



**UPDATE for period 13<sup>th</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005**

**1 Important Dates**

- **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005 Dolmen Hotel, Carlow at 10.00 am.** Review of Linear scoring service. NB – this is the meeting that was previously scheduled for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005 Open Day on Farm of Derek Deane.** 13:00 to 18:00 Rathvilly, Co. Carlow.
- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** Beef & Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September** – “*EBI 100*” farm-walk on farm of Pat & Pauline Ryan, Cappagh, Co. Waterford. EDIY milk recording will be featured on this day. The previously planned EDIY farm walks have been replaced by this event.
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September** ICBF Board Meeting.
- **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September** Ploughing Championships, Midleton, Co. Cork.

**2 Hereford and Angus**

- Some 180 delegates and partners attended the European Hereford conference held in Ireland this week. Developments in Irish cattle breeding were presented on Tuesday as part of a technical session. The biggest difference between the system developed by ICBF to support Hereford breeders in Ireland and that used in many other countries is the availability of performance data on commercial cattle.
- Hereford breeders represented at the conference are looking forward to the development of international evaluations which will enable a fair comparison between animals in different countries.
- At a meeting with representatives of Aberdeen Angus interests from the UK and Ireland on Tuesday the unique aspects of the ICBF database and the need to develop international evaluations for the breed were both discussed. A number of initiatives will be taken to further the development of international evaluations as a result of these discussions.
- In both cases, Hereford and Angus, the ICBF database gives breeders access to a lot of information derived from commercial cattle. Few other countries have such a system. **Table 1** illustrates this for the 2004 born calves recorded on the ICBF database.

2004 calves		DAM BREED												
		AA	BA	BB	CH	HE	HF	JE	LM	MO	SA	SH	SI	RW
SIRE BREED	AA	3,207	19	219	236	203	26,788	58	338	470	25	210	253	137
	BA	39	573	68	56	51	496	0	117	13	0	18	84	4
	BB	299	55	631	412	295	10,571	25	774	271	43	81	498	57
	CH	1,331	42	672	16,005	1,266	3,788	36	2,623	134	143	517	2,218	27
	HE	193	8	89	195	3,682	15,506	44	217	231	8	90	194	60
	HF	261	17	197	219	193	167,343	287	243	852	42	136	311	203
	JE	8	1	1	2	3	1,398	589	3	14	0	0	12	8
	LM	825	75	803	1,931	922	10,280	25	12,818	301	48	363	1,614	90
	MO	15	1	9	10	15	3,065	8	25	2,289	3	10	45	38
	SA	89	3	36	92	51	196	0	94	9	640	32	101	1
	SH	48	2	15	31	44	662	1	46	10	9	1,241	38	25
	SI	245	5	102	404	295	4,555	6	383	97	29	74	4,161	25
	RW	1	0	0	2	2	319	1	4	7	0	3	9	146

**Table 1.** Number of 2004 born calves recorded in ICBF database according to sire breed and dam breed. Highlighted are the breed combinations with more than 1,000 calves and the sire and dam breeds with large



numbers of records.

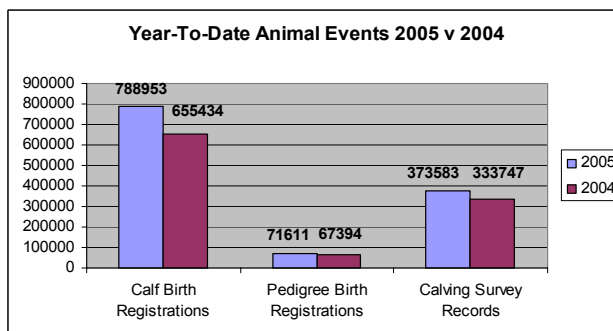
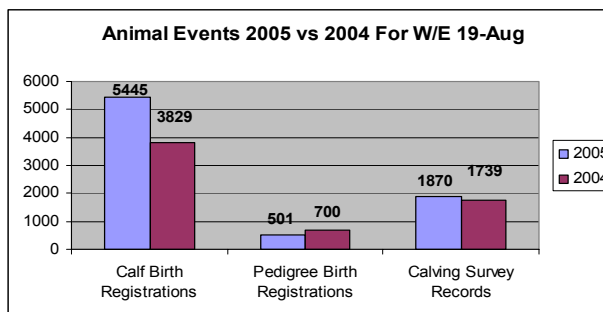
- What is even more revealing is the potential for much more performance information for all breeds. This is illustrated by **table 2**. This shows the number of 2004 born calves that were registered with DAF (via “white cards”) but not recorded on the ICBF database. All that would be required for this potential to be realized is for these herds to switch from “white cards” to “animal events” for calf registration. All slaughter data from herds using “animal events” is available to ICBF for genetic evaluations. The potential is enormous for every breed and if realized would place Ireland at the forefront of beef cattle breeding world-wide.

Potential missed	DAM BREED													
	AA	BA	BB	CH	HE	HF	JE	LM	MO	SA	SH	SI	RW	
SIRE BREED	AA	23,724	244	3,947	8,426	9,964	101,286	152	10,818	1,982	133	2,630	7,144	648
	BA	626	907	419	965	995	1,379	1	1,260	55	14	201	1,007	18
	BB	6,379	394	6,977	8,376	7,276	35,558	69	12,481	730	147	1,542	8,131	236
	CH	54,256	1,309	18,527	150,349	71,262	38,662	76	85,469	1,123	1,832	14,290	69,802	388
	HE	4,668	127	1,815	4,492	25,255	108,457	79	5,275	1,125	75	1,650	5,044	532
	HF	1,026	16	625	322	1,502	362,369	567	872	2,207	-	429	1,414	1,194
	JE	8	-	3	-	15	1,862	497	2	15	-	17	-	57
	LM	30,023	1,180	15,309	47,293	43,120	75,722	94	97,455	1,593	912	8,734	39,413	588
	MO	7	-	13	-	6	2,328	2	-	-	-	16	19	1,384
	SA	662	45	218	840	535	982	1	914	66	885	264	663	20
	SH	1,236	18	444	1,115	1,467	1,787	20	1,387	84	14	5,175	821	93
	SI	6,407	250	2,727	10,492	13,294	37,558	18	10,586	729	119	2,031	29,813	202
	RW	61	8	30	27	54	6,795	16	54	187	2	52	141	2,713

**Table 2.** The number of 2004 born calves, according to breed of sire and breed of dam, that were registered with DAF **but not recorded** on the ICBF database. Highlighted are the breed combinations with more than 1,000 calves and the breeds with large numbers of calvings.

### 3 Database Update

- 43 new herds were added to the database in the last week.
- 5034 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- Sire correction forms for beef cows were sent to 8777 herds this week.
- There has been a marked increase in the return to the Animal Events office of the sire correction forms for beef cows in milk recording.
- Dairy Proofs for bulls and for cows have been loaded into IRIS. Breeding values have also been calculated for young stock.
- Development of the catalogue application is continuing. As part of the development a catalog was produced for the Charolais section of the Tullamore show.





## 4 Genetic Evaluations

### Dairy.

- Official EBI proofs for AI sires have been released to the dairy industry. These include information on EBI (overall profit), milk production, fertility, calving, beef carcass and linear type traits. Proofs will be available on the ICBF website, using the bull search function, on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- A test evaluation for SCC has now been completed using some 3 million SCC records and based on genetic parameters from the Irish dairy cow population. Interbull files are currently being prepared in anticipation on the next Interbull test run, due on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Results from this test run (including genetic indexes for individual AI sires) will be presented at the next AI industry meeting (7<sup>th</sup> September).

### Beef.

- A comprehensive review of the latest beef test evaluation was undertaken and a summary of key findings forward to beef herdbooks and AI organisations for their comment.
- The key findings from the reports are as follows;
  1. The changes observed are larger than would expected from simply moving from a sire to an animal model (even given the large increase in data numbers).
  2. As a result of this initial analysis a more in-depth investigation into the causes of these changes has begun and release of further proofs will be delayed until the ICBF team has fully accounted for the reasons behind the changing proofs and re-analysis carried out where appropriate.
  3. We expect this work to be completed by the end of this month and in advance of the next beef industry meeting (7<sup>th</sup> September 2005).
- Work on refining the numbers of traits for linear scoring is continuing, including a meeting with Teagasc to discuss their views. This work is being carried out in anticipation of next weeks linear score review meeting (Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005, Dolmen Hotel, Carlow).

## 5 Milk Recording

### Milk Recording Processing Statistics

Milk Recording Organisation	2005	2004
	Herds Recorded Week 12/08/05 - 19/08/05	Herds Recorded Week 12/08/04 - 19/08/04
Progressive	422	458
Kerry	188	180
Dairygold	165	243
SWS	147	156
Tipperary	25	22
Connacht	21	17
Arrabawn	17	25
Others (Donegal, OAD)	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,101</b>

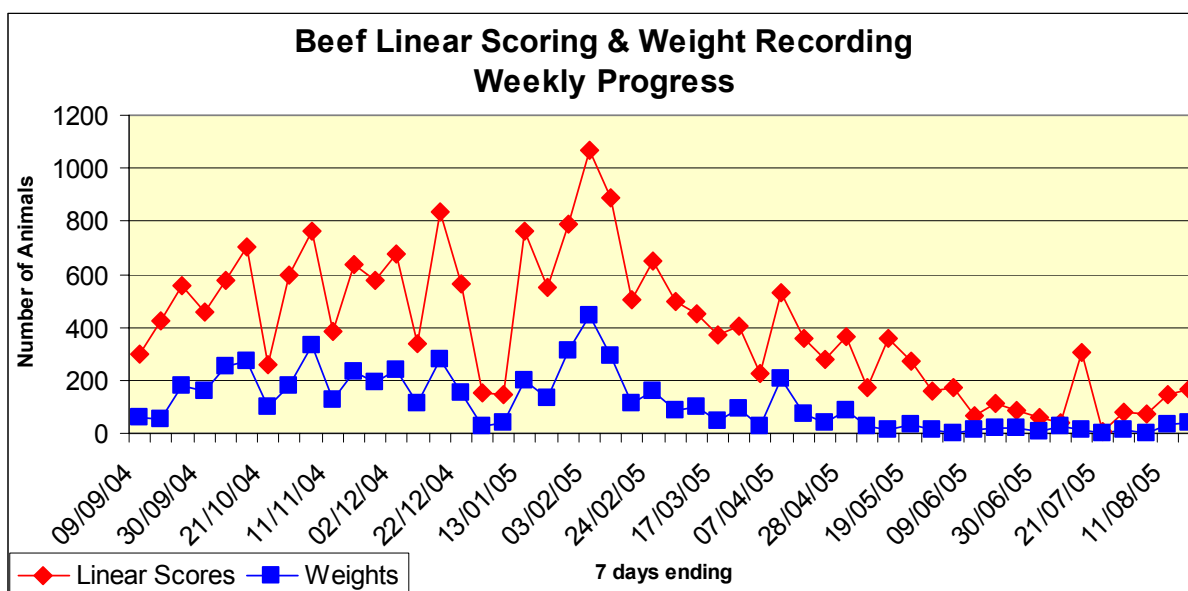


Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Aug 19th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Aug 19th (All)	2004 No. Cows at Year End (All)
Progressive	2,074	2,233	144,585	156,588
Dairygold	1,518	1,620	95,875	102,778
Kerry	1,063	1,098	66,243	66,886
SWS	934	964	53,714	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,174	9,268
Connacht	110	121	6,994	7,597
Arrabawn	108	120	7,029	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	32	0	3,364	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,980</b>	<b>6,303</b>	<b>386,978</b>	<b>407,239</b>

## 6 Tully

- Inspection of bulls for the September intake to Tully will be finished by the 2-9-05. The quality of bulls is up on the previous 3 years.
- A group of 40 pedigree Limousin breeders from Wales visited Tully on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2005 and were impressed with the standard of bulls on show.
- A total of 33 applications for the vacancy in Tully have been received. Interviews will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005. This vacancy will be filled by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

## 7 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





[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](#), [mobile +353 \(0\)86 826 9911](#) [Fax office +353 \(0\)23 20229](#) [E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com](#) ICBF Web site [www.icbf.com](#) Assistant: [Mary Madden](#). © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.