



UPDATE – for period 20th to 26th November 2004

1 ICBF Strategy & Budget for 2005

Next week the Board of ICBF will consider its budget for 2005. This budget has been developed to deliver on the Strategic Plan established by the Board in September. In formulating the Strategic Plan a review was undertaken in which strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified:

The two most important of the 19 threats considered during the formulation of the Plan were:

- The increasing pressure dairy and beef farmers are under from reduced prices and increased costs.
- The continuing reduction in the availability of affordable farm labour.

Two of the greatest, out of 18 opportunities identified were:

- The cost of information technologies are continuing to decline thus offering great potential for enabling data collection to be more accurate, more timely, and lower in cost.
- The new information technologies also offer great potential for providing farmers with better quality farm management information at lower cost.

The two greatest strengths out of the 20 identified were:

- The Animal Events system for collecting data from farms without duplication of effort.
- The integrated cattle-breeding database that is now fully operational for dairy and beef herds.

The two most critical weaknesses of the 22 identified were:

- The low uptake of milk recording.
- The low uptake of artificial insemination in dairy and beef herds.

It was after careful consideration of factors such as these that the Strategic Plan was developed. The budget for 2005 was formulated to deliver as much as possible of the Strategic Plan within the resource constraints of ICBF and its members. The main priorities provided for in the budget include:

- Increasing the availability of accurate and relevant genetic evaluations for beef and dairy cattle.
- Increasing the uptake of milk recording through the introduction of the electronic DIY service.
- Increasing the level of recording in beef and dairy herds by making the services more attractive. This being achieved by reducing the cost and effort associated with data collection and by improving the quality of the management information provided.
- The implementation of optimised breeding schemes for all breeds. This will include the introduction of targeted-herd progeny testing for Holstein Friesians and beef breeds.

2 Board Meeting Next Week

- Papers for the Board meeting on Wednesday 1st December were posted on Wednesday 24th.
- Agenda items include:
 - Capital funding for the AI Handheld system and the Electronic DIY Milk Recording system.
 - Policy for reimbursement of Board member expenses & Chairman's honorarium.
 - Budget for 2005.
 - Expansion of Electronic DIY Milk Recording.
 - Membership application from the Irish Rotbunt Society Limited.
 - Recommendation to DAF to use of EBI reliability for definition of proven bulls.



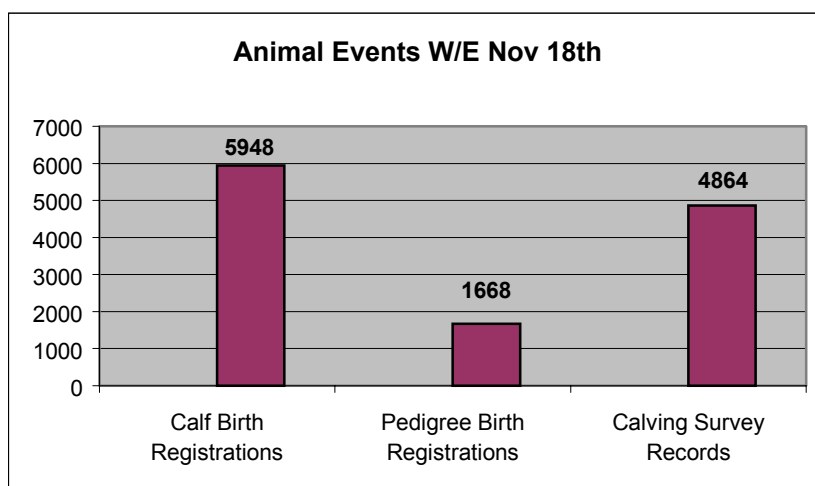
- Minimum reliability for bulls to be included in ICBF's Active List for Holstein Friesian bulls.

3 Milk Recording Sub-Committee

At its meeting on Tuesday 23rd Nov. the Sub-Committee agreed to the following recommendation: **That three new electronic DIY milk recording cells be established in the spring of 2005 covering as large a geographical region as possible subject to satisfactory arrangements for their operation and funding being agreed between ICBF and the respective Milk Recording Organisation(s).**

4 Database Update

- 300 new herds added to the database this week. The larger number is a result of the current Teagasc/ICBF initiative.
- The AI hand-held application was demonstrated to Dovea AI technicians last Monday evening and was very positively received. Over the next couple of weeks we will meet with the other AI organisations, and with the Department of Agriculture. Final testing is on-going.



- The development work on the Beef Carcass reports will be completed today and a copy of the report will be included in next weeks update. The report will be issued to farmers next week.
- Teagasc clients have returned 1,460 permission forms in the past week, and they continue to be returned at the rate of around 150 per day. Development is continuing on the solution that will make available farmer reports to those the farmer decides should have access.
- The development web-server has been received at ICBF and will be commissioned next week.
- A meeting with Veterinary Ireland took place this week around possible data flows to and from the database in relation to animal health events.
- Interviews took place this week for the graduate position which arose with the departure of Richie Ryan recently.

5 Tully

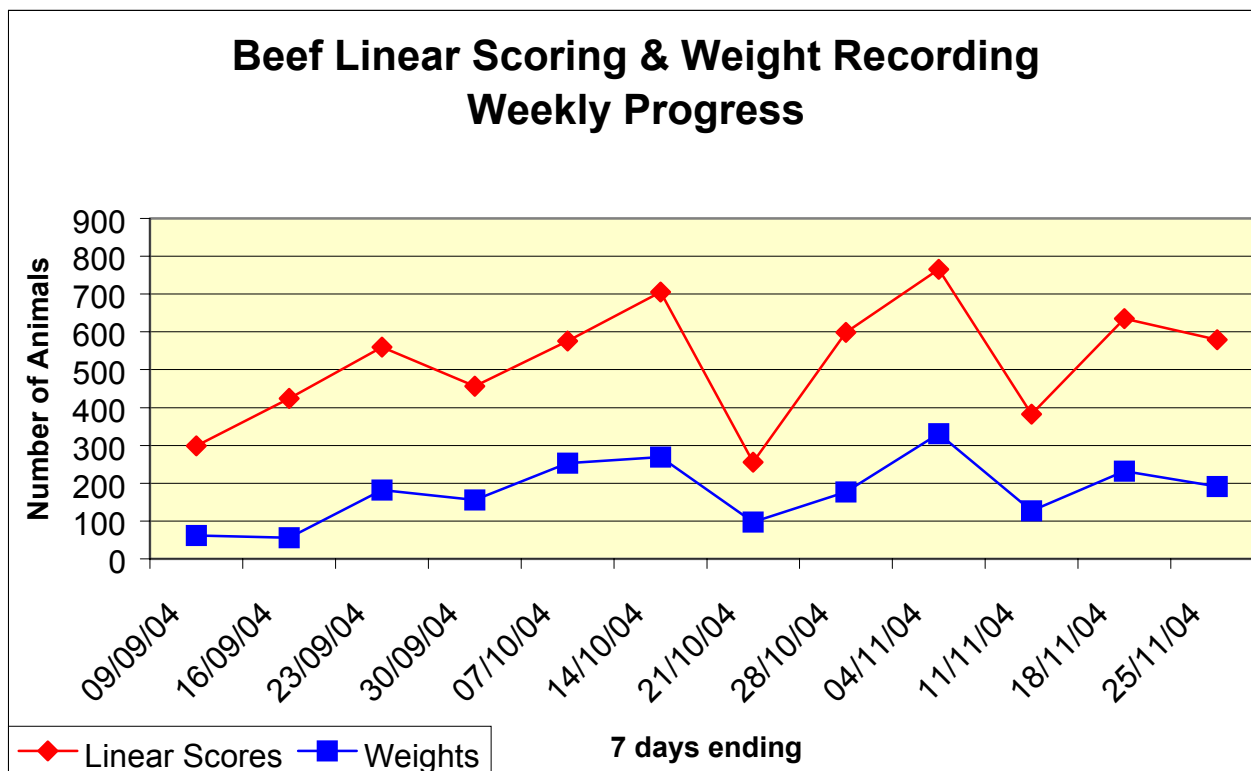
- A total of 18 bulls from the May '04 intake have been sold from the station. Six bulls are entered for the Limousin sale in Tullow on the 2nd of December.
- Plans are under way to establish a section of ICBF's web site dedicated to Tully. It is planned to have this finished by 17th of December.
- A group of pedigree breeders from England will visit Tully on Saturday the 27th of November.



6 Milk Recording Processing

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 05/11 - 12/11	Herds Recorded year to date 2004
Progressive	388	2,225
Dairygold	146	1,617
SWS	140	964
Kerry	100	1,098
Connacht	28	121
Tipperary	26	147
Arrabawn	9	120
Total	837	6,292

7 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



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