



UPDATE – FOR WEEK 1ST MARCH TO 5TH MARCH 2004.

1. Tully Bull Sale

- Preparations for the sale on Saturday 6th March have been proceeding.
- The important times for Saturday are:
10:00 Tully Opens to the Public
10:45 Show Commences
12:30 Sale Commences



2. International Beef Genetic Evaluations

- I attended a meeting in Paris with representatives of ICAR and INTERBULL to discuss a proposal developed by ICBF and others for establishing an international beef genetic evaluation service. Good progress was made and a proposal to expand the operations of INTERBULL to include beef breeds and beef traits has gone to the Executive Board of ICAR for consideration.
- Plans have been developed for reviewing the identification of all foreign-born ancestors in the database. This is being done to ensure Ireland is ready to participate in international beef evaluations when the time comes. A French agriculture student is likely to assist with this work over the summer of 2004.



3. Database Project

a) Newly Live Herdbooks

- 376 new pedigree registrations received during the past week.
- 169 new Beef Herds added to the database and Animal Events materials have been issued.
- A new Limousin Blup run was issued.
- A test Charolais Blup run was issued.
- The set-up of hardware for delivery to Montbeliarde, MRI and Jersey was completed and delivery will take place next week.
- Further modification of registration rules took place for Charolais and Limousin societies.
- Training of Catalogue generation took place at the Charolais, Simmental, and Hereford offices
- Further work took place on batching the linear score reports with the pedigree certificates at breed society offices and will continue next week.
- The first live pedigree registration billing files will be issued next week.



b) Other database activities

- Extensive work took place over the weekend setting up a standby database solution that will reduce downtime in the event of a database failure.
- A meeting was held with SWS to review how the transfer of files from the DAFRD to ICBF could be made more efficient.
- Further work has taken place, supporting the completion of the issue of Milk Recording Annual report

4. National Stud

- In anticipation of the national stud coming together herds with several potential young bulls but no linear scoring data have been identified. These have been written to encouraging them to have their cows linear scored by IHFA to provide the information required for final bull selection decisions by the national stud.
- An initiative is being taken to quantify the extent and scope of diseases that prevent Irish born bulls from entering AI centres. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with DAF and the epidemiology unit at UCD. Herds with the greatest potential to contribute bulls to the national stud will be invited to participate in this study.

5. Milk Recording

Database Project

- No. Herdowners Milk Recorded in IRIS = 4,101. This week we broke through to more than 4,000 herds milk recorded on IRIS.

Dairygold	1,622
Progressive	1,346
SWS	580
Kerry	302
Nenagh	124
Connacht Gold	120
Tipp	7

- No. Herd tests processed in IRIS = 14,753

Dairygold	7,409
Progressive	5,380
SWS	883
Connacht Gold	406
Kerry	353
Nenagh	315
Tipp	7



- No. herd tests processed in last 7 days = 869. **This is the largest number of milk recordings processed through IRIS in one week so far.**
- Progressive 308
- Dairygold 258
- SWS 141
- Kerry 107
- Connacht Gold 29
- Nenagh 20
- Tipp 6

Milk Recording Annual Reports

Next Friday 12th March will see the last of the Annual Reports dispatched. All outstanding 2003 reports will be sent on this date irrespective of dry dates status. (Applicable for Dairygold, Progressive, Arrabawn and Connacht only). A covering letter will be included. Department will be issued herds' Milk yield figures for 2003 as of that date.

Default Dry off Date - change

For calving events where the cow's previous lactation period is still open (that is not dry date has been notified), then the database uses a default dry off date of the new calving date minus one day. We recognise this is not a satisfactory scenario as it overestimates lactation length substantially, and are proposing to change this default to one day after the last test. Discussions next week will finalise this decision and its implementation date.

6. EBI Seminars

- Preparation for the two EBI seminars next week has been finalized.
 - **Seminar 1** - 11:00 to 13:00 on Wednesday 10th, March at **Curtains Farm, Moorepark.**
 - **Seminar 2** – 11:00 to 13:00 on Thursday 11th at **Eamon Fagan's farm - Glasson, Athlone, Co Roscommon.**
- These seminars will provide field staff of AI Companies and IHFA with a chance to discuss the recent EBI changes with ICBF and TEAGASC.

Brian

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