



## UPDATE for period 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2005

### 1 Important Dates

- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Genetic evaluation consultation meetings** – Beef in AM, Dairy PM. (copy of agendas attached)
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. ICBF Board** Meeting after Genetic evaluation consultation meeting.
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. ICBF Board** meeting.
- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Tully review meeting** to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### 2 Genetic Evaluations

- New Calving Interval & Survival proof (CIS) have been calculated, incorporating all breeds & cross-breeds. In the calculation of these new evaluations, some problems were encountered with incomplete breed fractions in the database. This was especially apparent for new animals (and herds) entering milk recording, where the only breed fraction information available was from national calf registration. These problems have now been resolved and new EBI test proofs for all dairy breeds will be released next week ahead of Thursday's dairy industry meeting.
- New calving performance & beef production proofs have been calculated incorporating a further 300,000 calving performance records and a further 2 million animals in the pedigree (for beef performance evaluations). A combined file incorporating; (i) new calving performance evaluations, (ii) new beef performance evaluations (iii) updated economic values, and (iv) new reliabilities for each of the sub-indexes, will be released next Tuesday ahead of Thursdays beef industry meeting.
- Work on new linear type evaluations for 12 beef traits of interest to pedigree breeders has continued this week, with proofs for AI sires and stock bulls calculated. Results from this initial analysis will be presented at next weeks beef industry meeting.
- In addition to work on dairy and beef proofs, Arnold Harbers (CR-Delta) visited ICBF to continue development work on the new "sire-advice" module from the database. This new program will allow farmers; (i) define their breeding goal (e.g., EBI, (ii) select bulls according to that goal, (iii) check for potential inbreeding and (iv) preferentially mate bulls to cows based on complimentary genetic indexes.

### 3 South Africa

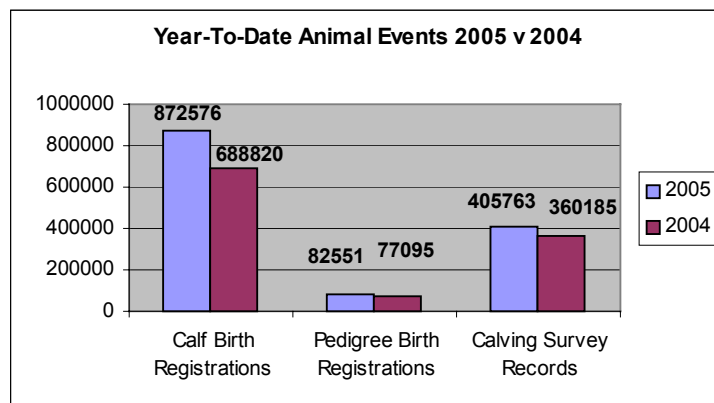
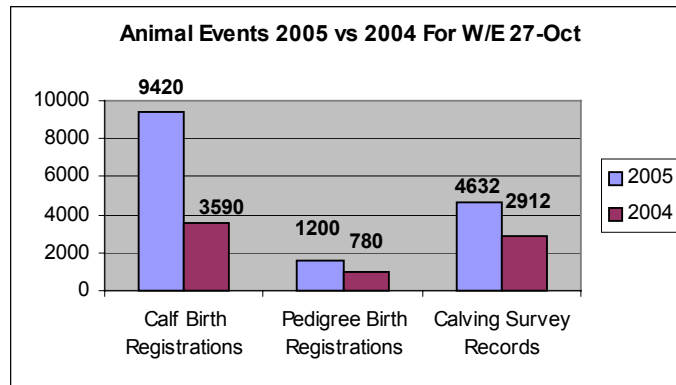
On Wednesday last week, Brian Wickham participated as guest speaker at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the South Africa Stud book. Ireland and South Africa both use IRIS for their cattle-breeding database. The conference was very interested in the Irish initiatives in cattle breeding and in particular the benefits that are being delivered to all Irish farmers dairy and beef stud and non-stud. Some 250 people representing South Africa's 70 herd books for cattle, sheep, goats, horses and ostriches attended the conference was held in Bloemfontein in South Africa.

While in South Africa Brian also met with a number of people to discuss a range of cattle breeding matters of interest to both countries.



#### 4 Database Update

- 36 new herds added to the database last week.
- 5,175 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- Over 400 breeding charts have been keyed. Final testing on the Expected Calving and Fertility reports is currently taking place.
- Good progress continues to be made on the new beef genetic evaluation reports. The first drafts will be available for release within three weeks.
- The October EBI reports were issued this week.
- The first of the dry-off sheets are being returned. Farmers have also embraced the on-line dry-off function, as well as the dry-off facility through mobile phone text messages.
- Work has begun on a revised Annual Milk Recording report. This will be ready for issue on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Oracle upgrade will begin next week, with a test upgrade of the development machine.
- Good progress has been made this week on the installation of the new Sire Advice software which will work on a standalone basis, and in conjunction with the roll-out of AI handhelds.



#### 5 Tully

- The 134 bulls in the September intake started their performance test on the 26-10-05. This is the best batch of bulls to enter Tully under ICBF management to date. A final list of bulls will be sent to each breed society by the 2-11-04.
- The May intake of bulls will be advertised in the Farmer's Journal for the next two weeks. 5 bulls have been sold to date. Prices range from 2400 to 3250. The Catalogue can be viewed on [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com).
- A group of 15 beef farmers from Mayo will visit Tully on the 3-11-05.



- A group of 25 pedigree Charolais breeders from the Cork and Kerry Charolais club will visit Tully on the 29-10-05.

## 6 Milk Recording

### Weekly Stats: Fri 28/10/05

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 21/10/05 - 28/10/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 21/10/04 - 28/10/04
Progressive	395	324
Dairygold	244	188
Kerry	210	175
SWS	173	143
Tipperary	30	20
Connacht	15	11
Arrabawn	14	17
Others (Donegal, OAD)	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>878</b>

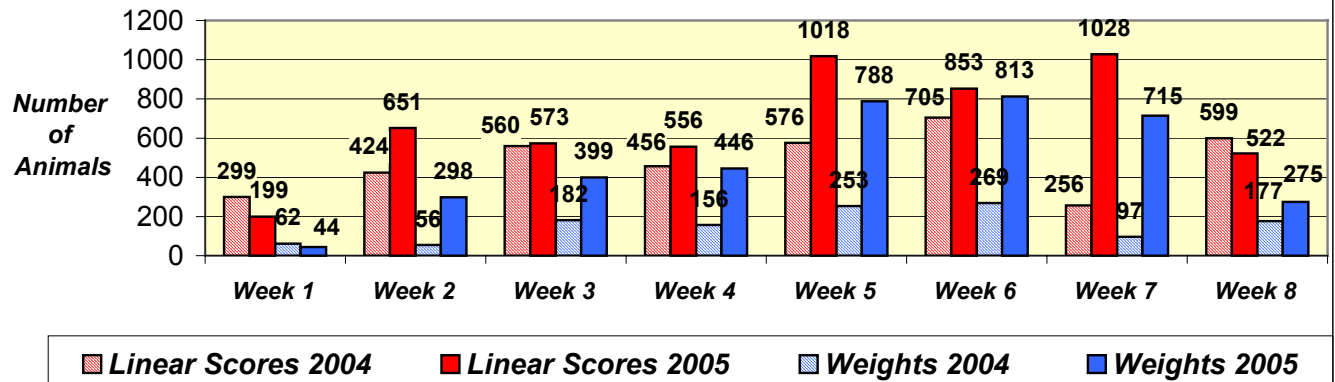
### Year to Date Stats: up to 28/10/05

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Oct 28th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Oct 28th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,081	2,233	149,274	156,588
Dairygold	1,524	1,620	97,793	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,099	67,105	66,952
SWS	937	964	54,839	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,277	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,183	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,115	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	44	0	4,066	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>396,652</b>	<b>407,305</b>



**7 Beef Linear Scoring**

**Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording Weekly Progress  
 2004 -v- 2005**



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**Irish Cattle Breeding Federation**  
**Developments in Beef Cattle Breeding – Industry Update.**

**Venue:** *Abbeyleix Manor Hotel*  
**Date and time:** *10.30 AM, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005.*

**Agenda for Meeting.**

1. Calving performance evaluations – *Ross Evans*
2. Beef production evaluations – *Roel Veerkamp*
  - Latest evaluations
  - Reliability of evaluations
  - Feed intake
3. Beef linear type evaluations – *Francis Kearney*
4. Evaluations for BPSI, WCSI, BCSI & DCSI – *Andrew Cromie*
  - Economic values
  - Latest evaluations
  - Roll-out plan
5. Maternal evaluations – *Andrew Cromie.*
  - Traits of interest – maternal sub-index
  - Missing sires & future plans.
6. Genetic evaluations for Irish beef cattle – *John Hickey.*
  - Project update
7. Linear scoring & weight recording of commercial weanlings – *Pat Donnellan & Donagh Berry*
  - Collection of herd data
  - Grange comparison
8. Any other business.

**Irish Cattle Breeding Federation**  
**Developments in Dairy Cattle Breeding – Industry Update.**

**Venue:** *Abbeyleix Manor Hotel*  
**Date and time:** *2 PM, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005.*

**Agenda for Meeting.**

1. SCC evaluations – *Ross Evans*
  - Presentation of proofs.
  - Interbull test run & proofs for foreign bulls.
2. Updating the EBI – *Donagh Berry.*
  - Inclusion of information on lameness.
  - Recording health & fertility data.
  - Economic values for beef; Friesians vs. Holsteins.
3. Economic values for winter milk & liquid milk – *Laurence Shalloo.*
4. Across breed evaluations for dairy traits – *Francis Kearney.*
  - Breed comparisons.
  - Heterosis & recombination
5. EBI “test run” incorporating all proposed changes – *Andrew Cromie.*
  - Test evaluations
  - Release of Active Bull List
6. ICBF Active Bull Lists