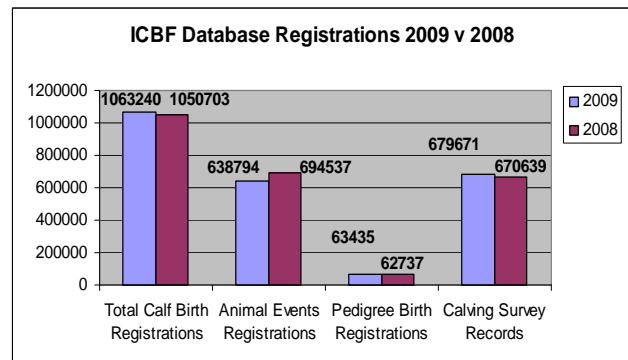
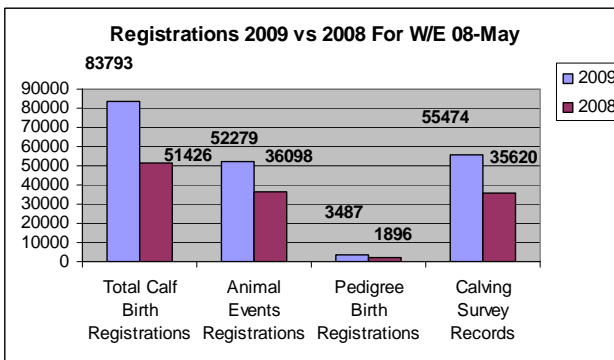


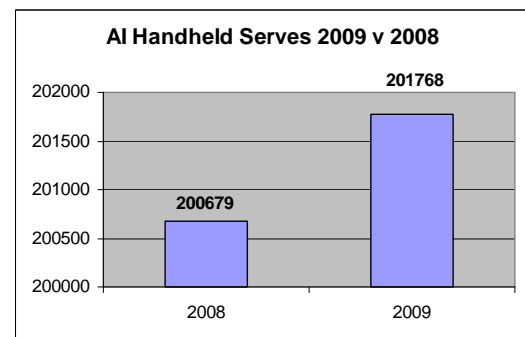
1. Important Dates

- ✚ **11th to 13th May.** ICAR Annual Meeting in Porec, Croatia. Ireland will be represented by Brian Wickham.
- ✚ **Wednesday 20th May 2009.** 10:30 – 15:00. **Sheep Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting.** Maldron Hotel Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Tuesday 9th June.** Irish Grasslands Assn Sheep Meeting. This meeting will feature recent developments by Sheep Ireland. Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny.
- ✚ **Tuesday 30th June.** Irish Grassland Assn Beef Meeting

2. Database



- ✚ The 2009 Suckler Scheme calving continue to flow in. In relation to 2008 born calves, the number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 779,000, with just over 687,000 of these having been weaned.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues. Progress has been slower than planned, but we are still expecting to have the system live for some users within the next couple of weeks.
- ✚ The Fertility reports for this AI season were released this week.
- ✚ Work on a new mechanism of sending and receiving Suckler scheme data to DAFF is continuing.
- ✚ Development on the sheep application continues, with on-going updates being released.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recoded on AI Handhelds in 2009 compared with 2008. There are more technicians using the handhelds in 2009 than there were in 2008.



3. Tully

- ✚ To date I have received blood samples for 69 of the 96 bulls that passed inspection with a few more due in early next week. Blood results have been slow to get back due to circumstances in the lab so as a result bulls will be coming in mainly on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th of next week.
- ✚ Farmers will receive notification that the animal has either passed or failed the health testing requirements early next week with some farmers that I have results been notified already.
- ✚ All facilities are now cleaned and prepared to the high standard required.

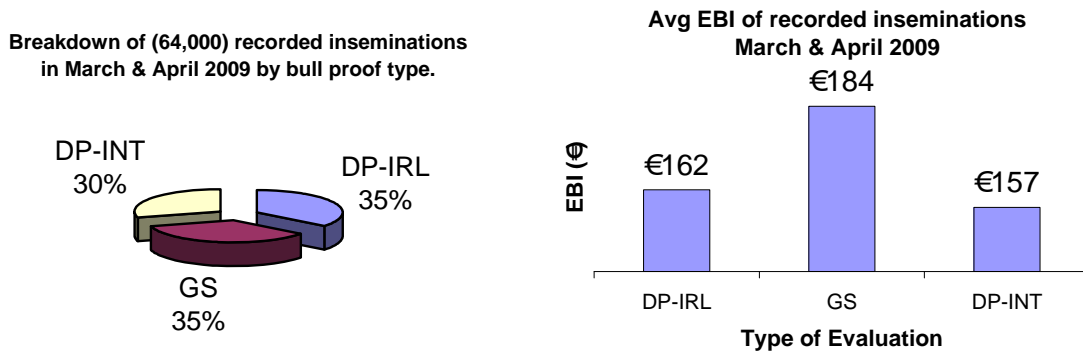
4. Genetic Evaluations

Genomic Update

As per last week, we are still in the process of running the genomic selection software. This is taking longer than previously due to the increased time required for processing the extra genotypes. There are over 81m SNP being processed in the current run. Proofs will be made available as soon as they are ready. At this point we have already started looking at alternative procedures to speed up the process in future.

Use of Bulls in AI

An analysis of the 64,000 inseminations recorded in the months of March and April by type of proof (DP-INT – daughter proven internationally, DPT-IRL – daughter proven in Ireland, GS – evaluation includes genomic information) show the following:



Clearly, the genomically selected bulls are being used by many farmers and they are achieving a higher average EBI by using these bulls.

These results are part of the presentation Brian Wickham will be giving at the ICAR Annual Meeting in Porec, Croatia next week. A copy of the presentation is in the publications section of the ICBF website www.icbf.com.

5. GENE IRELAND®

Beef

- ✚ Sign ups have reached 383 herds taking an average of 17 straws each. 124 herds ahead of the same week last year.
- ✚ Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below

BREED	CH	CH	LM	SI	SI	BB	PT	BA	AA	AA	AA	SH
CODE	RHI	CWB	RHF	RWV	SKU	RSA	KCP	WOA	RWB	FPG	LZE	CZB
STRAWS	545	22	335	168	558	688	267	451	307	139	246	197

Dairy

- ✚ We are now in the final stages of the spring programme, with approximately 35 herds remaining to pack.
- ✚ Currently waiting on more Jersey semen to arrive from New Zealand to complete the XBRED packs.
- ✚ In summary: 1,055 herds taking 47,980 doses, across 68 bulls (53 new test bulls and 15 Jersey/KiwiCross™ from New Zealand). In addition, there were 7 bulls carried over from last year that were also used in various quantities.

6. Sheep Ireland

Interim Sheep Board

The Interim Sheep Board at its meeting on Thursday:

- Agreed contract with ICBF for provision of services in 2009.
- Discussed Board membership and will give further consideration at the next meeting.
- Agreed to investigate the implications for the sheep industry of scrapie genotyping.
- Was updated on progress with the Sheep Ireland project including genetic evaluation developments (a copy of this report is available in the publications section of www.sheep.ie).

MALP Producers Meeting

The owners of the MALP flocks met with the ICBF Board and visited the Potterton farm to see the recording systems developed by Sheep Ireland in operation (see photo). This was followed by a information meeting which included presentations from the Sheep Ireland Project Manager (Pat Donnellan) and consultant Tim Byrne. Tim's presentation was an outline of the developments in genetic evaluations (copy also in the publications section of www.sheep.ie). Feedback from MALP flock owners will be incorporated in future plans.



Graham Potterton demonstrating the portable "Pratley" to MALP flock owners and the Interim Sheep Board. This unit is owned by Sheep Ireland and is equipped with an electronic tag reader and electronic weighing. Recently it was used for tagging (DNA & Electronic ID) and weighing 800 lambs in one of the bigger MALP flocks.

Lambplus®



- ✚ Data extract work for the upcoming Sheep Genetic Evaluations is underway.
- ✚ The Donegal FRS Scanning team has commenced its scanning work in the field.
- ✚ They will be assisted by Stephen Potterton from Lambplus to ensure that every effort is made to ensure that every Flockowner's Lamb NSIS tag details are entered onto the system before the Scanning session occurs.
- ✚ The keying of the Ewe NSIS tag numbers into the database is almost complete.
- ✚ A meeting with all MALP Commercial Flockowners was held yesterday. It was first time that all of the MALP Flockowners have met together to get a complete overview of the scheme.
 - The day involved a practical demonstration & farm walk on the farm of Godfrey & Liz Potterton. Graham gave a full demonstration as to how the Pratley Sheep Handling unit works & Godfrey gave a full description as to how the farm is run.
 - It was a very enjoyable day and tremendous thanks is owed to the Potterton family for hosting everyone.
 - Following the Farm walk everyone came back to a hotel for a mini – conference on the overall Sheep Ireland Program.

7. Milk Recording

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 08/05/08	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 08/05/09	2009 vs 2008 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	138,020	134,720	-2.4%
Dairygold	85,711	88,474	3.1%
Kerry	58,049	48,765	-19.0%
SWS	48,989	49,880	1.8%
Tipperary	8,914	7,959	-12.0%
Arrabawn	9,191	8,410	-9.3%
Connacht	6,263	5,495	-14.0%
Donegal	473	372	-27.2%
Total	355,610	344,075	-3.4%

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 08/05/09						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 08/05/09	No. EDIY Herds YTD 08/05/09	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 08/05/09	No. EDIY Cows YTD 08/05/09	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	1,866	681	36%	134,720	49,088	36%
Dairygold	1,363	479	35%	88,474	32,065	36%
Kerry	832	53	6%	48,765	2,708	6%
SWS	829	104	13%	49,880	6,406	13%
Tipperary	112	36	32%	7,959	3,028	38%
Arrabawn	128	104	81%	8,410	6,936	82%
Connacht	100	19	19%	5,495	989	18%
Donegal	4	4	100%	372	372	100%
Total	5,234	1,480	28%	344,075	101,592	30%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 28/04/09 to 08/05/09								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	15	989	66	26.0	3.82	3.45	1.89	249
CAVAN	19	910	48	25.6	3.73	3.27	1.79	177
CLARE	27	1,539	57	28.4	3.59	3.34	1.97	282
CORK STH	218	13,145	60	25.6	3.84	3.36	1.84	238
CORK NTH	208	13,749	66	26.3	3.89	3.40	1.92	268
DONEGAL	2	128	64	34.3	4.00	3.38	2.53	281
DUBLIN	5	261	52	29.2	3.31	3.48	1.98	347
GALWAY	22	1,437	65	28.8	3.78	3.26	2.03	308

KERRY	84	5,264	63	27.9	3.75	3.28	1.96	397
KILDARE	14	943	67	24.9	4.11	3.38	1.87	293
KILKENNY	52	3,477	67	24.5	3.67	3.37	1.72	233
LAOIS	30	2,011	67	22.8	4.05	3.37	1.69	190
LEITRIM	5	276	55	26.5	4.04	3.24	1.93	260
LIMERICK	89	5,275	59	27.2	3.74	3.31	1.92	308
LONGFORD	9	447	50	27.5	3.92	3.32	1.99	202
LOUTH	11	953	87	25.6	3.60	3.41	1.79	223
MAYO	13	633	49	28.4	3.37	3.37	1.91	267
MEATH	41	3,842	94	25.7	3.92	3.36	1.87	344
MONAGHAN	25	1,069	43	29.5	3.72	3.31	2.07	241
OFFALY	33	2,125	64	24.4	4.15	3.44	1.85	279
ROSCOMMON	3	129	43	27.1	3.56	3.25	1.85	324
SLIGO	9	416	46	28.2	3.73	3.36	2.00	338
TIPPERARY NTH	38	2,692	71	25.2	3.81	3.46	1.83	238
TIPPERARY STH	62	4,495	73	24.8	3.81	3.39	1.79	267
WATERFORD	43	3,572	83	26.2	3.86	3.37	1.89	252
WESTMEATH	13	880	68	25.2	3.57	3.32	1.74	345
WEXFORD	49	3,388	69	26.7	3.72	3.39	1.90	242
WICKLOW E	11	809	74	24.1	3.31	3.42	1.62	326
WICKLOW W	13	1,186	91	25.4	3.61	3.44	1.79	245
	<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	1,163	76,040	64	26.6	3.76	3.36	1.90	275

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 28/04/09 to 08/05/09

Provincial	<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>
Munster	769	49,731	65	26.5	3.85	3.36	1.91	281
Leinster	296	21,311	72	25.5	3.66	3.40	1.80	271
Connacht	52	2,891	56	27.8	3.66	3.30	1.93	299
Ulster	46	2,107	46	29.8	3.90	3.32	2.15	233

8. Change in our phone numbers

The ICBF phone numbers have changed. Our new numbers have “88” added to them after the area code (023). Please amend your files as soon as possible. The old numbers will continue to work until May of 2009.

Old Number (example)	New Number (example)
Phone: 023 20222	023 88 20222
Fax: 023 20229	023 88 20229

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