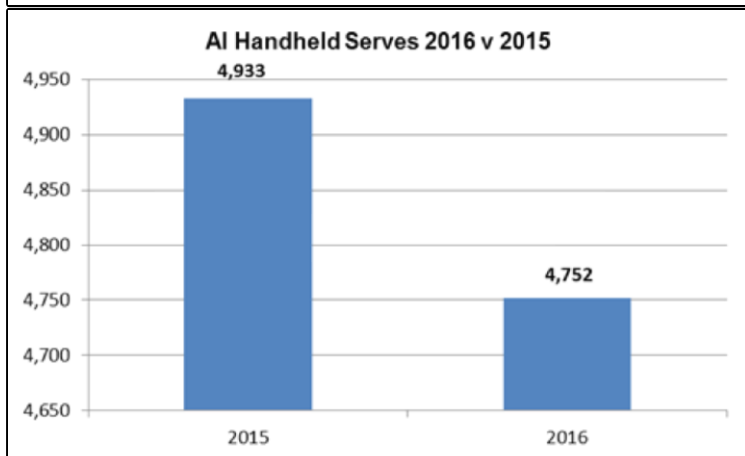
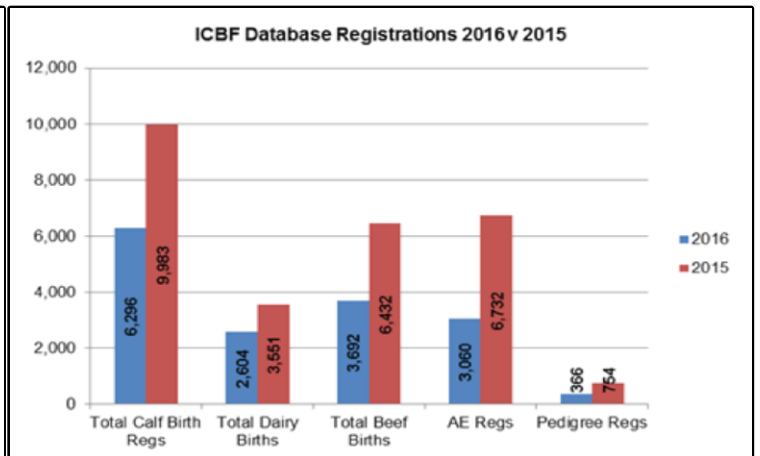
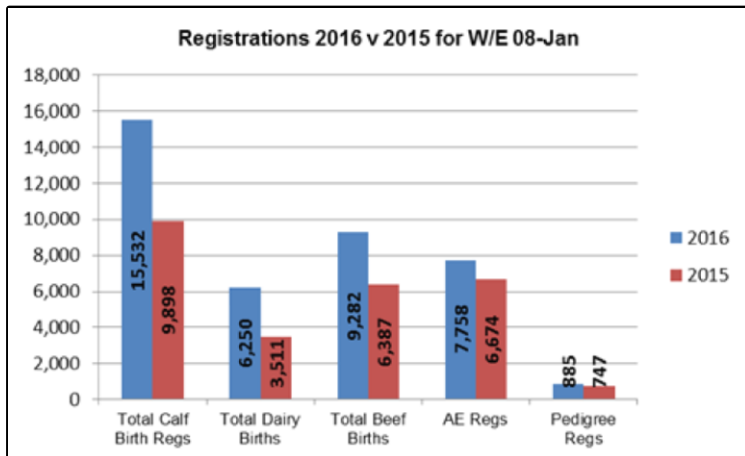


ICBF Weekly Update 8th January 2016

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 21st January 2016, 10:30am Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th January 2016, at 14:00, 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 20,644 results received since January 1st, of which 20,639 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.34 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2015 compared with 2016.

3 2016 Begins

Happy New Year to all our readers. As we start into 2016, it is clear that we have a very exciting year ahead of us, and a correspondingly huge amount of work to get through. This year, there will be focus on completing and stabilizing some of the recent projects along with ensuring that our routine operations are running smoothly.

A subset includes:

- The on-going rollout of the Beef Genomics Scheme and streamlining the wider genomics processes.
- Completing developments to the Beef Indexes (incorporating genomics) and rolling out the use of the indexes across the wider industry.
- Continue and finalise the review of the Gene Ireland Beef Program.
- Developing the Gene Ireland Dairy program and the support of the various AI companies in that regard.
- Continuing the research on the genetics of health and disease traits for dairy and beef cattle.
- Completing a base change for the EBI in the August Evaluation run.

- Evolving the current approach to dairy genomic evaluations.
- Finalising the research on cross-bred dairy genomics.
- Building a collaborative approach to maximising farmer engagement in the benefits of cattle breeding services, working closely with our service providers, milk and meat processors, and with Teagasc.
- Expanding the data collection and breeding information distribution infrastructure through HerdPlus, including new mechanisms of interacting with the ICBF database.
- Assisting AHI in the continued rollout of its national disease control programs.

Our sheep priorities are very much moving towards growing the use of the LambPlus and helping sheep farmers to make better use of the new Euro-Star genetic evaluations for sheep.

For both ICBF and Sheep Ireland, our priorities reflect the excellent opportunities that are created by the rapidly developing technologies in computing, genetics and statistics. We remain focused on our mission – farm profitability through improved breeding – and will continue the evolution from systems and structures developed in a different technological environment.

We again have a very ambitious program for 2016. It builds on the breeding systems and extensive database built up over the years. We look forward to working with the wider industry and Irish farmers and delivering increased value through our services and to overcoming the unexpected challenges that will inevitably arise in 2016.

4 ICBF Website down from 4:00pm Friday January 15th to 9:00am Monday 18th January.

- ✚ There will be a maintenance window from 4:00pm **Friday 15th January** to 9:00am **Monday 18th January**. This means that the website will be down during this period. The bull search will be running.

5 Genetic Evaluations.

INTERBULL Test Evaluations.

- ✚ ICBF will send files to INTERBULL for the upcoming January test run for MACE evaluations. It is anticipated a base change for the EBI will be implemented in the August evaluation. Countries participating in INTERBULL must submit files to the test run ahead of implementing a base change. Milk production and fertility traits will be submitted ahead of the test run deadline on January 12th.

Beef Genomics

- ✚ Test runs based on the December evaluation files with genomics included are now running for carcass traits and female fertility. It is anticipated results from this run will be circulated as test proofs in late January.

Foreign ebvs

- ✚ New methods to incorporate foreign ebvs into the beef evaluations are being explored in order to harmonise the inclusion of this information in tandem with integrating genomic data.

6 GENE IRELAND® Beef

Autumn 2015 Beef programme

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- ✚ 255 herds taking a total of 4455 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 17 straws per herd.

- ✚ The catalogue is available to view at the link below.
http://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/gi_beef_autumn_2015_catalogue
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed below.

List of Bulls Currently On-Test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
AA2064	Carrigroe Kian	AA	420
AA2163	Liss Brendan	AA	145
AU2155	Slaneymill Jack	AU	310
CH2159	Bondi Jacob	CH	185
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	365
CH2154	Polar Joe 2	CH	70
HE2148	Ballyaville Hamlet	HE	210
LM2156	Clonark Jumbo	LM	465
LM2151	Ballygarvan Stud Ike	LM	230
LM2116	Tomschoice Ironstone	LM	200
OEO	Ivoire	LM	120
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	370
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	110
SA2153	Highfield Odran	SA	280
SH2181	Coolvin Dominator	SH	25
SI2152	Curaheen Earp	SI	430
SI2158	Seepa Fionn	SI	320
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	270

7 Sheep Ireland

Happy New Year

Happy new year to all readers of this weekly update. We look forward to the next performance recording season with a lot of optimism and hope that we can continue to develop the Euro-Star evaluations in association with our LambPlus breeders and other industry partners for the benefit of all sheep farmers. There is some exciting times for the year ahead as the DNA from the Ovigen project is starting to be analysed in the lab, and no doubt this will also generate lots of challenges for the year ahead.

Lambing Season 2016

- ✚ For a lot of breeders they are currently in the middle of lambing or wrapping up their early lambing ewes. We would encourage all breeders to get their lambing data loaded onto the website as quickly as possible to ensure they get a good flock DQI and so that if any issues arise with what has been noted down then it will be easier to remedy if it is still only shortly after the event. All farmers should have received their lambing notebooks by now and these can be used to aid you through this busy time. We would definitely acknowledge this is a busy time of year but if the lambing information is regularly updated then it should not take that long to upload. It is recommended that all breeders refresh themselves with what is the required fields to be recorded. You can find this information in the front of the lambing notebook. The most common traits that breeders forget to record is:

1. Dead lambs & their weights
2. Fostering information
3. Pet lambs / Bottle reared
4. Ewes that aborted or Barren
5. Variation in Lambing Difficulty

- ✚ This is no easy task and hopefully commercial sheep farmers will continue to recognise the benefits of buying rams from these breeders which will help to justify their efforts.
- ✚ Some breeders have already started entering their lambing information so they are putting their best foot forward with regards to achieving a good flock DQI.

System Updates

- ✚ Sheep Ireland and ICBF are in preparation for a major upgrade of the computer hardware on which all of its services are hosted. This is a major undertaking and while every effort has been made to minimise disruption to our users, some downtime is unavoidable. The expected schedule for the upgrade is as follows:
 - From **Friday 15th January** at 4:00pm to **Monday 18th January** at 9:00am: The upgrade will be implemented. The website will be unavailable on these dates.
 - **Monday 18th January** at 9:00am: Services will resume although there may be teething problems.
- ✚ This upgrade will not change how screens are presented, only their performance.
- ✚ We would recommend that if you have anything of urgency to process using the Sheep Ireland website that you do this before Friday 15th to ensure you do not run into difficulties.
- ✚ The upside of this upgrade is that we will have the very latest infrastructure on which to run the Sheep Ireland systems, which means it, can work faster for you and have enough capacity to expand in the years to come.

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Email info@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, 30-DEC-2015 To 08-JAN-2016

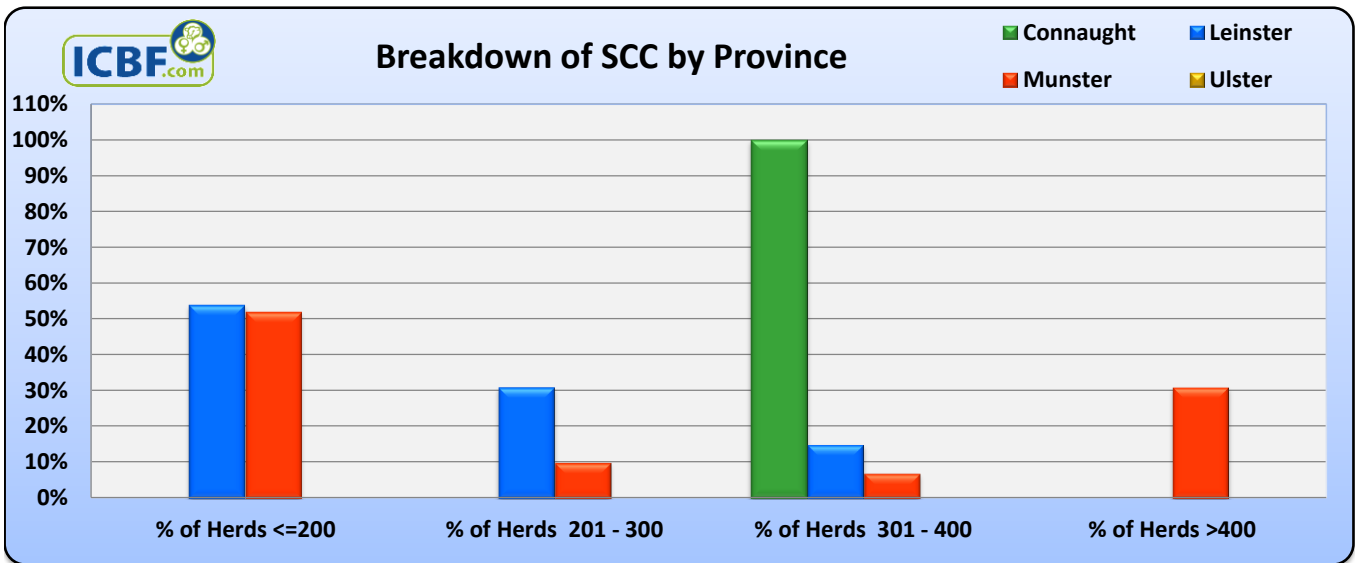
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	1	28	28	29.5	4.15	3.52	2.27	365
Leinster	13	1,297	100	25.6	4.05	3.24	1.84	171
Munster	29	1,310	45	18.4	4.35	3.43	1.41	242
Ulster	0	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
National Statistics	43	2,635	61	20.8	4.26	3.38	1.56	220

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 30-DEC-2015 To 08-JAN-2016

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	1	28	28	0%	0%	100%	0%	365
Leinster	13	1,297	100	54%	31%	15%	0%	171
Munster	29	1,310	45	52%	10%	7%	31%	242
Ulster	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0
National Statistics	43	2,635	61	51%	16%	12%	21%	220

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 30-DEC-2015 To 08-JAN-2016								
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	1	28	28	365	365	365	365	365
Leinster	13	1,297	100	120	153	185	210	261
Munster	29	1,310	45	118	168	194	283	460
Ulster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Statistics	43	2,635	61	116	165	194	237	407

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

