



## IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

# Information system technology for integrated animal identification, traceability and breeding – the example of the Irish cattle sector.

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Chief Executive, ICBF.  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Workshop on "Animal identification and recording systems for traceability and livestock development in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean".  
5-7 December 2011.  
Santiago (Chile).**



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# Our Cattle Industry

- 1 million dairy cows
  - Export of manufactured products
  - Good margins
  - 38% mated to beef bulls
- 0.9 million suckler cows
  - Many small herds (<10 cows) and few large herds
  - Calves:
    - 22% replacements
    - 16% live exports to mostly EU countries
    - 62% slaughtered in Ireland mostly for export as cuts
  - Poor margins

## ORGANISATION & STRUCTURES

# Organisation & Structure

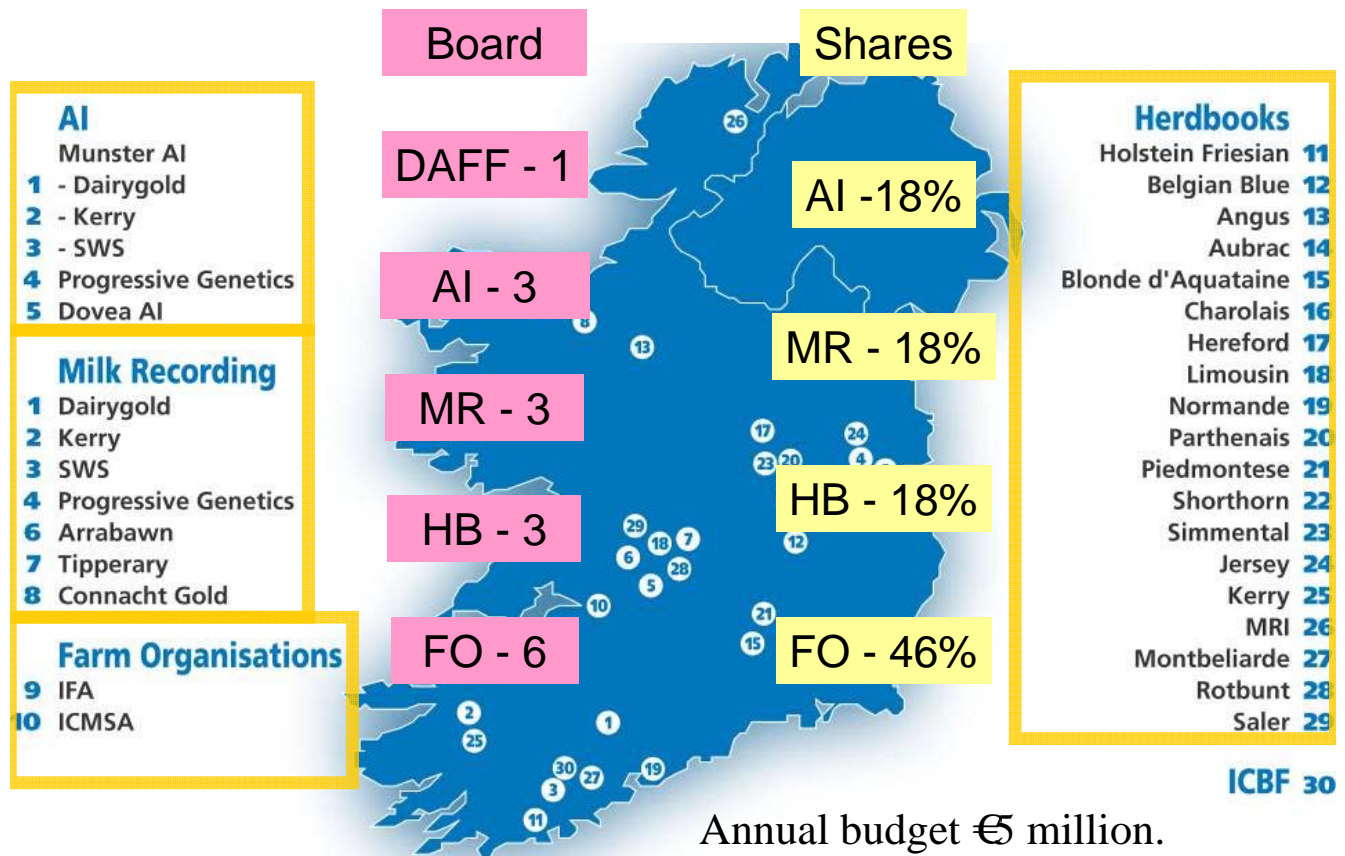
Function	Organisation Responsible
1 <b>Regulated Diseases</b> (eg. BSE, TB, FMD ...)	Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine ( <b>DAF</b> )
2 <b>Beef Quality Assurance</b>	<b>DAF</b>
3 <b>Other Diseases</b>	Animal Health Ireland ( <b>AHI</b> )
4 <b>Cattle Breeding</b>	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Soc. Ltd ( <b>ICBF</b> )

## DAF (Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine)

- **Policy** advice and development ...
- **Representation** in international ... and national negotiations.
- **Development** and implementation of ... **schemes** in **support** of **Agriculture**, Food, Fisheries, Forestry and Rural Environment.
- Monitoring and controlling aspects of **Food Safety**.
- **Control and audit** of **public expenditure** under its control.
- **Regulation** of the agriculture, fisheries, and food industries through national and EU legislation.
- **Monitoring and controlling animal** and plant **health** and animal **welfare**.
- **Monitoring and direction of State Bodies** engaged in - research training and advice - market development and promotion- industry regulation and development- commercial activities.
- **Direct provision of support services** to Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Forestry.
- Annual budget €3,000 million.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/aboutus/aboutthedeptment/#d.en.1119>,  
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2010/december/title.49510.en.html>

# Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)

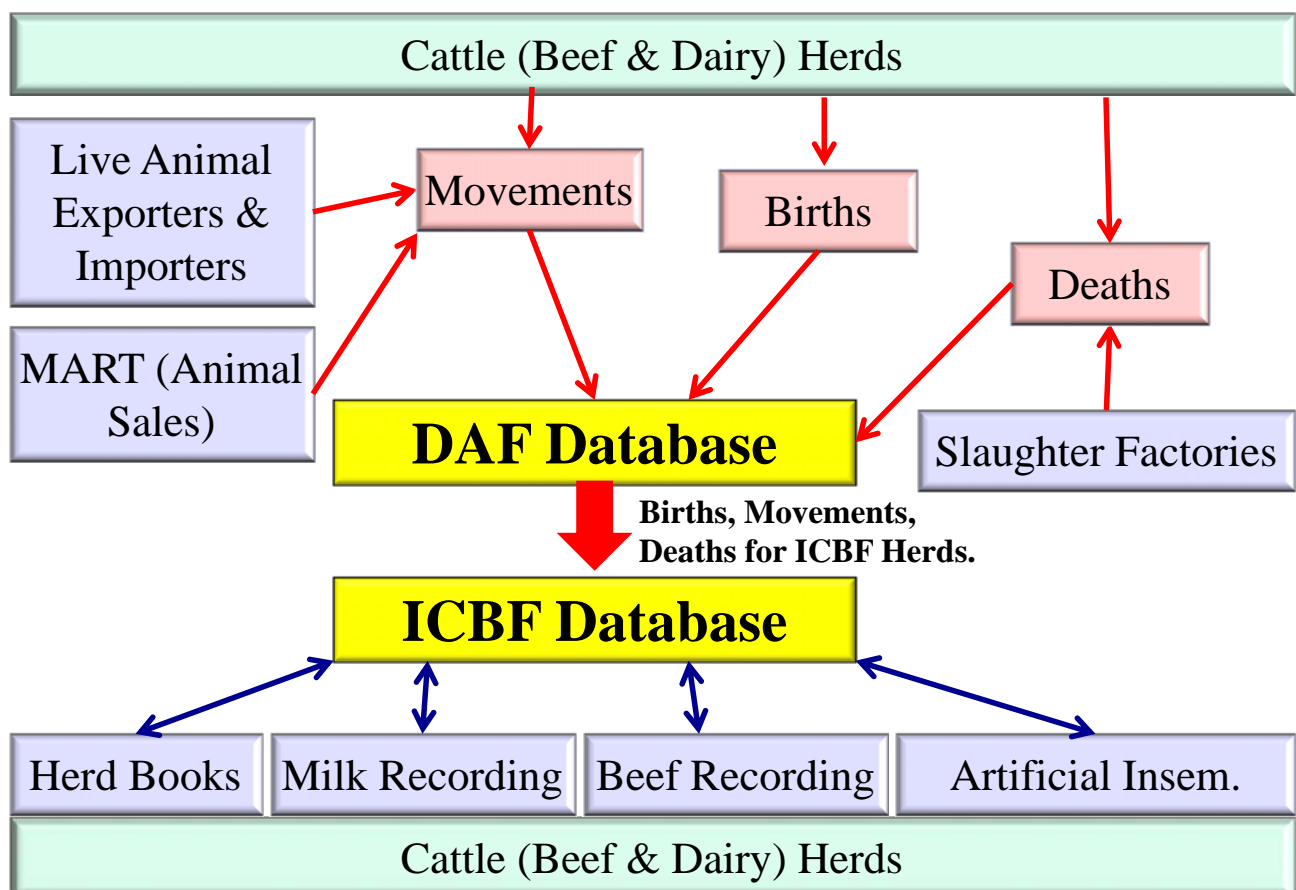


## Animal Health Ireland (AHI)

- AHI is an industry-led, not-for-profit partnership between livestock producers, processors, animal health advisors and government.
- Diseases and conditions of livestock that are endemic in Ireland but which are not currently subject to regulation.
- Information infrastructure provided by ICBF.
- BVD, Johnes, IBR, Mastitis, ...
- Annual budget €1 million.

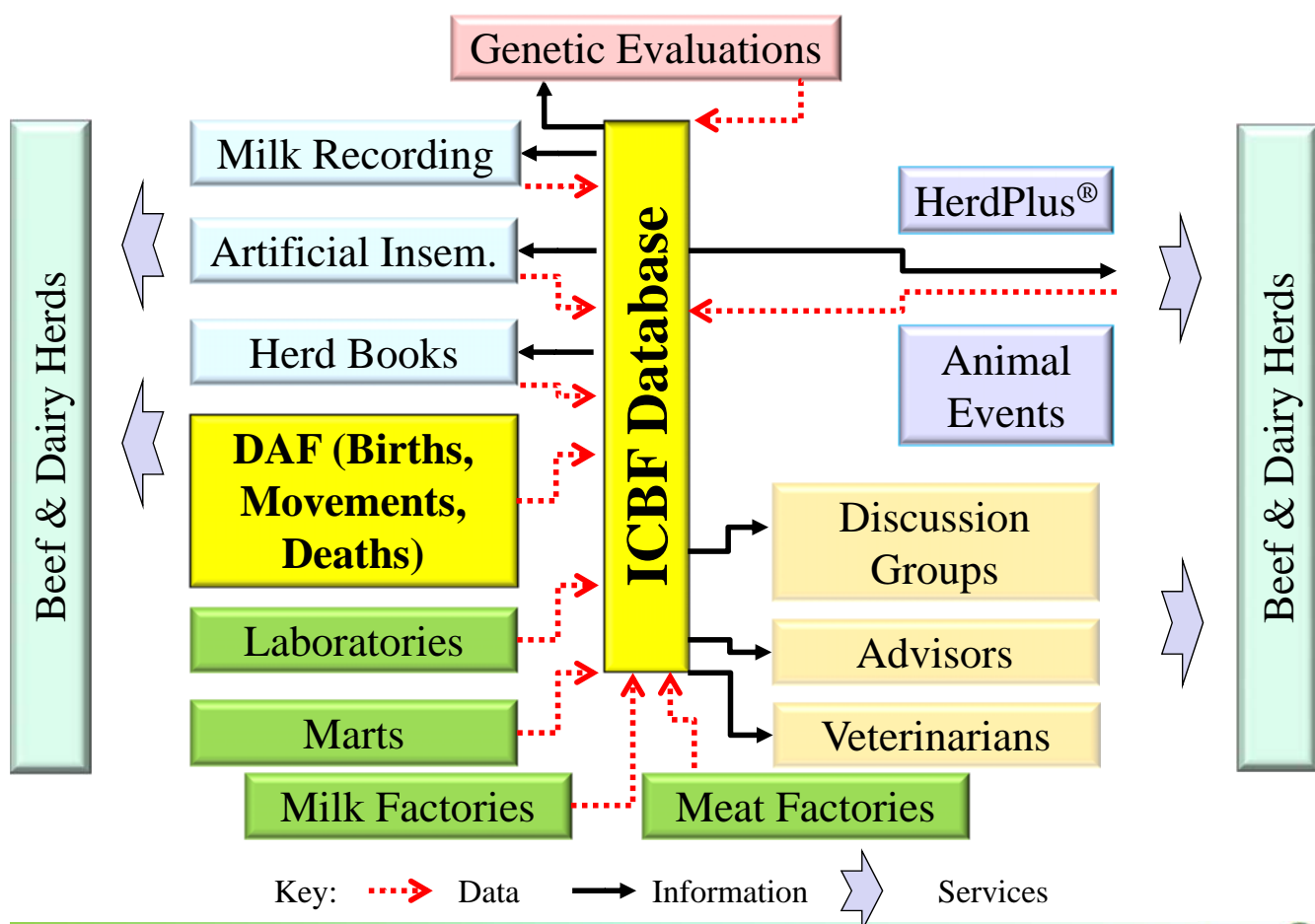
Ref: <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/>

# DATABASES

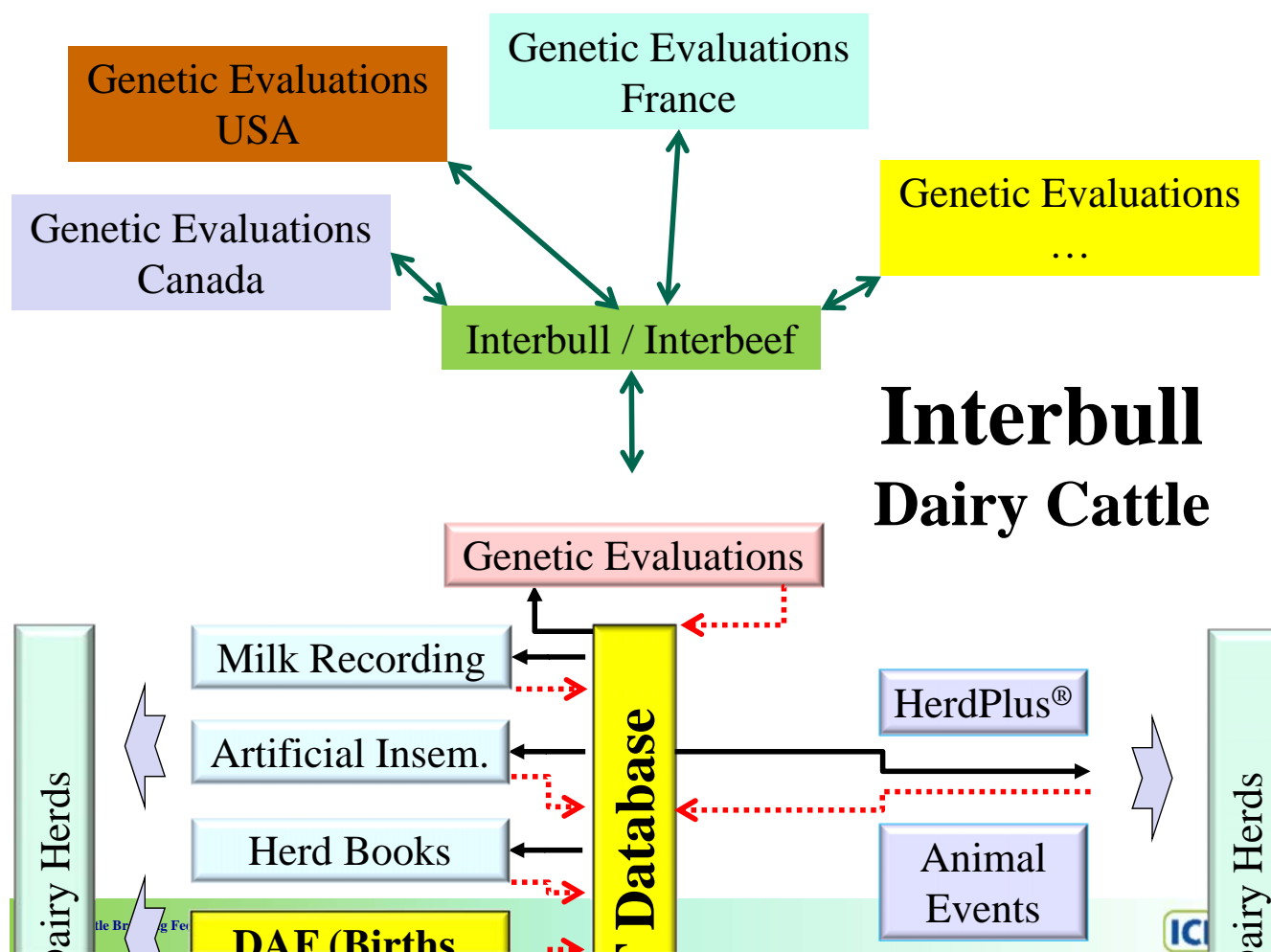
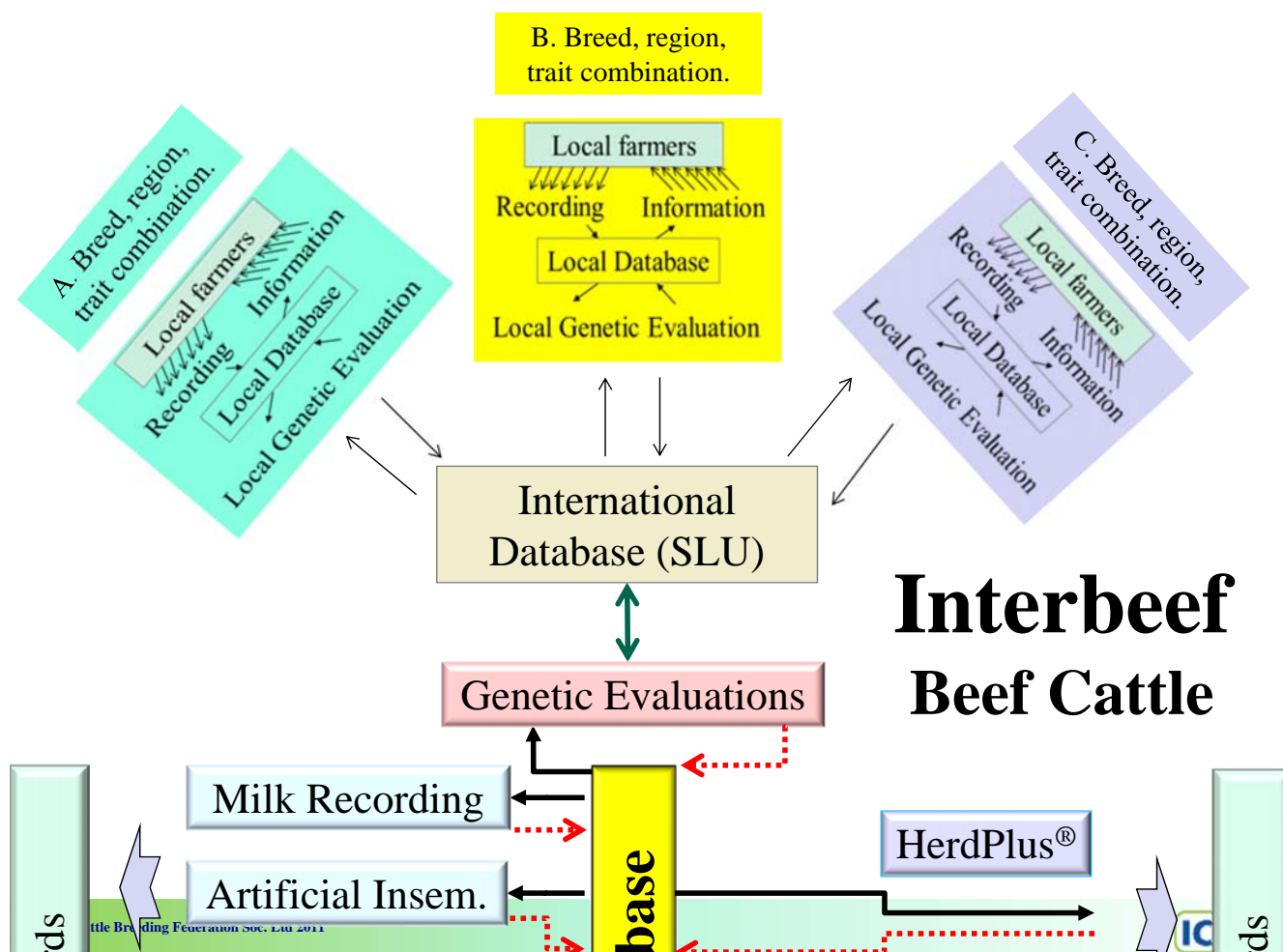


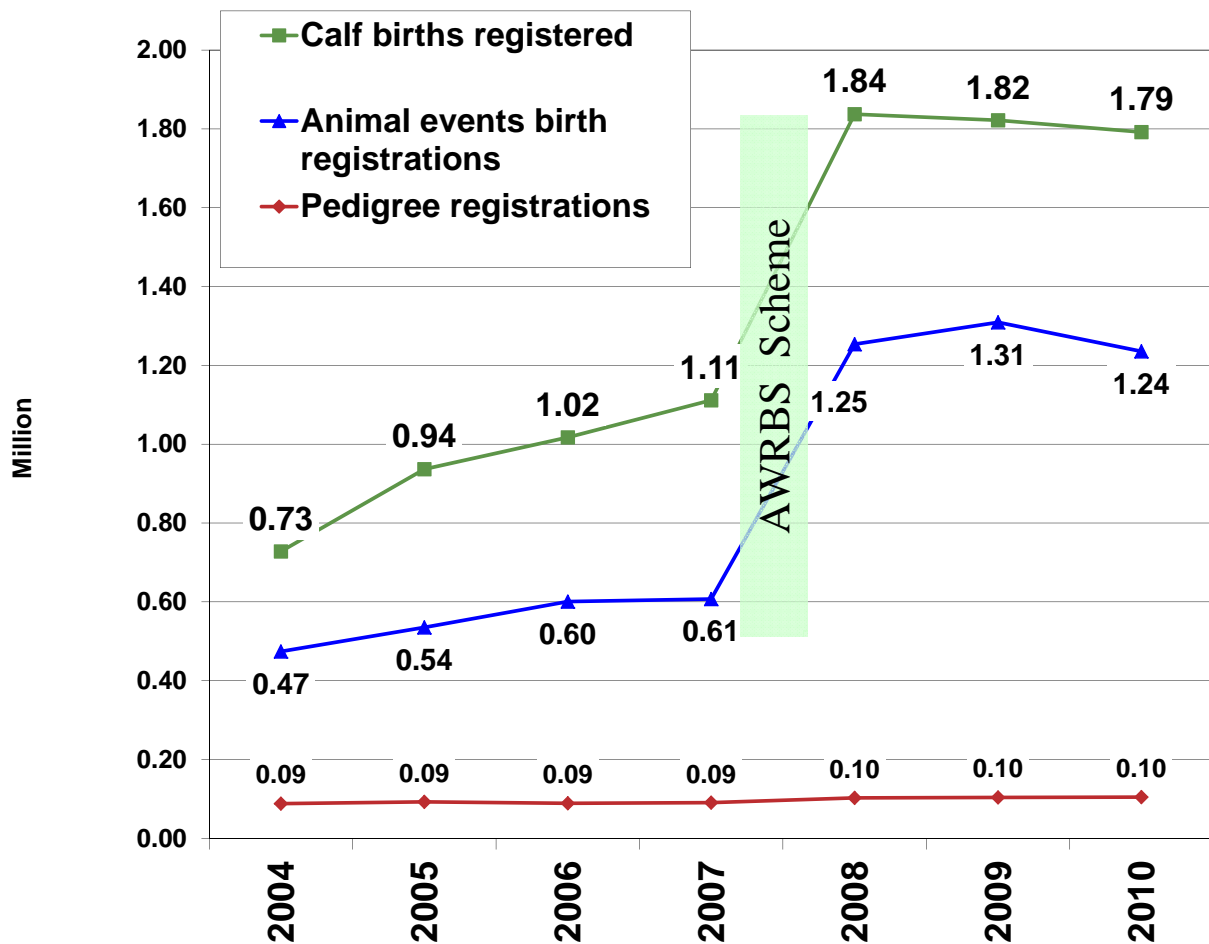
- Control of regulated diseases (FMD, TB, Brucellosis, BSE, ...)
- Beef quality assurance
- Farmer payments
- Price reporting, ...

- Cattle Breeding (Herd Books, Milk Recording, Beef Recording, Artificial Insemination, Genetic Evaluation, Breeding Schemes)
- Farm Management Information (Genetics, Reproduction, Farm Management, Advisory)
- Control of non-regulated diseases









# TECHNOLOGY



# Technology – Handheld Computers

## ICBF Database

- Mobile phone connection
- All animals in
- Multiple herds
- Updated with movements
- Data validation at collection point
- Database updated



## Handheld Computers for Recording Technician Artificial Inseminations

### Before:

- Paper based
- Slow processing
- High level of identification errors

### After:

- Electronic with printed receipt left on farm
- ID validation on farm
- Accurate record in database at end of each day
- Same € cost

# Technology – Web Access

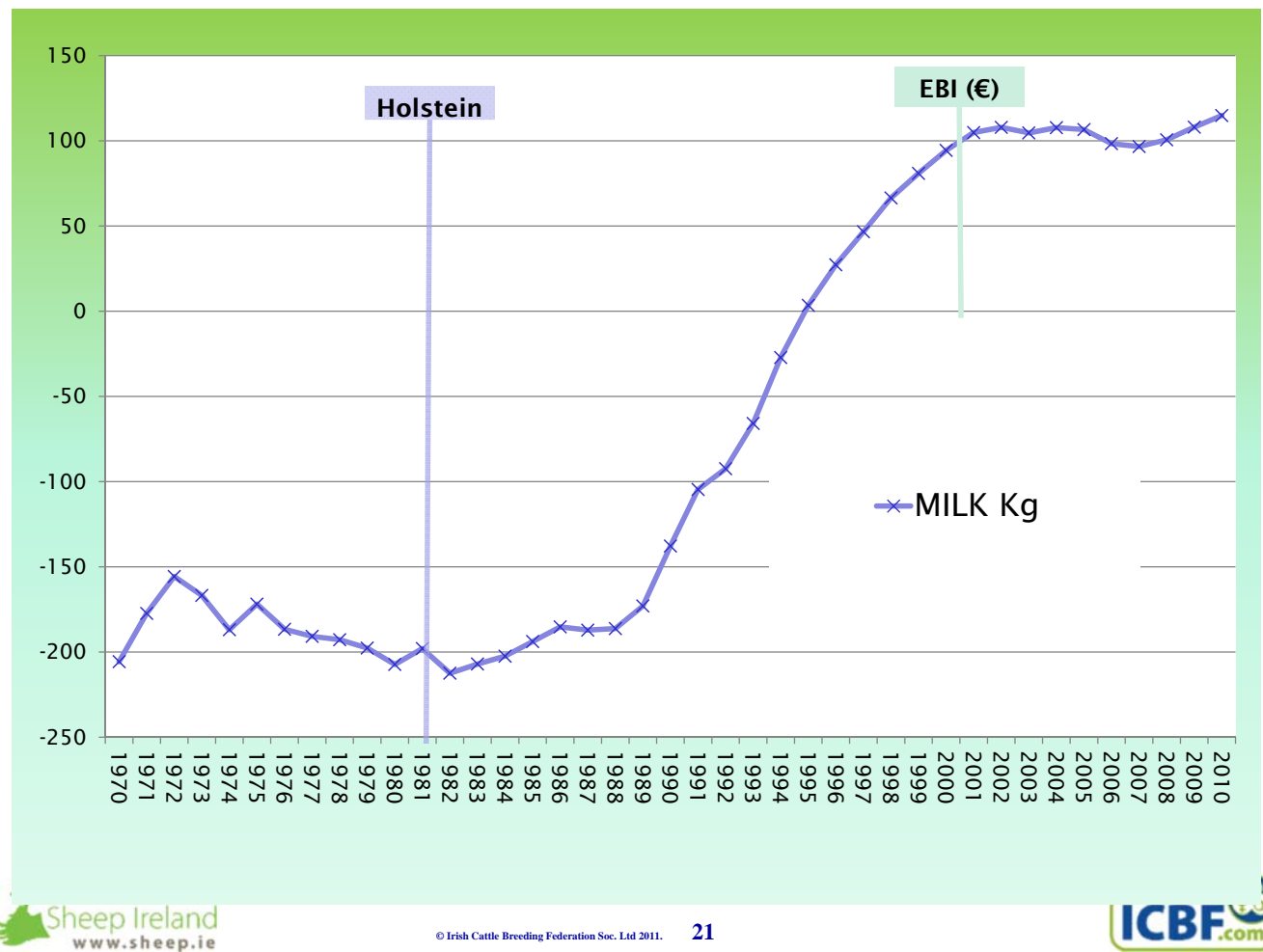
## Before:

- Small number of access points to database
- Higher cost for information distribution
- Higher cost for data collection

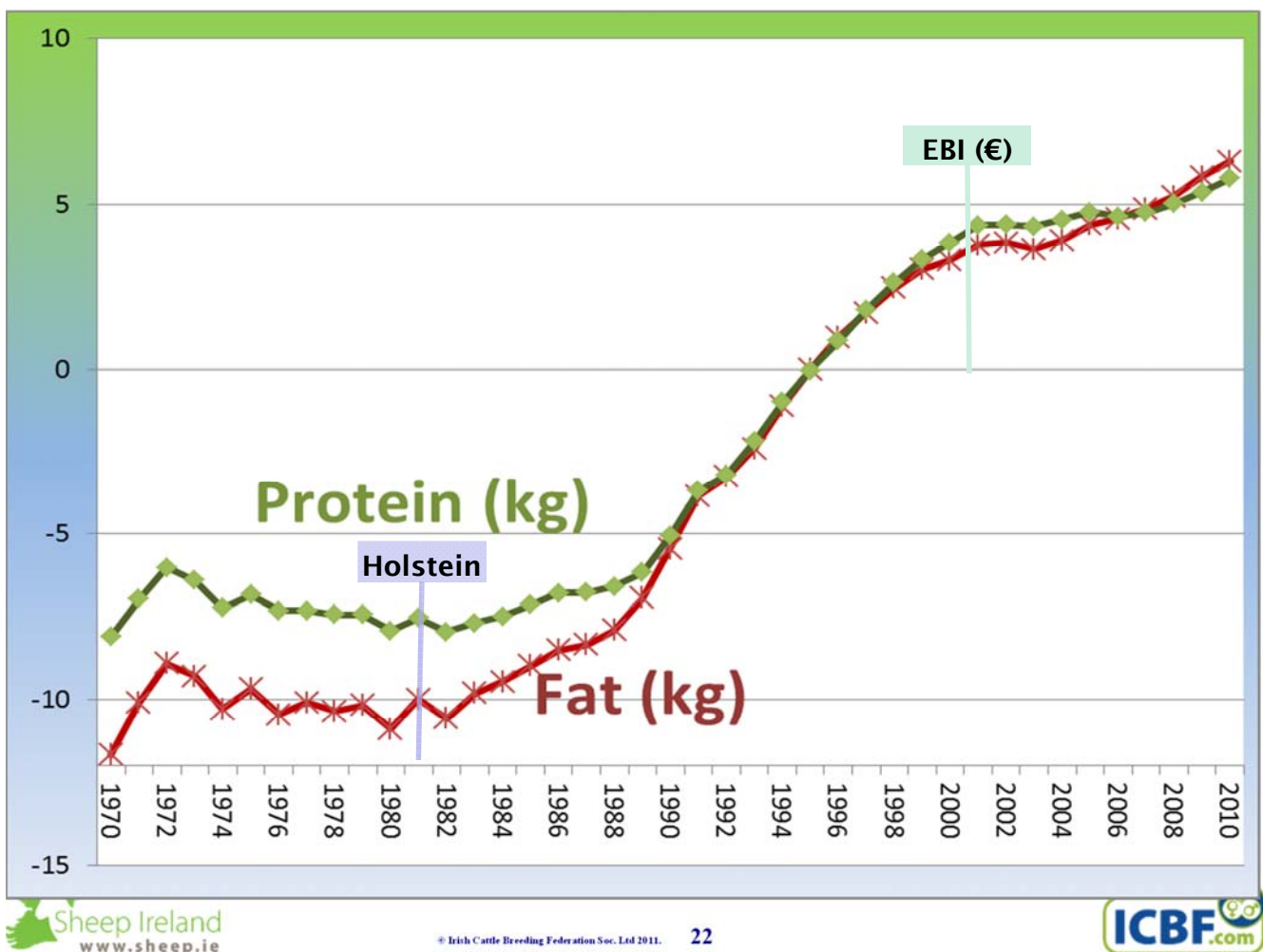
## After:

- Large number of access points
- Easy change management
- Lower cost of information distribution
- Lower cost of data collection

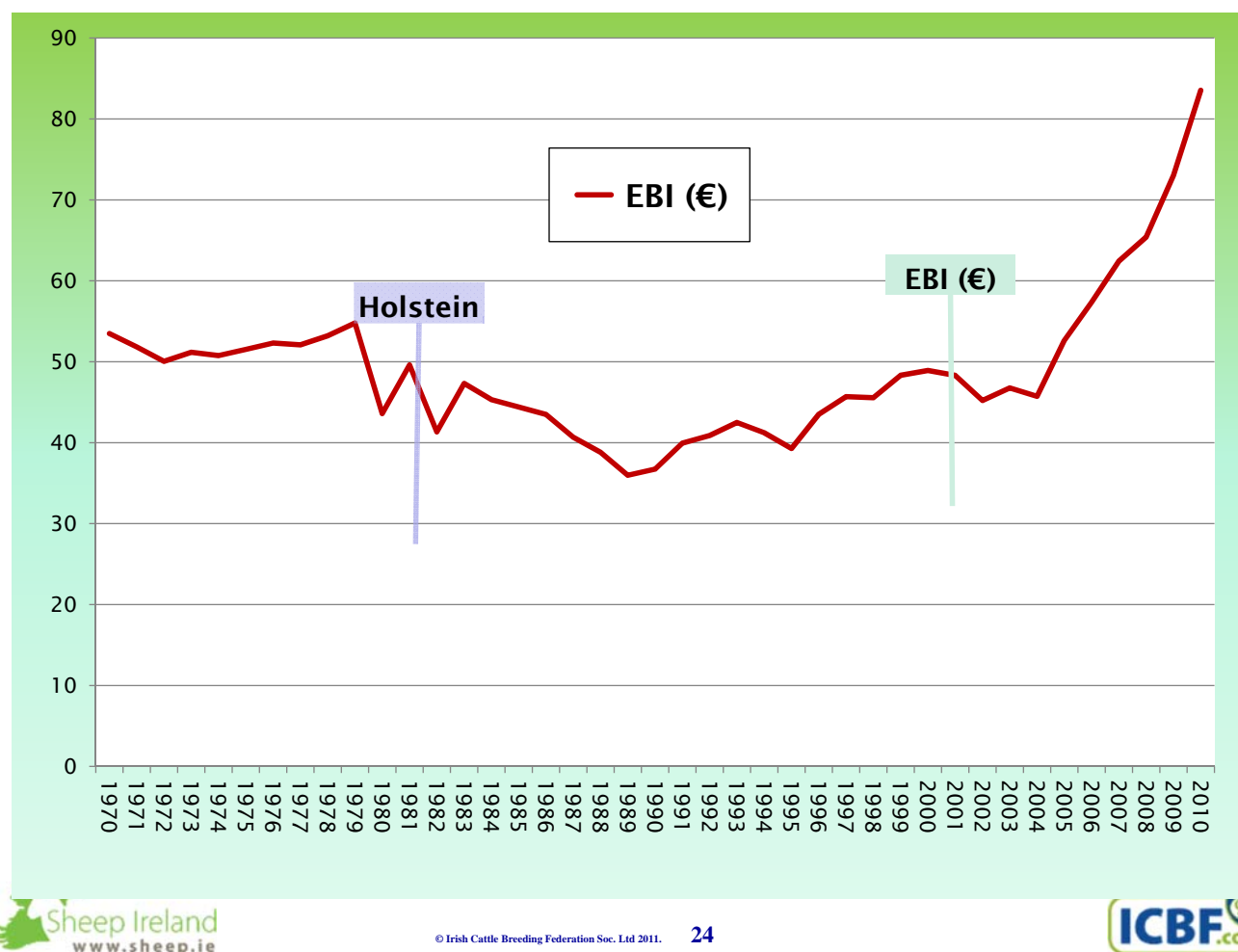
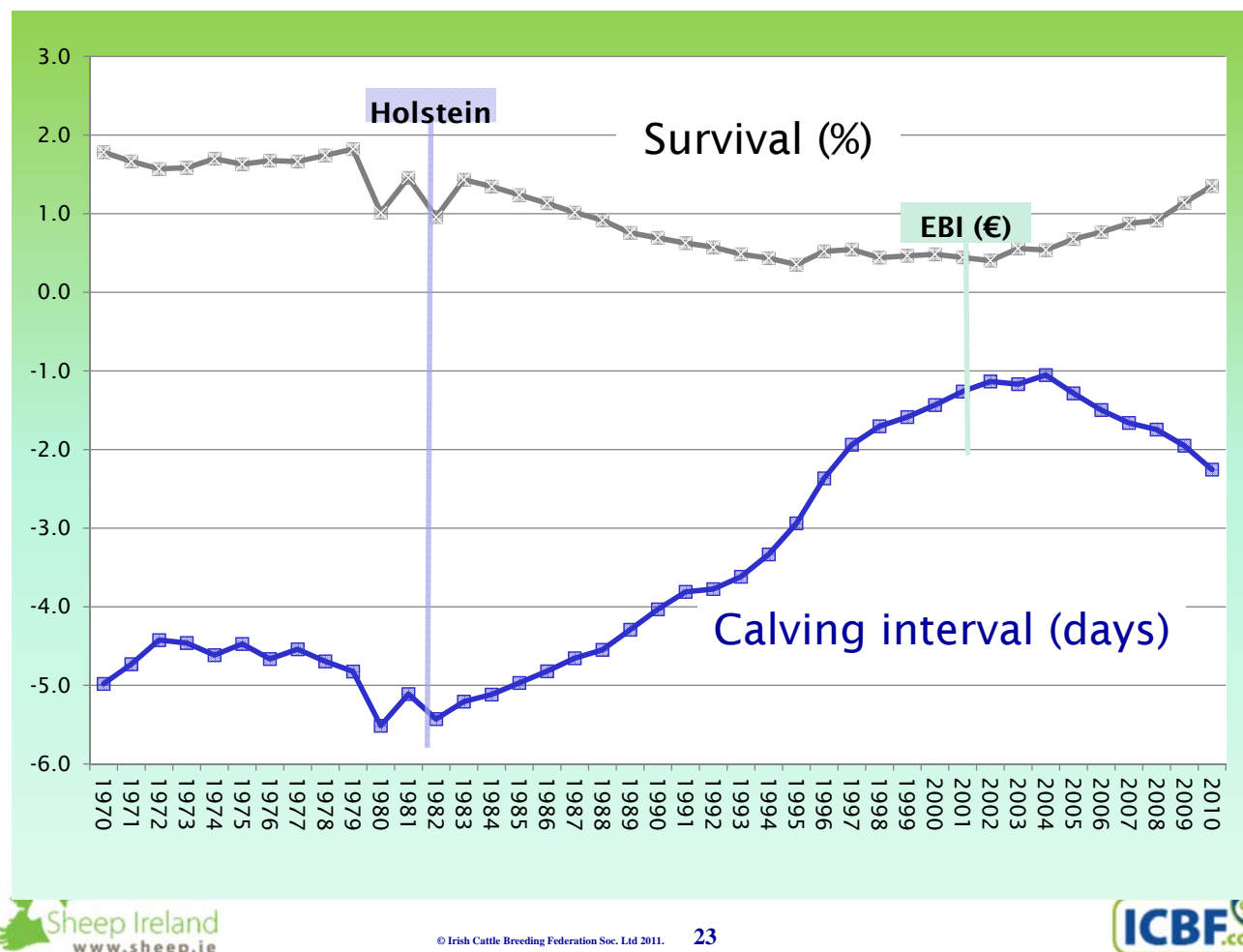
## OUTCOME – ONE EXAMPLE



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# SUMMARY

- Animal breeding is a unique and powerful tool for improving the profitability of cattle farming.
- Irish animal breeding has been transformed through a unique partnership between farmers, the breeding industry and DAF.
- The national identification and traceability system adopted by Ireland has greatly facilitated Irish cattle breeding.
- Continued investment in cattle breeding will give excellent returns.
- The model established relies heavily on international cooperation and collaboration.
- Membership and full participation in the activities of ICAR and Interbull are fundamental to the achievements in Ireland cattle breeding.

# ICAR 2012 CONFERENCE

**CORK  
IRELAND**

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May  
- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012



[www.icar2012.ie](http://www.icar2012.ie)