ICBF & Sheep Ireland
Genetics Conference
2018
’Sustainable Farming - Progress through Genetics’
Wednesday & Thursday
5th & 6th December
Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone
Conference Begins @ 10:00
Awards Ceremony @ 19:30

“A two-day event for the dairy, beef and sheep sectors, with a unique focus on animal breeding and genetics”

Contact Us:
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Key International Speakers

Roel Veerkamp
Roel Veerkamp has worked for Wageningen UR since 1997 in the area of animal breeding. In 2012, he became extraordinary professor at Wageningen University, after heading the Animal Centre of Wageningen Livestock Research for ten years. Since 2013 he now holds a part time Professor position at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and is a visiting professor at SRUC in Scotland. In the Netherlands & Flanders, Roel coordinates the organisation responsible for the genetic evaluation for sires.

Dorian Garrick
Dorian Garrick, Ph.D., is chief scientist at the AL Rae Center in the School of Agriculture at Massey University, New Zealand. He worked in sheep and pig breeding research for four years before earning a doctorate degree from Cornell University in 1988. Dorian’s recent work has focused on theoretical and applied aspects of using genomic information to predict performance in a variety of species. Dorian is a founding partner of U.S.-based Theta Solutions LLC, which licenses software used for the largest North American singlestep beef cattle evaluation used by International Genetics Solutions, as well as ABRI for the North American Hereford evaluation.

Tim Byrne
Working for AbacusBio in Edinburgh as a genetics consultant with a range of technology, agribusiness and breeder clients, Tim has a depth of knowledge of production systems in New Zealand and internationally and has worked in a wide range of areas including systems for the integration of leading-edge production and molecular genetics technologies, cost-benefit analysis of DNA-marker integration, electronic identification, and automated drafting systems. This includes development of multi-trait economic selection indexes for beef and dairy cattle, and sheep throughout New Zealand and internationally. When working in ICBF and Sheep Ireland Tim helped to develop the breeding programme design and implementation in the Irish industry, and in the areas of communication and extension.
Conference Overview

**Wednesday 5th Day One**

### 10:30 SESSION 1A – DAIRY
**The EBI - 20 years on**
Past, present and future  
*Dr Pat Dillon, Teagasc*

**Genomics**  
What else can we glean from this technology?  
*Dr Deirdre Purfield, Teagasc*

**VistaMilk**  
A “cream of the crop” research initiative for the Irish dairy industry  
*Prof Donagh Berry, Teagasc*

**C.O.W. v2**  
Feedback from the ground and plans for 2019 onwards  
*Dr Margaret Kelleher, ICBF*

**Female fertility**  
Are we at the limit or can we further improve using genetics?  
*Dr Francis Kearney, ICBF*

### 10:30 SESSION 1B – SHEEP
**Then and Now**  
10 Years of Sheep Ireland  
*Dr Tim Byrne, Abacus Bio*

**Parentage Assignment using Genomics**  
What can it offer the Irish industry?  
*Prof Donagh Berry, Teagasc*

**Ewe Efficiency and Greenhouse Gases**  
The first step to the next level  
*Dr Fiona McGovern, Teagasc*

**Genetic Evaluation Updates**  
Utilising the database to maximise returns  
*Dr Thierry Pabiou, ICBF*

**Can we breed Healthier Sheep?**  
Breeding as a solution to improve sheep health  
*Anna O’Brien, Teagasc*

**Improving the rate of Genetic Gain**  
What factors are involved  
*Kevin McDermott, Sheep Ireland*

**Putting the €uroStars into action**  
How joining LampPlus has transformed the flock  
*David Coen, Salesian Agricultural College*

**SusSheep**  
European project for more sustainable sheep production  
*Eamon Wall, Sheep Ireland*

### 12:30 LUNCH

### 13:30 SESSION 2
**DAIRY, BEEF & SHEEP SESSION**

**Genetic Improvement of Cattle & Sheep**  
What are the areas for Ireland to focus on in the future?  
*Prof Dorian Garrick, Massey University, NZ*

**Big Data in Animal Agriculture**  
Challenges and Opportunities  
*Prof Roel Veerkamp, WUR*

**20 Years of ICBF**  
Trends in genetic gain for dairy, beef and sheep  
*Dr Tim Byrne, Abacus Bio*

**ICBF – Looking Forward**  
Sean Coughlan, CEO, ICBF & Sheep Ireland

### 15:30 TEA & COFFEE

### 16:00 NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2019+

**Calving Evaluations**  
*Dr Ross Evans, ICBF*

**Dairy Beef Indexes**  
*Prof Donagh Berry, Teagasc*

**Fluke & Tuberculosis Evaluations**  
*Dr Siobhan Ring, Teagasc*

**Meat-Eating Quality Evaluations**  
*Dr Michelle Judge, Meat Technology Ireland*

**Data Recording**  
*Kevin Downing, ICBF*

**Greenbreed – Measuring Methane at Tully**  
*Dr Stephen Conroy, ICBF*

### 18:00 POSTER SESSION

### 19:30 AWARD CEREMONY & DINNER
*Kindly sponsored by FBD Trust*

**FBD Trust**

To book your place at this two-day event for the dairy, beef and sheep sectors, with a unique focus on animal breeding and genetics, go to: [www.icbf.com/?page_id=11997](http://www.icbf.com/?page_id=11997)  
Sign in is at 10:00 SHARP  
NOTE: Session 1A — Dairy & 1B — Sheep are running in parallel.