



UPDATE – for period 20th – 26th October 2007

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Friday November 23rd**. Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation Meeting. Moorepark
- ✚ **Wednesday November 28th**. GENEIRLAND farmer meeting. Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **Thursday November 29th**. ICBF Board Meeting. Portlaoise.

2 ICBF Board Meeting

Decisions made at yesterday's Board meeting included:

- ✚ Adoption of a draft Strategic Plan as the basis for formulating the 2008 budget which will be considered at the next Board meeting. The draft Plan for 2008 includes a number of service quality initiatives, contains a consolidated approach to breeding schemes through GENEIRLAND and includes initiatives to explore new service opportunities.
- ✚ Approval of ICBF providing administrative and technical support services to the Sheep Industry on the clear understanding that: a. this will be done in a way that does not compromise the ability of ICBF to achieve its cattle breeding mission, b. these activities are cost neutral to ICBF, and c. the involvement of ICBF is fully supported by the Sheep Industry.

3 Tully

- ✚ A list of bulls that are currently being inspected for Tully was sent to breed societies on the 25-10-07.
- ✚ Inspections of bulls for the December intake to Tully will be finished before 29-10-07.
- ✚ Health testing letters will be sent out to breeders from 30-10-07 and all health testing will be carried out before the 7-11-07.

4 HerdPlus

- ✚ The Autumn Dairy Active Bull List is now available on our web site (http://www.icbf.com/services/evaluations/files/Autumn_Active_Bull_List_2007.pdf) and will be posted with the Autumn breeding chart to the relevant HerdPlus herds next week.
- ✚ **An update of the Beef Euro-Star report** based on farmer feedback, is now complete and will be posted to 4,350 herds next week.
- ✚ Francis Kearney, on behalf of the HerdPlus Team, will attend the two day Beef & Dairy farm walks organised in conjunction with the annual Macra Rally.
- ✚ The 'Final Fertility report' was generated for 360 herds this week.
- ✚ Work has continued on enhancements to the HerdPlus web site.

5 GENEIRLAND - DAIRY

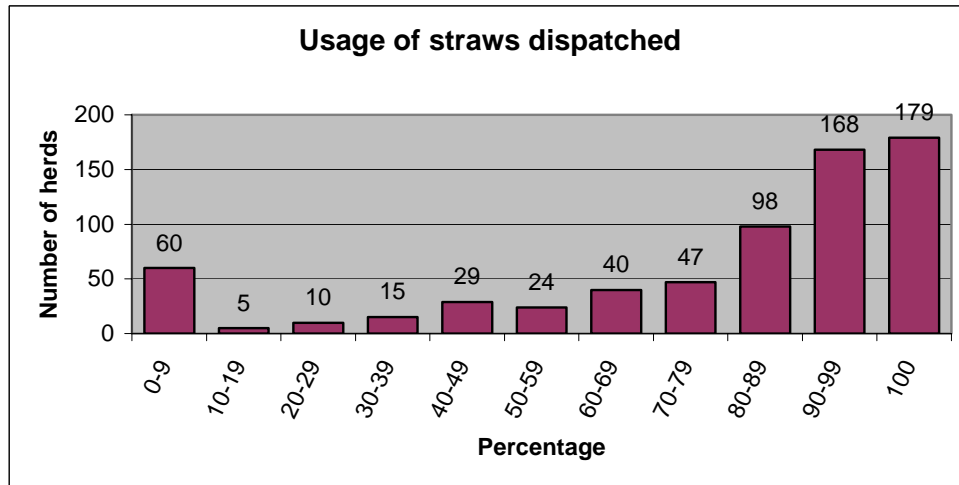
SPRING 2007

- ✚ All payments for recorded inseminations from the Spring 2007 programme have now been made. A summary of key statistics include:
 - Total of 687 herds
 - 28,633 straws dispatched
 - 22,956 recorded inseminations



- 80% response rate
- Total payment of €14,730
- 190 herds paid by Cheque
- 444 herds paid by Direct Credit

The following graph shows the percentage of recorded inseminations in relation to the number of straws dispatched. As can be seen, at total of 445 herds (64.7%) used 80-100% of their allocated straws.

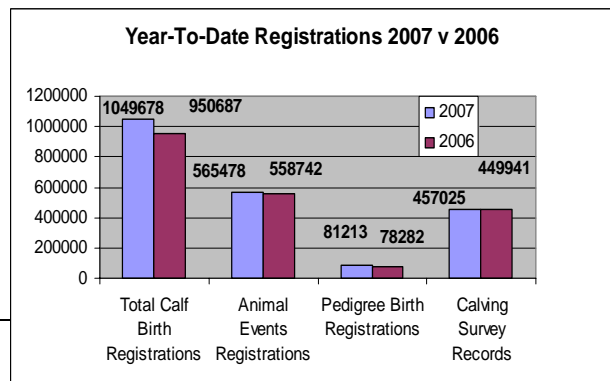
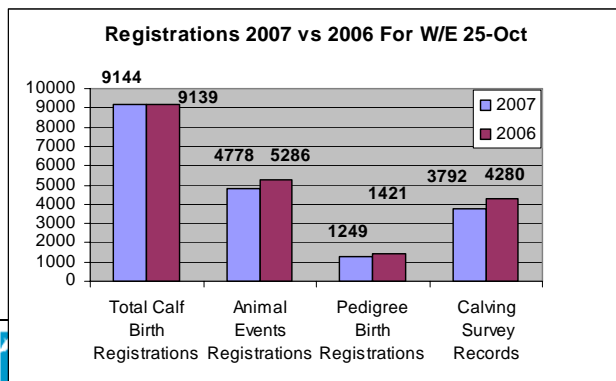


AUTUMN 2007

- Herd recruitment and semen dispatch for the Autumn 2007 programme continues. There are currently some 95 herds signed up.
- Due to unavailability of semen for Ballycairn Linus (ABS test bull), we have replaced him with a test bull from Dovea – Conbrick Vanessa Oman 2 (VNO). The revised panel of test bulls is as follows:

AI Code	Animal Name	Sire	Overall Index	Milk Prod SI	Fertility SI	Calving SI	Carcass SI	Health SI	Milk
			EBI (€)	(€)	(€)	(€)	(€)	(€)	KG
CZD	CURRABEIGH STANDISH	IRL STX	91.89	56.83	22.30	18.57	-2.48	-3.33	221
EDV	EDDY DIVA OMAN	IRL OJI	153.41	67.58	51.96	28.07	-0.86	6.66	533
MVD	MONAMORE EVIDENT	IRL RUU	109.28	49.98	35.86	27.42	-0.10	-3.88	196
UPH	MARS UPHILL	NLD OJI	128.46	56.66	46.78	27.89	-7.31	4.44	393
VNO	CLONBRICK VANESSA OMAN 2	IRL OJI	123.24	95.95	20.59	19.67	-14.63	1.66	746
VRU	CLONBRICK VANESSA RUU 2	IRL RUU	109.51	74.03	26.59	18.85	-7.74	-2.22	539
VTO	MONAMORE VETO	IRL OJI	125.03	70.52	24.85	25.98	-2.42	6.1	525
AVERAGE:			€120	€67.4	€32.7	€23.8	€5.1	€1.35	450

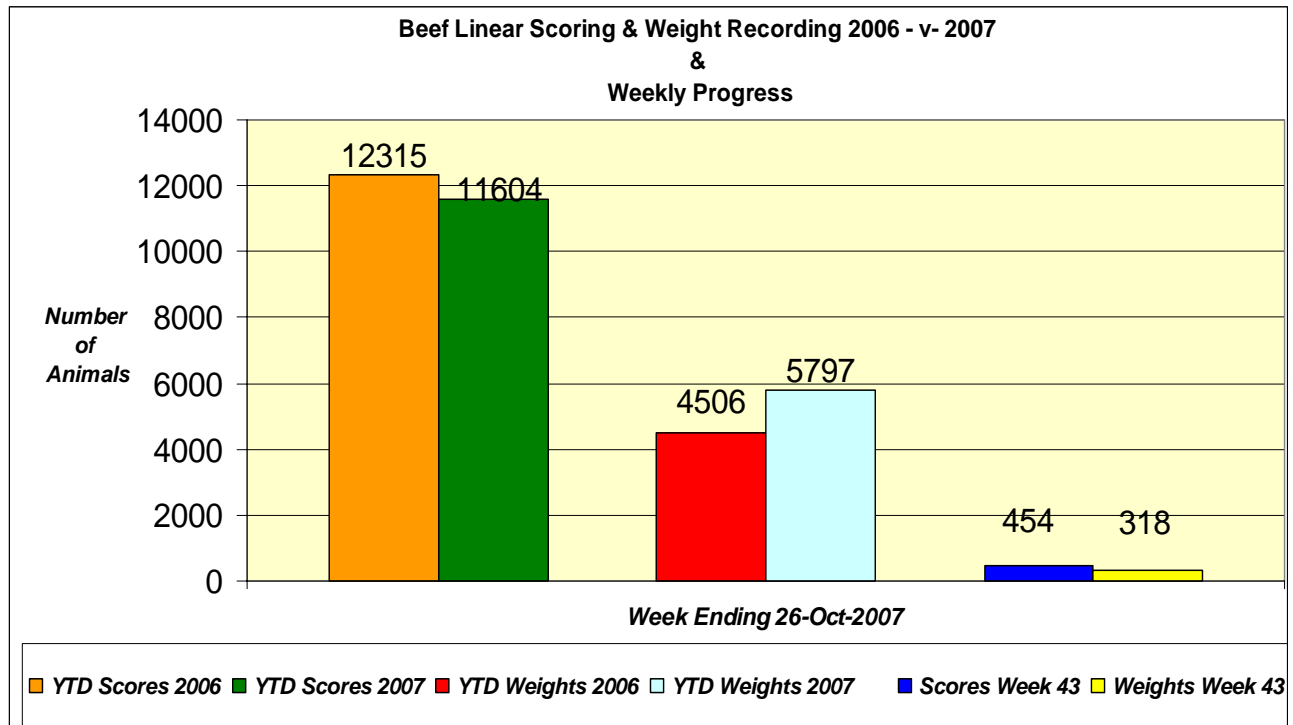
6 Database Update





- ✚ 355,023 inseminations have been received so far in 2007 from AI Handhelds, compared with 156,550 in 2006 for the same period.
- ✚ Another batch of Euro-Star reports have been finalised and will be issued next week.
- ✚ The Final Fertility reports continue to flow, as insemination data/pregnancy is entered to the database.
- ✚ Progress continues on the redesign of the Animal Events file processing which will be completed over the coming months.
- ✚ Preparations are continuing in order to be ready for the commencement of the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme, which will have a significant impact in terms of data volumes coming into the database, with Animal Events being the means of data recording.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the Sire Advice module for the new season.
- ✚ The implementation of the new hardware solution and database upgrade is on-going. We overcame a significant stumbling block this week in relation to the IRIS software working on the new platform, so progress on this project will accelerate again. We will be working with the user organisations in testing the upgraded application.
- ✚ Last weekend saw the Limousin society using a beef catalogue for commercial animals at a 'commercial breeding female' sale. This was the first time a catalogue for commercial beef animals was generated from the ICBF database. – feedback has been positive.

7 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording





8 Milk Recording Processing – this week and year to date

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 26/10/07						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 26/10/07	No. EDIY Herds YTD 26/10/07	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 26/10/07	No. EDIY Cows YTD 26/10/07	% Cows EDIY
Progressive	2,135	668	31%	167,131	51,118	31%
Dairygold	1,591	554	35%	111,288	40,341	36%
Kerry	1,033	70	7%	71,747	5,688	8%
SWS	932	109	12%	60,684	7,101	12%
Tipperary	170	71	42%	12,292	5,244	43%
Arrabawn	168	127	76%	11,963	9,142	76%
Connacht	154	68	44%	10,080	4,303	43%
Donegal	43	43	100%	3,901	3,901	100%
Total	6,226	1,710	27%	449,086	126,838	28%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison				
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 26/10/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 26/10/06	YTD 2007 Cows Recorded 01/01/07 - 26/10/07	2007 vs 2006 Year on Year Difference (%)
Progressive	150,302	157,550	167,131	5.7%
Dairygold	97,777	103,554	111,288	6.9%
Kerry	67,173	70,116	71,747	2.3%
SWS	54,795	59,502	60,684	1.9%
Tipperary	9,352	11,817	12,292	3.9%
Arrabawn	7,159	11,075	11,963	7.4%
Connacht	7,355	9,232	10,080	8.4%
Donegal	3,694	5,270	3,901	-35.1%
Total	397,607	428,116	449,086	4.7%

Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden.