

## ICBF Weekly Update 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 10:00 to 12:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM Meeting** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 12:30 to 13:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board / AGM Meeting** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 11:00 to 14:00, Highfield House, Bandon.

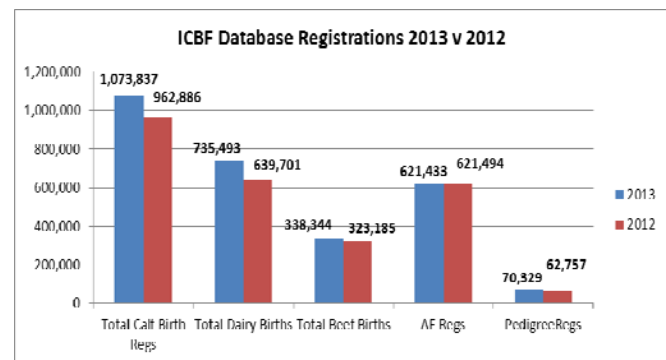
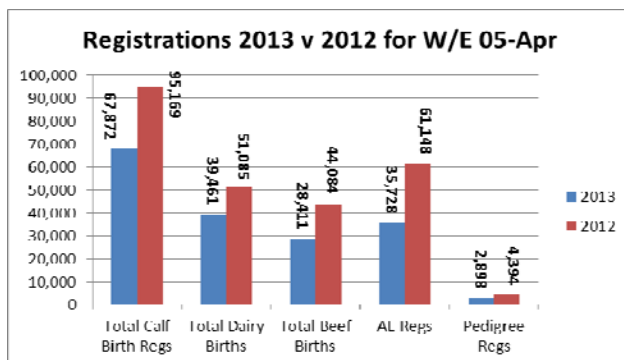
### 2 Beef Industry Consultation Meeting

- ✚ Over the past number of weeks, we have received quite a considerable amount of feedback on the new Eurostar evaluations, particularly in relation to the calving difficulty star ratings. We listened, and this week at the industry meeting, the latest deliberations of the Eurostar Review Group were presented. It was clear that while the Eurostars do a very good job in relation to the overall indexes, they do not present as clear a picture when it comes to individual traits. Thus, the ‘% Calving Difficulty’ for beef bulls will now be presented in a similar manner to the presentation on dairy bulls.

Other topics discussed at the meeting this week included:

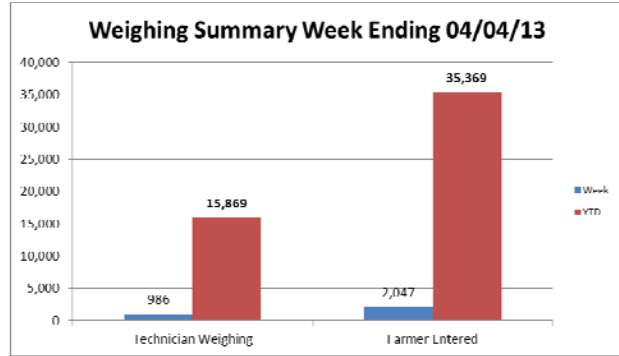
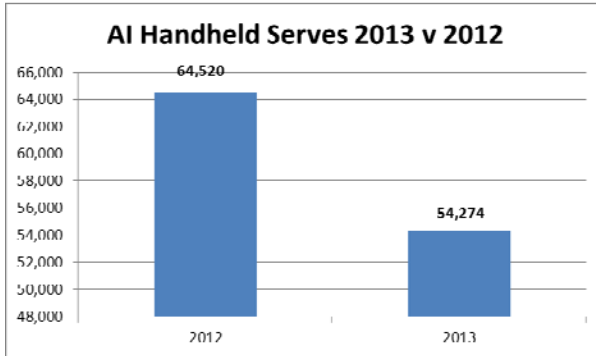
- Agreement to change the terminology on the ‘Maternal Index’ to ‘Replacement Index’.
  - An update on the ‘Dairy Beef Index’ research.
  - A presentation on the current progress in accessing international data for inclusion in the indexes.
  - Five beef herdbooks have now moved to using genomics for parentage verification.
  - An update on AI Sire Health regulations.
  - A progress report from Stephen Conroy on the Gene Ireland Maternal Breeding programme.
  - An update on Tully commercial progeny testing, with a view to also considering the use of heifer and steers as part of the testing regime.
  - An update on the plans for the beef element of the sexed semen project.
- ✚ Overall, we had a very constructive meeting with lots of good feedback provided in relation to each of the presentations.

### 3 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 600,637 with the number of animals weaned at 525,587.

- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,057,000 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 63,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 1.5 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- ✚ This week there were 986 weights received through the technician service and 2,047 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



#### 4 HerdPlus®

- ✚ Sire advice will be run this weekend for the dairy breeding charts that will be printed and posted next week.
- ✚ Calls are on-going regarding the sexed semen project.
- ✚ Information booklets on the GENÉIRÉLAND Maternal Bull Breeder Programme were sent to pedigree breeders this week.



“Brid Cronin, Powerstown, Mallow, Co. Cork with her Brookmill Vindicator (VDT) cow Powerstown Fushia and Chris Daly ICBF launching the ICBF GENÉIRÉLAND Maternal Bull Breeder Programme. The new programme is open to all pedigree beef breeders and will focus on high levels of accurate data recording and more emphasis on maternal breeding within the participating herds. Herds that meet the set criteria will be assigned a “Bull Breeder Stamp” and ICBF will be purchasing elite bulls from these herds for progeny testing. For further information call **1850 600 900**.”

“Brid with some of her pedigree Limousin cows which go back to bulls such as PCH, VDT and REQ.”

## 5 Tully

### Carcass data collected on 58 commercial progeny at Tully

- The remaining 32 bulls from the batch of 58 commercial bulls (born between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011) have been slaughtered at Slaney Foods, Bunclody, Co. Wexford. The 32 bulls were weighed prior to slaughter and they had an average live-weight of 671 kilos. The kill-out rate for the group was 60%. Kill-out ranged from 55 to 65%. The 32 bulls had an average carcass weight of 394 kg. Carcass weight ranged from 320 kg to 467 kg. Table 1 outlines the highest and lowest figures for some of the traits collected on the 58 bulls, along with the average for the entire group.

**Table 1. Performance information on 58 bulls slaughtered in March 2013**

	Highest	Lowest	Average
Final live-weight (kg)	838	560	696
Dry matter intake (kg/day)	15	9.6	12.5
Feed conversion efficiency (dmi/adg)	7.3	4.7	6
Average daily gain (kg)	2.8	1.4	2.1
Carcass weight (kg)	478	320	412
Kill-out rate (%)	65	54	59

- Four of the 32 bulls slaughtered graded a carcass conformation score of E, with twenty-four bulls grading a carcass conformation score of U and four bulls grading an R (refer to table 2 for conformation and fat scores on the entire 58 bulls).

**Table 2. Range in carcass conformation and fat scores for 58 bulls**

	E=	E-	U+	U=	U-	R+
2-	1	1				
2=	1	1	4	1		
2+	1	1	9	3		1
3-		1	9	1	3	1
3=		2	5	1	2	
3+		1	3	1	1	3

- Similar to the 103 bulls slaughtered to date from Tully, carcass and meat eating quality data was collected in collaboration with Teagasc on each of the 32 bulls. A full report which includes parentage information and the figures for each of the traits recorded on all commercial progeny slaughtered to date, can be obtained by clicking on the Tully section of the ICBF website ([www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)).

### Latest commercial progeny on test (50 commercial bulls)

- 50 commercial bulls (born between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012) which started their performance test on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were weighted this week. They average weight of the group was 545 kilos.

### New intake (65 commercial bulls)

- 65 commercial bulls (born between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012) are currently in their 30 day acclimatisation period. During this time they are built up on-to ad-lib concentrates. This week they received vaccinations for IBR, RSV, PI3, Pasteurella (strains of pneumonia), Blackleg and various other clostridia diseases. They were also treated for lice, mange, immature and mature fluke, stomach and lung worms.

### Health and genetic defects data

- Health data at Tully is now being recorded via handheld live into the ICBF database. Traits recorded include lameness, pneumonia, genetic defects and other illnesses.

## 6 GENEIRLAND®

### Beef

- Sign-ups are continuing for the GENEIRLAND spring program.
- 178 herds taking a total of 3400 straws have signed up so far.
- All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900** or **045 521573**.
- The approximate total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the tables 1 & 2.

**Table 2. List of Terminal Bulls currently on-test**

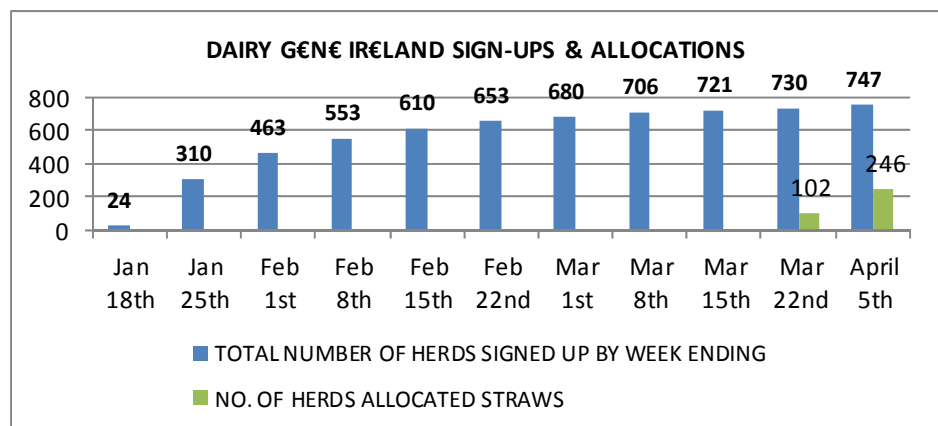
Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws
ZSD	Serpentin	BB	85
FSN	Folon	BB	55
GLP	Galopeur	BB	50
FFK	Conval Frank	CH	165
FGG	Leagaun Figaro	CH	115
FZM	Lenagh Equaliser	LM	65

**Table 1. List of Maternal Bulls currently on-test**

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws
GJB	Goulding Jumbo King	AA	365
TQL	Templequain Lord Jake	AA	250
VMP	Villablues Empire ET	BB	385
RWM	Rosemount Emlyn	BB	220
FWO	Fleetwood	CH	350
FSZ	Fiston	CH	345
LZF	Cavelands Fenian	CH	500
FYB	Ballylannon Frankey ET	CH	470
GRF	Gerard	CH	170
GPD	Guepard	CH	65
GZS	Gouldingpoll Superduty	HE	195
WLZ	Wilodge Enrico	LM	500
FTH	Elite Fred ET	LM	500
CJH	Filou	LM	225
FQR	Ballygarvan Stud Fernando	LM	200
GWO	Castleview Gringo ET	LM	390
FTY	Lennon Frosty	LM	500
EBY	Elderberry Galahad	LM	55
PZB	Bonaparte	SA	200
QCD	Cloondroon Calling	SI	330

### Dairy

- 747 herds are signed up taking a total of 26,085 straws.
- The majority of the Holstein Friesian packs will be allocated in the next two weeks as the semen supply has increased substantially.
- The average EBI of the Holstein-Friesian panel is **€275**.
- Two more Jersey bulls will be available next week and this will complete the allocation of the Jersey packs.
- We await the arrival of two Friesian bulls to commence the Friesian pack allocation.



## 7 Genetic Evaluations

- Routine genetic evaluations for most dairy and beef traits are completed and are being loaded to the database. Once finished a new genomic evaluation will take place for dairy animals. Official publication of proofs is Tuesday 16th April.

## 8 Sheep Ireland

The Sheep Ireland board met last week. An update was provided on a number of issues including:

- ✚ The Date for LambPlus Eurostar Multibreed Ram sale was set for the 24<sup>th</sup> August in Tullamore, and it was agreed that for any ram to be entered in the sale this year in must be ultrasonically scanned for back fat and muscle in advance.
- ✚ There has been development in regards to collecting carcass data from MALP, CPT, and Better farm flocks, with the intention of furthering this to all LambPlus flocks in the future. A number of processors have already been approached and these meetings have been very positive.
- ✚ We are also working closely with a number of flock books with regard to gaining access to ancestry data which will be hugely beneficial to the LambPlus scheme as it will help to link flocks together and therefore increase the accuracies of the Euro-star evaluations.
- ✚ There has also been a good response from LambPlus breeders that want to make their details available on the new ram search that we hope to launch on our Sheep Ireland home page in the coming weeks.

## 9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/04/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/04/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/04/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/04/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/04/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	2,229	297	13%	139,083	21,604	16%
Progressive	1,560	430	28%	115,197	32,723	28%
Tipperary	33	5	15%	1,836	296	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,822</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>256,116</b>	<b>54,623</b>	<b>21%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 05/04/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 05/04/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	139,533	139,083	-0.3%
Progressive	113,806	115,197	1.2%
Tipperary	3,136	1,836	-70.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>256,475</b>	<b>256,116</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>

*Please see milk recording stats attached*

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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](http://www.icbf.com).

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## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 27-MAR-2013 To 05-APR-2013

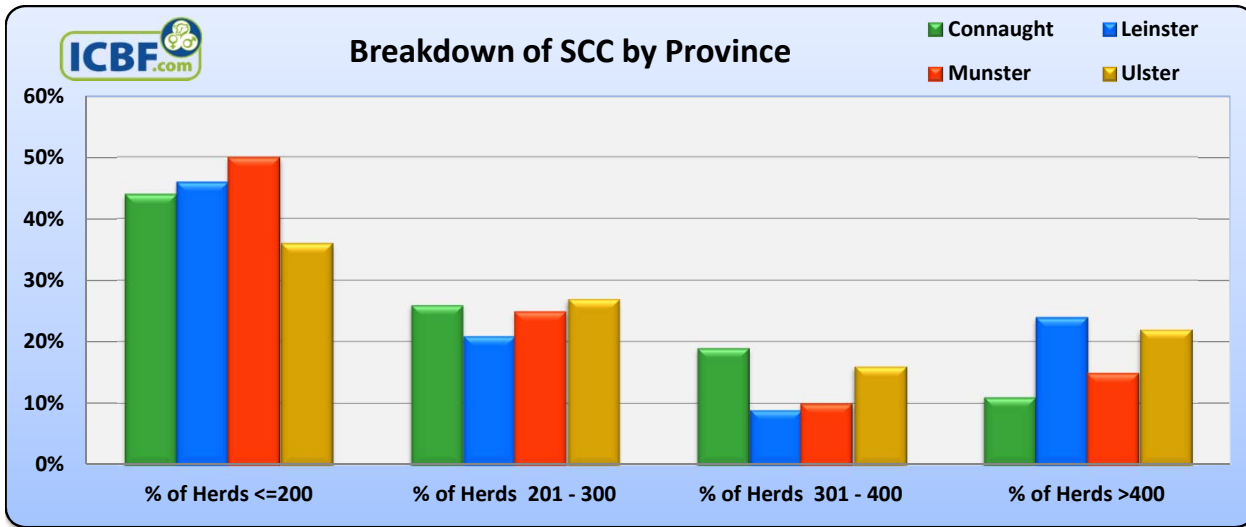
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	27	1,482	55	23.5	3.93	3.17	1.66	206
Leinster	152	11,956	79	23.0	3.85	3.18	1.62	228
Munster	440	28,935	66	24.8	3.86	3.24	1.76	201
Ulster	45	2,372	53	25.2	3.88	3.14	1.77	237
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>44,745</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>210</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 27-MAR-2013 To 05-APR-2013

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	27	1,482	55	44%	26%	19%	11%	206
Leinster	152	11,956	79	46%	21%	9%	24%	228
Munster	440	28,935	66	50%	25%	10%	15%	201
Ulster	45	2,372	53	36%	27%	16%	22%	237
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>44,745</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>210</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 27-MAR-2013 To 05-APR-2013								
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	27	1,482	55	134	185	207	238	331
Leinster	152	11,956	79	138	184	214	262	424
Munster	440	28,935	66	115	168	198	235	332
Ulster	45	2,372	53	134	220	250	289	448
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>44,745</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>358</b>

\*\* Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

