



## UPDATE – FOR WEEK 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2004.

### 1. Board Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> April

The main results from the meeting were:

- (a) **TB Case at Tully** – the Board agreed that bull owners should have three options (refer to details below) and every effort should be made to ensure that progress at the Tully centre is maintained. The main focus will be on keeping in close contact with bull owners and addressing their concerns.
- (b) **Report of Beef Breeding Quality Initiative Sub-Committee** – recommendation to consult with member organizations with a view to tabling a detailed plan for the July meeting was endorsed.
- (c) **Report of Audit & Finance Sub-Committee** – all recommendations adopted.
- (d) **Membership for Shorthorn breed** – adopted recommendation to facilitate negotiations between the relevant parties.
- (e) **Veterinary discussions** – decisions to undertake collaborative work with relevant parties endorsed.
- (f) **Future strategy & directions** – CE requested to bring forward discussion paper for consideration at a future specially convened meeting of the Board.
- (g) **EBI extension & education** – efforts over last six weeks endorsed but divergence in breeding objectives of some pedigree herds and many other herds is causing concern.

### 2. TB Case at Tully

- The following is the text of a letter sent on Tuesday to the owners of all bulls currently being tested at Tully:

*At the last routine health test at Tully one TB reactor animal was diagnosed. This animal was immediately removed from the station, slaughtered and TB confirmed. Tully is now under the veterinary supervision of the Department of Agriculture and no animals can move into or out of the centre without a permit.*

*We are working closely with DAF veterinary staff on the options available and on how best to manage the situation. The herd from which the reactor animal came has been retested and a number of reactors confirmed, thus establishing the source of the case at Tully.*

*On the basis of advice from DAF we understand that the risk of further reactors amongst the bulls currently at Tully is low. We are thus planning to complete the current performance test and to establish a separate centre where the bulls currently located at Tully can be relocated to until such time as all further TB testing is completed. Based on current information, and no further reactors being identified, this will take until 1st August 2004.*

*The options available for your bull(s) at this point are:*

- a) *On completion of the test, your bull would return to you on permit. Under this option your herd would be restricted from the date the animal arrived back with you until it passed a further TB test a minimum of 120 days from 1/4/2004.*
- b) *Upon completion of the performance test, your bull(s) would be removed to the alternative site we plan to establish and would remain there until they cleared the required two consecutive TB tests.*
- c) *For your bull(s) to go to slaughter directly from Tully.*

*This is a most unfortunate and unexpected turn of events in view of the precautions taken by both DAF and ICBF in selecting and testing animals for entry to the centre. However, our focus is to do all we can to ensure that the high merit bulls are as far as possible retained for breeding. By establishing a separate site for holding the bulls, once they have finished their performance test, we will be able to clean Tully and proceed with the May intake while at the same time ensuring bulls from the current test can be used for breeding.*

*If you wish to discuss the situation further please phone Tully on 045 521 573.*

- **The report in today's Irish Farmers Journal identifies the bulls as being Angus. This is not correct – the bull was a Charolais.**



- We have talked with most of the bull owners and will remain in close contact with them as the options are finalized and arrangements put in place.

### 3. Beef Recording Technical Meeting

The next meeting will be held next week on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April starting at 10:30am at Horse & Jockey. The main agenda items will include:

- Database Project
- Beef Breeding Plan – discussion paper arising from Beef Breeding Quality Initiative Sub-Committee.
- Genetic Evaluations – latest results of current research on calving survey genetic evaluations.
- Tully Report – TB case, May intake and review of March sale.

### 4. Database Project

#### a) Newly Live Herdbooks

- 1,069 new pedigree registrations received during the past week.
- 70 new Beef Herds added to the database.
- A further Limousin and Simmental BLUP extract has taken place with BLUPs available on Tuesday.
- The solution for printing certificates and BLUP reports together has been finished and will be issued to the breed societies next week.
- A new run of Billing files has been issued to the breed societies this week for March Registrations.

#### b) Other database activities

- A good response has been received to the request for mobile phone numbers that accompanied the EBI reports - around 500 numbers have been received so far.
- Several hundred sire-error reports have been received back from farmers.
- The dairy Genetic Evaluation extract for the May run will take place this weekend.
- Work to improve the efficiency of data transfer between the Dept of Agriculture systems at SWS and ICBF has continued this week and good progress has been made.

### 5. Milk Recording

#### a) Database Project - Milk Recording

- No. Herdowners Milk Recorded in IRIS = 5,418

Dairygold	1,665
Progressive	1,608
SWS	924
Kerry	877
Nenagh	129
Connacht Gold	121
Tipperary	94

- No. Herd tests processed in IRIS = 19,636

Dairygold	8,512
Progressive	6,969
SWS	1,910
Kerry	1,252
Connacht Gold	515
Nenagh	380



Tipperary 98

b) Weekly Update

- No. herd tests processed in last 6 days = 1,177

Progressive	443
Dairygold	204
SWS	285
Kerry	196
Connacht Gold	24
Nenagh	20
Tipperary	5

c) Turnaround Milk Recording Tests/Reports

- This week we have released a new Intranet Report for Milk Recording that tracks how many days on average it takes for a farmer to get results back after a recording.
- This monthly report looks at all the tests processed in the month and produces a trimmed mean of number of days it takes the herd test to get from Recording to Printing. It also gives a break down of no. days taken for each step in process. Step 1 = No. days taken between Recording and Lab, Step 2 = No. days taken between Lab and Weight keying, etc.
- As of today this report is available to each MRO for their herds processed.
- "Industry" **March 2004** Results:  
**National Average Turnaround time: 9.95 days, No. herd tests: 4,427, No. Animals: 164,518.**
- As can be seen the current performance is well short of where we want to be. ICBF suggests a realistic goal of 5 days for 2004 (with a stretched goal of 4).
- Next week we would like each MRO to review their turnaround Report for March and will welcome the following feedback:
  - Comments on this report, suitability, usefulness, etc
  - What you see as your organisations goal, and
  - What steps can be done to improve current performance.

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