



UPDATE – for period 13th to 17th December 2004

1 Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meetings – Wednesday 8th Dec Abbeyleix Manor Hotel

Beef Index Development Meetings – Summary of Main Outcomes.

- ICBF to publish lists of “test proofs” for all bulls with a beef calving sub index >50% and a beef performance index of >50%. These proofs to be released to beef industry on an unofficial basis.
- ICBF to include feed intake in future versions of beef performance sub index.
- ICBF to ensure that proofs are presented for all breeds in future listings (and summary tables), including those breeds with numerically smaller numbers.
- ICBF to investigate high heritability for live-weight and genetic correlations with other traits – most notably carcass conformation ($r_g = -0.56$).
- ICBF to examine feasibility of including slaughter records from central performance test stations to beef performance evaluations (to avoid loss of this data).
- ICBF to provide breed averages for calving performance and beef performance traits.
- ICBF to investigate the calving performance of certain “easy calving” bulls (as concern was expressed that there was some bias against these bulls).

Next Meeting:

- Next meeting of the beef industry sub-group will take place in The Heritage Hotel Portlaoise on Tuesday 25th January starting at 10.30 AM.

Dairy Index Development Meetings – Summary of Main Outcomes.

- ICBF to examine 3 options regarding the presentation of new data on calving performance and beef performance at the next meeting:
 1. Present new traits as PTA's alongside the EBI figures (i.e., ignore any economic implications at this stage),
 2. Present new traits as economic sub-indexes alongside the EBI figures, but do not include these new sub-indexes in the EBI,
 3. Include new directly sub-indexes in the EBI.
- Review base adjustment for calving performance and its impact on EBI.
- Implement increase in EBI reliability for active bull list; 52% in Spring 2004 and increasing by 2%/year for 5 years.
- Consult with DAFRD regarding proposition that EBI reliability becomes the criterion for deciding AI usage status, rather than milk production reliability (which is currently the case).

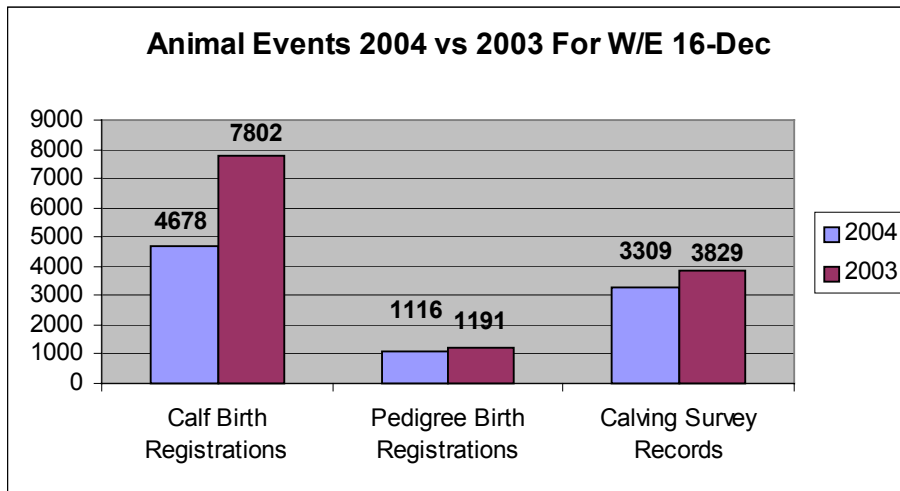
Next Meeting:

- Next meeting of the dairy industry sub-group will take place in The Heritage Hotel Portlaoise on Tuesday 25th January starting at 2 PM.



2 Database Update

- 99 New Herds added to the database.



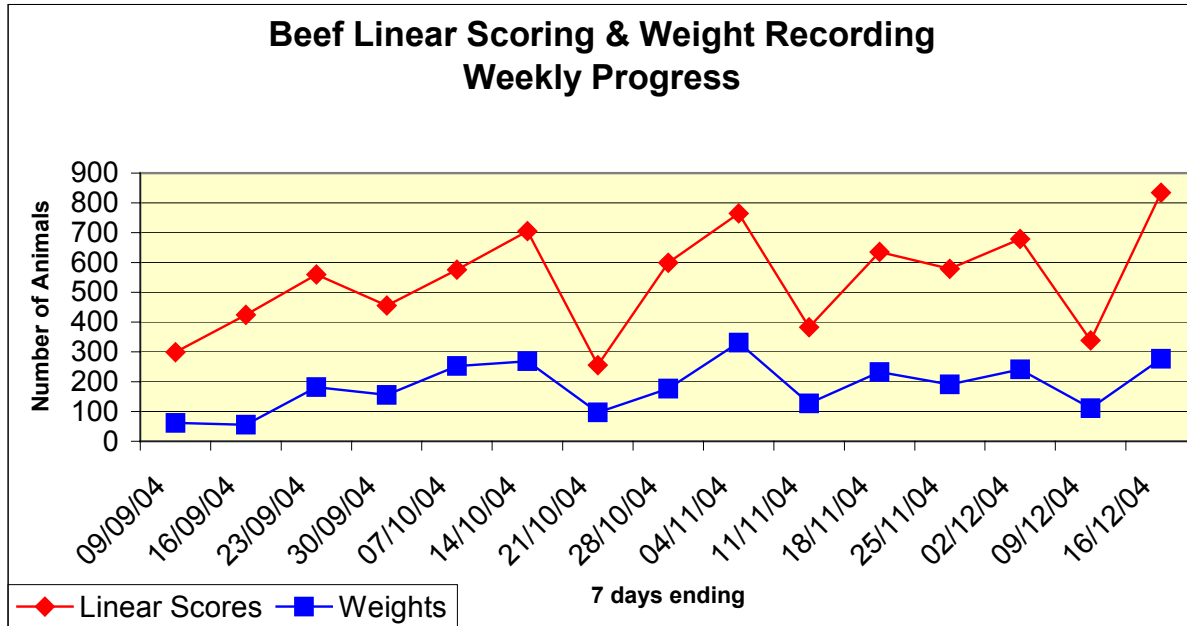
- The AI handheld trials continued in SWS this week. A positive meeting with the six inseminator pilot group in PG was held this week and the pilot will begin with these technicians next Monday.
- All AI-handheld units for the trial have now been commissioned.
- 2109 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. The rate of return continues to be good, with around 200 forms received in the past week. Development is continuing on the solution which will make available farmer report available on-line to those whom the farmer wishes to have access to his/her reports.
- A new batch of linear scoring schedules have been run for the Beef linear scorers and these will be issued over the next few days
- A solution to speed up the dry-off of animals has been issued and is having a considerable impact on the speed of processing dry-offs.
- Further work is on-going on beef herdbook tasks and the minor changes around the milk recording laboratory interface have been completed.
- The new graduate, Fiona Crowley, begins work with ICBF on this coming Monday.

3 Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 10/12 - 17/12	Herds Recorded year to date 2004
Progressive	391	2,230
SWS	129	964
Dairygold	103	1,617
Kerry	82	1,098
Connacht	15	121
Arrabawn	8	120
Tipperary	0	147
Total	728	6,297



4 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



5 Tully

- A total of 85 bulls have passed the Health test for the December intake, they will start the performance test on 22-12-04.
- For the first time in years Tully will be full for Christmas, a total of 197 bulls are currently at the centre.
- Two sales will be held at Tully in 2005, the October intake will be sold on 5-3-04 and the December intake will be sold in May '05.

6 Important Dates in 2005 – Please put them in your Diary

We are planning the following meetings in early 2005:

- **Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting – Beef and Dairy. Tuesday 25th January.** The Heritage Hotel Port Laois.
- **Milk Recording Operations Review Meeting. Wednesday 16th February at Moorepark.** This meeting will be particularly relevant for staff involved with providing the milk recording service.
- **Herd Book Operations Review Meeting.** Wednesday 23rd February at Moorepark.
- **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee.** Wednesday 23rd March at Cork Airport.