

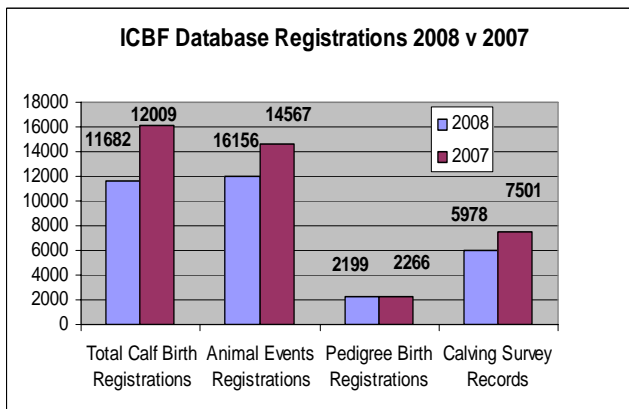
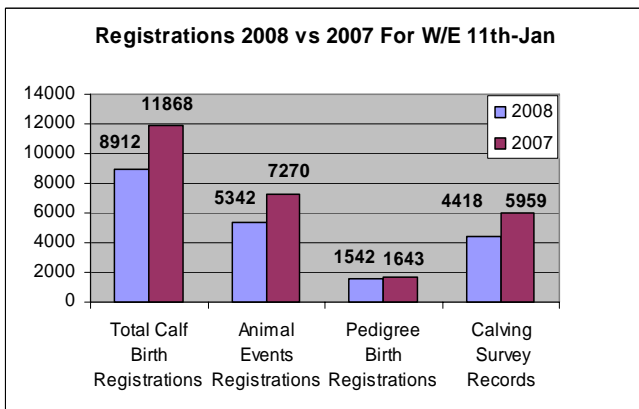


## UPDATE – for period 5<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### 1 Important Dates

- ✦ **Thursday 31st January 2008.** 10:30 to 13:00. **Board Meeting.** Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- ✦ **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008.** Publication of **updated dairy and beef genetic evaluations.**
- ✦ **19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February.** **International Cattle Breeders Round Table.** This scientific meeting is expected to involve forty scientists from mainly EU countries. **A copy of the invitation is attached.**

### 2 Database Update



- ✦ 4,786 inseminations have been received so far in 2008 on the AI handhelds, compared with 3,825 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✦ There is some on-going work being done in relation to the upgrade, specifically around automating the back-up procedures. Work will continue next week on tuning the system to get better performance.
- ✦ ICBF have received around 4,000 suckler applicant details from DAF, which have been processed.
- ✦ A significant amount of development work is still on-going in relation to the Suckler Scheme.

### 3 Tully

- ✦ Weights and health testing results were sent out to breeders on the 10-1-08.
- ✦ A bio security audit at Tully will take place before the 18-1-08.
- ✦ The performance test for the December intake started on the 4-1-08

### 4 HerdPlus Update

- ✦ The recruitment of Suckler Herds for the Herdplus & GROW scheme is ongoing.
- ✦ Sign-up forms were posted to the initial target group for the GEN€Ireland programme.
- ✦ A presentation on HerdPlus was given at the awards ceremony of the EBI Discussion group competition in Moorepark.

### GROW (Genetic Recording of Weanlings)

- ✦ In 2007, 111 commercial suckler farmers took part in the GROW Scheme.
- ✦ 3,500 weanlings were scored & weighed by the ICBF Linear Scorers.



- ✦ All of these Suckler Farmers received an 'ICBF Weanling Performance Report' which gives a summary of the Weights, Daily Gains & Scores for Loin & Hindquarter Development for their herd.
- ✦ These reports are useful to farmers making breeding & culling decisions and in particular allowing them to identify the superior females in their herds.
- ✦ The reports also allowed them to compare their herd's performance against other herds involved in this breeding initiative.
- ✦ The weight & score data collected in these commercial suckler herds through GROW in 2007 will have an important part to play in the February 2008 beef genetic evaluations due to the excellent contemporary group sizes.
- ✦ Well done to all involved in 2007 & the Herdplus Office is looking forward to increasing the number of Commercial Suckler herds involved in GROW in 2008

## 5 EBI Discussion Group Competition

- ✦ On Tuesday the West Cork Greenfield Discussion Group won this competition sponsored jointly by TEAGASC, The Irish Farmers Journal, ACC Bank and ICBF. Full details have been published in the Farmers Journal. Some 130 people attended the award presentation at Moorepark. A copy of the presentation made by the ICBF and TEAGASC team on developments in dairy cattle breeding is on the publications section of the ICBF website ([www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)).
- ✦ Feedback from the competition has been extremely positive. By involving groups of farmers in the competition the level of interest and amount of feedback has been much higher than with the competition focused on individual farmers. Feedback from the chairpersons of each of the six discussion group finalists was a particularly informative part of the meeting. We are now working with our partners to review plans for 2008.

## 6 Genetic Evaluations

New domestic runs for milk production traits, fertility and survival traits, somatic cell count and calving performance have been completed. A new beef evaluation will commence over the weekend. The full range of Interbull files for milk production, fertility and longevity are expected to be released next week. The INTERBULL production results will then be used to update the cow production proofs before loading to the database.

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail [bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com) ICBF Web site [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com) Assistant: **Mary Madden.**

**Brian Wickham**

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**From:** Brian Wickham  
**Sent:** 20 November 2007 17:10  
**To:** bwickham@icbf.com  
**Subject:** FW: International Cattle Breeders Roundtable - Cork, Ireland - 2008

Dear All,

You are invited to attend and participate in the next meeting of the International Cattle Breeders Roundtable which will be held in the Cork International Airport Hotel, Cork Airport, Ireland from 14:30 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> to 12:00 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2008. You can fly into Cork airport on the morning of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and return departing on the afternoon of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>. There are direct flights to Cork from many European airports. Checkout Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)), and Aer Lingus ([www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)) for cheap flights.

Your hosts for this meeting are TEAGASC, ICBF and the Irish Farmers Journal.

Below is a copy of the draft program. The program is flexible, so, if you having something you really want to talk about please let us know.

It is expected that each organisation represented will present, on average, **one paper per two delegates**. Please **send a brief outline of proposed papers to Donagh Berry** ([donagh.berry@teagasc.ie](mailto:donagh.berry@teagasc.ie)).

We are fortunate in having good sponsorship for this meeting and have been able to keep delegate costs down to just the B&B accommodation cost for the Hotel which will be **€90 per night per person for a single room** and **€50 per night per person for a shared room**. We want all non resident delegates to stay in the conference hotel as this facilitates the exchange of ideas and the organisation of the Roundtable. The cost of the meeting room hire, lunches and dinner on both Tuesday and Wednesday nights has been covered by your hosts. We reserve the right to restrict attendance.

If you want to attend:

- A. Register at <http://icbrt.eventwax.com/international-cattle-breeders-round-table> **and** if you need accommodation,
- B. Book your accommodation by email to Amanda or Alison at [reservations@corkairporthotel.com](mailto:reservations@corkairporthotel.com) quoting **ICBF 50450**.

Regards

Brian

**Brian Wickham**

On behalf of the Organising Committee of the International Cattle Breeders Roundtable 2008.

Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd (ICBF).  
Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork.  
Phone: +353 23 20222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911,  
Email [bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com),  
Web: [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com), Assistant: Mary Madden.

**Registered Office:** Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 4914R, Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1978.

14/12/2007

## **International Cattle Breeders Roundtable - DRAFT (19th November 2007)**

### **Agenda for 2008 Meeting in Cork, Ireland**

#### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

14:30 Welcome

#### **14:40 Session 1 - International breeding objectives and genetic evaluations (Chair - Andrew Cromie/Brian Wickham)**

How to construct overall indexes. Economic versus desired gains versus restricted index. How broad should an index be? What overall weight is best for production. What web tools could be made available?

18:30 End of Session

19:30 Dinner at Hotel

#### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

#### **8:30 Session 2 - Application and implications of ...omic technologies (Chair - Mike Coffey)**

Main speaker - to be finalised.

*Break into groups, discuss issues and report back. 80/20 rule. When should we implement? How will it affect farmers? Is there room for international collaboration in light of the Cornell patent? What phenomics are required? How can we ensure that sufficient phenotypes are recorded? Can farmers protect themselves from the breeding companies seeking to exploit farmers phenotypes for their own gain?*

13:00 Lunch

#### **14:00 Session 3 – Novel traits eg. product quality, robustness, ...(Chair - to be decided)**

Selecting animals and their products for human health, is there any undesirable consequence for animals?

#### **16:00 Session 4 - Free Communications (Chair - Alessandro Bagnato)**

Dual purpose holsteins?

18:00 End of session

19:00 Sponsored Dinner in Cork City

#### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

#### **08:30 Session 5 - To be decided on basis of submitted papers (Chair - Pat Dillon/Donagh Berry)**

Suggestion - what about selection and environmental impact? Myth or reality? What is already happening as a result of existing selection?

12:00 End of conference

12:30 Optional trip to Moorepark

Sponsored by:

