



UPDATE for period 26th – 30th September 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Saturday 15th October.** Millstreet Dairy Event.
- **Thursday 3rd November.** **Genetic evaluation consultation meetings** – Beef in AM, Dairy PM.
- **Thursday 3rd November.** **ICBF Board** Meeting.
- **Thursday 15th December.** **ICBF Board** meeting.
- **Thursday 19th January.** **Tully review meeting** to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.

2 Ploughing Championship

- At this years Ploughing ICBF joined with the National Cattle Breeding Centre, Munster Cattle Breeding, Progressive Genetic and TEAGASC in a stand focused in cattle breeding. The stand was one of the busiest on the whole site.
- Over the three days a large number of farmers visited the stand and had a chance to discuss their cattle breeding requirements.
- ICBF, with the help of sponsorship from the Aberdeen Angus herd book, joined with the Farmers Journal to run a competition. Entrants were asked to estimate the weight of a bull on St Valentines day 2006. The bull was in a pen on the Farmers Journal stand and will be performance tested at Tully prior to going into the Tully sale on 4th March 2006. The prize is the sale price of the bull. The bull is an Angus, Carbery Baron, bred by Keith Vickery of Rosscarbery. It was selected because it has some of the highest values for an Angus for the Beef Production Sub Index and the Weaned Calf Sub Index.
- Above right – part of the stand.
- Right – a view of the entrance to the shared cattle breeding stand.
- A special thanks goes to all those who contributed to ensuring a very successful three days.





3 Meat Industry Support for GENE IRELAND Beef

- The GENE IRELAND beef program received a boost this week with the announcement that the Meat Industry Ireland will contribute a funds to help ensure its success.
- A special thanks goes to John Shirley of the National Cattle Breeding Centre for facilitating this important development for beef cattle breeding in Ireland.

4 Genetic Evaluations

Ross and Francis have been in Holland this week where they are taking delivery of the system for computing calving survey genetic evaluations. They completed a test run while in Holland.

5 Tully

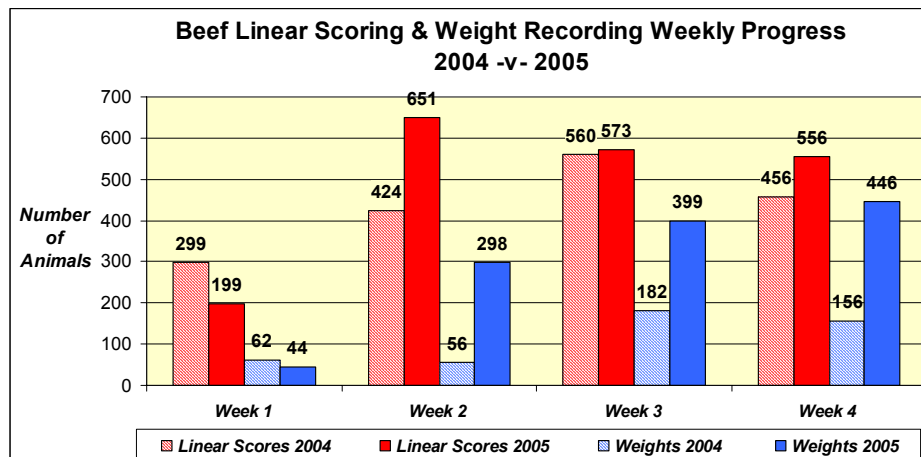
- Applications have been sent to breeders for the November intake into Tully. The numbers of herds which received letters and the number of eligible animals in these herds are as follows:

Breed	Total Animals	Herds
SI	267	153
CH	940	581
LM	653	378
AC (Irish Angus)	862	398
AU	68	21
BA	50	20
BB	37	23
HE	579	241
PI	2	2
SA	102	40
SH	59	38

- 30 of the bulls for the September intake are already at Tully, with the remainder expected by the end of next week.

6 Beef Linear Scoring

- Week one is the first week of September.
- This has been a good week even though many of the scorers were also busy at Ploughing.





7 Milk Recording

Weekly Stats: Fri 30/09/05

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 23/09/05 - 30/09/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 23/09/04 - 30/09/04
Progressive	308	391
Dairygold	180	244
Kerry	258	294
SWS	160	134
Connacht	24	21
Arrabawn	0	5
Tipp	0	12
Others (Donegal, OAD)	6	N/A
Total	936	1,101

Year to Date Stats: Fri 30/09/2005

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Sep 30th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Sep 30th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,077	2,233	146,763	156,588
Dairygold	1,521	1,620	97,037	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,098	66,816	66,886
SWS	936	964	54,206	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,208	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,137	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,077	7,369
Others (Donegal/OAD)	35	N/A	3,601	N/A
Total	5,993	6,303	391,845	407,239

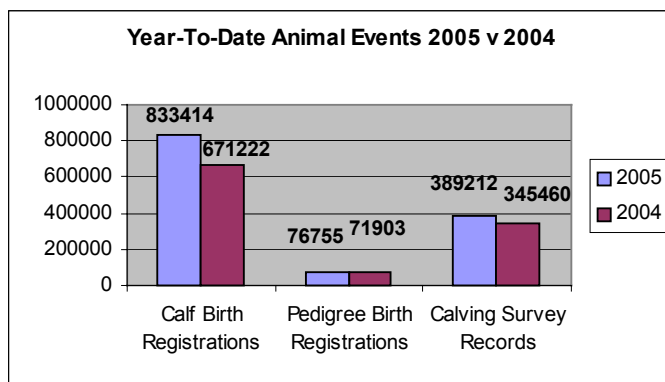
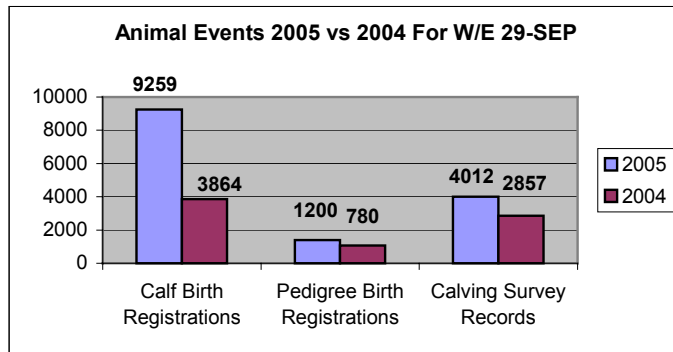
EDIY Stand at Ploughing;

The Electronic DIY meters were exhibited at the Cattle Breeding Pavilion. Dairygold Technicians Michael McGrath and Vincent Sheehy were on hand to demonstrate the system. We had a very busy three days with high interest levels in the system. Some 200 dairy farmers signed up from all over the country looking to get recording for 2006.



8 Database Update

- 21 new herds added to the database last week.
- 5,106 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- Breeding charts are continuing to be returned at a very good rate. Good progress is being made in the building of the expected calving/fertility report that will go back out to farmers
- Having live access to the database at the ploughing this week proved to be very popular with farmers, many of whom had reports printed for them that they had mislaid, or had problem animals sorted out there and then.
- The keying of the missing sire reports is continuing. Next week should see the end of the keying of these reports.
- Work on some of the back-end functions (billing, reporting, etc) is continuing.
- Next week will see two intensive days of planning for a database upgrade that will be happening over the next six weeks or so. The current version of the software is no longer being supported by Oracle, hence the reason for the upgrade. The upgrade will consume quite an amount of resources over the coming weeks.



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