



UPDATE – for period 20th – 27th May 2005

1 Important Dates

- **1st – 9th June 2005 ICAR, Interbull & EAAP meetings Sweden.** *1st June ICAR General Assembly, 2nd – 4th June Interbull meeting, 5th – 9th 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

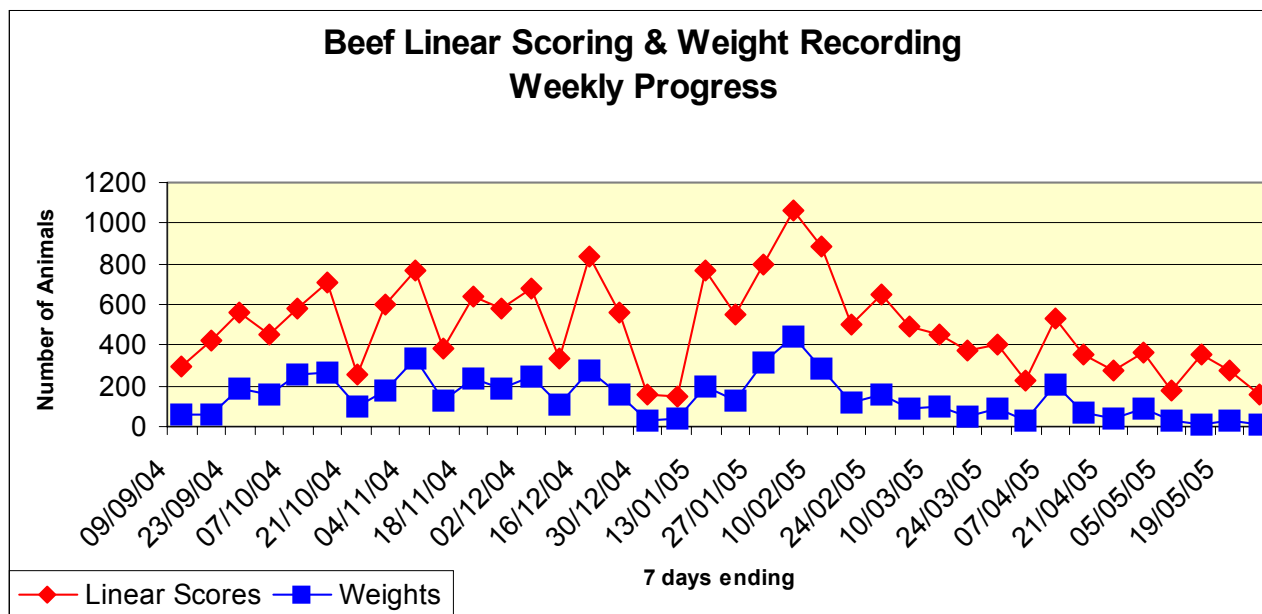
- A very successful Tully review meeting was held on Wednesday in Abbeyleix. The minutes from this meeting will be distributed by 1st June.
- All bulls for the next intake will be in Tully by 30-5-05.
- A group of beef suckler farmers from Kilkenny will visit Tully on the 2-6-05.

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.



5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



6 Milk Recording

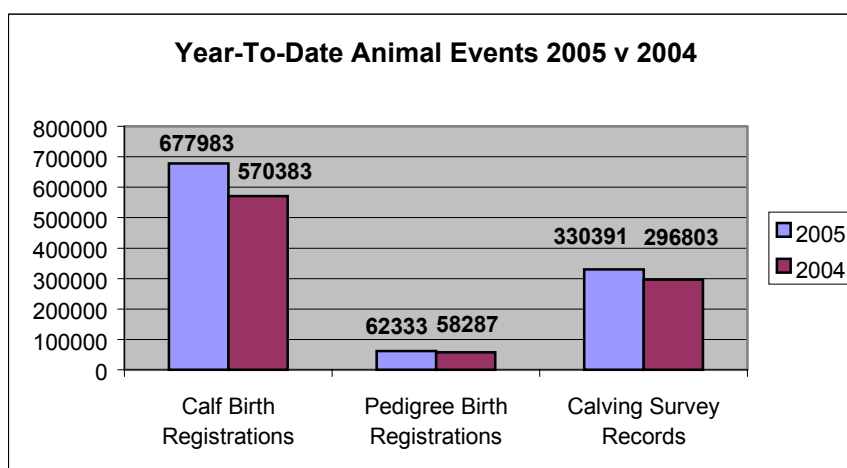
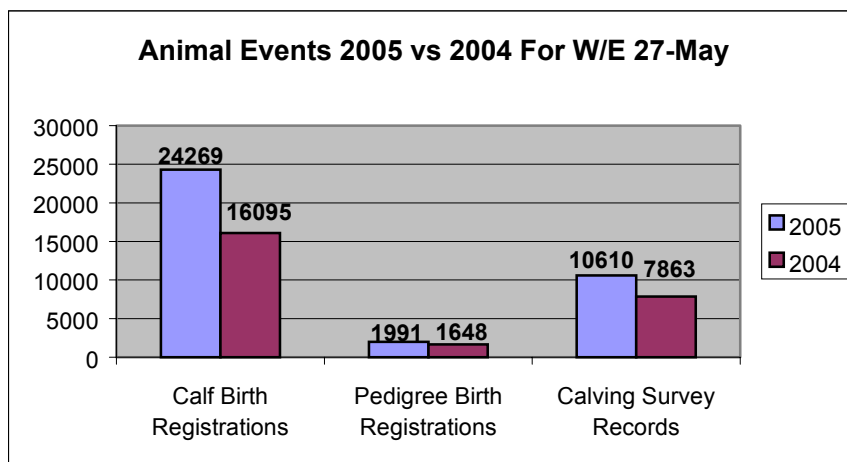
Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 20/05/05 - 27/05/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 27/05/04
Progressive	473	445
Dairygold	257	315
Kerry	194	213
SWS	188	147
Connacht	25	23
Arrabawn	22	30
Tipp	15	12
Total	1,174	1,185



Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	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

7 Database Update

- 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





the next performance 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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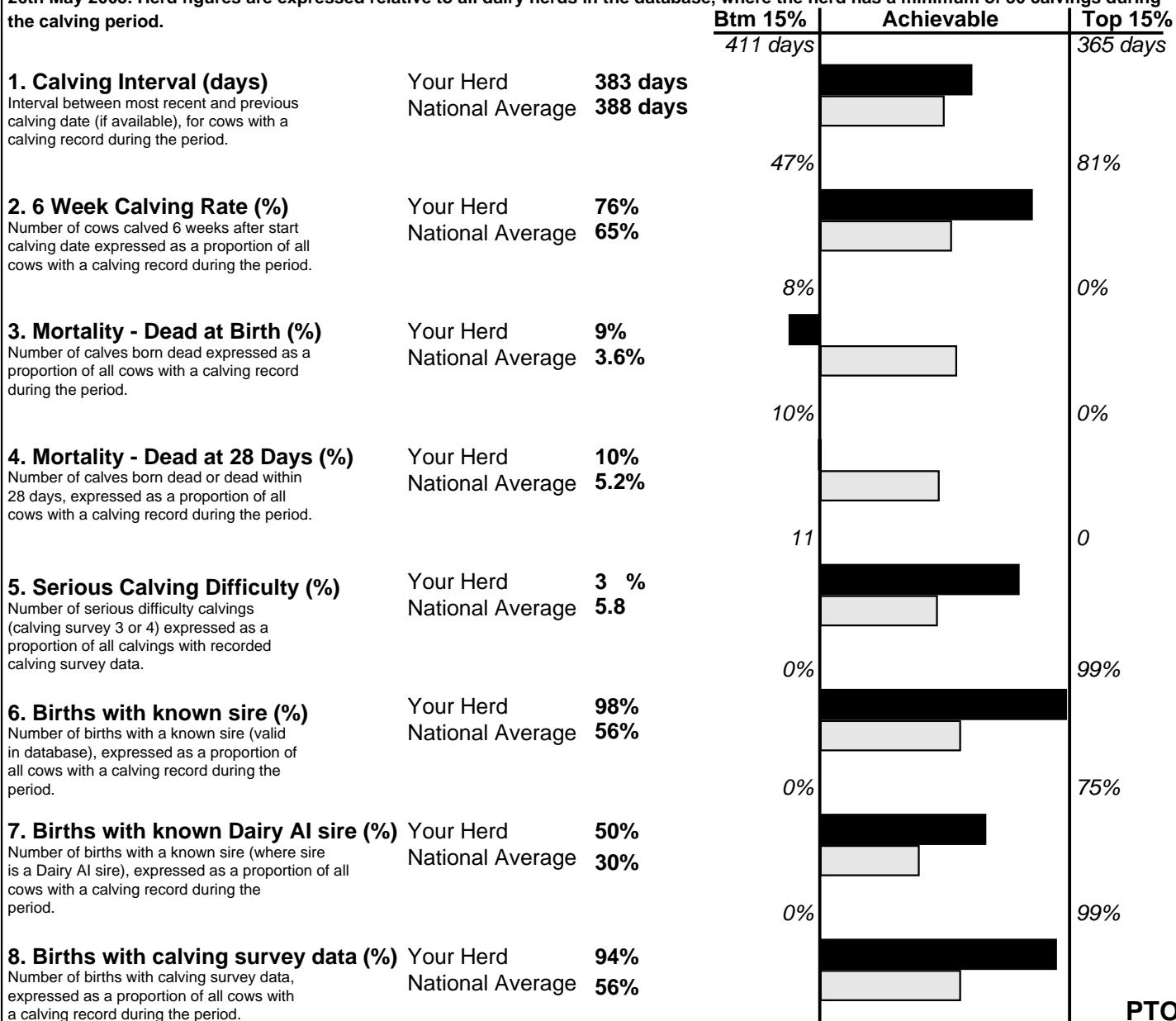
1. Summary Data

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
No. of Calves - Live at Birth	112	37	Start Calving Date (SCD) *	19/01/2005
No. Male Calves - Live at Birth	55	24	End Calving Date (ECD)	19/04/2005
No. Female Calves - Live at Birth	57	13	Calving Period Duration	12 wks + 6 days
No. Calves - Dead at Birth	11	7		8 wks + 3 days

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

Report is based on cows with a calving record in the cattle breeding database and where the calving date is between 1st January 2005 - 26th May 2005. Herd figures are expressed relative to all dairy herds in the database, where the herd has a minimum of 30 calvings during the calving period.



Explanatory Notes

Performance statistics for your herd are expressed relative to all dairy herds in the ICBF database, 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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