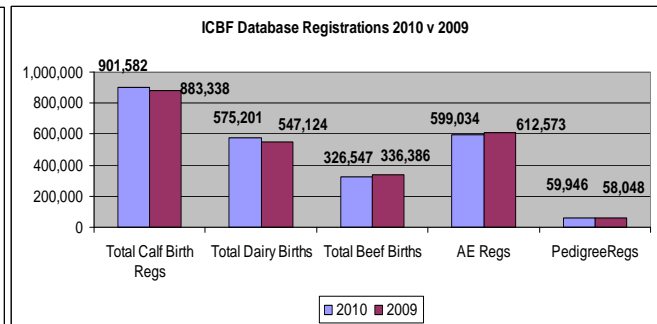
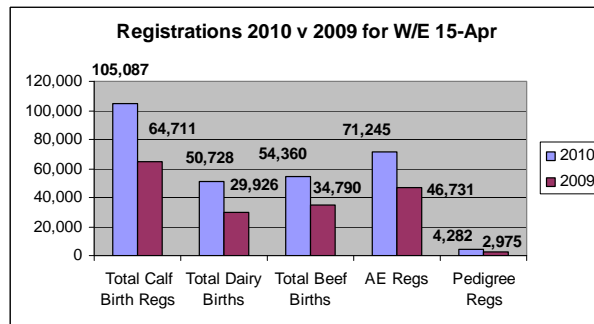


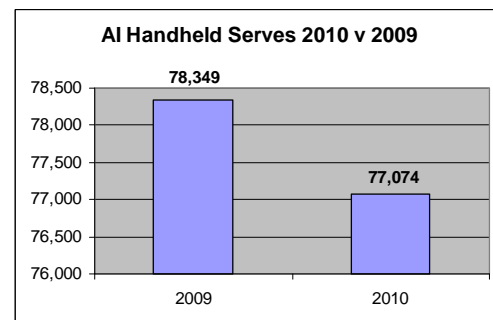
1. Important Dates

- + **Tully Bull Sale** – Monday 3rd May 2010 11:00 to 16:00 – Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.
- + **ICBF AGM** – 12:30 – 13:30, Thursday 27th May at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise. **Please note revised time.**
- + **ICBF Board** – 10:00 – 12:30, Thursday 27th May at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep Ireland AGM, Sheep Board Meeting & Election of new Flock Book representative to Interim Sheep Board** – 2:00pm Thursday 27th May at the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **ICAR and Interbull Meetings**, Riga Latvia 31st May to 4th June. Organisations interested in attending can find further information on the conference website - www.icar2010.lv.
- + **Sheep 2010, Lyons Estate, UCD** – Saturday 26th June. This is a major day for the Irish Sheep industry.

2. 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 622,131 with the number of animals weaned at 546,978.
- + A number of updates to the extracts of Suckler scheme data to DAFF will go live next week.
- + Work is on-going to update the ICBF website to handle the requirements of Animal Health Ireland, beginning with their BVD programme. The first of the Vets who use the current site were migrated this week, and we will be in contact with the others next week. Full release will take place a week later.
- + Some further updates to assist with Munster Milk Recording SCC programme have been completed.
- + The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



3. Meeting with Breed Association Members

- A meeting with Breed Association members of ICBF was held on Monday night (12th April) all the issues raised in a recent letter to ICBF Board members from the Pedigree Cattle Breeders Council were addressed. Agreement on a way forward was reached for every issue raised.

4. ICBF Annual Report

- A copy of ICBF's 2009 Annual Report is now available in the publications section (under Annual Reports) of our website – www.icbf.com.

5. GENÉIRLAND®

Beef

- Sign ups are at 173 herds.
- Total straws sent out per bull currently on the panel are in the table below.

| BREED | SI | SA | SH | HE |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CODE | HSY | BHU | CZB | AGI |
| STRAWS | 595 | 455 | 660 | 280 |

Dairy

GENÉIRLAND Research - Letters sent to high EBI herd-owners

- Letters were sent this week to the owners of high EBI cows, with suggested matings for the 2010 breeding season (please see attached letter). The letters are part of an industry initiative involving ICBF, Teagasc, AI companies and bull breeders, to increase the EBI and genetic diversity of our GENÉIRLAND breeding program.
- Some 2300 cows across 1200 herds were targeted as part of the initiative. A summary of the performance of these cows (based on their heifer performance) is given in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Average EBI & performance of Elite bull mothers.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| EBI | €133 |
| Milk Sub-index | €59 |
| Fertility Sub-index | €61 |
| Milk yield* | 5782 |
| Fat kg* | 242.8 |
| Protein kg* | 207.8 |
| Fat%* | 4.22% |
| Protein%* | 3.60% |
| Calving Interval Days | 365 |

* Average milk performance is based on 305-day heifer yields.

- For example, the average EBI of the group was €133, with an average heifer performance of 5,782 litres, 451 kg milk solids and calving interval of 365 days. In addition, some 50 high EBI, outcross bulls were also identified, with these bulls then mated against each cow (2,300 cows * 50 different sire combinations) to identify the best mating for each cow within the overall program. These cows and matings were then posted to the herd-owners.

- Feedback from bull breeders has been very positive regarding the initiative, with a lot of interest being expressed. In addition to the letter for herdowners, all relevant material was also sent to participating AI companies, including lists of elite cows, suggested matings for 2010 and details of calves born in the current calving season. The latter file is of particular interest as it has identified some 350 bull calves from these cows that are currently alive and on farms, including 100 that are from the 50 nominated sires of sons. Targeting these calves for next years GEN€IR€LAND program will be a priority for the coming weeks.
- If you have any questions on any aspect of this initiative, then please do not hesitate to contact either Andrew Cromie (023 8820223) or Kevin Downing (023 8820210).

6. Grow

- The level of scoring for March 2010 is lower than March 2009.
- The quality of the data being collected is very high (97% of Pedigrees were weighed and scored).
- Attempts are being made to adopt a more pro active approach from scorers to get breeders involved in scoring.

7. HerdPlus

Breeding Charts

- Breeding Charts were posted to some 4,600 dairy farmers this week. Any farmer who ran the Sire Advice program, will have their chosen bulls and matings reflected on the chart. The bulls also get automatically saved to the AI Handhelds operated by AI technicians.

8. Genetic Evaluations

Beef

- The April 2010 beef proofs were made official on the website on Monday 12th April. The usual SBV AI bull files and breed percentiles files are also available now under the genetic evaluations section. The extra web information relating to each sire (no. of records, trait average performance, herdmate performance etc.) is currently being processed and will be available next week.
- Research on the maternal weaning weight evaluation is ongoing.

Dairy

- All proofs were made available on Monday 12th April. Extra information files are available for Milk and Fertility and will be available for other traits next week.
- Francis Kearney gave a presentation on the Implementation of Genomic Selection in Ireland at the joint British Association of Animal Science/Agricultural Research Forum Conference during the week.

9. Milk Recording

| National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 06/04/10 to 16/04/10 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 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 | 706 | 44,394 | 63 | 24.2 | 4.01 | 3.17 | 1.74 | 336 |
| Leinster | 266 | 19,227 | 72 | 25.4 | 3.95 | 3.27 | 1.83 | 352 |
| Connacht | 48 | 2,503 | 52 | 21.9 | 4.00 | 3.24 | 1.59 | 415 |
| Ulster | 67 | 3,401 | 51 | 25.2 | 4.14 | 3.17 | 1.84 | 406 |

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 06/04/10 to 16/04/10

| | 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 | 12 | 993 | 83 | 27.4 | 4.25 | 3.31 | 2.07 | 408 |
| CAVAN | 21 | 969 | 46 | 22.7 | 4.11 | 3.12 | 1.64 | 434 |
| CLARE | 26 | 1,140 | 44 | 23.3 | 3.71 | 3.09 | 1.58 | 353 |
| CORK STH | 223 | 14,172 | 64 | 24.9 | 4.02 | 3.27 | 1.82 | 352 |
| CORK NTH | 190 | 12,271 | 65 | 24.3 | 4.04 | 3.18 | 1.75 | 310 |
| DONEGAL | 10 | 784 | 78 | 26.9 | 4.34 | 3.19 | 2.03 | 347 |
| DUBLIN | 3 | 104 | 35 | 31.7 | 3.79 | 3.21 | 2.22 | 387 |
| GALWAY | 23 | 1,222 | 53 | 23.8 | 3.90 | 3.15 | 1.68 | 453 |
| KERRY | 93 | 4,774 | 51 | 24.4 | 3.79 | 3.07 | 1.67 | 406 |
| KILDARE | 14 | 681 | 49 | 26.0 | 3.82 | 3.19 | 1.82 | 421 |
| KILKENNY | 29 | 1,921 | 66 | 24.5 | 3.92 | 3.27 | 1.76 | 249 |
| LAOIS | 22 | 1,311 | 60 | 22.4 | 3.72 | 3.18 | 1.55 | 381 |
| LEITRIM | 5 | 212 | 42 | 17.5 | 4.05 | 3.14 | 1.26 | 316 |
| LIMERICK | 89 | 5,152 | 58 | 26.3 | 3.75 | 3.12 | 1.81 | 272 |
| LONGFORD | 6 | 351 | 59 | 27.0 | 4.09 | 3.21 | 1.97 | 253 |
| LOUTH | 18 | 1,890 | 105 | 28.3 | 3.78 | 3.37 | 2.02 | 341 |
| MAYO | 12 | 611 | 51 | 22.3 | 4.00 | 3.27 | 1.62 | 332 |
| MEATH | 57 | 4,561 | 80 | 24.3 | 3.93 | 3.28 | 1.75 | 377 |
| MONAGHAN | 36 | 1,648 | 46 | 26.1 | 3.97 | 3.20 | 1.87 | 437 |
| OFFALY | 18 | 1,276 | 71 | 23.9 | 4.18 | 3.15 | 1.75 | 338 |
| ROSCOMMON | 3 | 153 | 51 | 27.6 | 3.70 | 3.24 | 1.92 | 559 |
| SLIGO | 5 | 305 | 61 | 18.2 | 4.37 | 3.41 | 1.42 | 414 |
| TIPPERARY NTH | 21 | 1,685 | 80 | 22.5 | 4.08 | 3.14 | 1.62 | 356 |
| TIPPERARY STH | 24 | 1,829 | 76 | 24.0 | 4.53 | 3.30 | 1.88 | 366 |
| WATERFORD | 40 | 3,371 | 84 | 24.0 | 4.13 | 3.21 | 1.76 | 276 |
| WESTMEATH | 17 | 1,100 | 65 | 22.8 | 4.29 | 3.26 | 1.72 | 347 |
| WEXFORD | 46 | 3,149 | 68 | 23.1 | 3.94 | 3.37 | 1.69 | 373 |
| WICKLOW E | 13 | 1,032 | 79 | 25.5 | 3.64 | 3.35 | 1.78 | 317 |
| WICKLOW W | 11 | 858 | 78 | 23.6 | 3.95 | 3.31 | 1.71 | 384 |

| | <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 | 1,087 | 69,525 | 64 | 24.5 | 3.99 | 3.23 | 1.77 | 364 |

Brian Wickham (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email bwickham@icbf.com.

Registered Office: Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd trading as "ICBF", Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 4914R, Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1978. Web: www.icbf.com.

Registered Office: Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: www.sheep.ie.



Herd ID

Farmer 1
Address 1
Address 2
Address 3.

7th April 2010

Developments in the GENÉIRÉLAND Breeding Programme.

Dear Herd-owner,

As you may be aware, ICBF, Teagasc, AI companies and bull breeders have recently launched an initiative to improve the EBI and genetic diversity of the GENÉIRÉLAND dairy breeding programme. The initiative is in response to increasing concerns amongst dairy farmers regarding the over-dominance of one particular bull (OJI or Oman) on the latest ICBF Active Bull List. The overall objective of the programme is to increase the number of high EBI out-cross young animals (males & females) that will be of long-term value to our dairy breeding industry.

As part of this initiative ICBF and Teagasc have identified a cow(s) on your farm that is/are of potential interest to the breeding programme. Some 2,500 cows were identified on the basis of genetic index, actual milk/fertility performance and genetic diversity. In addition we have suggested a mating for each of these selected cows. A list of the cow(s) and suggested mating's for your herd are given in the table over-leaf. These matings will also be updated onto industry support material, including breeding charts and AI handhelds. Please note that a total of 50 high EBI outcross bulls were selected as sires of sons for the 2010 programme (by a panel of people representing the various programme partners), with matings then allocated on an optimal basis using software developed by Teagasc. A full list of the 50 sires, along with other relevant support material, is included with this communication.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the GENÉIRÉLAND programme, FBD Trust have very kindly agreed to cover the cost of semen purchase for nominated mating's as part of this initiative. These monies will be paid directly to farmers by ICBF, based on inseminations recorded on the ICBF database during the current breeding season. Please note that money will only be paid on recorded inseminations for those matings suggested in the table overleaf. They will also be based on the semen price listed on the ICBF website, as of 10th April 2010.

In closing, I would ask you to please recall the objective of this initiative – to generate more high EBI outcross animals (males and females) that will be of long-term value to our dairy breeding industry. It is therefore not a commitment to purchase bull calves for AI, but rather an effort to improve the long-term value of your dairy herd, through greater genetic diversity. Nevertheless, we are confident that a proportion of these calves (some 100-200 bulls/year) will be picked up as part of the GENÉIRÉLAND breeding programme in 2011 (we plan to ensure that AI companies are advised of all matings under this programme), and that there will be a growing demand for progeny from these nominated matings in the future. You should therefore ensure any resulting bull calves are genotyped as soon as possible and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure they remain free from diseases that would prevent their entry to AI.

Congratulations on being selected as part of this initial research project and we look forward to working with you closely in this and future breeding seasons. If you have any questions on any aspect of this initiative, then please do not hesitate to contact us (1850 600 900 or query@icbf.com).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Brian Wickham.
CEO, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

SUGGESTED MATING FOR YOUR COW(S)



HERD DESIGNATOR:

HERD OWNER:

| FB | Tag Number | Cow EBI | AI Code | Bull Name | Bull EBI | Supplier | Straw Cost |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 480 | National ID | 155.56 | HFT | HALLVILLE L FEDERA-ET S1F | 201.45 | NCBC | 20 |
| 504 | National ID | 145.85 | LRZ | LAUREL | 168.6 | Dovea | 20 |
| 516 | National ID | 153.03 | LRZ | LAUREL | 168.6 | Dovea | 20 |