



UPDATE – for period 29th March – 4th April 2008

1 Important Dates

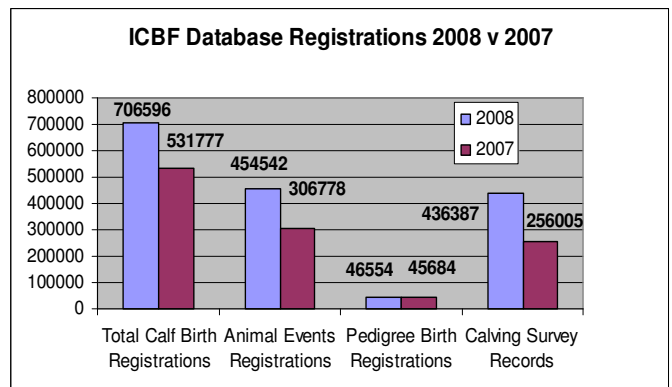
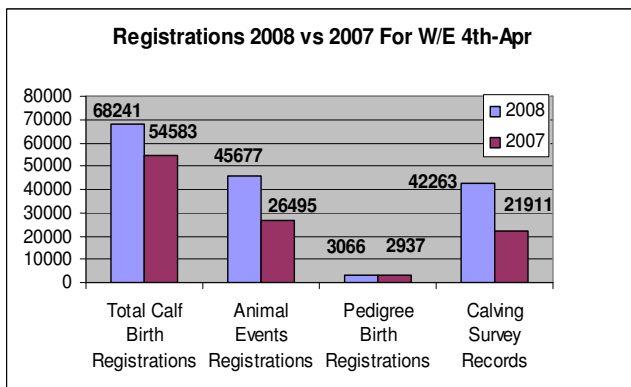
- ✚ **1st May** – Board meeting, Ten Years of ICBF Operations, and AGM. O’Callaghan Alexander Hotel Dublin.

2 Board Meeting

At its meeting on Thursday decisions taken by the Board included:

- ✚ To strongly support the Herd Health Initiative being lead by DAFF.
- ✚ To Adopt the Audited Accounts for 2007.
- ✚ To approve a recommendation from the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee to build up ICBF’s working capital by some €0.5 million through the retention of surpluses over the next five years.
- ✚ To take steps to ensure ICBF’s intellectual property, in the form of its genetic evaluations, is protected.

3 Database Update



- ✚ 46,618 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 31,502 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ ICBF have received 50,624 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed. Over 165,000 birth registrations from new Animal Events users have been received.
- ✚ Responses to the initial batch of the Suckler Scheme ‘Missing Sires/Sire Errors have come back this week. The remaining reports will be issues over the coming week.
- ✚ The initial version of the On-line herdbook was issued to a number of herdbooks this week – the remaining herdbooks should receive their version early next week.
- ✚ Breeding charts and Sire Advice reports are being generated this weekend.
- ✚ We have been having a number of problems with the broadband lines over the past weeks and have been actively looking for a solution to relieve the speed issues that organisations have been having. We will be piloting one such solution next week and will be in touch with the user organisations about this.



4 Milk Recording

| National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 04/04/08 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 04/04/08 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 04/04/08 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 04/04/08 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 04/04/08 | % Cows EDIY |
| Progressive | 1,514 | 353 | 23% | 93,818 | 22,277 | 24% |
| Dairygold | 938 | 198 | 21% | 48,708 | 11,209 | 23% |
| Kerry | 678 | 58 | 9% | 33,589 | 3,213 | 10% |
| SWS | 746 | 69 | 9% | 36,081 | 3,555 | 10% |
| Tipperary | 67 | 10 | 15% | 3,278 | 580 | 18% |
| Arrabawn | 61 | 42 | 69% | 3,395 | 2,421 | 71% |
| Connacht | 97 | 18 | 19% | 4,678 | 785 | 17% |
| Donegal | 4 | 4 | 100% | 214 | 214 | 100% |
| Total | 4,105 | 752 | 18% | 223,761 | 44,254 | 20% |

| Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 04/04/06 | YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 04/04/07 | YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 04/04/08 | 2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%) |
| Progressive | 93,646 | 92,997 | 93,818 | 0.9% |
| Dairygold | 43,875 | 45,185 | 48,708 | 7.2% |
| Kerry | 32,354 | 33,030 | 33,589 | 1.7% |
| SWS | 34,263 | 35,145 | 36,081 | 2.6% |
| Tipperary | 3,948 | 3,076 | 3,278 | 6.2% |
| Arrabawn | 2,797 | 3,705 | 3,395 | -9.1% |
| Connacht | 4,367 | 4,866 | 4,678 | -4.0% |
| Donegal | 486 | 259 | 214 | -21.0% |
| Total | 215,736 | 218,263 | 223,761 | 2.5% |

5 HerdPlus

Sire Advice activity

Up to this Friday 04th April, some 1,372 farmers have run the Sire Advice web tool. After the weekend we will be transferring the farmers' sire selections onto their **Breeding Charts** and posting same. The bulls also get automatically saved to the **AI Handhelds** operated by AI technicians. Next week we will analyse the selections and report some stats on the most frequently selected bulls.

6 Tully

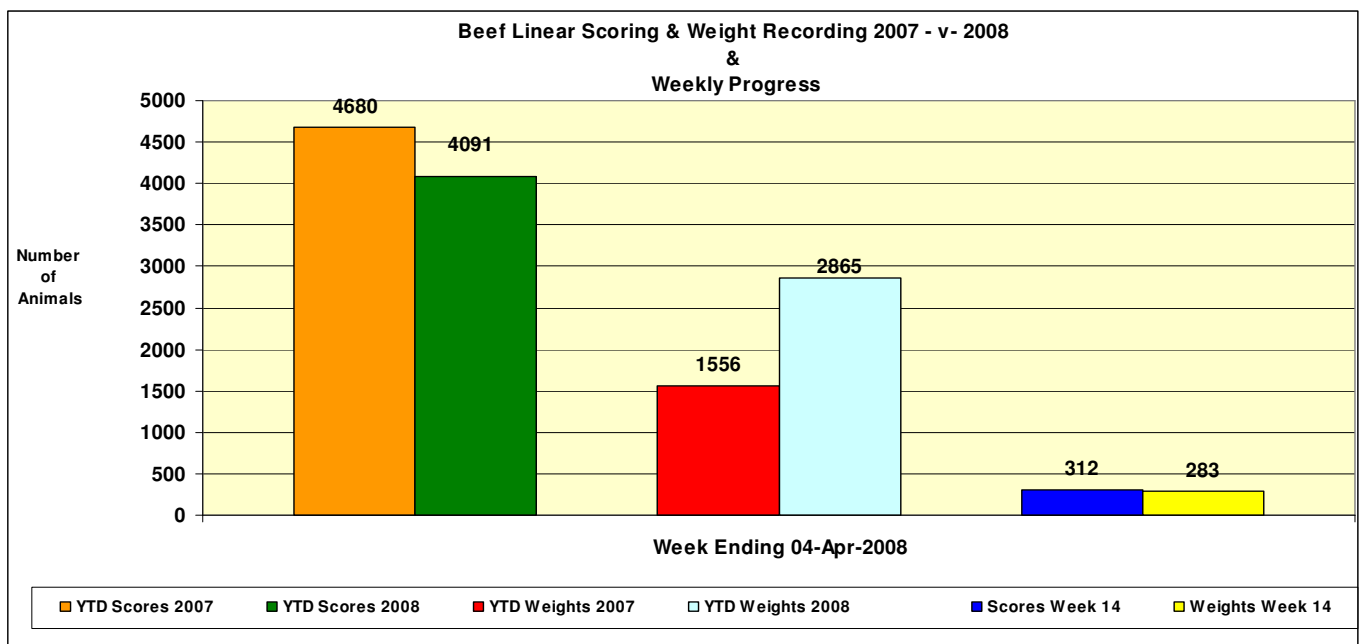
- ✚ The final weighing of the December intake will take place on the 4-4-08 and will be sent out to breeders and breed societies on the 7-4-08.
- ✚ The final catalogue with Euro-Star indexes and performance figures will be sent out to breeders, breed societies and AI stations before the 7-4-08.
- ✚ The annual TB and brucellosis test will take place on the 4-4-08.



7 Genetic Evaluations

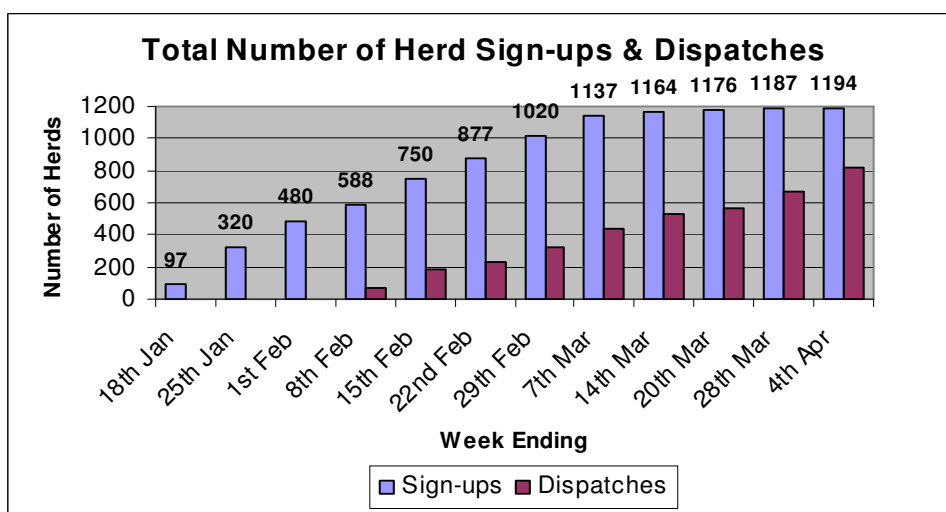
- A new beef evaluation was run for the purposes of updating the Euro-Star indexes on the current intake of Tully bulls who are at the end of their performance test. The information which is included includes live weights, feed intake and linear scores. The new indexes will be sent to the owners of the Tully bulls today.
- An updated list of EBI's for dairy AI sires will be circulated next week. The figures will be updated with the latest INTERBULL information on production and fertility.
- Work on identifying problem animals in the pedigree files is nearing completion and the various lists of pedigree animal problems will be circulated to the respective herdbooks for correction. These problem animals are addressed in each genetic evaluation by breaking the link in the pedigree to the problem animal. However, the ideal solution is to correct the error so that the animal and its pedigree are both free of errors and allowed into the genetic evaluation.

8 GROW – Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



9 GENÉ IRELAND®

DAIRY SPRING 2008



- With AI start dates fast approaching the pressure is on to continue to get straws out to farmers on time. We are currently dispatching herds that are due to start 10th April.

- We are currently working with 2 HOFR packs and the Xbred pack.



| TEST GROUP 7 - HOFR | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| AI CODE | NAME | SIRE | MGS | EBI | MILK | FERT |
| BUJ | BALLYLUCK BENJI 528 | RDU | MAU | 162 | 74.51 | 55.14 |
| DZI | HIGHMOUNT DAIRE | RUU | SPW | 164.74 | 68.91 | 61.83 |
| KJZ | KILLINGLEY SJOERD CLASS | NHS | UYC | 134.04 | 106.83 | 19.37 |
| KUI | KNOCKSOUNA MARTIN | MAU | NHS | 116.47 | 60.14 | 37.32 |
| NYB | BALLYDEHOB ALBYN 687 | BCG | ESZ | 126.52 | 19.88 | 89.73 |
| | | | | 140.75 | 66.05 | 52.68 |
| TEST GROUP 8 - HOFR | | | | | | |
| AI CODE | NAME | SIRE | MGS | EBI | MILK | FERT |
| GZL | BALLYDEHOB GLEN 681 | BCG | LTD | 128.29 | 32.33 | 63.41 |
| KIF | KILCOLMAN FLAIR | LLO | HMP | 134.32 | 55.96 | 68.01 |
| LZO | LEANAMORE OMAN | OJI | MAU | 192.77 | 104.02 | 49.92 |
| QWA | QUINNVIEW BARRY 241 | RIL | RUU | 139.81 | 49.44 | 61.47 |
| SKI | SPARTA KINDER | STX | MAU | 121.86 | 93.95 | 17.35 |
| | | | | 143.41 | 67.14 | 52.03 |
| TEST GROUP - XBRED PACK | | | | | | |
| AI CODE | NAME | SIRE | MGS | EBI | MILK | FERT |
| FVE* | BALLYHOOLY FOREVER NOEL | RKV | WAS | 78.25 | 45.75 | 63.21 |
| HZK* | HILLCAP ZIK | QZI | ITR | 42.44 | -4.2 | 72.16 |
| EZT | LAURAGH ESTER KAIAPOI | SLW | SPW | 137 | 59.8 | 71.65 |
| YBS | BALLYBRIDE SAND | LLO | UYC | 140.06 | 74.34 | 64.86 |
| RXL | CAPPAUNIAC RALEIGH | RUU | ELC | 136.5 | 53.4 | 52.15 |
| * Jersey bulls | | | | 106.85 | 45.82 | 64.81 |

✚ Note – the EBI of HZK is an underestimation of his true figure as we don't have information from the Dutch to apply a conversion for him at this point in time.

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