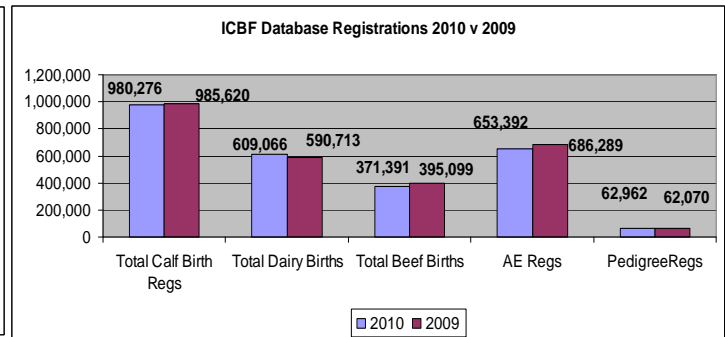
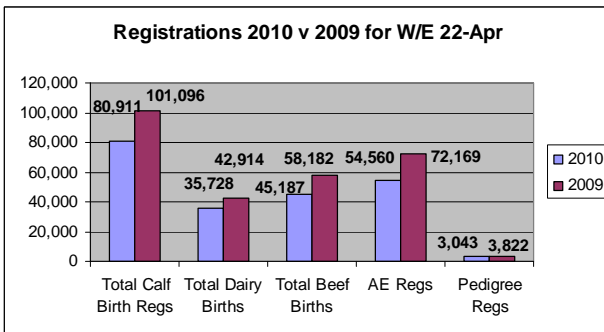


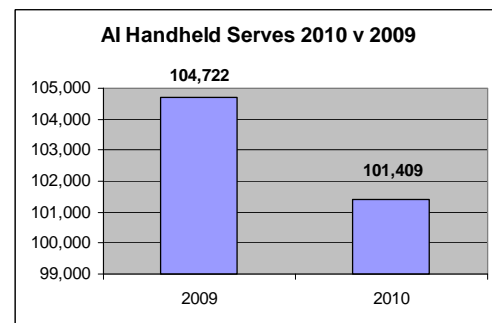
1. Important Dates

- + **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.
- + **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 624,131 with the number of animals weaned at 550,978.
- + A number of updates to the extracts of Suckler scheme data to DAFF went live this week. The aim is to reduce the number of discrepancies created at the DAFF end.
- + Work is on-going to update the ICBF website to handle the requirements of Animal Health Ireland, beginning with their BVD programme. More Vets who use the current site were migrated this week, and we will be in contact with the rest next week.
- + 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. Sheep Ireland

- + A presentation was given to the Belclare Sheep Society on their progress in LambPlus so far in 2010 on Wednesday 21st of April.
- + LambPlus breeders who have not entered Lambing or Weighing are being contacted.

- ✚ MALP lambs continue to be EID tagged and weighed at 40 Days.
- ✚ The first of the CPT lambs has been 40 Day weighed this week, and the rest will be weighed next week.

4. Tully

- ✚ This week saw the champion beef bulls selected from each of the main breeds that participated in the latest Tully intake (see pictures below). Some 105 bulls, across nine different breeds, were involved in the latest intake. All 105 bulls finished their 90 day performance test on the 6th of April. They will be offered up for sale at a special high index, high health status sale, to be held at the Tully performance test centre, Kildare on Monday 3rd May, starting at 12 noon. Details of the winning bulls and breeders are given in Table 1.



Ballyfin Drifter ET



Athgoelyons 1 Michael



Glencardon Wescott ET



Ashbury Jupiter



Sheemore Prince J295



Shanrock Evan ET



Lisnagree Elite ET



Essgee Arizona

Table 1. Details of the winning bulls and breeders. Performance and Indexes of Champion bulls at Tully*

Breed	Name	Ave Daily Gain (kg/day)	Feed Conv Eff (DMI/ADG)	Scan Muscle Dept (mm)	Scan Fat Dept (mm)	SBV (€)	Rank out of 100
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BB	Ballyfin Drifter Et	2.2	5.2	90	3.8	€103	63
HE	Athgoelyons 1 Michael	2.1	4.7	65	7.3	€57	75
SA	Ashbury Jupiter	2.6	4.7	76	3.4	€93	92
AA	Sheemore Prince J295	2.6	5.5	79	9.3	€81	99
LM	Shancrock Evan Et	2.2	5.5	95	3.9	€147	99
CH	Lisnagre Elite Et	2.2	5.5	101	3.1	€168	99
SI	Essgee Arizona	2.5	5.1	85	4.3	€183	99

* There were insufficient breed numbers to select champion bulls from the Speckle Park and Aubrac breeds.

Selecting the Champion Bulls

The Champion bulls (pictured) were identified within each breed based on 3 main criteria. These criteria were;

- **Visual Score (33%).** All bulls were assessed by one “master scorer”, working on behalf of ICBF and the each of the beef herdbooks, for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits.
- **Euro-Star indexes (33%).** These were based on the latest official indexes from ICBF (April 2010). As can be seen from Table 1, the group of bulls were exceptional in this regard, with four of the bulls ranking in the top 1% within each of their relevant breeds on SBV.
- **Tully performance data (33%).** The Tully performance test involves subjecting the bulls to uniform feeding, housing and management conditions. During the performance test, bulls are weighed every 21 days with individual feed intake being obtained daily. Other measurements taken at Tully include; (i) *Average daily gain (kg/day)*: A key indicator of growth rate, (ii) *Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG)*: The ratio describing the amount of feed consumed per unit of production. It is important to identify animals that are efficient users of feed, with low values representing more efficient animals, (iii) *Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm)*: These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield, and (iv) *Scrotal circumference (cm)*: Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality. It also has a favourable relationship with daughter female fertility.
- All bulls were scored according to the above criteria, with the top bulls then selected from within each breed based on this analysis.

Up-coming High Index and High Health status sale:

105 bulls will be available for purchase at the up-coming Tully sale. The bulls on offer consist of; 40 Limousins, 26 Charolais, 13 Angus, one Aubrac, four Belgian Blue, five Hereford, four Saler, 10 Simmental and two Speckle Park's. Bulls will be between 13 and 19 months of age. The bulls are currently being fed a declining level of concentrates, thus ensuring that they will be acclimatised to their new on-farm environment post sale. Almost 2/3 of the bulls are 5 stars on Suckler Beef Value (SBV), with 35 bulls being in the top 5% of their breed on SBV and 14 bulls being in the top 1%. In addition all bulls have been tested clear of IBR, BVD, Johne's and EBL.

Therefore if it is elite high index, high health status bulls that you require for your breeding herd, then we advise you to make your way to the Tully bull sale on the 3rd May. The Tully Bull performance test centre is located 5 minutes from Kildare town, at exit 13 of the M7 motorway. The sale starts at 12 noon. For more information or a copy of the catalogue, please contact Stephen or Niall on 045 521573. A free copy of the catalogue is also available for download at <http://www.icbf.com/services/tully/index.php>. It is important to note that all Tully performance data is available on the catalogue.

Preparation for the sale:

- ✚ Preparation for the sale is going well with facilities being power-washed at present, and this work will be completed late next week.
- ✚ Bulls were clipped this week and will be washed and groomed prior to the sale.
- ✚ Handling of bulls i.e. training to walk and lead properly on a halter for the day of sale, is on target and near completion.
- ✚ The sale is being advertised at present in all major papers in Ireland and the UK, along with some targeted local papers.
- ✚ All bull owners at Tully, Herdbooks and AI companies have received the final performance test results and a copy of the sale catalogue.
- ✚ Bulls will also receive hoof-care on Monday of next week, where it is deemed necessary.

Next Intake:

- ✚ On-farm inspection of bulls is near completion with 170 of the 200 bulls entered for the next intake, being inspected to date. Around 55% of bulls inspected have passed the visual assessment for muscle, skeletal and functionality and all breeders whose bulls have passed, have received their health testing information. The remaining 30 bulls should be inspected over the weekend, with on-farm health testing information being sent out once the results are known.
- ✚ There has been a small number of bloods received to date from on-farm health testing and these have been sent to Backweston for analysis. Bulls for the next intake are due to enter pre-entry isolation on the 22nd of May.

5. Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Work is underway on various genetic evaluation issues on both dairy and beef. These include maternal weaning weight, calving performance and genomic evaluations.
- ✚ In terms of the publication of proofs for the next few runs, the schedule of events is as follows (http://www.icbf.com/services/evaluations/publication_schedule.php)
- ✚ Note that the evaluations usually done in January will now be available prior to Christmas due to the fact that the Interbull run has been brought forward to December from January.
- ✚ AI companies that wish to supply genotypes and pedigree information for inclusion in genomic evaluations should be sent to ICBF by the “last date for animals to get Parent Average Data”.

Genetic Evaluation Time Table 2010

3rd Qtr		4th Qtr	
05 July 2010	Last Date for Data to be recorded	01 November 2010	Last Date for Data to be recorded
27 July 2010	Interbull Submission Date	23 November 2010	Interbull Submission Date
02 August 2010	Last Date for animals to get Parent Average Data	22 November 2010	Last Date for animals to get Parent Average Data
12 August 2010	Interbull Release Date	02 December 2010	Interbull Release Date
23 August 2010	Official Publication Date	13 December 2010	Official Publication Date

6. Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 13/04/10 to 23/04/10

	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	13	813	63	26.4	4.09	3.41	1.98	283

CAVAN	30	1,388	46	28.3	3.95	3.19	2.02	400
CLARE	23	1,119	49	25.9	3.65	3.14	1.76	328
CORK STH	237	14,026	59	26.6	3.80	3.32	1.89	272
CORK NTH	266	16,896	64	25.4	3.83	3.27	1.80	319
DONEGAL	2	117	59	24.0	4.02	3.35	1.77	361
DUBLIN	3	133	44	27.1	3.85	3.40	1.96	539
GALWAY	21	1,207	57	24.5	3.81	3.16	1.71	391
KERRY	94	5,104	54	26.7	3.68	3.19	1.83	402
KILDARE	12	946	79	26.3	3.94	3.32	1.91	304
KILKENNY	46	3,382	74	25.4	3.91	3.27	1.82	235
LAOIS	29	1,909	66	23.5	3.84	3.30	1.68	355
LEITRIM	2	99	50	25.5	3.64	3.40	1.80	451
LIMERICK	111	6,872	62	26.6	3.69	3.19	1.83	318
LONGFORD	6	338	56	27.5	4.13	3.18	2.01	172
LOUTH	20	1,541	77	24.7	3.74	3.39	1.76	434
MAYO	5	296	59	25.8	3.66	3.29	1.79	446
MEATH	44	4,606	105	23.3	3.87	3.27	1.66	415
MONAGHAN	21	974	46	25.7	3.84	3.26	1.82	421
OFFALY	35	2,268	65	26.2	3.94	3.26	1.89	353
ROSCOMMON	4	237	59	25.2	3.64	3.24	1.73	499
SLIGO	2	203	102	17.2	4.41	3.41	1.35	426
TIPPERARY NTH	41	3,306	81	24.1	3.98	3.21	1.73	367
TIPPERARY STH	42	3,181	76	23.8	3.97	3.20	1.71	376
WATERFORD	58	4,710	81	25.7	3.93	3.31	1.86	307
WESTMEATH	12	852	71	22.7	4.24	3.28	1.71	400
WEXFORD	65	4,328	67	24.9	3.82	3.33	1.78	343
WICKLOW E	17	1,164	68	25.0	3.68	3.27	1.74	322
WICKLOW W	3	220	73	27.3	4.46	3.33	2.13	221
	<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	1,264	82,235	66	25.2	3.90	3.28	1.81	361

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 13/04/10 to 23/04/10								
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	872	55,214	63	25.6	3.82	3.23	1.80	336
Leinster	305	22,500	74	25.4	3.95	3.31	1.85	337
Connacht	34	2,042	60	23.6	3.83	3.30	1.69	443
Ulster	53	2,479	47	26.0	3.94	3.27	1.87	394

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