



**UPDATE – for period 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

**1 Cattle Breeding – Important Dates**

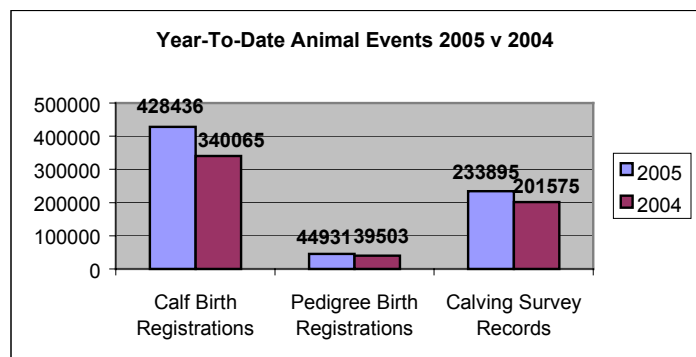
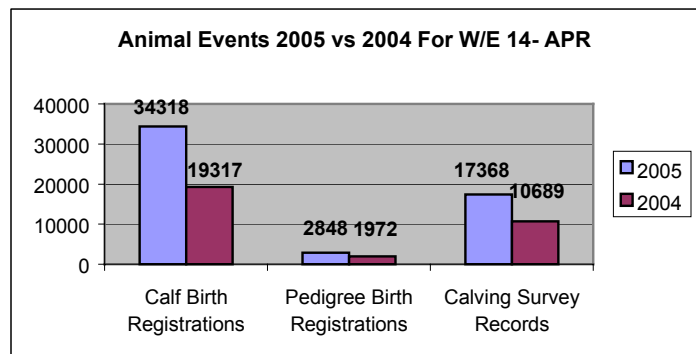
- **10:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. The Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Please note change of venue.**
  - a) 10:30 – 12:00 Meeting of Numerically Small Herd Books,
  - b) 12:00 – 15:00 Herd Book Operations Review,
  - c) 15:00 – 17:00 Beef Technical Meeting & followed by a meeting with the Pedigree Cattle Breeders Council.
- **17:00, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. The Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.** Farewell function for Dr Al Grogan. If you would like to join us in thanking Dr Grogan for his contributions to beef cattle breeding please advise Mary Madden.
- **14:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Heritage Hotel, Port Laois.** ICBF Annual General Meeting.

**2 GEN€ IRELAND**

- The first of a series of meetings with the farmers who have signed up to the GEN€ IRELAND program took place today.
- The 14 farmers attending were very positive about the program. Andrew Cromie gave a presentation covering the issues that have been raised over the last few weeks. Following a good discussion the farmers left the meeting enthusiastic about being involved in this important cattle-breeding initiative.
- Further meetings have been scheduled covering the rest of the country.

**3 Database Update**

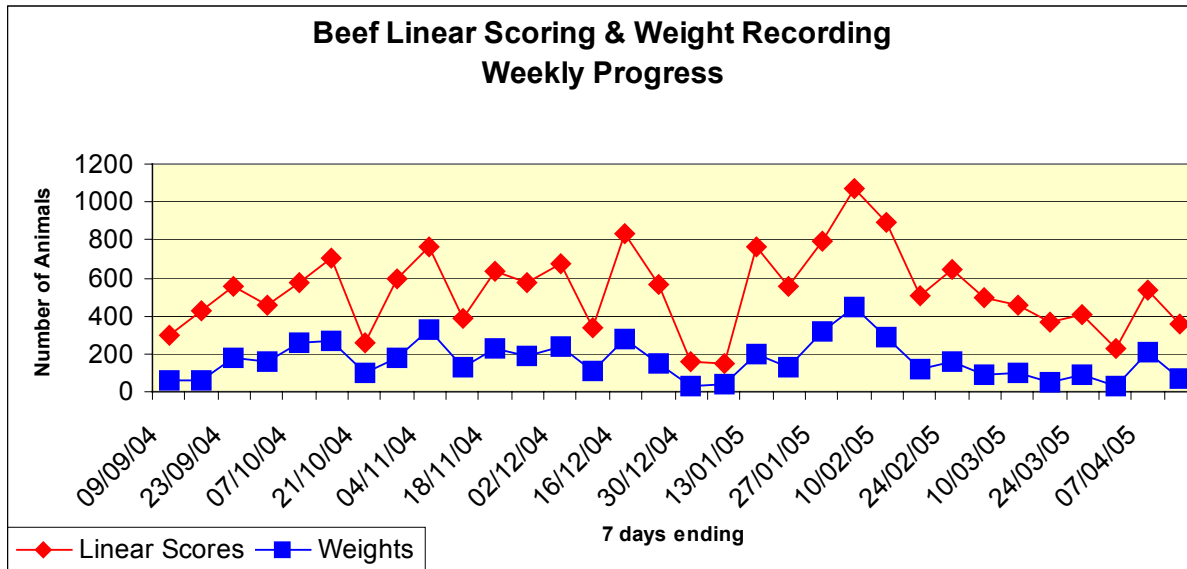
- 79 New Herds added to the database.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office: *"Number of AE sheet coming in decreasing a little. The inflow of new herd permission forms is staying steady. Very little missing sire reports being returned, the majority having been returned at this stage."*
- Teagasc clients have now returned 4,660 Teagasc-ICBF permission forms. Teagasc advisor web access to reports is now live.
- Breeding Charts have been posted to some 8,000 dairy herds. Those with issues around missing animals and extra animals on the report are being addressed.
- The preparation of files to go to AI technicians is underway. This will provide each technician with a permission form for each of his/her herds who are not yet signed up to the database.





- The generation of files for the next dairy genetic evaluation run is underway.
- The development work to get all herdbooks available on-line is completed. This will be discussed at the herd-book meeting next Tuesday.
- A redesign of the Milk Recording Reports farmer batch will be completed next week. This, along with other work we will be doing over the next few weeks, should help to relieve some of the problems which have caused the database to be slow at times for the member organisations.

#### 4 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



#### 5 Tully

- A group of 6 people visited Tully from the Swedish Performance Test Centre. They were very impressed with the standard of bulls and the performance-testing programme. It is planned to visit the Swedish Bull Testing Centre in September / October 05.
- A group of Veterinary students from UCD visited Tully on 13-4-05.
- The catalogue for the sale on 30-4-05 will be up on the ICBF web site from 15-4-05.
- Judging of the bulls for the FBD sponsored prizes will take place on Friday 22-4-05.

#### 6 Milk Recording

##### EDIY Technician Training:

On 12/13<sup>th</sup> April ICBF held a two-day technician training course on the Tru-Test Electronic Milk Meter system. Two technicians received full instruction on the operation and maintenance of the system. A key part of the training was practical On Farm EDIY recording where the technicians operated the meters and datahandler themselves. The two technicians were from Dairygold and Progressive Genetics namely Michael Maloney (Dairygold -North Cork/Limerick) and Liam Buttle (Progressive Genetics -Wexford).

##### EDIY 2005 update:

- **Dairygold** have 2 cells (2 fully equipped vans and 2 fully trained techs) now in place – demand is high with some 270 herds already signed up looking to get the service asap. The encouraging aspect is that



approx **40% of these herds were not recording last year.** Scheduling and training of these herds is proceeding in earnest.

- **Progressive Genetics** also have 1 Cell lined up (1 fully equipped van) and on the road in next few weeks. This cell will be operating in the Wexford area.
- **Donegal Creameries** have asked ICBF to facilitate the service on their behalf in the Donegal catchment area.
- ICBF will also be using the EDIY system to gather various data on Moorepark project herds. We will be looking at data with respect to Once-A-Day, Milk Let down Speed, Flow profiles as well as Temperament (cluster kick off frequency).

### Weekly Processing

| Milk Recording Organisation | Herds Recorded Week 08/04/05 - 15/04/05 | 2004. Herds Recorded Week Ending - 16/04/04* |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Progressive                 | 359                                     | 207  |
| Dairygold                   | 218                                     | 175  |
| Kerry                       | 183                                     | 146  |
| SWS                         | 167                                     | 145  |
| Arrabawn                    | 23                                      | 13   |
| Tipperary                   | 21                                      | 41   |
| Connacht                    | 11                                      | 0  |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>982</b>                              | <b>727</b>                                   |

\* The equivalent week in 2004 was Easter week (4 Days)

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