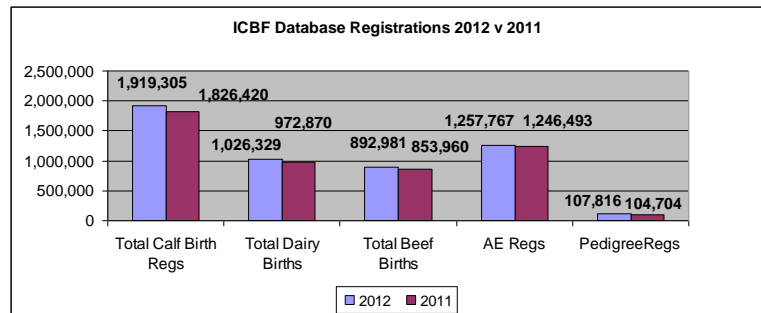
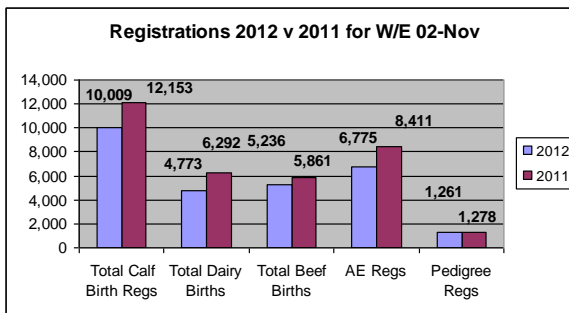


ICBF Weekly Update 2nd November 2012

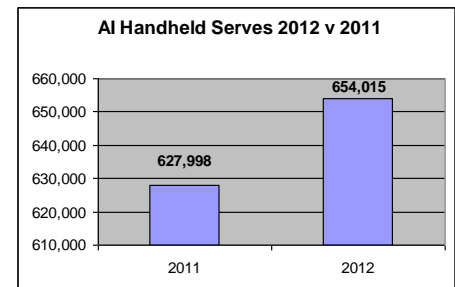
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Beef Breeding Event at Tully** – Saturday 10th November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.
- ✚ **ICBF & Teagasc Genomics Conference for Beef & Dairy Industries** – Wednesday 14th November, 10:00 – 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. (To book please contact ICBF at 023 88 20222 or mmadden@icbf.com)
- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Wednesday 28th November from 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 29th November 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 29th November from 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.

2 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 436,050, with the number of animals weaned at 236,088.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 585,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 453,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new EuroStar indexes, and the development work on these is continuing.
- ✚ Weight recording continues to gather momentum, with 1896 animals weighed last week compared to 1400 the week.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



3 Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings Wednesday 31st October

Some items of note arising from this week's meetings included:

- ✚ **New management traits (Dairy)**
 - There was overall consensus that both management traits (milking speed and temperament) should be included in the EBI.
 - It was agreed that further consultation would take place in relation to how they might be presented.

- Test proofs for the management traits will be available in the coming weeks

Health traits (Dairy)

- Test proofs with changes to the health traits incorporated will be available in the coming weeks, with a view to having them included in the December evaluation run
- Future work in this area includes looking at all available health data on animals with a view to using it in evaluations.

Linear traits (Dairy)

- Continue to use the new model for linear type traits as part of genetic evaluations
- Further discussion and explanation in relation to the ranges and comparability across countries is Required

Active Bull Lists (Dairy)

- ICBF are looking for further suggestions in relation to bull lists in order that there is transparency in relation to claims around top bulls in advertising.

Gene Ireland (Dairy)

- Meetings are underway with stakeholders in order to establish feedback ahead of the roll-out of the 2013 programme

Other Dairy items

- Work is on-going in relation to the establishment of an industry-supported 'Sexed Semen' project in 2013.
- Preparation will begin shortly for a farmer survey (early 2013) in relation to EBI and how farmers on the ground view the EBI.

Calving evaluations (Dairy and Beef)

- Test proofs incorporating a range of new changes to the calving evaluations will be issued in the coming weeks.

Beef performance evaluations (Dairy and Beef)

- The number of traits being included in the genetic evaluations will increase from 20 to 30
Again, test proofs will issue before the December evaluation run.

Stock Bull functionality (Beef)

- A survey will be sent out to farmers to get more data on stock bull functionality.
- Research is underway to estimate genetic parameters with a view to producing evaluations that can be considered for implementation in 2013.

€uro-Star Implementation (Beef)

- The €uro-Star group will meet again to further discuss the economics around the maternal indexes.
- Research is on-going in relation to a number of traits in the €uro-Star index.

Gene Ireland (Beef)

- Good progress is being made with the industry partners

4 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ MALP - All weighing's in lowland flocks have been carried out. Single Sire Mating is being carried out by these flocks. The dates are set for weighing the MALP Hill flocks in the West in November.
- ✚ CPT - Lambplus breeders gave 35 rams for CPT programme this year. 33 out of the 35 rams were used for AI. 2100 ewes have been AI'd and the CPT farmers had ewes in perfect condition for mating. There are 8 Suffolk, 8 Texel, 7 Charollais, 4 Vendeen, 5 Belclare, 2 Beltex and 1 Rouge ram in the CPT programme this year.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Extracts for the December routine evaluations have commenced.
- ✚ Work on a new calving evaluation is nearing completion with the hope that a test run will be circulated next week to industry partners. This new evaluation will see some key changes implemented such as new genetic parameters and the addition of predictor traits such as birth weight and carcass traits.

6 Genomics

- ✚ A new set of Genomic proofs were published during the week.
- ✚ In conjunction with Teagasc and Weatherbys, work on a producing a customised SNP chip for Ireland is almost complete. The new chip will have approx. 8000 SNP added to the current LD chip (6909). The new chip will aid imputation for dairy and beef and can be used for imputing microsatellites for parentage verification. It will also have most major gene tests thereby eliminating the need for extra DNA testing of AI bulls. We expect to have the chip in use for the Spring 2013 season. A comprehensive report on the new chip will be given at the Genomics Conference on Wed 14th November.

7 GENE IRELAND[®] Beef

- ✚ Sign-ups are continuing for the GENE IRELAND autumn program.
- ✚ 180 herds taking a total of 3800 straws have signed up so far.
- ✚ All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- ✚ To learn more or to sign up please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ The approx. total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the table below.

Code	GJB	TQL	VMP	RWM	FWO	FSZ	FYB	LZF	GZS	TVR	EFZ	WLZ	KJB	FTH	CJH	FQR
# Straws	115	100	230	125	190	140	290	290	100	450	500	290	500	240	110	115

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 02/11/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 02/11/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 02/11/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 02/11/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 02/11/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,737	1,090	29%	306,578	95,544	31%
Progressive	2,476	1,008	41%	226,660	93,498	41%

Tipperary	121	43	36%	10,197	3,415	33%
Total	6,334	2,141	34%	543,435	192,457	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 02/11/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 02/11/12	2012 vs 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	303,158	306,578	1.1%
Progressive	217,467	226,660	4.1%
Tipperary	13,126	10,197	-28.7%
Total	533,751	543,435	1.8%

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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, 24-OCT-2012 To 02-NOV-2012

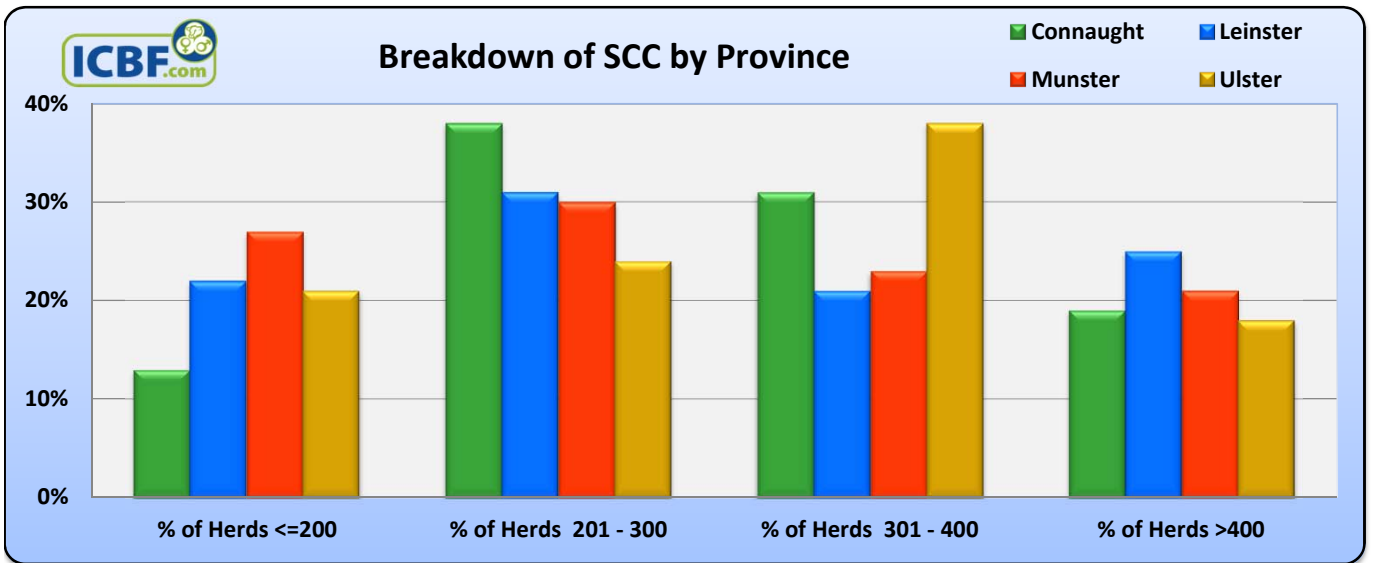
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	16	894	56	14.8	4.56	3.68	1.20	290
Leinster	118	9,692	82	15.1	4.36	3.71	1.21	295
Munster	468	33,099	71	14.2	4.47	3.85	1.17	272
Ulster	34	2,309	68	16.6	4.17	3.55	1.26	285
National Statistics	636	45,994	72	14.5	4.44	3.80	1.18	277

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 24-OCT-2012 To 02-NOV-2012

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	16	894	56	13%	38%	31%	19%	290
Leinster	118	9,692	82	22%	31%	21%	25%	295
Munster	468	33,099	71	27%	30%	23%	21%	272
Ulster	34	2,309	68	21%	24%	38%	18%	285
National Statistics	636	45,994	72	25%	30%	23%	21%	277

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 24-OCT-2012 To 02-NOV-2012								
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	16	894	56	224	263	310	343	394
Leinster	118	9,692	82	193	268	295	324	441
Munster	468	33,099	71	177	241	274	307	403
Ulster	34	2,309	68	204	275	323	345	398
National Statistics	636	45,994	72	181	249	279	312	409

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

