

ICBF Weekly Update 5th October 2012

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 31st October, 10:00 - 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Teagasc & ICBF Suckler Cow Breeding Conference** – Thursday 11th October, 9:15am - 5:00pm at Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th October from 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th October from 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Event at Tully** – Saturday 10th November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.
- ✚ **ICBF & Teagasc Genomics Conference for Beef & Dairy Industries** – Wednesday 14th November, venue to be confirmed.
- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 22nd November from 10:00 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey, Portlaoise.

2 First One for me

Today, I begin my term as Chief Executive. As Brian did, I will continue to use this update as one of the vehicles to provide updates to the industry on activities at ICBF.

I began my time at ICBF 10 years ago, almost to the day. I have loved every minute of that time as part of the team at ICBF, and I am looking forward to continuing to serve ICBF and the industry in my new role. We are very fortunate to have people, both within ICBF and in the wider industry, who are passionate about using cattle breeding as a tool to increase profitability at farm level. There are lots of challenges to be faced, but it is also a time of great opportunity.

We, in ICBF, are looking forward to engaging with the wider industry in continuing to exploit those opportunities for the benefit of Irish agriculture.

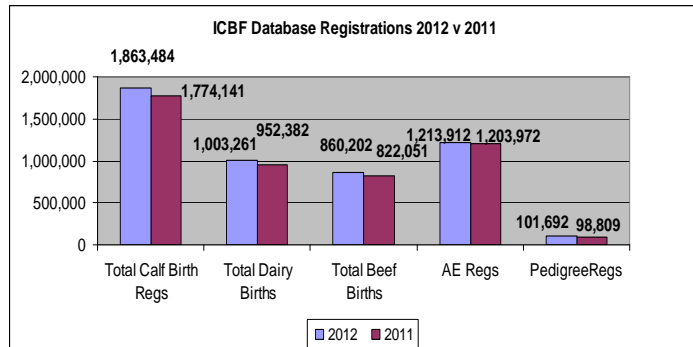
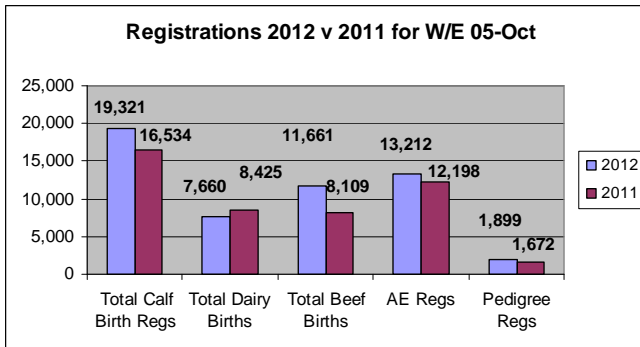
Seán Coughlan.

3 GENÉIRÉLAND[®] BEEF

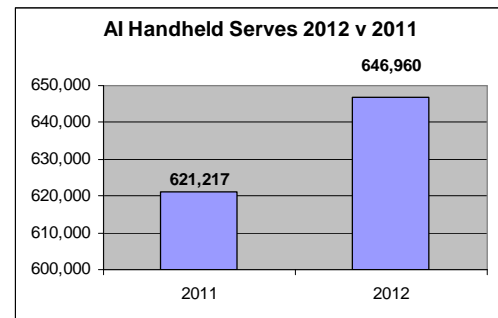
- ✚ The bulls on the GENÉIRÉLAND Beef Program 2012 are now available.
- ✚ Catalogues were sent out this week to all previous GENÉIRÉLAND participants.
- ✚ Further details on the bulls involved can be seen in the GENÉIRÉLAND section of our website.
- ✚ 65 herds taking a total of 1400 straws have signed up so far.
- ✚ Semen dispatch will begin next week.
- ✚ To learn more or to sign up please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ The total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the table below.

Code	GJB	TQL	VMP	RWM	FWO	FSZ	FYB	LZF	GZS	TVR	EFZ	WLZ	KJB	FTH	CJH	FQR
#	30	35	80	65	95	65	65	105	30	100	200	130	280	85	35	6
Straws																

4 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 287,546, with the number of animals weaned at 56,589.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 583,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 441,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- Good progress has been made around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new Euro-Star indexes, and the development work on these is underway.
- Updates to the weight recording software are on-going, with some work completed this week in relation to dairy heifer weighing.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



5 Sheep Ireland

- This week we visited the students of Clonakilty Agricultural college, to promote the benefits of the Sheep Euro-Stars. Our Agricultural colleges will be a big target for us from this point forward as these young students will be the ones most likely to adopt new and exciting developments such as the Euro-Stars and indeed flock performance recording on their own farms going forward. We plan to visit all the colleges in the coming weeks and will circulate material such as information boards for display in the college sheep shed units.
- Our CPT is now kicking into full swing with the majority of rams collected and settled into their new home for the next three weeks in UCD, Lyons Estate. Rams will be trained to give semen for the purposes of AI by the newly established Sirebank team. Sirebank is a new breeding service which has been set-up by UCD in Lyons Estate. It will provide services to Irish sheep farmers to fertility test rams and where requested to freeze semen for future use. The development of the service is a fantastic development and will without doubt contribute very positively to genetic gain in the future, when the Euro-Stars become more widely adopted and we begin identifying more and more top genetic merit breeding lines.
- UCD are currently carrying out research on the various effects that ewe body condition score can have on performance and ewe output, and they hope to incorporate the 2000+ ewes that are currently involved in the CPT programme to help their study. This will simply involve the condition scoring of the CPT ewes at various times from breeding onwards and assessing the subsequent performance of these ewes. This is a hugely interesting study and should show some interesting results. The Teagasc better farm programme up to now has really highlighted the importance of correct ewe condition at crucial points of the year – especially pre-mating and the considerable effect this can have on output. The collection of this information from the CPT flocks

should not place any extra inconvenience on anyone involved so it's a great idea to include these flocks as they are a hugely valuable source of information.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/10/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/10/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/10/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/10/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/10/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,734	1,088	29%	305,011	95,148	31%
Progressive	2,472	1,005	41%	223,863	92,661	41%
Tipperary	121	43	36%	10,123	3,402	34%
Total	6,327	2,136	34%	538,997	191,211	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 05/10/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 05/10/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	301,890	305,011	1.0%
Progressive	214,087	223,863	4.4%
Tipperary	13,084	10,123	-29.3%
Total	529,061	538,997	1.8%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

7 Genetic Evaluations

- A new beef linear evaluation has been completed and uploaded to the database.
- Estimation of genetic parameters for calving, gestation, mortality and maternal calving are progressing and will be completed shortly. Once finished a new genetic evaluation will be done and test proofs sent to the industry for feedback.
- A comprehensive presentation on the new beef indexes will be given by Ross Evans and Andrew Cromie at the Suckler Cow Breeding conference next week.

8 Tully Test Centre – Launch of Beef Breeding event 10th November

The launch of the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event took place on Tuesday of this week at the G-EN-IR-ELAND Progeny Test Center, Tully, Co. Kildare. The aim of the launch is to highlight the up-coming beef breeding event at Tully on **Saturday, 10th November 2012**. The launch was well attended with a large numbers of farmers and industry representatives present.

The event will provide Irish beef farmers with a wealth of information on the latest developments in beef breeding. On the day, ICBF will outline the new role of Tully in breed development. The first group of G-EN-IR-ELAND progeny under the new Tully regime will be on display. These animals will have their test nearly completed and will be slaughtered soon after the event. Information will also be available on the new G-EN-IR-ELAND Maternal beef breeding program and the new beef Euro-Star indexes. There will also be live demonstrations of the new ICBF weight recording service, along with information on HerdPlus and GROW.

Chairman of FBD, Michael Berkery also announced the winners of the Beef GEN€IR€LAND awards. In total 18 awards were made to herd owners, with 12 of these in recognition of excellent herd data recording in the GEN€IR€LAND progeny test and 6 to breeders of bulls that excelled in the GEN€IR€LAND beef breeding program. Speaking at the presentation of the awards, Michael said “*improved profitability in beef cattle production depends on bull breeders who make the right selection decisions and on high quality performance data from progeny test herds. These awards are made to highlight these two very important aspects of ICBF’s beef breeding initiatives*”.

Herds were selected for the data recording award based on their ability to record the required information on the progeny of the GEN€IR€LAND bulls used in their herd. This information helps achieve high levels of reliability on the GEN€IR€LAND bulls for terminal and maternal traits. The bull breeding awards were made to the breeders of the top bulls graduating from the beef GEN€IR€LAND program, based on the new Terminal €uro-Star index and the new Maternal €uro-Star index, with over 50% reliability for key traits within each index.

The awards were as follows:

Category 1. Bulls graduating from Beef GEN€IR€LAND in 2012.

Maternal €uro-Star index

Timothy O’ Leary, 28 Westcourt Heights, Ballincollig, Co Cork who bred Seaview Tommy (SEV)

John J O’ Suillivan, Tobermaing, Castleisland, Co. Kerry who bred Castlevue Casino (Et) (CWI)

Timothy Corridan, Castlequarter House, Fedamore, Co. Limerick who bred Roundhill Doc (Et) (RHI)

Terminal €uro-Star index

John Francis Boland, Courtwood, Vicarstown, Co. Laois who bred Courtwood Aidan (WOA)

Michael Reilly, Coolgrane, Turlough, Castlebar, Co. Mayo who bred Cloverfield Excellent (CXY)

Patrick Doyle, Kyle, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford who bred Kyle Chap (KCP)

Category 2. Data recording awards - herds in the <30 cows category for the GEN€IR€LAND progeny test

James Clohessy, Ballyvaskin, Miltown, Malbay, Co. Clare

James Donnellan, Cloonmore, Dunmore, Co. Galway

John Deane, Doona, Ballycroy, Westport, Co. Mayo

John O’ Flaherty, Shantallow, Ardahan, Co. Galway

Vincent Dinan, Fontane More, O’ Callaghan’s Mills, Ennis, Co. Clare

Robert Hutchinson, Gulladuff, Merville, Lifford, Co. Donegal

Category 3. Data recording awards - herds in the >30 cows category for the GEN€IR€LAND progeny test

David Clarke, Cabra Castle, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

Gerard Murphy, Analack, Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny

John Kennedy, Monroe, Newtown, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Joseph Devine, Tullinahoo, Midfield, Swinford, Co. Mayo

Niall O’ Meara, Quansboro, Eyrecourt, Co Galway

Mark Young, Kilcarrig, Bagnelstown, Co. Carlow

Attached please see photographs

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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.

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.

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 26-SEP-2012 To 05-OCT-2012

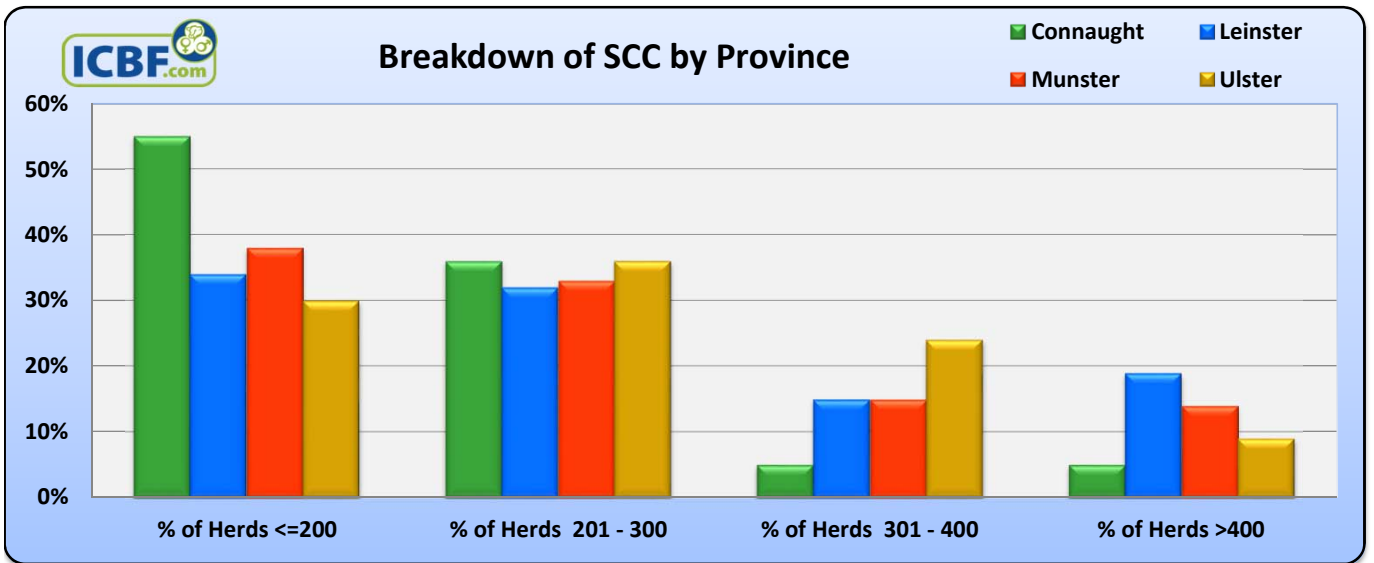
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	22	1,618	74	17.3	4.33	3.72	1.39	183
Leinster	140	10,646	76	17.6	4.23	3.71	1.39	251
Munster	463	32,653	71	16.3	4.29	3.81	1.32	232
Ulster	33	1,896	57	18.2	4.17	3.61	1.41	255
National Statistics	658	46,813	71	16.7	4.27	3.78	1.34	235

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 26-SEP-2012 To 05-OCT-2012

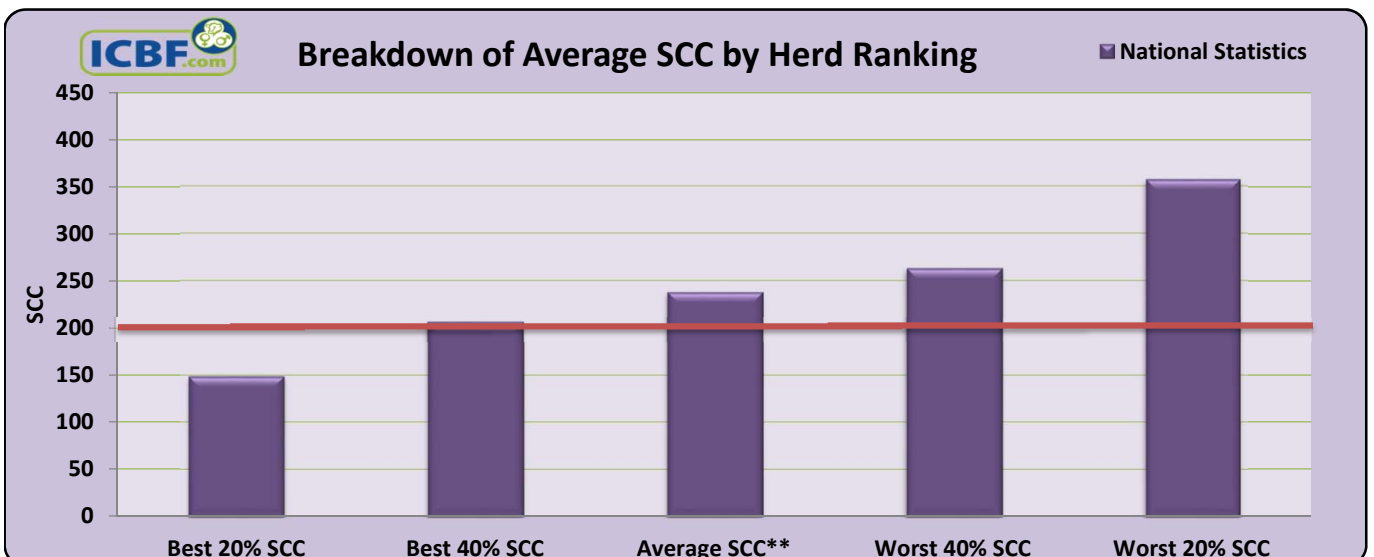
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	22	1,618	74	55%	36%	5%	5%	183
Leinster	140	10,646	76	34%	32%	15%	19%	251
Munster	463	32,653	71	38%	33%	15%	14%	232
Ulster	33	1,896	57	30%	36%	24%	9%	255
National Statistics	658	46,813	71	37%	33%	15%	15%	235

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 26-SEP-2012 To 05-OCT-2012								
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	22	1,618	74	122	177	185	206	262
Leinster	140	10,646	76	170	222	250	286	384
Munster	463	32,653	71	142	204	233	260	353
Ulster	33	1,896	57	167	223	262	280	363
National Statistics	658	46,813	71	149	207	238	263	357

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



Photographs from the Launch of the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event which will take place at the GENE IRELAND Progeny Test Center, Tully on 10th November.



Brian Wickham addressing the crowd



Ronan Brown & Michael Berkery FBD and Andrew Cromie, Brian Wickham & Stephen Conroy ICBF



Michael Berkery FBD Chairman addressing the crowd



Gerard Murphy receiving his award



James Clohessy receiving his award



John Deane receiving his award



David Clarke receiving his award



James Donnellan receiving his award

Photographs from the Launch of the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event which will take place at the GEN IRELAND Progeny Test Center, Tully on 10th November.



Niall O'Meara & Patricia Conroy receiving their award



John Francis Boland receiving his award



John J. O'Sullivan receiving his award



John Kennedy receiving his award



John O'Flaherty receiving his award



Joseph Devine receiving his award



Michael & Gina Reilly and sons Michael & Dillon receiving their award



Patrick Doyle receiving his award

Photographs from the Launch of the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event which will take place at the GENE IRELAND Progeny Test Center, Tully on 10th November.



Robert & Leona Hutchinson receiving their award



Robert Mark & Catherina Young receiving their award



Timothy & Doreen Corridan receiving their award. Also Ronan Brown FBD, Nuala Hourihan Irish Charolais Cattle Society, Michael Berkery FBD & Brian Wickham ICBF.



Tony O'Leary receiving his award. Also Peadar Glennon Irish Simmental Cattle Society, Ronan Brown FBD & Brian Wickham ICBF



Vincent Dinan receiving his award

