



## UPDATE – for period 15<sup>th</sup> – 21st January 2005

### 1 Genetic Evaluations – Consultation Meetings

The consultation meeting being held next Tuesday (25<sup>th</sup> January at the Heritage Hotel Port Laois) is part of the process for implementing improved genetic evaluations for both beef and dairy cattle. The process we are following was modified in 2004 and includes the following key steps:

- **Research.** This step typically involves ICBF, TEAGASC and one or more contracted research teams developing and evaluating ideas for improvements to the evaluation systems. The focus of our research over the last twelve months has been on calving and beef traits. Also our teams have been conducting investigations triggered by feedback from the consultation process.
- **Consultation.** The outcome of the research is presented at meetings to which the AI Industry, Herd Books and farmers are invited. Feedback in relation to proposed changes is sought at these meetings. Typically there are four or five consultation meetings each year. In addition the researchers meet with groups who have a particular interest in the evaluations.
- **Decision.** The outcomes of the consultations are considered by ICBF executives who formulate recommendations for decisions that are then placed before the Board of ICBF.

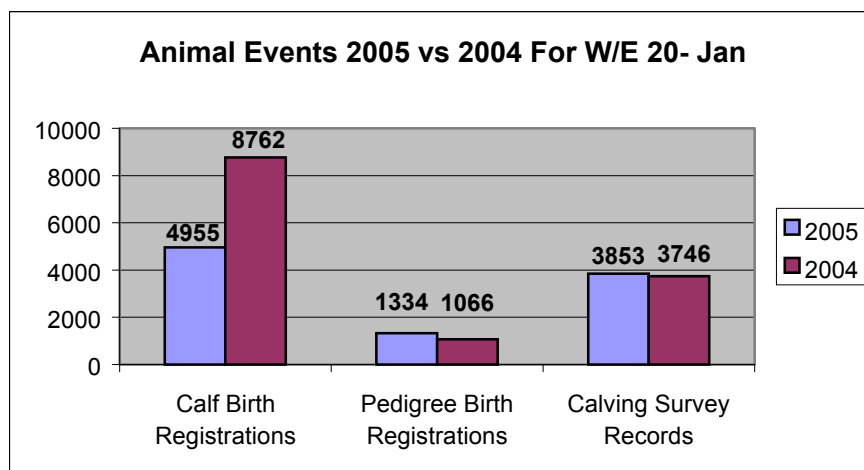
These steps are repeated for each significant modification to the operational genetic evaluations systems.

The main time for implementing changes to genetic evaluation is February. Hence a meeting of the Board of ICBF has been scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> February to take decisions in relation to implementing improvements for 2005.

This process is designed to ensure that Irish genetic evaluations are accurate, unbiased, useful and supported by the breeding industry. **Of overriding consideration is ICBF's objective of maximising the contribution of genetic improvement to farm profitability.**

### 2 Database Update

- 201 new herds added to the database. The new herds this week are primarily those who are members of AI organisations and not using any other cattle breeding services (milk recording or herd book).
- Progress continues to be made on the AI handhelds. Work is continuing on getting AI customers signed up to the database, especially in SWS, Dovea, and PG. The final version of the handheld software will be delivered today.

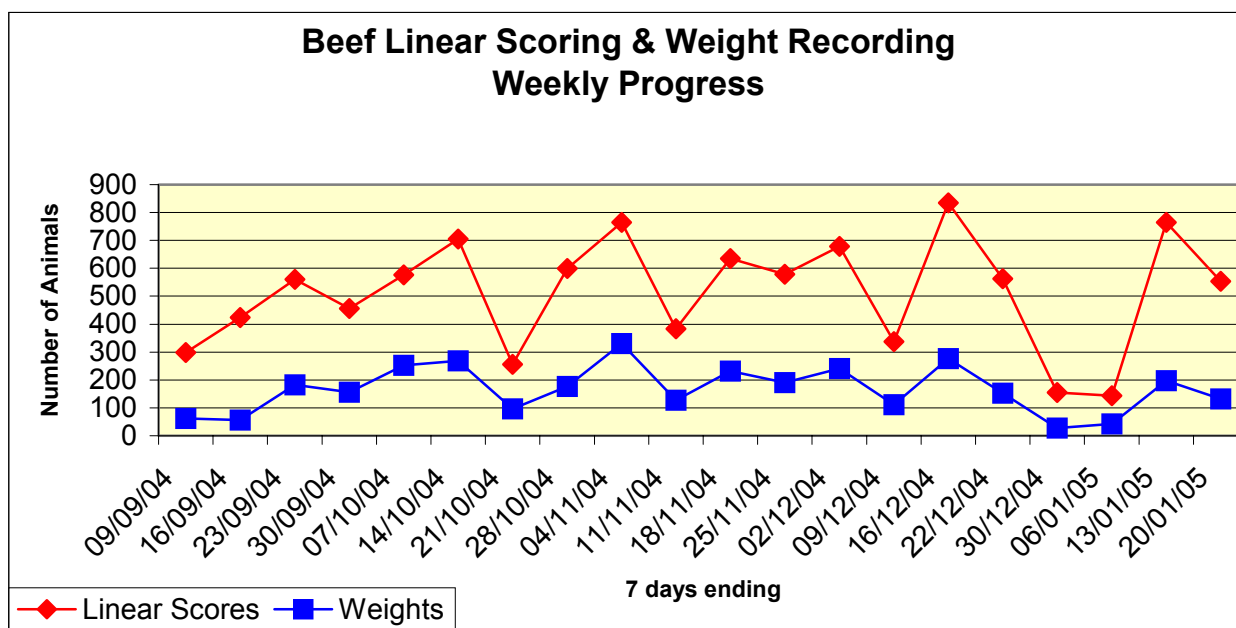


- 2,834 Teagasc-ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. Testing has begun on the internet application which allows on-line access to reports. This will continue through next week.
- Database work on finalising annual milk recording reports has continued this week and the first of the annual reports are now being issued.
- Work on the generating complete statistics from the database for 2004 is on-going and will take a number of weeks to complete.



- Some enhancements around the DIY Electronic milk recording have been completed.
- The Rotbunt herdbook have begun training on the IRIS application, and will begin migrating the herdbook details to the database immediately.
- A solution to allow scanning of Animal Events sheets has been delivered to the Animal Events office - this will assist the member organisations in dealing with farmer queries in a more timely fashion.
- The move of member organisations from the current ISDN/Leased Line means of communication to a broadband solution is continuing. This will help to cut their telecommunications bills significantly.

### 3 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



### 4 Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 14/01/05 - 21/01/05
Progressive	409
Dairygold	43
SWS	114
Kerry	57
Connacht	33
Tipperary	0
Arrabawn	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>661</b>



## 5 TEAGASC - ICBF Symposia

- ICBF has been working closely with TEAGASC over the last few months to facilitate their advisers making use of the database to help farmers achieve greater profitability. As part of this work it has become very clear that Animal Event recording and milk recording are essential if farmers are to have the information they need to run more profitable dairy enterprises.
- A series of symposia have been organised to help farmers understand how to realise the benefits of recording and breeding. We are collaborating with TEAGASC over the next few weeks by providing material and speakers for these meetings. Attached is a copy of the schedule of these meetings. If you are at all interested you should attend one in your area.
- This is an exciting development as it exploits ICBF's world-class database to provide Irish farmers with the information they need to achieve greater profitability. Further, this is achieved in a very cost effective manner.

## 6 Tully

- The sale catalogue for the October 2004 intake is now on the Tully section of ICBF's web site ([http://www.icbf.com/tully\\_main.htm](http://www.icbf.com/tully_main.htm)). .
- There has been a lot of interest within Ireland in the October intake, which is for sale on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Interest in the bulls is up on last year.
- Plans are underway to advertise the sale in the Irish Farmers Journal, Farming Independent, Ulster Farmers and the Scottish Farmer.
- Applications for the April 2005 intake will be generated from the database and will be sent out to breeders from the 7-2-05.

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## Teagasc / ICBF Symposia

### "Improving Dairy Cow Profitability"

**Target: To Improve Herd EBI by €5 per year**

Location and Co-Ordinator		Meeting Details			Speakers + Local Advisor		
COUNTY	CAO	Date	Venue	Time	Specialist	Moorepark Researcher	ICBF Speaker
Carlow	Harry O'Brien (Act.CAO)						
Cavan	Jim Stafford	23rd Feb - Wed.	Cavan Crystal Hotel	8.00 p.m.		Donogh Berry	Andrew Cromie
Clare	Tom Shanahan	2nd February - Wed.	West County Hotel, Ennis			Laurence Shalloo	Andrew Cromie
Cork E	Jerry McCarthy	31st Jan - Monday	Silver Springs (Moran) Hotel, Cork	8.00 p.m.	John Maher	Frank Buckley	Andrew Cromie
Cork W	Tom Egan	8th Feb - Tuesday	Darrara College, Clonakilty	8.00 p.m.	John Maher	Frank Buckley	Andrew Cromie
Donegal	P.J. Molloy	1st Feb - Tuesday	Friels Hotel, Raphoe	8:00 p.m.	Pat Clarke	Brendan Horan	Martin Burke
Dublin	Lorcan O'Toole						
Galway	Brendan Heneghan	7th February - Monday	Meadowcourt Hotel, Loughrea, Co. Gal.	2.00 p.m.	Pat Clarke	Laurence Shalloo	Andrew Cromie
Kerry	Bill O'Brien	25th Jan. - Tuesday	Brandon Hotel, Tralee	7.00 p.m.	John Donworth	Brendan Horan	Andrew Cromie
Kildare	Tom Cleary Act. CAO						
Kilkenny	Bill Costelloe	31st January - Monday	Springhill Hotel, Kilkenny	8.00 p.m.	Tom O'Dwyer	Brendan Horan	Sean Coughlan
Kilkenny	Bill Costelloe	2nd February	Teagasc Centre, Mullinavat	8.00 p.m.	Tom O'Dwyer	Brendan Horan	Pat Donnellan
Laois	Con Feighery	26th Jan - Wed	Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix	8.00 p.m.	Matt Ryan	Frank Buckley	Andrew Cromie
Leitrim	James McGrath						
Limerick	Fachtna O'Driscoll	24th Jan - Monday	Ballintemple Inn, Newcastlewest	8:00 p.m.	John Donworth	Brendan Horan	Not required
Longford	Des Keegan	10th February	Teagasc Office, Town Centre, Longford	8.00 p.m.	Trevor Dunwood	Brendan Horan	Andrew Cromie
Louth	Oliver Dillon						
Mayo	Frank Horkan (Act.CAO)					Brendan Horan	
Meath	Michael McHugh	17th Feb. - Thursday	Ardboyne Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath	8.15 p.m.	G. Ramsbottom	Donogh Berry	Andrew Cromie
Monaghan	Cyril Carty						
Offaly	Tom Collins						
Roscommon	Oliver Burke	8th Feb - Tuesday	Teagasc Centre, Roscommon	8.00 p.m.		Brendan Horan	Sean Coughlan
Sligo	Martin Henry						
Tipp S.R.	Donal Mullane	9th Feb - Wednesday	Hotel Minella, Clonmel	8.00 p.m.	Tom O'Dwyer	Brendan Horan	Andrew Cromie
Tipp.N.R.	David Collins	27th Jan. - Thursday	Templemore Arms Hotel	8.00 p.m.	G. Ramsbottom	Brendan Horan	Andrew Cromie
W.Meath	Malachy Byrne (Act CAO)						
Waterford	John Moloney	25th Jan - Tuesday	Park Hotel, Dungarvan	8.00 p.m.	T. O'Dwyer	Laurence Shalloo	Martin Burke
Wexford	Tom Power					Laurence Shalloo	
Wicklow	John Keating	25th Jan - Tuesday	Woodenbridge Hotel, Avoca	8.00 p.m.	G. Ramsbottom	Frank Buckley	Pat Donnellan

\* Copy of speeches available on the night