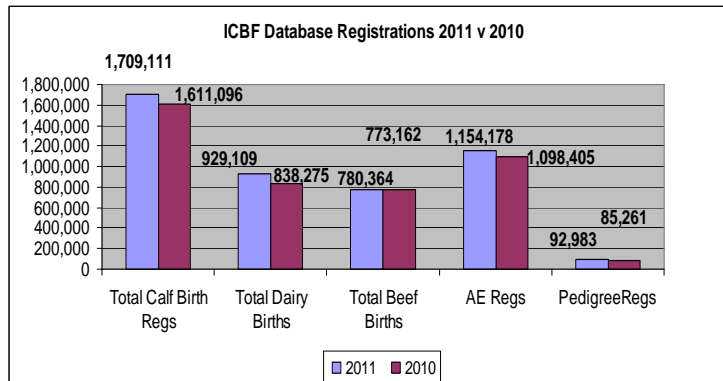
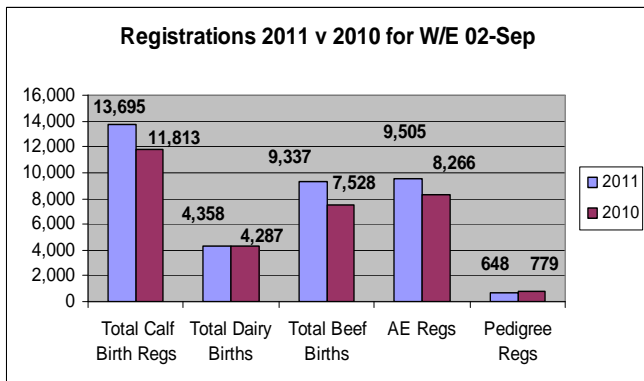


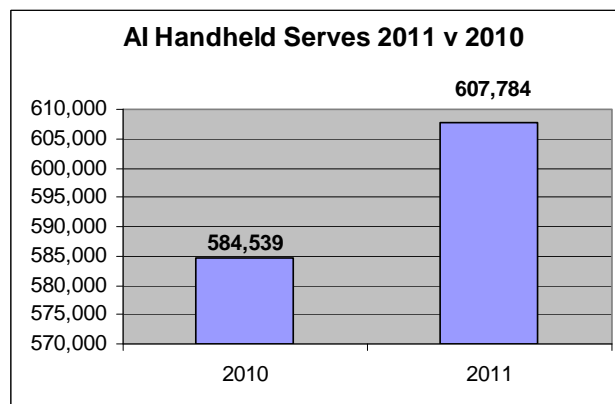
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry meetings** – Wednesday 7th September, 10:00 to 17:00 - Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 15th September, 10:30 to 14:00 – ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Sheep Breeding Consultaion Industry Meeting** – Thursday 6th October, 11:00 to 14:00 – Tullamore.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 6th October, 14:00 to 16:30 – Tullamore.
- ✚ **High Health Status Sale** – Saturday 15th October 2011 – 12:00 to 2:00 - Tully Performance Test Centre, Tully.

2 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 648,978 with the number of animals weaned at 594,905.
- ✚ The health recording forms for the Dairy Efficiency Scheme (DEP) will be sent to farmers in the next couple of weeks.
- ✚ Testing continues on the prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software. It is intended to start field trials with it from October 1st.
- ✚ Work is on-going in building the systems that will support the up-coming national BVD eradication programme.
- ✚ The genotype database management solution that ICBF has in place was demonstrated at the Interbull meeting in Norway and was very well received. Some further updates are on-going.
- ✚ The Eurostar and EBI reports for the latest evaluation run are in the final stages of completion.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



3 Genetic Evaluations

- The monthly beef genetic evaluation for animals linear scored and weighed in the period 15th July to 15th August has commenced and results will be loaded to the database next week in advance of sending out the usual GROW and genetic evaluation reports.
- Work continues on preparation of files for the INTERBULL test run for female fertility and calving traits.

4 Tully

This week

- The fourth live-weight on all bulls was obtained on Monday (Table 1). The average daily gain across all breeds was an exceptional 2.33 kg per day. Bulls are due to finish their performance test on the 19th September.

Table 1. Average live-weight and average daily gain of bulls by breed

Breed	AA (n = 4)	BA (n = 3)	BB (n = 2)	CH (n = 16)	LM (n = 18)	PT (n = 2)	SA (n = 1)	SI (n = 6)
Average Live-weight (kg)	607	690	581	698	634	675	630	622
Average daily gain (kg)	2.45	2.46	2.67	2.33	2.23	2.05	2.29	2.53

- Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.
- Bulls are being washed at present to help maintain and promote hair growth.
- Fresh woodchip was applied to all outdoor pens.
- All up to date feed intake data and live-weights have been inputted into the ICBF database.
- Hoof care has been carried out on all bulls where it was deemed necessary.
- Bulls were ultrasonically scanned for muscle and fat depth, which are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield.
- Scrotal circumference measurement was also obtained on all bulls.

High Health Status sale, Saturday, 15th October 2011

- Tom Cox will be the auctioneer for the up-coming sale of 52 bulls at Tully. The sale will start at 12.00pm.
- All bulls will be T.B and Brucellosis tested prior to the sale.
- A catalogue for the up-coming sale will be available on the ICBF website on the 24th September. There is an evaluation run taking place in mid-September, which will include all the Tully performance information and this will be reflected in the new Euro-Star Indexes that will be in the sales catalogue.

The sale order will be as follows:

3 Blonde d'Aquitaine, 1 Saler, 2 Parthenaise, 4 Angus, 18 Limousin, 16 Charolais, 6 Simmental, 2 Belgian Blue.

Bulls will be sold from oldest to youngest within each breed.

5 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ Our first ever Sheep Ireland multi-breed ram sale held in Cillin Hill, Kilkenny on Aug 22nd was by all accounts a successful venture in terms of promoting the Euro-Star message. It was encouraging to see that those in attendance had a strong grasp of the value of genetic evaluations when paired with a quality breeding ram. This was illustrated by the competition between buyers for lots which fitted the bill, mixing good physical qualities with strong Euro-Star evaluations, best prices were paid for these animals.
- ✚ Top price of the sale was secured by Sean McGee, Crosskeys, Co. Monaghan for his Shearling Texel ram which fetched €900. There were some other high prices secured also, notably a Charollais ram (€860) from the flock of Michael Power, Askeaton, Co. Limerick and a multi show winning aged Belclare ram from Declan Miley's flock which sold for €850, both rams had excellent Euro-Star evaluation figures. Average prices across the sale were generally very strong. Rams that did not sell well were those that lacked something, either from a physical point of view or indeed from an evaluation point of view. The actual running of the sale went very smoothly also, a detailed preparation can be thanked for this. We received great help from a number of quarters, the Sheep Ireland board, especially Larry Barrett, Anne Murphy and Richard Moore who gave us great advice, Teagasc personnel, namely Michael McHugh, also the Mart staff in Cillin Hill, especially Michael Lynch and George Candler who did a great job as auctioneer, a special thanks also to the Texel Society secretary, Sinead Brophy who was an enormous help. All advice and support was hugely appreciated.
- ✚ On the 22nd and 30th of August Sheep Ireland was in attendance at Teagasc events in Enniscorthy and Cahir, Co. Tipperary. Both these events were well attended and served to spread the Euro-Star message a little further among the commercial sheep farming population. We provided a live ram demonstration in Cahir to illustrate the potential genetic variation that can exist between two physically similar animals. We had rams with very strong production indices, beside a ram with great Maternal and Lambing Euro-Stars. This comparison really illustrated to farmers the potential role that Euro-Star evaluations can have in the selection of the right ram for the right purpose.
- ✚ Our LambPlus service is continuing to be developed. We have upgraded our online Euro-Star profile this week to include more evaluation information and a more user friendly filtering system. This Euro-Star profile allows LambPlus users to access the most recent Euro-Star information for their animals via their web account at any time. We run a new evaluation each week, so evaluations on each animal on the system are as recent as possible.
- ✚ Our next CPT and MALP seasons are now commencing. Ram entries for our CPT program are being finalised with all preparations for AI now finalised with Innovis. The MALP breeding season has commenced on some farms also.

6 Milk Recording

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 02/09/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 02/09/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	274,502	300,609	8.7%
Progressive	189,194	212,077	10.8%
Tipperary	11,879	13,065	9.1%
Total	475,575	525,751	9.5%

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 02/09/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 02/09/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 02/09/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 02/09/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 02/09/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,669	1,041	28%	300,609	94,599	31%
Progressive	2,365	896	38%	212,077	80,723	38%
Tipperary	144	64	44%	13,065	6,297	48%
Total	6,178	2,001	32%	525,751	181,619	35%

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 23/08/11 to 02/09/11								
Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	1098	80,011	73	20.2	4.01	3.54	1.52	255
Leinster	319	24,538	77	21.0	3.83	3.45	1.53	310
Connacht	91	5,990	66	19.5	3.87	3.38	1.41	265
Ulster	67	4,291	64	19.7	3.89	3.42	1.44	306

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 23/08/11 to 02/09/11								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	14	1,117	80	20.3	3.93	3.38	1.48	290
CAVAN	32	1,867	58	20.2	3.85	3.43	1.47	276
CLARE	27	1,669	62	21.1	3.70	3.42	1.50	232
CORK STH	318	21,340	67	21.0	4.01	3.54	1.59	238
CORK NTH	280	21,332	76	20.6	4.10	3.63	1.59	243
DONEGAL	10	1,094	109	17.3	4.14	3.58	1.34	331
DUBLIN	3	88	29	22.3	3.16	3.41	1.47	334
GALWAY	37	2,733	74	20.0	3.83	3.43	1.45	299
KERRY	151	10,183	67	20.9	3.84	3.48	1.53	260
KILDARE	18	1,214	67	22.8	3.97	3.51	1.71	387
KILKENNY	43	3,391	79	19.9	3.99	3.57	1.50	243
LAOIS	36	2,665	74	18.7	4.19	3.53	1.44	360
LEITRIM	5	257	51	16.8	3.86	3.24	1.19	242
LIMERICK	146	10,754	74	20.4	3.92	3.54	1.52	251
LONGFORD	7	570	81	22.1	4.09	3.48	1.67	306

LOUTH	20	1,542	77	24.3	3.50	3.41	1.68	336
MAYO	33	2,020	61	22.6	3.67	3.47	1.61	236
MEATH	45	4,252	94	20.5	3.93	3.36	1.49	308
MONAGHAN	25	1,330	53	21.5	3.69	3.25	1.49	312
OFFALY	33	2,566	78	20.7	3.97	3.40	1.53	247
ROSCOMMON	4	205	51	20.8	3.82	3.33	1.49	298
SLIGO	12	775	65	17.4	4.15	3.42	1.32	252
TIPPERARY NTH	58	4,665	80	20.5	4.00	3.52	1.54	299
TIPPERARY STH	55	4,487	82	18.4	4.13	3.56	1.41	269
WATERFORD	63	5,581	89	18.8	4.34	3.62	1.50	247
WESTMEATH	17	1,155	68	21.5	3.58	3.41	1.50	230
WEXFORD	61	4,554	75	19.1	3.96	3.57	1.44	303
WICKLOW E	17	1,132	67	17.3	3.89	3.53	1.28	361
WICKLOW W	5	292	58	24.1	3.76	3.32	1.71	328
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,575	114,830	71	20.4	3.90	3.46	1.50	287

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