



UPDATE – for period 7th - 13th July 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Tuesday 17th July.** Highfield House, Bandon. Database training for Herdbook office staff.
- ✚ **Tuesday 24th July.** Moorepark. EBI €100 awards.
- ✚ **August 24th to 30th.** Interbull and EAAP Annual Meetings, UCD, Dublin.
- ✚ **Wednesday, August 29th.** EAAP Field Trip – Cattle Breeding in Ireland. Visit a beef farm and a dairy farm.
- ✚ **Tuesday, September 11th.** EBI €100 Open Day
- ✚ **September 25th to 27th.** Ploughing Championships, Tullamore.

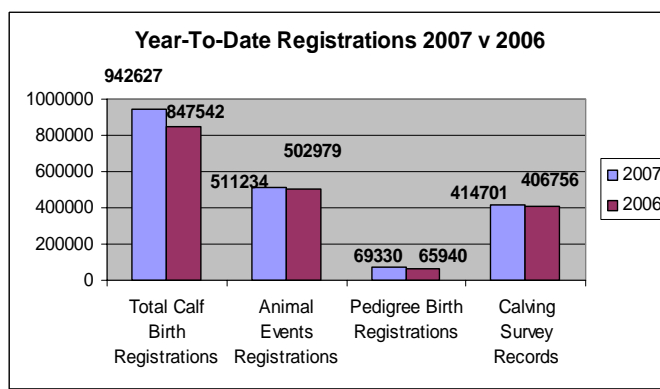
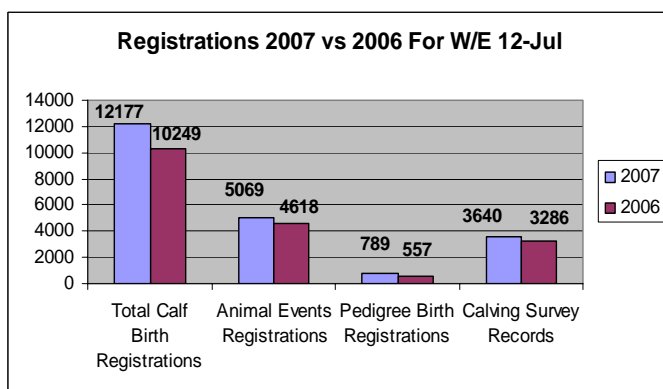
2 Board Meeting

Decisions taken at yesterday’s ICBF Board meeting included:

- ✚ To give priority to the appointment of a beef specialist as soon as the job description and funding has been agreed with Breed Association representatives.
- ✚ To proceed to re-open Tully once funding and disease control measures have been finalised.
- ✚ To establish a Tully Advisory Committee, with the terms of reference to make recommendations to the Board on sourcing the best bulls for testing, on the testing procedures and for ensuring the best graduates are included in G-EN-IR-ELAND®.
- ✚ To implement a modified linear scoring and weight recording service and to extend the HerdPlus® service to beef herds as outlined at the industry consultation meeting on 5th July.

The Board was advised that excellent progress is being made with resolving the issues identified by Breed Assns.

3 Database Update



- ✚ 305,192 inseminations have been received so far in 2007, compared with 126,164 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✚ Further handhelds have been rolled out in the PG North East area, and this roll-out will be completed next week.
- ✚ Further modules have been released for the Herdbook application. Training for the smaller herdbooks will take place next Tuesday.



- # The work on redesigning the loading processes of files received from the Department of Agriculture is continuing. This is with a view to (a) speeding the processes up and (b) having better tracking of errors.
- # Further work on HerdPlus modules is on-going, focusing around the data recording aspects.
- # Work is on-going in relation to Sire Advice, in preparation for a meeting on Monday July 23rd which aims to finalise changes for the 2007/2008 season.

4 Tully

- # The sourcing of pre isolation units has commenced. It is planned to have 2-3 units sourced before the 27-7-07.
- # The establishment of bio security protocols for Tully is continuing.
- # Power washing and disinfection of sheds is continuing.

5 Milk Recording Processing this week

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 -13/07/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 -13/07/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 13/07/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	143,117	149,076	159,272	6.4%
Dairygold	93,527	99,922	107,551	7.1%
Kerry	65,467	68,097	69,563	2.1%
SWS	53,039	57,062	58,808	3.0%
Tipperary	9,101	11,514	12,021	4.2%
Arrabawn	6,809	10,657	11,560	7.8%
Connacht	7,089	8,320	9,187	9.4%
Donegal	3,190	4,851	3,478	-39.5%
Total	381,339	409,499	431,440	5.1%

Milk Recording Organisation	2007 Herds Recorded Week 06/07/07 - 13/07/07
Progressive	333
Dairygold	226
Kerry	185
SWS	140
Tipperary	35
Arrabawn	21
Connacht	19
Donegal	5
Total	964



6 Developments in Genetic Evaluations

Calving Traits and Heterosis

- ✚ Work has continued this week on new calving performance evaluations for calving difficulty, gestation length & calf mortality. The new evaluations will include a number of model enhancements, most notably the move to an animal model as opposed to evaluations for sires only. Early results indicate good agreement between the old and new proofs. However, the new proofs are showing significantly larger difference between animals, due principally to the higher accuracy associated with animal model evaluations. This is a major plus for farmers and the industry as calving performance is a trait of major economic consequence for farmers.
- ✚ Work on breed correction factors has continued, with much effort being focussed on the implementation of a standard approach for breed correction (heterosis & recombination) across the full range of ICBF's genetic evaluations for dairy and beef cattle. The results of this work will be communicated to the industry over the coming months.

International Evaluations

- ✚ Following a request by the Hereford society, a report presenting potential Hereford calves for weighing on farms, has been forwarded to the society. Similar reports are available for other herdbooks that would like this information for their members.
- ✚ Work on genetic evaluation of carcass cut data (from Grange & Pettits) has commenced, with some descriptive statistics (pedigree & performance) provided to the relevant research groups involved in the project (notably ICBF, Teagasc & Interbeef).

7 GENEIRLAND®

- ✚ Update letters are currently being sent to the herds involved in the Spring 2007 programme, reminding them to make sure they record all their inseminations. Included for each herd is a count of the number of GENEIRLAND® inseminations recorded on the cattle breeding database to date.
- ✚ Over the coming weeks we will be carrying out a survey on the GENEIRLAND® programme. The aim of the survey is to obtain feedback from herdowners on key areas of the GENEIRLAND® programme:
 - Bull quality
 - Service Delivery
 - Provision of information and support
- ✚ The survey will target 3 main groups of herdowners:
 - 1) Herds new to the scheme in Spring 2007
 - 2) Herds involved in several programmes since the scheme began in 2005, including 2007
 - 3) Herds that participated in 2005 and/or 2006, but not 2007.

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