



## UPDATE – FOR PERIOD 17<sup>TH</sup> TO 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2004.

### 1. Summary Herd Calving Reports - Spring 2004

Complimentary herd calving reports were posted to some 7,682 milk recording herds on Friday (today). The reports are based on calving performance from 335,202 cows with calving dates since 1st January 2004 (of which some 252,956 animals had a previous calving date). The report has been designed to aid decision-making on farms and is part of ICBF's overall strategy of delivering more profit to farmers. A copy of the report that has been posted to farmers is attached with this update.

#### *Summary of Key Statistics from Calving Reports - Spring 2004.*

|                                     | National Average | Top 15%  | Btm 15%  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| Calving Interval (Days)             | 385 days         | 363 days | 407 days |
| 8 Week Calving Rate (%)             | 73%              | 88%      | 55%      |
| Mortality - Dead at Birth (%)       | 2.9%             | 0%       | 6%       |
| Mortality - Dead at 28 days (%)     | 4.2%             | 0%       | 8%       |
| Sex Ratio - Live Females (%)        | 49%              | 40%      | 55%      |
| Births with Valid sire (%)          | 56%              | 0%       | 97%      |
| Births with Valid AI Sire (%)       | 34%              | 0%       | 71%      |
| Births with Calving Survey Data (%) | 59%              | 0%       | 97%      |

### 2. Meeting of AI industry and Beef/Dairy herdbooks to discuss developments in beef evaluations.

A meeting took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004 between ICBF and the AI industry, beef herdbooks and dairy herdbooks to discuss developments in calving performance evaluations and beef indexes for Irish farmers. Roel Veerkamp gave an overview of developments in calving performance whilst Andrew Cromie gave an overview of developments in beef indexes.

#### **Key Actions from the meeting included:**

In addition to work outlined in the presentations, ICBF to "action" the following:

1. Repeat analysis but include only dams that have a % of beef genes:
  - Do the breed effects change?
  - Do the mean/variance of PTA's change (across and within breeds)?
  - Do the rankings change?
2. Is there any additional information that could be used to indicate/correct for the fact that a bull may have been promoted as "easy-calving", e.g., age of sire, age of calf, age of dam, proofs from "historical" data - as a fixed effect?
3. Examine low correlation for gestation length for Limousin breed?
4. Estimate genetic correlation between calving difficulty and gestation length?
5. Provide a table that indicates breed of sire vs. breed of dam breakdown in the data for analysis.
6. Initiate similar work for "dead at birth" and "dead at 28 days".
7. Initiate work to take calving performance data from other countries and convert to Irish equivalents (for imported sires).
8. Investigate correlation between calving performance proofs in Ireland and proofs for common AI sires in France and UK?

### 3. Meeting of AI industry and Dairy herdbooks to discuss developments in EBI

A meeting took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004 between ICBF and the AI industry/dairy herdbooks to discuss developments in EBI for Irish farmers. Andrew Cromie gave an overview of proposed developments in the EBI.

#### **Key Actions from the meeting included:**

In addition to work outlined in the presentations, ICBF to "action" the following:

1. Relative value of milk in winter vs. spring milk production systems.
2. Cost of prolonged calving interval in winter vs. spring calving systems.
3. Future cost/returns from butterfat production.
4. Hypothesis that different cows are required for different levels of production
5. Hypothesis that different type traits are important, depending on the level of herd milk production.
6. Hypothesis that the highest % of AI occurs in herds that have a mixed Autumn/Spring calving herd (as opposed to just Spring calving).



#### 4. ICBF Cattle Breeding Statistics Report (2003)

An electronic version of the ICBF Cattle Breeding Statistics Report (2003) has been published on the ICBF website (<http://www.icbf.com>). Hard copies of the report will be posted out next week. If you do not receive a report, and would like one, please contact Marry Madden (023 20222)

#### 5. Publication of Dairy Production Proofs (May 2004)

Dairy production proofs were published on the ICBF website on Wednesday 19th May (<http://www.icbf.com>). Listings include; (i) proofs for AI bulls (Top 100 and Bull Search Facility) (ii) proofs for top 2000 cows.

#### 6. Database Project

##### a) Newly Live Herdbooks

- 1254 new attempted pedigree registrations received during the past week
- 175 New Beef Herds added to the database
- BLUP reports and Pedigree Certificates were issued to the Limousin Society and Simmental Societies
- 2004 Pedigree and Inspection certificates were batch printed at the Charolais office
- Further work continued on the breed society task lists.

##### b) Other database activities

- A new issue of the Angus Scheme Procurement report was provided from the database
- Calving Summary Reports were issued from the database and will be issued today
- A modified version of the Annual Milk Recording summary report was issued to IHFA to assist with their Herds Competitions
- As part of the clean-up of records held in the Front Porch, a further Sire Error report was issued to Dairy Herds this week as part of the Calving Summary Report Pack
- It is hoped to issue a Sire Error report for beef herds within the next two weeks
- A meeting was held with InfoScience, who look after the majority of mart auction systems in the country, to progress the design on how Marts weight data on cattle will be delivered to the database. This will in turn assist in Beef Performance Evaluations.

#### 7. Milk Recording

##### a) Database Project - Milk Recording

Milk Recording Update week ending 21/05

##### Herds Processed in last 7 days by Milk Recording Organisation.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Progressive Genetics | 375 |
| Dairygold            | 222 |
| SWS                  | 165 |
| Kerry                | 162 |
| Tipperary            | 47  |
| Connacht Gold        | 23  |
| Arrabawn             | 18  |

Total Herds for week = **1012**

##### MR Herdowners Recorded in IRIS to date:

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Progressive Genetics | 1769 |
| Dairygold            | 1715 |
| Kerry                | 1081 |
| SWS                  | 965  |
| Tipperary            | 141  |
| Arrabawn             | 140  |



Connacht Gold 125

No. Herdowners recorded in IRIS = 5936

## **b. Electronic Milk Meters (EMM) – Calibration update**

This week Pat O Connor (Dairygold) and Martin Burke (ICBF) visited the Danish Milk Recording Organisation (Tue 18<sup>th</sup>) and the Tru Test Calibration laboratory (Wed 19<sup>th</sup>).

They had 3 main objectives for the trip:

1. To Benchmark how Danes operate Electronic DIY system – they spent the day with Pat's counter part in Denmark, reviewing and sharing best practices on processes for handling/transport of meters, scheduling, etc. It was a very useful day for gathering and sharing info – with good exchange of ideas, issues experienced in both countries with the meters. (Denmark has over 950 meters in operation).
2. To Check & Calibrate meters – they took 12 of the 25 meters that were in operation for the last 3 months in Ireland to Denmark for test & calibration. they tested the meters before calibrating to see what they were reading and the meters were all within the specified manufacturer's tolerance (+ /- 3%). The pre-calibration test showed our 12 meters were reading + 0.413 Kg over 15kg = + 2.75%. After calibration we retested the meters that were done and they were now reading + 0.064Kg or + 0.43%. Calibration will be completed on all 12 meters today Fri 21<sup>st</sup>. We plan to send the balance of 13 meters after 6 months operation in Ireland, which should give us more info on any drift over time. Once calibrated, the meters will enter an annual calibration schedule.
3. Calibration Equipment/Methods – as we grow the no. meters deployed in Ireland, we will eventually have to invest in calibration and test equipment. So on the 19<sup>th</sup> we spent the day in the lab understanding the equipment, getting to see the nuts and bolts of its operation. The lab not only had the calibration equipment but also had an electronic debug & repair center for any problems experienced in field.

A more detailed report on the trip and test equipment will be issued to Milk Recording Organisations.

## **8. Tully**

- Plans are proceeding well on the new site for the December intake bulls, fencing the field will be completed by 27<sup>th</sup> May and the bulls will be moved on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- The TB test of the December intake bulls that was scheduled to take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May will now take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May with result due on 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- A group of Agricultural students from Aberdeen visited on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May and were very impressed with the standard of the bulls and the facilities.

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Assistant: Mary Madden.

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ANDREW CROMIE  
HIGHFIELD HOUSE,  
BANDON,  
CO CORK

National ID: IE1234567

Dear Herd-owner,

20th May 2004

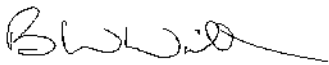
Enclosed is a complimentary "Calving Summary" report for your herd (Spring 2004). The report has been designed to aid decision-making on your farm and is part of ICBF's overall strategy of delivering more profit for farmers. The report has been generated from the ICBF cattle-breeding database, and should be used to help you benchmark your herd performance against other milk-recorded herds in the country. The calving report is based on data processed through Animal Events from 1st January 2004 to 14th May 2004.

On the back of this page you may find a "Sire Error" report for your herd. The sire error report lists sires that have been incorrectly recorded via animal events. Sires can only be matched on the basis of AI code, herdbook number or tag number. Sire information is the critical piece of information that will allow us calculate genetic evaluation information for all animals on your farm. Please take time to complete this listing. At the bottom of this page you will also find a feedback form. Please complete the feedback form (and where present the sire error report) and return it to the Animal Events office using the Freepost Animal Events envelope provided.

I trust this complimentary "Calving Summary" report will be of value to you in the on-going management of your farming business. A further "Fertility Summary" report will be forwarded in due course, for those herd-owners recording insemination data through Animal Events or using an AI technician service this spring. Autumn Calving Reports will be forwarded to autumn calving herds in due course as well.

If you have any questions on the enclosed reports, please contact the Animal Events Helpline (1850-625-626).

Yours sincerely,



Brian Wickham  
Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

*These reports are provided as part of the service from your milk recording, AI and herdbook organizations including; Arrabawn Co-op, Connacht Gold Co-op, Dairygold AI & Farm Services, South Eastern Cattle Breeding Society, Irish Holstein Friesian Association, Kerry Agri Business, Progressive Genetics, South Western Services and Tipperary Co-op.*

### FEEDBACK FORM

Did you find the information contained in the Calving Summary Report useful ? (please circle as appropriate)

Extremely Useful

Useful

No Opinion

Limited Use

Not at all Useful

5

4

3

2

1

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# Summary Dairy Herd Calving Statistics Report - Spring 2004

Herd Owner: ANDREW CROMIE  
 Herd Number: IE1234567  
 Calving Period 11 weeks & 2 days  
 Page: 1(2)

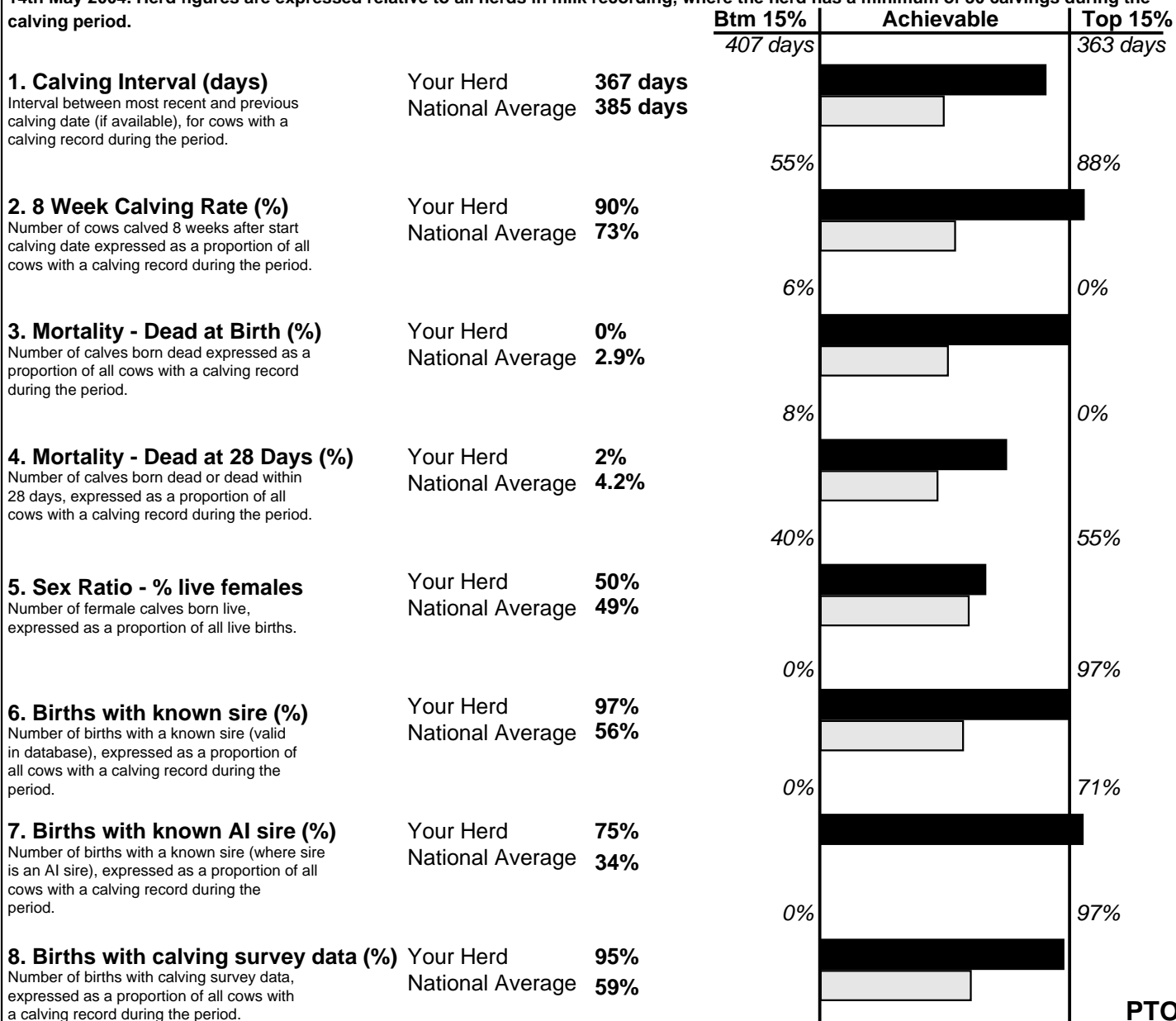
## 1. Summary Data

Report is based on dairy cows with a calving record in the cattle breeding database and where the calving date is between 1st January 2004 - 14th May 2004.

|   |            |                                 |                            |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total Cows Calved</b>                    | <b>109</b> | <b>Mean Calving Date (MCD)</b>  | <b>11/03/2004</b>          |
| <b>No. of Calves - Live at Birth</b>        | <b>108</b> | <b>Start Calving Date (SCD)</b> | <b>08/02/2004</b>          |
| <b>No. of Male Calves - Live at Birth</b>   | <b>53</b>  | <b>End Calving Date (ECD)</b>   | <b>27/04/2004</b>          |
| <b>No. of Female Calves - Live at Birth</b> | <b>55</b>  | <b>Duration Calving Period</b>  | <b>11 wks &amp; 2 days</b> |
| <b>No. of Calves - Dead at Birth</b>        | <b>1</b>   |                                 |                            |

## 2. Performance Statistics - relative to all herds in milk recording

Report is based on cows with a calving record in the cattle breeding database and where the calving date is between 1st January 2004 - 14th May 2004. Herd figures are expressed relative to all herds in milk recording, where the herd has a minimum of 30 calvings during the calving period.



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### Explanatory Notes

Performance statistics for your herd are expressed relative to all herds in milk recording, where the herd has a minimum of 30 calvings during the period. For example, the calving interval for your herd was 367 days This compares to 385 days for the average of all herds and 363 days for the top 15% of herds in milk recording (see bar-chart).

# Summary Dairy Herd Calving Statistics Report - Spring 2004

Herd Owner: ANDREW CROMIE  
Herd Number: IE1234567  
Calving Period 11 weeks & 2 days  
Page: 2(2)

## 3. Current Calving Pattern

| Month | No. Calved | % Calved |
|-------|------------|----------|
| Jan   | 0          | 0        |
| Feb   | 28         | 25       |
| Mar   | 63         | 57       |
| Apr   | 15         | 13       |
| May   | 0          | 0        |
| Jun   | 0          | 0        |
| Jul   | 0          | 0        |
| Aug   | 0          | 0        |
| Sep   | 0          | 0        |
| Oct   | 0          | 0        |
| Nov   | 0          | 0        |
| Dec   | 0          | 0        |

