


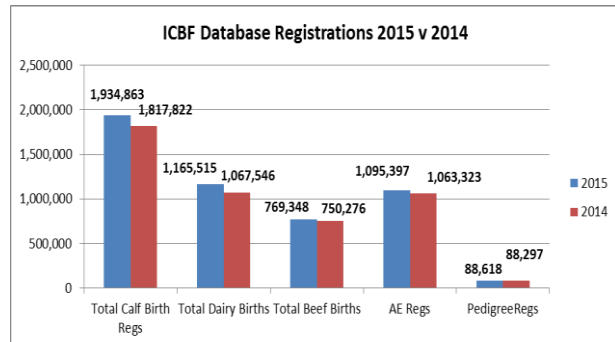
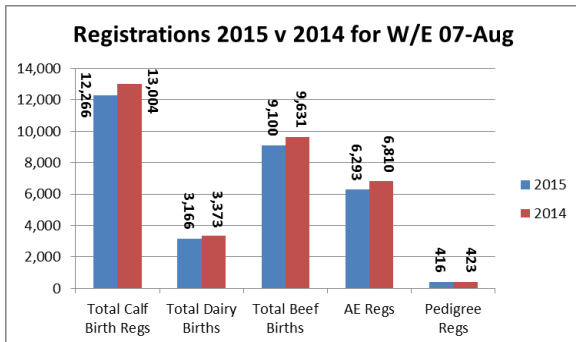





ICBF Weekly Update 7th August 2015

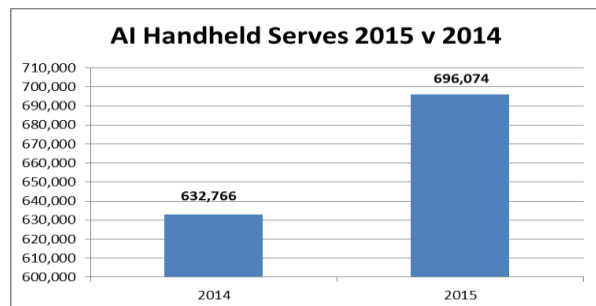
1 Important Dates

-  **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 10th September 2015 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Friday 11th September 2015 at 10:30, Horse & Jockey.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 18th September 2015 at 10:30, 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 2.03 million results received since January 1st, of which 13900 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.97 million results have now been received.
-  The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



3 Herd Plus®

Euro-Star Replacement Index Changes

-  Updated Euro-Star indexes were published this week for all beef animals by ICBF, following the August genetic evaluation run.
-  There have been some significant changes to the new indexes, due principally to a number of improvements implemented by ICBF, following a comprehensive review of the indexes, undertaken by the ICBF board in conjunction with the beef breeding industry. The recommendations from that review process included:
 - **Changing the definition of the index.** The new replacement index is based on the performance of a cow per calving (which includes the performance of any progeny born from that calving). It is expressed on a per calving basis. Thus a cow with a replacement index of €100 is expected to leave €100 more profit/calving (including her progeny performance from that calving), compared to a cow with a value of zero. This is in contrast to the previous index, which was based on the performance of a breeding bull, including male calves (destined for slaughter), female calves (retained for breeding) and all of her subsequent progeny (both male and female). This index was also expressed over the lifetime of the breeding female. The net effect of these changes has been to increase the emphasis on key maternal traits, such as milk and fertility within the Replacement Index (see Table 1 below). It has also had the effect of substantially reducing the Replacement Index value of all animals (down €60) as the index is now expressed on a per calving basis as opposed to over the lifetime of the female replacement.

- **Removal of the terminal index from all females.** The terminal index will now only be available on breeding males, as these are the animals destined to produce animals for slaughter.
- **Across breed stars for commercial animals.** Whilst within and across breed stars will still be available for pure-bred animals, there will be only one set of stars for all commercial (cross-bred) animals. These will be based on an across breed comparison.
- **Removal of half stars.** Half stars will be removed from all relevant indexes.

Table 1. Comparison of trait emphasis in old and new Replacement Index.

	Old	New
Calving Traits	19%	16%
Docility	4%	4%
Beef Traits	25%	21%
Feed intake	23%	18%
Milk	12%	18%
Fertility	17%	23%
	100%	100%

- ✚ Whilst Replacement Index average values have dropped (due to the redefinition of the index), there has been little change in star rankings above and beyond what one would expect between routine runs even after accounting for the changes in index weightings detailed in Table 1. Indeed, of the top 100 active AI sires based on the Replacement index from the April 2015 genetic evaluation run, 80 of those sires remain in the top 100 based on the new August 2015 genetic evaluation run.
- ✚ Euro-star reports which will include these new indexes will be posted to all herds participating in the Beef Data and Genomics Program (BDGP) from next week. They are also available to view online at www.icbf.com through the Euro-Star profile. Indexes for all pedigree stock and AI bulls can be viewed through the [online bull search](#) and the [ICBF Active Bull List](#).

4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Beef proofs have now been made official on the ICBF website. Due to the necessity to publish the beef proofs (see Table 1 above) in advance of the dairy proofs it was necessary to update calving and beef proofs for dairy animals (as dairy and beef animals are evaluated together), therefore there may be slight changes to the EBI of dairy AI bulls arising from changes to the calving, beef and maintenance sub-index but changes should be very small. Genomic evaluations are currently underway for the dairy bulls and a complete update of the dairy proofs will be available for AI bulls on 18th August.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 07/08/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/08/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/08/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/08/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/08/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,977	1,269	32%	361,237	124,230	34%
Progressive	2,466	1,048	42%	249,309	107,784	43%
Tipperary	125	53	42%	11,680	5,204	45%
Total	6,568	2,370	36%	622,226	237,218	38%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 07/08/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 07/08/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	325,725	361,237	10.9%
Progressive	235,605	249,309	5.8%
Tipperary	9,939	11,680	17.5%
Total	571,269	622,226	8.9%

6 Sheep Ireland

Premier ram sales

- These sales continue to take place around the country. Last week both the Charollais and Belclare sales took place with significant interest in Euro-Star evaluations noticeable in both sales. This coming Saturday (August 8th) see's the Suffolk society premier sale take place in Roscrea. The majority of entries in this sale are performance recorded and will have Euro-Star evaluations on display within the sales catalogue. This is the case with all breeds at this stage, which is extremely encouraging for Irish commercial farmers.

Expanding the use of the Sheep Ireland catalogue

- Incorporating the Euro-Stars into sales catalogues may sound like a straight forward process - where breed societies are not using the Sheep Ireland catalogue generator this genetic evaluation information is not easily incorporated. The Rouge society is using the Sheep Ireland catalogue for the first time this year. Again this is great for commercial sheep farmers interested in making use of the Euro-Star information for this breed on the day of sale. We hope to facilitate the Irish Beltex society to same for their upcoming Premier sale. The Sheep Ireland catalogue generator is a fantastic tool and we want as many breed societies as possible to make use of it.

Sheep Ireland Multibreed ram sale

- The closing date for the Sheep Ireland ram sale has now passed. Entries are in and are at similar levels to last year which is where we expected. We are now checking through all entries to ensure they are adhering to the minimum sale criteria of 5 Star on the Replacement or Terminal Index with a minimum of 30% accuracy for that Index. Of course all breeders entering the sale need to have carried out the Ultrasound scanning for muscle and backfat also. There is no animal entry fee for this sale, the reason being that this sale is reward or showcase for performance recording breeders involved in the Sheep Ireland programme. Carrying out the Ultrasound scanning is a significant cost for performance recording breeders and we want to acknowledge that fact by not implementing entry fees. For last year's sales report please click [here](#)



A selection of the purchased rams at last year's Sheep Ireland Multibreed sale

Upcoming breed premier sales

Suffolk - Saturday 8th August - Roscrea

Rouge - Wednesday 12th August - Tullamore

Texel - Saturday 15th August – Blessington

Sheep Ireland Multibreed sale - Saturday 22nd August - Tullamore

Beltex - Wednesday 19th August - Tullamore

Lleyn - Saturday 5th September - Roscrea. Saturday 19th September - Roscommon

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. **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, 29-JUL-2015 To 07-AUG-2015

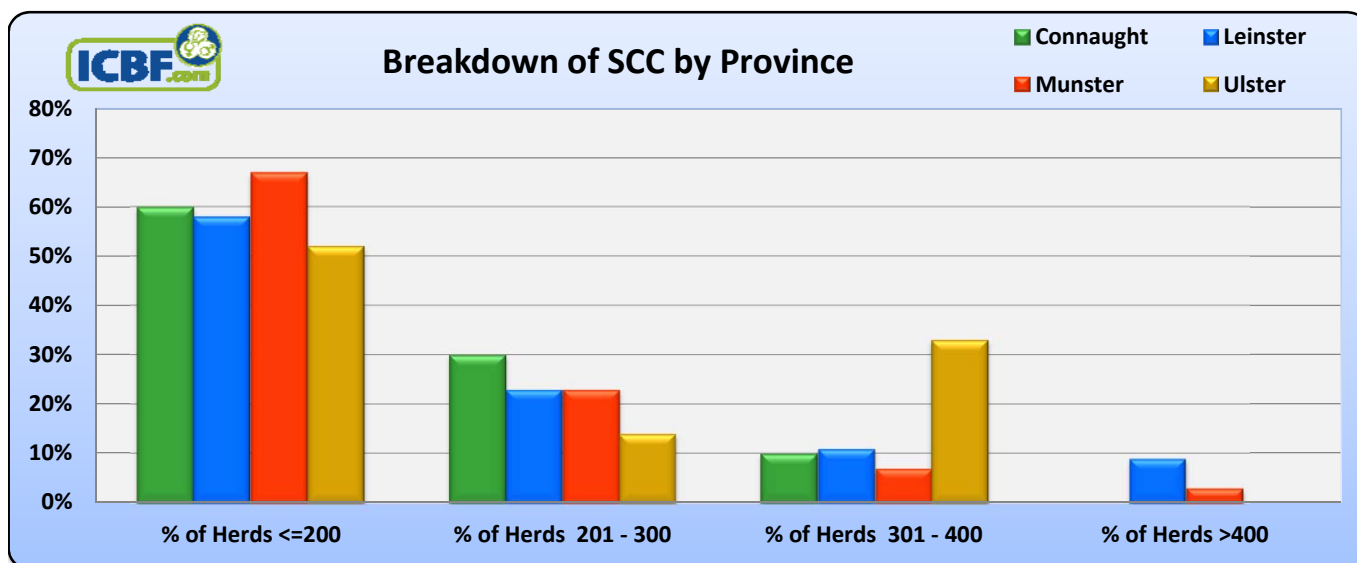
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	10	703	70	25.6	3.80	3.41	1.84	152
Leinster	114	10,540	92	21.6	3.84	3.46	1.57	179
Munster	409	34,462	84	21.8	3.98	3.51	1.63	170
Ulster	21	1,304	62	23.7	3.68	3.38	1.67	181
National Statistics	554	47,009	85	21.9	3.94	3.49	1.63	172

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 29-JUL-2015 To 07-AUG-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	10	703	70	60%	30%	10%	0%	152
Leinster	114	10,540	92	58%	23%	11%	9%	179
Munster	409	34,462	84	67%	23%	7%	3%	170
Ulster	21	1,304	62	52%	14%	33%	0%	181
National Statistics	554	47,009	85	64%	23%	9%	4%	172

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 29-JUL-2015 To 07-AUG-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	10	703	70	97	142	171	193	229
Leinster	114	10,540	92	110	152	183	212	297
Munster	409	34,462	84	121	151	164	183	247
Ulster	21	1,304	62	119	154	192	248	334
National Statistics	554	47,009	85	117	151	166	189	255

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

