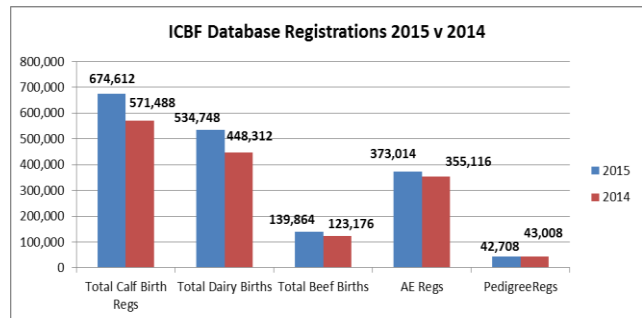
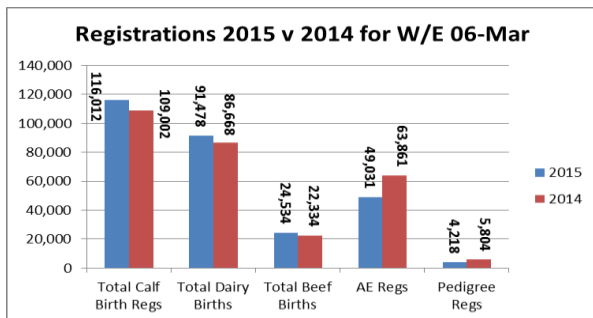


## ICBF Weekly Update 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

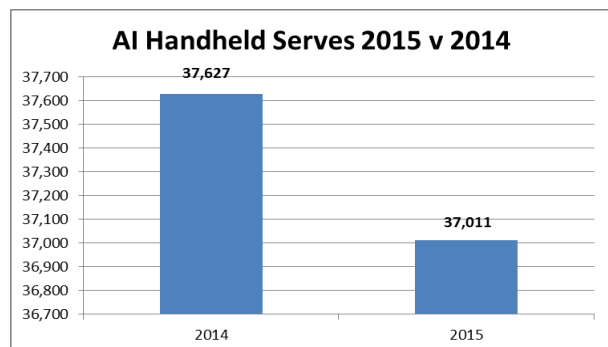
### 2 Database



- ✚ 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 676,000 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 131,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 5.62 million results have now been received.

- ✚ As was emphasised again at the most recent BVD Implementation Group meeting, the removal of PI animals is critical to the success of the BVD Eradication Scheme. The Minister for Agriculture recently announced further supports to aid with this for 2015. It is a requirement that all PI animals born in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are disposed of prior to **1 March 2015** in order to avail of any 2015 supports. The removal of PI animals will also be a stipulation of the proposed Beef Data Genomics Programme and successor programmes.

- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



### 3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ Sire advice for the 2015 breeding season can now be run online by HerdPlus dairy customers. It is important to ensure that the red button is clicked to save the selected bulls to technician handhelds and breeding charts. Postal dairy customers will be posted bull selection forms along with an active bull list with the top 75 bulls currently available and explanation document, in the coming days. See explanation document [here](#).
- ✚ Beef Euro-Star reports are currently going out in the post to all beef HerdPlus customers. The report has been recently updated and is now more comprehensive. It gives a detailed overview of the genetic merit of a farmers suckler herd.
- ✚ As spring calving will have commenced or is about to commence on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is an appropriate time to remind farmers of the importance of data recording. ICBF acknowledges that spring can be a busy and stressful time for farmers with an endless list of tasks to be done. However,

ensuring that data (namely sires and calving ease) is recorded comprehensively and accurately is vital, not only to the work that ICBF does, but also to the development of our Agri-food industry going forward.

- ✚ Better data recording leads to more accurate genetic indexes. This will in turn lead to more informed breeding decisions which will leave more profitable stock on farms and increase output at both farm and processor levels. For this reason, people across the industry that find themselves in regular contact with farmers e.g. agri advisors, breed society representatives, AI company reps & technicians etc. need to constantly stress the importance of recording basic breeding information when registering calves. Click [here](#) for a link to an article on best practice on farm data recording.
- ✚ Any farmers that still register calves on the white cards which come with the tags, should be encouraged to switch to an animal events book or, where possible, to register calves online through [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) or through a farm software package. The animal events book and online methods allow for much more comprehensive data recording at calf registration. Animal events books can be ordered by calling **1850 625 626**. Online registration can be set up by going to the Department of Agriculture & Food website or contacting your farm software provider.

#### 4 GENÉ IRELAND® Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the spring 2015 Beef Programme.
- ✚ 155 herds taking a total of 2500 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 16 straws per herd.
- ✚ The BB bull AGY reached the 500 straw target this week.
- ✚ The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in the table.

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

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	110
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	260
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	400
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	320
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	65
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	40
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	125
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	70
HHJ	Heraclès	CH	120
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	125
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	255
YOB	Barryroe ICE	LM	320
KAC	Keltic Isaac	LM	220
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	80
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	130
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	345
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	75
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	140
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	220
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	210
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	175
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	115
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	120

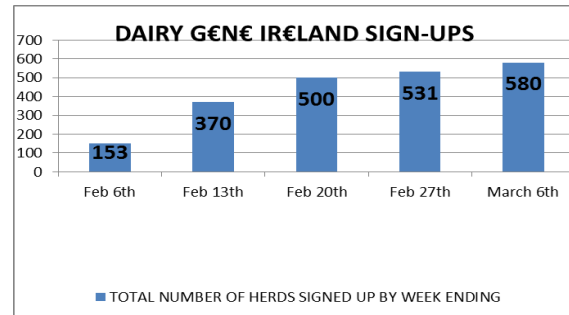
#### 5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Updated proofs from the February beef evaluation were uploaded to the database this week for animals linear scored between 15<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February.
- ✚ Routine evaluations have kicked off as part of the April evaluation update for those traits which are submitted to the INTERBULL centre (milk production, fertility, calving difficulty and udder health).

- Research projects worked on this week included Interbeef weaning weight evaluations, calving and test day model.

## 6 GENETICS Dairy

- Postal and telephone sign-ups are ongoing.
- The panel consists of 54 Holstein Friesians, 4 Pure Friesians, 6 Jerseys and 4 Crossbreds.
- 580 herds are signed up to date, taking a total of 20,487 straws.
- Allocations will commence shortly.



## 7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 06/03/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 06/03/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 06/03/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 06/03/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 06/03/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	969	75	8%	54,608	5,777	11%
Progressive	970	197	20%	61,483	12,543	20%
Tipperary	10	1	10%	582	51	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>116,673</b>	<b>18,371</b>	<b>16%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 06/03/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 06/03/15	2015 vs. 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	51,927	54,608	4.9%
Progressive	69,334	61,483	-12.8%
Tipperary	586	582	-0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,847</b>	<b>116,673</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>

## 8 Sheep Ireland

### CPT Lambing takes off

- Our CPT flocks are extremely busy this week, with lambing in full flow. There have been no issues so far with the favorable weather conditions being a major bonus in keeping lambing pens free and disease issues to a minimum. All the data is being captured on electronic handhelds which upload the data to the Sheep Ireland database a number of times daily. We have not yet passed the half way mark in terms of ewes lambing. Looking at the data we have captured so far we are running at an overall mortality rate of 4.8% - these are dead lambs at lambing, it is not mortality from pregnancy scanning which we will calculate once lambing has been completed. This figure is likely to change as more data is submitted in the coming days.
- In terms of lambing difficulty we are running at a figure of 20% across all of the flocks. We define lambing difficulty as the number of lambing's scored as 3 (Slight Assistance) or 4 (Severe Assistance) – in simple terms, whenever a ewe would not lamb without farmer assistance. *See below for some images from this year's CPT lambing.*



## Reminder to collect lamb weights

- ✚ This week we have circulated another reminder text to all our LambPlus breeders to record their 40 day lamb weights. Some December lambing breeders are now collecting their third weight (weaning weight). Other breeders are just in the middle of lambing and are busy recording birth data.

## New Sheep Ireland data recording screens

- ✚ For the past two weeks we have been contacting our LambPlus breeders by phone to ensure that they are not encountering any issues with using our new web screens. As with anything new, it will take time for breeders to get familiarised with the new system. Where breeders encounter any issues whatsoever, we encourage them to contact us directly here in the office straight away on **1850 601 901**.

## Embryo Transfer lamb

- ✚ The number of pedigree lambs being born as ETs seems to be growing annually. Our new web screens will facilitate the recording of these lambs easily once the correct procedure is followed. In order to record the birth of an ET lamb, it is important that the surrogate/recipient ewe is added to the flock for each ET birth. These recipient ewes are usually just commercial ewes owned by each breeder and all should have an official NSIS tag. These ewes can be added to a flock on the Sheep Ireland system very easily, but please contact the Sheep Ireland office to help you to do this.



**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).

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 25-FEB-2015 To 06-MAR-2015

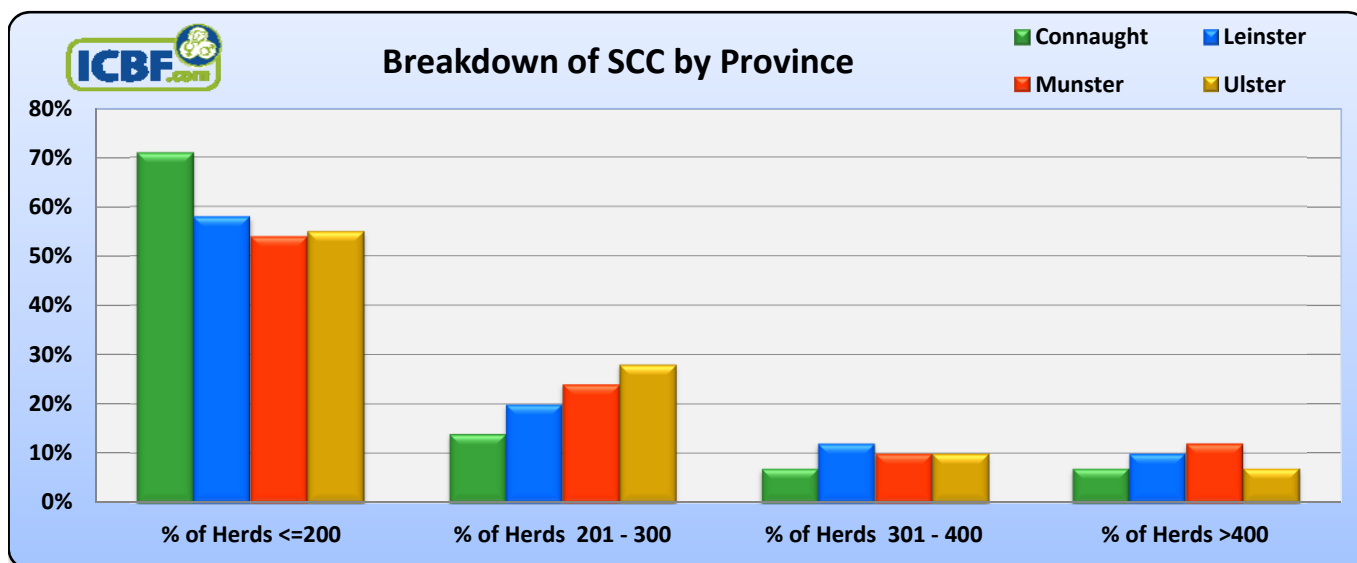
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	14	550	39	23.7	4.09	3.20	1.73	149
Leinster	106	7,271	69	24.2	4.23	3.30	1.82	182
Munster	250	14,220	57	23.6	4.25	3.24	1.76	183
Ulster	29	1,481	51	24.0	3.85	3.16	1.68	178
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>23,522</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>4.21</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>181</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 25-FEB-2015 To 06-MAR-2015

ICBF	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	14	550	39	71%	14%	7%	7%	149
Leinster	106	7,271	69	58%	20%	12%	10%	182
Munster	250	14,220	57	54%	24%	10%	12%	183
Ulster	29	1,481	51	55%	28%	10%	7%	178
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>23,522</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>181</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



## % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 25-FEB-2015 To 06-MAR-2015

ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	14	550	39	98	137	144	155	252
Leinster	106	7,271	69	114	149	174	207	318
Munster	250	14,220	57	108	159	184	214	334
Ulster	29	1,481	51	113	157	178	228	283
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>23,522</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>320</b>

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

