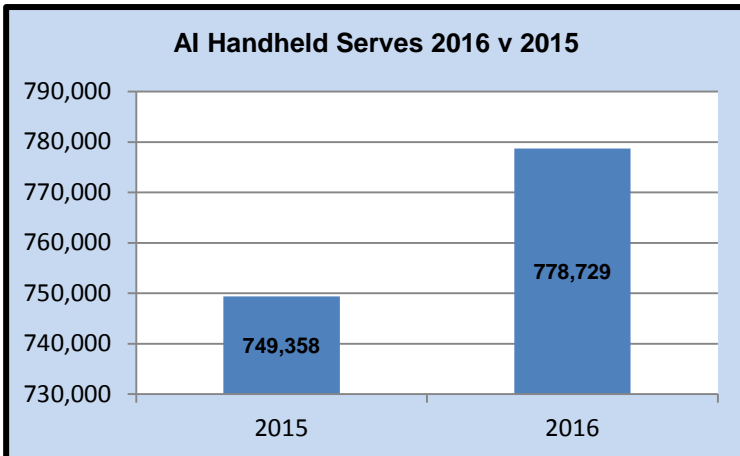
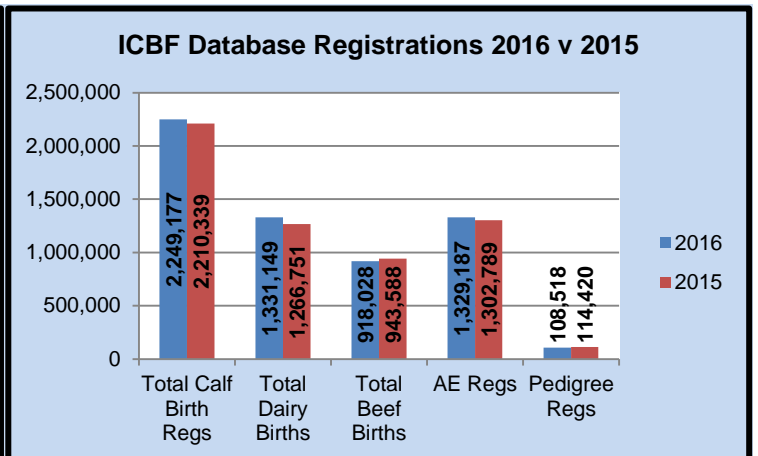
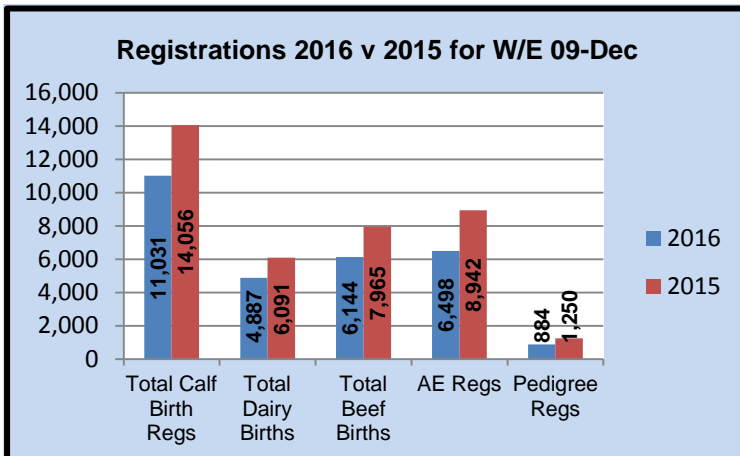


ICBF Weekly Update 9th December 2016

1 Important Dates

- Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 22nd December 2016 at 09:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 22nd December 2016 at 11:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 19th January 2017 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 2,333,851 results received since January 1st, of which 12,941 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 9,494,454 results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

3 Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

- Survey Data:** Survey data should be recorded online (www.icbf.com, www.agfood.ie or via farm software) or on paper survey forms posted to participants. Remember additional data (docility, quality, scour and pneumonia) must be recorded for calves when they reach 5 months of age.
- DNA Samples:** Participants must return DNA samples (tissue tag or hair card) for 60% of their reference number. For replacement of DNA samples for animals sold or dead please contact **1850 625 626**.

4 Herd Plus®

- HerdPlus attended the Teagasc National Dairy Conference which took place earlier this week. Please click [here](#) to view sideshow on Bull Selection Guidelines for Spring 2017, presented by ICBF and Teagasc during the conference.

- ✚ Publication Schedule: Official Publication of AI Sire Excel File(s) 13th December 2016. Bull Search, Active Bull Lists and Herd Profiles available on ICBF website 10th January 2017.
- ✚ HerdPlus Dairy Pocket Notebooks are currently being generated and will be arriving on farms over the coming weeks.
- ✚ The ICBF animal search is now available in app format on android and apple's app stores. You can download this app by searching for 'ICBF Animal Search'
- ✚ All new animal events books have now been sent out to herd owners to cater for the new tagging system.
- ✚ Please ensure that you record dry off dates when you have dried off your cows. Here at ICBF we don't know the difference between a Dry Cow and a cow that you plan to milk through the winter! That's why you need to tell us. Farmers that don't record dry offs do not receive an accurate Annual Report for their herd or valid lactations for their animals that they have paid for.
- ✚ Herd-owners can now genotype all their female calves which will allow them to make a more informed decision around breeding and culling potential replacements. This service could cost herd-owners as little as €22/head. Please contact HerdPlus on **1850 600 900** or **023 8820452** for further details. Alternatively when logged into HerdPlus, herd-owners can make orders online by selecting 'Services' – 'Genomic Services' – 'Place Order'

5 GENE IRELAND[®] Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- ✚ 172 herds taking a total of 2480 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 14 straws per herd.
- ✚ Details on the available bulls can be viewed [here](#)
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please telephone **023 8820452**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed in graph.

| Code | Name of Bull | Breed | Replacement Index | Straws |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|--------|
| AU2365 | Calverstown Koala | AU | €151 | 485 |
| PI2157 | Kilree Leo | PI | €128 | 495 |
| HE2359 | Arlinstown Special 13th | HE | €123 | 210 |
| SH2360 | Doon Giorgio | SH | €123 | 340 |
| SA2366 | Carrentubber Pinocchio | SA | €120 | 180 |
| AA4086 | Marianhill L Papa | AA | €107 | 20 |
| CH4082 | Firoda Jason | CH | €106 | 5 |
| BA2357 | Terelton Isaac | BA | €102 | 230 |
| PT2356 | Macgowan Herd Juno | PT | €98 | 240 |
| CH4068 | Glenville Jasper | CH | €93 | 465 |
| SI2367 | Barnattin George 2 | SI | €92 | 240 |
| CH2363 | Dolland Jefferson | CH | €83 | 365 |

6 Milk Recording

| National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 09/12/16 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 09/12/16 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 09/12/16 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 09/12/16 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 09/12/16 | % Cows EDIY |
| Munster | 3,781 | 1,159 | 31% | 367,958 | 124,274 | 34% |
| Progressive | 2,358 | 962 | 41% | 259,893 | 106,016 | 41% |
| Tipperary | 118 | 54 | 46% | 11,591 | 5,089 | 44% |
| Total | 6,257 | 2,175 | 35% | 639,442 | 235,379 | 37% |

| Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15-09/12/15 | YTD 2016 Cows Recorded 01/01/16-09/12/16 | 2016 vs 2015 Year on Year Difference (%) |
| Munster | 369,585 | 367,958 | -0.4% |
| Progressive | 263,820 | 259,893 | -1.5% |
| Tipperary | 11,909 | 11,591 | -2.7% |
| Total | 645,314 | 639,442 | -0.9% |

7 Genetic Evaluations

- Evaluations are currently being loaded to the database. Excel files for dairy and beef AI bulls will be available next Tuesday, 13th December.

8 Sheep Ireland

LambPlus Membership 2017

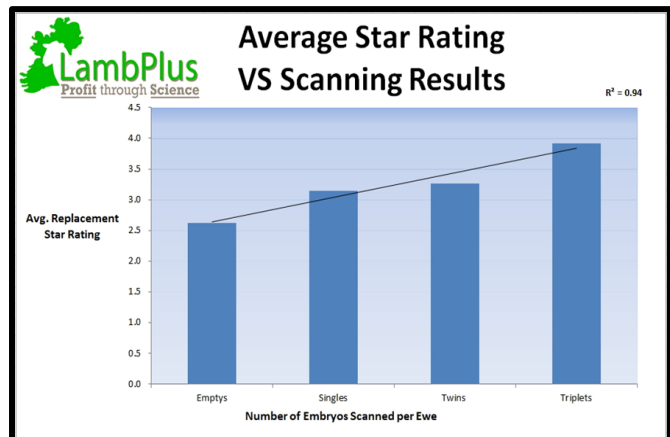
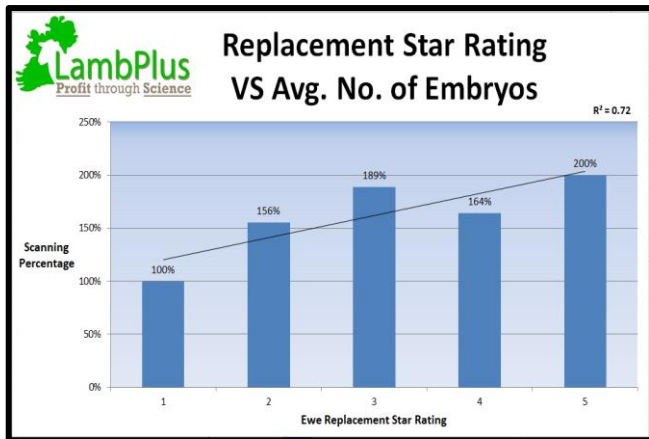
- The number of breeders that have signed up for the upcoming performance recording season has grown yet again which is hugely encouraging. All breeds involved with us have seen an increase in participating breeders which bodes well for the future genetic evaluations of each respective breed. At present we have just over 650 breeders signed up, but an absolute final number for each individual breed is not yet possible as we are working to resolve a small number of queries with a small number of sign-up forms. An initial list of breeders is now available [online](#), and this will be updated once the aforementioned queries are resolved.
- The number of breeders joining LambPlus has increased year on year since the programme's first year of operation in 2009. We would like to thank all sheep breed societies for their continued support and their efforts to encourage breeders to participate in performance recording. Sheep Ireland will continue to work with all stakeholders to encourage more use of these pedigree performance recorded rams.

Case Study: Richard Moore, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny; Columbkille Flock

- Richard has been breeding Suffolk sheep all his life, his flock was established in 1958 by his father and Richard has been performance recording his flock through LambPlus since it began in 2009. He is an avid believer that genetic indexes (Euro-Stars) can help to improve his flock's performance, and perhaps more critically the performance of his ram's on commercial farms, helping to put more money in the pockets of these farmers.
- In this case study we take a look at the pregnancy scanning results for Richards early lambing ewes. There are 53 scans including some empty ewes. These empty ewes will be scanned again in January.



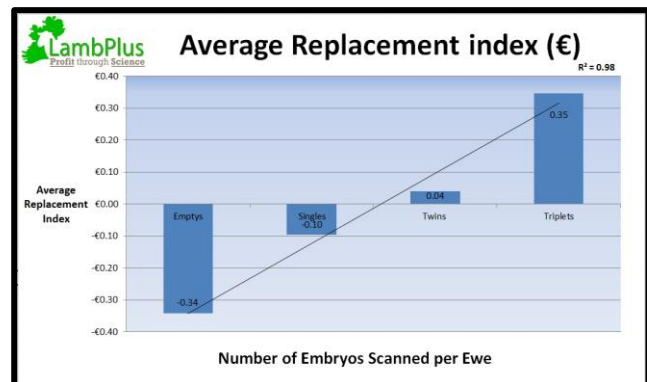
- In the first graph below we take a look at the effect of the ewes Replacement Star rating on the number of embryos scanned per ewe. The 1 Star ewes were scanned with an average of one lamb per ewe, 5 Star ewes scanned with an average of two lambs per ewe *that's an extra lamb per ewe!!*.



- In the second graph above we take a look at what the average Replacement Star rating for the ewes that scanned Empty or with Single, Twin or Triplet lambs respectively. Ewes that scanned empty had an average Replacement Star rating of 2.6 stars whereas the ewes that scanned with Triplets had an average Replacement Star rating of 3.9 stars.

- So in this flock the Replacement index is helping to identify the ewes most likely not to conceive as early as their flock mates and also helping to identify the most prolific/fertile ewes.

- This third graph is very similar to the second graph, except this time instead of using the Replacement Star rating; we use the Replacement Index figure (which is also displayed in catalogues) as a more precise means of separating the data. In this case there is a €0.69 difference in the ewes scanned with empties and the ewes scanned with triplets and the trend is even more convincing.



- The Replacement Index has very accurately predicted the ewes performance at scanning, with empty ewes having an average index of €-0.34 and the triplet bearing ewes having an average index of €0.35
- Richard commented that *“The results are so stark; I have always believed that performance recording was the way to go, but to see these results in black and white for my own ewes just supports how solid the system is”*.

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 30-NOV-2016 To 09-DEC-2016

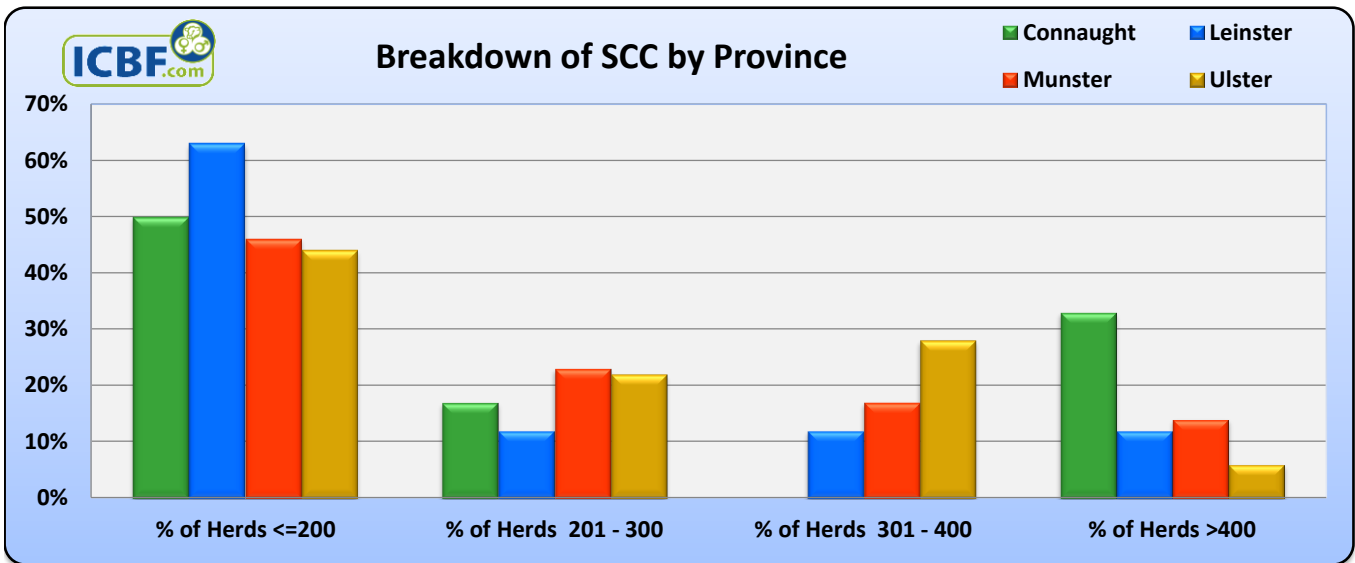
| ICBF.com | No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Avg Herd Size | Avg Milk kg/Cow | Average Fat % | Average Protein % | Average F+P kg | Average SCC* |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Connaught | 6 | 308 | 51 | 18.7 | 4.11 | 3.48 | 1.39 | 211 |
| Leinster | 41 | 4,472 | 109 | 20.2 | 4.42 | 3.53 | 1.59 | 179 |
| Munster | 148 | 9,710 | 66 | 15.6 | 4.62 | 3.75 | 1.29 | 221 |
| Ulster | 18 | 1,225 | 68 | 17.0 | 4.35 | 3.49 | 1.31 | 243 |
| National Statistics | 267 | 19,556 | 73 | 16.7 | 4.55 | 3.66 | 1.35 | 212 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 30-NOV-2016 To 09-DEC-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 | 6 | 308 | 51 | 50% | 17% | 0% | 33% | 211 |
| Leinster | 41 | 4,472 | 109 | 63% | 12% | 12% | 12% | 179 |
| Munster | 148 | 9,710 | 66 | 46% | 23% | 17% | 14% | 221 |
| Ulster | 18 | 1,225 | 68 | 44% | 22% | 28% | 6% | 243 |
| National Statistics | 267 | 19,556 | 73 | 49% | 21% | 15% | 14% | 212 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



| % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 30-NOV-2016 To 09-DEC-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 | 6 | 308 | 51 | 79 | 189 | 202 | 214 | 637 |
| Leinster | 41 | 4,472 | 109 | 99 | 146 | 157 | 186 | 317 |
| Munster | 148 | 9,710 | 66 | 126 | 182 | 221 | 245 | 374 |
| Ulster | 18 | 1,225 | 68 | 181 | 192 | 210 | 237 | 327 |
| National Statistics | 267 | 19,556 | 73 | 123 | 174 | 202 | 238 | 365 |

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

