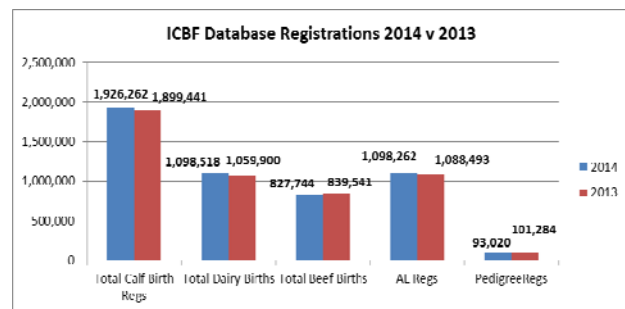
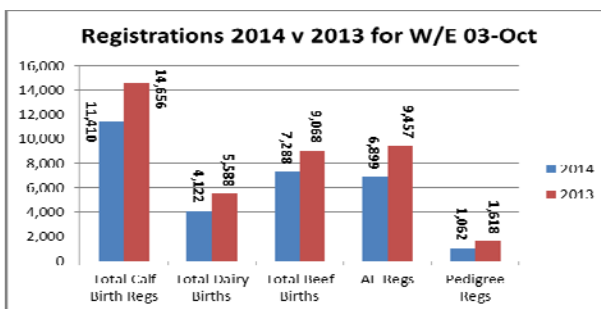


## ICBF Weekly Update 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014

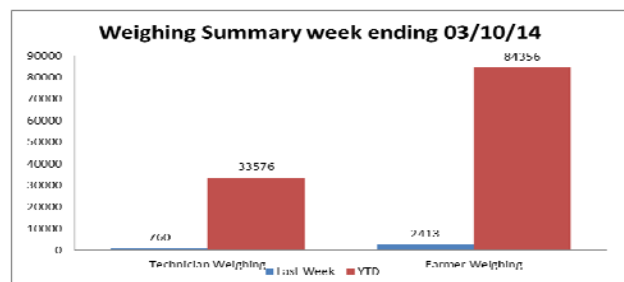
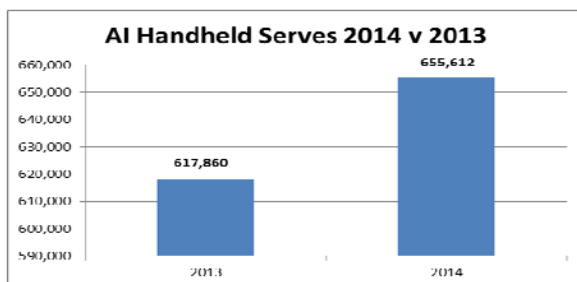
### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry Meetings** –Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 10:30 to 13:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

### 2 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 2,053,000 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 17,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.72 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- ✚ This week there were 760 weights received through the technician service and 2413 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



### 3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ EBI reports for the August 2014 evaluation run are now available online for dairy HerdPlus customers. Reports will be posted to postal customers in the next week. EBI reports should be used to assess the genetic merit of a herd as well as to compare a herd to national averages.

- All farmers, both beef and dairy are reminded to record any outstanding data to ensure that all reports are complete and up to date. AI serves, scan data, weights etc. should all be recorded ASAP. For suckler farmers participating in the Beef Data Programme (BDP) please ensure that all data is recorded and up to date. This can be checked online through the ICBF website, through a farm software package or agfood.ie. Information can also be recorded through postal forms.
- A BTAP approved national event took place in Stranorlar Mart, Co. Donegal on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Chris Daly of ICBF gave a presentation on Euro-Star indexes and genetic trends in the national suckler herd. The event was attended by about 250 farmers.
- A second BTAP approved national event took place at Carrigallen Mart, Co. Leitrim on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. The event was organised by Hugh Farrell of the ICSA and consisted of a number of presentations. Speakers included Eddie Punch ICSA, Chris Daly ICBF, Arthur Bredin Progressive Genetics and Oliver Crowe CC Agri Consultants. A sale of 3.5 – 5 star Replacement Index heifers followed. Indexes on all animals were available to farmers and were displayed on a screen as each animal was sold. This was a welcome development for farmers as they were able to assess heifers on their physical appearance as well as their genetic merit. About 30 heifers were put forward for sale, with a clearance of about 80%. About 300 farmers attended the event. A number of marts and advisors have since expressed an interest in hosting/organising such sales in the future based on the success of the Carrigallen event.



Some of the large crowd in attendance at the Stranorlar mart event, getting a rundown on the physical assessment of breeding heifers from John Regan.

## 4 Genetic Evaluations

- Cut-off date for data to be included in the next evaluation is this weekend. Extracts will commence on Monday with the evaluation starting shortly after that.
- Work is ongoing in a number of areas including calving and beef and dairy genomics and an update on these will be presented at the next industry meeting.

## 5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 03/10/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 03/10/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 03/10/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 03/10/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 03/10/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,858	1,151	30%	330,433	105,093	32%
Progressive	2,516	1,096	44%	240,515	105,236	44%
Tipperary	115	44	38%	9,982	3,860	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,489</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>580,930</b>	<b>214,189</b>	<b>37%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 03/10/13	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 03/10/14	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	309,859	330,433	6.2%
Progressive	231,763	240,515	3.6%
Tipperary	10,042	9,982	-0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>551,664</b>	<b>580,930</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

## 6 Sheep Ireland

### Sheep Technology Adoption Programme

- This week marks the final week for all STAP participants to submit the required information for Task 1 (The ram task) of STAP. Task 1 of STAP is the only compulsory task within the programme. Farmers must either use a performance recorded ram in year 1 (2013) or year 2 (2014) of the programme, or seek an exemption from the task. Exemptions have been available to hill flock owners due to the current low availability of performance recorded hill breeds.
- All STAP participants taking part in Task 1 must submit evidence that a performance recorded ram is being used on the holding. All this information is currently being processed by the Sheep Ireland office. Today (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October) is the final day for this information to be submitted to Sheep Ireland.

### STAP impact on the EuroStar evaluations

- The contribution that STAP has made to the EuroStar Indices has been immense. It has greatly increased the level of awareness around the breed improvement programme in Ireland and this has extended far beyond the farmer participating in STAP. In the past number of months we have received a lot of feedback from STAP farmers that used EuroStar rated rams in 2013 and the experience from those sheep farmers has been extremely positive. This bodes very well for the programme moving forward.

### LambPlus 2015

- The main workload over the past few weeks has been STAP related and now that this is coming to an end our focus will be moving on to getting prepared for the next recording season. This year the deadline for signing up to LambPlus for the coming year is November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be communicating this to the breed societies and current LambPlus breeders in the coming weeks as well as the requirements for taking part in the programme.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.sheep.ie).