



Update for period 28th October – 3rd November 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Saturday 18th November.** Tully Bull Sale.
- ✚ **Wednesday 29th November,** 10:30 – 16:00. Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation meeting, Abbeylax.
- ✚ **Thursday 30th November.** ICBF Board Meeting in Bandon.

2 Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting – Wednesday

Key outcomes from the meeting were as follows:

- ✚ The economic values in the EBI should be updated to reflect; (i) the increasing costs associated with infertility (especially in the context of future constraints on land-availability), (ii) increased market value for milk protein (relative to fat), (iii) increased cost of calving problems, (iv) increased value of carcass weight and carcass fat as predictors of meat value. A summary of the new economic values in the EBI (together with the old values) are given in table 1.

Table 1. Summary of changes to the economic values within the EBI.

Sub-Index	Trait	Old EBI (Feb 2006)		New EBI (Feb 2007)	
		EV's	Rel. Emphasis	EV's	Rel. Emphasis
Milk	Protein kg	€5.27	25%	€5.36	24%
	Fat kg	€1.55	9%	€0.96	5%
	Milk kg	-€0.085	14%	-€0.085	13%
Fertility	Survival (%)	€10.80	14%	€10.51	13%
	CI Days	-€7.17	17%	-€10.87	24%
Calving	Maternal calving	-€1.73	1%	-€1.28	1%
	Direct calving	-€3.26	3%	-€3.26	3%
	Direct gestation	-€4.47	3%	-€6.86	3%
	Calf mortality	-€2.58	1%	-€2.85	1%
Beef	Cow carcass weight	€0.04	0.2%	€0.04	0.2%
	Carcass weight	€1.40	4%	€1.40	4%
	Carcass conformation	€5.99	2%	€10.32	2%
	Carcass fat score	-€4.49	2%	-€11.71	2%
Health	Locomotion	€1.13	0.4%	€1.13	0.4%
	SCC	-€55.48	5%	-€55.48	5%

- ✚ Genetic evaluations for dairy breeds should move onto an across breed basis, with official publication of animals & breeds on the following basis.
 - Official proofs for AI sires from the Holstein, Friesian & Montbelliarde breeds meeting minimum EBI reliability criterion (currently 52%).
 - Official proofs for AI sires for all other dairy breeds having sufficient information in Ireland (i.e., 80 daughters in 20 herds as defined by Interbull).
 - Official proofs for all females across all breeds (pedigree and cross-bred).
- ✚ ICBF should review the content and publication criterion of the ICBF Active Bull List with a view to increasing farmer confidence in AI & EBI.
- ✚ ICBF and the cattle breeding industry should work closely together to devise farmer friendly educational material, promoting the benefits of AI & EBI.
- ✚ All changes to publication of EBI proofs (economic values & breeds) to be effective from Friday 21st November 2006.



3 Board Meeting – Thursday

The Board and its Audit & Finance Sub-Committee met jointly with the Deloitte consultants conducting the review of costs and structure. An action plan will be prepared for consideration at the next Board meeting.

At its meeting the Board decisions taken included:

- ✚ Having been briefed by Deloitte's on their review of ICBF's costs and structure, to proceed with implementation of the revised service fees in accordance with the full plan presented to the June 22nd Board meeting.
- ✚ To endorse the outcome of the dairy genetic evaluation consultation meeting held the previous day (see above).
- ✚ To direct that ICBF and IHFA work together to find a solution to the concerns that liquid milk producers have in relation to the relevance of the EBI as a guide for breeding decisions in their herds.

4 Genetic Evaluations – Dairy

- ✚ Routine files for production, somatic cell count and longevity have been submitted to Interbull. The target release date of the proofs from Interbull back to ICBF is the 13th November.
- ✚ Fertility files from the September test-run were received today and are currently being processed. Test results will be released to the industry for feedback.

5 Genetic Evaluations – Beef

- ✚ An evaluation incorporating the latest Tully data (liveweights, feed intake and linear scores) will commence shortly. This evaluation will be completed prior to the Tully sale for inclusion in the catalogue.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the publication of linear type traits including the development of composite indexes. Results will be made available to the industry next week.

6 Tully

- ✚ The TB and brucellosis test for the May intake was carried out on the 31-10-06.
- ✚ The final catalogue for the May intake will be up on the ICBF web site from the 8-11-06.
- ✚ A group of commercial beef farmers from Laois will visit Tully on the 8-11-06.
- ✚ A group of commercial beef farmers from Louth will visit Tully on the 7-11-06.
- ✚ Following a call for proposals for the role of auctioneer Mr Tom Cox has been appointed to conduct the sales (Saturday November 18th) for the next three years.

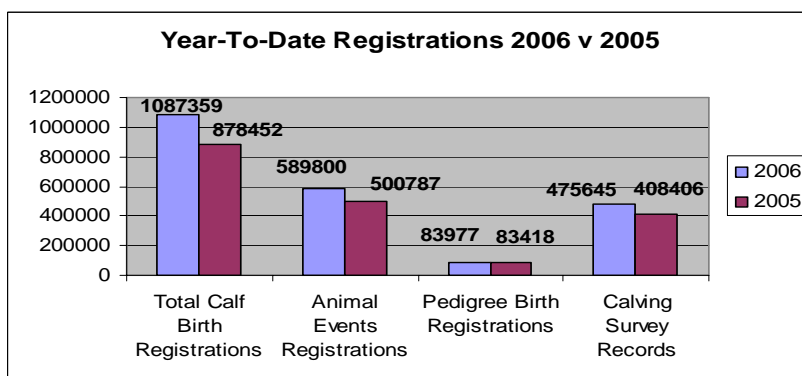
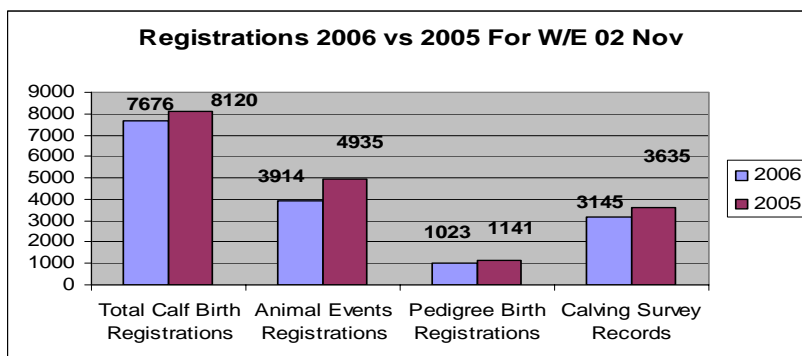
7 HerdPlus

- ✚ HerdPlus staff attended Teagasc Open day for Winter Milk herds in Johnstown Castle on Thursday 2nd November.
- ✚ Direct Debit Sign up Forms continue to come in at a steady rate, meeting expected numbers for end October.
- ✚ First draft of new format Notebook is under test at the moment.



8 Database Update

- ✚ 25 new herds added to the database last week.
- ✚ 160,976 inseminations have now been recorded on the AI handhelds.
- ✚ Work is ongoing on development of hand held software to support the Teagasc funded lameness recording project.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the personalised Animal Events notebook for farmers.
- ✚ The preliminary Tully catalogue is available on the ICBF website.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the web-enabled herdbook processing application and on the background infrastructure of the platform for other applications to be migrated to the web.



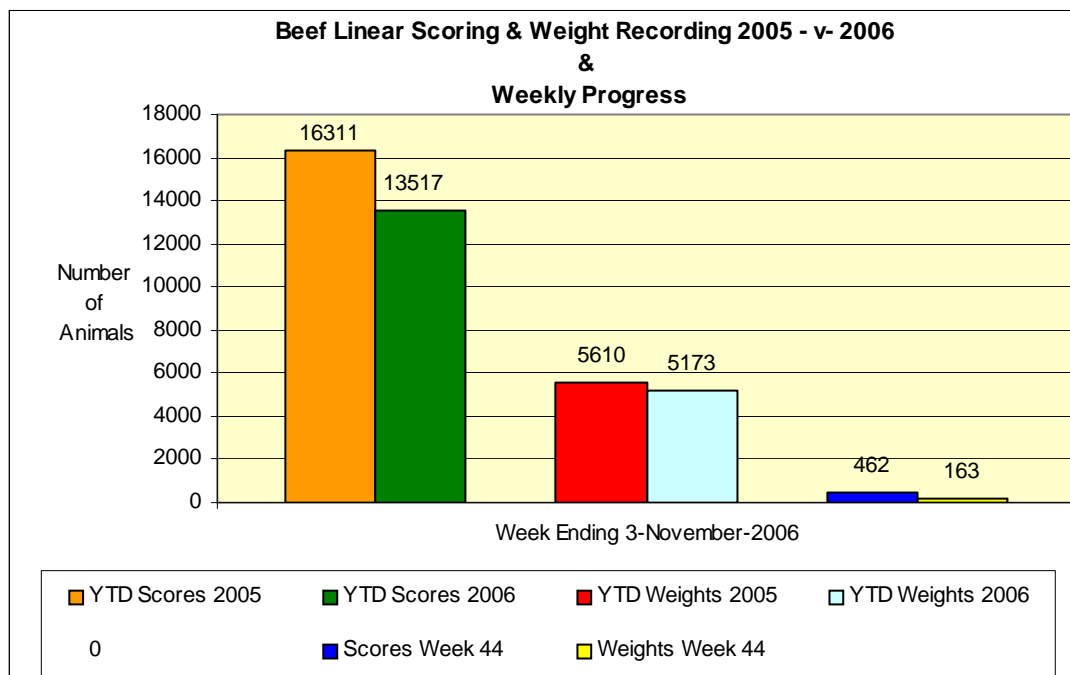
- ✚ Further data from marts was received and loaded to the database.
- ✚ Work is progressing on the new herdbook front end to IRIS.

9 GENE IRELAND

- ✚ The winter GENE IRELAND progeny testing programme is now underway. Letters were sent to the 143 herds from last year, inviting them again to participate in this years Winter AI programme.
- ✚ Target is to test another 10 bulls - 4 Dutch-born and 6 Irish-born. Average EBI of the group is €86.
- ✚ Ruud and Lancelot have 3 sons each in the programme.
- ✚ Further details can be found on the ICBF website.



10 Beef Linear Scoring



11 Milk Recording Update

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 03/11/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 03/11/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 03/11/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 03/11/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,084	2,105	1%	150,724	157,742	5%
Dairygold	1,527	1,550	2%	98,005	103,598	6%
Kerry	1,064	1,074	1%	67,403	70,124	4%
SWS	937	958	2%	55,008	59,633	8%
Tipperary	142	168	18%	9,375	11,842	26%
Arrabawn	109	159	46%	7,123	11,045	55%
Connacht	110	140	27%	7,385	9,240	25%
Donegal	47	58	23%	4,190	5,271	26%
Total	6,020	6,212	3%	399,213	428,495	7%



Milk Recording Stats week ending 3/11/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 27/10/06 - 03/11/06
Progressive	249
Dairygold	207
Kerry	203
SWS	153
Tipperary	27
Arrabawn	14
Connacht	3
Donegal	2
Total	858

Industry Test Turnaround October 2006.

Industry national average for Aug 2006 was 6.4 days. Nationally 3,411 tests were processed covering some 195,216 animals. The Organisation with the best turnaround in Oct 06 was **Kerry** with an average of **4.6 days**. Dairygold, SWS and Arrabawn were also under 5.8 days. Each Milk Recording Organisation (MRO) is furnished with an Intranet Report on their respective turnaround performance. This gives the Organisations the details on how much time is taken in the different steps in the milk recording process.

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