



UPDATE – for period 14th to 20th August 2004

1 ICBF Board Meeting

Decisions made at Wednesdays Board meeting included:

- Endorsement of the way decisions affecting service providers are made – ICBF is to lead in partnership with its members the development of cattle breeding, all parties are expected to bring forward ideas for discussion, these will be referred a representative committee for the development of an agreed proposal which will then be considered by the Board.
- To adopt the draft strategic plan with a few amendments. The adopted plan contains three strategies that deal with genetic evaluations, increasing cattle breeding service uptake and breeding scheme design. These strategies will now be developed in further detail and used to formulate budgets for 2005 and future years.
- The Dairy Recording Sub-Committee with a slightly modified membership has been tasked with the responsibility of bringing forward an agreed proposal for the development of milk recording services.
- A proposal for the establishment of a National Progeny Testing Scheme was discussed and referred to a Sub-Committee comprising two representatives of each of ICBF's four member classes for the development of an agreed proposal.

2 Tully

- Interest in the December '03 intake of bulls has been very strong. A total of 24 bulls out of 58 have been sold to date. Prices range from €2,100 to €5,500. Two have been bought for pedigree use, three have gone to Northern Ireland and the rest have been bought by suckler farmers.
- The record priced Angus bull (from the October '03 intake that was caught up in the TB test-out) has gone to England and semen will be for sale in 2005.
- A record number of 255 applications have been sent back by breeders for the September '04 intake. Inspections will start from the 23-08-04. This is the intake for the sale 5th March 2005.

3 Milk Recording

Database Project – Milk Recording

- **No. Herdowners Milk Recorded in IRIS YTD = 6,129**

Progressive	2,113
Dairygold	1,579
Kerry	1,090
SWS	963
Tipperary	146
Connacht Gold	120
Nenagh	118

Weekly Update

- **No. herd tests processed in last 7 days = 1,221. This is a record for one week.**

Progressive	512
Dairygold	272
SWS	195
Kerry	187
Tipperary	24
Nenagh	20
Connacht Gold	11



Dry Dates

- An alternative method for recording dry-dates in milk recorded herds has been developed and will be trailed in autumn calving herds starting next week. This is based on the farmer recording the batches of cows as they are dried on preprinted forms. Each farmer is being provided 4 sets of forms which can accommodate four batches of drying-of.
- The Animal Events option can still be used. Farmers using PC packages are encouraged to use the Animal Events upload as previously.
- Attached is an example of the new form.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- Breeding values for all traits were released on Friday and made available on the website on Wednesday as promised. The usual files for the Farm management software owners have also been updated on the website. Both bull and cow proofs have all been updated. If anyone has any problem with getting the proofs or about the proofs please contact Victor Olori in ICBF.
- The search engine on the website has been modified to give you more search options and to find the Irish proofs for more bulls. It is now possible to find the Irish proofs for most foreign bulls in the Interbull file not currently in Ireland (IRIS). Please note that the EBI is only official for bulls with an EBI reliability of 50% or more. Anything less should not be replicated anywhere or used as an official ICBF proof.
- Searching for animals based on some minimum trait criteria is currently not working as expected due to an error that we are currently working to correct. Please bear with us on this. Also displaying the proofs for bulls with no AI code or those with n/a as AI code is currently faulty. This will be corrected as soon as possible.
- Please note that only one active bull list is published in February each year. Latest proofs for the bulls in that list can be obtained from the top 100 bull list.
- The next official evaluation will take place in October with results released in November.
- So far, no feedback has been received on the calving survey test run, released last Friday. We plan to discuss these results on September 1st with the Beef Technical Committee, the AI Industry and the dairy herd books.

Brian Wickham 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:+3530868269911) 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 2004.

ANIMAL EVENTS - HOW TO SEND IN 'DRY OFFS'

MARTIN BURKE
Highfield house
Bandon
Co cork.

National ID: IE1234567

Dear HerdOwner,

Getting 'dry off dates' through Animal Events last year proved difficult. The reasons for these were;

- Herdowners were not always aware they had to submit the dry off dates themselves (previously the recorder took the dry off dates whereas now the herd-owner is supposed to send dry offs directly to Animal Events office in Bandon).
- Herd-owners were unfamiliar with the lower portion of the Animal Events sheet. (The calf registration on top half of sheet was familiar but the dry off section on lower half of the sheet was not so readily filled in).
- The existing Animal Events sheet means you can only dry off one cow at a time ('one cow - one line'). This is a limitation and made it non user friendly as cows are usually dried in batches.

To make it easier for herd-owners in 2004, the Animal Events office is sending out 'Dry Off Notification Sheets'. This print run contains the list of the autumn calving cows in your herd. (Later in the season we will send you list of the Spring Calvers.) The list is designed to get your dry off dates into the database while saving you time and hassle.

What to do in 3 simple steps :

1. Each time you dry off a batch of cows take out one copy of the list. Put the date of dry off for that batch of cows in the grey box on top of the list.

DRY OFF DATE : 20 / 08 / 04

2. Place a tick a in the box next to the cows that dried off on that date. e.g.

Tick Here	Freeze Brand	Number
<input type="checkbox"/> a	162	IE123456750162

3. Pop the list in the prepaid envelope supplied and post to Bandon. The Animal Events office will enter the dry off dates into the database on receipt of ticked list. When the next batch cows dry off use second sheet and repeat steps 1, 2 and 3. (We have sent you 4 copies in the print run with 4 envelopes.)

If you have any questions on completing the sheets or you need extra copies of the list, don't hesitate to contact the ICBF Help line at 1 850 625 626.

Yours truly,



Brian Wickham
Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

Dryoff Notification Sheet

Name: MARTIN BURKE

Herd ID:

IE1234567

INSTRUCTIONS: Many farmers dry off cows in batches. Each time you dry a batch of cows put the date of dry off in the grey box on top of the list and below enter a tick opposite the cow number that dried off on that date.

USE ONE SHEET PER DRY OFF DATE

DRY OFF DATE : / /

Tick here	Freeze Brand	Number	Tick here	Freeze Brand	Number	Tick here	Freeze Brand	Number
<input type="checkbox"/>	148	IEABCD0148P	<input type="checkbox"/>	3600	IE123456750360	<input type="checkbox"/>	441	IE123456730441
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	IEABCD0020S	<input type="checkbox"/>	3610	IE123456760361	<input type="checkbox"/>	0461	IE123456770461
<input type="checkbox"/>	231	IEABCD0231D	<input type="checkbox"/>	362	AAA561827	<input type="checkbox"/>	48	IEABCD0048T
<input type="checkbox"/>	244	IEABCD0244T	<input type="checkbox"/>	3730	IE123456710373	<input type="checkbox"/>	0508	IE123456730508
<input type="checkbox"/>	278	IEABCD0278A	<input type="checkbox"/>	374	IE123456720374	<input type="checkbox"/>	0530	IE123456710530
<input type="checkbox"/>	286	IEABCD0286B	<input type="checkbox"/>	376	IE123456740376	<input type="checkbox"/>	0543	IE123456760543
<input type="checkbox"/>	312	AAA924074	<input type="checkbox"/>	383	IE123456730383	<input type="checkbox"/>	0547	IE123456710547
<input type="checkbox"/>	352	IE123456750352	<input type="checkbox"/>	39	IEABCD0039U	<input type="checkbox"/>	0561	IE123456780561
<input type="checkbox"/>	358	AAA561257	<input type="checkbox"/>	41	IEABCD0041J	<input type="checkbox"/>	67	IEABCD0067P