



UPDATE for period 12th – 16th September 2005

1 Important Dates

- Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September **Ploughing Championships**, Midleton, Co. Cork.
- Thursday 3rd November. **Genetic evaluation consultation meetings** – Beef in AM, Dairy PM.
- Thursday 3rd November. **ICBF Board Meeting** to consider recommendations from genetic evaluation consultation meetings.
- Thursday 15th December. **ICBF Board** meeting.
- Thursday 19th January. **Tully review meeting** to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.

2 Open Day – Pat & Pauline Ryan’s Farm - Tuesday

- Congratulations to Pat and Pauline for hosting a very successful open day as winners of the inaugural “EBI €100” competition sponsored by TEAGASC, ACC Bank, Irish Farmers Journal and ICBF.
- Some 1,700 people attended the open day which comprised six stands focusing on aspects of farm management, breeding and milk recording. ICBF staff were involved with four of the stands.
- The feature of the day was the group of 40 cows with an average EBI of 100 that were separated out from the main herd. Amongst this group were 16 cows that have been identified as potential dams of bulls to enter GENE IRELAND. All of these cows had recently been linear scored and graded-up by IHFA.
- A special thanks to the Ryan family for providing so much valuable information and to the TEAGASC, ICBF, IHFA and Glanbia teams whose work ensured a successful day.





Part of the large crowd of farmers enjoying the open day on the farm of Pat & Pauline Ryan.

3 ICBF Board Meeting 15th September 2005

The Board welcomed John Carroll as the nominee of the milk recording members to replace Jim Galvin.

Decisions at yesterday's Board meeting included:

- Adoption of second quarter management accounts.
- Endorsement of actions agreed at the genetic evaluation consultation meetings held on 7th September.
- Agreement to give high priority to ensuring EDIY milk recording services are available nationally as soon as possible.

4 Database Update

- 19 New Herds added to the database in the past week.

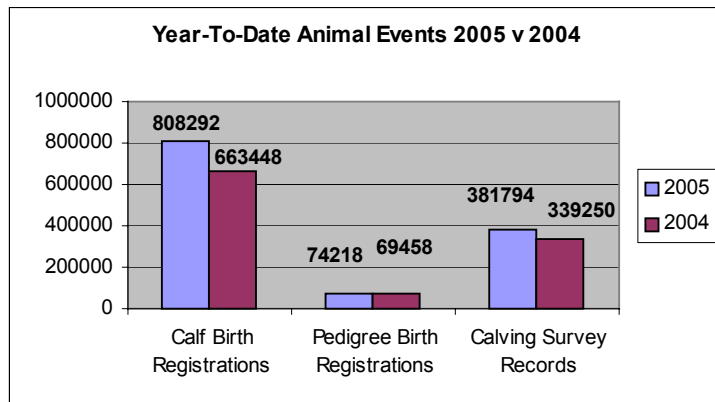
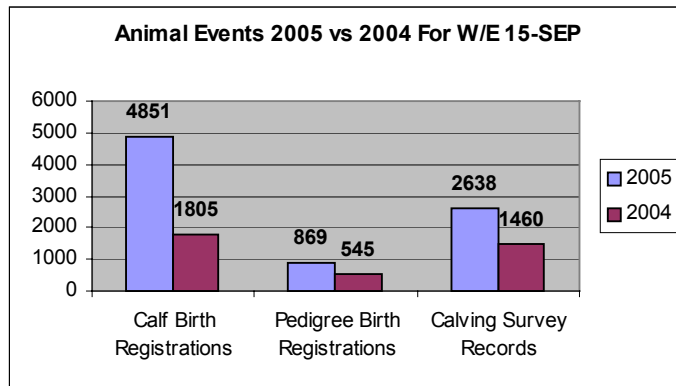
- 5,077 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.

- All new linear scoring hand-helds are now live as of this week and the system is working satisfactorily.

- Breeding charts are being returned at a very brisk pace in response to last week's letter. Several hundred have already been returned.

- Work is continuing on developing the sale and show catalogue functionality and putting it into a self-service package for farmers. A catalogue was prepared for the top 40 cows for this week's EBI €100 Open day at Pat Ryan's farm. It will be formally launched at the ploughing championships.

- The keying of 'Missing Beef Sire' reports is continuing. This exercise should be completed at the end of next week, when final figures on herds and animals will be available.



5 Tully

- Inspections of bulls for the September intake have finished. A total of 222 bulls have been sent for disease testing. The quality of the bulls for this intake appear to be the best to date. Letters have been sent to breeders on the 09-09-2005 and health testing will take place from the 12-09-2005. Bulls will enter Tully from the 30-09-2005 onwards.
- Applications for the next intake, which covers bulls born from the 01-02-2005 to the 30-04-2005, will be sent out to breeders from the 19-09-2005.



- A group of Agricultural Science students from Galway will visit Tully on the 21-09-2005.

6 Milk Recording

- 723 Dry-off notification forms sent to Winter calving herds this week.

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 09/09/05 - 16/09/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 09/09/04 - 16/09/04
Progressive	285	406
Dairygold	209	313
Kerry	147	186
SWS	138	170
Arrabawn	17	25
Connacht	16	28
Tipperary	8	13
Others (Donegal, OAD)	7	0
Total	827	1,141

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	Milk Recording Organisation	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Sept 16th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Sept 16th
Progressive	2,076	2,233	145,844	156,588
Dairygold	1,520	1,620	96,642	102,778
Kerry	1,063	1,098	66,552	66,886
SWS	935	964	53,958	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,203	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,083	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,076	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	34	0	3,542	0
Total	5,988	6,303	389,900	407,239

7 Beef Linear Scoring

- Linear scoring and weight recording has commenced on 245 targeted commercial beef farms nationwide.
- All ten linear scorers are involved in this work with the aim of establishing the association between linear scoring of young animals and their eventual carcass merit in the factory.
- It is envisaged that the nucleus of the GENE IRELAND beef program will involve these herds.



8 Genetic Evaluations

- Work is continuing on the release of new animal model beef test evaluations. This involves the design of new genetic evaluation reports for economic beef indexes and the development of explanatory material for the new indexes.
- The association between the new beef production sub index (BPSI) and the existing linear type trait BLUPs is being investigated.
- Work is continuing on the correction of identification problems due to sire ID's being duplicated across breeds in the Interbull dairy evaluation files. This problem has arisen due to bulls being recognized in different countries as belonging to different breeds. The breeds affected include Friesian, Holstein, and Red Holstein.

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