



ANNUAL REPORT | 2017

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

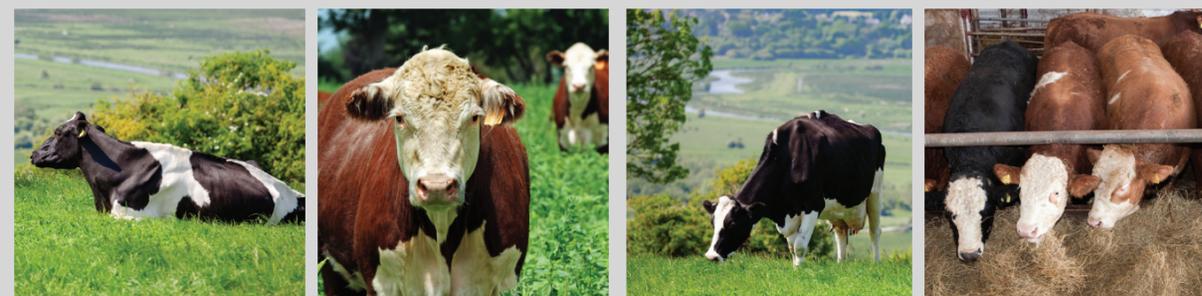
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**Annual Report
For Calendar Year 2017**

**Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society
Limited (ICBF)**

Table of Contents

SUMMARY of 2017	3
MISSION	4
Genomics	4
Genomic Services	
Dairy Genomics	
Dairy Females	
Beef	
Genetic Evaluations	5
Common to Beef and Dairy	
Dairy Specific	
Beef Specific	
Interbeef	
Cattle Breeding Services	6
Services to Herd Books	
Milk Recording	
Electronic Data from Farms	
Electronic Data from Technicians	
Health and Disease Service	
HerdPlus®	
Sire Advice	
Advisory Support Service	
Milk Processors	
OptiMIR	
Breeding Schemes	8
G€N€ IRELAND® Dairy and Beef	
Genetic Gain – Dairy	
Tully	
Genetic Gain – Beef	
Beef Gene Ireland	
Financials	10
2016 Results	
Resources	10
International	11
Support	11
Future Prospects	11
Financial Statements for Year Ended 31 Dec 2017	12



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

SUMMARY of 2017

ICBF exists to benefit our farmers, our agri-food industry and our communities through genetic gain. We do this through the delivery of high value, low cost services from the cattle breeding database, by developing and applying science and technology to ensure our farmers and industry make the most profitable and sustainable decisions. Despite the challenges faced in 2017, the overall trends being delivered through genetic improvement continue to be very positive and are delivering real value for money for farmers and the industry.

On both dairy and beef, we continue to be focused on providing a breeding infrastructure that is facilitating improved profitability and sustainability of the sectors.

In 2017 the major contributions ICBF made towards its mission included:

- The continued high usage of genomically selected (GS) bulls in dairy cattle breeding, (70% in 2017) with an increase in the numbers of females genotyped
- Delivery on behalf of the Department of Agriculture (DAFM) of the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP). The trends emerging in beef breeding are very encouraging with genetic gain now being seen on the Replacement Index after many years of zero improvement.
- Growth in the HerdPlus® service to Beef and Dairy herds to 26,200 herds, an addition of almost 3,000 herds to the service (a 12% increase).
- Continuation of the Maternal Beef Breeding Programme, including the continued use of Tully in its role as a performance test centre for commercial cattle.
- On-going engagement with the dairy processors on the Coop Performance Reports and the use of the ICBF database in their strategic planning efforts
- Provision of the background information system to support the Animal Health Ireland (www.animalhealthireland.ie) BVD eradication program, again with over 2,400,000 animals tested in 2017.

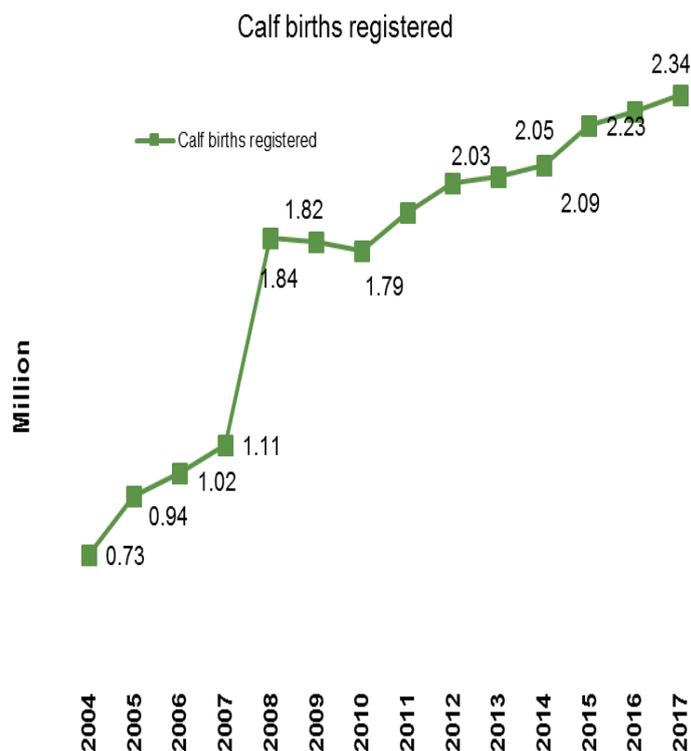


Figure 1

In 2017, 75,476 herds, with 2.34 million calvings (dairy and beef) (Figure 1) were participating in one or more aspects of the ICBF database.

The 2017 Beef Data and Genomics Programme, which followed on from the 2016 Programme, has continued to enhance the amount of data on beef cattle (as well as providing genotypes) in Ireland and has enabled substantial further progress in the development of our genetic evaluations for traits relevant to beef cattle in Ireland.

The ICBF cattle breeding database continues to improve the scope of both beef and dairy genetic evaluations. As in previous years, 2017 saw the AI companies purchasing Irish bred Holstein Friesian bulls for subsequent progeny testing through the GENE IRELAND® dairy program. They also continued to facilitate the wide use of GS bulls at a young age. The Irish dairy industry is benefiting from rapid genetic gain giving rise to cows that are more productive, more fertile and more robust. In 2017 beef genetic evaluations for calving, docility, direct weaning weight, carcass, maternal milk and female fertility all benefited significantly from the extra data collected through the Department of Agriculture schemes, as well as data received from a variety of other sources. As beef and dairy breeding decisions are increasingly

based on genetic evaluations, the opportunity for increased profitability of beef and dairy farming is being advanced.

Although we had a difficult year in terms of Tag Income, thanks to continued strong support from DAFM, and robust service income from our service providing partners, ICBF ended the year with a small financial surplus.

Our research has shown that those herds who are fully engaged across the range of cattle breeding services are more profitable. Thus, ICBF continues to focus on increasing farmer uptake of those recording and breeding services that give them the greatest economic returns. The focus on how this will be done is through greater engagement with the service providers and industry stakeholders. ICBF's development effort is increasingly focused on streamlining the flow of data from all sources, while improving the quality of the information returned to farms. Initiatives with industry partners are being undertaken to use the ICBF database to provide better quality information to improve decision-making at farm, service providers, and industry, research and breeder levels.

MISSION

ICBF exists to benefit our farmers, our agri-food industry and our wider communities through genetic gain. We do this by the application of science and technology to ensure that our farmers and industry make the most profitable and sustainable decisions. Genetic improvement comes about when the parents of the next generation are genetically superior to their contemporaries. Bringing about improvement requires:

- Identification, ancestry and quantitative data on those traits of importance for large numbers of animals in each generation.
- A genetic evaluation system to identify the genetically superior animals in each generation. On-going investment in quality controls on the genetic evaluations will be required as more and more of the industry relies on them.
- A breeding scheme design that ensures the required data is available, and that farmers use genetically superior animals in each generation.
- Well informed farmers and industry partners who willingly provide accurate data from their own farms and make full use of the information available in their breeding and farm management decisions.

Genomics

Cattle breeding continues to undergo a transformation as a result of the use of genomics. This technology is enabling Ireland to be at the forefront of cattle breeding developments internationally.

That Ireland is able to lead in the exploitation of genomic technology is a consequence of a number of key factors.

- The availability of large volumes of phenotypic data on large numbers of animals in the ICBF database
- Having access to highly skilled and well-motivated technical staff in both ICBF and Teagasc.
- Partnerships with international collaborators that are providing access to knowledge, technology and research material.
- The creation of one of the world's biggest databases of genomic data.
- Access to the ICBF database and genetic evaluation system, to support the research and, roll out subsequent genomic services to the industry
- Dairy and beef farmers who are convinced of the merits of the EBI and Eurostar Indexes respectively and use them as the main basis for selecting AI sires and stock bulls.
- A forward looking AI breeding industry that responds quickly to the availability of new evaluation models and breeding technology, and is willing to invest to help them better meet the needs of Irish farmers.

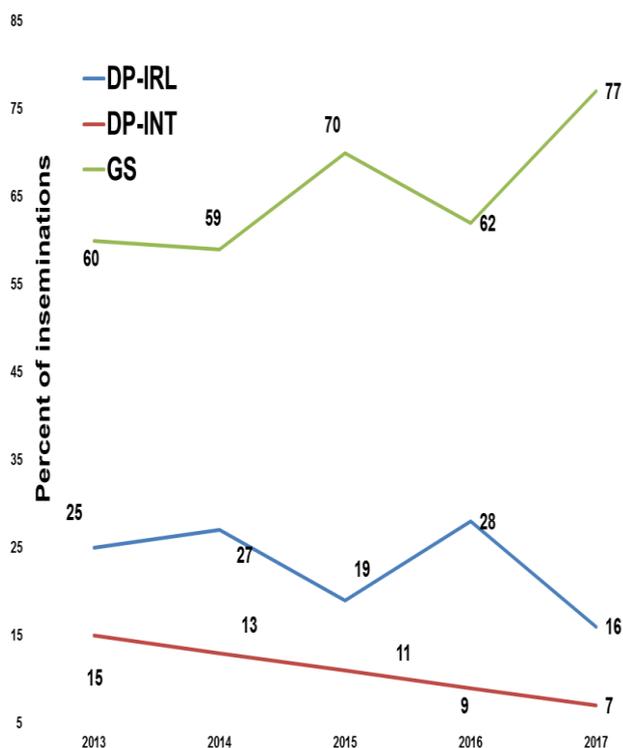
Genomic Services

ICBF continues to develop the infrastructure to enable the Irish cattle breeding industry to fully exploit the benefits of genomic information while at the same time minimising costs. During 2017 the focus continued to be on enhancing the systems and services to support the process from selecting a calf for genotyping through collecting a tissue sample, to sending the sample to the lab for testing, to receiving the genotype back into the ICBF database, to incorporating the genomic information in the genetic evaluation for the animal and finally, to the distribution of the results. One of the critical elements we focused on in again in 2017 was on reducing the turnaround times. The 2017 Beef Data and Genomics Programme played a large part in the genotyping of over 350,000 animals, with the US the only country in the world doing more genotyping.

Dairy Genomics

2017 saw the on-going roll-out of genomic selection for dairy cattle. In spring 2017, 70% of recorded dairy inseminations were from such bulls. Refer to figure 2 for a summary of the EBI and uptake over the last number of years.

Figure 2. Percent of inseminations for daughter proven in Ireland (DP-IRL), daughter proven internationally (DP-INT) and genomically selected (GS) bulls



Dairy Females

Despite the challenges in 2017, we saw good growth in the genotyping of dairy females. Many farmers now see the genotyping of young stock as a routine part of running their dairy enterprise. As the cost of genotyping continues to fall, the levels of genotyping of heifers by farmers is expected to increase significantly.

Beef

The development of genomic selection for beef cattle breeding has progressed significantly in 2017. The continued roll-out of the Beef Data and Genomics Programme by DAFM has seen a major shift in the level of Beef Genotyping and we are now seeing genetic

progress on the Replacement Index, delivering on the promises of the scheme.

Genetic Evaluations

Our overall goal is to ensure the ready availability of accurate genetic evaluations for all traits, breeds and animals (national & international) of significance to Irish cattle farmers.

Our strategy is spread over traits common to beef and dairy, and those specific to dairy or beef.

Common to Beef and Dairy

Our strategy for traits common to beef and dairy is to research, develop, implement and continuously improve across-breed evaluations that make optimal use of all national and international data relevant to calving, fertility, survival, beef production, and suckler-cow maternal traits.

Having started in 2005, across breed genetic evaluations for a wide range of calving and beef traits are routinely provided to the Irish cattle breeding industry. These evaluations enable animals of all breeds (beef and dairy) to be compared with each other for many traits including direct and maternal calving ease, gestation length, calf mortality, carcass weight, carcass grade, carcass fat score and mature cow live weight. These developments have been made possible by the widespread use of the animal events recording system by farmers to report calving details, and by access to mart and slaughter records from the industry.

Dairy Specific

Our goal for the dairy herd is to continuously enhance the accuracy and relevance of the EBI (Economic Breeding Index) as a guide for breeding dairy replacements. We are also seeking to continuously improve genetic evaluations for all the current traits and introduce new traits as the research allows.

Along with the technical challenges in the spring, the EBI had a number of very significant changes introduced in 2017, with the implementation of the Test Day Model and a number of updates to the economic values in the EBI.

Beef Specific

Our strategy is to research, develop, implement and continuously improve the accuracy and relevance of the EuroStar index as a guide for beef breeding decisions. Throughout 2017, the Beef Data Programme and Beef Genomics Scheme played a key role in building the data set on which genetic evaluations are based. This was critical, as an on-going supply of

quality data is critical to building confidence around the genetic evaluations for the beef traits.

Interbeef

ICBF is playing an important leadership role in the development of Interbeef to facilitate the international evaluation of beef breeds and traits. In 2017, continued progress was made around the weaning weight evaluations and incorporating them into domestic evaluations.

Cattle Breeding Services

The level of participation in cattle breeding services continues to grow. This firstly benefits herd owners who are now using breeding stock that give greater farm profitability. It is also providing a substantial benefit to ICBF's members who are enjoying increased service uptake, with the benefits that an integrated database brings. This in turn provides valuable data and service income to ICBF.

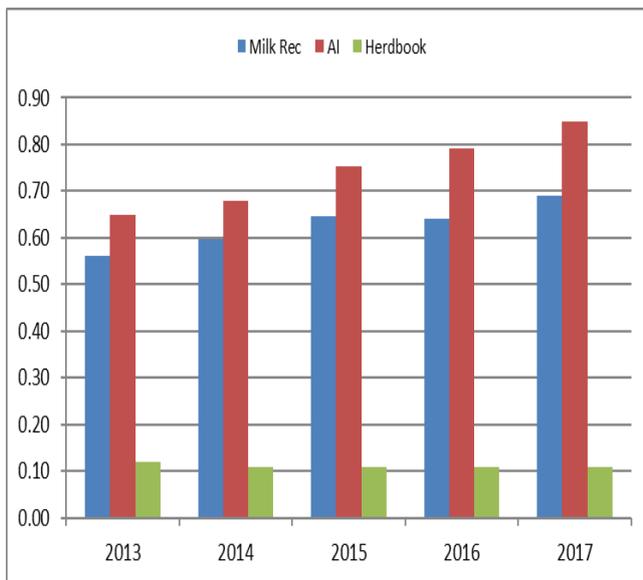


Figure 3. Cattle breeding participation (millions).

Services to Herd Books

There was on-going development in relation to the herdbook processing service in 2017. The major initiative around the genotyping of pedigree males born in 2014-2016 paved the way for more extensive levels of genotyping in 2017 through the Beef Data and Genomics Programme.

Milk Recording

ICBF's strategy is to work closely with its milk recording members, and to make full use of new technology to reduce labour, reduce inconvenience for

farmers and to reduce the cost of recording. Our long term goal is to help the service providers increase usage of milk recording to 10,000 dairy herds.

In 2017 the uptake of milk recording rebounded from a difficult 2016. Milk recording levels were at 0.68 million cows (across 6,200 herds), an increase on milk recording in 2016. This was an excellent performance by the milk recording organisations in making up ground lost in difficult conditions in 2016.

The EDIY (electronic do-it-yourself) service continues to work well for farmers because it reduces the cost of getting into milk recording by allowing the rental of meters. The cost of the EDIY meters, while relatively high on a unit basis, is minimised through achieving high utilisation over many farms. This service has continued to attract herds to milk recording as well as taking the place of the conventional recording service. 33% of cows milk recorded in 2017 were recorded under the EDIY service.

Electronic Data from Farms

Our strategy is to work closely with service-providing members to expand farmer electronic data recording through the introduction of new recording systems and increased usage of electronic systems at farm level. Results for 2017 again show growth in ICBF website usage. The bull search on the ICBF website was used for over 3 million searches in 2017, a 15% increase on the 2016 figures. The development of our website (pc and mobile versions) and Apps to collect data directly from farms, when coupled with the wide range of links to DAFM, and other systems, provides great potential to reduce the cost of animal events recording and processing, while, at the same time, reducing error levels and providing farmers with a more responsive information service.

Electronic Data from Technicians

In close collaboration with AI members and other AI field service licence holders, a handheld computer based system for recording AI technician inseminations was launched in 2006. In 2017 some 850,000 inseminations were recorded through this system, an increase as a result of more technicians using the service.

This system has eliminated delays due to processing dockets while at the same time providing farmers with near real-time information for mating decisions. The facility for avoiding inbred matings has proven to be particularly useful in matings where comprehensive data is available for bulls and cows.

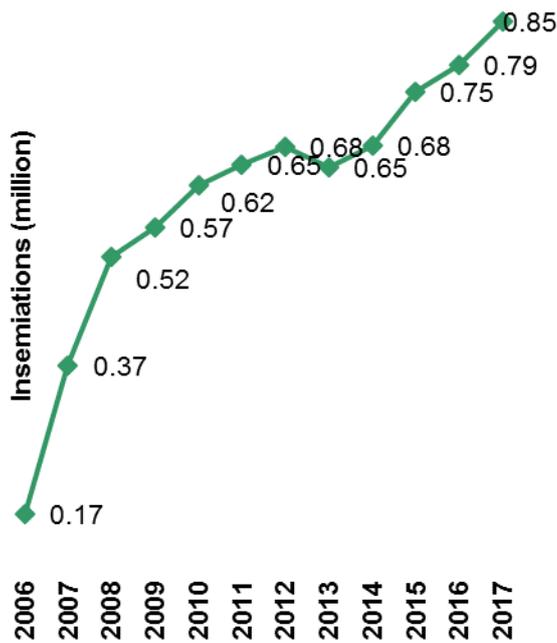


Figure 4. Inseminations recorded via AI Handhelds.

Supporting Health and Disease Services

Our strategy is to extend the genetic indices to include a greater focus on the Animal Health and Welfare traits. This has become an area of increasing focus for ICBF and our service providers as we move towards better evaluations for all ‘Cost of Production’ traits. Our relationship with Animal Health Ireland continues to be particularly constructive in delivering value for the Irish industry. In 2016 this included the provision by ICBF of the key information system infrastructure for the AHI National Programmes.

HerdPlus®

In September 2006 the HerdPlus® service for dairy herds was launched with the goal of providing dairy herd owners with management information that they would find valuable. In 2007 the service was extended to beef herds. The HerdPlus® service is built around genetic evaluations and reproduction information on a whole-herd basis. By focusing on the needs of farmers, ICBF has been able to design, build and market a service that dairy and beef farmers are finding particularly good value for money.

The HerdPlus® service has enabled ICBF to save on costs associated with providing information (e.g. EBI reports, breeding charts, and cow reports) to farmers who did not require it and to generate income by providing information to those farmers who value it.

Sire Advice

To ensure farmers have ready access to breeding advice, ICBF’s strategy is to ensure a sire advice facility is available to all cattle farmers to guide the selection of the most suitable sires for use in their herds, and to ensure that cows are mated to those sires that give the best economic returns in the future.

The service, first introduced in spring 2007, has been progressively enhanced on the basis of farmer feedback and the service for spring 2017 incorporated the most recent suggestions.

Criteria used in the advice include; avoidance of inbreeding, minimization of risk from lethal genes and maximization of future profits from the resulting progeny. The information is provided to the farmer, the farmer’s breeding adviser(s) and is downloaded to the handheld computers used by AI technicians.

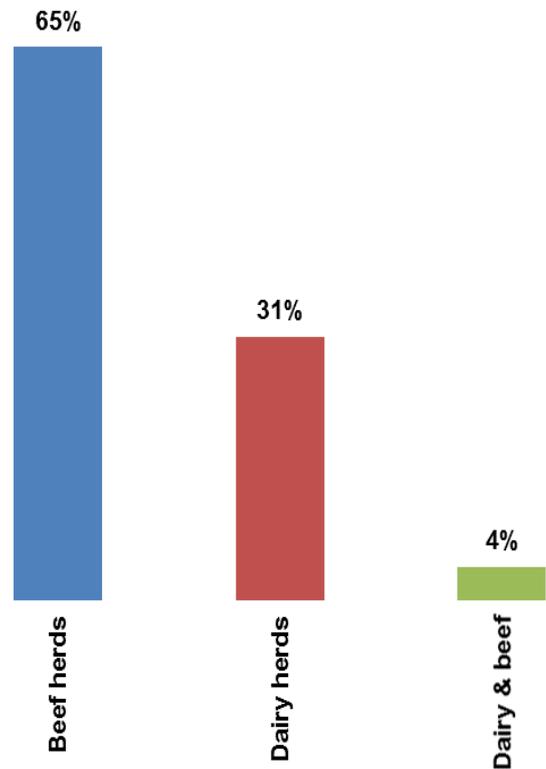


Figure 5. HerdPlus® percentages in 2017.

Advisory Support Service

ICBF is providing an information service to Teagasc advisors, private advisors, ICBF service providers and Veterinarians. The service provides advisors with access to herd reports (with herd owners’ permission) along with discussion group information and analyses of herd performance statistics. This service reduces

the amount of time advisors need to spend on gathering and analysing data, thus freeing up time for focusing on farm management decisions.

Milk Processors

The Coop Performance Report, which has been developed in partnership with milk processors, continued to be very popular in 2017. This service makes use of data held in the respective databases (ICBF and processor) to provide herd owners with information that allows them to assess the performance of their herd on a number of key performance indicators.

EEIG

ICBF continued its partnership with Teagasc and fifteen Milk Recording and Research organisations in other EU countries. The EEIG is a follow on to the OptiMIR (www.optimir.eu) project which finished in 2015 and was focused on improving the sustainability of milk production by providing improved management information to herds. The EEIG industry group will continue from where the Optimir project left off and ICBF and the Irish Milk Recording Organisations will continue to be centrally involved in future initiatives in the area of spectral data.

Breeding Schemes

ICBF's strategy is to ensure that the cattle breeding industry achieves optimal economic returns for Irish cattle farmers. This requires a clear understanding of both optimal breeding scheme design and the currently operating design for each breed of cattle in Ireland. Further, it implies that ICBF will then seek to ensure the industry moves towards the optimal design. This approach is most advanced for the Holstein Friesian breed, and huge credit must go to the indigenous AI companies and IHFA for the proactive approach they have taken to genotyping large volumes of animals.

G€N€ IR€LAND® Dairy and Beef

Our strategy is to work closely with NCBC, Dovea and other AI organisations to provide support for bull selection and progeny testing, in tightly targeted herds, in order to achieve the optimal design for dairy and beef breeds in Ireland.

In 2005 and 2007 respectively for dairy and beef, the G€N€ IR€LAND® progeny test schemes were launched in collaboration with the AI industry. The number of bulls progeny tested and herds participating remains strong. Genomics has led to a stabilising in the overall numbers of bulls being tested.

Genetic Gain – Dairy

A strong rate of genetic gain seen over the past few years has been maintained due to the continued use of genomic selection.

The net impact on the future national dairy herd is improved profitability from increased milk production (increased protein, increased fat and no increase in water), and improved fertility (shorter calving intervals) from more robust cows (greater survival).

These improved trends are a direct result of ICBF's efforts and demonstrate that ICBF is delivering, in conjunction with the cattle breeding industry, on its mission of increasing the rate of genetic gain in Irish dairy cattle.

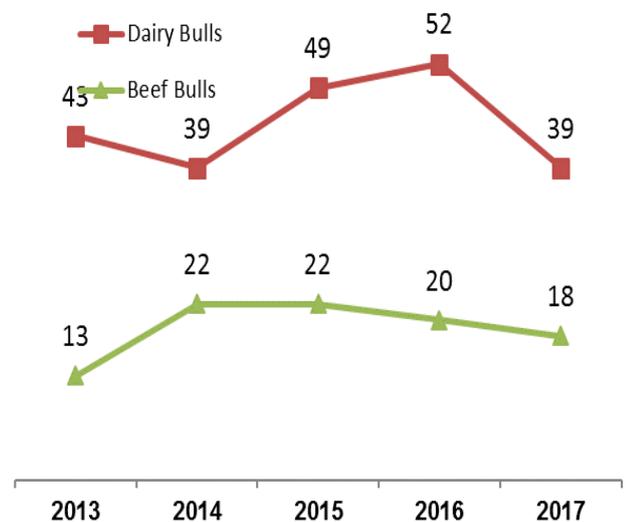


Figure 6. Bulls tested in G€N€ IR€LAND® dairy and beef progeny test programs.

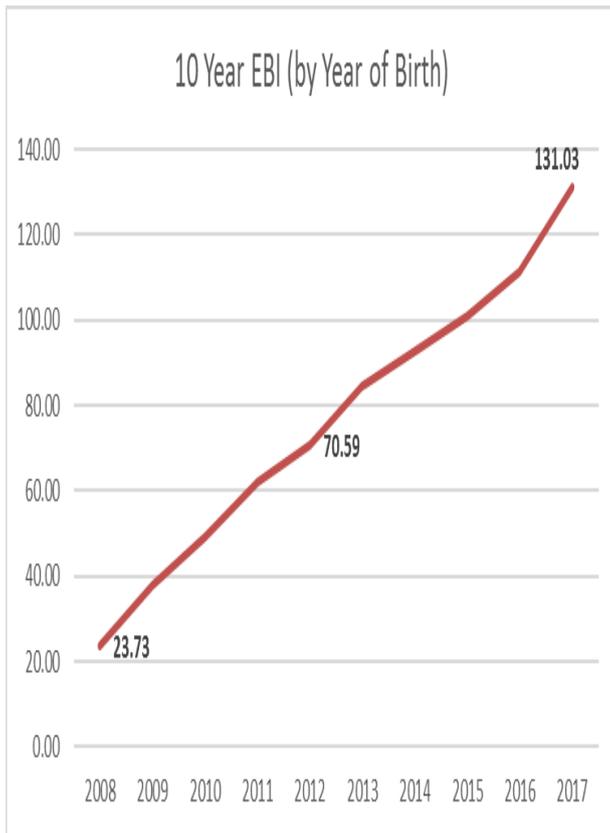


Figure 8. EBI averages by birth year for females and for bulls on active bull list in each year

Tully

The role of Tully was significantly changed at the end of 2012 and it continues to provide extremely valuable data to the industry. Continued investment from DAFM in a new electronically feed measurement system has improved efficiency at the centre. It has proved to be a very worthwhile exercise with excellent cooperation between ICBF, Teagasc, and the meat processors to ensure that the maximum amount of data is captured from those animals.

The future role of Tully is als an integral element of GENE IRELAND®.

Genetic Gain – Beef

Genetic progress in the suckler herd has turned around and significant gains are now begin made.

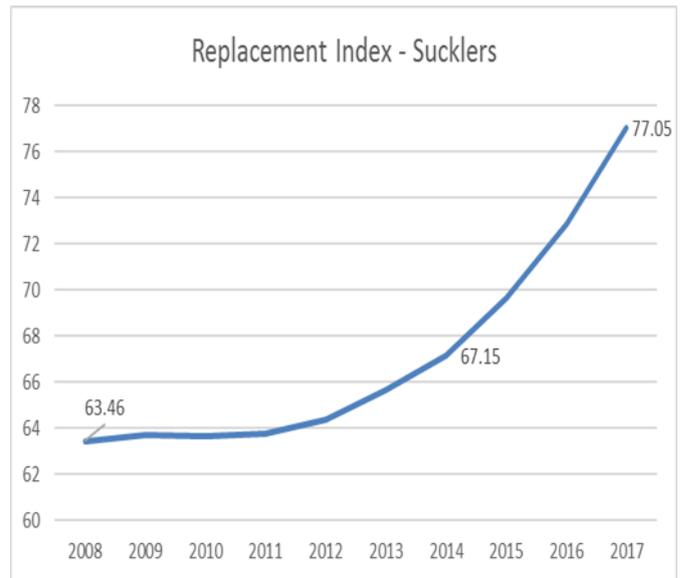


Figure 9. Replacement index (€) for Suckler females by year of birth

Beef Gene Ireland

The Beef Gene Ireland programme continues to make good progress.

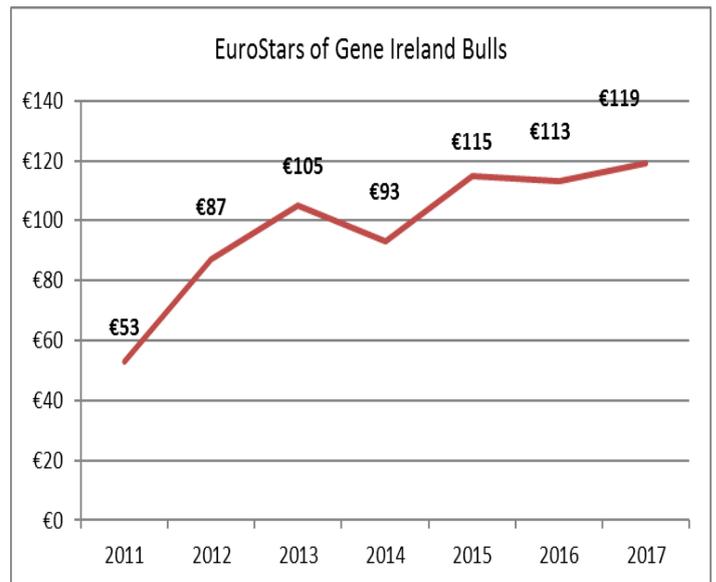


Figure 9. Replacement index (€) for Gene Ireland Beef Bulls

Some of the initiatives on beef are as follows:

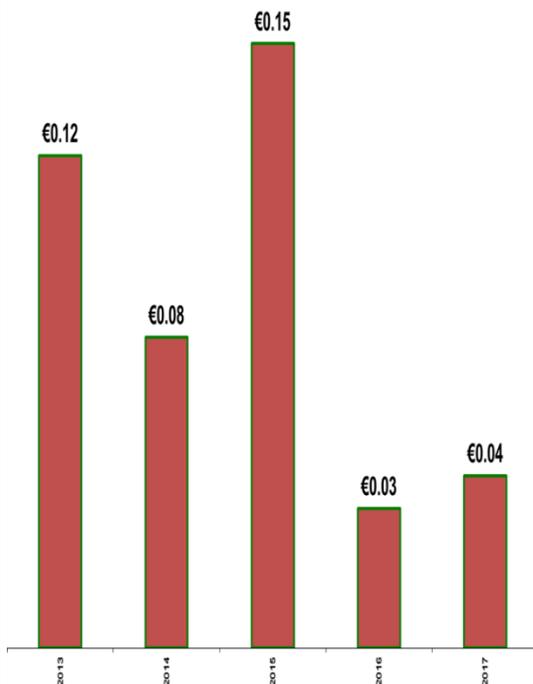
- Maternal Bull Breeder/Whole Herd Performance Recording Programme.** This element of the Beef Gene Ireland programme was designed to (a) achieve more accurate and complete data in beef breeding herds and (b) place more emphasis on maternal traits in pedigree beef breeding. We saw excellent progress in this regard in 2017, with over 700 herds now participating.

- **GENE IRELAND® Beef Progeny Testing Scheme.** The model by which the progeny testing is carried out underwent a significant change in 2013 and 2016 was the second full year of implementation. ICBF is now buying the bulls for testing from breeders, in consultation with the breed societies, commercial farmers, and the AI industry.
- **Genomics.** DAFM's Beef Data and Genomics Programme, a huge initiative by international standards, has moved the level of genomics data on beef animals to a new level.
- **Meat Technology Ireland** has a number of elements that ICBF are centrally involved in, especially in relation to Tully and the work we do with Slaney Meats on Meat Eating Quality.

Financials

2017 Results

The final audited result for 2017 is a surplus of €42,000 which compares with a surplus of €32,052 for 2016 (figure 10).



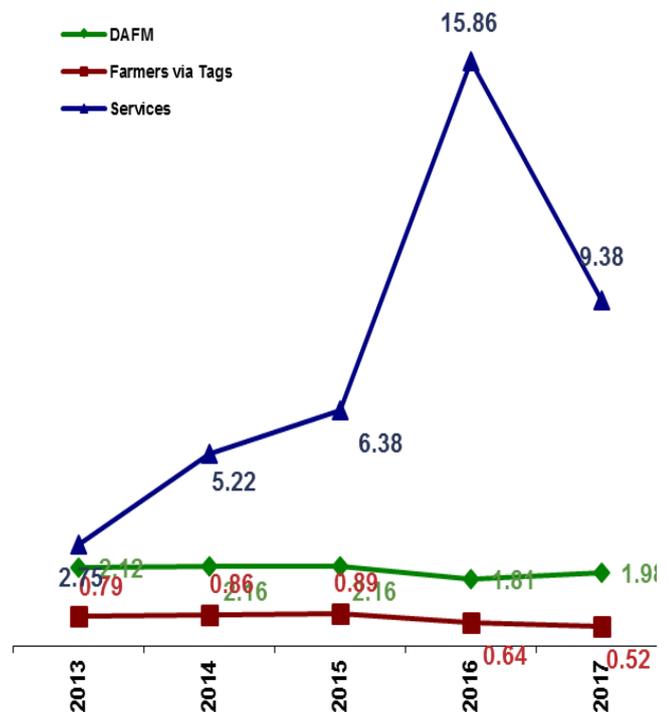
In 2017 ICBF income included contributions from the following sources:

- DAFM in the form of a Grant, BDGP Scheme costs, and Cattle Breeding Infrastructure contributions to infrastructure projects. Cattle Breeding Infrastructure funds made contributions towards GENE IRELAND®, and projects for the development of genetic evaluations and the development

of systems for collecting data and reporting information to farmers.

- Cattle farmers through the Tag Contributions
- The cattle breeding industry and farmers through service fees, which include the significant genotyping costs of the BDGP scheme. There were two years (2015 and 2016) of BDGP income processed in 2016.

Figure 11 Financial outcome 2013 to 2017 in € million.



These funds cover the cost of on-going operations and the cattle breeding infrastructure projects undertaken in 2017 as outlined in the audited accounts.

Resources

ICBF is using a number of resources in pursuit of its mission. These include:

People

ICBF is fortunate to have a group of highly skilled, energetic and committed people, who in 2017 have put in a huge effort to deliver on-going value to Irish Farmers and the wider industry.

Offices

ICBF's main office and database computers are based at Highfield House which is a property owned by Shinagh Estates Limited (SEL) near Bandon, Co. Cork. The accommodation is rented from SEL.

Tully

The Bull Performance Test Centre at Tully, Co. Kildare is leased from DAFM. These facilities are in good condition, and have benefited from significant investment from Cattle Breeding Infrastructure Funds in new feed bins in recent years.

Database Computers

ICBF's database runs on computers located in Highfield House and Shinagh House. The ICBF database is constantly undergoing development and upgrades in order to keep on top of the ever growing requirements associated with increased volumes of data, especially in the new era of genomics.

EDIY Calibration Laboratory

This laboratory, located in Bandon, houses specialist equipment, which is used to ensure the EDIY electronic milk meters used by the industry are performing according to specification.

International

ICBF maintains a number of important international linkages including:

- providing leadership for the development of international beef genetic evaluations through the ICAR Interbeef Working Group,
- participation in international research forums including EAAP, and
- participation in international research collaborations including the European Wide EEIG spectral data project.

This international network enables ICBF to keep up to date with scientific developments relevant to Irish cattle breeding.

Support

ICBF wishes to acknowledge and express its appreciation for the support and co-operation received from a large number of individuals and organisations. The relationships we have with the cattle breeding service providers are crucially important in delivering the benefits at farm level. The collaborative nature of ICBF's activities depends to a large extent on the goodwill of its membership, the wider agricultural community and cattle farmers.

The leadership and support provided by DAFM has been a key to the success of ICBF. DAFM has long recognised the value that can be created through the availability of a well-integrated cattle breeding database.

The financial support provided through the Cattle Breeding Infrastructure Funds towards the creation of an efficient cattle breeding infrastructure is now delivering benefits to farmers, to the cattle breeding industry and to the wider community. We wish to acknowledge this support and express our appreciation for the leadership and vision that DAFM provides to our industry and cattle breeding in particular.

These many and substantial acts of financial goodwill have been accompanied by a great deal of moral support which the team working for ICBF really appreciates.

Future Prospects

2017 has been a year where, despite some technical challenges, we have continued to exploit the new cattle breeding technologies for the benefit of Irish farmers. There are real challenges ahead in keeping up with the world's best in terms of the use of data and technology, and it will require on-going investment.

However, the key to ICBF's success remains the same - the application of good science, a focus on the needs of farmers, working closely with our stakeholders and a 100% commitment to delivering by a talented and dedicated team.

We are most fortunate to operate in an environment where ICBF's vision is shared by our Board, our members, DAFM, and, most importantly, Irish Farmers.

Sean Coughlan

Michael Doran

Chief Executive

Chairman

**Irish Cattle Breeding Federation
Society Limited**

Financial statements for the year
ended 31 December 2017

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

SOCIETY INFORMATION

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT	Mr. M. Doran (Chairman) Mr. P. Kelly Mr. H. Burns Mr. S. O' Leary Mr. K. Kinsella Mr. T. Wilson Mr. T. Fitzgerald Mr. K. Coffey Mr. R. Hinchion Mr. P. Fleming Dr. G. Ryan Mr. V. Gorman Mr R. Whelan Mr. P. Hannan Mr. M. Ryan Mr. B. Callanan
SECRETARY	Mr. J. Carty, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Pavilion A, Grattan Business Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	Mr. S. Coughlan
SOCIETY'S ADDRESS AND REGISTERED OFFICE	Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.
SOLICITORS	Hallisey & Partners Solicitors, 41 South Main Street, Bandon, Co. Cork. Ronan Daly Jermyn, 2 Park Place, City Gate Park, Mahon Point, Cork.
BANKERS	AIB Bank, South Main Street, Bandon, Co. Cork.
AUDITORS	Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants, City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork.

**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

The committee are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1893 to 2014 requires the committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the committee have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

In preparing these financial statements, the committee are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the society will continue in business.

The committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and which enables it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and with the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1893 to 2014. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

On behalf of the Committee of Management

MICHAEL DORAN
Chairman

PATRICK KELLY
Vice Chairman

20 April 2018

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited ('the Society') for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and Accounting Standards including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the society as at 31 December 2017 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

As required by Section 13(2) of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893 to 2014, we examined the balance sheets showing the receipts and expenditure, funds and effects of the society, and verified the same with the books, deeds, documents, accounts and vouchers relating thereto, and found them to be correct, duly vouched, and in accordance with law.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the society in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate: or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the society's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED (Continued)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893 to 2014

As required by section 13(2) of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893 to 2014 we examined the statement of financial position showing the receipts and expenditure, funds and effects of the society, and verified the same with the books, deeds, documents, accounts and vouchers relating thereto, and found them to be correct, duly vouched, and in accordance with law.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Committee Responsibilities Statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH CATTLE BREEDING
FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED (Continued)**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Continued)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf .

This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 13 of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893 to 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Society's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Society and the Society's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm

Cork

26 April 2018

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 December 2017

	<i>Note</i>	2017 €	2016 €
Income – continuing operations		13,127,717	17,401,430
Operating expenses		(13,062,112)	(17,342,298)
Operating surplus – continuing operations		65,605	59,132
Interest payable and similar charges	3	(19,423)	(26,381)
Bank interest received		925	1,269
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation		47,107	34,020
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	4	(4,740)	-
Surplus on ordinary activities after taxation		42,367	34,020

Approved by the Committee of Management on 20 April 2018

MICHAEL DORAN
Chairman

PATRICK KELLY
Vice Chairman

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 31 December 2017

	<i>Note</i>	<i>2017</i> €	<i>2016</i> €
Income and Expenditure surplus for the financial year		42,367	34,020
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>42,367</u>	<u>34,020</u>

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2017

	<i>Share capital</i> €	<i>Income and expenditure account</i> €	<i>Total</i> €
At 1 January 2016	2,027,022	1,119,538	3,146,560
Shares issued during the year	508	-	508
Surplus for year	-	34,020	34,020
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2016	2,027,530	1,153,558	3,181,088
Surplus for year	-	42,367	42,367
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2017	<u>2,027,530</u>	<u>1,195,925</u>	<u>3,223,455</u>

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
at 31 December 2017**

	<i>Note</i>	<i>2017</i> €	<i>2016</i> €
FIXED ASSETS			
Project development expenditure	5	4,426,208	4,470,531
Tangible fixed assets	6	587,462	803,823
		<u>5,013,670</u>	<u>5,274,354</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	7	605,392	348,270
Debtors	8	1,435,508	1,528,260
Cash at bank		1,486,570	1,754,878
		<u>3,527,470</u>	<u>3,631,408</u>
CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)	9	(2,130,116)	(2,376,490)
		<u>1,397,354</u>	<u>1,254,918</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,397,354</u>	<u>1,254,918</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>6,411,024</u>	<u>6,529,272</u>
CREDITORS (amounts falling due after more than one year)	10	(220,802)	(434,936)
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	12	(2,966,767)	(2,913,247)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		<u><u>3,223,455</u></u>	<u><u>3,181,089</u></u>
FINANCED BY			
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			
Share capital	14	2,027,530	2,027,530
Income and expenditure account		1,195,925	1,153,559
Shareholders' funds		<u><u>3,223,455</u></u>	<u><u>3,181,089</u></u>

Approved by the Committee of Management on 20 April 2018

MICHAEL DORAN
Chairman

PATRICK KELLY
Vice Chairman

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	<i>Note</i>	2017 €	2016 €
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	15	374,412	964,507
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Project development expenditure		(1,452,511)	(1,490,069)
Payments for tangible fixed assets		(46,075)	(46,111)
Project development grants received		1,070,000	920,000
Net cash flow from investing activities		(428,586)	(616,180)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from issue of ordinary share capital		-	508
Finance lease payments		(214,134)	(200,219)
Net cash flow from financing activities		(214,134)	(199,711)
Decrease in cash		(268,308)	148,616
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		1,754,878	1,606,262
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	15	1,486,570	1,754,878

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 December 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 *Statement of compliance*

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited is a society registered in Ireland under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893 to 2014. The registered office is Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.

The society's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

1.2 *Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty*

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following are the society's key sources of estimation uncertainty:

(a) *Project development expenditure*

Development expenditure is capitalised in accordance with the accounting policy given below. Initial capitalisation of costs is based on management's judgement that technical and economic feasibility is confirmed, usually when a product development project has reached a defined milestone according to an established project management model. In determining the amounts to be capitalised management makes assumptions regarding the expected future cash generation of the assets, discount rates to be applied and the expected period of benefits.

(b) *Impairment of non-financial assets*

Where there are indicators of impairment of individual assets, the society performs impairment tests based on fair value less costs to sell or a value in use calculation.

1.3 *Significant accounting policies*

(a) *Accounting convention*

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are expressed in Euro (€).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 December 2017 (Continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1.3 *Significant accounting policies (continued)*

(b) *Fixed assets and depreciation*
Fixed assets are stated at cost.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis by reference to the expected useful lives as follows:

Office equipment	5 years
Tully machinery	5 years
Weighing equipment	5 years
BDGP technology	5 years

(c) *Project development expenditure*

Project development expenditure on clearly defined projects whose commercial outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty is capitalised. When the development of these commercial projects reaches completion the society provides services to its members in return for fee income. This expenditure is amortised over the useful lives of the projects. Costs relating to fully amortised projects and the related fully amortised government grants are written off after a period of nine years from when the expenditure was incurred.

(d) *Government grants*

Grants for operating expenditure:

Grants received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to fund the operations of the society are credited to the Income and Expenditure Account so as to match them with the expenditure to which they relate.

Grants for project development expenditure:

Grants received towards the cost of project development expenditure are deferred and amortised over the same period in which the related project development expenditure is amortised.

(e) *Taxation*

Corporation tax is provided on taxable profits at the current rates.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events have occurred at the balance sheet date that result in an obligation to pay more tax or a right to pay less tax in the future.

Timing differences are temporary differences between profit as computed for taxation purposes and profit as stated in the financial statements which arise because certain items of income and expenditure in the financial statements are dealt with in different periods for taxation purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 December 2017 (Continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1.3 *Significant accounting policies (continued)*

(e) *Taxation (continued)*

A net deferred tax asset is regarded as recoverable and therefore recognised only when, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted

(f) *Income recognition*

Income is recognised on delivery of the service. Where monies are received in advance of the related goods or services being provided, the revenue is deferred until such time as the related performance criteria have been met to recognise the sale.

(g) *Operating leases*

Operating lease costs are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred, normally on a straight line basis over the lease term.

(h) *Pensions*

The Society operates a defined contribution pension scheme for certain of its employees and its annual contributions are charged to the incomes statement in the year to which they relate.

(i) *Leasing commitments*

At the commencement of the lease term, a lessee shall recognise its rights of use and obligations under finance leases as assets and liabilities in its statement of financial position at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, determined at the inception of the lease.

(j) *Stocks*

Stocks have been consistently valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is based on actual invoice cost. Net realisable value comprises selling prices less appropriate selling and distribution costs.

(k) *Debtors*

Known bad debts are written off and specific provision is made for any amounts the recovery of which is considered doubtful.

(l) *Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position comprise cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with an original maturity date of three months or less. For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 December 2017 (Continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

1.3 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Short-term debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the income statement in other operating expenses.

2. STAFF COSTS	2017	2016
	€	€
The staff costs, including costs capitalised in project development, are comprised of:		
Wages and salaries	3,195,080	2,774,967
Social welfare costs	334,753	296,343
Pension costs	246,440	170,839
	<u>3,776,273</u>	<u>3,242,149</u>

The average number of persons employed by the society in the financial year was 71 (2016: 63) and is analysed into the following categories:

	2017	2016
	No.	No.
Management	9	9
Administration	6	6
Technical	21	18
Fixed term subcontractors	35	30
	<u>71</u>	<u>63</u>

3. INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES	2017	2016
	€	€
Finance lease interest	19,423	26,381
	<u>19,423</u>	<u>26,381</u>

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 December 2017 (Continued)

4.	TAXATION ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	2017
		€
(a)	<i>Analysis of charge in the year</i>	
	<i>Current tax</i>	
	Corporation tax at 12½%	4,740
		<hr/>
	Total current tax	4,740
		<hr/> <hr/>
(b)	<i>Factors affecting tax charge for the year</i>	2017
		€
	Profit on ordinary activities before tax	47,108
		<hr/>
	Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the standard rate of tax 12½%	5,888
	<i>Effects of:</i>	
	Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	36,973
	Other	(38,352)
	Amounts charged at higher rate of tax	231
		<hr/>
	Total tax charge	4,740
		<hr/> <hr/>
5.	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE	€
	<i>Cost:</i>	
	At 1 January 2017	14,401,993
	Additions	1,490,438
	Elimination of fully amortised costs (b)	(1,562,645)
		<hr/>
	At 31 December 2017	14,329,786
		<hr/>
	<i>Amortisation:</i>	
	At 1 January 2017	9,931,462
	Charge for the year	1,534,763
	Elimination of fully amortised costs (b)	(1,562,645)
		<hr/>
	At 31 December 2017	9,903,580
		<hr/>
	<i>Net book value:</i>	
	At 31 December 2017	4,426,206
		<hr/> <hr/>
	At 31 December 2016	4,470,531
		<hr/> <hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 December 2017 (Continued)

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE (Continued)

- (a) Project development expenditure consists of computer hardware, software consultancy, database and other project costs.
- (b) Fully amortised projects are written off after a period of nine years from when the expenditure was incurred. As the project expenditure is fully amortised the write off has no impact on profits or on the carrying value of projects in the balance sheet.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<i>Office equipment</i> €	<i>BDGP technology</i> €	<i>Tully machinery</i> €	<i>Weighing equipment</i> €	<i>Total</i> €
<i>Cost:</i>					
At 1 January 2017	266,011	1,044,581	77,120	78,748	1,466,460
Additions	-	-	46,075	-	46,075
Disposal	(37,927)	-	-	-	(37,927)
	<u>228,084</u>	<u>1,044,581</u>	<u>123,195</u>	<u>78,748</u>	<u>1,474,608</u>
<i>Depreciation:</i>					
At 1 January 2017	218,317	313,374	52,198	78,748	662,637
Charge for the year	4,268	208,916	11,323	-	224,507
	<u>222,585</u>	<u>522,290</u>	<u>63,521</u>	<u>78,748</u>	<u>887,144</u>
<i>Net book value:</i>					
At 31 December 2017	<u>5,499</u>	<u>522,291</u>	<u>59,674</u>	-	<u>587,464</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>47,694</u>	<u>731,207</u>	<u>24,922</u>	-	<u>803,823</u>

7. STOCKS

	<i>2017</i> €	<i>2016</i> €
Livestock	201,182	199,196
Tully consumables	21,040	30,520
Other consumables	383,170	118,554
	<u>605,392</u>	<u>348,270</u>

Other consumables are comprised of testing kits (including tags) which are consumed in the provision of the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP).

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 December 2017 (Continued)

7. STOCKS (Continued)

The replacement cost of stocks is not considered to be materially different from the balance sheet value.

8.	DEBTORS	2017 €	2016 €
	Trade debtors and prepayments	1,234,245	1,349,061
	Amounts due from related party (<i>note 17</i>)	198,541	179,199
	VAT	2,722	-
		<u>1,435,508</u>	<u>1,528,260</u>
9.	CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)	2017 €	2016 €
	Trade creditors	368,635	309,154
	Obligations under finance leases (<i>note 11</i>)	214,134	207,177
	Accruals and deferred income	1,394,293	1,740,931
	PAYE/PRSI	104,110	97,931
	Other creditors	44,204	-
	Corporation tax	4,740	-
	VAT	-	21,297
		<u>2,130,116</u>	<u>2,376,490</u>
10.	CREDITORS (amounts falling after more than one year)	2017 €	2016 €
	Obligations under finance leases (<i>note 11</i>)	<u>220,802</u>	<u>434,936</u>
11.	OBLIGATIONS UNDER FINANCE LEASES	2017 €	2016 €
	Due within one year	214,134	207,177
	Due between one and two years	220,802	214,134
	Due between two and five years	-	220,802
		<u>434,936</u>	<u>642,113</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 December 2017 (Continued)

12. GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Government grants comprise grants received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).

	€
<i>Received</i>	
At 1 January 2017	8,583,944
Received during year	1,070,000
Elimination of fully amortised grants (a)	(855,302)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2017	8,798,642
	<hr/>
<i>Amortisation</i>	
At 1 January 2017	5,670,697
Credited to the income and expenditure account in year	1,016,480
Elimination of fully amortised grants (a)	(855,302)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2017	5,831,875
	<hr/>
<i>Net amount</i>	
At 31 December 2017	2,966,767
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 December 2016	2,913,247
	<hr/> <hr/>

- (a) Consistent with the policy for related project expenditure, as outlined in Note 5, fully amortised grants are written off after a period of nine years from when the grant was received. As the grants are fully amortised the write off has no impact on profits or on the balance sheet.

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS	2017	2016
	€	€
<i>Financial assets that are debt instrument measured at amortised cost:</i>		
- Trade debtors	856,109	910,857
<i>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:</i>		
- Finance leases	434,936	642,113
- Trade creditors	368,634	309,154
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 December 2017 (Continued)

14.	SHARE CAPITAL	2017	2016
		€	€
	<i>Authorised:</i>		
	28,768 "A" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	365,278	365,278
	28,768 "B" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	365,278	365,278
	28,768 "C" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	365,278	365,278
	73,696 "D" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	935,746	935,746
		<u>2,031,580</u>	<u>2,031,580</u>
	<i>Issued and fully paid:</i>		
	28,768 "A" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	365,278	365,278
	28,768 "B" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	365,278	365,278
	28,449 "C" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	361,228	361,228
	73,696 "D" ordinary shares of €12.697381 each	935,746	935,746
		<u>2,027,530</u>	<u>2,027,530</u>

All shares rank pari passu in all respects.

15. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a)	<i>Reconciliation of surplus to net cash inflow from operating activities</i>	2017	2016
		€	€
	Surplus for the year	47,107	34,020
	Amortisation of project development expenditure	1,534,763	2,289,897
	Project development grants amortised	(1,016,480)	(1,022,763)
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	224,506	31,739
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease in debtors	95,474	81,244
	(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(257,122)	948,239
	Decrease in creditors	(253,836)	(1,397,869)
	Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>374,412</u>	<u>964,507</u>
(b)	<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>	2017	2016
		€	€
	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,486,570</u>	<u>1,754,878</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 December 2017 (Continued)

16. PENSIONS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The society operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The cost charged to the income and expenditure account in the year for the scheme was €246,440 (2016: €170,839).

17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The operations of Sheep Database Limited are administered by Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Limited. Costs incurred by the society, on behalf of the company, totalling €160,000 (2016: €150,000) were recharged during the year. The amount due by the company to the society at the year end is included in debtors.

Key management personnel

All committee of management and certain senior employees who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the society are considered to be key management personnel. Remuneration paid includes pension contributions to provide retirement benefits.

Total remuneration in respect of these individuals in 2017 (one member of the committee of management and nine senior employees) is made up of the following components:

- Basic salary cost of €325,696 (2016: €314,998) paid to individuals and which is set at market rates for equivalent roles
- Employer social insurance costs (ancillary to salary costs) which amounted to €88,763 (2016: €87,612)
- Pension benefits paid by the employer to provide retirement benefits amounted to €93,580 (2016: €73,780) for the year.

Total remuneration in respect of 11 non-executive board members paid for their attendance at board meetings during 2017 amounted to €13,834.

18. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At the balance sheet date the society had annual commitments of €33,346 (2016: €77,460) under operating leases for equipment which expire within three years.

19. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the committee of management on 20 April 2018.



Our Farmer & Government Representation



Our AI & Milk Recording Organisations



Our Herdbooks



Acknowledging Our Members

