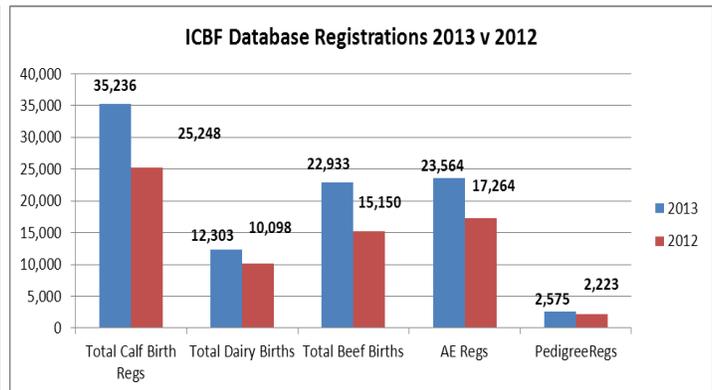
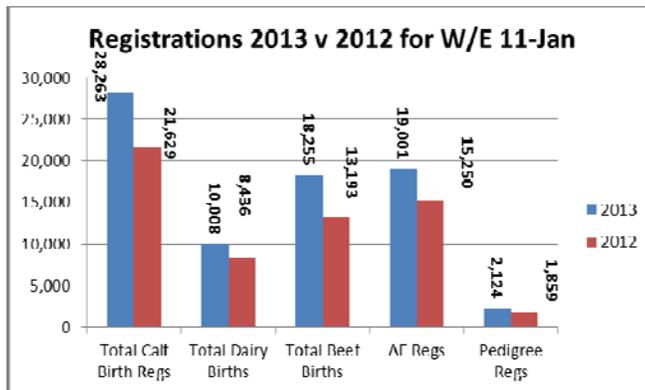


ICBF Weekly Update 11th January 2013

1 Important Dates

- Industry Consultation meeting on BreedQuality** – 17th January, 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th January, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th January, at 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise

2 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 558,182 with the number of animals weaned at 470,065.

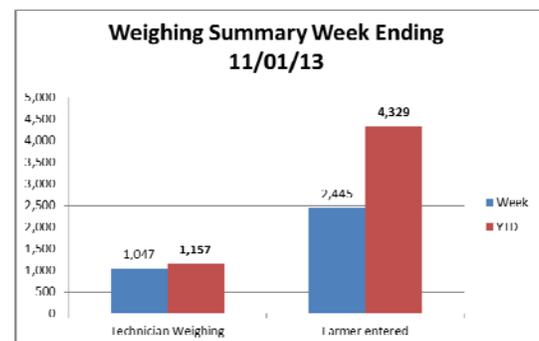
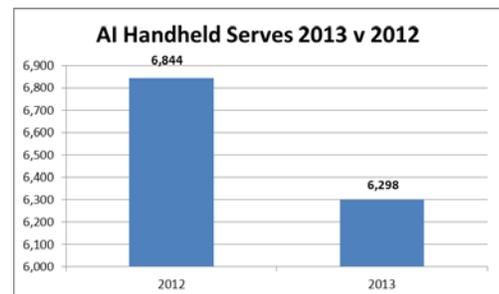
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. The compulsory phase began on 1st January 2013 and 15,600 samples have been received since then compared with 855 in the same period last year.

- Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new Euro-Star indexes, and the development work on these is continuing.

- The distribution of the 2013 Dairy personalised notebooks is now complete.

- The graph above shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.

- This week there were 1,047 weights received through the technician service and 2,445 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



3 GROW[®]

New rules relating to the linear scoring of pedigree animals

- ✚ The age range for Linear Scoring is now 250 to 350 days.
- ✚ All eligible animals (male and female) must be weighed and scored on the day the Scorer visits.
- ✚ Up to 28th February 2013 all pedigree animals from 150 to 350 days must be weighed by the linear scorer.
- ✚ After 1st March 2013 all pedigree animals from birth to 350 days must be weighed by the linear scorer.
- ✚ *Any questions, please telephone Niall Kilrane 045 521573*

Genetic Evaluation Changes

- ✚ **From 14th January 2013 onwards, linear scores on animals will be omitted from genetic evaluations if all eligible animals are not presented on the day.**
- ✚ The “group of 5 rule” has been removed. All animals scored in groups of less than 5 before the 14th January 2013 will be included in evaluations.
- ✚ Crossbred animals will no longer be compared with pedigree animals in the same contemporary groups.
- ✚ Males and females will be compared in separate contemporary groups.
- ✚ Animals born by Embryo transfer and show animals (identified via AIM database) will be treated in separate contemporary groups.
- ✚ The Herd Data Quality Index (HDQI) will also be used to evaluate herds for inclusion in genetic evaluations when development work is completed.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Genetic evaluations have been completed and uploaded to the database. The additional information for bulls on the bull search is currently being uploaded. The run saw the introduction of some significant changes which are outlined in some more detail below.

Dairy Changes

- ✚ New management sub-index for milking time and milking temperament. The milking time measures the amount of extra time in seconds required to milk the daughters of particular bulls per milking. Data for milking time comes from the EDIY milk meters. It is independent of milk volume so selecting for bulls with faster milking will not reduce milk volume. We also introduced milking temperament into the index. Data for milking temperament was gathered as part of the DEP programme.
- ✚ The health sub-index was re-vamped to include lameness and mastitis. Previously locomotion had been used to assess lameness but we now have collected sufficiently large quantities of data on lameness and mastitis through the DEP scheme to enable a direct evaluation of these traits. Somatic cell count is still included due to the direct economic value of somatic cell count.
- ✚ Improvement to the beef and calving sub-indexes of the EBI are outlined in the beef section below.

Beef Changes

- ✚ Calving Evaluations saw the introduction of new genetic parameters and the introduction of other traits to help in the prediction of calving difficulty. In addition available foreign information on beef bulls is included directly into the calving evaluation.

For the beef performance evaluation the following were introduced:

- a) New genetic parameters for every trait and correlations between traits.
 - b) New traits: birth weight and early life weights, dairy herd calf price, post-weanling mart price, 4 carcass cut traits, cow liveweight, cull cow carcass conformation and fat)
 - c) Redefinition of contemporary groups of slaughtered animals where steers are not now compared in the same groups as bulls and cows. There is also an additional correction for previous herds for animals that have moved from herd of birth
 - d) Move to random contemporary groups which allow animals in groups <5 to now be included in the evaluation for every trait.
- ✚ This has increased the number of animals in the evaluation from 3,658,330 to 6,337,159. While the correlation between this run and the old run remain high for well proven bulls, there will be re-ranking of bulls as a result of the changes.

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