

ICBF Weekly Update 1st June 2012

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 28th June, 10:00 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 28th June, 14:00 – 16:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30th June, Athenry.

2 ICAR 2012

ICAR 2012 came to a conclusion at 13:00 today. It was a great success with considerably greater participation than anticipated – a total of 800 people, from 50 countries involved in one or other aspects of the five-day event.

Highlights included:

- ✚ Dairy Industry day on Monday – 250 farmers and conference delegates heard from a wide range of international and Irish speakers.
- ✚ Beef & Sheep Industry day on Tuesday – 125 attended this event. Speakers from France, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland highlighted how the developments in Ireland lead by ICBF are world leading and have the potential to achieve significant improvements in the profitability of Irish beef & sheep production.
- ✚ Interbeef Workshop involving 50 people from around the world discussing opportunities and priorities for improving international collaboration in beef breeding. Twenty-two priorities were identified covering the need to share information, develop services and to collaborate more in research.
- ✚ The Irish Country Market meal and associated social event. Country Market stalls from the Mahon Point Market set up in the grounds of the Rochestown Park hotel and all delegates had the opportunity to sample the wonderful range of high quality, Irish origin, foods that are a feature of the Market.
- ✚ Presentation to the meeting by Minister of Agriculture Simon Coveney. Simon took time from his very busy schedule devoted to leading the “yes” campaign. His address to delegates was very well received and highlighted Ireland’s vision for its animal industry to play a major role in meeting the food needs of the world’s rapidly growing population.
- ✚ Andrew Cromie’s presentation to the opening session highlighted the major economic impact that ICBF’s initiatives have on the profitability of dairy production in Ireland.
- ✚ Over 100 papers were presented covering a wide range of topics relevant to animal recording and genetic evaluation of dairy, beef and sheep.
- ✚ Delegates visited dairy, beef and sheep farms on Thursday afternoon. These visits highlighted the important and practical role of the wide range of information services now routinely available through the ICBF database.
- ✚ The Gala dinner attended by 460 delegates and guests invited by ICBF. The dinner was a joint celebration of the recent achievements in Irish cattle and sheep breeding and the benefits that ICAR members obtain from international collaboration.
- ✚ Copies of the presentations are available from www.icar2012.ie (under presentations). Video recordings of the presentations will also go onto the web in the next few days.

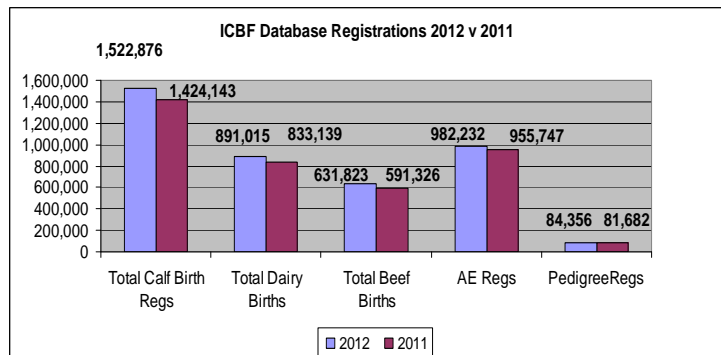
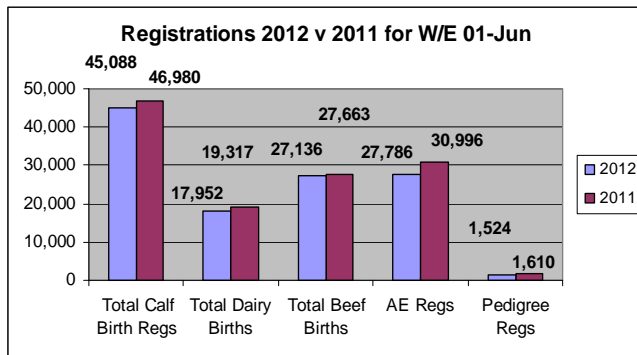


A personal thanks to the magnificent effort of the conference hosting team, many of whom are also members of the ICBF Team. Thanks also to the staff of the Rochestown Park Hotel who were magnificent in dealing with the many

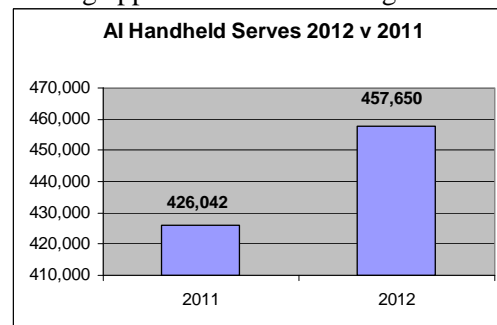
demands of such a truly international conference. The farms that hosted the field trips were very open in the supply of information, hosted a refreshment stop for delegates and in conjunction with Teagasc Advisors ensured delegates learnt a lot about the challenges facing Irish farmers.

Feedback from delegates was very complementary on both the organization and the technical content of the conference. Ireland can be proud of the way it hosted this major international event.

3 Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 617,425 with the number of animals weaned at 542,432.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 565,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 378,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.60% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- The current trial weight recording cell operating out of Tully continues to work well in conjunction with the newly designed 'split platform'.
- The on-going developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database are continuing. Some final tweaks have been made to the genotype sharing application. This will again be available for demonstration at the ICAR conference next week.
- Significant progress has been made in relation to the system design of the OPTIMIR spectral data project, and good progress is being made with the milk testing laboratories in relation to the extracts of the spectral data on an on-going basis.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



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