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<u>UPDATE – for period 20th – 27th May 2005</u>

1 Important Dates

- $1^{st} 9^{th}$ June 2005 ICAR, Interbull & EAAP meetings Sweden. 1^{st} June ICAR General Assembly, $2^{nd} 4^{th}$ June Interbull meeting, $5^{th} 9^{th}$ June EAAP meeting. Brian Wickham & Victor Olori will attend these meetings in Sweden. A summary report will be issued mid June.
- Thursday 23rd June. ICBF Board Meeting.

2 Staffing - Geneticists

We are pleased to announce that Francis Kearney has accepted the second of the two vacancies. Francis has recently returned to Ireland after undertaking his PhD studies at Edinburgh University. Francis is currently at ICBF's head office undertaking genetic conservation work for Irish Draught horses.

This week Francis and Ross Evans have completed their first week of becoming familiar with our genetic evaluation systems.

As part of our strategy for ensuring ICBF's beef breeding activities strengthen we have nominated John Hickey to represent Ireland on the ICAR Beef Working Group. John is currently working towards a PhD in the Netherlands where his research on beef genetic evaluations are under the supervision of Roel Veerkamp.

3 Tully

- A very successful Tully review meeting was held on Wednesday in Abbeyleix. The minutes from this meeting will be distributed by 1st June.
- All bulls for the next intake will be in Tully by 30-5-05.
- A group of beef suckler farmers from Kilkenny will visit Tully on the 2-6-05.

4 Genetic Evaluations - Dairy

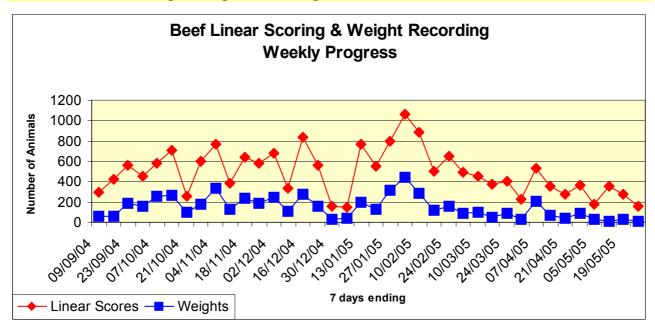
- A problem was identified in the Official May evaluation run for a small number of bulls with US evaluations and no Irish AI codes. The reliability of their EBI dropped from the February proofs.
- The reason for this was two-fold;
 - a) USA fertility data not used in May. The fertility data that was received from the USA did not have the correct Interbull international identification for the bulls. As a result their fertility data was not used resulting in a reduction in reliability.
 - b) **February EBI reliability inflated on ICBF website.** In February, for bulls with no AI codes, the ICBF website was using the old EBI formula (60% Production & 40% Fertility) instead of the revised EBI formula that includes calving & beef. This resulted in their reliabilities being higher in February on our website than they should have been.
- To rectify the problem we are reloading the correct converted US fertility proofs. We are also updating the website so that the reliability of the EBI is computed with correct weightings. The web search engine will be updated by Monday.
- We apologize for any inconvenience caused and express our appreciation to the AI company that identified the problem for us.



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5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



6 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 20/05/05 - 27/05/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 27/05/04			
Progressive	473	445			
Dairygold	257	315			
Kerry	194	213			
SWS	188	147			
Connacht	25	23			
Arrabawn	22	30			
Tipp	15	12			
Total	1,174	1,185			



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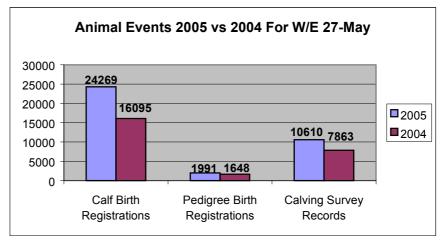


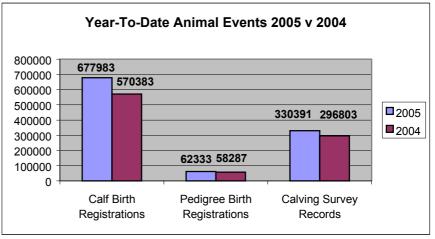


	HERD	Count	COW Count		
Milk Recording Organisation	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - May 27th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - May 27th	2004 No. Cows at Year End	
Progressive	2,038	2,231	133,534	145,976	
Dairygold	1,440	1,620	81,571	95,817	
Kerry	1,054	1,098	59,300	63,995	
sws	928	964	49,731	53,970	
Tipperary	140	147	8,108	8,851	
Connacht	107	121	6,268	7,120	
Arrabawn	107	120	6,145	7,005	
Total	5,814	6,301	344,657	382,734	

Database Update 7

- 33 new herds added to the database in the past week.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office: "A solid number of registrations this week, though new permission forms are still slow."
- 4,878 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The redesign of the linear scoring application is moving well with a prototype ready to be shown to a dairy and beef scorer next week.
- The proofs for the May Dairy Genetic Evaluation have been published for both males and females.
- The launch of the Tully developments for data entry will be completed next week with the beginning of







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the next perfomance test.

- The testing of the new milk recording batch has been completed, and was live this week for SWS and Kerry. The other organisations will be put live next week. The improvement in performance has been significant as a result of the new development work done. The batches are now taking roughly 20% of the time they previously took.
- The development work on enhancing the catalogue generation functionality from the database is continuing.
- Work on the 2005 Calving reports has been completed and they will be distributed next week to farmers. A sample is attached.

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Summary Dairy Herd Calving Statistics Report - Spring 2005

Herd Owner: Sample Herd Herd Number: IE1234567

Calving Period 12 weeks + 6 days

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1. Summary Data

Report is based on dairy cows with a calving record in the cattle breeding database and where the calving date is between 1st Jan 2005 - 26th May 2005.

	All Heifers		All	Heifers
Total Calvings	123 44	Median Calving Date (MCD)	14/02/2005	08/02/2005
No. of Calves - Live at Birth	112 37	Start Calving Date (SCD) *	19/01/2005	20/01/2005
No. Male Calves - Live at Birth	55 24	End Calving Date (ECD)	19/04/2005	20/03/2005
No. Female Calves - Live at Birth	57 13	Calving Period Duration	12 wks + 6 days	8 wks + 3 days
No. Calves - Dead at Birth	11 7			

2. Performance Statistics - relative to all dairy herds in the database

26th May 2005. Herd figures are expressed rela the calving period.	invo to an daily nords	iii tiic aatabas	Btm 15%	Achievable	Top 15%
and carving portion.			411 days		365 days
1. Calving Interval (days) Interval between most recent and previous calving date (if available), for cows with a calving record during the period.	Your Herd National Average	383 days 388 days			
			47%		81%
2. 6 Week Calving Rate (%) Number of cows calved 6 weeks after start calving date expressed as a proportion of all cows with a calving record during the period.	Your Herd National Average	76% 65%			
			8%		0%
3. Mortality - Dead at Birth (%) Number of calves born dead expressed as a proportion of all cows with a calving record	Your Herd National Average	9% 3.6%			
during the period.			10%		0%
4. Mortality - Dead at 28 Days (%) Number of calves born dead or dead within 28 days, expressed as a proportion of all cows with a calving record during the period.	Your Herd National Average	10% 5.2%	-		
cows with a carving record during the period.			11		0
5. Serious Calving Difficulty (%) Number of serious difficulty calvings (calving survey 3 or 4) expressed as a proportion of all calvings with recorded	Your Herd National Average	3 % 5.8			
calving survey data.			0%		99%
6. Births with known sire (%) Number of births with a known sire (valid in database), expressed as a proportion of	Your Herd National Average	98% 56%			
all cows with a calving record during the period.			0%		75%
7. Births with known Dairy AI sire (%)	Vour Herd	50%			
Number of births with a known sire (where sire is a Dairy Al sire), expressed as a proportion of all cows with a calving record during the	National Average	30%			
period.			0%		99%
8. Births with calving survey data (%)	Your Herd	94%			
Number of births with calving survey data, expressed as a proportion of all cows with a calving record during the period.	National Average	56%			PTO

Explanatory Notes

Performance statistics for your herd are expressed relative to all dairy herds in the ICBF datebase, where the herd has a minimum of 30 calvings during the period. For example, the calving interval for your herd was 383 days This compares to 389 days for the average of all herds and 365 days for the top 15% of herds in milk recording (see bar-chart).

The first 2 calvings are excluded when calculating this figure

Summary Dairy Herd Calving Statistics Report - Spring 2005

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Calving Period 12 weeks + 6 days

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				Proporti	on (%) of ca	Ivings each	month	
Month	No. Calved	% Calved	100	<u>'</u>				7
Jan	19	15	_ 90					_
Feb	73	59	80					
Mar	24	20	₩ 70					
Apr	7	6	60					
May	0	0	Herd Calved ber Month 70 60 50 40	·				-
			9 40					
			30 5 20					
	Current year	ars data	10					
	Last years	data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	_
	•]		Month	of Calving		

4. Curi	4. Current Calving Pattern (Heifers)		Proportion (%) of heifers calved each month			
Month	No. Calved	% Calved	100			
Jan	11	25	ntu 00 00 00 00 00 00 00			
Feb	27	61	M			
Mar	6	14				
Apr	0	0	70			
May	0	0	100			
	■ Current year	ears data	10			
	Last years	data	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Month of Calving			