



**UPDATE – for period 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**1 Important Dates**

- ✚ **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June, Moorepark Open Day.**
- ✚ **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July, ICBF Beef Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting, Horse & Jockey.**
- ✚ **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July, ICBF Board Meeting, Comfort Inn Portlaoise.**
- ✚ **August 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.** Interbull and EAAP Annual Meetings, UCD, Dublin.
- ✚ **September 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.** Ploughing Championships, Tullamore.

**2 Ploughing 2007**

Planning for the ICBF stand at Ploughing later this year has commenced. With our services now being delivered to a combination of members, non-members and farmers it has been decided that we will organise a stand dedicated to ICBF. However, in doing so, we also want to ensure that all of our customers and members receive any support we can provide to ensure their stands at Ploughing are also successful. Please advise Martin Burke or Pat Donnellan of any assistance that is required for your stand at Ploughing.

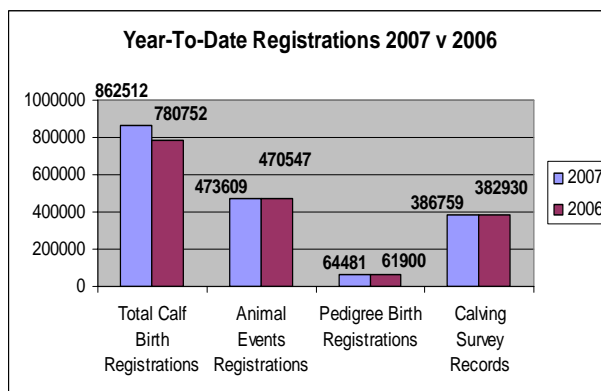
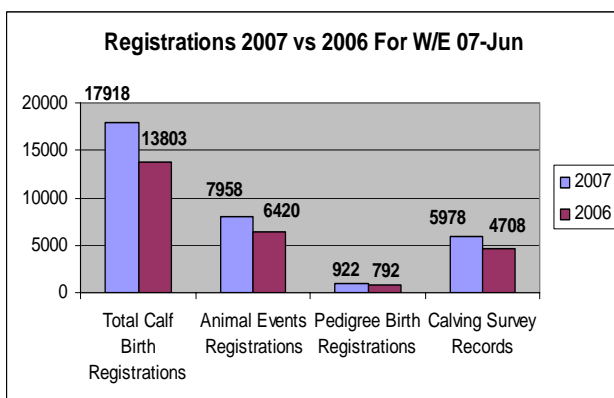
**3 EAAP & Interbull**

This year Ireland will be hosting the annual EAAP (European Assn of Animal Science) and Interbull meetings over the period August 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> at UCD in Dublin. These meetings will involve some 1,000 animal scientists and geneticists from all over the world and provide a unique opportunity for Ireland to demonstrate to the scientific world the extent of recent developments in cattle breeding. ICBF will be organising a field trip for those participants interested in Irish cattle breeding at part of the joint meetings. Further details of the meetings can be found on the organisers website <http://www.eaap2007.ie/>.

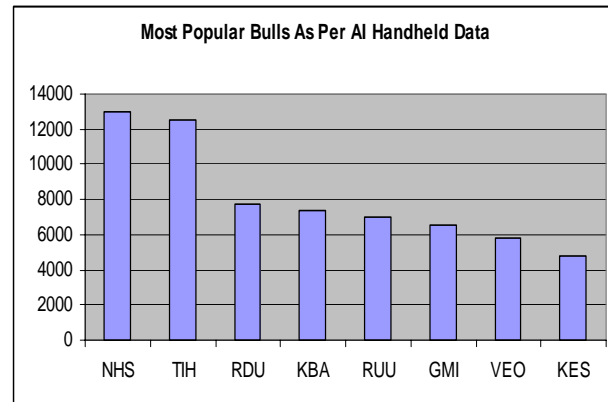
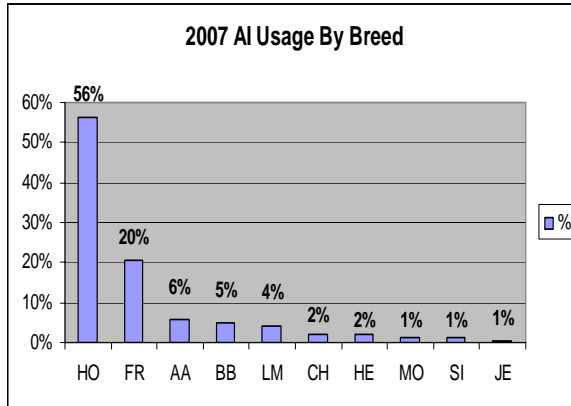
**4 Tully**

- ✚ A group of 9 French Department of Agriculture staff are visiting today.
- ✚ Maintenance of feed boxes and gates has commenced.
- ✚ A review of the health testing procedures for entry to Tully is underway and a report is being finalised.

**5 Database Update**



- ✚ 222,496 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 84,736 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✚ Below are some statistics based on inseminations gathered through the AI handhelds this season.



- Some tweaks to the new Herdbook front end are continuing. The use of the solution is increasing, and we continue to add modules to the solution.
- The nightly batch jobs processing data from the Dept of Agriculture are being reviewed with a view to a redesign which would reduce the processing time on the ICBF database significantly.
- The 'six-week' fertility reports continue to be generated on a daily basis and are being issued to HerdPlus members.

## 6 Genetic Evaluations

### Dairy Genetic evaluations

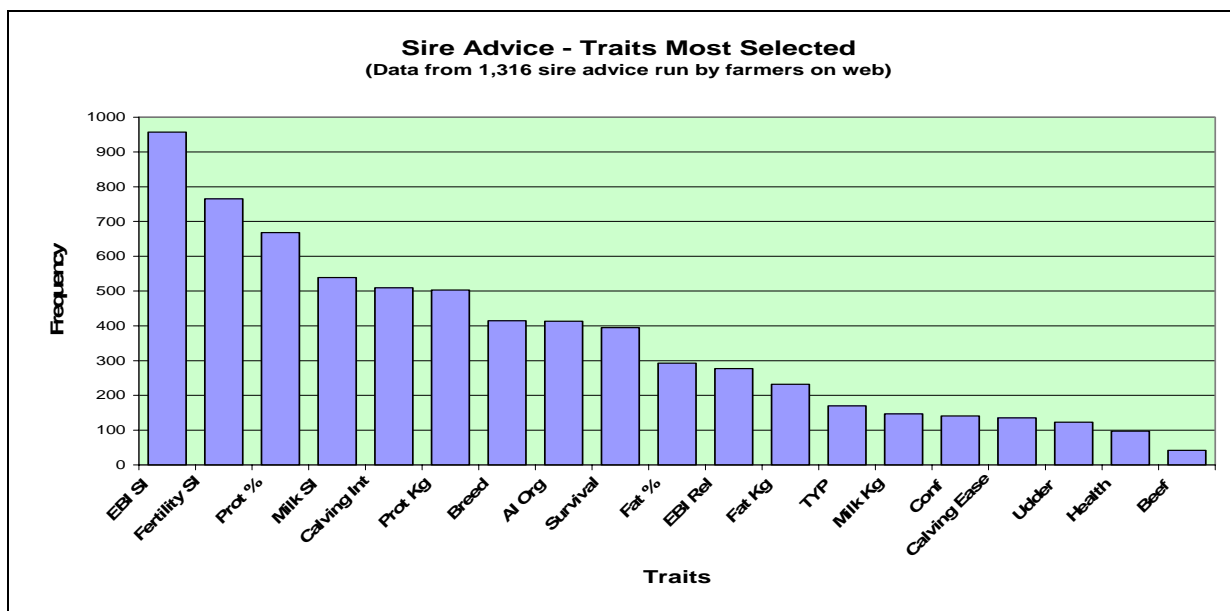
- Work has commenced on the transfer of the calving interval and survival evaluation for both dairy and beef to a different software package capable of handling larger amounts of data. The evaluation now processes and edits over 4 million calving interval records extracted from the ICBF database. Suitable records for genetic evaluation have now surpassed the 1 million mark.

### Beef Genetic Evaluations

- ICBF personnel have commenced visits to collect mart weight data ahead of the next beef run. Data from 7 marts already visited has been loaded and matched to the database for animals from herds on Animal Events.

## 7 HerdPlus

- Sire Advice activity:** To date there were some 1,316 distinct dairy farmers who ran the program themselves - Graph below shows frequency of traits selected by these farmers (advanced program). Top 3 farmer requirements were EBI, Fertility and Protein.
- EBI Reports – June 2007** evaluation reports are now on [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com). Postal clients have been posted a copy.
- Spring 2007 Calving Reports** are also on [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com). Postal clients have been posted copy.
- Fertility Reports** – some 42% of HerdPlus clients have received 3 week Fertility Reports. These are prompted by the database when three weeks of mating data has been recorded.



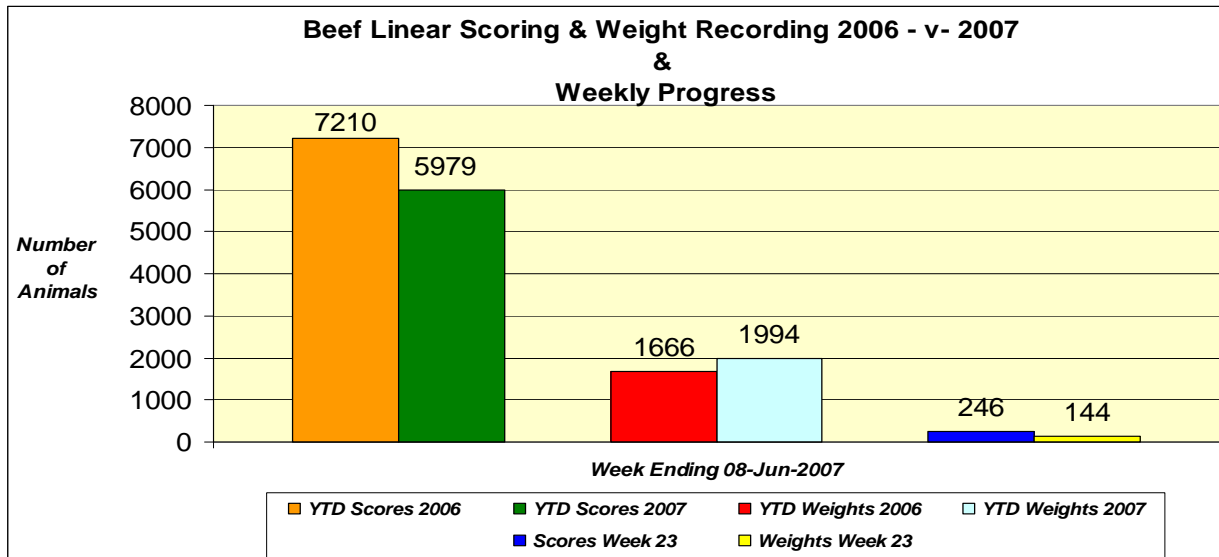
### 8 Milk Recording Processing this week

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 08/06/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 08/06/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 08/06/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	136,613	139,882	149,135	6.2%
Dairygold	84,910	92,853	98,465	5.7%
Kerry	61,717	64,766	65,547	1.2%
SWS	50,799	54,092	55,856	3.2%
Tipperary	8,510	10,480	11,146	6.0%
Arrabawn	6,490	9,993	10,741	7.0%
Connacht	6,521	6,937	8,475	18.1%
Donegal	1,740	4,222	3,182	-32.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,300</b>	<b>383,225</b>	<b>402,547</b>	<b>4.8%</b>

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 01/06/07 - 08/06/07
Progressive	227
Dairygold	195
SWS	131
Kerry	125
Tipperary	20
Arrabawn	9
Connacht	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>714</b>



**9 Beef Linear Scoring**



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