



Update for period 21st –27th October 2006

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Wednesday 1st November**, 1:30pm to 5:00pm, **Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation** meeting, at Moorpark.
- ✚ **Thursday 2nd November**, **ICBF Board** meeting, Comfort Inn, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Wednesday 29th November**, 10:30 – 16:00. **Beef Genetic Evaluations Consultation** meeting, Abbeyleix.

2 Genetic Evaluations – Dairy

- ✚ Files are being processed for the upcoming INTERBULL routine run for production (Holstein-Friesian and Montbeliarde) and longevity (Holstein-Friesian) and will be sent to INTERBULL next week.
- ✚ Fertility results from the test run have still not been released by INTERBULL. The breeding values have been calculated and the centre is now working on the distribution files. It is hoped that these will be available in the coming week.
- ✚ Work is continuing on various aspects concerning traits in the dairy EBI index for the upcoming dairy industry meeting.

3 Genetic Evaluations – Beef

- ✚ The current Tully performance test will conclude this week. All animals will be linear scored and this data and the final weighing and feed intake records will be loaded to the database and extracted for a new genetic evaluation prior to the Tully Sale on 18th November.
- ✚ It is hoped that new mart data will also be added to the database in the coming weeks and subsequently incorporated into the genetic evaluation.

4 Tully

- ✚ The final weighing of the May intake took place on the 27-10-06. The final weights will be sent out to breeders on the 1-11-06.
- ✚ Linear scoring will take place on the 31-10-06 and final blup and EBI figures will be available on the 8-11-06.
- ✚ The sale for the May intake will take place on the 18-11-06.
- ✚ A total of 127 bulls for the September intake have entered Tully and will start their performance test on the 27-10-06.
- ✚ Applications for the December intake are returning and inspections will start from the 6-11-06.

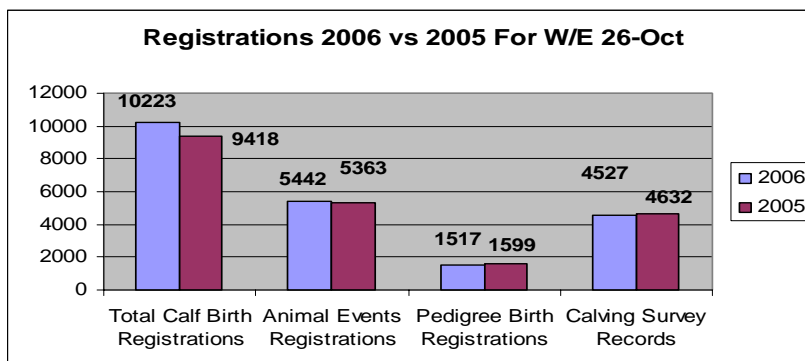
5 HerdPlus

- ✚ Busy day at Millstreet Dairy Show on Sat. 21st Oct - we had two laptops on the HerdPlus stand where farmers could access and view their herd data and EBI reports on line. Good interest shown and feedback was positive with most farmers who visited signing up there and then.
- ✚ Teagasc Discussion Group - visited one of John Maher's groups on Wed 25th with a view to developing a "Template" report for meetings. The template would pull together the groups data onto one page - save the chairman of the group "chasing" data in preparation for each months meeting.
- ✚ Conducted Teagasc New Advisor Training on Thursday 26th in Moorepark - updated new advisors on EBI, HerdPlus and Milk Recording.
- ✚ Targeted some 3,600 herds with good sire records this week and response has been very good, giving a boost in number of Direct Debit Sign up Forms received. Sign up rate continuing as planned.

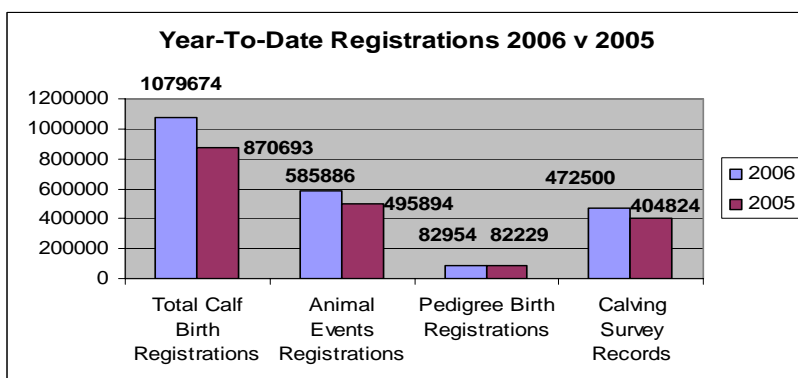


6 Database Update

- 19 new herds added to the database last week.
- The number of inseminations recorded on handhelds this year now stands at 160,345.
- Work has begun on the development of handheld software to support the Teagasc funded project on lameness recording. This will take a number of weeks to complete.



- Work on the development of personalised Animal Events notebooks for farmers is ongoing. These notebooks will be distributed to farmers in December/January.



- Work on the development and implementation of a Sire Advice module is continuing, and discussions on the roll-out of the module will be held with stakeholders over the coming weeks.

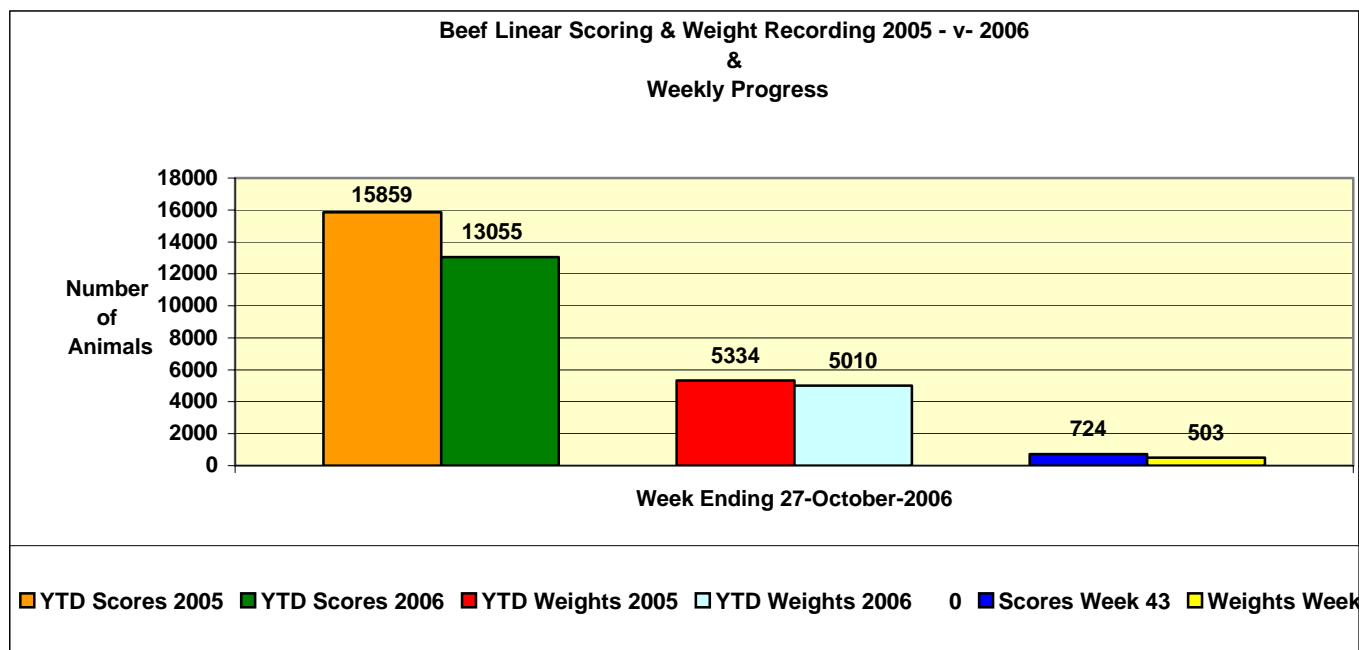
- The web-enabled herd-book processing application is also progressing. Much of the background infrastructure of this development will be used in the migration of other applications to the web.
- This week we continued to have problems with our broadband connections, resulting in access to the database being very slow from a number of sites. Over the last couple of weeks, Eircom had installed extra lines. However, this week, we discovered that these lines are not fit for purpose, and Eircom will have to re-look at the installation. We are working with Eircom to have this resolved as quickly as possible, but though the service is not as we would wish, we are dealing with a monopoly in the provision of broadband infrastructure, and have no choice.
- The work that is taking place on the web version of the herdbooks will have a significant impact on system speed for those sites.

7 AI Promotion

- A group containing representatives from AI companies, TEAGASC, ICBF, DAF and the farm organisations has been formed with the objective of ***“improving farmers understanding of the benefits of AI and achieving an increase in the use of AI”***. The group chose Brian Wickham as its chairman at its first meeting on Thursday this week. Work plans for a survey of farmers, promotion of beef AI in the autumn of 2006, and for dairy and beef promotions in 2007 are under development.
- This group has been formed following the success of the initial efforts in spring 2006 which appears to have halted the long term decline in AI.



8 Beef Linear Scoring



9 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 - 27/10/05	YTD 2006 Herds Recorded 01/01/06 - 27/10/06	Year on Year Herds Difference(%)	YTD 2005 Cows Recorded 01/01/05 - 27/10/05	YTD 2006 Cows Recorded 01/01/06 - 27/10/06	Year on Year Cows Difference(%)
Progressive	2,083	2,104	1%	150,152	157,379	5%
Dairygold	1,527	1,550	2%	97,781	103,449	6%
Kerry	1,064	1,074	1%	67,195	70,009	4%
SWS	937	958	2%	54,867	59,502	8%
Tipperary	142	168	18%	9,352	11,817	26%
Arrabawn	109	159	46%	7,123	11,039	55%
Connacht	110	140	27%	7,362	9,238	25%
Donegal	47	58	23%	4,066	5,270	30%
Total	6,019	6,211	3%	397,898	427,703	7%

Milk Recording Stats week ending 27/10/06

Milk Recording Organisation	2006 Herds Recorded Week 20/10/06 - 27/10/06
Progressive	298
Dairygold	283
Kerry	185
SWS	121
Tipperary	28
Arrabawn	28
Connacht	19
Donegal	2
Total	964

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