “expanded EBI”.

Economic values for traits contained in the EBI.

- ICBF should review the cost of quota, in light of its impact on the economic value for fat kg.
- ICBF should meet with progeny test organizations to advise them on future changes on the EBI make-up which could impact upon young bull selection.

National and international developments

- It was agreed that there should be no change in the base for milk production traits (and EBI) for February 2005.
- ICBF should review proposed changes in the genetic evaluations for CI and SURV (including use of foreign data).
- ICBF should examine possibility of international evaluations for further traits, e.g., temperament and ease of milking.

2 National Dairy Show – Millstreet Saturday 16th October

Preparations are nearing completion for tomorrow's show. Attached are copies of the Boards that will be used for the three main themes – Database, EBI and Milk Recording.



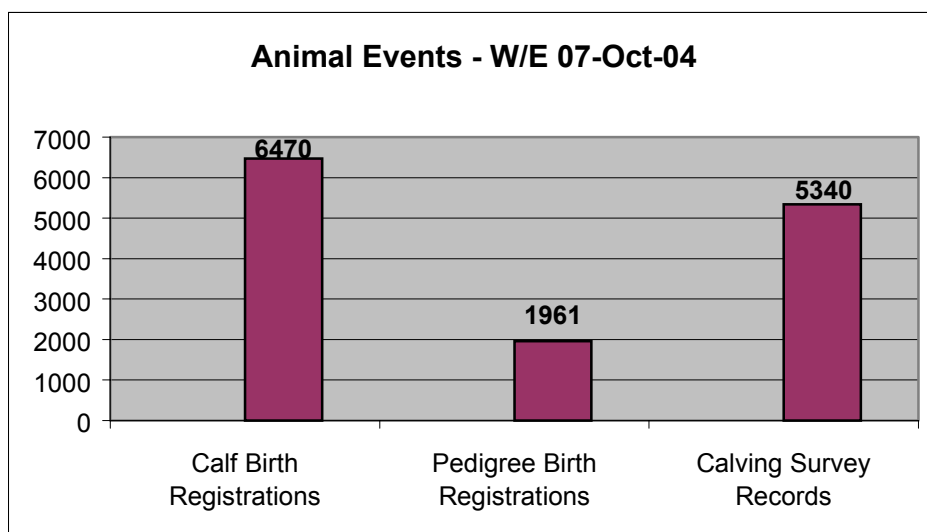
3 Tully

- Health test results for the October intake are back. A total of 110 bulls are in Tully and will start test on Thursday 21st October. The quality of bulls across all breeds are up on last year and this is the best intake to come into Tully under ICBF to-date. This is the intake for the March sale 2005. A break down by breed is shown in this table.
- All applications for the November intake are back, inspections will start on 22nd October.
- A group of 25 commercial beef farmers from Wicklow will visit Tully on Wednesday the 20th October.

Tully Intake October 2004	
Breed	No
Angus	8
Aubrac	1
Belgian Blue	5
Charolais	30
Hereford	8
Limousin	26
Piemontese	1
Saler	4
Simmental	27
Total	110

4 Database Update

- 20 new herds added to the database this week.
- Work is continuing with Teagasc in getting farmers signed up to Animal Events.
- The matching of herds from the various AI organisations to those on the ICBF database is continuing.
- The first version of the new AI handheld application has been delivered today. Testing is beginning immediately. ICBF have engaged with the AI organisations this week with a view to planning the pilot implementation of the application with technicians in the field.
- The Shorthorn Dairy certificate development has been completed - a copy will be included in next weeks update.
- The Breeding Female and Offspring report, which was originally developed for the Charolais Society is now available to all breeds and can now be issued upon request.
- The IHFA animal search service will be launched tomorrow at Millstreet - this gives those visiting www.ihfa.ie the ability to search for any animal in the IHFA herdbook and retrieve up to date details on the animal.



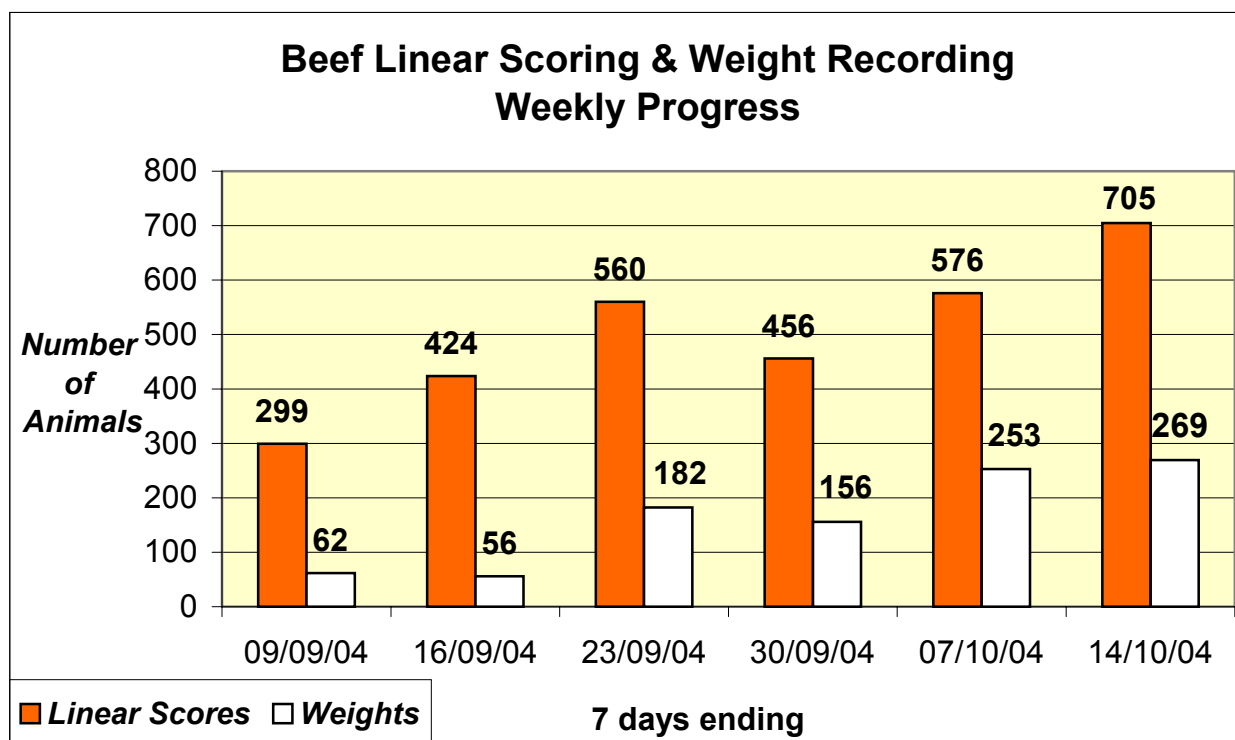


5 Milk Recording – Summary to Date

- This has been a **recording breaking week for milk recording** with more herds processed than in any previous 7-day period. Well done to all those involved.

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 08/10 - 14/10	Herds Recorded year to date 2004
Progressive	524	2,216
Dairygold	281	1,610
Kerry	191	1,097
SWS	208	963
Tipperary	18	147
Connacht	28	120
Arrabawn	27	119
Total	1,277	6,272

6 Beef Linear Scoring and Weight Recording



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One Database, Many Partners less duplication and cost for farmers

AI

- Munster AI
- 1 - Dairygold
- 2 - Kerry
- 3 - SWS
- 4 Progressive Genetics
- 5 Dovea AI

Milk Recording

- 1 Dairygold
- 2 Kerry
- 3 SWS
- 4 Progressive Genetics
- 6 Arrabawn
- 7 Tipperary
- 8 Connacht Gold

Farm Organisations

- 9 IFA
- 10 ICMSA



Herdbooks

- Holstein Friesian 11
- Belgian Blue 12
- Angus 13
- Aubrac 14
- Blonde d'Aquitaine 15
- Charolais 16
- Hereford 17
- Limousin 18
- Normande 19
- Parthenais 20
- Piedmontese 21
- Shorthorn 22
- Simmental 23
- Jersey 24
- Kerry 25
- MRI 26
- Montbeliarde 27
- Rotbunt 28
- Saler 29

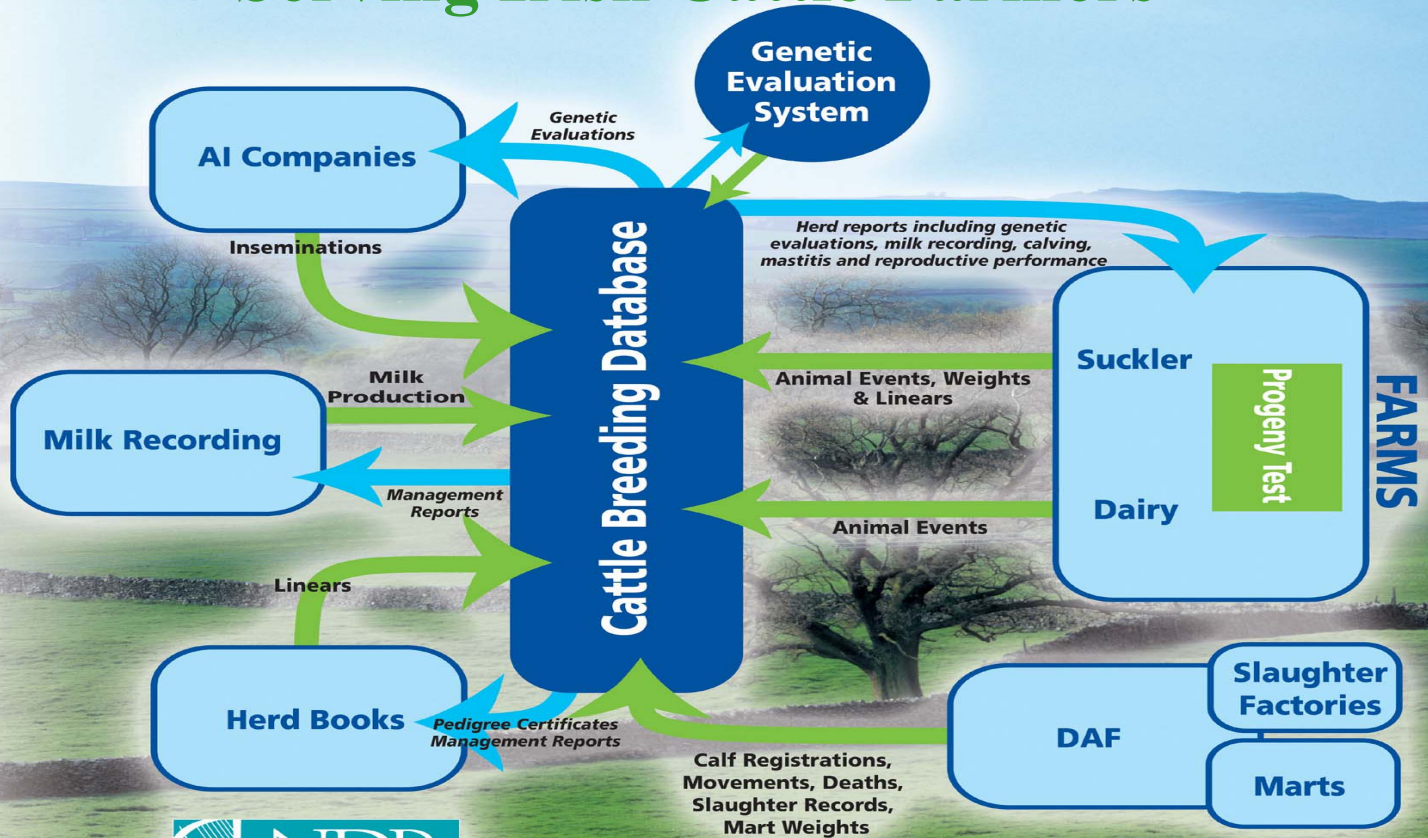
ICBF 30





Cattle Breeding Database

Serving Irish Cattle Farmers





EBI - economic breeding index

Traits	Economic Values	Emphasis in EBI
Milk - kg	-€ 0.08	17%
Fat - kg	€ 1.50	12%
Protein - kg	€ 5.22	31%
Survival - %	€ 10.77	18%
Calving Interval - days	-€ 7.09	22%





Strain of HF - 10 year review of Moorepark research

Grouped on calving interval PD	Bottom 20%	Lower 20%	Middle 20%	Upper 20%	Top 20%	Sig
PD calving interval (days)	2.17	0.59	-0.50	-1.18	-2.09	
EBI (€)	15	27	34	37	50	
PD survival %	-0.85	-0.14	0.14	0.34	0.99	
Pregnancy to 1st service %	44	46	56	57	58	**
Services per cow (number)	2.03	1.91	1.82	1.67	1.74	**
Six week in calf rate %	57	57a	70	69	68	**
Overall pregnancy rate %	80	81	86	91	91	**





Evidence from milk recorded herds – Oct. 2004



	Top 5 on EBI	Bottom 5 on EBI	Difference	Euro value	Profit
Herds	2,709	2,709			
Cows	11,295	11,295			
Milk kg (305 days)	7,112	6,681	431	-€ 0.08	-€ 34
Fat kg (305 days)	278	236	42	€ 1.50	€ 63
Protein kg (305 days)	250	219	31	€ 5.22	€ 162
Fat%	3.93%	3.56%	0.37%		
Protein%	3.53%	3.30%	0.23%		
Calving Interval Days	368	377	-9	-€ 7.09	€ 64
<i>Overall profit/lactation</i>					<i>€ 254</i>

Based on cows with 2-5 lactations and a calving interval of between 300-450 days in last lactation.





What are the..

...critical lessons learned from Moorepark Research

- 1 Huge variation exists in the Holstein-Friesian breed
- 2 Breeding objectives must focus on profitability
- 3 For maximum advantage, animals chosen must suit our pasture-based production system

...conclusions drawn

Our National breeding program must provide sires tested and proven within a pasture-based system on an index combining the traits of greatest economic significance to the Irish dairy farmer.





Developments...

1. **EBI for other breeds in 2005**
2. **Calving ease, gestation length & calf mortality in 2004**
3. **Beef merit in 2005**
4. **Udder health 2006**

Take Home Message

- **EBI = Profit per lactation**
 - ✓ **High protein + fat production**
 - ✓ **Easier to go in calf**
 - ✓ **Longer lasting**
- **Select from 'Active Bull List' on basis of EBI**
- **Use EBI to guide selection (and culling) of cows**





Come and see the latest in Milk Recording....

- ✓ ***New DIY Technology***
- ✓ ***Electronic Milk Recording***
- ✓ ***Paperless – no writing!***
- ✓ ***Automatic Sampling***
- ✓ ***Faster turnaround***
- ✓ ***Streamlined to suit the
modern farmer***





WHY MILK RECORD?

- ✓ Better Management Decisions
- ✓ Know the value of each cow
- ✓ Somatic Cell Count Management
- ✓ Increase protein %
- ✓ Make Better Breeding Decisions
 - A.I. Sire selection
 - Breeding Replacements
- ✓ Increase the net value of stock sold
- ✓ New improved reports

Milk Kgs ?

Protein % ?



Fat % ?

SCC ?

EBI € ?





Milk Recording Animal Report



Milk recording - Animal Report

DAIRYGOLD AI AND FARM SERVICES

WEST END,
MALLOW, CO. CORK
Tel: (022) 31511

Herd owner: MARTIN BURKE
Herd No: IE1234567 **Scheme A4**
Print date: 19/01/04
Test date: 03/11/03 Page: 1(6)

Cow ID	I&R-Tag	Calv. Date	Lact. Days	Last test day / Yield to date	M Kg	M Gall	Fat %	Prot %	Index	No. Treats				
8	IE-BBHH-0008-G	12/02/03			924	4.52	4.55	1.2	0.9	113	104			
Shinagh Jerri 5			204		7845	1676	5.27	3.70	4.66	414	290			
ASE		Spring	9		8534	1823	5.38	3.77	4.66	459	322			
10	IE-BBHH-0010-V	19/02/03			18.4	3.9	4.91	4.48	4.31	0.9	0.8	115	313	+77
Shinagh Iris 4		7y 9m	257		8447	1804	4.47	3.64	4.57	378	308			
EZP		Spring	9		9233	1972	4.52	3.72	4.57	417	344			
20	IE-BBHH-0020-S	06/10/03			35.4	7.6	5.84	3.34	4.42	2.1	1.2	107	81	+30
Shinagh Lilac 6		7y 8m	28		924	197	6.42	3.37	4.42	59	31			
EZP		Winter	1		8973	1917	5.15	3.54	4.42	462	317			
22	IE-ZHKN-0096-H	06/09/02			Cow dry - 03/08/03						94		+20	
Clonswords Vera 228		6y 6m	331		9017	1926	3.84	3.54	4.87	346	319			
FAL		Winter	11		8729	1865	3.87	3.51	4.87	338	307			
30	IE-BBHH-0030-P	22/02/03			19.4	4.1	5.75	4.01	4.33	1.1	0.8	96	161	+27
Shinagh Burghorner Nora May		7y 8m	254		6544	1398	4.69	3.77	4.71	307	247			
BRF		Spring	8		7389	1578	4.82	3.80	4.71	356	281			
33	IE-BBHH-0033-H	09/11/02			19.2	4.1	6.24	4.20	4.15	1.2	0.8	96	469	+32
Shinagh Lilac 7		7y 8m	359		10504	2244	4.70	3.30	4.55	493	347			
SSM		Winter	12		9347	1997	4.59	3.22	4.55	429	301			
39	IE-BBHH-0039-U	14/10/03			33.4	7.1	6.28	3.58	4.53	2.1	1.2	10	67	+32
Shinagh Jerri 6		7y 8m	20		809	130	7.07	3.71	4.53	43	23			
ASE		Winter	1		8442	1803	5.05	3.50	4.53	426	296			
48	IE-BBHH-0048-T	10/10/03			41.6	8.9	4.29	3.07	4.46	1.8	1.3	103	23	
Shinagh Emma 4		7y 8m	24		963	206	4.46	3.07	4.46	43	30			
ESQ		Winter	1		10340	2209	4.08	3.20	4.46	422	331			
61	IE-BBHH-0061-C	23/10/02			19.0	4.1	5.16	3.88	3.86	1.0	0.7	99		
Shinagh Leone 3		7y 2m	376		11804	2522	3.87	3.29	4.54	457	388			
ESQ		Winter	13		10318	2204	3.83	3.22	4.53	395	332			
67	IE-BBHH-0067-P	31/10/03			Cow dry -									
Shinagh Rose 5		7y 1m	294		8381	1790	5.12	3.35	4.69	420	317			
ELC		Winter	9		8533	1823	5.13	3.37						
96	IE-BBHH-0096-G	17/03/02			6.4	1.4	5.68							
Shinagh Amanda 11		7y 1m	596		12073	2522	3.87	3.29	4.54	457	388			
FBC		Spring	10							317	281			
107	IE-BBHH-0107-E	03/12/02			33.5	7.3	4.52	4.30	1.3	1.0	111	307	+10	
Shinagh Snowdrop 4			335		11306	2415	4.66	3.35	4.75	527	379			
DCJ		Winter	11		10644	2274	4.61	3.29	4.75	491	350			
118	IE-BBHH-0118-Y	24/03/03			14.6	3.1	3.45	3.51	4.40	0.5	0.5	76	421	+29
Shinagh Champ Amelia		6y 9m	224		6514	1392	4.06	3.15	4.64	265	205			
FBC		Spring	7		7636	1631	4.12	3.22	4.64	315	246			
126	IE-BBHH-0126-A	04/11/02			22.6	4.8	3.95	3.54	4.50	0.9	0.8	104	361	+50
Shinagh Newbreeze 2		6y 9m	364		11778	2516	4.01	3.34	4.55	472	394			
JOS		Winter	12		10328	2206	4.03	3.31	4.55	416	342			
136	IE-BBHH-0136-W	14/02/03			25.2	5.4	4.51	4.17	4.66	1.1	1.1	116	259	+47
Shinagh Maria 7		6y 9m	262		8857	1892	4.38	3.60	4.66	388	319			
ELC		Spring	9		9819	2098	4.42	3.65	4.66	434	359			

Cow 10 EBI + 77
Milk 9233 Kgs (€2,354)
Fat 4.52% (€279)
Prot 3.72% (€90)
Lactation Income (€2,723)

Cow 118 EBI +29
Milk 7636 Kgs (€1,947)
Fat 4.12% (€157)
Prot 3.22% (-€17)
Lactation Income (€2,087)

Note: Payments based on 26.25 cent/litre, and Fat 3.60%, Prot 3.30%
(+0.1% Fat = +0.30 cent/litre) (+0.1% Prot = +0.466 cent/litre)





Milk Recording Mastitis Report



Cow ID		I&R-Tag	Calv. Date	Lact. Days	Tests> 250	Latest SCC	Previous SCC	Mastitis Incidence History (Current Lactation)					Prev. lact.
Cow name			Age	Group	Mast Treats	% Herd SCC	(*1000) herd tests						Ave. SCC
Sire ID						Last treat	Previous mastitis treatments						Mast Treats
353	DDD-979178		04/10/02	7	13	2936	243	1232	2000	1042	1127		248
Shinagh Ferrari Nora May			9y 1m	395		9.6							8
EZF				13									
461	IE-1234567-7-0461		19/10/03	1	1	1731							261
Shinagh Iris 10			3y 0m	15		6.1							0
ELC				1									
356	DDD-561235		10/11/02	6	10	1551	428	2403	935	832	2359		249
Shinagh Ferrari Amelia 2			8y 8m	358		3.7							10
EZF				11									
255	IE-BBHH-0255-N		04/10/02	3	11	1418		953	1135	1011	1457		259
Shinagh Jerri 9			5y 7m	395		2.8							4
LRE				13									
345	DDL-529642		21/01/03	7	8	1219	47	878		1387	1930		261
Shinagh Nannybreeze 8			9y 10m	286		3.3							10
EZB				8									
3610	IE-1234567-6-0361		12/10/03	3	1	1187							256
Shinagh Leone 4			4y 1m	22		6.0							3
ELC				1									
201	IE-BBHH-0201-N		08/03/03	4	4	1110	98	1517		945	145		249
Shinagh Vera 4			6y 0m	240		4.3							4
ELC				6									
207	IE-BBHH-0207-N		15/04/03	4	0	1032	1019	1322	1144	460	1090		254
Shinagh Lamella			5y 9m	202		4.9							8
SSB				7									
355	DDD-979019		04/02/03	6	9	858	460	1094	664	953	1760		903
Shinagh Trudy 2			9y 1m	272		2.7							0
EZF				9									
61	IE-BBHH-0061-C		23/10/02	5	12	778	581	520	510	461	484		297
Shinagh Leone 3			7y 2m	376		2.4							4
ESQ				13									
340	IE-1234567-1-0340		28/01/03	3	7	748	1224	924	1848	2041	642		261
Shinagh Maria 9			4y 8m	279		2.6							8
NWL				10									
160	IE-BBHH-0160-A		17/04/02	4	11	692	405	335	228	276	335		113
Shinagh Daisy 6			6y 8m	565		2.2							2
ELC				19									
262	IE-BBHH-0262-R		03/02/03	4	8	622	511	476	824	268	378		143
Shinagh Jill 5			5y 7m	273		1.1							1
MAU				9									

Knowing your SCC cows will make the difference in avoiding penalties!!!

Example: Bulk tank SCC of 610K in 840 gallons, would mean a penalty of 5.08 cents per gallon – it would cost the farmer €42 penalty per bulk tank collection! **Left untreated over 10 collections this would cost the farmer €420!!**

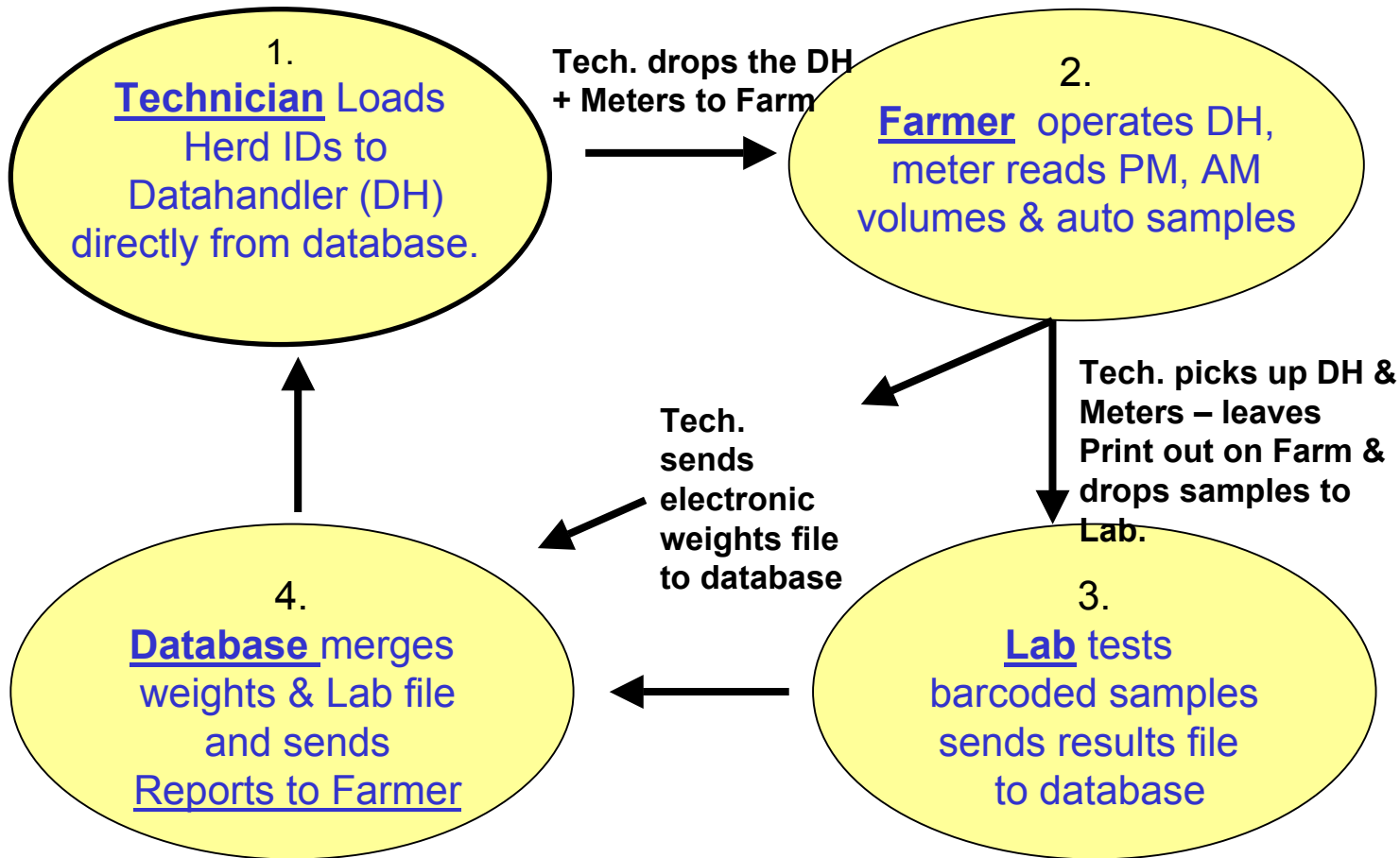
How to use Report:

The top 7 cows account for 35.8% of bulk tank SCC!!! These 7 make up 218K – if these High Cell count cows were not in the bulk tank then the average would be 392K – no penalty incurred!!





Electronic DIY Recording Process



No Recorder, No manual sampling, No writing, No keying !

