

## 1. Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep 2010, Lyons Estate, UCD** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. This is a major day for the Irish Sheep industry.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 10:30 to 14:00 – Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 14:00 to 16:30 – Portlaoise.

## 2. Irish Grasslands Assn – Sheep Meeting

- ✚ Pat Donnellan & Thierry gave a presentation for Sheep Ireland at the recent Irish Grassland Associations' Sheep Conference which was held in the Killarney Hotel, Tullow, Co.Carlow. A copy of the presentation is in the publications section of [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie).
- ✚ The Presentation gave an overview of progress to date in the Sheep Ireland Breeding Program:
  - Main Sheep Ireland Structures established:
    - Lambplus – On-Farm Data recording service for Pedigree Breeders.
    - MALP & CPT – On Farm Data recording service for Commercial Flockowners.
  - Genetic Evaluation System set up for converting the recorded data into Genetic Indices.
    - Data recorded in Commercial Flocks incorporated into the Evaluations.
    - Template designed for presenting the results in a clear & consistent way.
- ✚ The Presentation & accompanying Booklet also referred to the first release of results from Rams used in the Commercial MALP & CPT flocks which will be presented shortly & launched at the Sheep 2010 event in Lyons UCD.

## 3. ICAR & Interbull Meetings – Riga, Latvia

Copies of many of the presentations made at the recent meetings in Latvia are now available on the ICAR Website - [http://www.icar.org/Documents/Riga\\_2010/index.htm](http://www.icar.org/Documents/Riga_2010/index.htm). Even if you could not attend, these presentations provide a very useful insight into what happened at this important international conference devoted to the recording of animal performance.

## 4. Tully

- ✚ A total of 51 bulls are currently in isolation at Tully (Table 1). This is up slightly on the 45 bulls that were performance tested in the 2009 Spring intake.

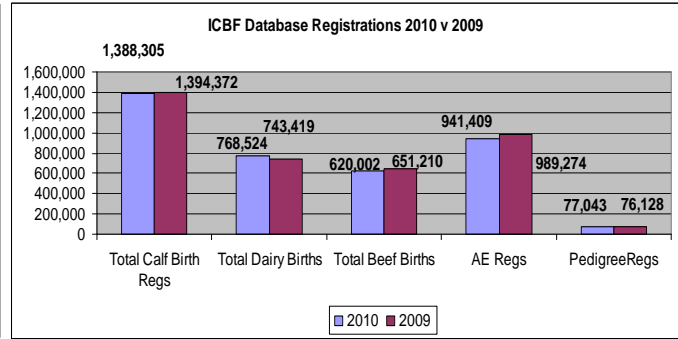
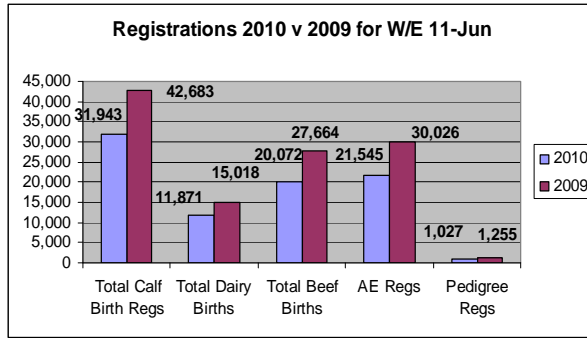
**Table 1** Breakdown of bulls in isolation at Tully by breed

Breed	AA	BA	BB	CH	LM	PT	SH	SI	SP
No. of bulls	5	3	2	3	32	1	2	1	2

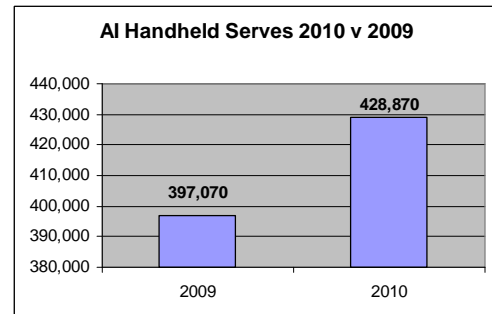
- ✚ All bulls on the day of entry into isolation were given vaccinations for RSV, PI3, Pasteurella (strains of pneumonia), Blackleg and various other clostridia diseases. They were also treated for lice, mange, immature and mature fluke, stomach and lung worms.
- ✚ This week, bulls were also washed in order to promote good hair growth. Washing ensures that any external parasites are killed.
- ✚ Bulls had the second of their 3 weekly blood samples obtained yesterday. Results from blood samples obtained last Thursday were all clear for IBR. The samples taken are being tested for IBR, to ensure no bull became infected during on-farm testing and entry into Tully. Next week, all bulls will have two blood samples taken for Genomics research work.

- ✚ Bulls are currently having their concentrate offering increased gradually so as to be ad-lib prior to the start of their performance test, which is to begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. The test will last for 90 days and will finish at the start of October.

## 5. Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2009 born calves with meal introduced is 638,896 with the number of animals weaned at 573,079.
- ✚ A significant update to the suckler scheme screens is being designed and developed at the moment to help make the process more efficient.
- ✚ Vets wishing to begin interacting with the AHI/ICBF system can register at <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/registerpage.php>.
- ✚ The new call logging system for herd-books continued this week, and will help provide improved transparency on the status of requests from herdbooks.
- ✚ Design work continued this week which will allow those involved in the Embryo transfer process to view/input data. The aim is that this will facilitate better recording of data, and more accurate fertility evaluations for donor cows.
- ✚ Work is ongoing on the window server infrastructure, involving a move to a more resilient infrastructure for email, file servers, etc.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



## 6. Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The InterBeef working group has met at the ICAR & Interbull meeting in Riga. Ireland has presented the contents of the performance and pedigree files from crossbred Charolais & Limousine animals. The genetic evaluation software developed in France has been successfully tested at InterBeef. Inclusion of crossbred data and extension to new traits are the objective of the InterBeef working group.

## 7. Milk Recording

### National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 01/06/10 to 11/06/10

	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	16	1,166	73	28.8	3.22	3.26	1.87	346
CAVAN	41	2,152	52	28.2	3.41	3.27	1.88	290
CLARE	45	2,501	56	27.7	3.47	3.30	1.88	255
CORK STH	278	19,286	69	26.5	3.64	3.40	1.87	251
CORK NTH	297	21,972	74	28.0	3.61	3.44	1.97	249
DONEGAL	24	2,009	84	27.0	4.13	3.40	2.03	242
DUBLIN	3	175	58	28.4	3.46	3.45	1.96	337
GALWAY	20	1,150	58	29.0	3.66	3.31	2.02	286
KERRY	154	9,225	60	28.0	3.53	3.29	1.91	316
KILDARE	23	1,782	77	28.2	3.47	3.23	1.89	336
KILKENNY	47	3,348	71	26.2	3.46	3.34	1.78	240
LAOIS	25	1,835	73	24.4	3.70	3.36	1.72	353
LEITRIM	6	290	48	22.0	3.72	3.17	1.52	471
LIMERICK	106	7,652	72	28.3	3.52	3.34	1.94	263
LONGFORD	11	666	61	26.6	3.72	3.39	1.89	301
LOUTH	16	1,982	124	28.8	3.63	3.29	1.99	319
MAYO	30	1,660	55	30.2	3.19	3.48	2.01	366
MEATH	61	6,230	102	26.3	3.54	3.29	1.80	313
MONAGHAN	36	2,060	57	28.8	3.19	3.19	1.84	307
OFFALY	17	1,354	80	27.5	3.95	3.39	2.02	345
ROSCOMMON	2	94	47	25.9	3.62	3.44	1.83	332
SLIGO	8	302	38	29.4	2.93	3.51	1.89	307
TIPPERARY NTH	43	3,564	83	24.3	3.61	3.32	1.68	379
TIPPERARY STH	52	4,005	77	25.1	3.57	3.32	1.73	257
WATERFORD	64	5,623	88	25.4	3.78	3.41	1.83	243
WESTMEATH	17	1,225	72	26.4	3.54	3.33	1.81	278
WEXFORD	70	5,373	77	26.1	3.43	3.36	1.77	265
WICKLOW E	20	1,357	68	26.0	3.12	3.40	1.70	296
WICKLOW W	11	882	80	26.1	3.65	3.27	1.81	325
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
<b>National</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>110,920</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>3.53</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>306</b>

### National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 01/06/10 to 11/06/10

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	1039	73,828	71	26.7	3.59	3.35	1.85	277
Leinster	337	27,375	81	26.9	3.51	3.34	1.84	312
Connacht	66	3,496	53	27.3	3.42	3.38	1.86	352
Ulster	101	6,221	62	28.0	3.58	3.29	1.92	280

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 11/06/10						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 11/06/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 11/06/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 11/06/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 11/06/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,504	969	28%	253,908	76,545	30%
Progressive	1,950	725	37%	159,315	57,437	36%
Tipperary	129	55	43%	10,595	4,947	47%
Connacht	140	53	38%	8,640	3,061	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,723</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>432,458</b>	<b>141,990</b>	<b>33%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 11/06/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 11/06/10	2010 vs. 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	234,557	253,908	7.6%
Progressive	158,655	159,315	0.4%
Tipperary	10,139	10,595	4.3%
Connacht	7,718	8,640	10.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>411,069</b>	<b>432,458</b>	<b>4.9%</b>

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