



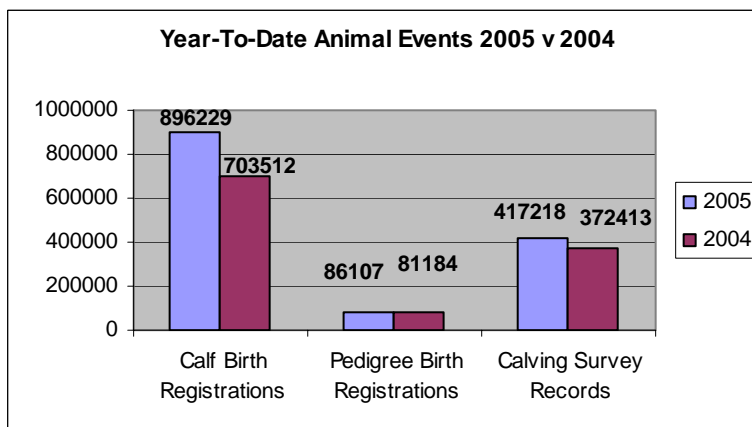
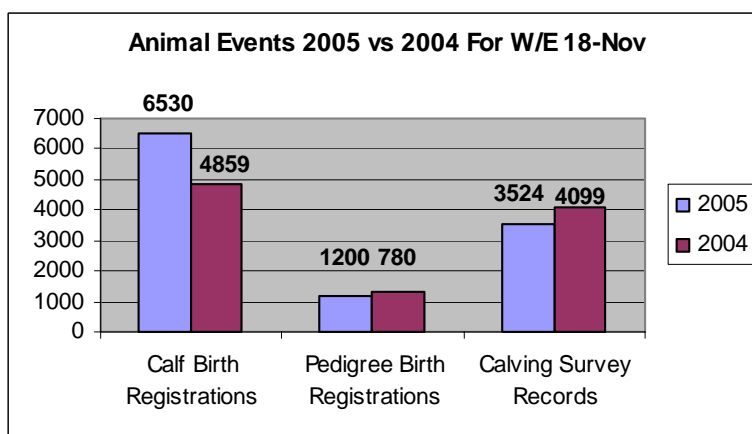
## UPDATE for period 12<sup>th</sup> November – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005

### 1 Important Dates

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. 10:30 to 13:00. **Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation** meeting.
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. 14:00 to 15:30. **Tully review** meeting.
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. 9:00 to 11:00. **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee**.
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. 11:00 to 14:00. **ICBF Board** meeting.
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. **Tully review** meeting to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### 2 Database Update

- 82 new herds added to the database last week. This continues to be high due to the recruitment of Dairygold AI herds.
- 5,198 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- Most farmers will have received the Expected Calving & Fertility Reports this week. Feedback has been very positive, though the expected teething problems of the first release of a report are also arising, and are being addressed.
- The new beef genetic evaluation reports have been completed and will now await the loading of new beef proofs over the coming weeks, before being issued to farmers.
- The dry-off sheets are continuing to flow. Use of the on-line dry-off function, as well as the dry-off facility through mobile phone text messages has slowed.
- Work is continuing on a revised Annual Milk Recording report. This will be ready for issue in early December.
- Preparations are continuing for the roll-out of the AI handhelds, with a number of organisations having met with technicians. The main focus at the moment is on getting the herds signed up, though work on technical integration of systems continues.
- The database was down this week on Wednesday, due to problems associated with the installation of hardware on Tuesday night. This is obviously regrettable, but the number one priority was to ensure no loss of data. One of the planned outcomes of the on-going up-grade process is to have a facility which allows us to minimise down-time in the event of a problem similar to that which occurred on Tuesday night.





### 3 Milk Recording Update

#### Weekly Stats: Fri 18/11/05

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 11/11/05 - 18/11/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 11/11/04 - 18/11/04
Progressive	390	385
Dairygold	129	238
Kerry	125	147
SWS	132	164
Connacht	24	27
Arrabawn	24	13
Tipp	8	23
Others (Donegal, OAD)	12	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>997</b>

#### Year to Date Stats: up to 18/11/05

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Nov 18th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Nov 18th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,084	2,233	151,743	156,588
Dairygold	1,527	1,620	98,376	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,099	67,516	66,952
SWS	937	964	55,426	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,311	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,247	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,129	7,369
Others Donegal/ OAD etc)	46	N/A	4,241	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,018</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>400,989</b>	<b>407,305</b>

#### Electronic DIY Milk Recording

This week ICBF secured NDP funding to assist with the purchasing the necessary EDIY equipment in 2005. This is subject to the remaining costs being met by the Milk Recording industry. While it was late notice we are pleased to report the industry has availed of this opportunity to invest in the future of Milk Recording in Ireland. The Milk Recording Organisations (MROs) have committed to a total of 8 new cells – ICBF has placed the orders based on this commitment and the equipment will be with us within 3 weeks. Here is a breakdown of number of EDIY Cells per MRO.

Progressive Genetics	3 Cells
Dairygold	2 Cells
SWS	2 Cells
Kerry	1 Cell



ICBF will be actively working with all MROs to get the cells up and running so services are available for 2006 season.

#### 4 Tully

- ✚ A total of 25 bulls from the May intake have been sold to date. The trade for good quality bulls with good performance test figures and BLUPs is good. Prices range from €2,300 to €3,800.
- ✚ A final total of 154 bulls have been sent for health testing for the December intake. Some 90 of these bulls are due to enter Tully by mid December.
- ✚ A group of beef farmers from Carlow visited Tully on the 16-11-05.
- ✚ A group of pedigree breeders from England will visit Tully on the 22-11-05



- ✚ Pictured above is 'Milbrook Vintage', the 14 month old Limousin Bull, bred by William Smith, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, which was sold for €30,000 to Scottish Beef Farmer, Harry Emslie from Aberdeenshire in Scotland. The Bull was Performance Tested at the National Bull Performance Test Centre, Tully, Co. Kildare Born on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004, he had an average daily gain on test of 1.99 Kg/day and on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2005 weighed 724Kgs.

#### 5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Much of the week has been spent preparing files for loading proofs to the cattle breeding database, ahead of next weeks official evaluation release.
- ✚ A further run of calving interval and survival (CIS), including more up to date breed fractions, has been completed. Changes, in proofs were minimal, with the correlation between proof runs (October test and November official) = 0.988. CIS proofs for all foreign sires are currently being computed, based on this official evaluation.



- ✚ Concerns raised at the industry meeting regarding calving performance proofs (for easy calving sires) and fluctuations in milk proofs for some sires, are currently being investigated. Results of these analyses will be communicated to the breeding industry in the next few weeks.
- ✚ A meeting was held with the AI members to discuss the new “Sire Advice Program” from the cattle breeding database. Testing of the program is now at an advanced stage, with roll-out on a test basis due in the next few weeks.
- ✚ Testing of new beef EBI reports has commenced with reports expected to be released to pedigree beef breeders early December.

### GENEIRLAND® - Dairy

Recruitment of dairy herds for GENEIRLAND® dairy herds is proceeding at a fast rate. To-date some 80 herds have signed up to the winter program (target – 120 herds to test 10 bulls). We expect to finish this work early next week. Semen will then be dispatched to all participating herds.

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, [Phone office +353 \(0\)23 20222](tel:+3532320222), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](tel:+3532320222) [Fax office +353 \(0\)23 20229](tel:+3532320222) [E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com) ICBF Web site [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com) Assistant: Mary Madden. © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.