

ICBF Weekly Update 7 December 2012

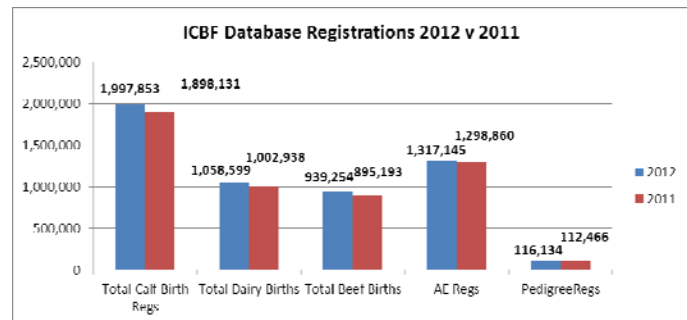
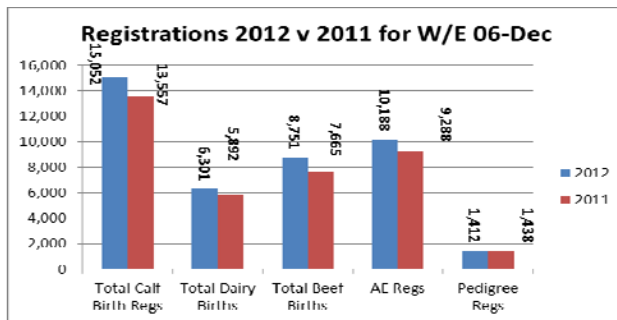
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – 20th December, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th January, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Meetings** – Tuesday 11th December, 8:00pm, Corrin Mart, Fermoy.
 – Wednesday 12th December, 8:00pm, Tullamore Court Hotel.
 – Thursday 13th December, 8:00pm, Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny.

2 Data Recording as part of the long-term industry infrastructure

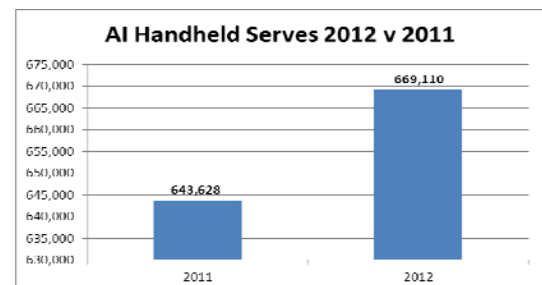
ICBF is charged with delivering long term industry profitability through genetic gain. To do that effectively, we require large volumes of good quality data, especially in the era of genomics. In this regard, beef breeding had long been the poor relation to dairy breeding. The Suckler Scheme has changed that completely over the past 5 years. This week the Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine acknowledged the role that data recording needs to play in the infrastructure of Irish beef breeding in order to deliver a sustainable future. Of course there are issues to be worked out and challenges to be faced in continuing this progress, and delivering a workable new programme, but the strategic vision of the Minister and his department in relation to data recording is to be welcomed.

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 520,835 with the number of animals weaned at 404,053.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 474,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new EuroStar indexes, and the development work on these is continuing.
- ✚ The 2013 Dairy personalised notebooks continue to be generated and printed.
- ✚ Weight recording figures this week were at 975 animals, from 1,139 the previous week. We also had 2,441 DIY weights recorded by farmers this week.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



4 Genetic Evaluations

Routine genetic evaluations are currently on-going. Most traits have been completed at this stage. Once all traits are uploaded a new genomic evaluation will be done. Official release of proofs will be Fri 21st December.

5 Tully

Current intake of commercial progeny

- ✚ The first group of 77 commercial progeny at the GENIRLAND progeny test center, Tully, Co. Kildare finished their performance test on 20th November 2012. 40 of the 77 animals were slaughtered at Slaney Foods, Bunclody, Co. Wexford on Tuesday of this week. The remaining 37 bulls will be slaughtered on 18th December 2012. All bulls were weighed prior to slaughter in order to get the kill-out percentage of each animal. The 40 bulls slaughtered had an average carcass weight of 420 kg. 15 of the 40 bulls slaughtered graded a carcass conformation score of E, with the remaining 25 bulls grading a carcass conformation score of U.
- ✚ Carcass and meat eating quality data was collected in collaboration with Teagasc on each bull. As part of quantifying meat eating quality the striploin from the right hand side of each carcass was retained for more in-depth analysis. Some of the information collected at the factory and subsequent analysis of the striploin that will take place includes the following:



Carcass being lined up in the chill room for PH analysis.

Data collected in the factory:

- Primal yields (British spec)
- 9 hourly PH measurements of the carcass/striploin
- NIRS spectra images at 4-6 points on the carcass



The team collecting information on the carcasses.

Analysis that will be carried out on the striploin of each animal

- Colour of loin
- Visual marbling of the loin
- Composition analysis – Intramuscular fat %, protein % & moisture %
- Cook loss and shear force measurements
- Two to three samples of the striploin are to be archived for potential sensory and tenderness analysis.

Other measurements obtained on the 77 commercial progeny during the 90 day testing period included:

- ✚ **Average daily gain (kg/day):** A key indicator of growth rate, which is an important factor in all aspects of beef production.
- ✚ **Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG):** The ratio describing the amount of feed consumed per unit of production. It is important to identify animals that are efficient users of feed. The lower the figure the more efficient the animal is at converting feed into weight.
- ✚ **Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm):** These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield (very important with the new pricing GRID in place). All bulls were ultrasonically scanned for muscle and fat depth along with intramuscular fat at day 1, day 45 and day 90 of the performance test.
- ✚ **Scrotal circumference (cm):** Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality. It also has a favourable relationship with female fertility in daughters produced.
- ✚ **Health and disease traits:** 6 blood samples were obtained from each bull in order to quantify the relationship between genetics and health/disease of an animal.
- ✚ **Genomics:** All progeny will be genotyped on either 12k or 54k chip. The fact that these animals have excellent parentage and phenotypic information should provide the industry with excellent data that can help validate genomics in beef.

New intake of commercial progeny

- ✚ The new intake of 59 bulls started test on Thursday of this week. As part of the test the bulls were weighed on Thursday and had an average live-weight of 493kg. They will finish their performance test on 7th March.
- ✚ Up to now these animals were being acclimatised for 30 days. During this period they are built up on-to an ad-lib concentrate diet and receive their vaccinations for IBR, RSV, PI3, Pasteurella (strains of pneumonia), Blackleg and various other clostridia diseases. They are also treated for lice, mange, immature and mature fluke, stomach and lung worms.

Selection of the new intake:

- ✚ The new intake of 59 bulls was selected using the same criteria as the last intake. This involved initially selecting animals from the ICBF database based on the following criteria: (i) sired by G-EN-€IR-€LAND AI sires or proven AI bulls, (ii) age, (iii) gender, (iv) recorded sire and maternal grand sire.
- ✚ Once the animals were purchased they are BVD and T.B tested on-farm. All animals were DNA parentage verified before they enter the progeny test at Tully.

6 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ On Mon night 3rd Dec Sheep Ireland met with representatives from our lamb producer groups from around the country. The objective of the meeting was to find a person from this group to sit on the new Sheep Ireland board. To have input from this group in the future direction of our national breeding programme will be invaluable and it is clear that the group recognise the medium/long term benefit of a strong breed improvement programme. The future support of this group will be integral to the success of Sheep Ireland's objectives.
- ✚ Last night (Thursday) Sheep Ireland were invited to speak at the Teagasc winter seminar in Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. A project being run by Tom Coll the regions Teagasc sheep adviser is very interesting. He has 20 flocks participating in a worm resistance & lameness assessment project. Participating farmers are required to tag a sample of lambs at birth and match lambs to their birth Dams. A representative sample of single and twin born lambs are tagged on each farm. In turn these lambs are then monitored throughout their development - weights are also collected up to and including slaughter information. Tom is currently collating his findings.

- ✚ The most interesting aspect of the study from Sheep Ireland's point of view is how easily farmers adapted to the tagging and performance recording of lambs. Once flock owners overcome the initial negative mindset that is associated with the extra labour required to tag lambs at birth, the value of the information being collected far outweighs this effort - long term the additional effort required to record lambs at birth can be counter balanced by the reduction in labour required to manage higher genetic merit, better performing ewes. The potential data that can be collected on individual lambs and ewes is very powerful and enables the farmer involved to make more informed breeding decisions, with the potential to improve flock genetics and ultimately flock profit.
- ✚ Next week will be a busy one as we continue our round of meetings around the country. We have already held a meeting in the West and Manorhamilton on Thursday night covered much of the North West. Our plan for the coming week is to hold meetings in the following locations:
 - Fermoy - Tues 11th in Corrin Mart, Fermoy.
 - Tullamore - Wed 12th in the Tullamore Court Hotel.
 - Kilkenny - Thurs 13th in the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. This meeting is in association with the Kilkenny Pedigree Sheep Breeders and James Murphy (IFA) & Declan Fennell (Bord Bia) will present on the night also.
- ✚ These meetings are public meetings and all sheep enthusiasts will be invited to attend. We have sent out a huge number of invitations over the past week and we hope that both ram breeders and commercial sheep farmers will attend in good numbers. Details of the meetings can also be found in this week's Irish Farmer Journal.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 07/12/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/12/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/12/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/12/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/12/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,739	1,090	29%	308,730	95,796	31%
Progressive	2,481	1,010	41%	231,118	94,846	41%
Tipperary	122	44	36%	10,323	3,508	34%
Total	6,342	2,144	34%	550,171	194,150	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 07/12/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 07/12/12	2012 vs 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	305,115	308,730	1.2%
Progressive	221,186	231,118	4.3%
Tipperary	13,151	10,323	-27.4%
Total	539,452	550,171	1.9%

Please see milk recording stats attached

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, 28-NOV-2012 To 07-DEC-2012

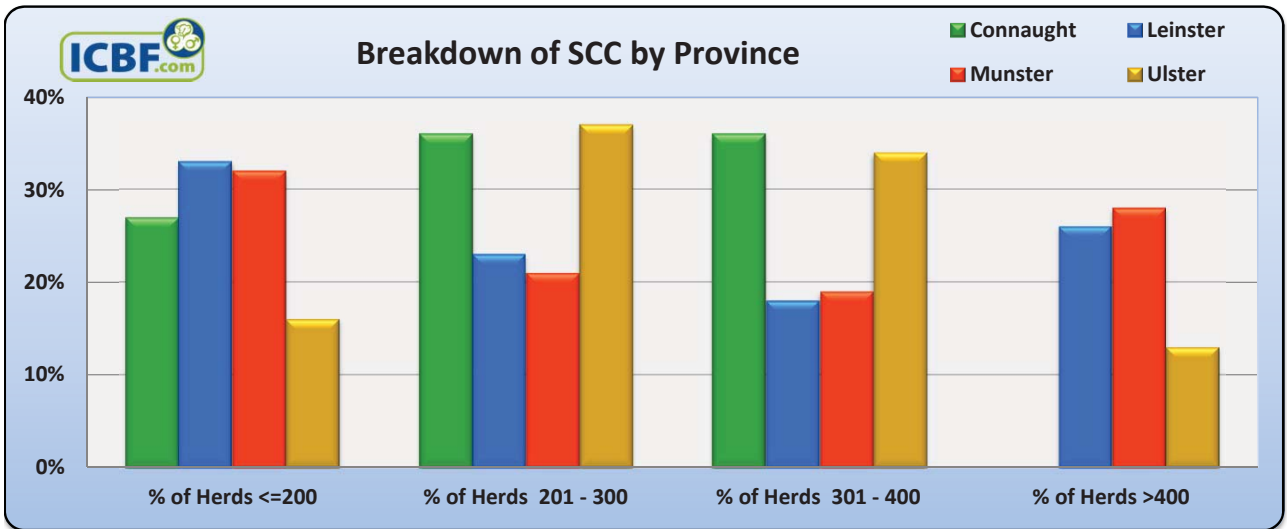
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	11	472	43	15.8	4.28	3.40	1.22	247
Leinster	102	6,800	67	18.5	4.15	3.43	1.39	275
Munster	265	14,286	54	14.5	4.43	3.61	1.15	280
Ulster	38	2,471	65	17.3	4.09	3.45	1.29	282
National Statistics	416	24,029	58	15.7	4.32	3.55	1.22	278

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 28-NOV-2012 To 07-DEC-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	11	472	43	27%	36%	36%	0%	247
Leinster	102	6,800	67	33%	23%	18%	26%	275
Munster	265	14,286	54	32%	21%	19%	28%	280
Ulster	38	2,471	65	16%	37%	34%	13%	282
National Statistics	416	24,029	58	31%	23%	20%	25%	278

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 28-NOV-2012 To 07-DEC-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	11	472	43	184	212	234	266	323
Leinster	102	6,800	67	157	234	275	322	439
Munster	265	14,286	54	158	233	283	334	447
Ulster	38	2,471	65	209	268	297	316	385
National Statistics	416	24,029	58	163	236	279	326	437

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

