



UPDATE – for period 19th to 24th March 2005



1 Launch of National Cattle Breeding Centre (NCBC) – Dublin Tuesday 22nd March

The Chairman, John O’Sullivan, and Chief Executive of ICBF attended the inaugural meeting of the Board of the National Cattle Breeding Centre and confirmed ICBF’s commitment to a partnership with NCBC for ensuring the delivery of increased rates of genetic progress for the benefit of Irish cattle farmers.

The official launch of the NCBC by the Minister of Agriculture, Mary Coughlan, is the culmination of a sustained effort to establish a structure with the resources and scale required to operate a world-class bull stud and AI centre. Our congratulations go to all those who have worked to this end.

Over the weeks, months and years ahead our challenge is to work in true partnership to realise the vision for an internationally competitive cattle-breeding system focused on the needs of the Irish farmer.

2 GENE IRELAND

This week also saw the launch of the GENE IRELAND targeted-herd progeny test program – a joint initiative between ICBF and its AI member organisations. Attached is a sample of the letter that has been sent to a number of dairy herd owners inviting them to apply to participate in 2005.

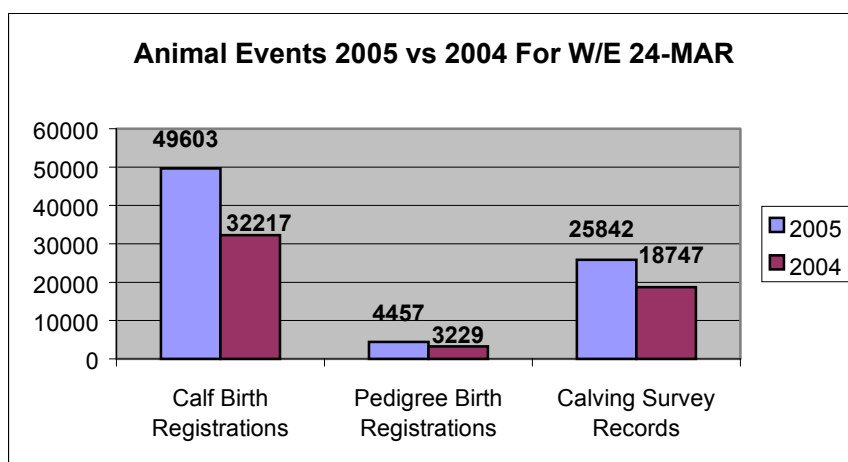
The program is designed to ensure accurate progeny test results for bulls selected specifically to meet the needs of Irish farmers. It is another important step in the development of the Irish cattle breeding industry.

3 Cattle Breeding – Important Dates

- **10:30 – 13:00 Wednesday 30th March. Telephone Conference.** Audit & Finance Sub-Committee.
- **10:30 – 13:00 Thursday 31st March, Heritage Hotel, Port Laois.** ICBF Board meeting.
- **10:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 16:00, Tuesday 19th April. The Montague Hotel, Emo, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.** Herd Book Operations Review, Beef Technical Meeting and Meeting of Numerically Small Herd Books.
- **14:30 – 16:00 Thursday 5th May, Heritage Hotel, Port Laois.** ICBF Annual General Meeting.

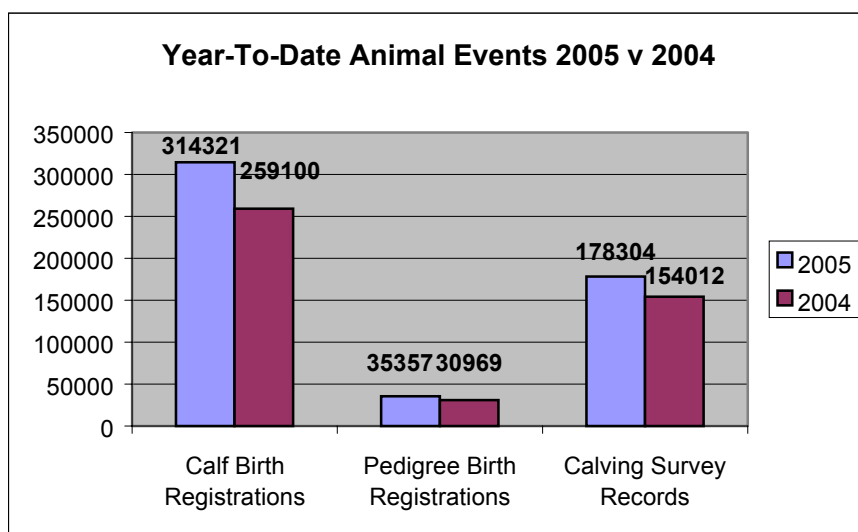
4 Database Update

- 204 new herds added to the database.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events office: *"The numbers of AE Sheets coming in is staying high, though the missing sire reports and dry off sheets have reduce to almost nil. We are still getting a small number of jumbo assignment sheets for processing. The number of new herd permission forms is staying at a consistently solid level."*





- 4,391 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. A new file of data has been received from Teagasc linking advisors to herds, and that will allow the system to go fully live. A sample of the breeding chart which is being made available through Teagasc advisors to farmers is attached. The breeding chart is printed on A3 paper, so it is more easily read and used by farmers.



- The printing and distribution of EBI reports has been completed and we are now dealing with the farmers queries on their reports. There are a number of issues around the calculation of parent averages particularly on stock bulls which impact on the EBI of younger stock.
- Work on generating complete statistics from the database for 2004 is on-going. This work will be finished at the end of March.
- A review of the Beef Linear Scoring handheld is being held today in Tully and the output will be incorporated into design changes in the future.
- The development work to get all herdbooks available on-line is completed and is in the testing phase. It will be issued to the individual herdbooks for testing next week before final release.

5 Spring Fair – Punchestown Saturday 19th March

- ICBF was well represented in a joint stand with its AI and Milk Recording members. Features of the joint stand included daughters of high EBI sires, the latest developments in the EBI, access to the database, the AI Technician Handheld Computer and the electronic DIY milk recording system. However, attendance at the show was disappointing with the consequence that very few farmers visited our stand.
- The time, effort and money required to organise events such as this is substantial. The organisers and many others put in a lot of time on a voluntary basis. The venue is superb, all that was missing was a large crowd of interested farmers.
- Over the next few weeks ICBF will be reviewing its involvement in such events and discussing with its members and with TEAGASC options for the future.



6 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 18/03/05 - 24/03/05
Progressive	439
Dairygold	201
Kerry	158
SWS	122
Tipperary	34
Connacht	17
Arrabawn	0
Total	971



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Herdowner: Sample Herd NID IE1234567

Cow Details											Service Information								Preg Test Result		
Cow Tag	Cow FB	Cow EBI (Euro)	Milk (Euro)	Fertility (Euro)	Calving (Euro)	Beef (Euro)	Cow's Sire	Lact No.	Date Calved	Calving Diff	Twins (T)/ Aborts (A)	Pre-Service Heat Date	First		Second		Third			Fourth	
													Date	Bull	Date	Bull	Date	Bull		Date	Bull
IE331140290677	0677	56.11	25.05	29.08	0.53	1.45	MBH	1	15-Jan-05	2											
IE151458980283	0283	33.26	16.4	13.75	2.21	0.9	WEB	3	16-Jan-05	1											
IE331140210678	0678	56.11	25.05	29.08	0.53	1.45	MBH	1	17-Jan-05	1											
IE331140240672	0672	60.17	27.42	32.42	2.6	-2.27	MBH	1	19-Jan-05	1											
IE331140280651	651	31.2	47.61	-15.22	-0.2	-0.99	EZY	1	21-Jan-05	1											
IE331140290652	652	60.07	30.68	18.93	6.75	3.71	ELC	1	21-Jan-05	2											
IE331140240648	648	18.23	45.11	-23.6	-2.89	-0.39	EZY	2	23-Jan-05	1											
IE331140210653	653	34.79	38.25	-5.48	0.98	1.04	CQR	2	23-Jan-05	1											
IE331140280668	0668	0.09	20.01	-25.29	0.2	5.17	MLZ	1	24-Jan-05	2											
IE331140240664	0664	2.96	27.85	-18.86	-5.34	-0.69	EZY	1	25-Jan-05	1											
IE151445680284	284	8.61	-0.09	1.01	6.35	1.34	ELC	3	25-Jan-05	1											
IE331140260666	0666	28.43	26.83	4.72	-2.75	-0.37	RII	1	28-Jan-05	2											
IE241309230943	0943	41.63	44.09	-5.83	-0.1	3.47	KRR	3	28-Jan-05	2											
IE331140230663	0663	38.27	54.05	-19.9	1.26	2.86	EZY	1	29-Jan-05	2											
IE331140270675	0675	65.6	39.45	25.77	-0.59	0.97	MBH	1	29-Jan-05	2											
IE241458550640	640	35.34	39.14	-1.74	-3.08	1.02	343643325	2	29-Jan-05	2											
IE331140270659	659	26.82	45.17	-15.6	-1.74	-1.01	EZY	1	29-Jan-05	1											
IE151458930304	0304	18.99	5.42	7.93	-0.87	6.51	WEB	3	30-Jan-05	2											
IE151166970332	332	29.31	22.37	7.06	-2.48	2.36	WHR	2	30-Jan-05	2											
IE151458980275	0275	28.19	39.09	-8.79	-4.83	2.72	ASY	2	31-Jan-05	4											
IE331140220679	0679	30.46	54.05	-21.92	-1.44	-0.23	EZY	1	31-Jan-05	2											
IE331140290669	0669	65.24	47.59	9.19	3.79	4.67	AAP	1	1-Feb-05	4											
IE331140260674	0674	96.9	62.97	34.37	4.55	-4.99	UYC	1	1-Feb-05	2											
IE151445640306	306	56.66	37.32	16.76	-0.37	2.95	WEB	2	1-Feb-05	1											
IE331140270667	0667	13.87	21.43	-4.7	-2.7	-0.16	RII	1	4-Feb-05	1											
IE221087260415	808	34.14	9.89	26.57	6.45	-8.77	DSB	4	4-Feb-05	1											
IE331140250673	0673	28.2	23.28	-1.25	3.78	2.39	AAP	1	6-Feb-05	2											
IE331140230647	647	38.53	39.65	-4.36	0.96	2.28	CQR	1	6-Feb-05	1											
IE151458960273	0273	45.47	43.1	4.45	-5.7	3.62	MBW	2	7-Feb-05	1											
IE151166950297	297	40.52	27.1	13.91	3.72	-4.21	OYE	3	9-Feb-05	2											

G€N€ IR€LAND – Sample Letter & Application.

Andrew Cromie
Highfield House
Bandon
Co. Cork

21st March 2005.

Dear Andrew,

The “G€N€ IR€LAND” dairy program – More profit for Irish farmers.

Welcome to the “G€N€ IR€LAND” dairy program - a new and exciting progeny test initiative, involving ICBF, the National Cattle Breeding Centre (incorporating Progressive Genetics, Dairygold, South Western Services and Kerry Co-ops) and Dovea AI. The new initiative is focused on delivering more profit from dairy cattle breeding. It will focus on;

- Selecting “high EBI” young bulls from Irish cow families and selected international sources.
- Progeny testing these bulls in a “targeted group” of Irish dairy herds.
- Ensuring that program graduates are then available to Irish dairy farmers through AI.

As part of the initiative, we, the program partners, are inviting 300 dairy herds to join the program as progeny test herds. These herds will be the “test-bed” through which bulls from the Spring 2005 program are progeny tested (some 30 bulls in total). Involvement in the program as a progeny test herd will bring the following benefits to your herd:

1. Access to high EBI young bulls. The average EBI of the 30 bulls in the Spring 2005 “G€N€ IR€LAND” program is €75. The “pooled” reliability of these bulls is 95%, thereby ensuring that the increased profit/lactation can be achieved (i.e., due to spreading the risk associated with using young bulls of “lower reliability”).
2. An accelerated herd improvement program (with the possibility of providing young bulls to the program in the future).
3. Complimentary semen for progeny test bulls.
4. Avoidance of close matings for bulls on the program.
5. €50 cash payment for each progeny test heifer milk recorded (to be paid summer 2008).
6. Complimentary linear scoring for progeny test daughters (animals to be scored in summer 2008).

In order to avail of these incentives, participating herds will have to meet certain conditions regarding test bull usage and data recording. A copy of these is given in the attached contract, which you are required to sign to apply for entry to the 2005 program (contracts will be renewed on an annual basis with participating herd-owners). Please note that entry to the program will be at the discretion of the program partners.

If you require any further information on the G€N€ IR€LAND dairy program, then please contact Animal Events (1850 625 626) or alternatively email geneireland@icbf.com.

Please note that herd-owners interested in becoming involved in the Spring 2005 program should return the above application form by Friday 1st April 2005.

We look forward to working with you in this new and exciting initiative for Irish cattle breeding.

Yours sincerely

Brian Wickham
Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

Bernard Eivers
National Cattle Breeding Center

Dermot Cahill
Dovea AI

“G€€ IRELAND” dairy program 2005 - Application for membership

Farmer name Andrew Cromie
Herd Number IE1234567
Address Highfield House, Bandon, Co. Cork
Tel. 023 20223

I the above named (or otherwise authorized person) apply to become a member of the G€€ IRELAND dairy program as a progeny test herd for the Spring 2005 AI season. I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the program as outlined:

Terms and conditions.

- Sufficient test bull usage to ensure a minimum of 10 progeny test heifers in milk recording during Spring 2008.
- Bulls will be allocated at random to herd-owners, so as to maximize the accuracy of genetic evaluations and minimize potential inbreeding.
- Full participation in Animal Events recording including; (i) service data (for DIY AI herds), (ii) birth data (ID & ancestry), (iii) calving data (e.g., mortality, calving difficulty), (iv) health data (e.g., mastitis, lameness, calf diseases), and (v) management data (e.g., temperament).
- Daughters of progeny test sires will be milk recorded through an approved milk-recording scheme, with a maximum herd-recording interval of 8 weeks (where the herd is not currently milk recording, milk recording must commence Spring 2006 so as to ensure sufficient information on dams of progeny test calves).
- Daughters of progeny test sires (and selected contemporaries) will be made available for linear inspection (summer 2008).
- The program will not be liable due to the use of bulls from the program.
- Entry to the program will be at the discretion of the program partners (in selecting herds for the program, preference will be given to those herds with good ancestry records and with a willingness to use high quantities of test bull semen).

Semen requirements for Spring 2005 AI season..

1. How many straws do you require from progeny test bulls for this Spring AI season (please note that it generally requires 5 straws to result in a dairy herd replacement)? _____
2. Are you on DIY AI? If so, please indicate your DIY license number. _____
3. If not, which of the program partners (Munster AI, PG or Dovea AI) will you be using for your test bull inseminations? _____
4. What is your mobile telephone number (if different from above) _____

Iapply for membership to the G€€ IRELAND dairy program Spring 2005. Furthermore, I agree to the terms and conditions of the program as outlined above.

Signature of herd-owner.....
(or authorized person)

Date:.....

Please note that herd-owners interested in becoming involved in the Spring 2005 program should return the above application form by Friday 1st April 2005.