

ICBF Weekly Update 2nd May 2014

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry Meetings** –Tuesday 27th May 2014, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** –Friday 11th July 2014, 10:00 to 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 ICBF Board Meeting

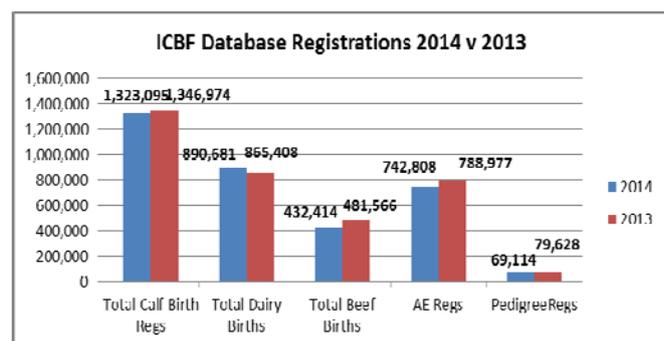
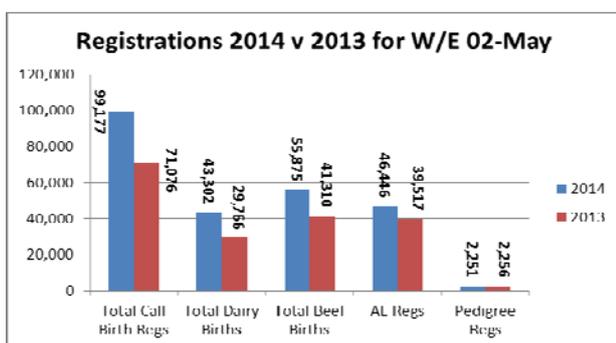
Some of the topics covered at ICBF's board meeting yesterday included:

- ✚ **Beef Genomics Scheme** – 30,000 tags have been issued to farmers for sample taking. The first 2,000 samples have been sent back by farmers, and this is expected to rapidly increase over the coming week.
- ✚ **Gene Ireland Beef** – There has been an excellent uptake by farmers on the straws from the AI bulls on the Gene Ireland Programme, which is very encouraging.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding** – An extensive discussion took place around the role that breeding has in dealing with the profitability issues on Suckler Farms, and how a more rapid implementation of the tools and infrastructure that are available can take place.

3 ICBF AGM – 1st May

- ✚ The AGM on Thursday adopted the 2013 Audited Accounts and approved the appointment of Ernst and Young as the auditor for 2014. A copy of the Annual Report is available in the Publications Section of www.icbf.com.

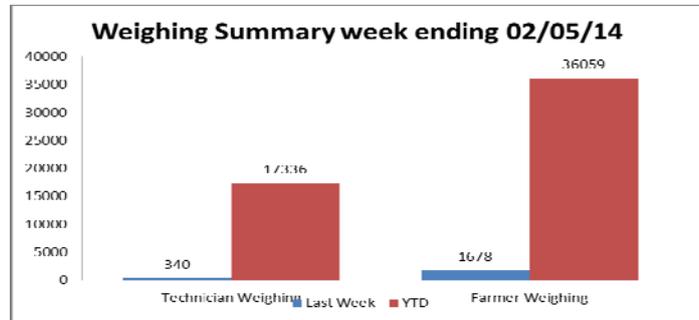
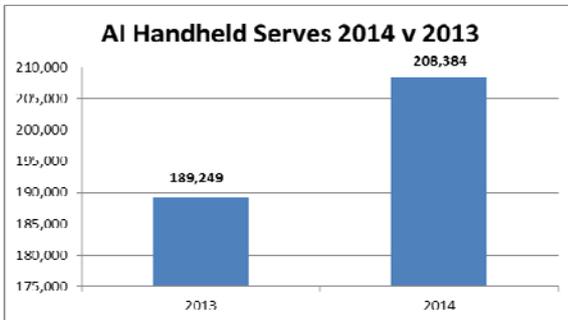
4 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,393,000 results received since January 1st, of which 102,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.06 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.

This week there were 340 weights received through the technician service and 1678 weights recorded by farmers.

The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



5 GENIRELAND® - Beef

- Sign-ups are continuing for the Beef GENIRELAND Spring 2014 programme.
- 347 herds taking a total of 5950 straws have signed up so far.
- The average order is 17 straws.
- The Charolais bull YBH and Simmental bull XDM have now reached the 500 straws target.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 12 remaining available bulls are in the table below.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JZJ	Cairnmor Jameson	AA	310
YCM	Clewboy High-Master	CH	180
GGM	Gageboro Morgan	HE	260
YHB	Drombanny Hero	LM	380
OHT	Roundhill Hunter	LM	195
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	PT	160
ZGH	Hurricane Gonzo	PT	200
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	110
KTM	Knottown Michael	SA	145
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	35
LZZ	Lisnacran Demertios	SI	220
KDZ	Curaheen Dickens	SI	305

6 Herd Plus®

EBI

- The EBI national rankings for herds and cows has been updated. National EBI figures have increased by +€3. The average cow has an EBI of €25, with the top 5% of cows with an EBI of €195. The average herd has an

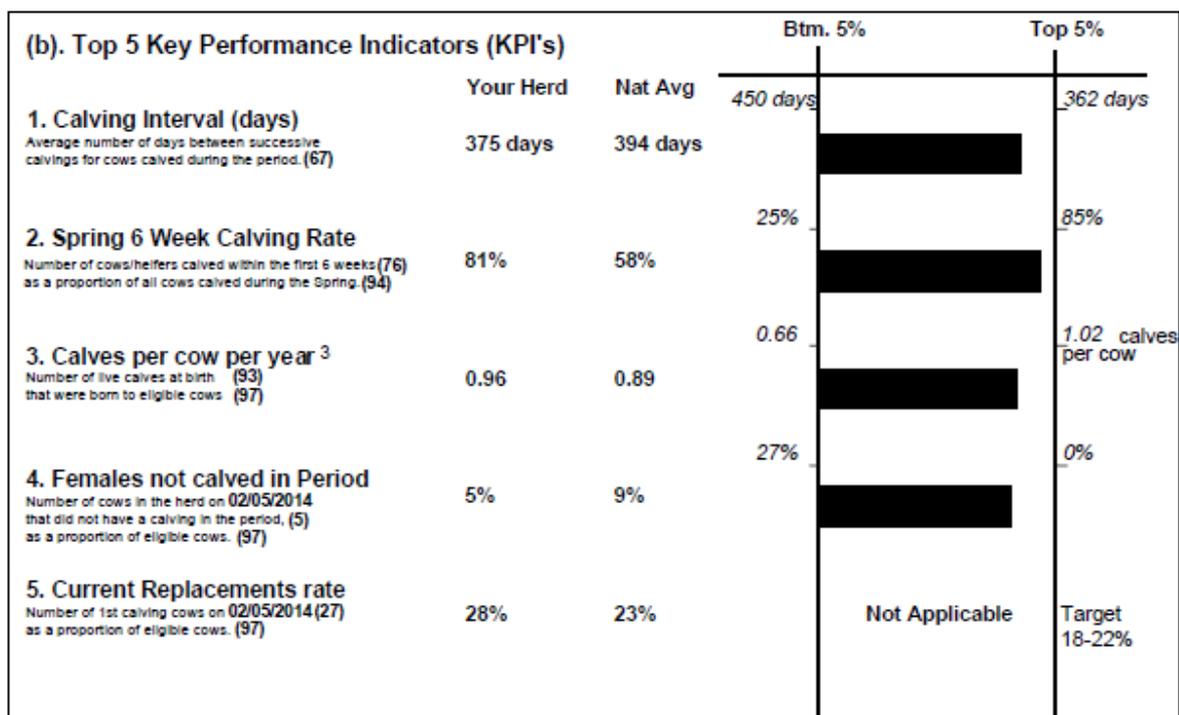
EBI of €124, while the top 5% of herds having an EBI of €163. The latest EBI reports are now available online. To view your EBI report login to www.icbf.com, click on EBI and you will see your latest EBI report available.

National ranking of herds and cows on EBI

	Top 1%	Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 25%	Ave.	Btm 25%	Btm 10%	Btm 5%	Btm 1%
Herd	€183	€163	€153	€139	€124	€104	€76	€54	€15
Animal	€221	€195	€181	€156	€125	€91	€49	€21	€-27

Calving Reports

- As the calving season ends calving reports should be run by herdowners. Calving reports can be run online at any time. Log in with your username and password, click on calving, enter your calving start date and press “click for report”. This will generate a calving report for your herd. The calving report has key performance indicators for your herd which allows you to compare your herd’s performance with national averages and top performers.



7 Tully

Recent Events

- On Wednesday of this week 300 farmers from different BTAP groups around the country visited the GEN€IR€LAND performance Test Centre, Tully, Kildare, Co. Kildare. This was the first of 4 events that ICBF will be hosting at Tully in 2014 for discussion groups. The event featured four main talks covering information on Beef €uro-Star Indexes, GEN€IR€LAND Maternal Breeding program, GEN€IR€LAND progeny test program at Tully and Genomics. As part of highlighting the importance of the GEN€IR€LAND Maternal Breeding

program a small number of pedigree and commercial cows were on display along with YCM (pedigree AI bull that was part of the G-€N-€I-R-€L-A-N-D spring program).

- 117 progeny (mainly sired by G-€N-€I-R-€L-A-N-D bulls) were also on display at the event, made up of 98 bulls and 19 steers. They progeny were in four separate groups which consisted of animals currently on-test (56 animals) and a new intakes which are due to commence test shortly (61 animals). These animals had individual performance and parentage information displayed which created a lot of interest and discussion among farmers. Overall the event was successful in fulfilling its objective, which was to update farmers on the latest developments in beef breeding that will allow for much greater rates of genetic improvement in Irish beef production and thus increase profitability on farms. I would like to thank all those who contributed to making the event a success. See below for photos of the event. The next events will take place on 11th June, 23rd July and 3rd September.



Chris Daly (ICBF) speaking to farmers on the importance of using the replacement index when selecting or purchasing female.



Francis Kearney (ICBF) speaking to farmers about the new beef genomics scheme.

- On Thursday of this week Tully hosted a **sustainable beef production seminar** organised by McDonalds and Slaney Foods International. At the event McDonalds representatives spoke to Slaney beef producers about their commitment to securing a sustainable future for Irish farming. They also spoke about their new sustainable beef program which aims to support existing farmers and help young farmers into the industry. This program is built around five core commitments spanning quality of ingredients, animal welfare standards, work and training opportunities for young farmers, environmental and efficiency standards, and knowledge sharing. Ger Cusack (Veterinary practitioner) gave a presentation on the prevention and controls for liver fluke and pneumonia in cattle, while Stephen Conroy gave an overview of the G-€N-€I-R-€L-A-N-D beef breeding program and the important role Tully plays in capturing accurate early information on progeny of test and well proven AI sires for traits which are collected routinely by the industry (i.e. carcass data) but also expensive and difficult traits to record such as feed intake & meat eating quality.

8 Genetic Evaluations

- Results for pedigree beef animals scored from 1st March up to the 15th April have had their evaluations updated on May 1st.

Beef Genomics Scheme

- Ear tissue sampling kits for over 32,000 herds have been processed to date for the beef genomics scheme. The first tags arrived on farms on Monday. Just over 56,000 tags are on farm or will be on farm by next week. A

further 40,000 tags will be arriving on farm within the next two weeks. Already over 3300 samples have being received by Weatherbys DNA laboratory for processing. A picture of the first samples to arrive is shown below.



9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 02/05/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 02/05/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 02/05/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 02/05/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 02/05/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,274	816	25%	237,342	63,617	27%
Progressive	2,078	774	37%	169,734	64,363	38%
Tipperary	89	29	33%	7,191	2,511	35%
Total	5,441	1,619	30%	414,267	130,491	31%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 02/05/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 02/05/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	222,179	237,342	6.4%
Progressive	165,604	169,734	2.4%
Tipperary	6,561	7,191	8.8%
Total	387,783	414,267	6.4%

10 Sheep Ireland

LambPlus

- The deadline for submission of lambing data onto the Sheep Ireland database passed on Wednesday the 30th April. In the run up to the deadline there was a huge amount of activity on the website with breeders rushing to get data entered. From a practical point of view and from an evaluation point of view implementing this deadline has been a huge success. We are now on the front foot in terms of providing breeders with the best possible evaluations to help make early culling decisions. It also means that we have plenty of time to prepare for the upcoming ram sale season to ensure both breeders and breed societies have everything they need to provide the Euro-Stars to ram buyers.
- April 30th was also the deadline for LambPlus breeders to notify us of their intention to carry out ultrasound scanning for backfat and muscle. Our scanning season will begin with some of the early lambing Vendeen and Suffolk flocks very soon. We will be contacting all breeders by phone to organise suitable times and dates to collect this valuable data.

Sheep Ireland Board Meeting

- The Sheep Ireland Board met this week to hold its AGM. It was accepted that significant progress had been made in the 2013 year thanks in no small part to STAP. However there is still a huge amount of work to be done and the retention of STAP or a similar discussion group model was seen as critical to the future development of the breed improvement programme.
- Other major issues discussed included the format of the new Euro-Star Indices for the coming year. As a result of the changes we are making to our main Indices (changing from one Overall Sheep Value Index, to a split Terminal and Replacement Index), there will be scope to include additional important sub-Indices underneath our two main Indices. Making the decision on what sub-Indices to display is a difficult one, but we now feel that we have identified Indices that will be very useful to all farmers that use the Euro-Stars. These Indices will be visible in all ram sales catalogues in 2014.

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 872903121, Email scoughlan@icbf.com.

Registered Office: Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Society Ltd trading as "ICBF", Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 4914R, Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 to 1978. Web: www.icbf.com.

Registered Office: Sheep Database Ltd trading as "Sheep Ireland". Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork. Registered Dublin, Ireland. Registration Number 465004, Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Web: www.sheep.ie.

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 23-APR-2014 To 02-MAY-2014

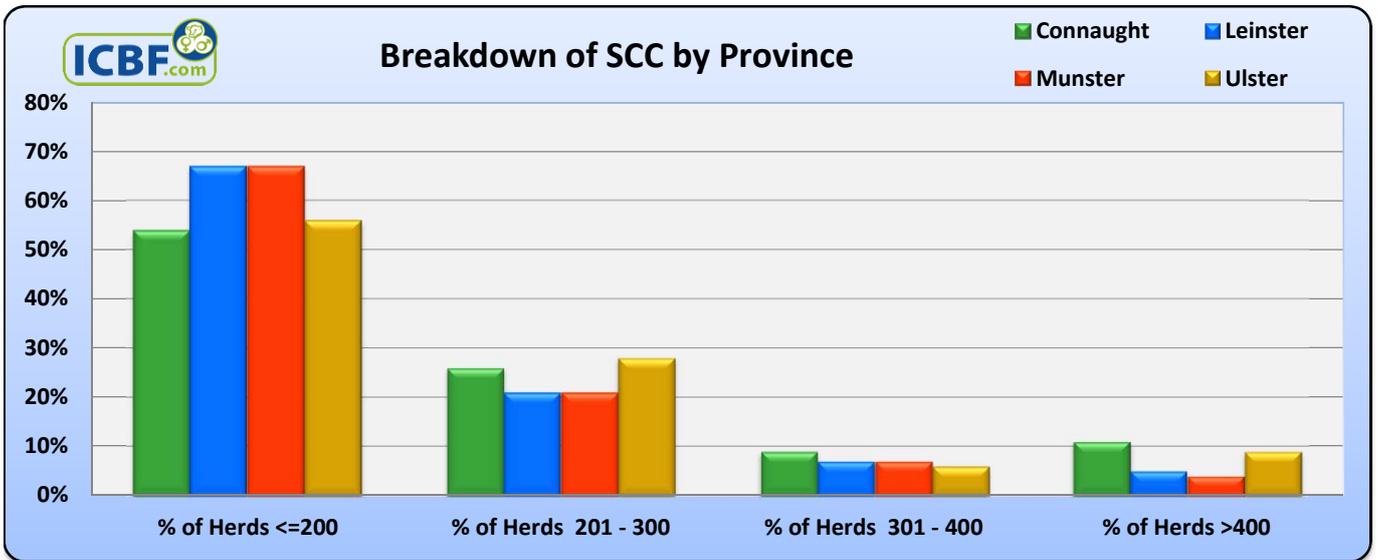
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	35	1,815	52	28.4	3.63	3.35	1.98	194
Leinster	156	12,350	79	27.5	3.67	3.43	1.95	155
Munster	512	39,901	78	28.3	3.71	3.40	2.01	150
Ulster	32	1,852	58	28.7	3.70	3.39	2.03	164
National Statistics	735	55,918	76	28.2	3.70	3.40	2.00	153

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 23-APR-2014 To 02-MAY-2014

ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	35	1,815	52	54%	26%	9%	11%	194
Leinster	156	12,350	79	67%	21%	7%	5%	155
Munster	512	39,901	78	67%	21%	7%	4%	150
Ulster	32	1,852	58	56%	28%	6%	9%	164
National Statistics	735	55,918	76	66%	22%	7%	5%	153

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 23-APR-2014 To 02-MAY-2014								
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	35	1,815	52	138	166	193	220	280
Leinster	156	12,350	79	108	141	151	172	252
Munster	512	39,901	78	89	124	144	168	261
Ulster	32	1,852	58	95	125	150	231	292
National Statistics	735	55,918	76	92	131	150	173	262

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

