



UPDATE for period 17th – 23rd September 2005

1 Important Dates

- Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th September **Ploughing Championships**, Midleton, Co. Cork.
- Thursday 3rd November. **Genetic evaluation consultation meetings** – Beef in AM, Dairy PM.
- Thursday 3rd November. **ICBF Board** Meeting.
- Thursday 15th December. **ICBF Board** meeting.
- Thursday 19th January. **Tully review meeting** to finalise plans for sale on Saturday 4th March.

2 Ploughing Championship

We are looking forward to meeting many farmers interested in cattle breeding next week. ICBF is making a major push with support from the Farmers Journal and all of our members to get more herds signed up to Animal Events.

In order to stimulate interest the proceeds from the sale of an Angus bull at next years Tully bull sale will go to the winner of a competition at Ploughing. The bull is one of the highest young Angus bulls on the new BPSI and WCSI. He will be on the Farmers Journal stand and will go into Tully soon after Ploughing. The main element of the competition is to guess the weight of this bull on Valentines Day next year.

ICBF is sharing a stand with its AI and Milk Recording members. The stand will feature Animal Events, dairy and beef Evaluations and EDIY milk recording. TEAGASC Advisory services for beef and dairy will be represented on our stand.

We look forward to an exciting three days.

3 European Simmental Federation Biennial Conference

The European Simmental federation recently held their biennial conference in Baden in Austria. A major concern of the Federation is the issue of retaining the dual-purpose characteristic of the breed. There is considerable unease among members that sufficient emphasis is not now being placed on beefing characteristics and that market share is being lost. ICBF was invited to contribute a paper on its approach to cattle breeding and the methods it is using to optimise returns to farmers through its newly developed genetic evaluations. **The approach taken by ICBF is novel and innovative and is to be given further consideration by the Federation as a possible model in their efforts to resolve their breeding challenges.**

4 Genetic Evaluations

- Work on new beef indexes is continuing with parent average BPSI & WCSI proofs for potential Tully bulls calculated. These parent average proofs will be used as one of the criterion on which bulls are selected for the next Tully intake.
- A comparison of new Animal Model proofs with BLUP's for linear traits has indicated good agreement between the old and the new systems at both the animal and herd level. These results will be forwarded to the beef industry in the next number of days.
- Genetic evaluations for milk production traits have commenced (data extraction and genetic evaluation). Domestic evaluations will be available in early October, with proofs then forwarded to the Interbull centre for international evaluations, culminating in the release of official Irish proofs in mid-November.
- A problem with the routine running of BLUP linear traits was identified and resolved. Pedigree certificates and herdbook reports are now running routinely.



- Considerable work has gone into preparation for next weeks ploughing match including boards and material to be released on the day. Areas that will be covered on the ICBF genetic evaluation stand, include; EBI, new beef indexes and GENE IRELAND (beef & dairy).

5 Tully

- A group of agricultural science students from Galway visited on the 21-9-05 and were impressed with the quality of bulls on show.
- Applications for the next intake to Tully will be sent out to breeders by the 28-9-05. The closing date for applications is the 7-10-05 and inspections will start from the 17-10-05.
- A group of 10 beef farmers from Wales will visit Tully on the 26-9-05.
- Results of bulls for the September intake are returning and all bulls will be in Tully by the 30-9-05.

You might have noticed the recent Guinness advertisement. A Charolais bull called Dromiskin Viceroy recently tested at Tully was selected to feature in this campaign. This bull was purchased by Progressive Genetics. The make-up artists added the horns, the colour and the steam! The Stuff of Legend!!



6 Milk Recording

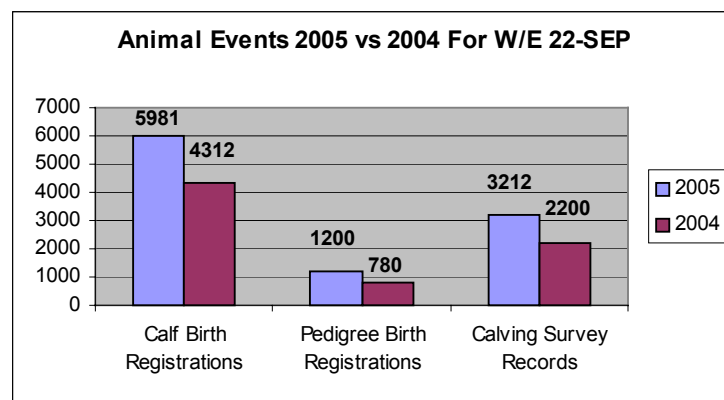
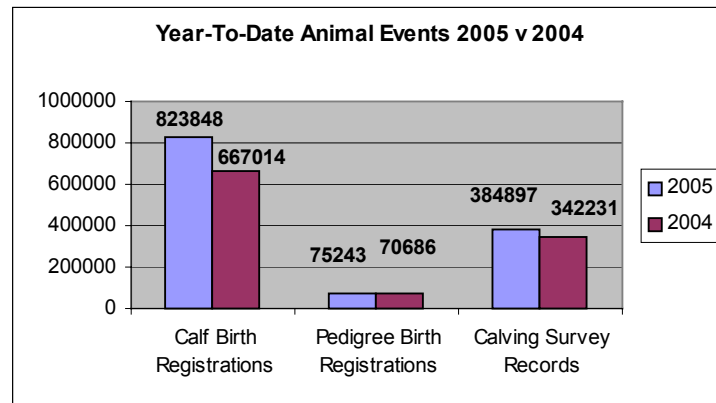
Milk Recording Organisation	2005 Herds Recorded Week 09/09/05 - 23/09/05	2004 Herds Recorded Week 09/09/04 - 23/09/04
Progressive	412	352
Dairygold	209	214
SWS	186	162
Kerry	142	107
Tipperary	27	19
Connacht	20	19
Arrabawn	14	18
Others (Donegal, OAD)	1	0
Total	1,011	891



Milk Recording Organisation	HERD Count		COW Count	
	2005 No. Herds Owners Year to Date Jan 01st - Sept 23rd	2004 No. Herd Owners at Year End	2005 No. Cows Year to Date Jan 01st - Sept 23rd	2004 No. Cows at Year End
Progressive	2,076	2,233	146,297	156,588
Dairygold	1,520	1,620	96,829	102,778
Kerry	1,064	1,099	66,670	66,952
SWS	935	964	54,089	56,753
Tipperary	141	147	9,208	9,268
Connacht	110	121	7,105	7,597
Arrabawn	109	120	7,077	7,369
Others (Donegal, OAD)	34	0	3,543	0
Total	5,989	6,304	390,818	407,305

7 Database Update

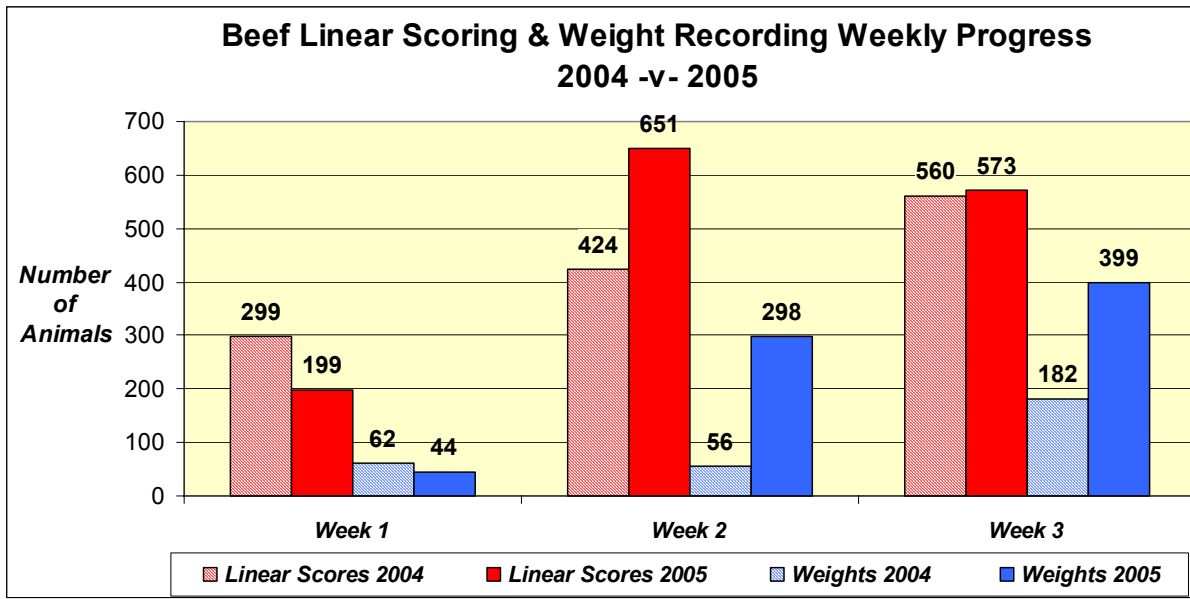
- 20 new herds added to the database last week.
- 5,085 Teagasc ICBF permission forms have now been returned by Teagasc clients.
- The new linear scoring handheld application, and the transfer of scores over GPRS is continuing to work well.
- Breeding charts are continuing to be returned at a very good rate. Farmers have filled out a lot of data on the charts, and they are taking quite a while to key. However, the level of completion by farmers is generally of a very high quality.
- The first 'official' farmer sale catalogue was completed this week, and feedback has been positive. ICBF and IHFA are jointly launching the catalogue next week at the ploughing. Be sure to check it out if you are on the respective stands.
- The keying of the missing sire reports is continuing. Due to a continued flow of reports being returned, it will take two more weeks before this work is completed.
- Meetings were held this week with some of the AI organisations with regard to the AI handheld roll-out. Work on some of the back-end functions (billing, reporting, etc) is continuing, and this will be on-going for the next couple of months.





8 Beef Linear Scoring

Linear scoring for spring born calves is now well under way as shown by the graph below. Week 1 is the second week of September. This last week (Friday to Thursday) saw weight recording and linear scoring exceed the 2004 effort. The extra commercial cattle being scored as part of the ICBF initiative to obtain more data, is the main reason. Linear scorers are making a special effort to complete scoring in this group of some 250 herds as quickly as possible.



Brian Wickham Ph.D. Chief Executive Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, Phone office +353 (0)23 20222, mobile +353 (0)86 826 9911 Fax office +353 (0)23 20229 E-Mail bwickham@icbf.com ICBF Web site www.icbf.com Assistant: Mary Madden. © Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited 2005.