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## UPDATE – FOR PERIOD 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2004.

### 1. ICBF Board Appointment

- Liam Foley has been appointed to the Board by ICBF's milk recording members to replace Billy Nagle following the completion of his term on the Board.
- Arrangements are being made for the two new Board members, Liam Foley and Dave Beehan, to visit ICBF's Bandon office for a briefing on current issues.

### 2. Beef Breeding Plan Consultations

- Brian Wickham and Nicholas Grubb have continued their round of consultations with the beef breed societies, on Wednesday meeting with representatives of Belgian Blue, Piemontese, Salers, Parthenais, Montbelliard, Blonde d'Aquitane, Aubrac, Shorthorn and Norwegian Red. As with the previous consultations with the larger breeds, a presentation was made by Nicholas on potential developments for the future.
- It was clear from this meeting that all these societies are looking for the following:
  - a) Information on who is commercially using their breeds either by A.I. or stock bull.
  - b) The signing up of these commercial users onto Animal Events as soon as possible.
  - c) That Animal Events should preferably be made compulsory in place of the white card.
  - d) The generation of genetic indexes for their breeds as soon as possible.
  - e) The possibility of Teagasc run "interbreed" trials on commercial farms for the breeds with little information available in Ireland.
- It was also clear that there is a large degree of misunderstanding as to what constitutes a useful contemporary recorded group, with particular reference to the need to have a reference sire included.
- The very great need for the smaller breeds to ensure the recording of crosses of their respective breeds and indeed to consider the grading up of cross bred females of their breeds was discussed.
- This was a meeting characterized by a great deal of positive interaction.

### 3. Beef Technical and Beef Linear Scoring Standards – Change in Meeting Date

- To facilitate ICBF attendance at a Beef Conference the date of the next Beef Technical and Beef Linear Scoring Standards Committee has been **moved from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. Confirmation of the change will be emailed to all affected.

### 4. ICAR & INTERBULL Meetings

- ICBF will be represented at ICAR and INTERBULL meetings being held in Tunisia next week.
- Al Grogan and Brian Wickham will be presenting papers to the ICAR conference. Their papers deal respectively with the database development and the development of beef linear scoring systems for use on all breeds and crosses.
- A proposal for INTERBULL to take responsibility for international beef genetic evaluations will be considered at the meeting.

### 5. Summary Herd Calving Reports - Spring 2004 – Farmer Response

- Some 450 herd-owners have responded to the feed-back form regarding the usefulness of the "Calving Performance Reports" (which were posted last Friday). Of these 146 indicated the reports as extremely useful (33%), 234 indicated the reports as useful (52%), 24 had no opinion (5%), 35 thought they were of limited use (8%) and 11 thought they were not useful at all (2%).
- These statistics indicate that 85% of the herd-owners returning forms felt the reports were useful as a tool in improving calving & fertility performance. Of the herd-owners that found the reports of limited



use or not at all useful (10% of herd-owners) almost all were winter or liquid milk suppliers. The main concern of these herd-owners was that the report had summarized just calvings taking place since 1st January 2004. Future reports to these herd-owners will include both winter and spring calving sections of their herds.

## 6. Dairy Genetic Evaluations

- Changes were introduced this week to enhance the capacity and capability of the search facility for Holstein Friesian bulls on the ICBF website ([www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)). These changes include an increase in the number of bulls now available in the search database. This database now includes:
  1. All Irish Holstein Friesian AI bulls (any AI code) with an EBI reliability of 50% or more, and
  2. All foreign Holstein Friesian bulls with Interbull proofs.
- Another improvement is the facility to search for bulls by number. In this view, enter the last 6 (or any) digits of a bull ID to bring up all bulls with matching numbers and this should include the particular bull of interest. This facility can be used to find Irish proofs for 'New' foreign bulls of interest.
- Conversion equations for each production and conformation trait are also available on the website for deriving Irish equivalent proofs from the domestic proofs of most Interbull participating countries if the bull cannot be found by using this search facility.

## 7. Database Project

### a) Newly Live Herdbooks

- 619 new attempted pedigree registrations received during the past week.
- 120 new Beef herds added to the database.
- BLUP reports and Pedigree Certificates were issued to the Limousin Society and Simmental Societies.
- 2004 Pedigree and Inspection certificates were batch printed at the Charolais office.
- It is intended that a Sire Error Report for beef herds will be issued next week. The main reason for the Sire Errors has been farmers entering the sire name rather than the tag, herdbook number, or AI code.
- Further updates were made to the Montbeliarde and Jersey certificate formats.

### b) Other database activities

- The distribution of Calving Summary Reports was completed and already over 350 Sire error reports have been returned. These are being entered to the database.
- A report was issued to the herdbooks which allows them to see the raw Animal Events data that was subsequently loaded to the database - this will help them in handling farmer queries
- Work on the beef Linear Scoring application and the mechanism by which herds are allocated to scorers has begun, in an attempt to further streamline the uploading and downloading of herds from the database.
- The clear down of front-porch errors is continuing and it is hoped that this will be complete by the end of next week.

## 8. Milk Recording

### a) Processing for week ending 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2004

Progressive Genetics	445
Dairygold	315
Kerry	213
SWS	147
Arrabawn	30



Connacht Gold 23  
Tipperary 12

Total Week ending 28/05/04 = 1185 herds

**b) Herds processed - year-to-date**

Progressive Genetics 1,722  
Dairygold 1,548  
Kerry 1,077  
SWS 957  
Tipperary 141  
Connacht Gold 119  
Arrabawn 114

Total 2004 to date = 5,678

**c) DIY Electronic Meter Project**

- **Farmer Review Feedback.** On Wed 26<sup>th</sup> we got together with the Dairygold farmers who were operating the trial for last 4 months to ask them their views on the system. A good session was held where the farmers assessed the “pros and cons” of the system, we got good input and some good suggestions. Overall the feedback was very positive – the take home message was the farmers like the system and see it as having great potential for future uptake. This milestone review gives us a clear client mandate to bring project to next phase - ramp up production/cost model.
- **Conference - DIY Electronic Milk Recording.** On Wed 9<sup>th</sup> June, we will be holding an industry conference on DIY Electronic Milk Recording. Venue is Teagasc, Moorepark Fermoy. In the morning session we will be hearing how countries like Denmark and New Zealand operate the DIY Electronic system (both have over 80% of their Dairy herds Milk Recording!). In the afternoon we will review Irish DIY Electronic project and discuss operational model for Ireland. Invites (targeted to stakeholders in Milk Recording) were posted and e-mailed today. A copy of the program is attached.

**8. Tully**

- The results of the TB test of the December 2003 intake of bulls have shown all bulls to be clear. They will be moved to the field next week when fencing has been completed. The bulls must clear a further TB test on 1<sup>st</sup> August before they are free to move without restriction.
- Performance test to end Tuesday next and bulls to be moved in small batches during the week. The bulls will get a few hours of training at Tully learning about electric fences before moving. Most of the work on the paddocks will be finished today. The ground is hard and dry which is making post driving very slow. We will use Tully feed boxes but have purchased water troughs as per pictures. A 3000 gallon water tank has been borrowed and it should provide a sufficient head for water pressure.
- Confirmation of FBD sponsorship for the March 2005 sale has been confirmed.





# ***Milk Recording in Ireland - Future Directions.***

Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork.  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 10:00 AM – 4.30 PM

## **1. Purpose**

*To provide a forum for stakeholders in the Irish Dairy Industry to share ideas on future directions for Milk Recording in Ireland, especially in relation to:*

- ***Electronic DIY Recording***

## **2. Participants**

- Board, Directors and Council Members of ICBF member organisations.
- Senior Managerial Staff within ICBF's member organizations.
- Industry partners; TEAGASC, DAF, ICOS, Milk Processors, and invited guests;
  - Steve Howse, Livestock Improvement Corporation,
  - Uffe Lauritsen, Danish Agricultural Advisory Service,
  - Nick Howarth, Tru Test.

## **3. Conference Program**

- 10.00 AM **Registration, Tea & Coffee.**

### **Session 1. Tru -Test Electronic DIY System and International Experiences**

**Chair – John O’Sullivan (Chairman ICBF).**

- 10.15 AM Opening Remarks – Brian Wickham (ICBF – Chief Executive)
- 10.30 AM Nick Howarth (Tru Test) – presentation on operating principles of Tru Test Electronic Milk Meter System (TTEMM).
- 11.00 AM Steve Howse (LIC).- a) % Uptake in NZ, why farmers Milk Record, b) how DIY TTEMM model is operated in New Zealand, describe process, provide appraisal of NZ model.
- 11.30 AM Uffe Lauritsen (Denmark) – a) % Uptake in DK, why farmers Milk Record and b) how DIY TTEMM model is operated in Denmark, describe process, provide appraisal of DK model.
- 12.00 PM Discussion on mornings presentations
- 12.45 PM Lunch.

### **Session 2. Irish Tru-Test Electronic DIY Trials & Plans for future.**

**Chair -Brian Wickham (Chief Executive ICBF)**

- 2.00 PM Martin Burke / Mary O Keeffe (ICBF/Dairygold) – progress update on Irish TTEMM trials which started in Feb 2004, - project review, issues, benefits etc,
- 2.30 PM Pat O Connor – an appraisal from the Technician coordinating Irish Trial
- 3.00 PM Diarmuid Lynch – an appraisal from trial farmer – after 3 months of operation what it was like to work with the TTEMM system from user’s perspective?
- 3.30 PM Martin Burke (ICBF) – propose Operational Model for Ireland for DIY Electronic Milk Recording
- 4.00 PM Discussion on Irish model
- 4.30 PM Conference ends.