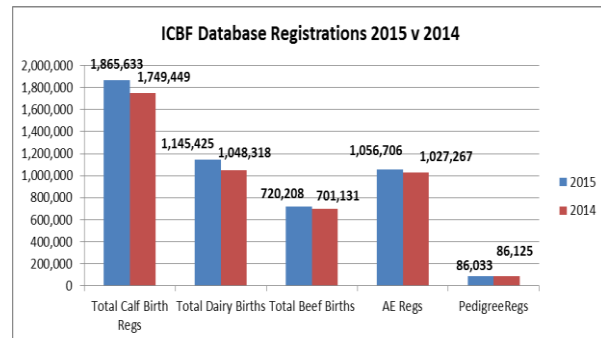
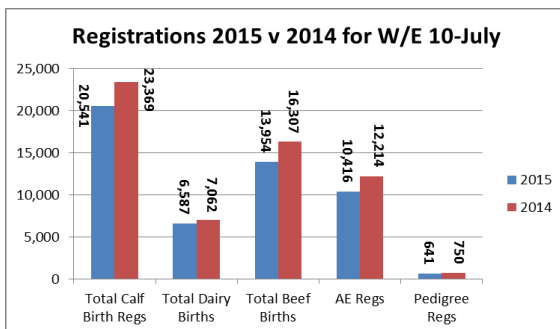


## ICBF Weekly Update 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015

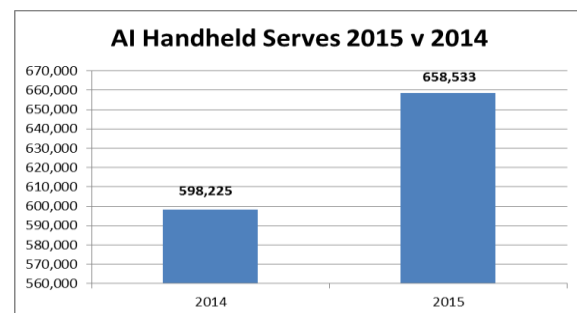
### 1 Important Dates

- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 10:30, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 1.95 million results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 26,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.89 million results have now been received.



- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.

### 3 Herd Plus®

#### Beef Output Report

- A new report was posted to Beef Herdplus farmers this week. The Beef Output Report is the newest report to join the suite of Herdplus reports. The Beef Output Report assesses the performance of the herd in terms of live weight produced. There are three Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) which give the figures for the herd and national averages: (i) Beef Output per Livestock Unit (LU), (ii) Beef Output per Hectare, (iii) Stocking Rate per Hectare.
- Attached at the end of this update is a copy of the Beef Output report for a sample herd.

#### Beef Gene Ireland Newsletter

- The latest Beef Gene Ireland Newsletter has been posted out to participating pedigree herds and is now available to read online here <http://www.icbf.com/?p=3746>. This newsletter will bring you up-to-date with all of the various developments in the programme.



## Better Farm Open Day

- ✚ ICBF will attend the Teagasc & Irish Farmers Journal Better Farm Beef Programme National Beef Open Day at the farm of Donie Ahern, Herbertstown, Co Limerick on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm & 6pm.
  - Highlights expected from the day include:
    - Outline and discussion of new Beef Genomics and Data Programme by Teagasc and ICBF.
    - Demonstrations of grassland management practices, grass measuring and reseeded.
    - Outline of how to increase farm profitability.
    - Nutritional information and demonstration of finishing cattle systems.
    - Information on TAMS 2, Beef Genomics and Data Programme, Selecting Cattle for Finishing and Health and Safety.



Donie Ahern with his suckler herd in preparation for Tuesday's Open Day. (photograph credit to Teagasc)

## 4 GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are still open for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- ✚ 400 herds taking a total of 6100 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 15 straws per herd.
- ✚ The Aubrac bull VEZ has reached the 500 straw target.
- ✚ The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in *Table 1*.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	445
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	450
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	440
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	180
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	215
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	355
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	215
HHJ	Heracles	CH	325
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	270
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	215
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	365
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	435
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	215
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	205
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	305
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	360
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	335
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	190
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	255

## 5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Genetic evaluations for the August routine evaluation update commenced this week.
- ✚ Domestic evaluations for milk production, linear type, calving and fertility are nearing completion and results from this will be submitted to the INTERBULL routine run for August.
- ✚ Notable additional data on the beef side which will be included in this run are UK breeding values for 4,000 UK Angus animals and the addition of 800,000 cow milkability scores recorded as part of the 2014 BDP scheme which will be used to as a predictor trait for maternal weaning weight.

## 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 10/07/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 10/07/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 10/07/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 10/07/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 10/07/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,973	1,267	32%	356,726	122,552	34%
Progressive	2,445	1,028	42%	243,056	103,586	43%
Tipperary	124	52	42%	11,323	4,883	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>2,347</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>611,105</b>	<b>231,021</b>	<b>38%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 10/07/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 10/07/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	321,991	356,726	10.8%
Progressive	230,575	243,056	5.4%
Tipperary	9,841	11,323	15.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>562,407</b>	<b>611,105</b>	<b>8.7%</b>

## 7 Sheep Ireland

### Ram sale season kicking off soon

Another ram sale season is upon us and the fruits of breeders data recording are being included in ram sale catalogues in the form of Euro-Star evaluations. Many of the premier sale catalogues for the various breeds have been prepared or are under preparation. For each breed society this is a huge amount of work as the premier is the largest sale of the year. Sheep Ireland are doing what we can to ensure LambPlus breeder's genetic evaluations are included in sales catalogues and breed societies are being extremely co-operative in this regard.

### Why are my Euro-Stars not displaying in the sales catalogue?

This will be a question asked by some breeders over the coming weeks. There are a number of minimum criteria that a breeder must adhere to in order for Euro-Star evaluations to be published in a sales catalogue by Sheep Ireland. Breeders have been informed of these criteria throughout the year.

- No NSIS recorded on the Sheep Ireland database for an animal. This will result in no Euro-Star evaluation being published for that animal.
- The animal was added to the Sheep Ireland database after the lambing data entry deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Euro-Star evaluations for these animals will not be published in ram sales catalogues in 2015.
- The accuracy% for any of the animals Indices are below 10%. Should any Index be below 10% accuracy, then that information is blanked. This very low threshold will likely be increased in the coming years.
- Extremely low DQI. This is perhaps the most important point for breeders to note. Any LambPlus flock that has not recorded sufficient data for their flock on the Sheep Ireland database will prevent Sheep Ireland from publishing genetic evaluations for that flock. The flock DQI score is an impartial and factual way to identify these flocks.

## Linkage (Relatedness between flocks)

- ✚ Close relatedness between our LambPlus recording flocks is critical to facilitate a genetic evaluation. In order to fairly compare animals and bloodlines between different flocks there needs to be genetic linkages between these flocks. Linkage between most flocks happens naturally, breeders purchase rams from other breeders etc. Sheep Ireland also helps to create linkages between flocks and breeds through the Central Progeny Test (CPT) programme.
- ✚ The number of unlinked flocks participating in the LambPlus programme is always something of concern. Essentially these unlinked flocks cannot be compared to other recording flocks in their breed. This has a major impact on the quality of genetic evaluations that Sheep Ireland can provide to these flocks.
- ✚ In the coming weeks in advance of each breed society sale, Sheep Ireland will be making contact with these unlinked to explain the issues that being unlinked cause. There are a number of practical options available to breeders who find themselves unlinked – the main one being to use a well linked ram. An unfortunate reality of the Sheep Ireland programme is that we are currently working with small amounts of performance data, we need to make sure that this performance data is being maximised through good flock linkages. This will be a big focus of Sheep Ireland over the coming weeks.

## Mayo-Connemara performance recording in action

- ✚ See below some images from the farm of Mayo-Connemara breeder Gary Ginty, from Ballycroy, Co. Mayo. Gary is among the founding members of the Mayo-Connemara flockbook.



## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 01-JUL-2015 To 10-JUL-2015

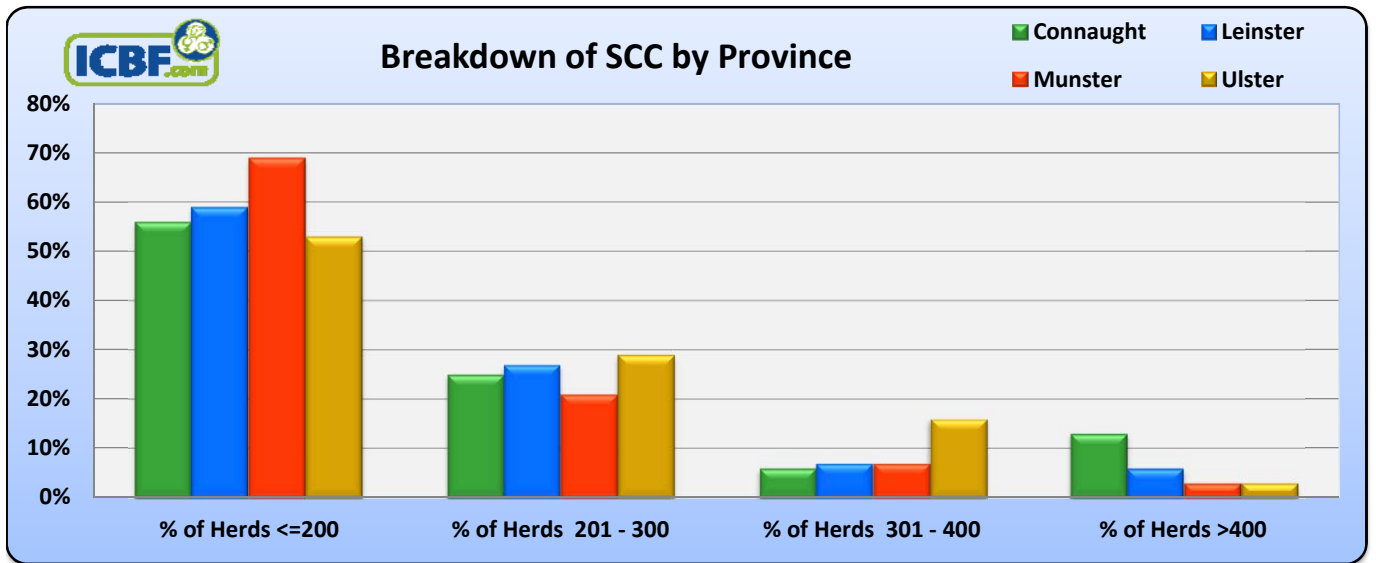
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	16	1,069	67	24.6	3.76	3.42	1.76	205
Leinster	143	14,219	99	23.9	3.73	3.44	1.71	173
Munster	597	52,199	87	24.2	3.88	3.48	1.77	156
Ulster	38	2,890	76	25.3	3.55	3.36	1.74	173
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>70,377</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>3.47</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>160</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 01-JUL-2015 To 10-JUL-2015

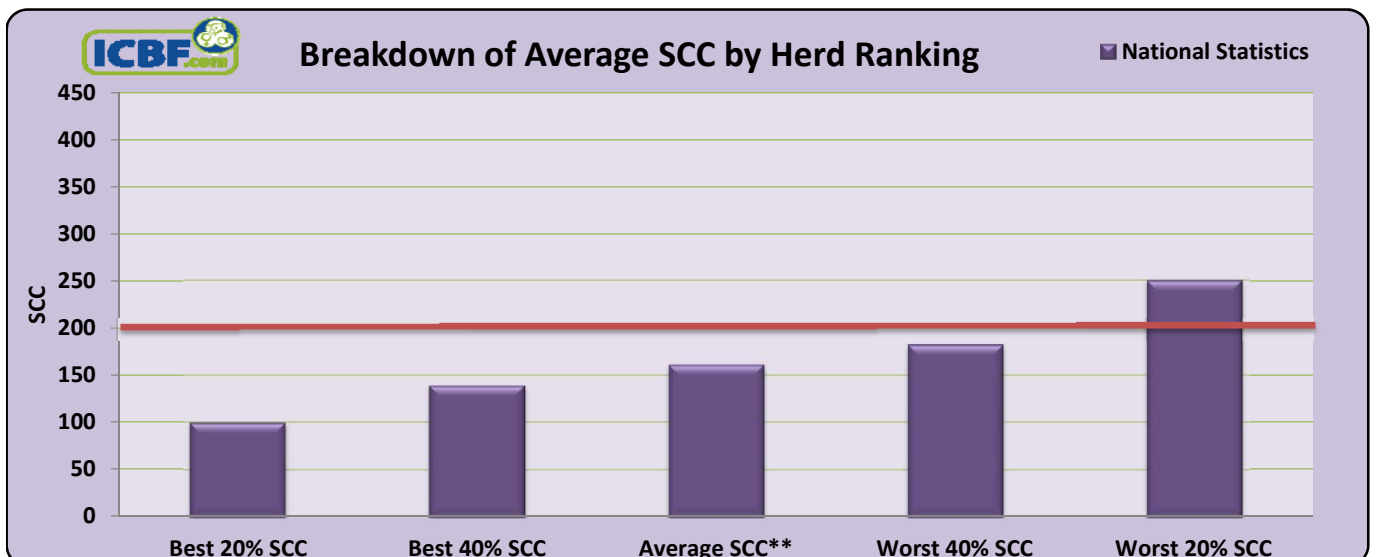
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	16	1,069	67	56%	25%	6%	13%	205
Leinster	143	14,219	99	59%	27%	7%	6%	173
Munster	597	52,199	87	69%	21%	7%	3%	156
Ulster	38	2,890	76	53%	29%	16%	3%	173
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>70,377</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>160</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 01-JUL-2015 To 10-JUL-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	16	1,069	67	118	178	184	221	252
Leinster	143	14,219	99	114	153	178	202	260
Munster	597	52,199	87	99	136	156	175	244
Ulster	38	2,890	76	95	152	178	223	274
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>70,377</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>250</b>

\*\* Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



24-JUN-2015

Sample Herd

### **New HerdPlus Beef Output Report**

Dear herdowner,

Please find your HerdPlus Beef Output Report enclosed. This is a new HerdPlus report which assesses the performance of your beef herd in terms of liveweight produced. There are three Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) which give the figures for your herd and the national averages:

**A. Beef Output per Livestock Unit (LU)** - Total liveweight (kg) produced per average livestock unit (LU) in your herd. LU is a calculation used to assess the stocking rate of a herd. The number of LU depends on the number of animals in the herd during the year as well as their ages. The following table details the various animal categories and their respective LU figures. An example calculation is also detailed.

<b>Animal Type</b>	<b>LU</b>
Suckler Cows	0.9
Stock Bulls	1
Cattle 0-6 Months	0.2
Cattle 6-12 Months	0.4
Cattle 1-2 Yrs	0.7
Cattle 2+ Yrs	1

A herd with an average for the year of:

- 25 suckler cows ( $25 \times 0.9 = 22.5\text{LU}$ )
- 1 stock bull ( $1 \times 1 = 1\text{LU}$ )
- 20 cattle 0-6 months ( $20 \times 0.2 = 4\text{LU}$ )
- 15 cattle 6-12 months ( $16 \times 0.4 = 6.4\text{LU}$ )
- 10 cattle 1-2 Yrs ( $13 \times 0.7 = 9.1\text{LU}$ )

The total LU for this herd is  $22.5 + 1 + 4 + 6.4 + 9.1 = 43$

**Total = 43LU**

**B. Beef Output per Hectare** - Total liveweight (kg) produced per hectare available to your cattle enterprise. This figure may be blank for your herd as very few farmers have their land areas recorded in the ICBF database (see Note 1).

**C. Stocking Rate per Hectare** - Average LU per hectare available to your cattle enterprise. Again, this figure may be blank for your herd as very few farmers have their land areas recorded in the ICBF database (see Note 1).

There are also sections in the report which give a breakdown of your sales and purchases as well as the stock on hand at the beginning and the end of the year (inventory change).

**Note 1:**

- Where liveweight data is not available for animals in the ICBF database, liveweights are estimated based on the breed and age of the animal at the time of the sale/purchase. If you want to record more accurate sale/purchase liveweight data, you can do this in the e-profit monitor section of your HerdPlus account. Select the relevant year and select either the "Livestock Sales" or "Livestock Purchases" tabs, depending on which you want to enter weights for.

- To rerun the report click on the "Reports" dropdown and select "General". Select "Beef Output Report". Enter the number of hectares available to your cattle enterprise (this should include all grazing ground as well as any forage ground used for the the cattle enterprise e.g. silage and maize etc.). Select the year for which you want to generate a report and click "Generate Report". Once report has generated, click "Download File".

- You may just want to rerun the report having entered your hectares, in which case just follow the steps in the second bullet point above.

To make full use of this report we would encourage you to discuss it with your agricultural advisor. We would also encourage you to incorporate it into any future discussion group meetings as a guide to the output performance of your herd. This report can also be viewed online through your HerdPlus login.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact ICBF HerdPlus on 1850 600 900 or 023 8820452

Yours sincerely,



Sean Coughlan  
Chief Executive, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

**Beef Output Report**  
 01/01/2014 - 31/12/2014

**Herd Owner:** Sample Herd  
**Herd Number:** 1 (3)  
**Page:**

**1. Summary Data**

Report calculates how much liveweight was produced from this herd in the selected year. It then breaks this figure down into various KPI's which are detailed in section 2 below. All weights are liveweights.

**A. Total Beef Output (Kgs)**

Sales - Purchases + Inventory Change, in the selected year **6,810**

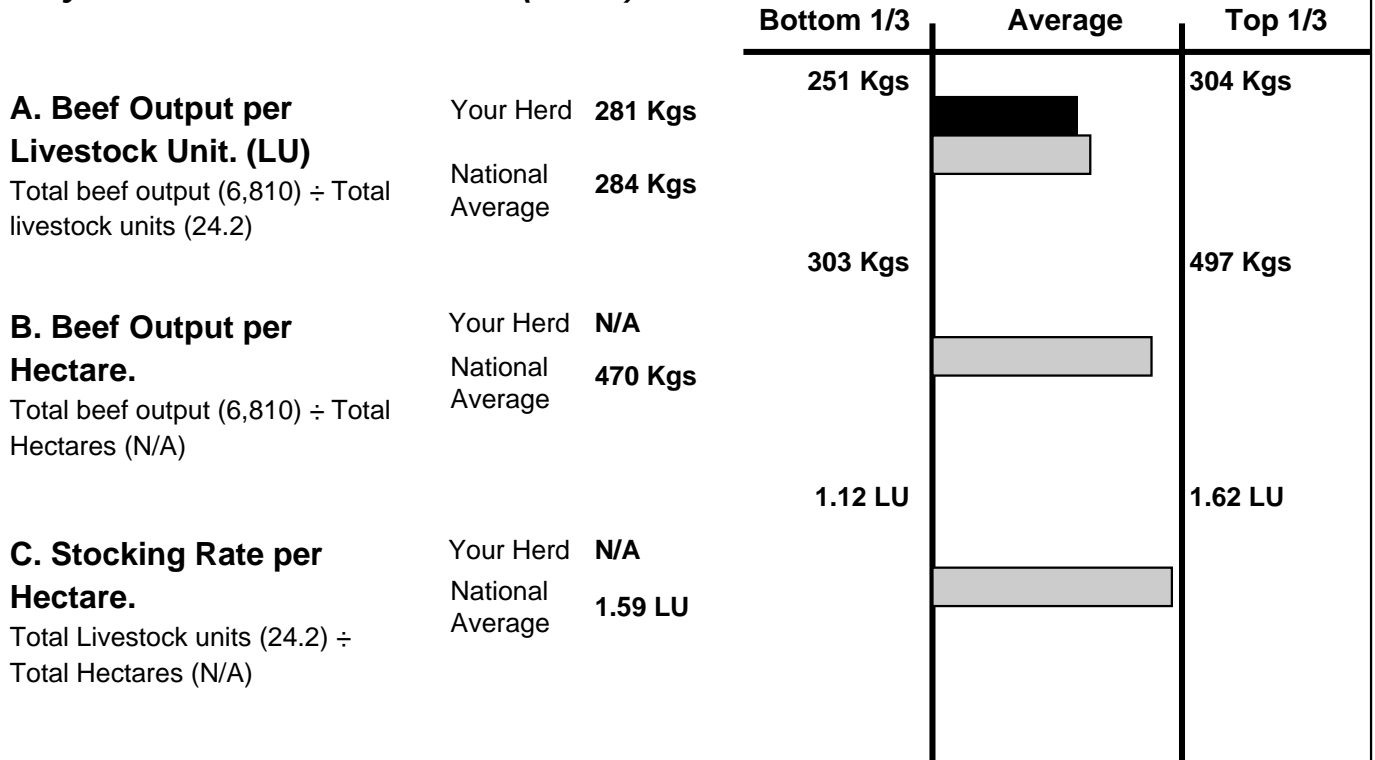
**B. Total Livestock Units (LU)**

Average livestock units in the herd, in the selected year. **24.2**

**C. Total Hectares (Ha)**

Total hectares available to the cattle enterprise, in the selected year. **N/A**

**2. Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)**



**Targets**

Production System	Beef Output per LU
Suckler to Weanling/Store	300/345
Suckler to Beef	360
Weanling to Beef	485
Store to Beef	345
Calf to Store	500
Calf to Beef	500



## Beef Output Report

01/01/2014 - 31/12/2014

**Herd Owner:** Sample Herd

**Herd Number:** 2 (3)

**Page:**

### 3. Sales

This section gives a breakdown of the stock which was sold from this herd in the selected year.

Animal Type	Number of Animals	Avg. Weight (Kgs)	Total Liveweight Sold (Kgs)*
Suckler Cows	10	659	6,591
Stock Bulls	0	0	0
0-6 Months Male	0	0	0
0-6 Months Female	0	0	0
6-12 Months Male	5	384	1,921
6-12 Months Female	4	337	1,347
1-2 Yrs Male	9	399	3,595
1-2 Yrs Female	2	478	956
2+ Yrs Male	0	0	0
2+ Yrs Female	0	0	0
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>14,410</b>

### 4. Purchases

This section gives a breakdown of the stock which was purchased into this herd in the selected year.

Animal Type	Number of Animals	Avg. Weight (Kgs)	Total Liveweight Purchased (Kgs)*
Suckler Cows	0	0	0
Stock Bulls	0	0	0
0-6 Months Male	0	0	0
0-6 Months Female	0	0	0
6-12 Months Male	0	0	0
6-12 Months Female	0	0	0
1-2 Yrs Male	0	0	0
1-2 Yrs Female	0	0	0
2+ Yrs Male	0	0	0
2+ Yrs Female	0	0	0
<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>

**\*The liveweight data in the sales and purchases sections is collected by the following methods:**

- 1. Mart data:** Most marts send ICBF files with sale weights and prices.
- 2. Slaughter data:** Most factories send ICBF files with carcass grades and weights. Liveweights are then estimated from the carcass weights.
- 3. Farmer recorded weights :** Weights can be recorded manually prior to generating this report for animals which are missing purchase /sale weights or slaughter data.
- 4. Estimated Weights:** Where no liveweight or slaughter data is present in the database for an animal, an estimated weight will be assigned based on the age and breed of that animal.

## Beef Output Report

01/01/2014 - 31/12/2014

**Herd Owner:** Sample Herd

**Herd Number:** 3 (3)

**Page:**

### 5. Inventory Change\*\*

A breakdown of the inventory change for this herd is detailed below.

	<b>Kgs Liveweight</b>
<b>A. Opening Stock (01/01/2014)</b>	
Total liveweight of all stock in the herd at the start of the selected year	<b>24,500</b>
<b>B. Closing Stock (31/12/2014)</b>	
Total liveweight of all stock in the herd at the end of the selected year	<b>16,900</b>
<b>C. Inventory Change</b>	
Closing Stock - Opening Stock = Inventory Change	<b>-7,600</b>

### Breakdown of Inventory Change

Animal Type	Animal Numbers			Weights	
	1st Jan	31st Dec	Difference	Avg. Weight	Total (Kgs)
Suckler Cows	24	15	-9	600	-5,400
Stock Bulls	0	0	0	800	0
0-6 Months Male	0	0	0	120	0
0-6 Months Female	0	0	0	120	0
6-12 Months Male	15	9	-6	350	-2,100
6-12 Months Female	7	6	-1	300	-300
1-2 Yrs Male	0	1	+1	600	+600
1-2 Yrs Female	5	1	-4	550	-2,200
2+ Yrs Male	0	0	0	650	0
2+ Yrs Female	0	3	+3	600	+1,800
<b>Total</b>	51	35	-16		-7,600
<b>Inventory Change</b>			<b>-16</b>		<b>-7,600</b>

#### \*\* Inventory Change Explained:

Inventory change is the difference in stock numbers in a herd, from the start of the year (1st Jan) to the end of the year (31st Dec).

#### Example:

A herd had an opening stock, on 1st Jan, of 30, 1-2 year old males and a closing stock, on 31st Dec, of 35, 1-2 year old males. The inventory change for 1-2 year old males would, therefore, be +5 as there were 5 more animals in the 1-2 year male category, in the herd, at the end of the year. To get the inventory change in Kgs of liveweight, you simply multiply the number of animals by the average liveweight for animals in that category. See calculation below:

	1st Jan	31st Dec	Difference	Avg. Weight	Total (Kgs)
1-2 Yrs Male	30	35	+5	600	+3,000

If the herd had less animals at the end of the year, then the inventory change would be a minus figure.

