

1 Important Dates

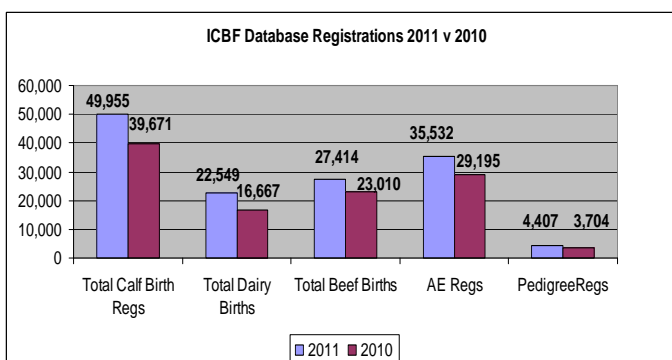
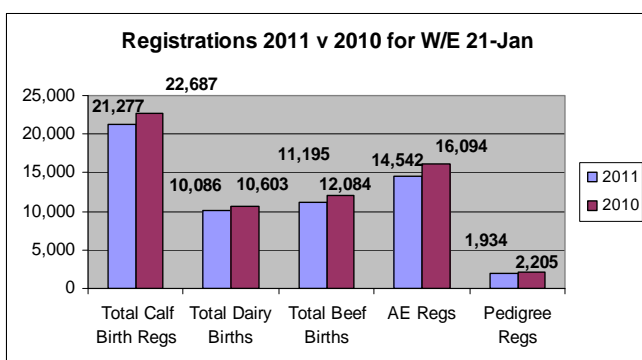
- ✚ **Wednesday 26th January** – HerdPlus[®] & GEN[®]IR[®]LAND[®] User conference plus EBI €100 discussion Group awards 2010 - Corrin Mart, Fermoy (*see Press Release attached*).
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th January, 10:30 to 14:00 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th January, 14:00 to 16:30 – Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Tully Advisory Committee Meeting** – Friday 28th January, 10:00 to 14:00 – Tully.

2 Progress

I had the pleasure of addressing a combined Arrabawn and IFA meeting in Nenagh last night (a copy of my slides is in the publications section of www.icbf.com). My address covered the practical question of finding the best cattle to breed from and the tools that are available to help a farmer in this quest. The live Active Bull Lists (dairy or beef) is a very good starting point for a farmer who is considering the use of AI. The online Herd Book is a good place to go for stock bulls. HerdPlus[®] is the service that deals with the selection of females and males within the herd. These tools are now being heavily used by farmers. Last year (2010) there were some 500,000 bull searches undertaken on the ICBF website.

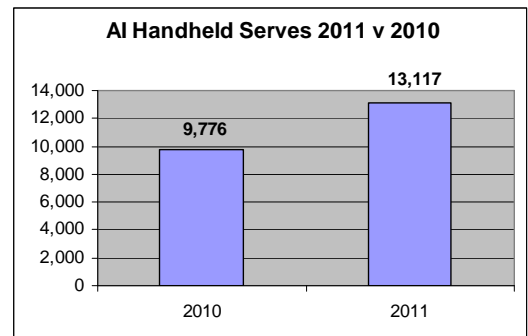
Also this week we have been progressing the breeding scheme proposal in consultation with stakeholders. The ICBF Board will be briefed on progress at its meeting next week. The availability of genomic tools has created a marvellous opportunity for the breeding sector to make a major long term contribution to the profitability of Irish dairy farming. However, to ensure the maximum benefits are delivered to farmers we will need to make some changes and make some investments. I look forward to working with all stakeholders, in the weeks ahead, to ensure the need for change is fully understood and that our industry moves in the direction that delivers the greatest possible benefits to Irish farmers.

3 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 557,401 with the number of animals weaned at 459,208.
- ✚ The generation of a '5 Year Trend' report for suckler herds is continuing.
- ✚ The design of a new infrastructure to manage genotypes at ICBF has been largely completed and testing/tweaking of the solution is continuing.

- ✚ The testing of the solution to allow farmers' avail of the genotyping service has been finalised. It will be launched next week at the HerdPlus®/ GENEIRLAND® User conference on January 26th.
- ✚ A testing of the new process for the reporting to breeders of sire errors on calf registrations should be completed next week.
- ✚ A new authorisation module for farmers and their service providers is ready for testing. This will give farmers more flexibility and control in providing authorisation to others to see their data.
- ✚ The generation of the HerdPlus® packs to support the spring calving season is continuing.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



4 GENEIRLAND®

Dairy

- ✚ Plans are being finalised to select the bulls for the Spring programme.
- ✚ Letters and bull details will be posted to potential participants next week.

Beef

- ✚ 34 herds have signed up so far.
- ✚ Work is continuing on identifying extra bulls for the Spring program.
- ✚ GHX has become the 11th Charolais bull tested on the program.
- ✚ The much awaited LGL (see picture) has now been added to the panel.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GENEIRLAND® section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.



BREED	AA	BA	BB	CH	CH	HE	LM	PT	SA
CODE	MLJ	KCE	KYR	LGL	CXY	GCT	CZH	CBQ	BHU
# STRAWS	264	330	590	30	660	83	295	149	606

5 GROW®

- ✚ The GROW review is well under way.
- ✚ The first of 4 user meetings was held in Bandon on Wednesday night.
- ✚ The meeting was well attended and a number of important points were made.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Extracts have been taken for the monthly beef evaluation for linear scored animals from 1st December to 15th January. The evaluation has commenced and results will be made available on 1st February.

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.

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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.



Don't miss this important Dairy Breeders' Conference!

GENE IRELAND® / HerdPlus® User Meeting & EBI Competition Awards.

Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy, Wednesday January 26th 2011

Following on from its very successful event last year, **ICBF** will be holding its 4th annual dairy user meeting on Wednesday 26th January 2011 in Cork Marts' Corrin facility outside Fermoy. This is a key event in the dairy calendar, a must see for all dairy breeders, as ICBF shares the latest on breeding developments with its users and the wider industry.

The day will kick off with at 1030am, with the morning session providing updates to farmers on ;

- Genomics,
- EBI Developments,
- GENE IRELAND® 2011
- HerdPlus® services,
- GENE IRELAND® breeders awards

After lunch the afternoon session will start at 2pm & will focus on the Teagasc/EBI Discussion Group competition. This year a record of over 85 groups entered the competition from all over the country. The afternoon session will entail;

- Regional Teagasc/ICBF EBI Discussion Group Winners
- Overall National Winner's data and performance
- Prizes awarded.

ICBF have put together a stimulating programme for the day and are guaranteeing short, snappy presentations (10 minutes) in a friendly and conducive environment for farmers. Cattle breeding trade stands will also be present on the day, ensuring an excellent opportunity for farmers to get the latest information on dairy breeding developments.

ICBF would like to acknowledge and are grateful to the FBD Trust for their generous and kind sponsorship of GENE IRELAND® and HerdPlus® products and services.

ICBF would like to acknowledge and are grateful to the ACC bank for their generous and kind sponsorship of EBI Competition.

