



UPDATE for period 30th July-5th August 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Wednesday 17th August 2005 Horse & Jockey at 11.00am** Review of Linear scoring service
- **30th, 31st August & 1st September 2005** EDIY Milk Recording Waterford Farm Walks
- **Wednesday 7th September** Beef & Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Tuesday 13th September** – “*EBI 100*” farm-walk on farm of Pat & Pauline Ryan, Cappagh, Waterford.
- **Thursday 15th September** ICBF Board Meeting.
- **Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September** Ploughing Championships, Midleton, Co. Cork.

2 EDIY Milk Recording Donegal Farm Walks



ICBF in conjunction with Teagasc and Donegal Creameries, held 3 Farm walks in Co. Donegal this week. The purpose of the visits was to promote Milk Recording through the use of the EDIY system. Donegal has approx 250 suppliers of which only 20 were recording up to 2004. By offering EDIY as an option we hope to entice more commercial herds into recording. Hosting the visits were 3 current users of EDIY Milk Recording; Patrick Carlin, Ivan Ferguson and Maurice Graham.

The real value of Milk Recording is as an invaluable support tool for both short and long term decision making on the dairy farm. Andrew Cromie and Pat Clarke (Teagasc Dairy Specialist) kicked off each visit in the paddock with the cows (see photo) – By going through the Milk Recording Reports from the 2 tests to date, examples were given where Milk Recording identified which cows were leaving profit and which ones were poor performers. Also from a breeding perspective the EBI of different cows were compared and discussed.



The group then moved into the Parlour where Martin Burke, Brian Coughlan and Roy Graham (Donegal EDIY Technician) gave a demonstration on the EDIY system. Feedback on the system was very positive with strong interest from the target group of commercial farmers present. Names and contact details were signed up there and then.

From this drive we expect to have 70 – 80 EDIY herds in Donegal in 2005 (this is in addition to the existing 20 on the old system). EDIY recording in Donegal in 2005 is taking root and we hope to build on this number on into 2006.

3 Friesian Club Open Day - Catalogue

The Kiersey's of Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford opened their farm and herd for an open day organised by the Friesian breeders club on Tuesday this week. The Kersey's, like many other members of the club, has based the breeding of their herd on the traditional Friesian type animal. At the open day a full catalogue, generated directly from the ICBF database, provided a great deal of information both about the performance of the whole herd and of all the individual animals. The Kersey's have kept meticulous records and have milk recorded their herd for many years. The information in the catalogue included animal identification, ancestry from the IHFA herd book, milk records and EBI's.

The catalogue for the open day was a first for a dairy herd from the ICBF database. It received many complements at it provided a great deal of detail about every animal in the herd as well as providing summary information for the whole herd. It was noted during the discussion that the catalogue was a compilation of data that had been provided, and paid for, by the Kersey's over many years. It is only right that such information should be readily available for any herd owner who has kept such good records. Over the next few weeks we will be working with a number of farmers to further develop the catalogue.

4 Staffing

Anthony Galvin has announced he will be leaving ICBF effective 26th August 2005. Anthony has been a key member of the database development team for the past three years and he has made a major contribution to the progress that has been made at ICBF. We wish Anthony well in his new position. Recruitment of a replacement has commenced. The position will be advertised in the Irish Examiner next week.

5 Genetic Evaluations

Research - SCC evaluations.

- An additional two million SCC records have been re-calculated for inclusion in a new SCC test run. This test run will commence next week. Re-estimation of genetic parameters (heritabilities and genetic correlations) including these new records has also commenced.

Beef.

- Processing of the latest beef test evaluation was carried out this week. The impact of switching to an animal model, new pedigree information and additional linear type data is being assessed. It is anticipated that a subset of bull and cow proofs will be released to the industry next week.

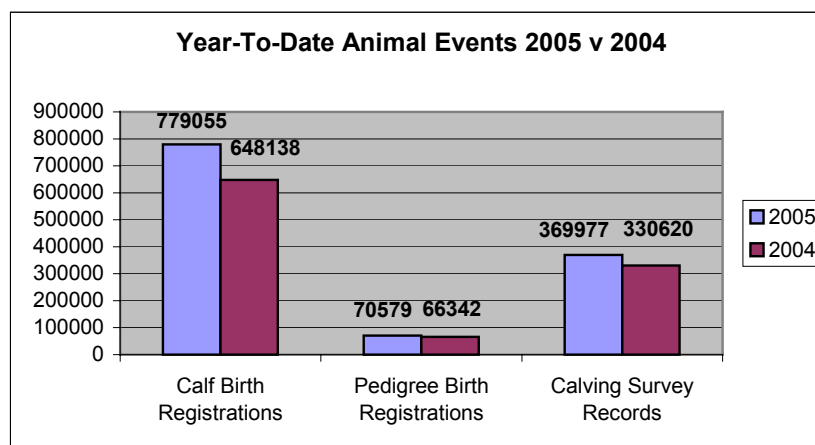
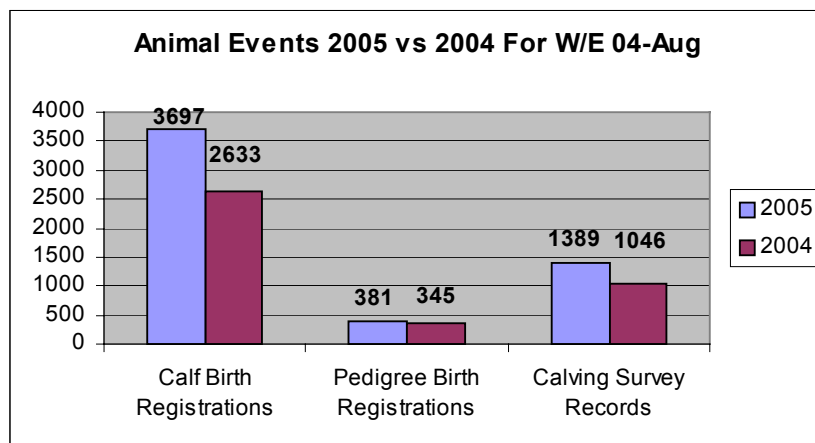


6 Database Update

- 30 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- 5000 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The roll-out of the beef linear scoring application is now expected to happen at the end of August. The application development is complete.
- Some slight modifications to the calving reports are in process, with a view to re-running the Spring 2005 reports to cover all calvings from 1-Jan-05 to 30-Jun-05. A commentary to supplement those reports is also being generated.
- There was a positive response to the trial this week whereby breeder interest in receiving text messages from farmers looking to buy high EBI stock was sought.
- The calculation of geometric means on SCC records for 'pre-IRIS'

lactations has been completed. This was needed to support the development work being done on the generation of breeding values for SCC.

- Breeding charts are continuing to be returned to ICBF for keying. The expected calving report development will begin next week, which we will generate as a result of keying the breeding chart data.



7 Tully

- A total of 895 bulls have been applied to date for the September intake. The closing date for applications is the 5-8-05 and inspections will begin on the 15-8-05.
- Two groups of pedigree breeders will visit Tully next week. On Thursday a group of 20 Simmental breeders from Scotland will visit, and on Saturday a group 40 Limousin breeders from Wales will visit.
- A meeting will be held with the Department of Agriculture on the 10-8-05 to finalise the procedure for health testing bulls entering Tully. A report will be sent to breed societies before the end of August.



8 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 22/07/05 - 29/07/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 22/07/04 - 29/07/04
Progressive	311	152
Kerry	197	206
SWS	171	173
Dairygold	144	221
Tipperary	27	12
Connacht	22	34
Arrabawn	18	18
Others (Donegal, OAD)	0	0
Total	890	816

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Aug 5th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Aug 5th (All)	2004 No. Cows at Year End (Min 2 tests)
Progressive	2,072	2,233	143,721	156,588
Dairygold	1,518	1,620	95,485	102,778
Kerry	1,063	1,098	66,030	66,886
SWS	934	964	53,533	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,137	9,268
Connacht	110	121	6,940	7,597
Arrabawn	107	120	6,936	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	32	0	3,297	0
Total	5,977	6,303	385,079	407,239

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