



UPDATE – for period 4th October – 10th October 2008

1 Important Dates

- # **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.
- # **Thursday 23rd October** – ICBF Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.
- # **Thursday 23rd October** – Interim Sheep Board meeting, at **Red Cow** – please note change of venue.
- # **Thursday 6th November** – GENEIRELAND® conference, Cork Mart’s Rathcormac.

2 Holstein Friesian World Conference

The conference, hosted by Ireland for the first time, is now underway and will conclude at Millstreet on Saturday. On Thursday and Friday there were a number of scientific and general presentations covering a range of cattle breeding and dairy production topics.

It was an honour for me to speak at the conference and to present the results of ICBF’s work over the last ten years. A copy of my presentation (“*Data for Breeding Profitable Holstein Friesians*”) is in the publication section of our website (www.icbf.com). I focused on the ICBF database, the EBI and the impact of our activities on Holstein Friesian breeding. The turnaround that has been achieved for fertility traits in Ireland represents a major breakthrough for Holstein Friesian breeders. By focusing on breeding profitable cattle, Ireland is now developing a strain of dairy cow ideally suited to Irish dairy farming conditions.

ICBF will be represented at Millstreet on Saturday with a trade stand. We look forward to meeting breeders from around the world and showing ICBF is delivering benefits for Irish breeders. It will also be good to meet with Irish farmers interested in breeding more profitable cattle.

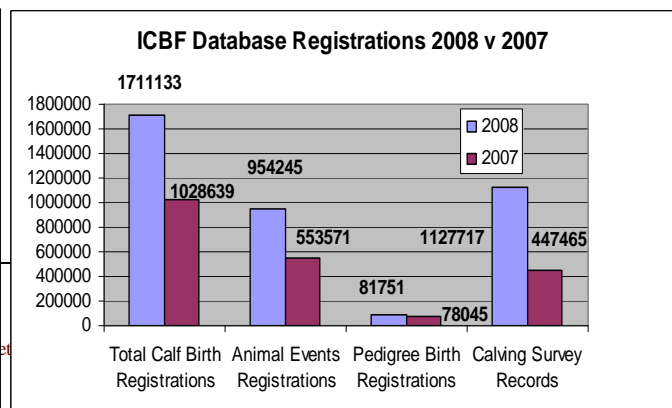
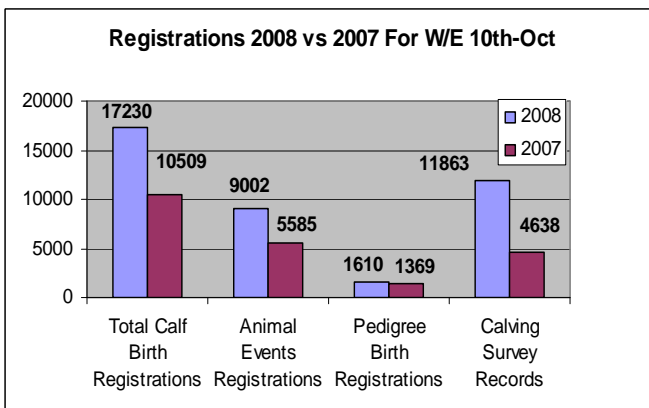
3 International Beef Expo

ICBF will be strongly represented at the Beef Expo taking place at the Kilkenny Mart on Sunday. Yes, we have a busy weekend ahead of us! A special publication (“*Beef Breeding in Ireland*”) has been put together and will be provided to all visitors. This features the latest statistics for Irish beef breeds, and recent genetic trends. It also contains a copy of the presentation that Andrew Cromie has been invited to make during the day. A copy of this booklet is in the publications section of our website (www.icbf.com).

ICBF has also put together a catalogue of the Euro-Star evaluations for the animals of each breed that will be present at the Expo. This will be available to all who are interested.

ICBF staff will be in attendance and we look forward to showcasing our work to the international visitors and the many Irish beef breeders we hope will attend this important event.

4 Database





- ✚ 503,918 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 352,905 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✚ The work on revamping the AI software for next season is continuing. Some volume testing took place this week.
- ✚ The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction in the suckler cow scheme has increased to 390,000.
- ✚ The new development work on the Bull Search output has been finalised and will put live next week.
- ✚ This week, an upgrade of the web-server infrastructure began, which will help provide a more resilient system. We are awaiting a piece of hardware before finalising the process.
- ✚ The revamp of the Milk Recording system continues, with the work focused on the back-end. Once this piece of work is completed, we will engage with the milk recording organisations in terms of how screens/functionality etc will need to be updated to take account of their needs.

5 Genetic Evaluation

- ✚ Work has begun on analyzing farmer satisfaction. These have been collected via linear scoring and through questionnaires to farmers. Farmers also have the ability to records their satisfaction of heifers on the ICBF website. Hopefully this trait will be useful as a predictor of other economically important traits in the EBI.
- ✚ Staff from ICBF were and will be in attendance at the Dairy and Beef events that are being held this week.

6 Sheep

- ✚ Good progress has been made with recruiting MALP flocks.
- ✚ Our work to establish a good identification system for sheep breeding is continuing. It is proving difficult to find a forum in which the interests of breeding and animal health can be discussed and reconciled.



7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 01/10/08 to 10/10/08.

	<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	12	815	68	17.1	4.11	3.69	1.33	360
CAVAN	52	2425	47	17.0	4.18	3.71	1.34	335
CLARE	22	1241	56	16.0	4.11	3.76	1.26	266
CORK STH	226	12833	57	18.6	4.21	3.84	1.50	278
CORK NTH	190	12309	65	17.3	4.28	3.84	1.40	302
DONEGAL	2	181	91	15.6	3.7	3.55	1.13	262
DUBLIN	4	185	46	20.1	4.03	3.7	1.55	483
GALWAY	15	825	55	22.3	4.26	3.65	1.76	312
KERRY	111	6446	58	18.3	4.16	3.74	1.45	302
KILDARE	13	717	55	20.3	4.13	3.68	1.59	332
KILKENNY	44	2984	68	15.0	4.44	3.95	1.26	288



LAOIS	25	1548	62	15.2	4.28	3.86	1.24	286
LEITRIM	7	374	53	18.3	3.97	3.54	1.37	369
LIMERICK	107	6725	63	18.2	4.17	3.76	1.44	331
LONGFORD	10	595	60	16.2	4.22	3.68	1.28	262
LOUTH	15	1156	77	20.8	3.93	3.6	1.57	348
MAYO	10	450	45	21.1	3.84	3.71	1.59	343
MEATH	32	2938	92	19.1	4.1	3.7	1.49	290
MONAGHAN	25	1166	47	19.6	4.16	3.66	1.53	335
OFFALY	19	1209	64	18.8	4.47	3.79	1.55	358
ROSCOMMON	2	89	45	21.5	3.68	3.69	1.58	255
SLIGO	2	37	19	20.5	3.98	3.78	1.59	197
TIPPERARY NTH	50	3235	65	15.6	4.41	3.92	1.30	356
TIPPERARY STH	58	3936	68	16.8	4.28	3.85	1.37	267
WATERFORD	55	4119	75	15.0	4.45	3.9	1.25	308
WESTMEATH	13	787	61	17.9	4.33	3.74	1.44	232
WEXFORD	50	3439	69	18.9	4.2	3.78	1.51	323
WICKLOW E	16	903	56	19.7	4.07	3.66	1.52	357
WICKLOW W	17	1147	67	19.8	4.15	3.61	1.54	397
	<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	1,204	74,814	60	18.3	4.15	3.74	1.44	315

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 01/10/08 to 10/10/08

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	819	50,844	62	17.0	4.25	3.83	1.37	301
Leinster	270	18,423	68	18.4	4.02	3.73	1.42	332
Connacht	36	1,775	49	20.7	4.20	3.67	1.63	295
Ulster	79	3,772	48	17.4	4.33	3.64	1.39	311

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 10/10/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 10/10/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	171,897	180,083	4.5%
Dairygold	112,711	123,518	8.7%
Kerry	72,565	78,802	7.9%
SWS	61,816	61,611	-0.3%
Tipperary	12,353	12,982	4.8%
Arrabawn	12,085	12,802	5.6%
Connacht	10,213	10,155	-0.6%
Donegal	3,899	4,781	18.4%
Total	457,539	484,734	5.6%



National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 10/10/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 10/10/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 10/10/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 10/10/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 10/10/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,231	913	41%	180,083	72,058	40%
Dairygold	1,687	633	38%	123,518	48,390	39%
Kerry	1,159	247	21%	78,802	16,216	21%
SWS	913	132	14%	61,611	9,486	15%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	12,982	5,755	73%
Arrabawn	165	137	83%	12,802	10,800	84%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,155	4,320	43%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,781	4,781	100%
Total	6,534	2,252	34%	484,734	171,806	35%

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