



UPDATE – for period 19th to 25th February 2005

1 ICBF Beef Industry Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting

Background.

- A meeting of the ICBF beef industry genetic evaluation consultation group took place in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, on February 24th 2005.
- The purpose of the meeting was to discuss developments in beef genetic evaluations and beef indexes with a view to releasing “new indexes” for AI bulls in Spring 2005.
- The meeting was the culmination of 4 such meetings (18th October 2004, 8th December 2004, 25th January 2005 and 24th February 2005) aimed at developing new and better genetic information for Irish beef farmers.

Summary of meeting

- At the meeting, bull proofs were presented for 4 sub-indexes; (i) beef production sub index (animals for slaughter), (ii) weaned calf sub-index (animals for export), (iii) beef calving performance (for suckler births) and (iv) dairy calving sub-index (for dairy births).
- No proofs were presented for maternal sub-indexes as there was insufficient data on which to base proofs for these traits. As a consequence, the “total beef index” was put on hold, pending the completion of work on the maternal sub-index.
- Response from the meeting was very positive towards the new indexes, with broad acknowledgement that the proofs reflected feelings on the ground regarding the relative merits of various bulls & breeds for each of the relevant traits.

Recommendations from the Meeting.

1. *That the ICBF project team continues its work on the various sub-indexes, with special priority given to a maternal sub-index, the total beef index and the development of indexes for pedigree animals of all breeds.*
2. *That ICBF develop an “ICBF Active Beef Bull List” for 2005 (refer to attached draft example based on bulls listed in 2004). This list would include a further run of calving performance data (taking account of 2005 births) and would be forwarded to the industry for their comment prior to publication. The list would be then published in the Irish Farmers Journal Spring AI supplement (7th April 2005).*

Future developments.

- The meeting identified the following areas for further work.
 - i. **Animal Events.** ICBF and the beef industry should collectively work to maximize the number of suckler herds involved in Animal Events and the cattle-breeding database.
 - ii. **Economic Values.** In the next review of economic values, ICBF should give special consideration to the following areas:
 - *Future price of beef product, including carcass price, weanling cow price and cull cow price.*
 - *Future price differentials for carcass conformation.*
 - *Labour costs associated with rearing & replacing suckler cows.*
 - *Veterinary costs associated with calving difficulty.*
 - iii. **Trait recording.** ICBF should initiate work to include information on losses between birth (currently recorded as dead at birth) and weaning.
 - iv. **Further research.** ICBF and Teagasc should initiate work to examine the relationship between traits recorded at Tully (e.g., feed intake, linear scores) and traits at farm level (e.g., lifetime feed intake and carcass traits).



2 ICBF Board Meeting

At its meeting on Thursday, following the Beef Industry Meeting, the decisions made included the following:

- To extend the Chief Executives contract.
- To endorse the two recommendations from the Beef Industry Meeting (see 1 above).
- To empower the Chairman and Chief Executive to ensure corrective action is taken in relation to an advertisement and letter in the Irish Farmers Journal dated 26th February 2005. New Zealand Genetics had placed the material in the Journal. The Board's main concern was that Irish farmers could be misled by the information published and that the content of the advertisement was not in keeping with ICBF's standards for the publication of its genetic evaluations.

3 Cattle Breeding – Important Dates

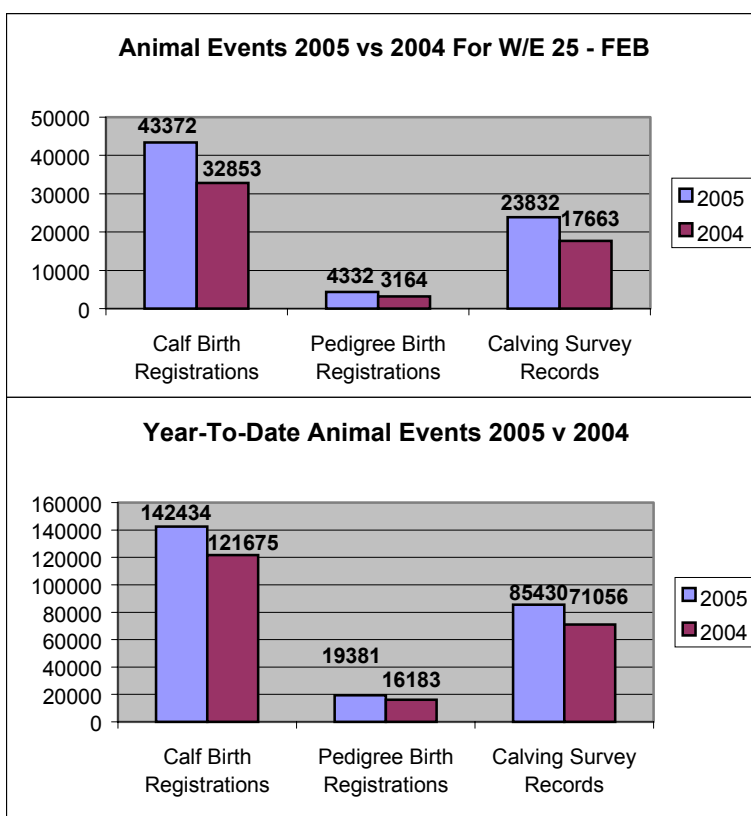
- **8pm on Wednesday 2nd March**, at the Blarney Park Hotel, Blarney. The Cork Holstein Friesian Club has invited speakers from ICBF and the cattle breeding industry to discuss a number of topics including the enhanced EBI and its implications for breeders. This meeting is open to all interested in Holstein Friesian breeding.
- **10:30 – 17:00 on Saturday 5th March, at Tully, Kildare**. Performance tested bull sale. Sale commences at 12:30. 105 bulls on sale.
- **10:00 – 17:00 Saturday 19th March, at the Punchestown Event Centre, Naas, Co. Kildare. National Spring Fair**. ICBF and its member organisations will have a stand at this event featuring: the database, electronic DIY milk recording, recent enhancements to the EBI and progeny testing. This promises to be a day where dairy farmers interested in cattle breeding can obtain the latest information on all aspects of breeding.

4 Database Update

- 120 New Herds added to the database.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events office:

"Animal Event sheet numbers are again very high this week, and the numbers of 'Sire error reports' being returned has greatly increased. The Number of New herds and Dry off sheets are low and the volume of AE/ICBF queries coming into the call centre has greatly increased."

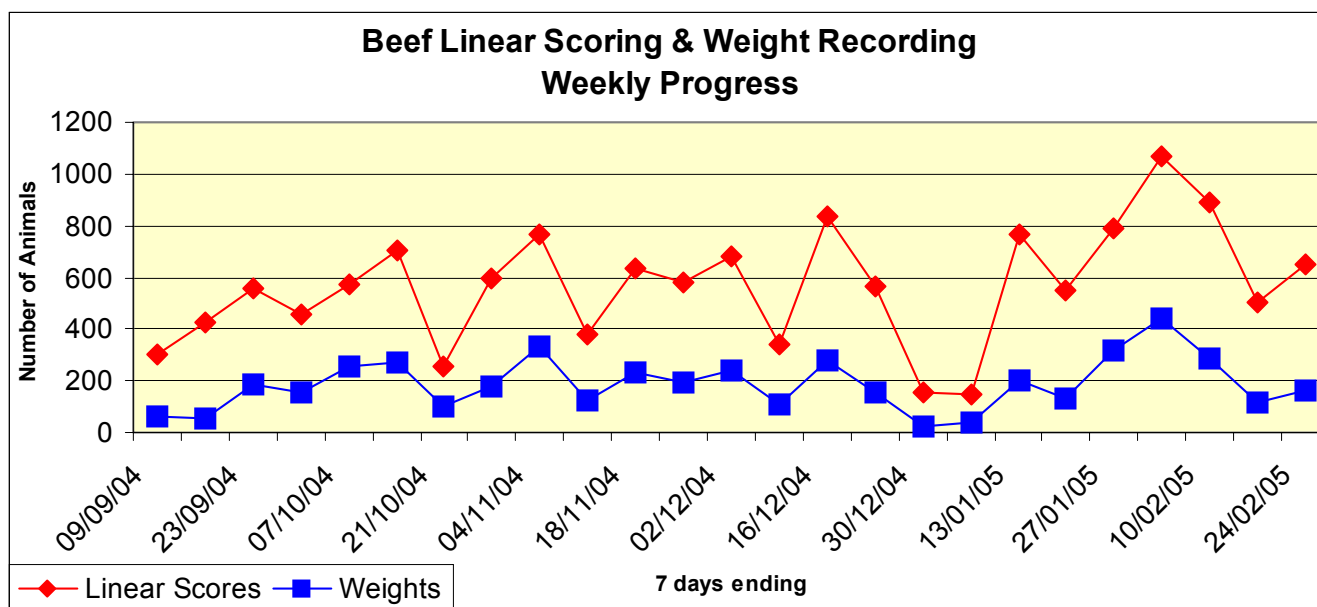
- 3,043 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. 8,500 Teagasc beef clients have received sign-up forms for Animal Events this week. The use of the website among Teagasc specialists has increased significantly, and the full roll out to Teagasc advisors is expected to happen within two weeks.





- The process of loading of the latest dairy genetic evaluations has been completed and work on EBI reports has now begun. This process will take 2-3 weeks.
- Work on the rollout of the AI handhelds is continuing in partnership with SWS AI.
- Work on the generating complete statistics from the database for 2004 is on-going.
- Modifications to DNA label processing for herdbooks has been completed this week.
- Work on the full integration of SMS text messaging to the database is continuing. The basic infrastructure is now in place and is being tested.

5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



6 Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 18/02/05 - 25/02/05
Progressive	420
Dairygold	183
SWS	141
Kerry	95
Connacht	28
Tipperary	8
Arrabawn	5
Total	880



7 Tully

- The Open Day at Tully on 19-2-05 attracted a crowd of 200 people. All were impressed with the standard of bulls on show.
- The final BLUPs' and performance figures will be on the ICBF web site by 28-2-05.
- The catalogue for the sale on 5-3-05 will be available from 1-3-05.
- A group of beef farmers from Kilkenny will visit Tully on 1-3-05.

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Draft Active Beef Bull List for AI Sires (based on sires on the 2004 beef bull list).

Bull Details				Beef Sub Indexes				Calving sub index			PTA Beef Production Traits						PTA Calving Traits				Semen			
Code	BULL NAME	AI station	Breed	Recs	BPSI	Rel	WCSI	Rel	Recs	BCSI	Rel	Wwt	Cwt	Cconf	Cfat	FI Life	CQ	% CD	GL Days	Mort	CD_Mat	Price	Avail	
BJP	BOHEY JASPER	PG/NW	AA	76	€25.2	75	€59.9	88	390	-€3.0	76	3.2	11	1.7	1.2	43.1	42.9	-1.3	1.5	1.3	-1.3	€8	H	
DVE	DRUMDEEVIN DANCER	PG/NW	AA	93	€43.6	78	€66.9	89	313	-€5.3	71	-5	17.7	2.3	0.8	38.3	56.5	0.4	2.4	0.8	-1.9	€8	H	
KJE	KBJ JETTA 64 D	PG/NW	AA	46	€45.8	67	€91.2	86	75	-€4.1	58	17.2	20.1	2	0.8	110.8	52.9	-0.8	2.3	1.1	-1.4	€8	H	
LHL	LAHEENS LARRY	DOVEA AI	AA	152	€13.5	81	€44.6	90	253	-€6.1	72	0.5	7.1	1.3	0.8	91.4	33.8	-1.1	2.4	1.8	-1	€8	M	
LJP	LAVALLY JACKPOT	PG/NW	AA	30	€33.5	65	€61.4	81				5	16.4	1.6	1	115.6	42.2					€6	H	
MTL	MINIT OF LISS	PG/NW	AA	131	€57.4	81	€79.8	88	381	-€1.6	77	-8.2	22.8	2.8	1.2	-0.3	69.6	-2.4	0.6	1.6	-1	€8	L	
PBO	PROUD BOY OF DUNLEVER	PG/NW	AA	59	€14.3	72	€40.8	87	61	-€3.9	54	-9.3	5.1	1.7	1.1	-5.2	40.6	-2.1	1	2	-1.3	€8	H	
RHG	RAINBOW HILLS GOVERNOR 128X	PG/NW	AA	27	€15.5	58	€43.3	82				-0.5	7.8	1.4	0.8	81.8	33.9					€10	L	
RHD	117	PG/NW	AA	131	€25.9	80	€47.9	88	500	-€1.5	77	-7	11.3	1.8	1.1	33.5	43.8	-0.6	1.4	0.5	-1.2	€10	H	
RUH	ROOSE ULAH	PG/NW	AA	62	€26.0	75	€55.7	86	478	-€1.2	75	-8.6	8.1	2.1	1.4	-72.8	51.5	-2.3	1.1	1.4	-1	€8	M	
AVT	AVIATEUR DU BUCHY	PG/NW	BB	24	€110.7	56	€187.6	74	58	-€16.5	51	42.8	37.3	3.7	-0.6	-58.3	101.5	4.9	-0.6	2.2	0.2	€8	H	
JOK	JOKER DU PONT D'HERBAIS	PG/NW	BB																				€8	H
BIG	BUTINEUR DU GRAND COURTY	PG/NW	BB																				€8	H
NEZ	NOTEZ LE ET DU PONT DU MESSE	PG/NW	BB																				€8	H
FPS	FRIPON DE SOMME ET	PG/NW	BB	12			€111.0	72				-0.7	22.6	3.4	-0.6	-208	86.1					€8	H	
GUY	GENERAL DU GORTIL GAYOT	PG/NW	BB	74	€89.2	74	€109.7	84	972	-€26.0	83	-6.1	26.3	3.7	-1.1	-188.7	90.5	6.2	0.8	3.9	-0.1	€10	H	
NRO	NERO	PG/NW	BB	92	€96.9	78	€131.7	86	1002	-€15.1	82	5.1	29.9	3.8	-1	-154.9	96.2	3.8	0.2	2.2	0.9	€8	H	
TIY	TINTIN DE MY	PG/NW	BB	186	€101.4	82	€130.7	92	395	-€20.6	76	5.3	32.5	3.8	-0.7	-154.9	95.3	5.7	0.5	2.7	0.1	€10	H	
VDC	VICTORIEUX D AU CHENE	DOVEA AI	BB	307	€106.3	85	€136.6	88	507	-€23.7	78	8.4	34.8	3.8	-1.1	-116.2	96.6	8.5	2.1	1.8	-0.2	€12	M	
BSK	BARRACKS DUKAKIS	PG/NW	CH	52	€42.7	66	€76.8	89				0.5	14.8	2.3	-0.1	19	58.6					€8	M	
CF44	DOONALLY CRISTAL	PG/NW	CH	89	€100.1	71	€142.0	93				11.7	40.5	3.8	-0.5	163.9	97.5					€8	H	
CF43	DOONALLY DONALD	PG/NW	CH	266	€89.2	83	€127.4	96	189	-€13.1	67	3.8	36.7	3.7	-0.3	168.7	94.2	1.2	2.3	2.6	-2.2	€8	H	
CF49	DOONALLY FABUS	PG/NW	CH	86	€109.4	70	€160.9	93				25.4	46.1	3.7	-0.5	236.3	98.3					€8	H	
CF46	DOONALLY FANION	PG/NW	CH	65	€84.9	70	€125.7	90				7.3	33.6	3.5	-0.9	154.2	89.4					€8	H	
CF47	DOONALLY FELD	PG/NW	CH	132	€61.8	72	€103.4	95				12.8	26.9	2.6	-1.1	250.8	66.8					€8	H	
CF48	DOONALLY FUTUR	PG/NW	CH	62	€88.8	68	€131.9	91				18.1	34.7	3.2	-0.3	91.4	83.3					€8	H	
CF41	ENFIELD CLOVIS	PG/NW	CH																				€8	L
HKI	HARA KIRI	PG/NW	CH	615	€116.1	87	€155.2	98	127	-€20.7	64	14.3	43.3	4.1	-1	57.6	105.1	4.4	3.9	2.8	-2.6	€12	L	
HWN	HOLLOWTREE NICHOLAS	PG/NW	CH	51	€111.8	57	€158.7	90	70	-€18.2	55	22	44.3	3.8	-1	159.1	100.1	3.6	3.8	2.5	-2.2	€8	H	
KFC	KNOCKANE FLARE	DOVEA AI	CH	163	€64.7	82	€109.0	95	63	-€26.0	54	14.5	28.5	2.7	-0.4	226.7	69.4	7.7	5	2.3	-4.1	€8	M	
MDO	MOGADOR	PG/NW	CH	514	€107.9	81	€177.0	98	154	-€27.8	67	26.8	43	4.2	-1	217	109.3	8	2.1	3.2	-4.8	€8	H	
BWT	BAWNGARRIFF PILOT	PG/NW	HH	112	€11.3	81	€43.6	89	608	-€7.0	78	3.4	8	1.2	1.1	134.9	30.1	0.1	3.3	1.3	-1.2	€8	H	
CJO	CLASHAGAD JOE AI	DOVEA AI	HH	36	€25.7	69	€60.5	81				-3.7	10.9	2	1.5	28.7	50.2					€8	H	
CKT	CLONAKENNY FENTON	DOVEA AI	HH	138	€23.1	82	€57.5	89	266	-€9.3	73	9.4	14	1.3	1.4	163.9	34.8	1.4	3.2	1.3	-1.6	€8	M	
CFB	CLOONFREE BRIT LAD	PG/NW	HH	39	€4.4	58	€44.5	85				7.7	5.8	1	1.2	159.1	26.5					€8	M	
GDS	GOLDENFIELD 1 SUPERSTAR	PG/NW	HH	32	€60.7	58	€105.7	83	71	-€11.8	55	20.7	29.4	2.3	1.4	197.7	60.6	2.9	4.3	1	-1.5	€8	H	
RCE	RATHCOR EXPRESS	DOVEA AI	HH	88	€31.5	80	€70.3	88	264	-€5.9	72	5.3	16.4	1.9	1.2	159.1	48.8	-0.2	3.7	1.1	-0.9	€8	M	
SBD	SHINAGH BANDON	MUNSTER AI	HH	49	€32.3	71	€83.0	86				22.4	17.6	1.5	1	207.4	41.4					€7	M	
BHH	BARNHILL HAMISH	PG/NW	LM	134	€68.0	82	€111.2	92	959	-€21.7	84	-8	17.3	3.8	-0.2	-208	93.6	4.1	5.9	2.9	-3.7	€8	H	
BHO	BREEMOUNT HULIO	PG/NW	LM	40	€68.2	69	€123.4	84	69	-€12.5	55	8.7	21.9	3.4	-0.2	-39	86.2	1.4	5.3	1.8	-2.5	€8	H	
BHY	BARNHILL HARRY	PG/NW	LM	105	€57.9	76	€90.9	93				-1.9	16.5	2.9	-1.1	-72.8	71.8					€8	H	
FL17	BOLIDE	MUNSTER AI	LM	63	€71.3	77	€116.3	62	78	-€9.3	55	-2.5	21.2	3.7	-0.2	-121.1	92	0	5.7	1.6	-1.6	€7	H	
CIO	CORBALLY IDOL	DOVEA AI	LM	46	€61.5	68	€95.5	85				-10.6	18.1	3.4	-0.4	-92.1	84.1					€8	H	
DGA	DERG ALAN	PG/NW	LM	75	€69.5	77	€121.9	90	70	-€11.4	55	-1.8	18.5	3.8	-0.5	-154.9	95.6	1.5	6.5	1.2	-1.7	€8	H	
DAD	DUHALLOW AIDEN	MUNSTER AI	LM	32	€102.6	66	€160.5	83				11.2	33.6	4.4	-0.5	-82.4	112.2					€7	H	
DWB	DUHALLOW BRENDAN	MUNSTER AI	LM	30	€81.5	68	€137.1	77				14.2	27.1	3.5	-0.4	-34.1	91.3					€7	H	
KHH	KNOCKNAGREE HAWTHORN	MUNSTER AI	LM	47	€43.4	58	€72.1	89				-9.6	9.2	2.7	-0.3	-179	65					€7	H	
PYR	POULNASHERRY CRUSADER	MUNSTER AI	LM	119	€63.1	86	€87.2	86	241	-€9.1	71	-5.1	18	2.9	-0.1	-174.2	72.2	1.2	6.4	0.8	-2.5	€7	H	
BKY	BALLAGAN KELLY	MUNSTER AI	ST	105	€25.1	68	€105.6	93				27.7	14.2	1.9	0.2	304	53.5					€7	H	
DFI	DOLFI (ET)	DOVEA AI	ST	67	€33.9	76	€96.0	86				18	16.4	2.1	0.1	236.3	55.8					€10	L	
DBO	DRUMNEIL BOLERO	PG/NW	ST	118	€50.8	73	€92.4	93				7.8	26.8	2.5	-0.2	352.3	63.3					€8	L	
FBX	FREIGHDUFF BRENDAN	PG/NW	ST	332	€50.4	87	€135.4	96	154	-€24.2	66	25	21.1	3	0.2	207.4	79.2	6.4	4.2	2.7	-4.1	€12	M	
HWB	HOCHSCHWAB	DOVEA AI	ST	110	€30.6	85	€102.7	92	28	-€17.1	50	30.2	18.3	1.7	0.1	352.3	48.8	3.4	5.1	2.1	-2.1	€8	M	
HRG	HURTIG	PG/NW	ST	63	€65.8	66	€125.5	88	53	-€8.3	50	9.8	27.6	3.4	-0.1	202.5	86.7	-0.4	2.2	2.1	-1.7	€8	M	
SKB	SEABANK BLANKO	PG/NW	ST	38	€50.0	69	€112.7	85				19.6	22.4	2.5	-0.4	250.8	67.1					€8	H	
SCO	SUIR CON	PG/NW	ST	40	€57.0	66	€124.2	84				14.7	24.7	3.1	-0.1	236.3	80.9					€8	H	