



UPDATE for period 11th – 17th June 2005

1 Board Meeting

The Board of ICBF will meet next week. Items on the agenda include:

- Tully review.
- EDIY Milk Recording.
- Code of Good Practise for Farm Animal Breeding Organisations.

2 Important Dates

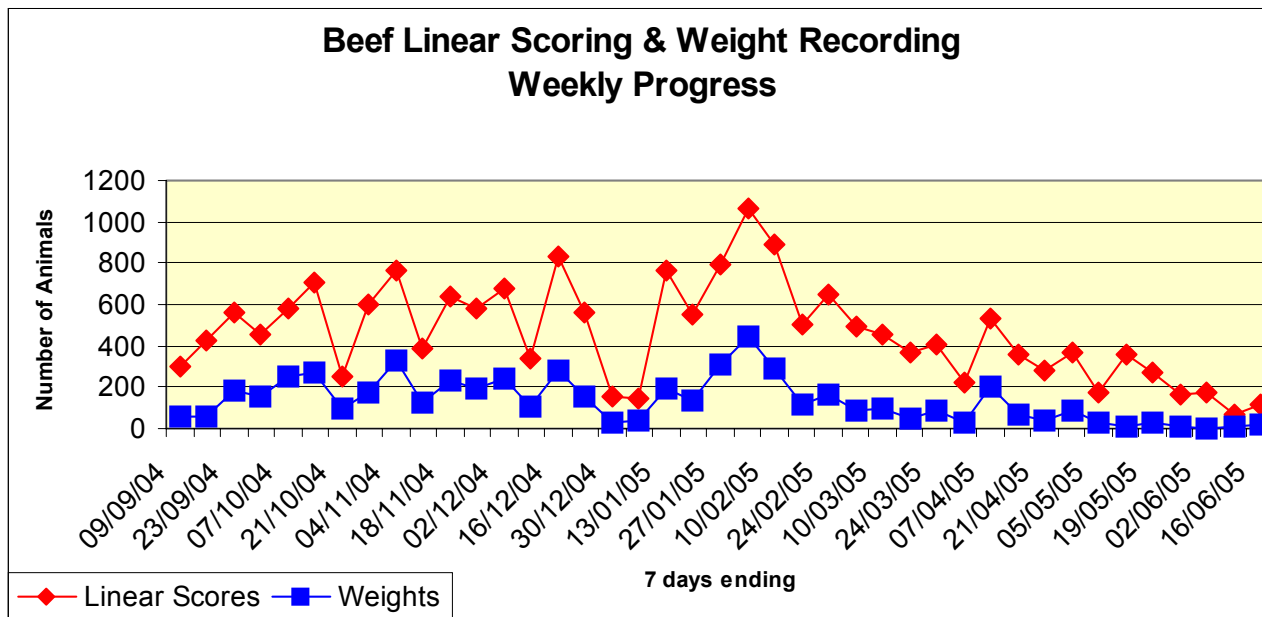
- **Thursday 23rd June.** ICBF Board Meeting, Heritage Hotel Portlaoise.
- **Thursday 7th July.** Beef Genetic Evaluation Consultation meeting in Abbeyleix Manor Hotel.
- **Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September.** Ploughing Championships, Middleton, Co. Cork.

3 Why Linear Scoring Is Of Great Importance To Pedigree Breeders & Buyers of Natural Service Beef Bulls

- The following has been prepared in response to a number of questions recently received in relation to the value of linear scoring.
- The vast majority of pedigree beef bulls are intended for use in natural service. The purchasers of natural service bulls need to have confidence that the bull is firstly capable of getting cows in calf and secondly that the resulting offspring will perform well. Linear scoring provides valuable information on both counts.
- Linear scoring objectively assesses functionality traits eg legs, feet, and locomotion. Because these traits are strongly correlated with longevity they provide valuable information for both purchasers of natural service sires and pedigree heifers.
- The linear scores are also used in genetic evaluations to give a good prediction of what can be expected from an animals progeny. These BLUP indexes, as we currently know them, are an invaluable tool for breeders and bull buyers.
- The linear scoring field service is the most effective method of determining the docility of an animal. This data is used to generate genetic indexes for the animal as well as its sire and dam.
- Most breeds and breed societies are also anxious to record their relevant breed character traits and linear scoring is the only effective means of doing so.
- One trait that may assume reduced significance in the linear scoring is that of muscle development due to increased numbers of factory carcase results becoming available for use in genetic evaluations. However, even here, carefully assessed, a muscle index will lead to quicker information on young sires, who would otherwise have to wait until the slaughter of a significant number of their offspring.
- The Linear Scoring also gets a scorer onto the farm at or near the weaning stage, and thus makes it more economical to also weigh the stock. Weaning weights are a vital element in the generation of Maternal Trait Indexes.
- The current developments in beef genetic evaluations will result in a replacement of the current BLUP indexes that we compute for the Charolais, Limousin and Simmental pedigree cattle. A prototype of the new system will be discussed on Thursday July 7th. As part of this work we will get a better indication of which linear scores are most valuable for predicting carcase traits.



4 Beef Linear Scoring & Weight Recording

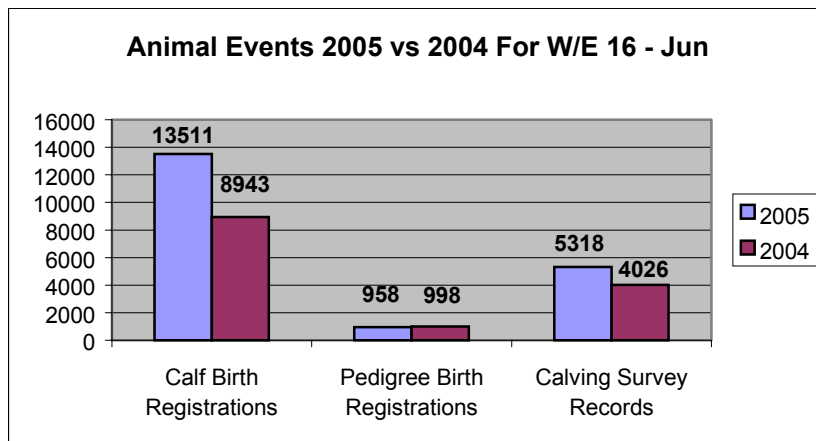


5 Tully

- A meeting was held with the Department of Agriculture on the 15-6-05. The next intake to Tully will be tested by the breeder's Vet. The Department will continue to read all the tests in Abbotstown. A detailed paper will be available in early July.
- The March sale in 2006 will take place on Saturday 4th of March, the April sale will take place on Saturday 1st April.
- A group of beef farmers from Derry visited Tully on the 14-6-05 and were impressed with the standard of bulls on show.

6 Database Update

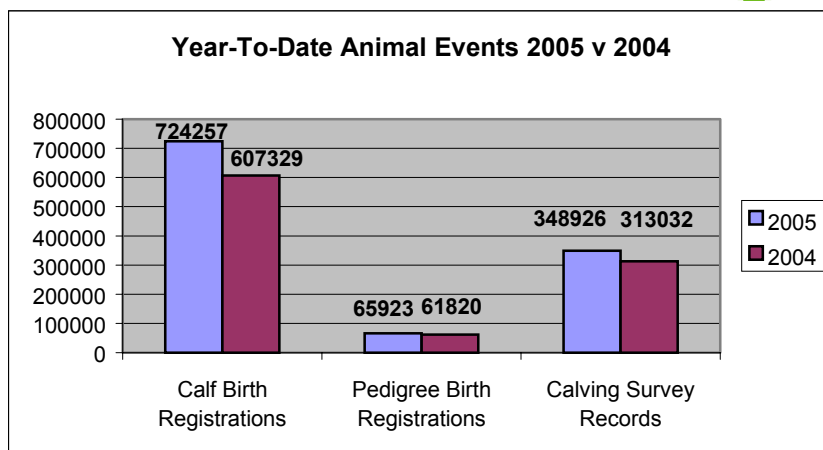
- 40 New Herds added to the database in the past week.
- Comment from the staff in the Animal Events (AE) office: *"Calf registrations at a low. Still new herd permission forms coming in and missing sire reports are still being returned."*
- 4,936 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- Testing on the re-designed linear scoring application will begin next week. Roll-out is planned for July 12th at Tully.



- A full genetic evaluation extract has been completed and work on a new test evaluation was begun last Monday and is progressing well. The purpose is to ensure an effective knowledge transfer between the outgoing and incoming geneticists.



- The development work on enhancing the catalogue generation functionality from the database is continuing and has been shown to a number of parties for feedback. This feedback will be incorporated into the solution next week.
- The beef calving report has been completed and a sample is attached. These reports will be issued to beef herds on a trial basis next week.
- The processing for the Aberdeen Angus herdbook data is continuing.
- A potential solution to reduce the difficulty of processing Embryo Transfer registrations will be discussed with ET Service Providers and Herdbooks next week.



7 Genetic Evaluations

- This week Arnold Harbers from NRS spent two days in our Bandon Office working with Victor, Ross and Francis completing the genetic evaluations for milk production traits. ICBF uses an NRS computer and software located in Arnhem for these calculations. The purpose of the visit was to ensure full transfer of knowledge prior to Victor leaving ICBF at the end of the month.
- Plans for providing genetic evaluations for somatic cell counts were finalised. Our plans is to have a prototype available for the dairy genetic evaluation consultation meeting scheduled for September 7th.
- Plans for the next beef genetic evaluation consultation meeting are being finalised. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7th July. Test evaluations using animal model with linear scores as predictors of carcase traits will be discussed at this meeting. Both Roel Veerkamp and Peter Amer will be participating in the meeting.



8 Milk Recording

Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 10/06/05 - 17/06/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week Ending - 18/06/04
Progressive	438	406
Dairygold	272	273
Kerry	139	193
SWS	141	175
Tipp	36	26
Connacht	14	19
Arrabawn	10	6
Total	1,050	1,098

Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 17th	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Jun 17th	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,068	2,231	138,878	145,976
Dairygold	1,492	1,620	89,507	95,817
Kerry	1,061	1,098	63,093	63,995
SWS	934	964	51,775	53,970
Tipperary	142	147	8,730	8,851
Connacht	112	121	6,880	7,120
Arrabawn	107	120	6,525	7,005
Total	5,916	6,301	365,388	382,734

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Summary Beef Herd Calving Statistics Report - Spring 2005

Herd Owner: Sample
 Herd Number: IE1234567
 Calving Period 18 weeks + 3 days
 Page: 1(2)

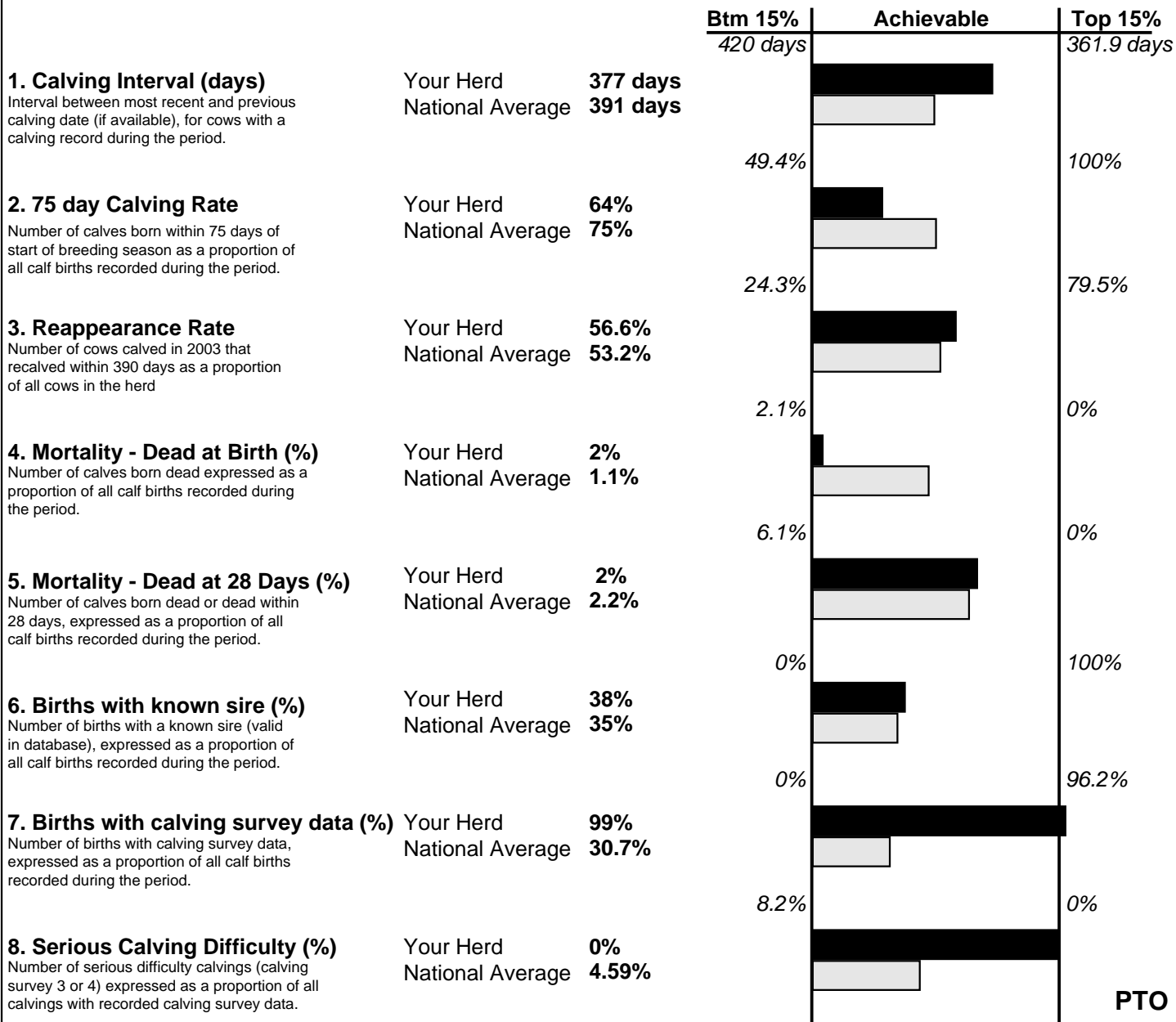
1. Summary Data

Report is based on beef cows with a calving record in the cattle breeding database and where the calving date is between 1st Jan 2005 - 26th May 2005.

	All	Heifers	All	Heifers
Total Calvings	88	16	Median Calving Date (MCD) 29/03/2005	01/04/2005
No. of Calves - Live at Birth	87	15	Start Calving Date (SCD) 20/01/2005	10/03/2005
No. Male Calves - Live at Birth	50	10	End Calving Date (ECD) 29/05/2005	28/04/2005
No. Female Calves - Live at Birth	37	5	Calving Period Duration 18 wks + 3 days	7 wks + 0 days
No. Calves - Dead at Birth	2	1		

2. Performance Statistics - relative to all beef herds in the database

Herd figures are expressed relative to all beef herds in the database, where the herd has a minimum of 10 calvings during the calving period.



Explanatory Notes

Performance statistics for your herd are expressed relative to all beef herds in the ICBF database, where the herd has a minimum of 10 calvings during the period. For example, the calving interval for your herd was 377 days This compares to 391 days for the average of all herds and 361.9 day\$or the top 15% of herds (see bar-chart).

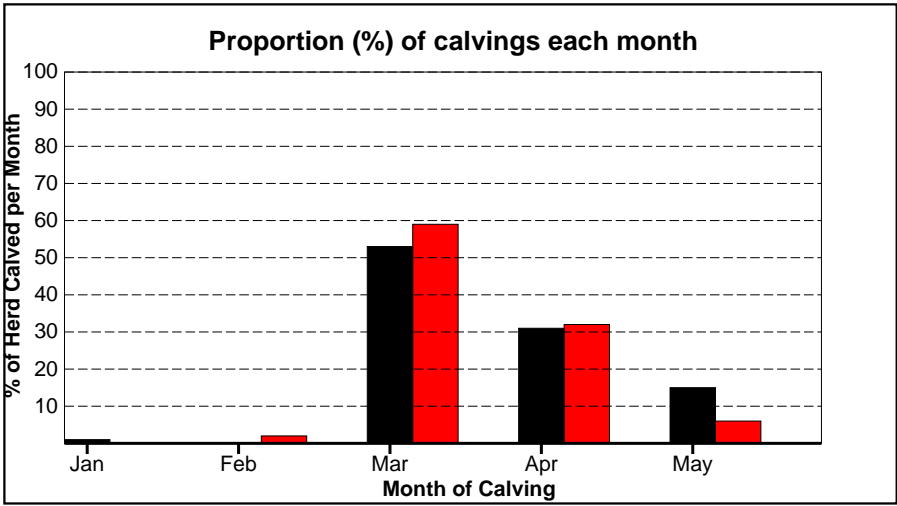
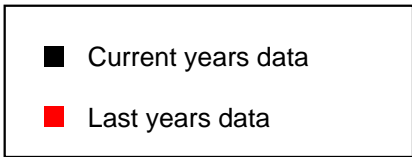
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3. Current Calving Pattern

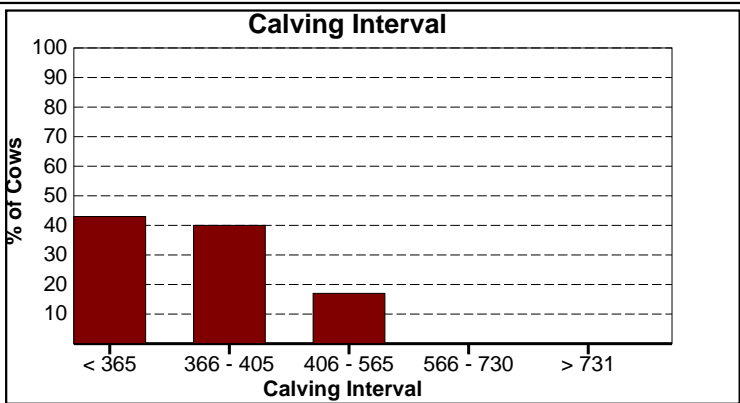
Month	No. Calved	% Calved
Jan	1	1
Feb	0	0
Mar	47	53
Apr	27	31
May	13	15



4. Additional Information

A. Calving Interval

Calving Interval	% Calved
% Cows calved < 365 days	43
% Cows calved 366 - 405 days	40
% Cows calved 406 - 565 days	17
% Cows calved 566 - 730 days	0
% Cows calved > 730 days	0



B. Lactation Number of Cows Calving

Lactation Number	% of cows
1st Lactation	18
2nd Lactation	8
3rd - 7th Lactation	69
> 7th Lactation	5

