



UPDATE – FOR WEEK 20TH MARCH TO 26TH MARCH 2004.

1. Audit & Finance Sub-Committee

- On Wednesday the Sub-Committee met with the auditors and discussed their report for 2003.
- The Sub-Committee recommended that the Board approve the audited accounts for 2003.
- A document describing ICBF's internal procedures was considered by the Sub-Committee and recommended for endorsement by the Board subject to a minor clarification.
- The Sub-Committee requested that the CE table a report at its next meeting dealing with procedures and systems for providing protection of ICBF's assets.

2. Building Name – Highfield House

- South Western Services (SWS) has finalized the name for the building occupied by ICBF's main office. The name – **Highfield House** – is based on the fact that the building is located on the highest fields on SWS's land. Many thanks to all of those who made suggestions.
- ICBF's postal address has thus changes to: **Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co.Cork**. All other contact details remain unchanged.

3. Annual General Meeting

- ICBF's Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th May commencing at 14:00 in Port Laois.
- This year the term of appointment expires for a number of Board members. The relevant member organizations need to decide on appointments for these positions prior to the AGM. The positions are:
 - **Herd Book** – Mike Magan & John O'Sullivan
 - **Milk Recording** – Billy Nagle & Kevin Meade
 - **Artificial Insemination** – Doreen Corridan
 - **Farming Organisations** – Pauric Walsh & Ray O'Malley

4. EBI Extension – Farm Walks

- The farm walk schedule has been finalized and advertised in the Farmers Journal this week. Invitations have been sent to milk recording herds to participate in the Farm Walk in their area.
- A special farm walk has been organized for the Board of IHFA and selected farmers. This will take place on Tuesday 6th April starting in Port Laois.
- Series of small advertisements for use in the press are currently under preparation.

5. Database Project

a) Newly Live Herdbooks

- 1,097 new pedigree registrations received during the past week.
- 42 new Beef Herds added to the database and Animal Events materials have been issued, but may have been impacted by postal strike.
- A further Limousin and Simmental BLUP extract has taken place with BLUPs available on Monday next week.
- Some further work was done on developing the solution which will allow the linear score reports and certificates to go out together from the breed society offices. This should be completed next week, with a roll-out to the herd books the following week.



- A customer search function has been developed and tested to make it easier for herd books to find member details using various criteria - this will be issued to the breed society offices next week.
- Further refining of herd book categorization rules was completed.

b) Other database activities

- The preparation of EBI reports has been completed and printing has begun.
- As part of the EBI report pack, a sign-up facility for the receipt of information by farmers via text messages has been issued.
- A new revision of the SORD handheld linear scoring software has been implemented with a few scorers this week. A decision will be taken next week whether to extend this to all scorers.
- Work on a back-up solution, which will reduce downtime in the event of a database failure, has been completed. This system has been in place for the last four weeks.

6. International Identifications – Student from France

- A student from France – Sandrine Attunes – will be spending some eight weeks with ICBF over the summer of 2004.
- Her project will be to ensure the identification's held on the ICBF database for all French born ancestors of Irish born animals of the Charolais, Limousin, Montbeliarde, Normande, Blonde Aquitaine, Saler, and Parthenais breeds comply with the INTERBULL standard. This is an essential step in the establishment international genetic evaluations.
- Prior to starting with ICBF in mid-June she will spend two weeks in Paris at Institut de l'Elevage becoming familiar with the identifications used for the relevant breeds in France.

7. Milk Recording

a) Database Project - Milk Recording

- No. Herdowners Milk Recorded in IRIS = 4,994

Dairygold	1,648
Progressive	1,492
SWS	819
Kerry	707
Nenagh	127
Connacht Gold	121
Tipperary	80
- No. Herd tests processed in IRIS = 17,633

Dairygold	8,091
Progressive	6,318
SWS	1,402
Kerry	911
Connacht Gold	468
Nenagh	360
Tipperary	83

b) Weekly Update

- No. herd tests processed in last 7 days = 1,077. Another record week.

Dairygold	329
Progressive	327



SWS	199
Kerry	166
Tipperary	25
Connacht Gold	18
Nenagh	13

c) Management Reports for Milk Recording Offices

ICBF is in process of "revamping" the Intranet based Reports used by Milk Recording Office staff & management. This week and next we are consulting with Organisations on the measures needed to run the business. We are particularly interested in what key performance indicators an Organisation needs to track to drive improvements in service levels to clients. For example, one critical success factor identified is the **Turnaround Time** for Test Reports. That is, how long it takes for the farmer to get his milk recording results after the recording visit. We expect the consultation process and report development to take two weeks. As soon as the reports are operational we plan to include relevant national averages in this update on a weekly basis.

d) DIY Electronic Milk Recording Project

On Fri 26th we had a project review. Present were ICBF, Dairygold and Tru Test representatives. Project is now 5 weeks in operation and in this meeting we reviewed where we got to, what went well, what are the issues to address and what are the next steps. Summary is as follows:

- 15 herds identified to partake in pilot trial, ranging from 20 to 300 cows with over 1,000 cows in all.
- 11 of which have been recorded to date - by Mar 31st all will have completed 1st recording with 2 herds already having completed second recording.
- Farmer Feedback on user friendliness has been positive - good start.
- Hot wash protocol is a "change" for some farmers - this is a mandatory condition of use.
- System works better if Animal Events are up to date from farmer prior to recording as this system does not cater for assumed calving dates. Weekly post of new events is recommended to partake in this system.
- Foss machines in Lab for first month could not read barcode - resolved this week
- Plan is to consolidate and bed in process in April + May with ramp up of further herds in June/July.



Figure 1. Review meeting for electronic milk meter project.



8. Tully Update.

- The Angus Bull purchased by Dovea AI Station on the 6th March has passed all health tests and has gone to Dovea.
- The Tully sale report is available on ICBF's website and will be considered at the next Beef Recording Technical meeting – 15th April.
- Applications for the next intake of bulls are being compiled and inspections will begin on the 5th April.
- A group of students from the Cistersian College are visiting Tully on Monday the 29th March.

Brian

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