

1. Important Dates

- ✚ **ICAR and Interbull Meetings**, Riga Latvia 31st May to 4th June. Further details - www.icar2010.lv.
- ✚ **Sheep 2010, Lyons Estate, UCD** – Saturday 26th June. This is a major day for the Irish Sheep industry.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 15th July, 10:30 to 14:00 – Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 15th July, 14:00 to 16:30 – Portlaoise

1 ICBF Board Meeting

At Thursday's meeting the Board:

- a. Endorsed the outcome of the recent meeting with Herd Book members, and
- b. Requested that breeding scheme discussions continue and to ensure that the interests and views of stakeholders are fully considered.

2 ICBF Annual General Meeting (AGM):

At the ICBF AGM on Thursday the annual report and audited accounts were adopted and Ernst & Young appointed as Auditors for 2010. The highlights of 2009 were outlined by the Chairman and Chief Executive. A copy of the Annual Report for 2009 and the slides used by the Chief Executive are in the publications section of our website (www.icbf.com).

3 Sheep Ireland – Meeting with Flock Books

A meeting of Irish Flock books took place on Thursday. At this meeting Richard Moore was elected to the Interim Sheep Board (the Board of Sheep Database Ltd trading as Sheep Ireland).

Also at this meeting the Chief Executive presented his annual report for 2009. A copy of his presentation is in the publications section of www.sheep.ie.

4 Sheep Ireland Annual General Meeting

At the ICBF AGM on Thursday the annual report and audited accounts were adopted and Ernst & Young appointed as Auditors for 2010. A copy of the Annual Report for 2009 is in the publications section of www.sheep.ie.

5 Sheep Ireland Board Meeting

The Sheep Ireland Board, at its meeting Thursday, welcomed Richard Moore as the new member representing the Flock Books. The Board also discussed the project manager's report, a copy of which is in the publications section of www.sheep.ie.

6 Genetic Evaluations

International Beef

Testing of the provision of cross-bred animals for inclusion in Interbeef research and genetic evaluations has progressed. Files for weaning weights and pedigree have been prepared for 120,000 Limousine and 160,000 Charolais animals and submitted to the Interbull Centre. The results will be presented for discussion at the InterBeef working group meeting next week.

Genomics

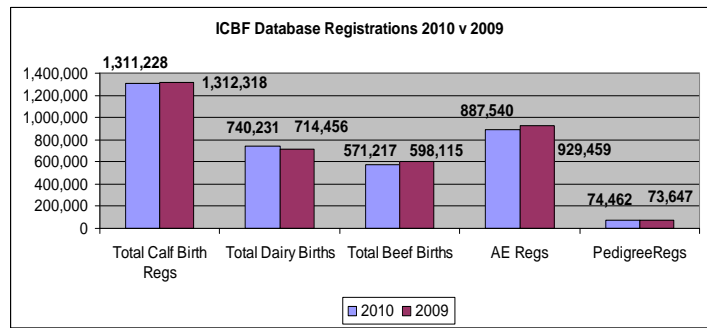
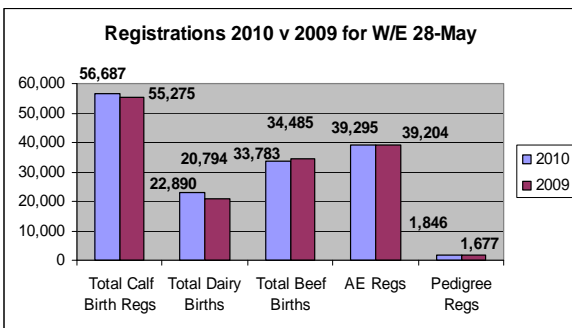
A collaborative paper involving a large group of countries dealing with the benefits of international collaboration on genomics has been prepared for presentation at next weeks Interbull meeting. Andrew Cromie will be presenting the paper and a copy is available in the publications section of www.icbf.com.

Donagh Berry of Teagasc has co-ordinated the creation of a file of all bulls for which 50K SNP genotypes are available across a large number of countries. Ireland is proposing that the maintenance of this file be taken over by the Interbull Centre and this question will be considered at the upcoming Interbull meeting.

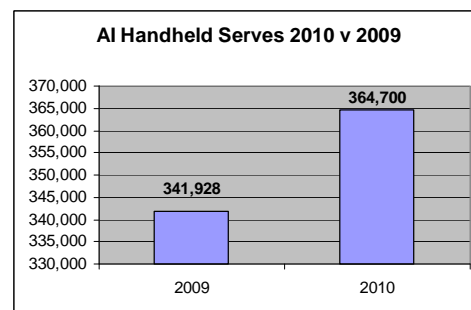
Beef

The monthly genetic evaluation of beef performance, linear type and docility for animals linear scored is underway. New proofs will be available next week and GROW reports and evaluation reports will be posted to breeders once the evaluations have been loaded to the database.

7 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 634,131 with the number of animals weaned at 568,978.
- ✚ Vets wishing to begin interacting with the AHI/ICBF system can register at <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/registerpage.php>.
- ✚ The new call logging system for herd-books went live this week, and will help provide improved transparency on the status of requests from herdbooks.
- ✚ Design work began this week which will allow those involved in the Embryo transfer process to view/input data. The aim is that this will facilitate better recording of data, and more accurate fertility evaluations for donor cows.
- ✚ Updates were made to some of the window server infrastructure, beginning the process of a move to a more resilient infrastructure for email, file servers, etc.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2010 compared with 2009.



8 Tully

- ✚ All power-washing and disinfection of facilities at Tully was completed at the end of last week. Analysis of blood samples taken on-farm has also been completed. As a result, breeders have been notified by phone and post if their bull has met the health testing criteria to enter isolation at Tully.
- ✚ Bulls that are passed clear, have been entering isolation at Tully since last Saturday and all bulls will be in isolation by Monday 31st of May. There are currently 32 of the 60 bulls that passed the on-farm health testing in isolation at Tully.
- ✚ Breeders who own bulls that did not meet the on-farm testing criteria have received a copy of their results and a letter with information in conjunction with Veterinary advice on the best approach to managing and eradicating disease from their herd.

- ✚ Once the last bull enters isolation, a blood sample is obtained weekly for three weeks, testing again for IBR, to ensure no bull became infected during on-farm testing and entry into Tully.
- ✚ During isolation bulls are given vaccinations and boosters for RSV, PI3, Pasteurella (strains of pneumonia), Blackleg and various other clostridia diseases. They are also treated for lice, mange, immature and mature fluke, stomach and lung worms.
- ✚ While in isolation, bulls are also gradually built up to an ad-lib concentrate diet (the acclimatization period) in preparation for their 90 day performance test.
- ✚ Bulls are due to start their performance test on Thursday, 1st of July, when the first live-weight on all bulls will be obtained.
- ✚ Unlike, other intakes where bulls were linear scored in isolation at Tully for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits, all bulls that were visually inspected (approx 200) for Tully were linear scored and weight recorded in a group of five on-farm, prior to on farm health testing taking place.

9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 18/05/10 to 28/05/10

	<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>
CARLOW	11	644	59	25.9	3.37	3.36	1.74	435
CAVAN	51	2,862	56	27.7	3.40	3.23	1.84	293
CLARE	38	1,909	50	27.6	3.49	3.32	1.88	268
CORK STH	253	17,281	68	27.2	3.65	3.39	1.91	247
CORK NTH	298	21,538	72	27.8	3.57	3.43	1.95	246
DONEGAL	19	1,728	91	26.5	3.90	3.49	1.96	252
DUBLIN	3	349	116	25.6	4.38	3.06	1.90	316
GALWAY	21	1,371	65	30.4	3.64	3.34	2.12	276
KERRY	123	7,462	61	29.1	3.51	3.31	1.98	308
KILDARE	27	2,152	80	28.2	3.56	3.26	1.92	283
KILKENNY	58	4,397	76	26.8	3.59	3.33	1.85	219
LAOIS	30	2,217	74	27.9	3.57	3.37	1.94	306
LEITRIM	6	239	40	36.1	3.33	3.15	2.34	201
LIMERICK	126	8,935	71	28.1	3.50	3.36	1.93	272
LONGFORD	8	417	52	27.2	3.90	3.34	1.97	352
LOUTH	21	2,236	106	28.3	3.48	3.33	1.93	268
MAYO	28	1,520	54	28.3	3.41	3.58	1.98	407
MEATH	58	5,664	98	26.5	3.59	3.27	1.82	317
MONAGHAN	30	1,706	57	28.8	3.28	3.20	1.87	329
OFFALY	18	1,234	69	25.6	3.65	3.37	1.80	339
ROSCOMMON	0	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
SLIGO	10	446	45	29.5	3.73	3.51	2.14	258
TIPPERARY NTH	35	2,371	68	25.3	3.59	3.33	1.75	289
TIPPERARY STH	50	3,815	76	25.0	3.65	3.36	1.75	281
WATERFORD	51	4,547	89	26.2	3.75	3.41	1.88	253
WESTMEATH	17	1,140	67	25.0	3.78	3.33	1.78	283
WEXFORD	66	5,190	79	25.0	3.30	3.39	1.67	304
WICKLOW E	19	1,329	70	26.5	3.18	3.37	1.74	267
WICKLOW W	11	1,000	91	24.3	3.72	3.30	1.71	324
	<i>No. Herds</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd</i>	<i>Average 24hr</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>

	Recorded		Size	Milk kg/Cow		%		
National	1,486	105,699	69	26.4	3.46	3.22	1.77	283

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 18/05/10 to 28/05/10

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	974	67,858	70	27.0	3.59	3.36	1.88	271
Leinster	347	27,969	81	26.4	3.60	3.31	1.82	309
Connacht	65	3,576	55	31.1	3.53	3.40	2.15	286
Ulster	100	6,296	63	27.7	3.53	3.31	1.89	291

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 28/05/10

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 28/05/10	No. EDIY Herds YTD 28/05/10	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 28/05/10	No. EDIY Cows YTD 28/05/10	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,455	944	27%	242,145	72,518	30%
Progressive	1,907	688	36%	151,679	53,207	35%
Tipperary	124	51	41%	9,822	4,570	47%
Connacht	133	48	36%	7,982	2,681	34%
Total	5,619	1,731	31%	411,628	132,976	32%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2009 Cows Recorded 01/01/09 - 28/05/09	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 28/05/10	2010 vs. 2009 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	222,398	242,145	8.2%
Progressive	152,254	151,679	-0.4%
Tipperary	9,228	9,822	6.0%
Connacht	7,146	7,982	10.5%
Total	391,026	411,628	5.0%

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