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Friday 08th October 2010

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) is holding a Beef Breeding Event at Tully Bull Test Centre on Friday, 08th October 2010. As part of the event two seminars will start at 2.00pm sharp and run simultaneously to each other prior to the high health status sale of the current crop of bulls, which will start at 5.00pm.

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Following the success of the Spring 2010 sale, an elite High Health status sale on Friday, 8th of October 2010 for the current crop of bulls. There will be 50 bulls on offer, which consist of 31 Limousins, 3 Charolais, 5 Angus, 1 Partanaise, 2 Belgian Blue's, 3 Blonde d'Aquitaine, 2 Shorthorn's, 1 Simmental and 2 Speckle Park. Bulls will be between 12 and 17 months of age on the day of sale. All 50 bulls boast high Euro-Star indexes and were pre-selected on-farm for muscular, skeletal and functionality traits. Also, the fact that all bulls selected for Tully are in the top of their respective breed for Milk and Fertility (M&F) ensures that, when used for breeding heifer replacements, selected bulls have the potential to produce a calf with superior weaning weights, excellent conformation and good growth rates.

The current 90 day performance test is due to finish on the 1st of October. Afterwards, bulls will have their concentrate offering gradually decreased leading up to the sale, to ensure they are acclimatised to their new on-farm environment. Performance and health testing allow us to accurately identify the bulls that are truly superior in both health status and also key profits traits such as weight for age, conformation and feed efficiency. Tully provides bulls to the beef industry that have elite genetics along with a high health status, allowing breeders to increase genetic gain in their herd. In 2009, eleven bulls were purchased by AI companies, with 9 and 2 being bought by NCBC and Dovea AI, respectively. To date in 2010, one bull has being purchased by NCBC AI station.

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The first seminar will take place in the sales ring where there will be a series of presentations to both HerdPlus and GENE IRELAND beef farmers, which will give updates on developments within the services. The second Seminar will be located in an adjacent marquee and will see overseas visitors being informed about the role of ICBF and the information systems available to Irish beef farmers.

Group 1: HerdPlus & GENE IRELAND beef users

Topic	Content	Speakers
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<i>HerdPlus</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of Beef Herdplus Web Screens. 2. Demonstration of Reports: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Calving Report (ii) Suckler Cow Report (iii) Post Slaughter Report (iv) Discussion Group Report 	<i>Kevin Downing & Pat Donnellan</i>
<i>GENE IRELAND</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of GENE Ireland Program 2. GENE Ireland Summary of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Bulls tested to-date (ii) Current Bulls on Test (iii) Future Developments 	<i>Niall Kilrane</i>
<i>Genomics</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explanation of Genomic Technology 2. Genomic Applications for Beef Breeding 	<i>Francis Kearney</i>
<i>€uro-Star Bull Demo</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explanation of €uro-Star System 2. Live Demonstration of €uro-Stars on Tully Bulls 	<i>Ross Evans & Stephen Conroy</i>

Group 2: Overseas Visitors

Topic	Content	Speakers
<i>ICBF Overview</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of Beef Breeding in Ireland. 2. ICBF Database 3. Tully Bull Test Centre 4. GENE IRELAND 5. Beef Herdplus 6. €uro-Stars 7. International Data 8. Genomics 9. Future Work 	<i>Andrew Cromie</i>
<i>Technology Demonstration</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of technology used by ICBF 	<i>Ed Fitz & Liam O'Driscoll</i>
<i>€uro-Star Bull Demo</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explanation of €uro-Star System 2. Live Demonstration of €uro-Stars on Tully Bulls 	<i>Ross Evans & Stephen Conroy</i>

Location and contact details.

The testing centre is located in Tully, Kildare, Co. Kildare, of the M7 roundabout and minutes from Kildare town. For more information you can contact Stephen Conroy, manager of the test centre by email at sconroy@icbf.com or by phone at 045 521573.