



UPDATE for period 9th July – 15th July 2005

1 Important Dates

- **Wednesday 7th September.** Beef & Dairy Genetic Evaluation Consultation meetings in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Thursday 15th September.** ICBF Board Meeting.
- **Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September.** Ploughing Championships, Middleton, Co. Cork.

2 Beef Field Evening



AIBP and ICBF Beef Field Evening on the farm of Marie Clancy, Conna, Co. Cork.

- The first of a series of beef field evenings was held on Wednesday.
- The purpose of the evenings is to inform suckler herd owners of the developments in beef cattle breeding and to get them using Animal Events.
- This first evening provided an excellent illustration of the way Animal Events opens up a wealth of breeding information for suckler herd owners. Marie Clancy, the herd owner, has been using animal events for her suckler herd since 2002. A mix of AI and stock bulls have been used in the herd thus facilitating genetic evaluations by providing valid contemporary groups and link sires.
- The recent developments in beef genetic evaluations will provide herds such as this one with genetic information on future AI sires and stock bulls. It was also provide genetic evaluations for all the cows, their offspring and potential replacement females.
- This is the start of a major effort to increase the number of suckler herd benefiting from the greatly improved information made possible by the ICBF database.



3 Tully

- Applications for the next intake of bulls to Tully will now be sent out to breeders by the 22-7-05. The closing date for receipt of applications is the 5-8-05. A list of all bulls targeted will be sent out to breed societies and AI stations by the 25-7-05.
- Applications will be sent out based on the predicted Blup figures, but will also be scanned under the new EBI index.
- A group of 20 beef farmers from Galway visited Tully on the 14th of July.
- A group of beef farmers from Fermanagh will visit Tully on the 16th of July.

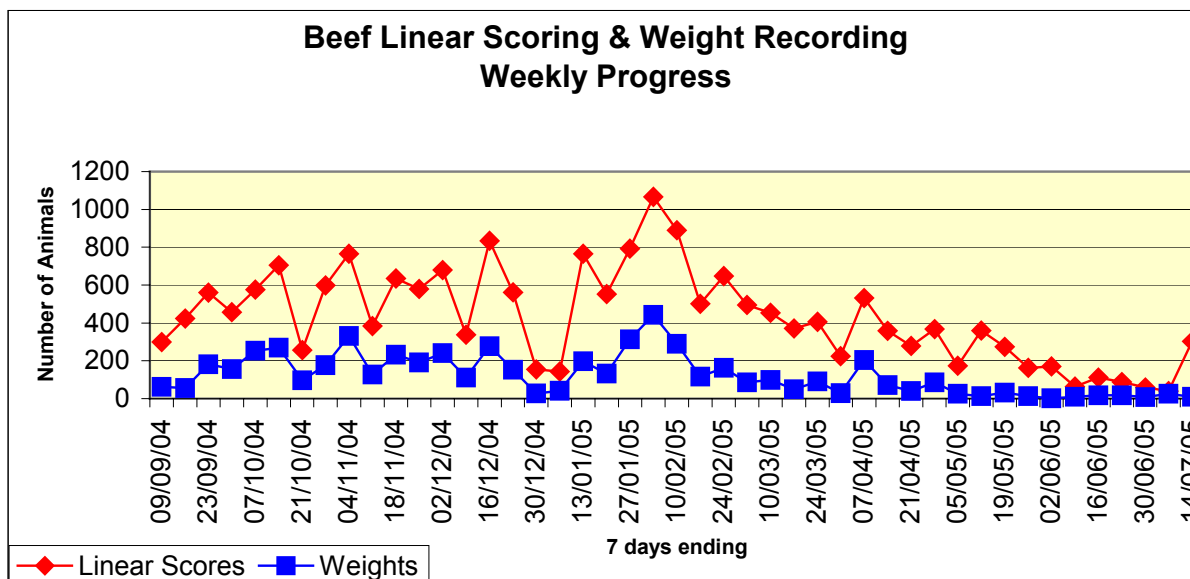
4 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2005	2004
	Herds Recorded Week 01/07/05 - 08/07/05	Herds Recorded Week 02/09/04 - 09/07/04
Progressive	525	545
Kerry	189	174
Dairygold	173	187
SWS	169	170
Arrabawn	22	18
Connacht	20	6
Tipperary	18	16
Others (Donegal, OAD)	1	0
Total	1,075	1,116

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Jul 08 th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Jul 08th (All)	2004 No. Cows at Year End (Min 2 tests)
Progressive	2,067	2,233	142,128	156,588
Dairygold	1,511	1,620	93,775	102,778
Kerry	1,063	1,098	65,396	66,886
SWS	934	964	53,085	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,053	9,268
Connacht	110	121	6,918	7,597
Arrabawn	107	120	6,857	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	32	0	3,190	0
Total	5,965	6,303	380,402	407,239



5 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording



6 Genetic Evaluations

Good progress has been made on the test evaluations for Beef Performance traits. It is still anticipated that these figures will be released to the industry for cows, young animals and AI bulls at the end of this month.

Somatic Cell count evaluation

Work on somatic cell count evaluation is continuing. A test evaluation is expected to be completed next week based on Irish data and including genetic parameters from Ireland. This work is being carried out by ICBF in conjunction with CR-Delta. Further developments over the next few weeks will include information on linear type traits and mastitis incidence.

Lift Linear Scoring

Linear scoring of progeny test sires is due to commence next week with 38 sires across 340 herds (totaling 2900 progeny due to be scored) For the first time a new trait (Farmer Satisfaction) will be evaluated as part of the linear scoring program, this trait will be assessed by the farmer in terms of his satisfaction of the animal for all round performance (including milk production, fertility, temperament and linear type) It is anticipated that if this new trait is found to be informative that it would be included in the future routine scoring of dairy animals.

EBI 100 Competition

Judging for EBI 100 competition was completed this week. Some 25 herds were visited in total with the standard of entrants very high. Major areas focused on by the judges were:

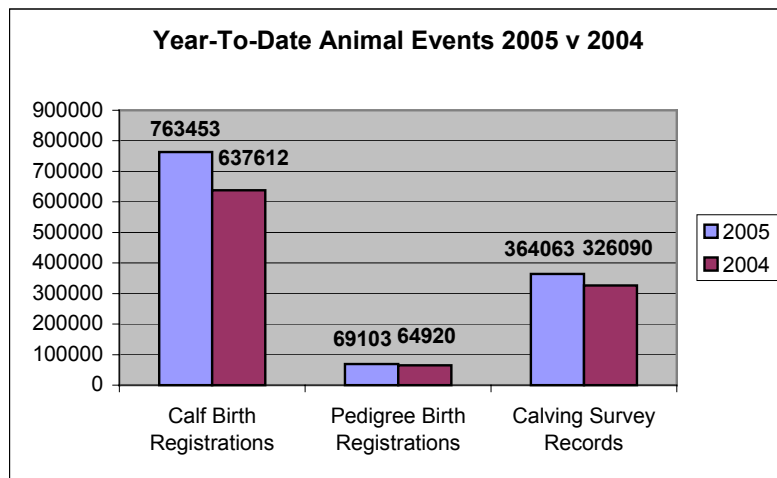
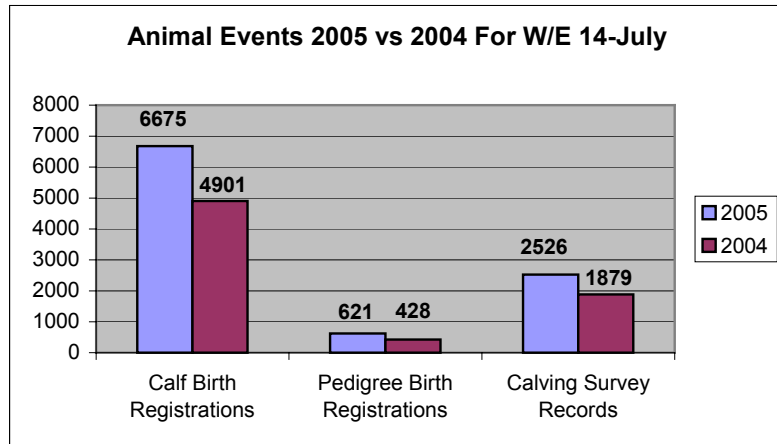
*EBI of herd
EBI improvement
Breeding Strategy
Profit per litre
Grassland management and
Future Outlook*

The winner of the competition will be announced on 26th July at the awards presentation in Moorepark. This competition is being sponsored by ACC Bank in conjunction with Teagasc, Irish Farmers Journal and ICBF



7 Database Update

- 35 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office:
"Calf registrations are remaining at very low levels, which are typical for the time of year."
- 4986 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- Training of the Linear Scorers on the new linear scoring application took place at Tully this week, and the response to the new application was very positive. A few suggestions coming from the session are being incorporated into the final build.
- Work has continued this week on a number of extracts of Herd Health related data from the database to support Simon More and his team with the National Herd Health initiative.
- Work on a female 'Lifetime Performance Sheet' has been completed for the Limousin society and these should be issued to the Limousin society today.



- A number of developments are continuing on the Genetic Evaluations extracts and imports, which are supporting the on-going work by the genetics team.
- Work will begin next week on the both a 'Calving Report' commentary for both dairy and beef, and on an expected calving report for dairy. A set of slaughter reports will also be added to the website next week for herds with slaughter data.
- Development work on the ICBF website is on-going.
- ICBF attended the first Teagasc 'Farming IT Open Day' at Kildalton yesterday. The event was very well organised, and there was a very good selection of stands on show. While the very warm weather may not have favoured a large turn-out of farmers, it is something that merits becoming an annual event.
- The adoption of technology by farmers has the potential to significantly reduce the amount of time spent on administration activities by farmers. It is clear that many farmers need help to overcome the initial fears in using computers and other technology. Many have computers in the family home, but they are not being used to help reduce the paper mountain at farm level. Our on-going challenge is to ensure that the solutions and related support are at a level that will support farmers in making the jump.
- It is also clear that those organisations involving in the provision of services to farmers need to continue to integrate information available from all sources, in order to ensure that if a farmer provides



information to one organisation, it should not have to be provided by the farmer a second time. We have made significant strides in this area, and must continue to do so.

- The attached photo shows Kevin, Anthony and Mike of ICBF, with Michael Murphy of Glanmire at the stand in Kildalton yesterday.



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