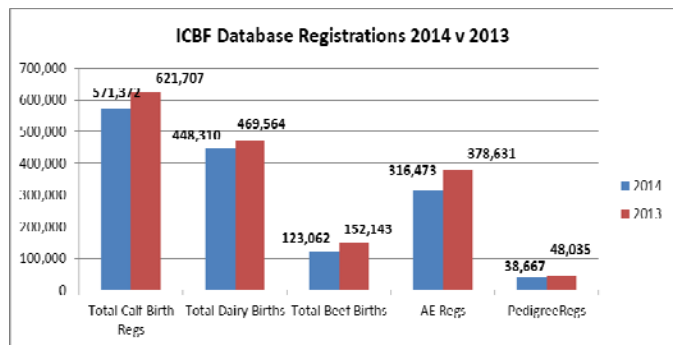
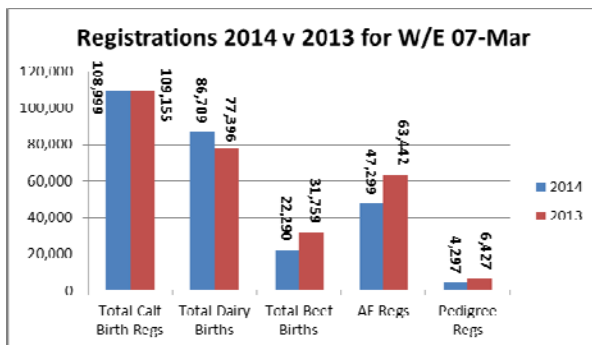


ICBF Weekly Update 7th March 2014

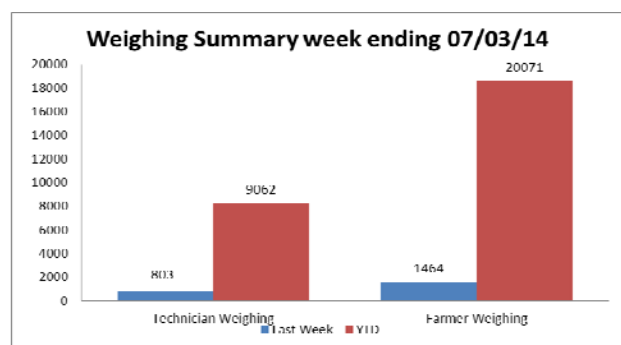
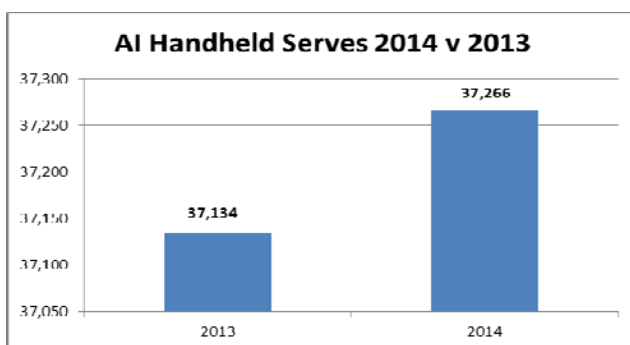
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting** – Thursday 13th March, 10:00 to 13:30, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 14:00 to 17:00, 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 618,000 results received since January 1st, of which 112,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 3.28 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 803 weights received through the technician service and 1464 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

- Drystock Reports will be posted to all non-breeding beef HerdPlus customers next week. This report is designed to give farmers an idea of the genetic potential of their herd. A piece of work was done by Teagasc last Autumn, where the performance of animals on beef finishing farms was analysed. The results showed that:

- 5 star animals were cheaper per kg at purchase than 1 star animals.
 - 5 star animals were finished much earlier than 1 star animals.
 - 5 star animals left heavier carcasses with better grades.
- ✚ Farmers are again reminded to input any missing data that is required for the 2013 BDP scheme. This data can be recorded through the ICBF website, farm software packages or on paper forms.
- ✚ Farmers are also encouraged to sign up to the BDP and Beef Genomics Scheme (BGS) for 2014. Application forms will be posted to all suckler farmers in the next few weeks. Strong participation in these schemes is vitally important to the further development and improvement of beef breeding in Ireland.
- ✚ Sire advice sheets have been sent to all dairy HerdPlus postal customers. An active bull list has been included with the top 75 active dairy bulls included. Farmers are asked to complete these before breeding charts are generated at the end of the month. Alternatively, sire advice can be completed online through your HerdPlus login. For more information on sire advice please call HerdPlus on **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ As the 2014 calving season is now in full swing farmers are again reminded of the importance of recording all relevant data on calves at registration. Recording sires and calving ease surveys are critically important to the genetic evaluation process and the continued development of genetic indices. These details can be recorded at registration through a farm software package, agfood.ie or the animal events (white) book.

Beef Sexed Semen

108 herds are participating in the Beef Sexed Semen Project. Any herds interested in participating should contact HerdPlus as soon as possible as we have limited stocks left. We have a limited supply of the following 4 bulls.

Table 1. Maternal Bull. Sexed Female Straws

Code	Name	Brd	Replacement	St.W	St.A	CD%	Mat CD	Milk	CI Days
GSQ	Glaslough Esquire	HE	-€7	0.5	0.5	3.8%	5.2%	-6.7	-4.22

Note GSQ is not BTAP approved

Table 2. List of Terminal Bulls. Sexed Male Straws

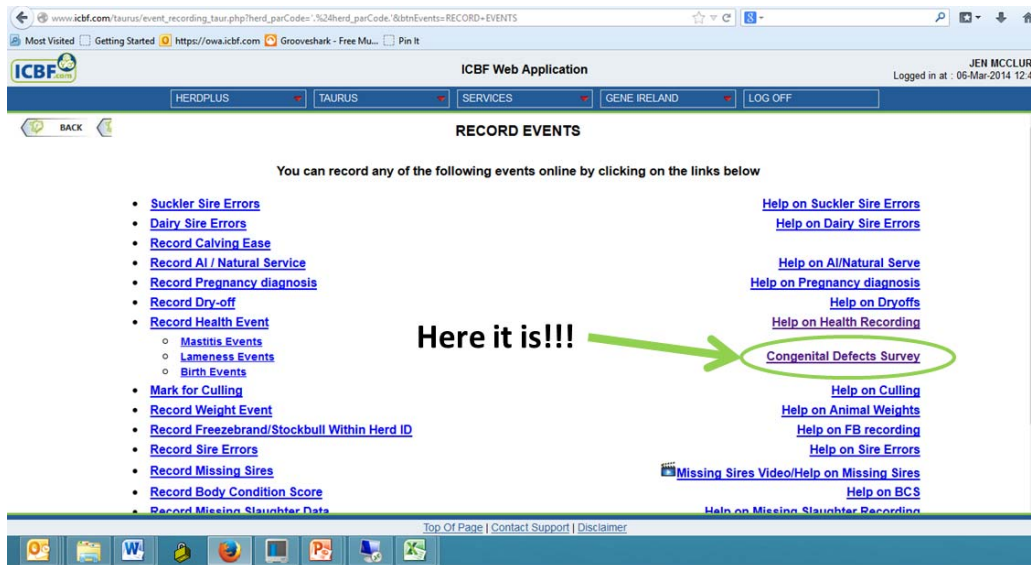
Code	Name	Brd	Terminal	St.W	St.A	CD%	Doc	CWt	Conf
STQ	Sultan 580	BB	€142	4	5	10.1%	0.21	30	3.05
ZFL	Lisduff Dandy	AA	€59	4.5	1.5	4.8%	-0.04	18	0.87
MBP	Milbrook Dartangan	LM	€118	3	4	7.4%	-0.08	29	2.35

4 Genetic Evaluations

Health and Disease Recording

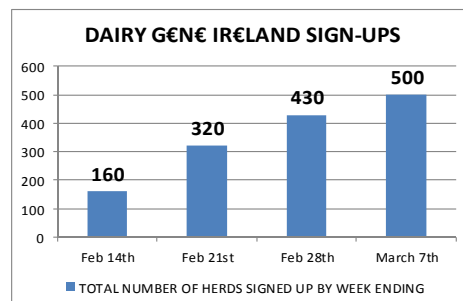
- ✚ There are some new things on the horizon of health and disease recording at ICBF, with Jen McClure leading the charge. In January we sent an e-mail to 948 HerdPlus members requesting they fill out an online survey on health and disease recording and then sent them materials to capture health and disease events in real time. These sheets will be used as reminders to farmers to input the data into a new web screen that is being developed by ICBF IT team or into their farm software to be shared with us. 128 dairy, 99 beef, and 19 dual farmers (that's 26% of farmers contacted!) filled out the survey which was one of the requirements to be in the program along with allowing their veterinarian access to the data they record. The third requirement is that they agree to chat with Jen about the program so that we know what works or doesn't work in the pilot program.

- The second item that has recently been developed is the congenital defects survey. This is based on a head to tail assessment that the French use so that we can get the best and most accurate information for deformed calves as they are born. This survey is linked directly to the ICBF “Record Events” page and requests farmers take a picture of the animal, and if they would provide a hair or tissue sample for DNA.



5 GENE IRELAND[®] Dairy

- Orders continue to be received for this programme.
- Allocations will commence as soon as a panel of bulls are available.
- Changes occurred to the panel of bulls this week. The Holstein average EBI is now €304.
- There are 7 Friesians, 4 Jerseys and 9 Crossbred Jerseys on the panel to date.
- Call 1850 600 900 to order.



6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 07/03/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/03/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/03/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/03/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/03/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	949	63	7%	51,927	4,773	9%
Progressive	1,095	226	21%	69,334	15,384	22%
Tipperary	13	2	15%	586	117	20%
Total	2,057	291	14%	121,847	20,274	17%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 07/03/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 07/03/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	67,286	51,927	-29.6%
Progressive	77,091	69,334	-11.2%
Tipperary	846	586	-44.4%
Total	144,377	121,847	-18.5%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

7 Sheep Ireland

✚ Lambing data continues to flow into the Sheep Ireland database, there is now over 2,000 live lambs recorded on the system. In 2013 there was just over 20,000 pedigree lambs performance recorded on the Sheep Ireland database, with a very significant growth in breeder numbers, this year this number will grow accordingly. It just shows that there is a lot of data still to get uploaded. With lambing still going on in most flocks, we do not expect the major rush in data entry to occur until the final weeks of April – the important thing is that the data is being captured by breeders online with what our evaluation system needs to produce reliable Euro-Stars.

✚ The first CPT lambing data has been loaded to the database also. This upload of CPT lambing data takes place automatically on a daily basis, it is a very streamlined process which ensures that this extremely important data reaches our database as soon as possible after it is recorded. The lambing across the CPT has started very well, with the major rush of lambs not expected for another day or two. The weather seems to have turned in our favour at the right time, this means that lambs can be moved outdoors relatively quickly after lambing, greatly reducing pressure on housing facilities and indeed the CPT farmers.



The calm before the storm on Andrew Moloney's CPT farm



Lambs ready to be tagged on Andrew Moloney's farm

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, 26-FEB-2014 To 07-MAR-2014

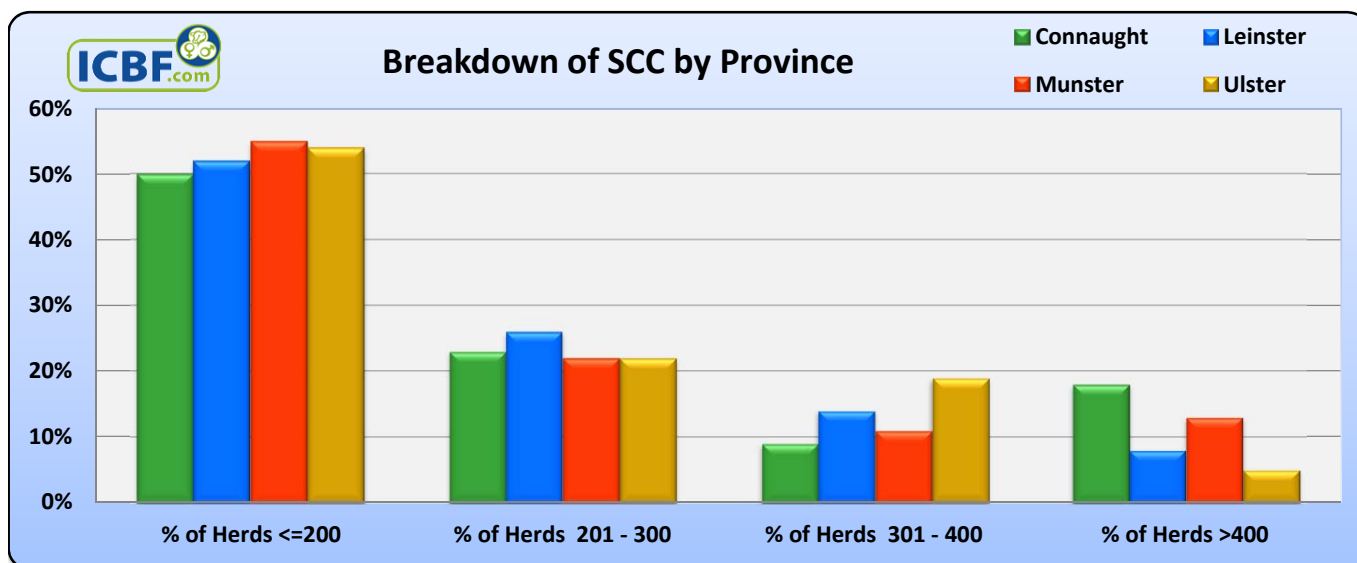
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	22	1,023	47	25.6	4.03	3.24	1.86	178
Leinster	108	7,400	69	23.7	4.09	3.34	1.76	176
Munster	250	14,114	56	23.9	4.17	3.26	1.77	192
Ulster	37	1,534	41	24.5	3.79	3.23	1.71	172
National Statistics	417	24,071	58	24.0	4.11	3.28	1.77	185

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 26-FEB-2014 To 07-MAR-2014

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	1,023	47	50%	23%	9%	18%	178
Leinster	108	7,400	69	52%	26%	14%	8%	176
Munster	250	14,114	56	55%	22%	11%	13%	192
Ulster	37	1,534	41	54%	22%	19%	5%	172
National Statistics	417	24,071	58	54%	23%	12%	11%	185

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 26-FEB-2014 To 07-MAR-2014

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	1,023	47	88	158	192	214	367
Leinster	108	7,400	69	110	160	195	209	304
Munster	250	14,114	56	116	164	186	224	335
Ulster	37	1,534	41	86	127	191	216	352
National Statistics	417	24,071	58	109	161	187	216	325

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

