



UPDATE – for period 6th September – 12th September 2008

1 Important Dates

- # **Wednesday 17th September** (changed from 16th) – Tully Advisory Committee meeting 11:00 to 13:00 at Kilkenny Mart.
- # **Thursday 18th September** – ICBF Board meeting 10:30 to 14:00.
- # **Thursday 18th September** – Interim Sheep Board meeting 14:00 to 17:00.
- # **23rd to 25th September** – Ploughing Championships, Kilkenny.
- # **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.

2 Board Meetings – Next Week

- # ICBF Board agenda includes:
 - Herd Book issues – there are now no major outstanding issues.
 - Beef Genetic Evaluation changes – as made following the recent consultation meetings.
 - Genomics – progress on strategy agreed at last meeting.
 - Herd Health initiative – progress with meeting the needs of herd owners.
- # Interim Sheep Board agenda includes:
 - Report from Strategy Project Team – the report contains twenty recommendations dealing with a range of issues relevant to improving the profitability of sheep farming in Ireland through breeding.
 - Branding
 - Permanent Structure
 - Finance

3 Profit with AI Partnership

The Profit with AI Partnership met on Tuesday this week. Points coming from this meeting included:

- # The campaign to increase the uptake of AI to breed quality replacements using AI has been very successful. Over the three years the partnership has been working the % of dairy replacements bred using AI has increased from 35% to 50%.
- # A letter is to be written to the Minister of Agriculture on behalf of the partnership advising the success of the campaign and expressing the industries appreciation for the support that has been provided.
- # DAFF funding will not be available to assist the campaign in 2009.
- # Consideration should be given to including Milk Recording and Breed Associations in the partnership for promoting best practice in cattle breeding in 2009.
- # The campaign for 2008 will continue in the autumn of 2008.
- # Partners are to reflect and advise ICBF of their desire to participate in future campaigns.
- # A meeting has been scheduled for Monday 20th October to formulate plans for 2009.



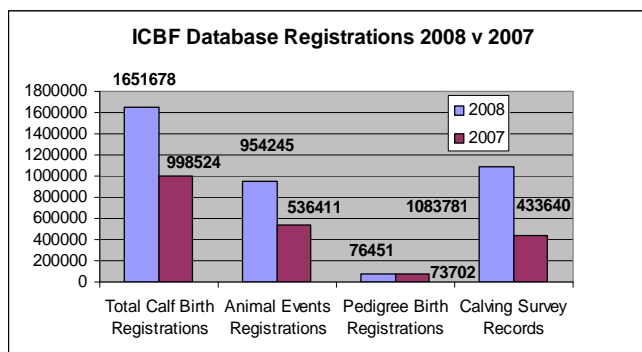
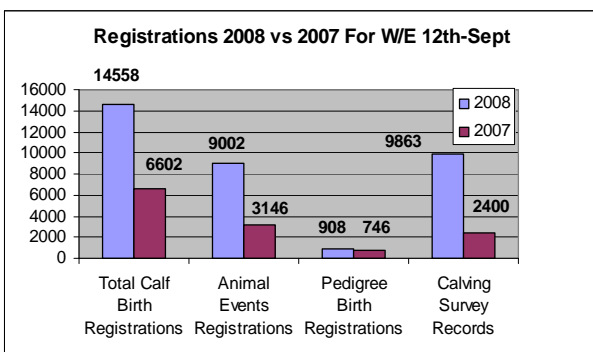


4 Genomics

ICBF convened a meeting with partners in the AI industry on Tuesday to discuss its Strategy, Plans and Progress for ensuring the benefits of genomic technology are realised for the benefit of Irish farmers and the cattle breeding industry. Points from this meeting included:

- ✦ The technology is evolving very rapidly and based on results from other countries it is capable of providing, at birth, an estimate of EBI with a reliability of 50% to 60%. This accuracy is equivalent to that achieved in a progeny test based on 10 to 15 progeny.
- ✦ ICBF and TEAGASC have commenced a major project to develop genomic selection for Irish dairy cattle breeding. The project has targeted 1,200 bulls for genotyping and it is expected that initial results will be available late in 2008.
- ✦ Genomic selection has the potential to dramatically impact on cattle breeding practices. Initial indications are that it will result in much more use being made of young bulls through AI.
- ✦ ICBF have commissioned research to determine the optimal breeding scheme design for the Irish dairy and beef industries. Results for the dairy industry are expected in October.
- ✦ Genomic selection is expected to impact on ICBF's Genetic Evaluation, GENÉIRÉLAND[®] and HerdPlus[®] services.
- ✦ A further update will be provided to the industry on Monday 20th October.

5 Database



- ✦ 497,374 inseminations have been received so far in 2008, compared with 346,295 in 2007 for the same period.
- ✦ The work on reviewing the AI software for next season is continuing. We had very useful sessions with two of the AI organisations this week, which outlined the plans for 2009.
- ✦ At this stage, over 50,000 suckler herds have had at least one calving in 2008. The number of calves with a meal feeding introduction has increased to 230,000.
- ✦ Work on the Teagasc Discussion Group reports is continuing. A number of the reports have been completed, and the remainder will be completed over the next number of weeks.
- ✦ Developments in relation to GENÉIRÉLAND[®] payments are being completed and payments for inseminations and calvings in 2008 will begin today.
- ✦ The revamp of the Milk Recording system is underway. A significant amount of 'back-end' work will need to be completed before we engage with the milk recording organisations in terms of how screens/functionality etc will need to be updated to take account of their needs.



6 Genetic Evaluations

- Work on the new expanded bull search facility is ongoing. This will facilitate the availability of a much wider array of information through the bull search.
- An ICBF staff member spoke at the Agricultural Consultants Association meeting about Suckler Beef Value Indexes as part of an information day on the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme.

7 GEN€IRELAND®



Dairy

- Following on from the proofs presented last week for the Spring 2005 panel, this week we were able to do a comparison with their ancestry average. As expected, the overall group average is very similar for both the bulls own proofs and ancestry figures, but individual bulls range from +20 to -29 compared to ancestry.

EBI for GEN€IRELAND Spring 2005 programme (August, 2008)							
AI CODE	Name of Bull	Sire	EBI Euro REL		Ancestry Euro	Diff Euro	
RHU	BALLYBROOK ROYAL HUGO	UYC	153.7	64	133.6	20.0	
LNH	CARRIGOON LENA ARCHIE	AHD	127.4	54	118.3	9.2	
PVH	PINEVILLE HUGO	UYC	123.9	62	123.1	0.8	
NFT	COOLNASOON FAIRGALT 2	GMI	123.9	47	111.0	12.9	
KSY	KILLINGLEY SIJKE DELCOY 2	DCD	122.8	60	104.5	18.3	
BSG	BALLYBROOK DESIGN	DXD	113.8	61	99.4	14.5	
CXT	CARRACOUSH EXTASY 4	WIM	107.1	54	110.2	-3.1	
RWI	REENBAWN MERCI	GMI	107.0	57	120.0	-13.0	
RVS	RAHEENVAREN SJOERD	NHS	103.5	58	103.0	0.5	
RMC	REARY MCGINLEY	NHS	100.6	69	105.8	-5.3	
HTO	HILLSDALE LOOSTER	LOO	97.5	59	112.5	-15.0	
KDI	KILCOLMAN DESIGN	DXD	97.2	62	94.6	2.6	
AIB	CARRIGOON ARCHIBALD	AHD	94.9	58	105.8	-10.8	
KWO	KILCLUTOWN DESIGNER JOMO	DXD	94.3	61	88.6	5.6	
RCI	CARRAIGBUI MERCI	GMI	90.2	59	108.1	-17.9	
KTX	KILLINGLEY BET EXCELLENCY	LYE	87.8	67	116.8	-29.0	
BCY	BALLINDINAS CAREY	GMI	85.2	61	100.3	-15.1	
ARX	COOLTEEN ARCHIE	AHD	76.4	63	102.7	-26.3	
KIJ	KILLINGLEY SIJKE SLOGAN	ESZ	69.2	67	77.2	-8.0	
KQU	KILQUANE TAUS	RGK	66.2	62	50.1	16.0	
DSG	BALLYMARTIN DESIGN 2	DXD	65.3	58	66.9	-1.5	
AVERAGES			100.4		102.5	-2.1	

Beef

- The extract will be taken this weekend for the first round of insemination payments from the Spring 2008 programme. Processing time means these herds should receive their payments around the 22nd of September.



8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 12/09/08						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 12/09/08	No. EDIY Herds YTD 12/09/08	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 12/09/08	No. EDIY Cows YTD 12/09/08	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,227	901	40%	178,126	70,011	39%
Dairygold	1,677	624	37%	122,131	47,273	39%
Kerry	1,158	247	21%	78,548	16,187	21%
SWS	913	132	14%	61,287	9,451	15%
Tipperary	171	72	42%	12,961	5,737	73%
Arrabawn	165	137	83%	12,766	10,762	84%
Connacht	159	69	43%	10,204	4,270	42%
Donegal	49	49	100%	4,751	4,751	100%
Total	6,519	2,231	34%	480,774	168,442	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 12/09/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 12/09/07	YTD 2008 Cows Recorded 01/01/08 - 12/09/08	2008 vs 2007 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	153,913	163,668	178,126	13.6%
Dairygold	102,640	110,242	122,131	9.7%
Kerry	69,605	71,214	78,548	11.4%
SWS	58,604	60,082	61,287	2.0%
Tipperary	11,750	12,221	12,961	5.7%
Arrabawn	10,961	11,815	12,766	7.4%
Connacht	8,990	9,910	10,204	2.9%
Donegal	5,142	3,863	4,751	18.7%
Total	421,605	443,015	480,774	7.9%

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 02/09/08 to 12/09/08.								
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	891	57,362	64	18.6	4.03	3.55	1.41	270
Leinster	363	24,745	68	19.5	4.00	3.53	1.47	290
Connacht	86	5,041	59	18.3	4.09	3.54	1.40	345
Ulster	125	7,129	57	19.2	4.08	3.50	1.45	303



National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 02/09/08 to 12/09/08.

	<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	13	801	62	19.5	3.96	3.56	1.47	299
CAVAN	51	2,311	45	19.5	4.09	3.52	1.48	288
CLARE	40	1,881	47	19.4	3.92	3.47	1.43	274
CORK STH	219	12,629	58	18.4	4.10	3.62	1.42	269
CORK NTH	244	16,690	68	18.9	4.00	3.55	1.43	252
DONEGAL	33	2,570	78	17.7	4.18	3.52	1.36	343
DUBLIN	3	143	48	22.1	4.09	3.46	1.67	366
GALWAY	34	2,056	60	20.6	3.99	3.44	1.53	332
KERRY	104	6,459	62	19.8	3.98	3.48	1.48	332
KILDARE	13	1,078	83	22.7	3.82	3.47	1.65	303
KILKENNY	56	3,791	68	15.8	4.28	3.65	1.25	299
LAOIS	38	2,354	62	16.8	4.22	3.61	1.32	301
LEITRIM	7	358	51	20.0	3.80	3.38	1.44	400
LIMERICK	134	8,955	67	19.4	3.93	3.52	1.45	278
LONGFORD	7	362	52	19.3	4.04	3.53	1.46	228
LOUTH	31	2,126	69	18.8	3.96	3.50	1.40	239
MAYO	33	1,886	57	21.4	3.53	3.51	1.51	387
MEATH	54	4,532	84	19.0	4.17	3.52	1.46	359
MONAGHAN	41	2,248	55	20.4	3.96	3.45	1.51	278
OFFALY	30	1,718	57	20.5	4.00	3.53	1.54	281
ROSCOMMON	2	77	39	15.3	5.11	3.86	1.37	341
SLIGO	10	664	66	14.3	4.02	3.51	1.08	263
TIPPERARY NTH	37	2,556	69	18.1	4.00	3.57	1.37	250
TIPPERARY STH	54	3,501	65	17.0	4.16	3.56	1.31	235
WATERFORD	59	4,691	80	17.4	4.17	3.59	1.35	267
WESTMEATH	20	1,340	67	18.7	4.03	3.52	1.41	215
WEXFORD	66	4,489	68	17.9	3.92	3.52	1.33	258
WICKLOW E	19	1,225	64	19.7	3.69	3.52	1.42	300
WICKLOW W	13	786	60	23.2	3.88	3.50	1.71	323
	<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	1,465	94,277	62	19.0	4.03	3.53	1.44	295

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