

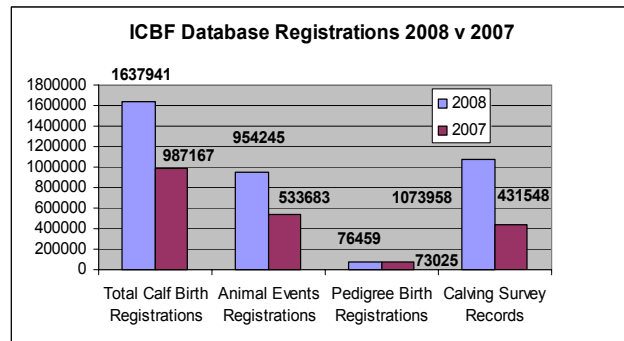
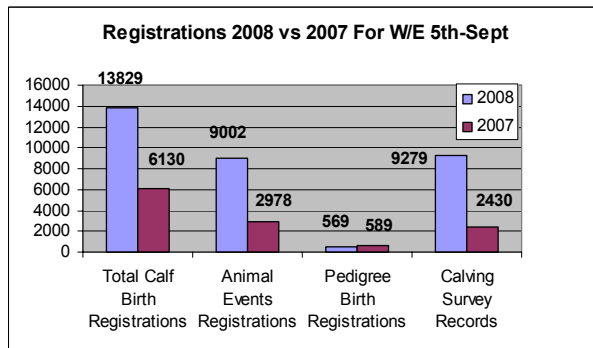


UPDATE – for period 30th August – 5th September 2008

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 16th September** – Tully Advisory Committee meeting 11:00 to 13:00.
- ✚ **Thursday 18th September** – ICBF Board meeting 10:30 to 14:00.
- ✚ **Thursday 18th September** – Interim Sheep Board meeting 14:00 to 17:00.
- ✚ **23rd to 25th September** – Ploughing Championships, Kilkenny.
- ✚ **9th to 11th October** – World Holstein Friesian Conference hosted by Ireland at Killarney & Millstreet. For details see www.ihfa.ie.
- ✚ **11th and 12th October** – International Beef Expo being hosted in Ireland at Kilkenny Mart. For details see www.beefexpoireland.ie.

2 Database



- ✚ 494,580 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 344,277 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ The work on reviewing the AI software for next season is continuing. We expect to have a session with each of the AI organisations using handhelds, beginning next week.
- ✚ At this stage, over 50,000 suckler herds have had at least one calving in 2008. The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 218,000, which is positive.
- ✚ Work on the Teagasc Discussion Group reports is continuing. A number of the reports have been completed, and the remainder will be completed over the next number of weeks.
- ✚ Developments in relation to Gene Ireland payments are being completed and payments for inseminations and calvings in 2008 will be made next week.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system is underway. A significant amount of ‘back-end’ work will need to be completed before we engage with the milk recording organisations in terms of how screens/functionality etc will need to be updated to take account of their needs.

3 Sheep

The project team, working mostly by email, have focused this week on finalising their report to the Interim Board. The report covers the four main issues addressed at last weeks workshop – identification, recording, genetic evaluation and breeding schemes. It will provide a clear direction for the Irish sheep industry and is focused on ensuring a profitable industry.



4 Genomics

The joint TEAGASC and ICBF research initiative to integrate genomic selection into Irish dairy cattle breeding continues to make good progress. There has been a good response to our request for herd owners to help us locate semen from bulls of interest. Next week we will be providing an update on progress to the Irish AI industry. We have also been involved in discussions with potential collaborators in other countries. These discussions are focused on ensuring Irish farmers benefit to the greatest extent possible from the accelerated rates of genetic gain and cost reductions possible through the effective use of genomic selection.

5 Herd Health Initiatives

A meeting was held on Wednesday this week involving ICBF, TEAGASC and UCD. The meeting focused on TEAGASC research plans for aspects of health in dairy and beef herds. It also considered the desire of dairy and beef herd owners to have access to herd health services which enable them to:

- ✦ identify the health status of animals they are considering for purchase,
- ✦ to demonstrate the health status of animals they are selling,
- ✦ to supply milk which meets the standards required by processors and
- ✦ to reduce production costs associated with poor animal health.

The implications of these discussions for ICBF will be reported at the next ICBF Board meeting.

6 Tully

We are pleased to announce that Stephen Conroy has been appointed as Tully Manager. Stephen is currently completing PhD studies at TEAGASC Grange. His work there involves: beef feeding, recording and management, ultrasonic scanning, linear scoring and carcass dissection. Stephen will attend the next meeting of the Tully Advisory Committee and will start work at Tully in mid November.

In the meantime, Niall Kilrane will continue as acting Tully Manager.

7 Genetic Evaluations

- ✦ The official proofs for dairy and beef have been updated on the website and the bull search at www.icbf.com. The remaining informational files will be placed on there in the coming days. The new proofs will be copied to the live database over the weekend.
- ✦ Ross Evans spoke at an informational meeting at Tullamore mart for Teagasc advisors as part of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme. Teagasc advisors will be repeating this to farmers at mart events across the country as part of the education aspect of the scheme.

8 GENE IRELAND®



Dairy

- ✦ The proofs for the Spring 2005 test bulls are presented below. Next week we will do a comparison with ancestry information once the database has been fully updated. We plan to do another run in October which will add further production data and include linear score information. The results of this run will then be used for GENE IRELAND® awards (top bulls) in early November.
- ✦ The extract was taken for the first round of payments for Spring 2008 recorded inseminations. We will be making payments on 29,134 inseminations (60% of straws dispatched). These will be made next week.
- ✦ Further to collecting Farmer Rating scores on 1st lactation animals from herds involved in this years linear scoring and targeted GENE IRELAND® herds, there is now the facility for all herds signed up to ICBF to provide feedback on their animals via the ICBF website. This service can be located under the 'Record Events' section on the farmer homepage and is labeled 'Record Farmer Rating'. We encourage as many farmers as possible to provide ICBF with farmer rating scores. The objective is to use this information in



genetic evaluations and establish further links to profitability traits such as production, fertility and health, so the more data obtained the more reliable the evaluations.

9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 26/08/08 to 05/09/08.

	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
CARLOW	11	651	59	17.7	4.10	3.61	1.36	249
CAVAN	48	2,615	54	19.8	3.95	3.43	1.46	270
CLARE	30	1,468	49	19.8	3.84	3.45	1.44	264
CORK STH	339	19,948	59	18.6	4.07	3.59	1.42	276
CORK NTH	274	19,147	70	19.0	3.95	3.49	1.41	274
DONEGAL	12	855	71	19.0	4.11	3.52	1.45	297
DUBLIN	6	439	73	17.7	4.00	3.42	1.31	251
GALWAY	29	1,616	56	23.0	3.82	3.34	1.65	295
KERRY	123	7,944	65	19.0	3.94	3.48	1.41	297
KILDARE	15	1,076	72	21.5	3.82	3.47	1.57	257
KILKENNY	49	3,273	67	18.0	4.06	3.56	1.37	243
LAOIS	32	2,052	64	17.1	4.28	3.59	1.35	199
LEITRIM	6	265	44	22.5	3.81	3.37	1.62	212
LIMERICK	129	8,856	69	18.9	3.90	3.43	1.39	307
LONGFORD	13	804	62	20.2	3.88	3.49	1.49	215
LOUTH	21	1,502	72	19.4	4.02	3.48	1.46	212
MAYO	28	1,373	49	24.5	3.46	3.42	1.69	285
MEATH	54	4,036	75	20.2	4.01	3.44	1.50	300
MONAGHAN	28	1,259	45	21.7	3.78	3.40	1.56	330
OFFALY	36	2,411	67	20.8	4.18	3.50	1.60	266
ROSCOMMON	6	366	61	19.9	3.92	3.40	1.46	434
SLIGO	10	470	47	23.5	3.50	3.61	1.67	261
TIPPERARY NTH	59	4,109	70	19.0	4.09	3.58	1.46	264
TIPPERARY STH	59	3,775	64	17.7	4.05	3.53	1.34	254
WATERFORD	67	5,412	81	18.2	4.34	3.64	1.45	265
WESTMEATH	13	1,000	77	17.7	4.41	3.57	1.41	192
WEXFORD	60	4,349	72	17.7	3.96	3.52	1.32	250
WICKLOW E	12	865	72	20.2	3.62	3.53	1.44	294
WICKLOW W	17	954	56	20.9	4.13	3.42	1.58	257
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,586	102,890	63	19.8	3.97	3.49	1.47	268



National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 26/08/08 to 05/09/08.

Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	1080	70,659	65	18.8	4.02	3.52	1.42	275
Leinster	339	23,412	69	19.2	4.04	3.51	1.45	245
Connacht	79	4,090	52	22.7	3.70	3.43	1.62	297
Ulster	88	4,729	54	20.2	3.95	3.45	1.49	299

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/09/08

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/09/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/09/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/09/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/09/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,222	896	40%	177,392	69,508	39%
Dairygold	1,675	622	37%	121,824	47,063	39%
Kerry	1,158	247	21%	78,484	16,186	21%
SWS	913	132	14%	61,219	9,419	15%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	12,947	5,735	73%
Arrabawn	165	137	83%	12,723	10,722	84%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,066	4,240	42%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,710	4,710	100%
Total	6,512	2,224	34%	479,365	167,583	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 05/09/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 05/09/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 05/09/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	153,587	163,430	177,392	13.4%
Dairygold	102,532	110,147	121,824	9.6%
Kerry	69,540	71,114	78,484	11.4%
SWS	58,521	60,013	61,219	2.0%
Tipperary	11,747	12,211	12,947	5.7%
Arrabawn	10,945	11,811	12,723	7.2%
Connacht	8,937	9,893	10,066	1.7%
Donegal	5,142	3,861	4,710	18.0%
Total	420,951	442,480	479,365	7.7%

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