



UPDATE for period 18th – 24th June 2005

1 Important Dates

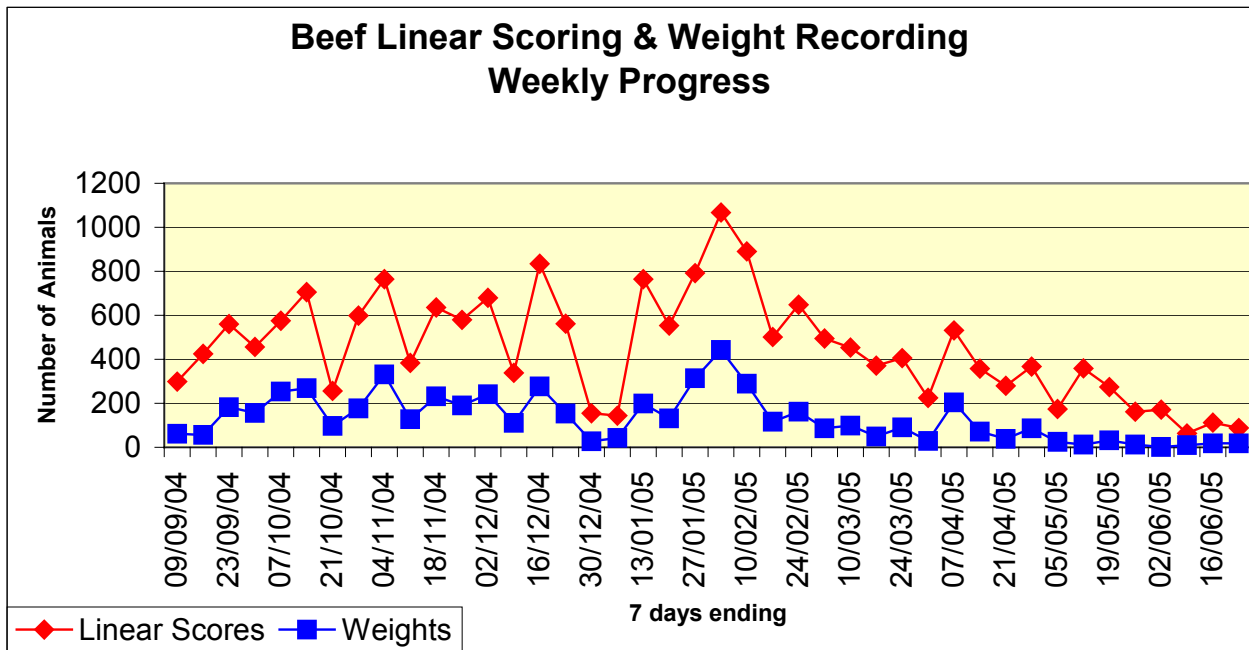
- **Thursday 7th July.** Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Wednesday 7th September.** Beef & Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September.** Ploughing Championships, Midleton, Co. Cork.

2 Board Meeting 23rd June 2005

Decisions at Thursdays Board meeting included:

- It was agreed that the CE would organise to meet with the service providers to explore all options in relation to funding and expanding the EDIY service so as to ensure its nationwide availability as soon as possible.
- It was agreed to leave the Code of good practise for farm animal breeding document with the Board members to consider in consultation with the member organisations until the next meeting with a view of adopting it at the next meeting.

3 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



4 Tully

- The April sale at Tully in 2006 will now take place on Saturday the 30-4-06 and not on the 1-4-06. The March sale will take place on the 4-3-06.

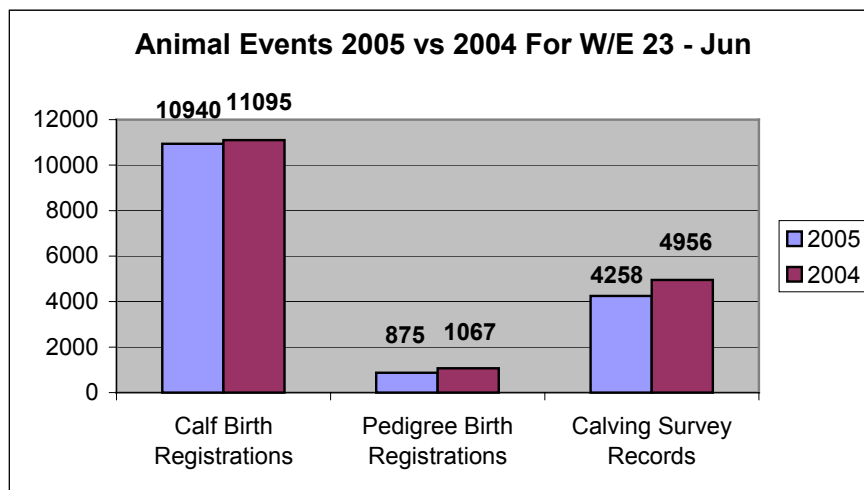


- The renovation of the old isolation bull pens to student accommodation has started, and will be completed before Timothy Byrne starts his 8 month placement at Tully on the 27-8-05.
- A group of 6 vets from France will visit Tully on the 30-6-05.

5 Database Update

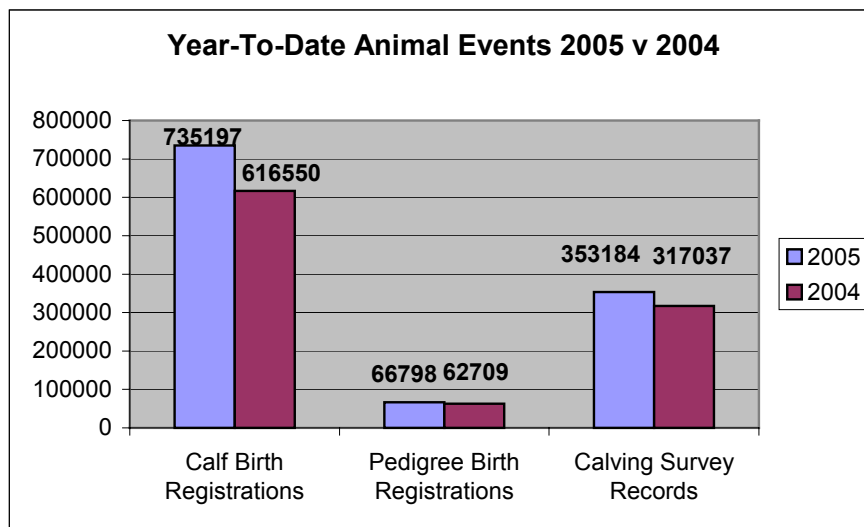
- 32 New Herds added to the database in the past week.

- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office:
 "Calf registrations are down at the low levels one would expect at this time of year. New herd permission forms are staying steady. Missing sire reports being returned have decreased significantly as one would expect."



- 4954 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.

- Testing has begun on the new Linear Scoring Application. Roll-out is planned for July 12th at Tully.



- Work on the generation of Sales and Show Catalogues from the database is on-going. The pilot show will be Dunmanway Agricultural Show, with whom we met this week. Feedback on the approach has been very positive.

- The beef calving reports were posted this week, and feedback has been very positive, with a good flow of suggestions for improvement also.
- A text messaging solution for both dairy and beef genetic evaluation results is almost finalised. A farmer will text the ID of a given animal to a phone number and will receive the details by return text.



- The Norwegian Red herdbook details for those animals participating in the Moorepark trials have been loaded to the database.
- Some changes to the IHFA grade-up solution have been completed and are being tested.
- A revamp of the ICBF website has begun this week, with a view to making it more user friendly.

6 Genetic Evaluations

Genetic Evaluations – Routine Evaluations.

- Preparation for the next routine evaluations for dairy traits (July 26) continued this week, with specific focus given to calving interval and survival traits. Marco Pool (ID Lelystad) joined the ICBF team to assist with the hand-over of responsibilities from Victor Olori (who is leaving ICBF next week) to both Ross Evans and Francis Kearney. Work on milk production traits has also continued with the domestic proof run and preparation of the Interbull files now complete.

Genetic Evaluations – Research.

- The next beef industry meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 7th July 2005 in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- Preparation work for that meeting has continued with specific focus given to beef production proofs for cows and young bulls (Roel Veerkamp) and improvements in the economic models (Peter Amer).
- Both Roel and Peter will be joining the ICBF project team for the above meeting. All people interested in developing new beef indexes for Ireland are urged to attend.
- In addition to developments in beef indexes, developments in EBI (the equivalent dairy index) are continuing. These include:
 - (i) Economic values for winter milk systems (an initial report on this work will be available in the next 2 weeks).
 - (ii) Use of linear type traits as a predictor of calving interval and survival.
 - (iii) Use of information from later lactations in calving interval and survival.
 - (iv) Across breed evaluations for calving interval and survival (e.g., Jersey AI bulls).
- Results from this work will be released to the dairy industry over the coming months, culminating in a major dairy industry meeting (7th September, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel), to discuss the first stage of these results.

7 IHFA Open Day

- Andrew Cromie and Pat Donnellan attended the IHFA open day this week (Wednesday 22nd June 2005). The event was held on the farm of Pat, Breda and Derek Frawley, Croagh, Co. Limerick, with over 1500 people in attendance.
- The Frawley family must be congratulated on their breeding progress over the past 20 years, with a very clear focus on high genetic indexes for linear type. This has resulted in a herd that is one of the highest “classified” herds in both the UK and Ireland, with almost 100% of the herd 85 points or better for overall type.
- The herd progress in overall type demonstrates the power of genetic indexes. Similar progress can be made in other traits, where a clear objective is defined, e.g., milk kg, protein %, fertility.
- The EBI is an attempt to draw all of these traits together into one overall index reflecting farm profit. The challenge for ICBF and IHFA in the coming months is to ensure that, come next Spring, all sections of IHFA membership (high type, high protein, high fertility) are prepared to consider the EBI as a tool on which to help breeding decisions.
- We look forward to working with the IHFA council and its members in pursuit of this goal.



8 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2005	2004
	Herds Recorded Week 17/06/05 - 24/06/05	Herds Recorded Week 17/06/04 - 24/06/04
Progressive	413	261
Dairygold	133	238
Kerry	161	172
SWS	169	173
Connacht	24	14
Arrabawn	16	19
Tipp	28	20
Others (Donegal, OAD)	1	N/A
Total	945	897

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 24th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 24th	2004 No. Cows at Year End (Min 2 tests)
Progressive	2,070	2,231	139,180	145,976
Dairygold	1,497	1,620	90,500	95,817
Kerry	1,061	1,098	63,614	63,995
SWS	934	964	52,218	53,970
Tipperary	142	147	8,790	8,851
Connacht	112	121	6,742	7,120
Arrabawn	107	120	6,642	7,005
Others (Donegal/OAD)	27	N/A	2,756	N/A
Total	5,950	6,301	370,442	382,734



9. EBI100 Competition.

- Over 40 herds have entered the EBI100 competition, a new competition organised by the ACC bank (sponsors), Teagasc, the Farmers Journal and ICBF.
- The objective of the competition is to identify herds that are focused on “profit from cattle breeding”.
- Initial screening of the entrants will take place next week (Monday 27th June), with judging of finalists the following week (week starting 4th July).
- ICBF would like to thank all herd-owners that have entered this new and exciting competition.

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