



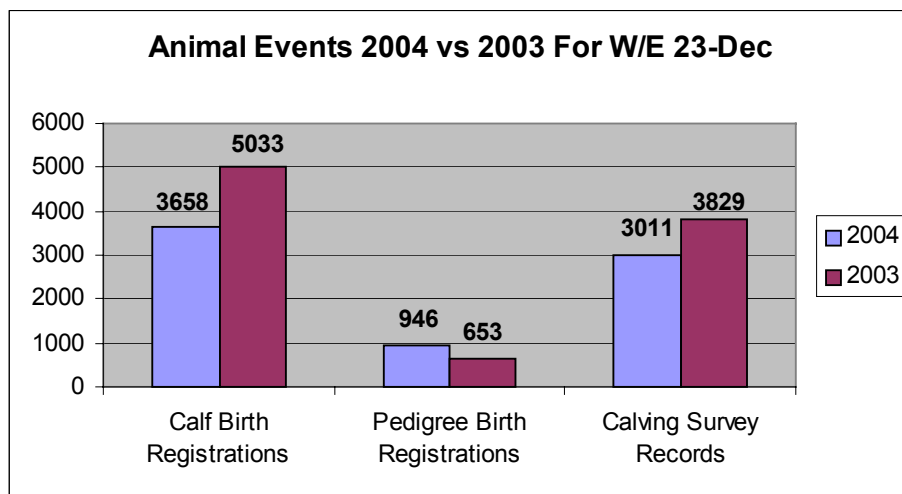
**UPDATE – for period 20<sup>th</sup> – 23rd December 2004**



*Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all  
at Irish Cattle Breeding Federation*

**1 Database Update**

- 302 New Herds added to the database - The strong influx of new herds is a combination of Irish Angus members, and AI organisation members.



- The AI handheld trials continued in SWS and PG this week. The system is quite stable at this stage, but some good suggestions from the technicians will be incorporated into the system in January. The biggest hurdle to be faced is getting all the herds using AI signed up to the database so that a technician has the animals on the handheld prior to entering the farmers yard.
- 2393 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. The rate of return continues to be good, with around 200 forms received in the past week. Development is continuing on the solution which will make available farmer report available on-line to those whom the farmer wishes to have access to his/her reports. The main development of this solution will be finished mid January, with 3 weeks of testing planned subsequent to that before a release of the solution in early February.
- A new batch of linear scoring schedules has been issued to the Linear scorers.
- We begun a process of measuring database availability on March 19th this year. Since then, the database has only been down for 5 minutes during office hours (9am-5.30pm).



**2 Tully**

- Plans are underway for the Sale on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The Catalogue can be viewed on the ICBF Website from 7<sup>th</sup> January, and seating in the Sales ring is being constructed.
- A group of 35 Pedigree Breeders from Scotland will visit Tully on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2005



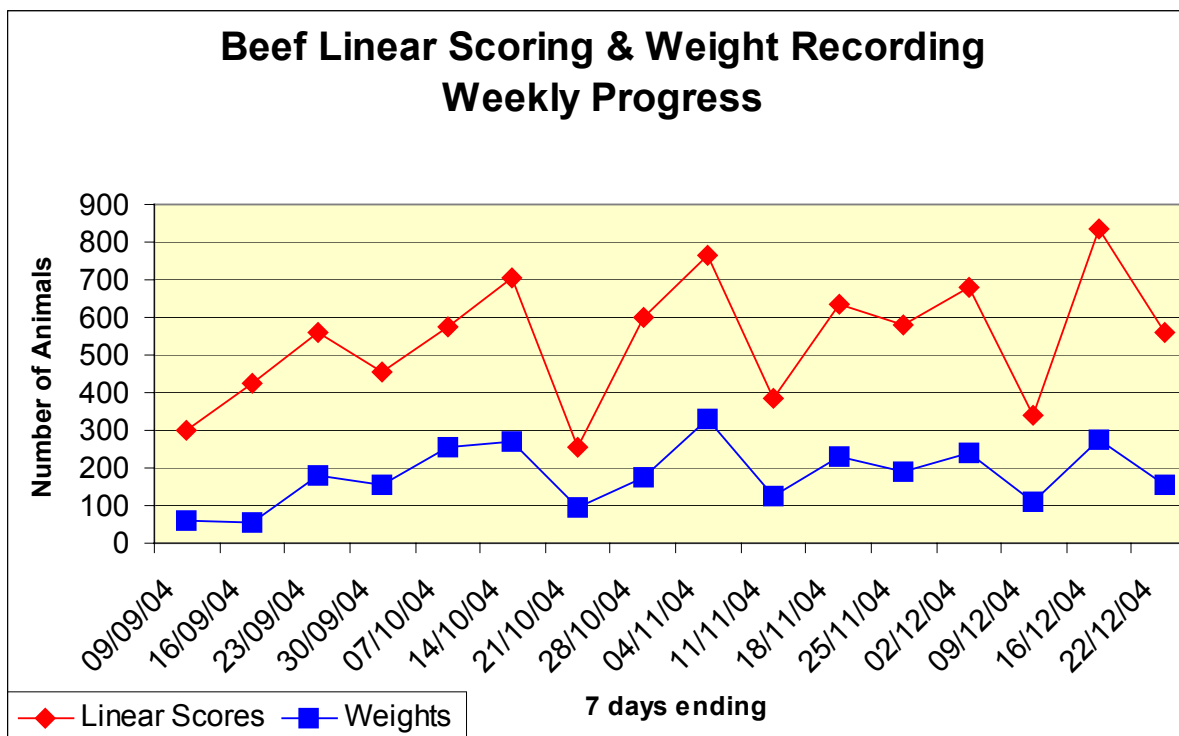


### 3 Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 10/12 - 17/12	Herds Recorded year to date 2004
Progressive	399	2,231
Dairygold	129	1,617
SWS	119	964
Kerry	96	1,099
Connacht	23	121
Arrabawn	12	120
Tipperary	7	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>6,299</b>



### 4 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





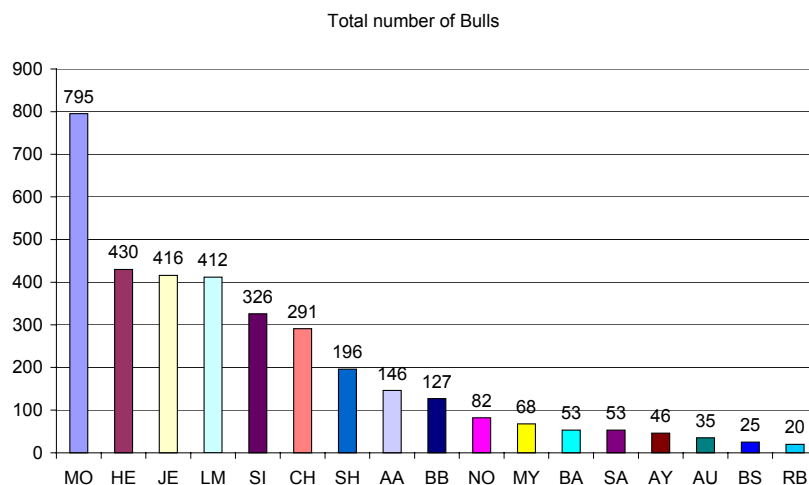
## 5 Genetic evaluation update

The first trial run of the across breed evaluation of milk production traits was completed this week. The main aim of this run was to test modifications made to allow the system handle evaluation across breeds. The next test run will aim at refining the model for the accurate estimation of breeding values. Some results will be presented on January 25<sup>th</sup>. In this trial run, a total of 31,123 bulls from 41 breeds were evaluated. The number of bulls per breed ranged from 1 to 15,862 (for HO breed). However only 5 breeds had more than 20 bulls each with at least 10 daughters in two herds and a BV reliability of 70% or more. These breeds, the number of bulls per breed, the total number of daughters by these bulls used in the evaluation and the average corrected milk production of the daughters of these bulls are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Breeds with over 20 bulls with at least 10 daughters in 2 herds and reliability of 70% or more in the across breed evaluation.

Breed	No of Bulls	Total dau.	Rel	Average production of daughters.		
				Milk (kg)	Fat (kg)	Prot (kg)
HO	3284	672379	84.32	6186	229	203
FR	1437	247173		5063	184	166
MO	65	5739	85.339	6068	228	206
MY	21	2611	85.762	5037	191	175
JE	21	831	79.81	4389	232	172
OTHERS	59	3319	80.644	5235	198	178

Figure 1. Non Holstein-Friesian breeds with at least 20 bulls with proofs in across breed evaluation of production traits.





## 6 Important Dates in 2005 – Please put them in your Diary

We are planning the following meetings in early 2005:

- **Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting – Beef and Dairy. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.** The Heritage Hotel Port Laois.
- **Milk Recording Operations Review Meeting. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at Moorepark.** This meeting will be particularly relevant for staff involved with providing the milk recording service.
- **Herd Book Operations Review Meeting. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Moorepark.**
- **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Cork Airport.**



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