



Update for period 9th – 15th September 2006

1 Important Dates

- **September 27th to 30th** - Ploughing. **HerdPlus** will be the main focus of the ICBF stand.
- **New Date – the Beef Breeding Consultation** meeting scheduled for Wednesday 4th October **will be moved to a later date**. The new date will be confirmed next week.
- **Wednesday 11th October** – Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting – Moorepark.

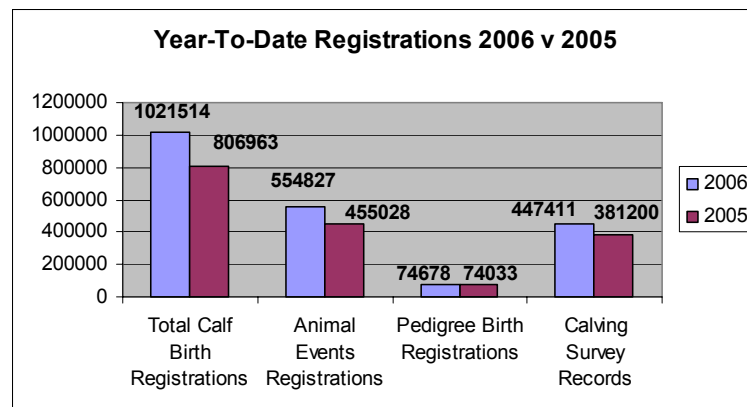
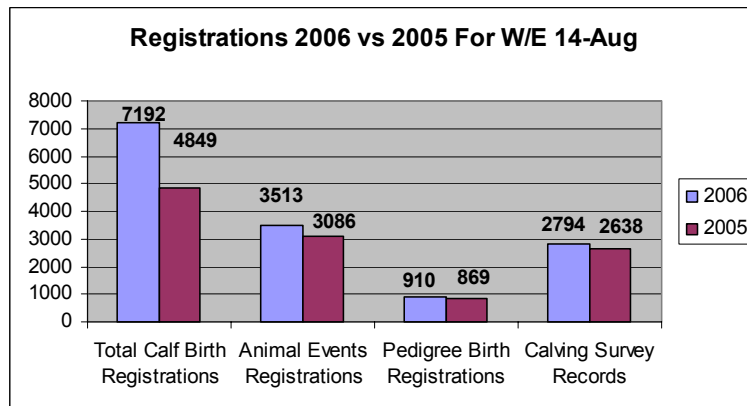
2 Summary of decisions made at the Board Meeting, Thursday 14th September.

At meetings of the Board and the Finance Sub-Committee on Thursday the decisions taken included:

- To finalise the terms of reference for the review of structure and costs.
- Appointment of Deloitte's to conduct the review of structure and costs.
- To meet again next week to give further consideration to beef and dairy breeding scheme proposals.
- To continue discussions with the providers of DNA testing services and to consult with members before taking any firm decisions.

3 Database Update

- 25 new herds added to the database last week.
- The 152,000 inseminations mark has now been broken by those technicians using handhelds.
- Dairygold have taken more technicians live this week, and the current plan will have all technicians currently working live by the end of September.
- Progressive Genetics are also making good progress in cleaning up the data before going live with the North East technicians. It is expected that the training of these technicians will begin in early October, with all technicians up and running by November 1st.
- Good progress is being made on the development of the revised herd-book front end solution. This was originally planned for a 'go-live' pre-Christmas and this is still a realistic target.
- The linear scoring of dairy progeny test heifers has begun this week, and the feedback from the scorers has been positive on the new software. Results for 500 heifers have been received so far this week.



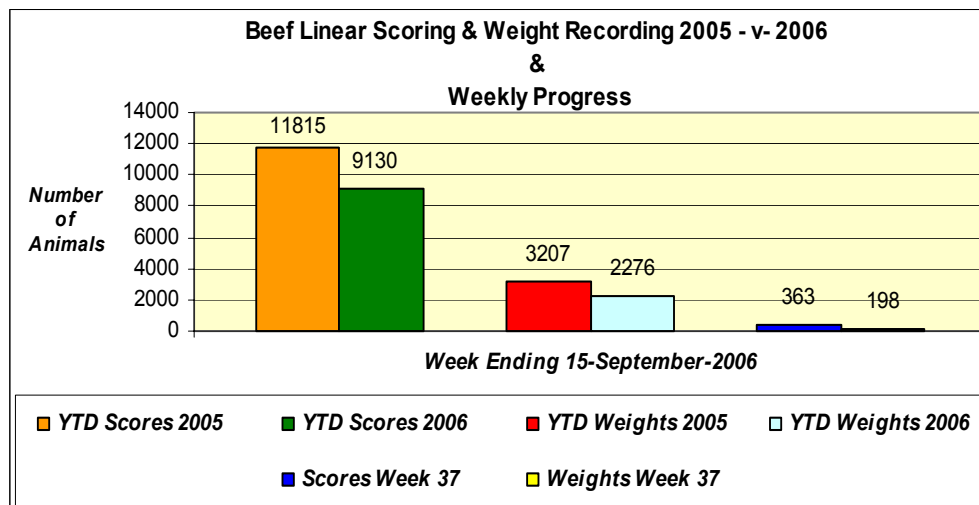


- The commercial beef scoring project also kicked off this week, with the scorers using internet enabled laptops to populate missing sire information.

4 Tully

- A total of 195 bulls for the September intake were sent for health testing on the 13-9-06. Breeders received the test details on the 14-9-06.
- The sale date for the March sale on the 3-3-06 will have to be reviewed as it clashes with another multibreed sale on the same day. A date will be brought to the next Tully meeting.
- A group of farmers from Kilkenny will visit Tully the 18-9-06.

5 Beef Linear Scoring



6 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy

Further development work on international evaluations for fertility & longevity has now been completed. These new evaluations, when they become official through Interbull, will replace existing conversion equations.

Beef

Further improvements to the beef performance evaluations are being developed, including the publication of data on progeny and herd-mate performance for AI sires. This extra information will allow a better understanding of the benefits of the new genetic indexes for farmers and will be made available via the ICBF website bull search in the near future.

International Beef Evaluations

Work on establishing genetic linkages between Irish & UK Simmentals has commenced. To-date some 211 animals represented in both countries have been identified, of which 72 were AI sires. Identification of these common sires will allow the development of conversion equations between the UK and Ireland for relevant traits, e.g., weaning weight and live-weight.



7 Milk Recording Update

Milk Recording Herds and Cows Year To date 2006 versus Year to date 2005

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Herds Recorded 01/01/05 - 15/09/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 15/09/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 15/09/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 15/09/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,076	2,095	1%	146,717	153,813	5%
Dairygold	1,520	1,547	2%	96,695	102,546	6%
Kerry	1,064	1,074	1%	66,743	69,582	4%
SWS	936	958	2%	53,999	58,645	9%
Tipperary	141	168	19%	9,287	11,752	27%
Arrabawn	109	157	44%	7,083	10,925	54%
Connacht	110	138	25%	7,267	8,991	24%
Donegal	34	56	65%	3,542	5,153	45%
Total	5,990	6,193	3%	391,333	421,407	8%

Milk Recording Stats week ending 15/09/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 08/09/06 - 15/09/06
Progressive	349
Dairygold	198
Kerry	195
SWS	150
Arrabawn	15
Tipperary	23
Donegal	10
Total	940

8 Open Days

ICBF was involved in the **beef** open day at Grange on Tuesday and then the **EBI €100** open day at the farm of Jim Delahunty on Wednesday.

Beef at Grange

The Grange open day was attended by an estimated 1,500 people. TEAGASC had done a superb job of organising the event which ensured farmers were able to cover a wide range of topics relevant to beef production and to have access to the scientists doing the research.

ICBF had a stand which was manned by Andrew Cromie and Ross Evans. Brian Wickham was on the stand for a few hours in the afternoon.

There was steady interest all day with farmers asking about the new beef evaluations, the weaned calf initiative and the beef progeny test proposal. The farmers we met were generally well aware of ICBF's efforts to ensure greater rates of genetic improvement in the beef breeding industry. It is very encouraging to receive such positive feedback.



Grange is involved in a series of trials evaluating the extent to which ICBF's genetic evaluations identify the more profitable animals. These trials were described to farmers and we can expect a lot of interest when the results come through next year.

Dairy at EBI €100

The Open Day on the winners farm was attended by some 1,200 people. The day was jointly sponsored by TEAGASC, ACC Bank, the Irish Farmers Journal and ICBF.

Jim Delahunty has one of the highest EBI herds in Ireland and is achieving a high level of profitability. Farmers attending could not help but be inspired by Jim's achievements.

The Open Day was also the launch for HerdPlus. ICBF had a stand manned by Martin Burke, Rachel Wood and Kevin Downing from the HerdPlus Help Centre. Sean Coughlan was in attendance to ensure that our computer systems provide the information that farmers find most valuable. Many farmers visited the stand. The general feedback was very positive. The questions farmers asked will be incorporated into the Frequently Asked Questions on the HerdPlus section of our website.

We were pleased with the response to our launch and look forward to the next phase at Ploughing in two weeks time. As always, our focus is on continuous improvement, so lessons learnt on the day will ensure we do even better next time.

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