



UPDATE – for period 22nd to 29th April 2005

1 Cattle Breeding – Important Dates

- **12.00 noon Saturday 30th April, Tully Bull Sale**
- **14:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 3rd May, Heritage Hotel, Port Laois.** ICBF Annual General Meeting.
- **Wednesday 4th May, Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.** ICBF Beef Industry meeting 10.30am-1.00pm, ICBF Dairy Industry meeting 2.00pm-4.00pm.

2 GENE IRELAND

The last of the GENE IRELAND dairy progeny test meetings took place this week. In total 7 meetings were held in the following regions; Bandon, Mallow, Castleisland, Kells, Enniscorthy, Thurles & Clonmel. Almost 100 farmers attended the meetings with feed-back very positive regarding the principles of the new program. As a general comment the farmers are looking forward to Ireland having its own progeny test program for Irish farmers. They strongly believe in the principles of EBI (high profit) and of using a young bull team (the average reliability of a team of young bulls is 93%, which is higher than the reliability of almost all bulls on the ICBF Active Bull List Spring 2005). Semen continues to be dispatched to GENE IRELAND herd-owners. To-date 135 herds have received semen. Of the 25 bulls involved in the program, 12 have now reached their limit of 500 straws dispatched. In all cases the average EBI of the group of young bulls being dispatched to a herd is at least €80.

GENE IRELAND - Beef.

Work on an equivalent progeny test program for beef herds has commenced, with letters due to be sent to herd-owners next week (an initial article in the farmers journal has prompted a very positive response with some 30 herd-owners contacting ICBF today and yesterday regarding this new initiative). Again the principles of the beef program are very similar to that of dairy; a partnership involving ICBF, NCBC (Munster AI * Progressive Genetics) and Dovea AI. Due to the serious lack of information on maternal traits for breeding decisions, the primary focus of the GENE IRELAND BEEF Program, will be on recording and evaluation of maternal trait data.

3 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	Herds Recorded Week 22/04/05 - 29/04/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 30/04/04
Progressive	438	298
Dairygold	202	262
SWS	198	186
Kerry	167	204
Tipperary	25	30
Connacht	24	31
Arrabawn	17	23
Total	1,071	1,034



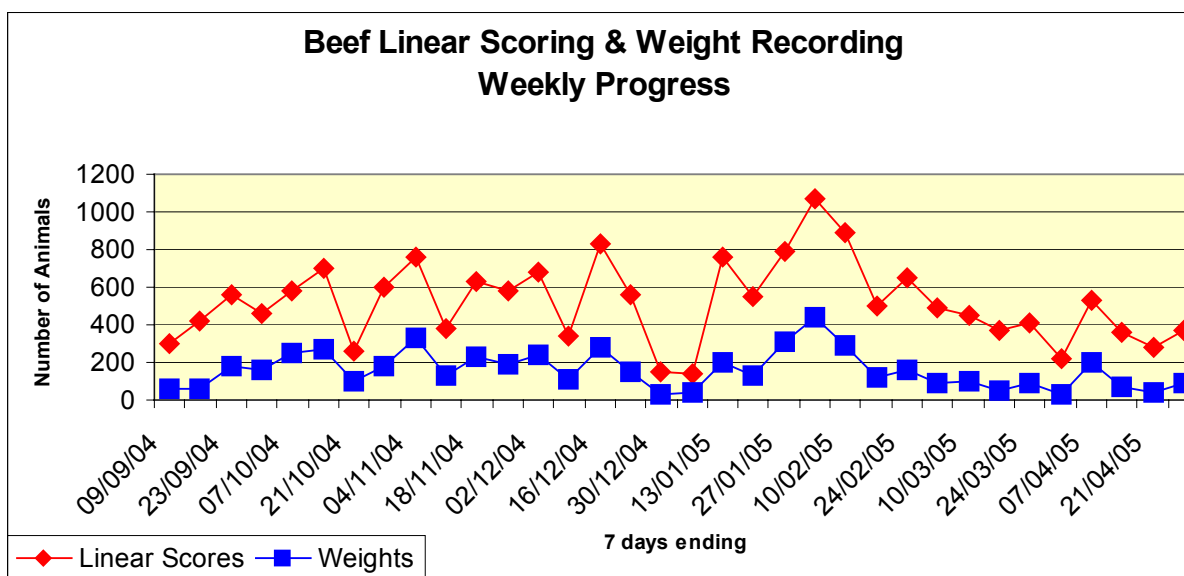
4 Genetic Evaluation Update

National evaluation for production traits was completed this week. Results of this evaluation has been forwarded for inclusion in the International evaluation for the Holstein Friesian, Montbelliarde and Simmental breeds. This follows the successful test evaluation for these breeds. The other breeds could not yet be accepted into the international evaluation because of small numbers.

Table 1 shows the mean PTAs for breeds with at least 20 bulls with daughters in the evaluation. The means are based on AI bulls having a reliability of 70% or more on their proof. The charts show more clearly the superiority of each breed in terms of yield and content. All proofs are compared across breeds and relative to the mean of all cows born in 1995.

Breed	Stat	Number of bulls	PTA Milk (kg)	PTA Fat(kg)	PTA Prot (kg)	PTA Fat (%)	PTA Prot (%)
FR	Mean	739	-229.9	-7.26	-9.05	-0.01	0.01
	SD		134.9	4.25	5.96	0.09	0.05
HO	Mean	1601	143.2	3.80	4.25	-0.01	-0.01
	SD		225.0	6.85	7.40	0.11	0.05
JE	Mean	21	-525.3	-5.26	10.33	0.65	0.27
	SD		279.1	8.46	10.39	0.17	0.08
MO	Mean	50	-89.1	-0.55	-3.63	0.00	0.04
	SD		121.2	3.81	5.02	0.06	0.03
MY	Mean	19	-388.4	-8.21	-11.34	0.07	0.10
	SD		192.9	5.58	7.22	0.10	0.07
SI	Mean	14	-330.4	-8.29	-12.11	0.01	0.06
	SD		244.5	7.83	9.20	0.07	0.05

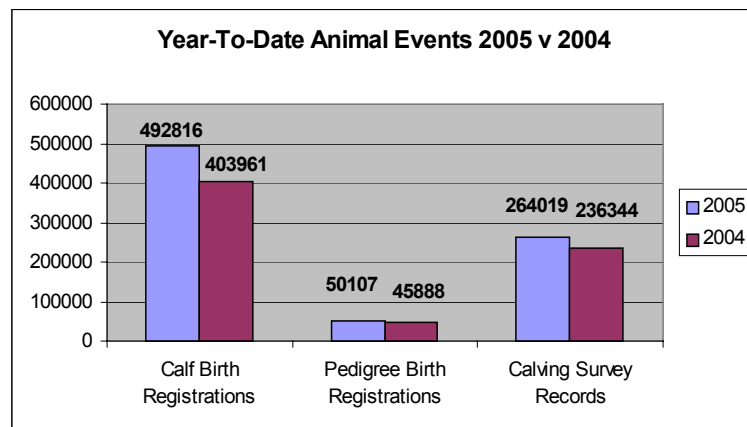
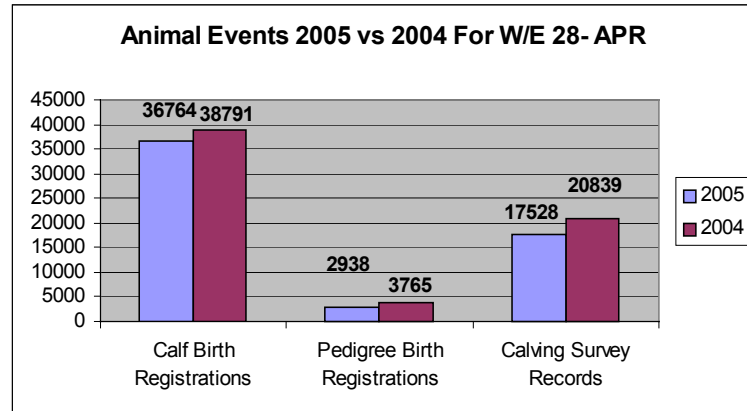
5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





6 Database Update

- 119 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office:
"Number of AE sheet coming in decreasing a little. The inflow of new herd permission forms is staying steady."
- 4756 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients. This week, the discussion group summaries were added to the Teagasc part of the internet reporting function.
- Some initial research into data protection issues around publishing herdbook data on the internet has been done. Further investigation will be done in the coming weeks.
- The redesign of the linear scoring application is moving forward and the formal design will begin next week. Implementation date is expected to be July 7th.



- The tidy up of various issues from the recent genetic evaluation runs have been completed. All breeding chart issues have now been dealt with and the first breeding chart was returned this week by a farmer in Tipperary. The extremely high quality of the data entered on the breeding chart was very encouraging.
- Work has begun on the development to support the entry of Tully performance test data directly to the ICBF database. This will continue for the next two weeks and will be implemented prior to the May 05 intake beginning their performance test.
- The implementation of changes to the scheduling of nightly jobs on the database is on-going with a view to increasing the efficiency of the processes. The milk recording batch rebuild is finished and will be tested next week.