



UPDATE – for period 10th to 16th December 2005

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Thursday 19th January.** Tully review meeting to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.
- ✚ **Herds Not Using Animal Events** – a campaign to encourage more herds to use the Animal Events forms for calf registration will be run jointly with TEAGASC and ICBF's members in January 2006.
- ✚ **Herds with high EBI dairy and beef bulls** – a series of five meetings spread throughout the country are being planned for January 2006 to help beef and dairy farmers with high EBI bulls to ensure they can meet the health requirements of AI Centres and Tully. These meetings are being organised jointly with CVERA, Veterinarians, TEAGASC and AI service providers. The key presentations will address the steps a herd owner can take to ensure freedom from diseases such as Johnes, IBR, and BVD.

2 Audit & Finance Sub-Committee & Board Meeting – Thursday 15th December 2005

- ✚ The Board met on Thursday immediately after a meeting of the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee.
- ✚ Richard Whelan attended in place of Mike Magan as one of the three herd book nominated members.
- ✚ The Board adopted the 2005 Forecast and 2006 Budget as recommended by the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee. As part of the budget for 2006 a set of priorities for 2006 was also agreed (see below). The 2006 budget includes some €1million in capital development projects. Funding for operational activities is budgeted to be evenly spread between service fees, tag contributions and the DAF grant.
- ✚ The Board considered a draft discussion paper which the CE prepared and is using as the basis for consultation with member organisations. The paper discusses a number of key issues relating to the provision of new and improved information services to cattle farmers. The CE is to continue the discussion process and report back in due course.

3 Priorities for 2006

ICBF's budget for 2006 has been drafted on the basis of priorities established in the Strategic Plan. Under the Plan the three major areas addressed are:

- Genetic Evaluation
- Uptake and Cost of Services
- Breeding Scheme Design

Genetic Evaluation

- ✚ Completion of the development of genetic evaluations for maternal traits in beef cattle.
- ✚ Implementation of the EBI for beef.
- ✚ Development of international evaluations for beef breeds and traits in close collaboration with Interbull.
- ✚ Implementation of across breed evaluations for dairy cattle.
- ✚ Continuous improvement of the genetic evaluation systems and processes.
- ✚ Annual revision of economic values used in EBI (dairy & beef) and implementation of enhancements to models and data used in computing evaluations.

Uptake & Cost of Services

- ✚ Roll-out of EDIY Milk Recording – eight new cells (in addition to four cells already operating) servicing all regions and potentially some 1,200 herds (~100,000 cows of which ~50,000 are expected to be new to milk recording).



- ✚ Increase uptake of AI – ICBF will be providing technical and information support to the AI industry as it works to reverse the decline in AI usage.
- ✚ Roll-out of AI Hand-Held computers for insemination services involving some 250 technicians covering all ICBF's AI member organisations.
- ✚ An initiative jointly with TEAGASC and member organisations to increase the proportion of herds using the Animal Event sheet for calf registration and recording sires.
- ✚ Further development of electronic systems for collecting data and providing information to farmers.
- ✚ Development of Breeding Information Service in partnership with ICBF's members.
- ✚ Development of Reports in association with TEAGASC.
- ✚ Development of Whole Herd Health information service in association with the initiative lead by CVERA.

Breeding Scheme Design

- ✚ Implement sire advice information service in association with AI industry and herd books.
- ✚ Review optimal breeding scheme design for dairy breeds in light of developments over the last five years.
- ✚ GENÉIRÉLAND[®] Dairy – increase EBI of dairy bulls entering progeny test, increase number of bulls entering progeny test and increase number of herds participating.
- ✚ Optimal Beef Design – establish optimal breeding scheme design for beef breeds.
- ✚ GENÉIRÉLAND[®] Beef – operate targeted herd progeny testing for a number of beef bulls and establish clear and agreed targets for each breed based on research.
- ✚ Establish in partnership with AI members a mechanism for ensuring capital funding required to achieve optimal breeding scheme design for each breed.
- ✚ Operate Tully to capacity using beef EBI as main criteria for selection and marketing of graduates. Ensure integration with GENÉIRÉLAND[®] Beef and participation of ICBF's AI members. Review facilities in light of optimal breeding scheme design for beef breeds.

4 Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting 13th December 2005

A consultation meeting on the new beef indexes took place on Tuesday 13th December with representatives from the Irish beef industry. Key outcomes of the meeting were as follows;

- ✚ ICBF to complete work on calculation of beef index reliabilities. These results to be included in the publication of new beef EBI reports (see attached).
- ✚ ICBF to proceed with new “official” evaluations for beef performance and calving performance. These new proofs would be made available in mid-January.
- ✚ ICBF should continue development work on beef linear type traits. Areas to consider include; (i) the relationship between beef linear type traits and (ii) use of historical linear type data in the evaluations.
- ✚ ICBF should continue development work for maternal traits (calving interval and survival). This development work to include; (i) estimation of genetic parameters, (ii) new genetic indexes, and (iii) additional traits (e.g., maternal weaning weight and age at first calving).
- ✚ ICBF to forward new beef EBI reports to herd-books and selected breeders for comment and feed-back ahead of official publication of reports to all breeders in the New Year (mid-January).
- ✚ ICBF to initiate a project to collect linear type data on first calved beef heifers. This work would have 2 objectives; (i) to establish which linear type traits are linked to maternal performance, and (ii) to establish the relationship between collecting linear type data at 8-12 months compared to 24-30 months.



- ICBF to proceed with international evaluations of beef performance traits as soon as possible. Breeds participating in the first phase of the work include; (i) Charolais, (ii) Limousin and (iii) Hereford.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- A number of dairy evaluation queries were handled on behalf of the AI organisations. The changes observed for individual bulls were due principally to changes in proofs within the bulls own "home country proof".
- An additional run in interim proofs for bulls at the Tully beef performance test station was completed. It is anticipated that a further run will be completed early in the New Year, which will be available to bull-owners. In addition top indexed animals within breed will be released to individual herd-book members and AI organisations.

6 Database Update

- 60 new herds added to the database last week. Quite a large number of authorisation forms have been received in the past couple of days from both Dairygold AI and Dovea AI, which will be reflected in next weeks numbers.

- The dry-off sheets are continuing to be returned at a high rate.

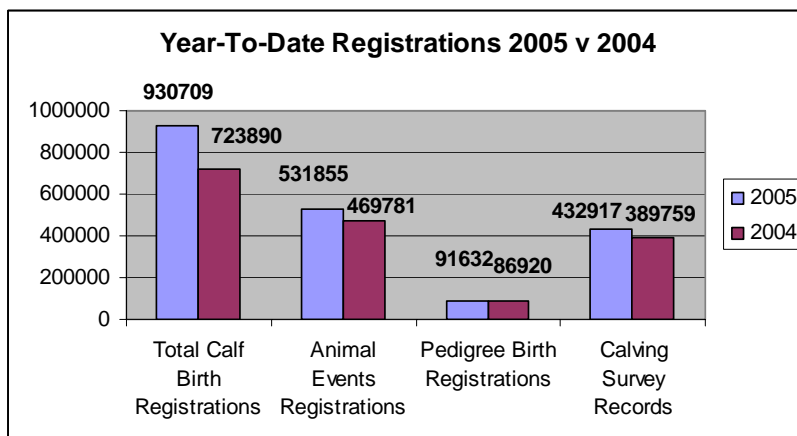
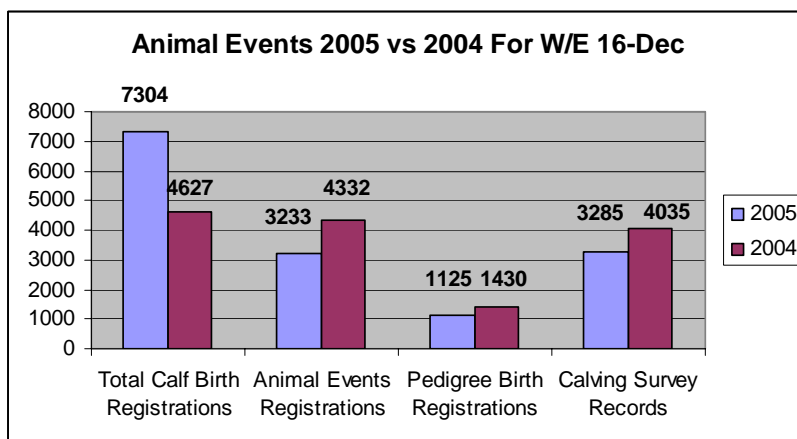
- Testing is continuing on the revised Annual Milk Recording report. Testing is expected to be completed next week.

- Solid progress continues to be made with preparations for the roll-out of AI handhelds. The sign-up of herds continues to be a cause for concern, though good progress is being made in Dairygold and Dovea AI.

- Functional testing of the upgraded development system has been completed this week, with involvement from milk recording and herdbooks. Their help in this process is appreciated.

- This weekend will see further work done on preparing the production system for the upgrade in January.

- The first issue of the Beef EBI reports on a pilot basis is taking place today. Please see below for a sample report.





7 Milk Recording

Weekly Stats: Fri 16/12/05

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 28/10/05 - 16/12/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 28/10/04 - 16/12/04
Progressive	368	451
Dairygold	101	76
Kerry	98	80
SWS	128	128
Tipperary	6	17
Connacht	5	10
Arrabawn	8	10
Others (Donegal, OAD)	5	0
Total	719	772

Year to Date Stats: up to 16/12/05

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Dec 16th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Dec 16th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,086	2233	153,528	156,588
Dairygold	1,529	1620	98,832	102,778
Kerry	1,065	1099	67,869	66,952
SWS	937	964	55,878	56,753
Tipperary	142	147	9,392	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,286	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,177	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	54	0	4,688	0
Total	6,032	6,304	404,650	407,305

8 Tully

- A report on the progress of Tully since ICBF took over from the Department of Agriculture in September 2002 was presented at the Tully review meeting on the 13-12-05. A very good discussion was held and minutes from the meeting were emailed on 15-12-05.
- The catalogue for the March 2006 Sale at Tully was presented at the review meeting. This is the first catalogue to be printed with BLUP figures and also the new EBI indexes. It is planned to have it up on the ICBF web site from the 20-12-05.
- A group of beef farmers from Kilkenny will visit Tully on the 19-12-05.

Beef Economic Breeding Index (EBI) Herd Summary Report - Dec 2005

Herd Owner: _____

Herd Number: _____

Page: 1(2) _____

Pedigree Information			Economic Indexes				Predicted Transmitting Abilities							
Breed	Group	Number Animals	BPSI Rel	WCSI Rel	BCSI Rel	DCSI Rel	W wt kg	C wt kg	C Conf grade	C Fat score	DFI kg	C Diff %	GL days	Mort %
Limousin	Overall	46	€57 10%	€89 10%	-€16 18%	-€42 19%	5.3	14.2	2	-0.2	-0.2	2.1	4.5	1
	Breeding Females	14	€52	€79	-€15 14%	-€39 15%	3.6	12.6	2	-0.2	-0.3	1.9	4.2	1
	Stock Bulls	0												
	>12 months	19	€56 10%	€88 10%	-€17 17%	-€44 19%	7.1	13.6	1.9	-0.2	-0.2	2.4	4.7	1
	0-12 months	13	€65 10%	€101 10%	-€16 22%	-€43 25%	4.7	17	2.3	-0.3	-0.2	1.9	4.6	1.1

Abbreviations:

BPSI Beef Production Sub Index (€)	W wt Weaning weight (kg)	C Diff Calving Difficulty (%)
WCSI Weaned Calf Sub Index (€)	C wt Carcass weight (kg)	GL Gestation Length (days)
BCSI Beef Calving Sub Index (€)	C conf Carcass confirmation (grade)	Mort Dead at birth (%)
DCSI Dairy Calving Sub Index (€)	C fat Carcass fat (score)	
Rel Reliability	DFI Daily Feed Intake (kg)	

Beef Economic Breeding Index (EBI) Animal Report

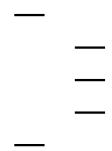
Herd Owner: C
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Pedigree Information					Economic Indexes				Predicted Transmitting Abilities							
ANIMAL ID Name	Breed	DOB Sex	SIRE ID Name	DAM ID Name	BPSI Rel	WCSI Rel	BCSI Rel	DCSI Rel	W wt kg	C wt kg	C Conf grade	C Fat score	DFI kg	C Diff %	GL days	Mort %
IE341208880219 C A 219	LM	30/05/05 F	EPN EPSON	IE341208830156 C TUFTY	€59	€84	-€18 22%	-€47 24%	2.2	16.7	2.2	-0.2	-0.1	2.6	5	1.1
IE341208810220 C A 220	LM	02/06/05 F	NIN NINO	IE341208840124 C SOBRIETY	€63	€94	-€16 27%	-€43 30%	0.7	18	2.3	-0.4	-0.2	1.8	4.8	0.9
IE341208820221 C A 221	LM	02/06/05 F	EPN EPSON	IE341208870176 C UNITY	€67	€105	-€19 26%	-€49 28%	5.5	18.3	2.4	-0.3	-0.1	3.4	4.9	0.9
IE341208830222 C A 222	LM	04/06/05 F	NIN NINO	IEDSHB0021M C LAVANDER	€60	€112	-€13 16%	-€37 18%	4.1	13.7	2.5	-0.3	-0.3	0.5	4.5	1.1
IE341208840223 C A 223	LM	11/06/05 M	LOX LOUXOR	IEDSHB0004M C LAURA	€56 10%	€102 10%	-€17 20%	-€43 22%	0.5	13.4	2.5	-0.3	-0.4	1.9	4.6	1.3
IE341208870226 C A 226	LM	24/06/05 F	LOX LOUXOR	IE341208890137 C SENSATION	€61	€110	-€14 19%	-€39 21%	3.8	14.8	2.4	-0.3	-0.3	0.9	4.6	1.1
IE341208890228 C A 228	LM	24/07/05 M	EPN EPSON	IE341208840165 C TULIP	€68 10%	€89 10%	-€20 29%	-€47 31%	7.9	18.9	2.1	-0.2	-0.1	3.6	4.4	1.2
IE341208830214 C A214	LM	05/05/05 M	NIN NINO	IEDSHB0041F C MELANIE	€62 10%	€107 10%	-€14 15%	-€38 18%	7.8	15.2	2.2	-0.4	-0.2	1	4.5	1.1
IE341208840215 C A215	LM	07/05/05 M	NIN NINO	IE341208880152 C TIZZY	€68 10%	€110 10%	-€15 20%	-€40 23%	3.9	17.6	2.5	-0.4	-0.3	1	4.7	1.1
IE341208850216 C A216	LM	13/05/05 M	NIN NINO	IE341208830180 C U-180	€74 10%	€116 10%	-€15 20%	-€40 23%	7.2	19.3	2.4	-0.5	-0.2	1	4.7	1.1
IE341208860217 C A217	LM	14/05/05 F	NIN NINO	IE341208880103 C RACHEL	€65	€101	-€14 20%	-€41 22%	4.7	17	2.3	-0.3	-0.2	1.3	4.8	0.9
IE341208850224 C A224	LM	22/06/05 M	EPN EPSON	IE341208810170 C URSULA	€69 10%	€73 10%	-€19 28%	-€46 30%	2.1	19.8	2.3	-0.2	-0.2	3.2	4.5	1

Abbreviations:

BPSI Beef Production Sub Index (€)	W wt Weaning weight (kg)	C Diff Calving Difficulty (%)
WCSI Weaned Calf Sub Index (€)	C wt Carcass weight (kg)	GL Gestation Length (days)
BCSI Beef Calving Sub Index (€)	C conf Carcass confirmation (grade)	Mort Dead at birth (%)
DCSI Dairy Calving Sub Index (€)	C fat Carcass fat (score)	
Rel Reliability	DFI Daily Feed Intake (kg)	



National Averages

National ID: IE

Table 1. Beef Production Sub Index Comparisons

	Your Herd	All Herds	Top 15% Herds	Top 15% Animals
Aubrac		€17	€21	€25
Angus		€5	€10	€13
Belgian Blue		€71	€78	€88
Blonde dAquitaine		€58	€63	€67
Charolais		€84	€97	€106
Limousin	€57	€51	€59	€66
Simmental		€67	€80	€90
Hereford		€14	€19	€22
Piedmontese		€12	€13	€14
Partenaïse		€3	€4	€4
Salers		€16	€20	€22

Table 2. Weaned Calf Sub Index Comparisons

	Your Herd	All Herds	Top 15% Herds	Top 15% Animals
Aubrac		€30	€38	€44
Angus		€18	€23	€26
Belgian Blue		€114	€126	€132
Blonde dAquitaine		€73	€79	€83
Charolais		€89	€103	€113
Limousin	€89	€79	€89	€99
Simmental		€78	€89	€98
Hereford		€13	€18	€22
Piedmontese		€20	€22	€26
Partenaïse		€5	€7	€6
Salers		€24	€29	€32