



UPDATE – for period 21st to 28th August 2004

1 Beef Technical Meeting

- The agenda for the meeting on Wednesday 1st September (10:30 to 13:00 at Horse & Jockey) was distributed on Wednesday.

2 Consultation with AI Companies and Dairy Herd Books

- The agenda for next weeks meeting on Wednesday 1st September (14:00 to 16:30 at Horse & Jockey) has been distributed.

3 Beef Linear Scoring and Weight Recording

- A major step forward in linear scoring and weight recording commenced this week. Agreements were finalized for a standard system involving contracted linear scorers who will linear score and weight record all breeds. **Attached is a draft copy of the ICBF newsletter** currently being finalized for distribution to pedigree beef herds describing the new arrangements?

4 Database

Newly Live Herdbooks

- 340 new attempted pedigree registrations received during the past week.
- 20 new Beef Herds added to the database.
- The DNA processing function on the intranet is now operational. This has significantly improved the user interface of the DNA processing function for the breed societies. Further amendments will be made as they arise.
- The weekly BLUP run for Limousin, Charolais, and Simmental animals was executed and the results will be available on Monday.
- The ET data input application has been issued to the beef herd books.
- **Attached is a sample Breeding Female Progeny report** which has been developed and which the Charolais society have already issued to all members. For each pedigree breeding female that a breeder has on his/her farm, it shows all their progeny, along with the available genetic evaluation information on the cow and each of her progeny. This is an illustration of the sort of report that can readily be produced from the database. Not only does it include pedigree-registered progeny but also all progeny that were not registered and of course, it could be produced for non-pedigree suckler cows or even dairy cows. The data is in the database and it is only a matter of determining what farmers would find valuable and making it available to them.

Other database activities

- Work in the installation of the NRS Sire Mating advisory program is continuing. It is hoped that a working version will be available for review by the end of September.
- Significant effort has been put into getting all available beef performance data into IRIS in order to facilitate the on-going work around the new Beef Indices. This includes all the historical data from Tully, from Central Beef progeny testing and from the Targeted Herd Beef progeny testing. This is supplementing weighing and linear scoring already in the database from the beef herd-books and a large amount of slaughter data from the meat factories.
- The development of an initial suite of reports, along with the website development which will support Herd Health Initiatives is continuing and it is expected that this development will be completed by the end of next week.



- This week, a series of meetings with the AI member organizations have occurred with a view to finalizing the design of the AI Technician Handheld, development of which is about to get under way. It is expected that the finalization of a partner to help us develop this application will be completed next week.
- The next issue of Concentrate Input reports is planned for next week.

5 Tully

- 29 bulls out of 58 from the December '03 intake have been sold to date. Prices range from €2,100 to €5,500. All bulls will be gone from the field by 1st September and re-seeding will start from 6th September.
- A further 32 applications have been received for the September '04 intake. This brings the total up to a record 287. Inspections have started and will be finished by 4th September.
- The Department of Agriculture have agreed to continue health test bulls for Tully until the end of 2004.

6 Milk Recording

Database Project – Milk Recording

- **No. Herdowners Milk Recorded in IRIS YTD = 6,158**

Progressive	2,141
Dairygold	1,580
Kerry	1,090
SWS	963
Tipperary	146
Connacht Gold	120
Nenagh	118

Weekly Update

- **No. herd tests processed in last 7 days = 1,116**

Progressive	444
Dairygold	276
Kerry	215
SWS	135
Connacht Gold	26
Nenagh	18
Tipperary	2

7 Genetic Evaluations

- The specification for extracting data for the evaluation of Beef traits was finalized and tested this week. The first test data for live weights, linear score and carcass weights & grades for data has been extracted. This will be used to set up the system for the research and test evaluation of beefs traits in the following weeks.
- A file was sent to the Interbull for the next routine test evaluation due to start on Monday. Ireland sent genetic evaluation results for production traits with a change in the genetic base from cows born in 1995 to cows born in 2000. Participating in this test will allow Ireland to implement this change if desired before the next Interbull test evaluation in March, 2005.
- Most of the feedback from the most recent genetic evaluation result have centered on the search for bull results especially for foreign bulls. We wish to again advise that a more extensive search facility is now available on the ICBF website and the Irish equivalent for bulls evaluated by the Interbull can be found there. You can search by AI Code if the bull has one, by the last 6 digits of the number or by the name of the bull.



8 Progeny Test Data Migration to IRIS

Tully & Progeny Test data is now being loaded to the database. Following are summary statistics on the files being loaded before editing has taken place for invalid and missing records.

Tully

- 2,256 bulls that completed their Performance Test (1993 – 2004).
- 23,715 weight and feed intake records
- Number of Bulls per Breed:
 - AA:162, AU:32, BA:63, BB:47, CH:480, HE:159, LM:753, MRI:12,
 - PI:8, SA:47, SH:16, SI:477

Central Progeny Test

- 918 bulls that were Central Progeny Tested (1973-2004)
- 17,793 slaughter records
- 58,438 weight records
- Number of Bulls per Breed:
 - AA:41, BA:8, BB:28, CH:73, HE:126, HO:520 LM:48, MRI:3,
 - PI:1, RM:1, SI:69

Targeted On-Farm Progeny Test

- 132 bulls that were Targetted On-Farm Progeny Tested (2000-2004)
- 1,236 slaughter records
- 3,842 weight records
- Number of Bulls per Breed:
 - AA:11, AU:1, BB:30, CH:35, FR:12 HE:8, HO: LM:26, MRI:1,
 - SH:1 SI:7

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Newsletter to all Pedigree beef herds

Dear Breeders,

We in ICBF and our Breed Society members would like to thank you for your excellent co-operation regarding the many changes that have occurred for most of you in your herd book procedures over the past eight months. We appreciate that this has been a difficult time and many teething problems needed to be overcome. However, though a tremendous amount has now been achieved, more needs to be done.

The following are issues of concern and some additional information raised by the ICBF and Breed Societies that should be read carefully

ANIMAL EVENTS

In the area of Animal Events, progress has been excellent, but we need to remind you of some on-going issues;

1. Don't forget to put enter your first seven yellow tag digits at the top centre of each new page.
2. When you enter a sire for a calf, please use either his:
 - A.I. Code or
 - His Herd Book Number or
 - His NID (yellow tag)
3. **Never** enter the bull's name as the sire for the calf.
4. Breed of sire must always be filled in, even if its an A.I. sire.
5. Be very careful not to put an entry in the **DEAD** column unless your calf is actually dead! "1" = abortion and "2" = dead at birth.

A.I. SERVICE DETAILS

Remember that this year we need details on all A.I. services. This should be done as soon as possible after the insemination and of course supersedes you having to send in an A.I. cert. at time of birth.

In recording your AI service details the following applies. If you:

1. are a user of the main AI technician services, namely Progressive Genetics, SWS, Dairygold, Kerry and Dovea – you do not need to enter any AI service details into the animal events or send any service details to the breed society. Such service details are entered automatically into the ICBF database.

However you must ensure that the AI technician records at least the last five digits of the cow's NID (yellow tag).

2. are a user of Bova or Eurogene AI technician services or if you are DIY AI you must enter the service details into the animal events recording book. If this information is not recorded, the birth of the subsequent calf next spring, WILL NOT be accepted for pedigree registration. If you have omitted to do this, please do so immediately.

Contact your breed society if you are unsure on any of the above.

MATERNAL INDEXES

It is extremely important that all insemination services are recorded, as this information will be a vital ingredient of the fertility element of the new maternal indexes currently under development. If you only put down the one insemination your female holds to, then the fertility statistics for your herd will be immediately revealed as abnormal! Nobody is getting 100% conception rates.

Making that extra effort to supply as much data as possible, as accurately as possible, will very soon lead to ICBF being able to produce some very useful herd management reports for you, comparing your herd performance with the national average, as is already now the case with participating dairy herds.

BEEF LINEAR SCORING

We are just starting a new Autumn Beef Linear Scoring Campaign, but with a major difference.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY

In conjunction with the Breed Societies, it has been decided that the age range for scoring is to be curtailed to animals between the ages of **eight and twelve** months inclusive. There are many reasons for doing this, including bringing the system more into synchronization with the French system from which it is derived. Also restricting the recording in to as near weaning as possible, will lead more quickly to the generation of useful Maternal indexes.

This new requirement will take effect as of 1st. January 2005. Thus this Autumn campaign is **the last opportunity for catching up on older cattle** that have not been scored. In effect this means that most of your cattle for the 2005 Spring sales must be scored this Autumn. As of 2005, animals not scored within range, will not have their scores used for genetic evaluation purposes.

Are your pedigree cattle properly registered? If you have pedigree animals that have not been entered into the breed society herdbook, it will not be possible to score them as pedigrees on the scorers' PDA machines. This appears to be a particular problem with some of the smaller beef breeds. If you have not received verification from your breed society that your calf is registered, please contact your society secretary immediately. Remember this current session up to Christmas is the last chance.

Charges for Linear Scoring and Weighing

For the first time, the Beef Linear Scoring is fully across breed and will be at a standard charge rates (ex VAT) as follows:

Herd visit of €40, plus

cost per animal linear scored of €5, plus, if required,

cost per visit for providing weighing platform and load cells €10.

Cost per visit for providing load cells only without weighing platform is €5. For all breeds other than Charolais and Simmental, you must pay the scorer directly. If you have more than one breed, including Charolais or Simmental on your farm, the herd visit charges will split based on the number of animals of each breed being scored.

Note that for Charolais and Simmental your Society will pay the charges for scoring, but only Charolais are paying for weighing provided the weighing group is a valid contemporary group (five or more calves by two or more sires).

Weighing

Weighing is required for all valid contemporary groups. That is, groups of five or more calves by two or more sires. The whole system works by comparing the progeny of one sire with those of another on your farm.

Where you do not have a valid contemporary group weighing is not required but you can get these weighed for your own personal interest, at the €10 per visit charge for the provision of the scales and load cells. The linear scorer must be paid directly for this for all breeds.

You will be expected to do the weighing under the supervision of the scorer who will provide the platform, if required, and load cells. It is your responsibility to ensure you have facilities suitable for weighing. You must also provide adequate facilities for washing the platform when weighing is complete.

Scorers will not weigh cattle at more than one location on your farm.

Remember that cattle being weighed should be in a valid contemporary group. Putting in a weight for a heavily fed animal going to a Premier sale, along with contemporaries who are being fed half as much, is merely putting invalid data into the system which will duly be filtered out by the quality control process. Such animals should be declared to the scorer as having received special treatment. Failure to do this may invalidate all your records from your farm for that weighing.

Linear Scorers

There are eleven approved scorers and they will shortly be contacting you to fix a time to visit you. If you have an emergency job for perhaps an Autumn Sale, you can contact them and tell them, but you will have to have **all your eligible stock done at the one time. There will be no second visits in this period.** Every effort is being made to keep the cost of this service to you as low as possible and this can only be achieved by co-operating fully with the scorers and NOT looking for scoring to be done after the scorer has been working in your local area.

The Scorers and their areas for this period up to 20th December 2004.

Donegal, Roscommon, Sligo	Eddie Cunningham	087 2444505
Galway, Longford, Leitrim	John Beirne	086 2742233
Dublin, Cavan, Monaghan	Basil Bothwell	086 6050095
Kerry, Limerick	Peter O'Connell	086 8250881
Cork	Clive Jennings	086 2411399
Clare	Richard O'Beirne	087 2077847
Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford	Ger O'Brien	086 2379466
Tipperary, Waterford	Lesley Sandes	087 6381199
Mayo	Donie McKeown	087 6740552
Offaly, Laois, Westmeath	Tom Reilly	087 2380233
Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow	Karol Connell	086 3705729

All these scorers have just recently passed a competence test with ICBF and will be operating under ICBF contract. We have full confidence in their ability to perform their duties accurately and fairly and trust you will co-operate fully with them.

In case of any problems that may arise, please contact:

Nicholas Grubb, Field Services Manager on 086 2448517 or the ICBF Office on 023 20222.

Yours sincerely



Brian Wickham
Chief Executive

IRISH BEEF HERD BOOK

Calving / BLUP Herd Report

Herd Id: IE1234567

Derived from information held on the ICBF database

<u>Dam Number</u>	<u>Dam Name</u>	<u>Date of birth</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skeletal</u>	<u>Func</u>						
ABC123358	HIGHFIELD LILLY	11-DEC-95	39	86	107	111						
<u>Calf ID</u>	<u>Calf Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>	<u>Sire ID</u>	<u>Sire Name</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>
IE123456770355	HIGHFIELD VILLY	15-JAN-04					IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456710300	HIGHFIELD UNIQUE	17-JAN-03	32	102	110	111	IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456740245	HIGHFIELD (ABC) SYLVIE	31-DEC-01	30	97	106	111	IE1234568860157	SHINAGHPRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456770198	HIGHFIELD (ABC) SPARKLE	26-FEB-01	33	95	106	109	GOXX002	SHINAGH JEWEL	57	112	103	106
IE123456740187	HIGHFIELD (ABC) RICARD	14-APR-00	35	102	105	115	GOXX002	SHINAGH JEWEL	57	112	103	106
IE123456780133	HIGHFIELD (ABC) PRECIOUS	01-APR-99	33	90	110	106	GOXX002	SHINAGH JEWEL	57	112	103	106
IEABCD0070H	HIGHFIELD (ABC) ORVILLE	25-MAR-98	30	106	113	117	GOXX002	SHINAGH JEWEL	57	112	103	106
IEABCD0060L	HIGHFIELD (ABC) OLIVE	21-FEB-98	30	89	93	90						
<u>Calf ID</u>	<u>Calf Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>	<u>Sire ID</u>	<u>Sire Name</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>
IE123456740377	HIGHFIELD VICAR	20-MAR-04					IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456740311	HIGHFIELD UNA	19-MAR-03					ABC00050	SHINAGH ROOSEVELT	27	113	119	113
IE123456730277	HIGHFIELD (ABC) TOBY	15-APR-02	14	101	106	101	ABC00050	SHINAGH ROOSEVELT	27	113	119	113
IE123456710234	HIGHFIELD (ABC) SAMANTHA	27-MAR-01	27	93	109	105	ABC98002ET	SHINAGH OLIVER	47	99	124	123
IE123456790191	HIGHFIELD (ABC) ROMANCE	30-APR-00	30	90	94	92	ABCDF0011J	SHINAGH NOBLE	34	90	94	95
IE123456710135	HIGHFIELD (ABC) PIRIS	15-APR-99	31	111	97	107						
<u>Calf ID</u>	<u>Calf Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>	<u>Sire ID</u>	<u>Sire Name</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>
IE123456740352	HIGHFIELD VICTOR	02-JAN-04					IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456790266	HIGHFIELD (ABC) TARA	28-MAR-02	20	116	100	109	IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456770165	HIGHFIELD (ABC) ROSE	10-MAR-00	33	90	104	92						
<u>Calf ID</u>	<u>Calf Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>	<u>Sire ID</u>	<u>Sire Name</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>
IE123456750378	HIGHFIELD VODKA	21-MAR-04					IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456780298	HIGHFIELD ULTIMATE	18-JAN-03					ABC00050	SHINAGH ROOSEVELT	27	113	119	113
IEABCD0028G	HIGHFIELD NATALIE	28-JAN-97	50	113	108	106						
<u>Calf ID</u>	<u>Calf Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>	<u>Sire ID</u>	<u>Sire Name</u>	<u>Rel</u>	<u>Musc</u>	<u>Skel</u>	<u>Func</u>
IE123456760370	HIGHFIELD VINCENT	17-MAR-04					IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456760296		15-NOV-02										
IE123456730244	HIGHFIELD SUPREME	12-OCT-01	43	123	107	109	IE1234568860157	SHINAGH PRINCE	51	121	103	111
IE123456730194	HIGHFIELD ROUNDHILL	12-OCT-00	33	100	118	107	ABCD8002ET	SHINAGH OLIVER	47	99	124	123
IE123456720144	HIGHFIELD PEARL	11-OCT-99	41	104	99	101	IEABCD0011J	SHINAGH NOBLE	34	90	94	95