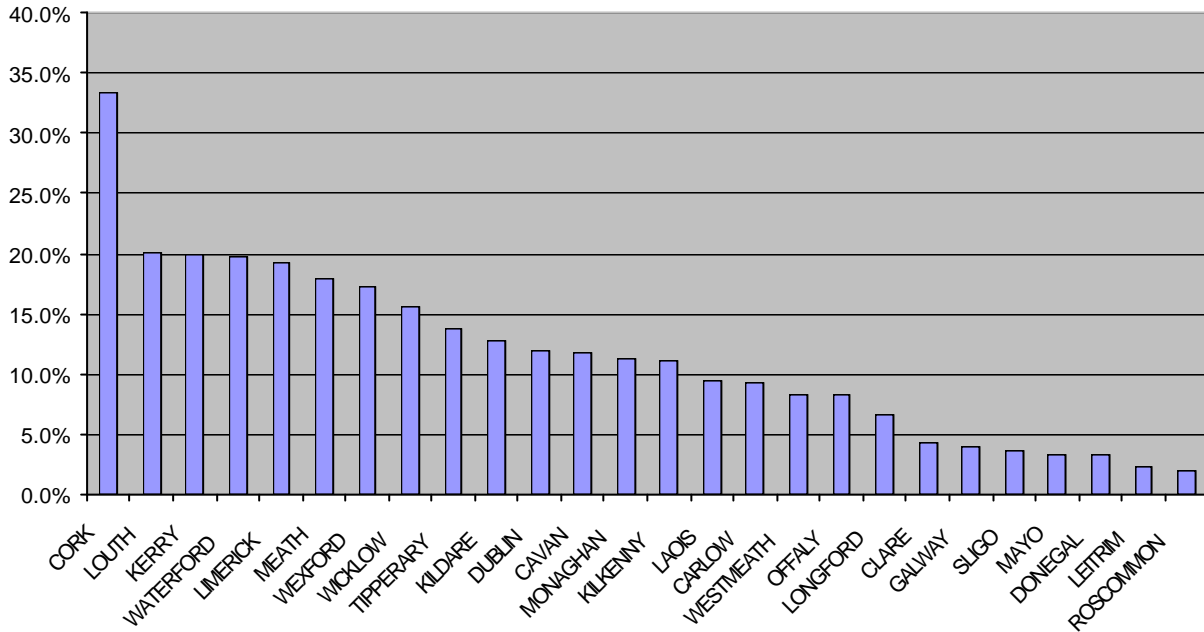




UPDATE – for period 11th to 17th September 2004

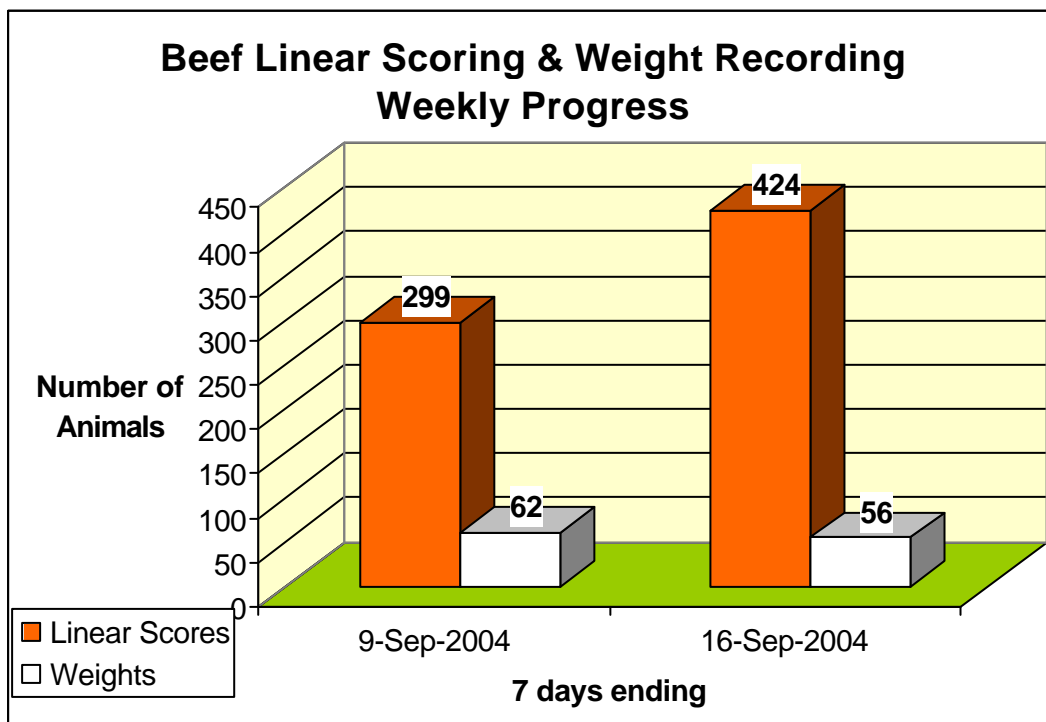
1 Animal Events by County

% Total Births in Animal Events by County



- The above graph shows the percentage of all calves born in 2003 (beef and dairy) registered through animal events by county. While Cork leads there is a lot of scope for improvement in all counties.

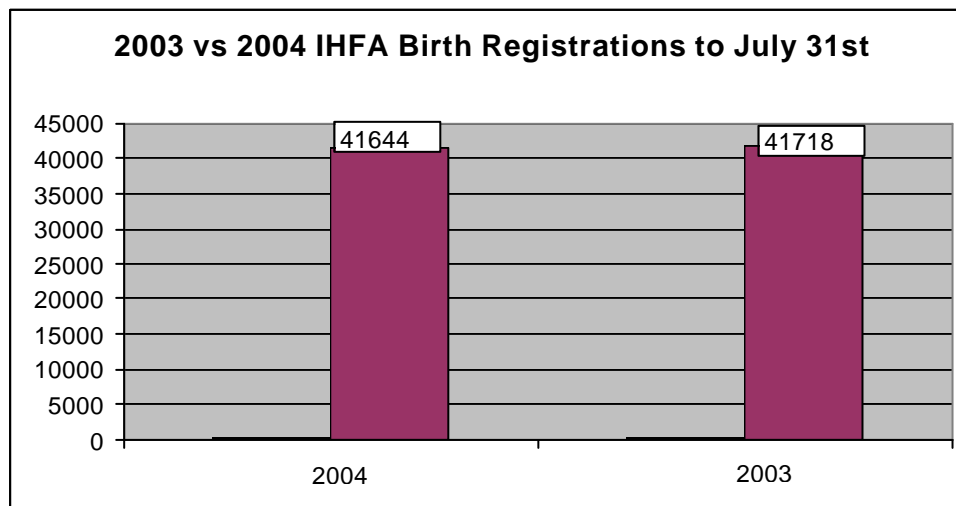
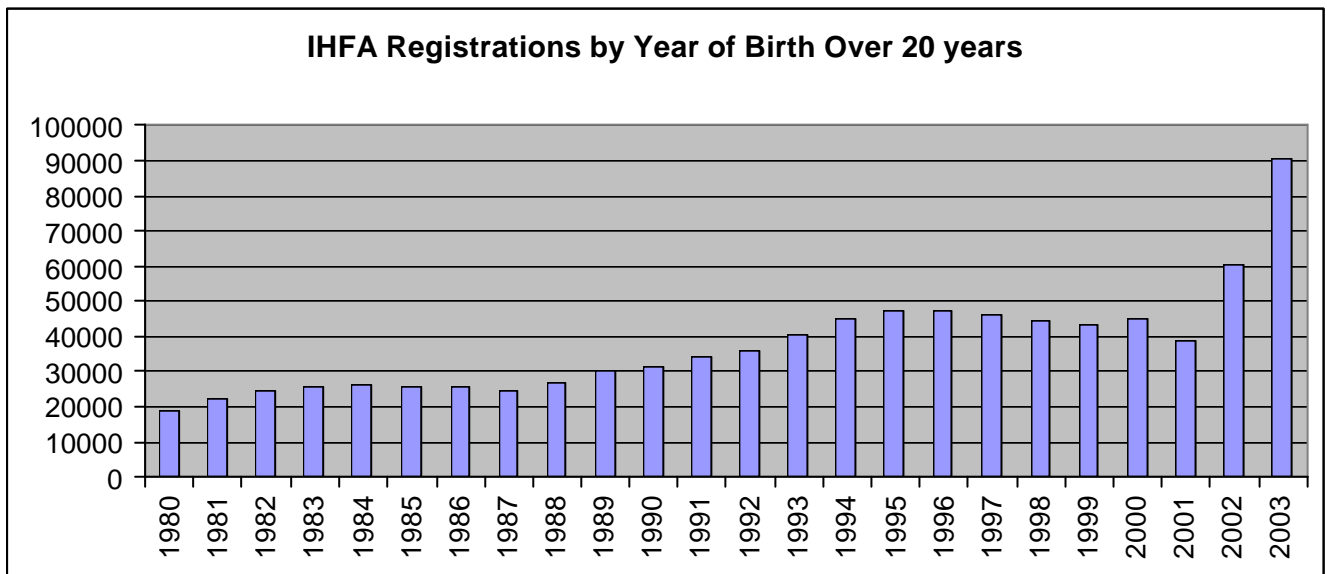
2 Beef Linear Scoring and Weight Recording





3 Database Update

- 769 new attempted pedigree registrations received during the past week
- 2517 calf registrations in ICBF herds (both pedigree and commercial)
- 25 New Herds added to the database
- Testing of self-service management reporting for herdbooks is continuing and should be completed next week. At that stage it will be rolled out to all herdbooks.
- There has been a very good response to the Sire Error reports issued last week. The feedback is currently being processed
- Work in the installation of the NRS Sire Mating advisory program is continuing - it is hoped that a working version will be available for review by the end of September.
- The website development for the Vet Ireland link to web reports has been completed and was demonstrated at the Vet Ireland training conference this week.
- Development has commenced on the AI handheld, with a first working prototype expected in 4 weeks.
- The graph below shows the significant long-term steady growth of registrations in the IHFA herdbook over the past twenty years.
- The subsequent graph compares 2003 vs 2004 birth registrations for IHFA up to the end of July in each year. The graph shows that birth registrations in 2004 are in line with those for 2003. There has been a drop in 'Grade-Up' registrations this year, and this is part of the overall drop in Pedigree Registrations (across all breeds) which was picked up on by this weeks Farmers Journal.
- In real terms, cost of IHFA registrations has dropped significantly over the last 20 years.





4 Milk Recording

No. Tests Processed in last 7 days = 1,194

Progressive	492
Dairygold	300
Kerry	183
SWS	146
Connacht	29
Arrabawn	29
Tipperary	15

No. Herdowners processed in IRIS since Jan 01st 2004 = 6,219

Progressive	2192
Dairygold	1589
Kerry	1090
SWS	963
Tipperary	147
Connacht	120
Arrabawn	118

5 Tully

- 188 bulls have gone for testing for the September intake. Breeders have received letters outlining what to do until the bull enters Tully. The entry date has been set from the 30-09-04 to 9-10-04.
- A group of pedigree breeders from Northern Ireland visited Tully on the 10-09-04 and were impressed with the standard of bulls they saw.
- Applications for the November intake will be generated and sent out by 1-10-04. This intake covers bulls born from the 20-02-04 to 20-05-04. A sale will take place in May '05 if the quality and numbers are good enough.

6 International Beef Genetic Evaluations meeting in Paris Friday 17th September

Brian Wickham and Al Grogan are attending an International Beef Genetic Evaluations meeting in Paris today, a detailed report will be included in next weeks update.

7 Grange Open Day

Wednesday 15th September saw an ICBF presence at the Teagasc Grange Beef Open Day. The objective of our presence was two fold. Firstly to explain to farmers that we were now ready to take commercial participants into Animal Events and to explain how this could be done, including the first step of signing the "white form". The benefits this would lead to for the individual and the industry as a whole were also explained.

The second purpose was to introduce farmers to the concept of targeted progeny testing and to this end they were invited to fill out a survey form, designed to give us an indication of possible farmer level of interest in taking part in such testing. How many of their cows would they consider committing to test bulls and of what breeds. This Animal Events sign up and progeny test participation survey will be extended to the Ploughing Match, with the co-operation of ICBF member organizations. Initial feed back on the day was very positive.



8 Genetic Evaluation

The Interbull Centre is undertaking a pilot study on the feasibility of an International evaluation of fertility traits for dairy cattle. Data for this study from Ireland was prepared and sent this week. The data sent was based on our current calving interval evaluation. It is hoped that a service for the routine International evaluation of fertility traits will be put in place next year by Interbull. This follows the introduction of a similar service for longevity traits commencing this November. Ireland will be participating in both services for our dairy population.

The results of the International test evaluation of longevity traits will be presented at the next industry meeting in October.

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