





## ICBF Weekly Update 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012

### 1 Important Dates

-  **ICAR 2012 Conference** - [www.icar2012.ie](http://www.icar2012.ie) – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Cork.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
-  **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 14:00 – 16:30, Portlaoise.
-  **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Athenry.

### 2 ICBF Board Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> May

At its meeting on Thursday the Board adopted the recommendations arising from the Euro-Star Review Group and those relating to GENÉIRÉLAND<sup>®</sup> Beef as outlined in the Update last week.

These two decisions have big implications for beef cattle breeding in Ireland and are part of ICBF's strategy, as agreed in 2011, to increase the rate of genetic gain in the national beef herd from the current €3 to €5 per animal per year to €15 to €18 per animal per year. The other elements of the strategy include: the introduction of an information quality index, a new weight recording infrastructure and genomics research. The potential improvement in beef cattle profitability from the more rapid genetic gains is estimated to be worth €120 million / year to the beef industry in 10 to 15 years' time.

A very important element of the Euro-Star review has been the major contribution made by Teagasc in developing models for the economic values that are so fundamental to breeding decisions. This collaboration between ICBF, Teagasc and the wider breeding industry augurs well for the future of our industry.

This was the last Board meeting for Dr Doreen Corridan. Doreen has made a major contribution to the development of ICBF since her appointment to the Board in 2000 by the AI Shareholders and her re-appointment in 2008 by the Herd Book Shareholders. Over the last twelve years she has demonstrated a total commitment to ensuring ICBF performed at the highest level and provided information and services which are both accurate and trusted by Irish farmers. The Chairman of Board expressed these sentiments both at the Board meeting and again at the AGM.

The staff of ICBF is also deeply appreciative of the very constructive support that Doreen has provided since the formation of ICBF.

### 3 ICBF AGM – 3<sup>rd</sup> May

The AGM on Thursday adopted the 2011 audited accounts, and approved the appointment of Ernst & Young as auditor for 2012. A copy of the Annual Report for 2011 is available in the publications section of [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com).

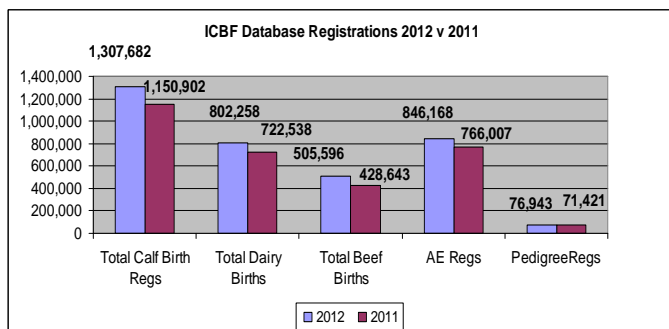
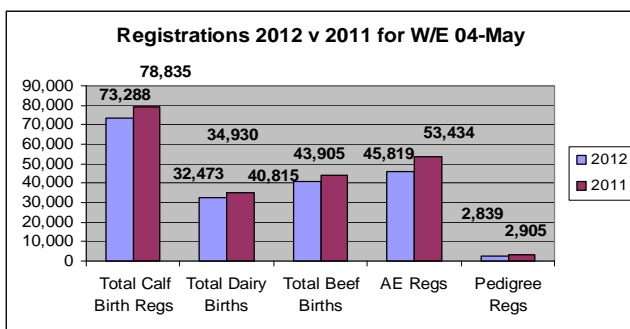
This was my last AGM as Chief Executive and I appreciated the personal compliments made at the meeting by the Chairman. I advised the AGM that the development of ICBF has been a team effort and that much has been achieved over the last fourteen years as a result. We will continue to live in Ireland and my plan is to further pursue my deep and enduring interest in animal improvement worldwide.

#### 4 Sheep Board Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> May

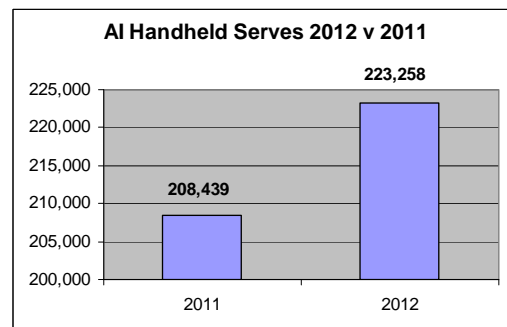
At its meeting the Sheep Board was briefed on:

- ✚ Plans for promotional events and associated sales in 2012. Plans are being finalised for three major provincial events, two of which will include a sale of rams with good information and high indexes.
- ✚ Progress with MALP, CPT and LambPlus, and
- ✚ Ongoing discussions on funding and establishing a permanent structure for Sheep Ireland.

#### 5 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 610,275 with the number of animals weaned at 539,786.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 555,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 335,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.61% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ The current trial weight recording cell operating out of Tully is now running the latest version of the new weight recording infrastructure, including the ‘forward predicting’ of weights.
- ✚ The on-going developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database are continuing. This process is now nearing completion, and significant progress has been made in the speeding up of loading and extracting genotypes from the database.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



## 6 Sheep Genetic Evaluations

The first genetic evaluation for 2012 is available since Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May for all animals in LambPlus, Malp and CPT. Developments since the last evaluation run which affect the new evaluations include:

- ✚ Earlier this year, Stephen Potterton had exchanges with Malp farmers to find ways of improving the recordings at lambing time of lambing ease and survival.
- ✚ Newer data edits have been applied for lambing records collected in Malp farms for a better evaluation of lambing traits.
- ✚ Also this year, the genetic evaluations include the pedigree data provided by the Texel flock-book.

A short note is being prepared to summarise the impact of using deeper pedigrees in the genetic evaluations.

## 7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 04/05/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 04/05/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 04/05/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 04/05/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 04/05/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,340	893	27%	229,037	66,103	29%
Progressive	2,159	767	36%	166,028	58,322	35%
Tipperary	84	29	35%	7,071	2,171	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,583</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>402,136</b>	<b>126,596</b>	<b>31%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 04/05/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 04/05/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	217,504	229,037	5.0%
Progressive	149,200	166,028	10.1%
Tipperary	7,718	7,071	-9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>374,422</b>	<b>402,136</b>	<b>6.9%</b>

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