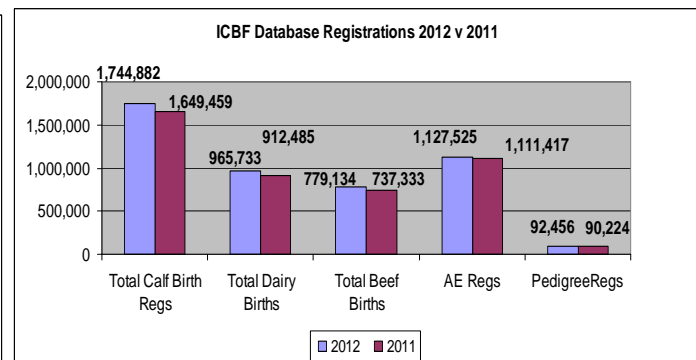
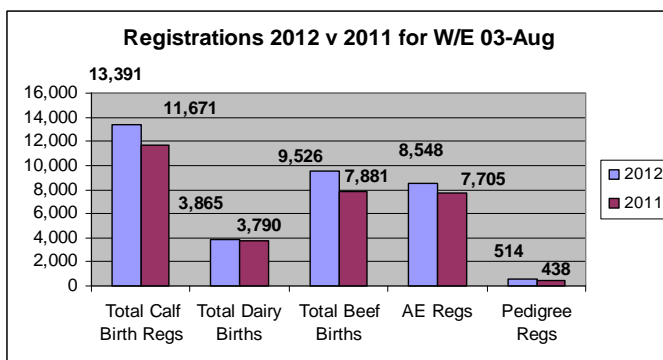


ICBF Weekly Update 3rd August 2012

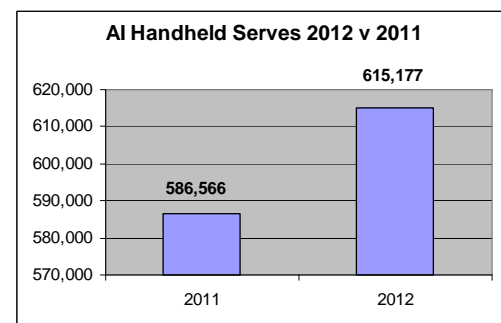
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Euro-Star Implementation Meeting** – Tuesday 21st Aug, 10:00 to 12:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Herdbook Technical Meeting** – Tuesday 21st Aug, 13:30 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 6th September, 10:30 to 14:00, ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 12th Sept, 10:00 – 17:00, ICBF, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 20th September, 11:00 – 14:00, ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.

2 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 640,761 with the number of animals weaned at 578,435.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 576,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 420,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ The 2011/2012 Dairy and Beef calving reports are currently being run, and should be available next week.
- ✚ A significant amount of work continues on the modification of systems to incorporate proposed changes to the Beef EuroStar indexes.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the back-end ICBF web infrastructure with a view to making it more standardised and robust.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



3 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Evaluations for the next routine dairy and beef proof release are in progress. Official publication of proofs is 20th August.

- ✚ Research work on calving and beef evaluations is also being undertaken with potential introduction in the December evaluation.

4 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ On Saturday 28th July, Sheep Ireland were present at the Charollais Premier Sale in Tullow, Co. Carlow. There was some very good stock on show on the day, but the most encouraging thing was the strong presence of performance recorded rams. This year's sale was a stark contrast to the same sale last year, where only a handful of rams with EuroStars were available. The society has done a lot of work to encourage greater participation in the scheme with many of the most prominent breeders now taking part. It was great to see a LambPlus class forming part of the pre-sale show also, with Michael Powers ram lamb taking the honours as well as the overall reserve champion ram title.



- ✚ This week we also met with some of the commercial flock owners participating in our MALP program. These sheep farmers are the guinea pigs for the future commercial recording scheme that will be offered by Sheep Ireland in the near future. The objective of this service will be to make flock performance recording accessible and workable for as many flocks as possible in the country.

This recording can involve a number of different levels of recording:

- Simply recording weights to monitor lamb thrive.
 - Tagging at birth to match ewes to their lambs and recording lambing information (birth weights, lambing difficulty, etc.) in association with later lamb weights, all with a view to identifying the best performing ewes in the flock which can in turn be used to produce replacement females
 - Full parentage recording – which would involve single sire mating and tagging at birth which would allow the farmer to follow the progress of lambs born to each ram used on the farm. The benefits of this system are numerous, poorly performing rams can be identified very quickly and culling decisions made with a greater degree of confidence. Genetic evaluations can be produced for the flock owner for the entire flock which can help the farmer make breeding decisions which are not just based on the physical performance of an individual ram, ewe or lamb, but on the performance of that genetic family of sheep – based on all the records gathered within flock and across all other flocks with similar breeding. This is where real genetic progress will be made.
- ✚ This commercial service will be an integral part of developing the Sheep Ireland EuroStar evaluations into the future, helping to gather more information on our sheep and in doing so providing all those who will use the EuroStars in their breeding decisions with better information. Intensive recording of flock performance will undoubtedly not suit all systems, but it has shown to be very workable even in large scale flocks, with flocks in the Republic, but especially Northern Ireland making huge gains through commercial flock recording. The era of electronic identification of our sheep now offers a huge opportunity for sheep farmers to incorporate a workable recording system into their traditional practices.
 - ✚ Over the coming months we will be inviting contributions from all industry stakeholders as to how this service should be developed.

5 Milk Recording

| National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 03/08/12 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 03/08/12 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 03/08/12 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 03/08/12 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 03/08/12 | % Cows EDIY |
| Munster | 3,733 | 1,086 | 29% | 302,018 | 94,119 | 31% |
| Progressive | 2,440 | 984 | 40% | 217,651 | 89,582 | 41% |
| Tipperary | 119 | 42 | 35% | 9,874 | 3,238 | 33% |
| Total | 6,292 | 2,112 | 34% | 529,543 | 186,939 | 35% |

| Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 03/08/11 | YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 03/08/12 | 2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%) |
| Munster | 297,976 | 302,018 | 1.3% |
| Progressive | 209,268 | 217,651 | 3.9% |
| Tipperary | 12,976 | 9,874 | -31.4% |
| Total | 520,220 | 529,543 | 1.8% |

| National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 24/07/12 to 03/08/12 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 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 | 904 | 71,450 | 79 | 21.1 | 3.91 | 3.36 | 1.54 | 213 |
| Leinster | 335 | 27,708 | 83 | 21.2 | 3.83 | 3.36 | 1.52 | 239 |
| Connacht | 66 | 4,879 | 74 | 21.2 | 3.89 | 3.33 | 1.53 | 239 |
| Ulster | 82 | 5,870 | 72 | 22.2 | 3.83 | 3.34 | 1.59 | 228 |

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