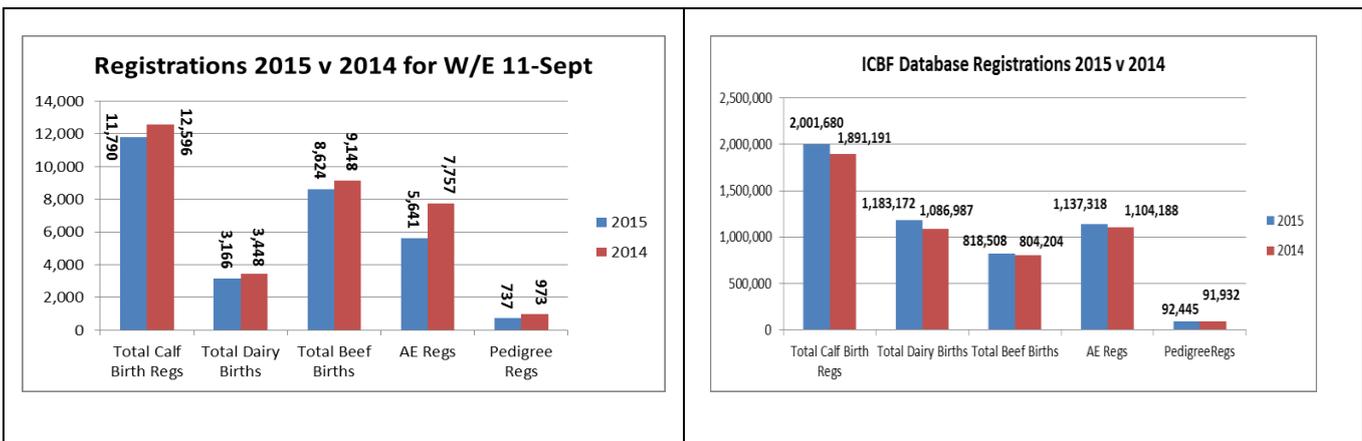


ICBF Weekly Update 11th September 2015

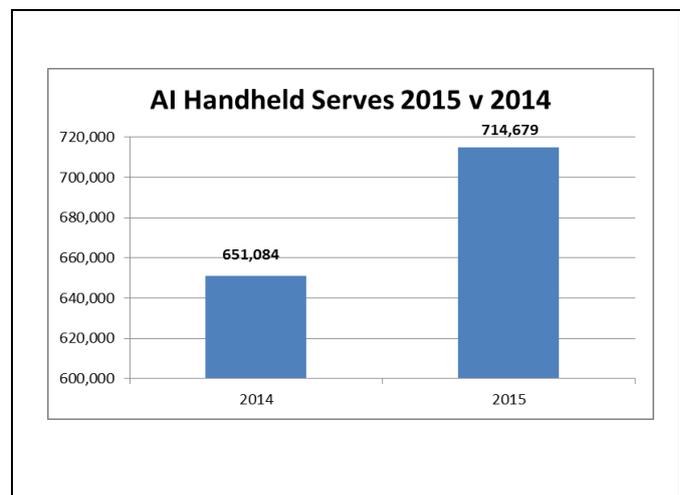
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 17th September 2015 at 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise. (*Please note change of date and venue*).
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 18th 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 2.11 million results received since January 1st, of which 15910 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.05 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



3 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ A beef evaluation is currently underway for animals linear scored in July and August 2015. Results will be loaded to the database early next week.

4 Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

- ✚ This week's Irish Farmers Journal page is at the end of this update. This week's article outlines the tissue tags for genotyping that are arriving on farms currently. Over 10,000 Tags have arrived on farm to date.
- ✚ There was an ICBF/Teagasc Farm walk held Thursday 10th September at the farm of Billy and Niall Nicholson, Crosshaven. The boards used for the farm walk are at the end of this update.

See pictures below

		
<p>Pat Donnellan ICBF discusses Billy & Niall Nicholson's High Replacement Index Bull, Bearna-Dhearg Captain.</p>	<p>Bearna-Dhearg Captain 5 star Replacement Index Bull https://webapp.icbf.com/bull-search/view/927308880</p>	<p>Some of the crowd in East Cork at Billy and Niall Nicholson's.</p>

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 11/09/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 11/09/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 11/09/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 11/09/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 11/09/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,980	1,273	32%	363,273	125,181	34%
Progressive	2,491	1,064	43%	253,682	110,074	43%
Tipperary	125	53	42%	11,734	5,229	45%
Total	6,596	2,390	36%	628,689	240,484	38%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 11/09/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 11/09/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	328,078	363,273	10.7%
Progressive	239,229	253,682	6.0%
Tipperary	9,979	11,734	17.6%
Total	577,286	628,689	8.9%

6 Sheep Ireland

Central Progeny Test (CPT) 2015

- Plans for this year's CPT are progressing rapidly. We are currently assembling our ram list for the AI programme and have a full panel of rams assembled for some breeds. We will be meeting with breed society representative in Portlaoise next Thursday 17th September to discuss this panel of rams before we make our final selection. This final selection will be included in this weekly update in the coming weeks.

The CPT ram selection criteria for this year is as follows:

- High Replacement Index
- High accuracy% - over 35% if possible
- Breed by a breeder with a good Data Quality Index (DQI)
- Ram must be available from the last days of September to October 20th
- From a variety of different bloodlines within each respective breed
- Ram must be physically correct and suitable for future use in pedigree flocks

Once the ram selection process is complete all rams will be moved to Lyons estate in UCD where a period of quarantine and thorough health checks are required. The first day of AI will take place on the farm of James Napper, Oldcastle, Co. Meath on Monday 12th October. Other flocks with ewes involved in the programme include John Large (Tipperary), Andrew Moloney (Offaly), UCD (Lyons Estate), Brian Nicholson (Kilkenny), and Teagasc Athenry (Galway).

Meeting with Breed Societies

- ✚ We have extended an invitation to all the breed societies involved with Sheep Ireland to a meeting in the **(Change of Date and Venue: Maldron Hotel Thursday the 17th September)**. We will use this meeting as an opportunity to update flockbooks on the progress of Sheep Ireland, LambPlus and Ovigen. We will also be looking for feedback from the societies on all these programmes as their involvement is pivotal to their success.



Image from last year's CPT lambing on the farm of John Large

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, 02-SEP-2015 To 11-SEP-2015

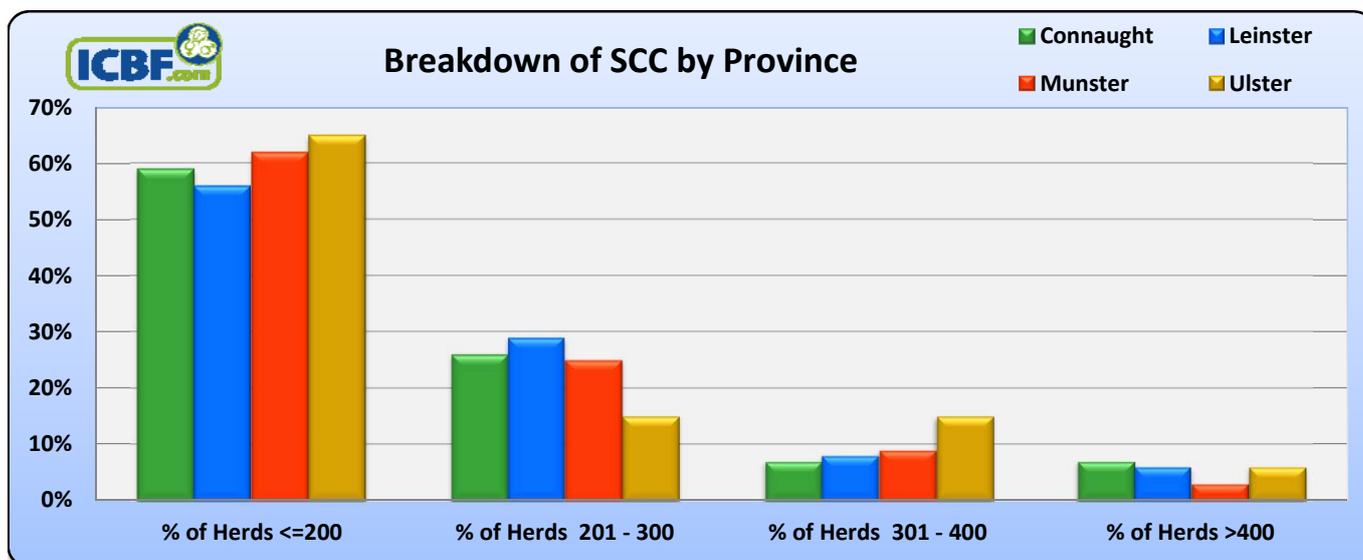
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	27	1,437	53	20.3	4.10	3.69	1.56	187
Leinster	156	13,830	89	19.9	4.09	3.66	1.54	180
Munster	629	54,382	86	20.1	4.13	3.70	1.57	176
Ulster	34	2,400	71	21.2	3.90	3.60	1.58	178
National Statistics	846	72,049	85	20.1	4.11	3.69	1.56	177

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 02-SEP-2015 To 11-SEP-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	27	1,437	53	59%	26%	7%	7%	187
Leinster	156	13,830	89	56%	29%	8%	6%	180
Munster	629	54,382	86	62%	25%	9%	3%	176
Ulster	34	2,400	71	65%	15%	15%	6%	178
National Statistics	846	72,049	85	61%	26%	9%	4%	177

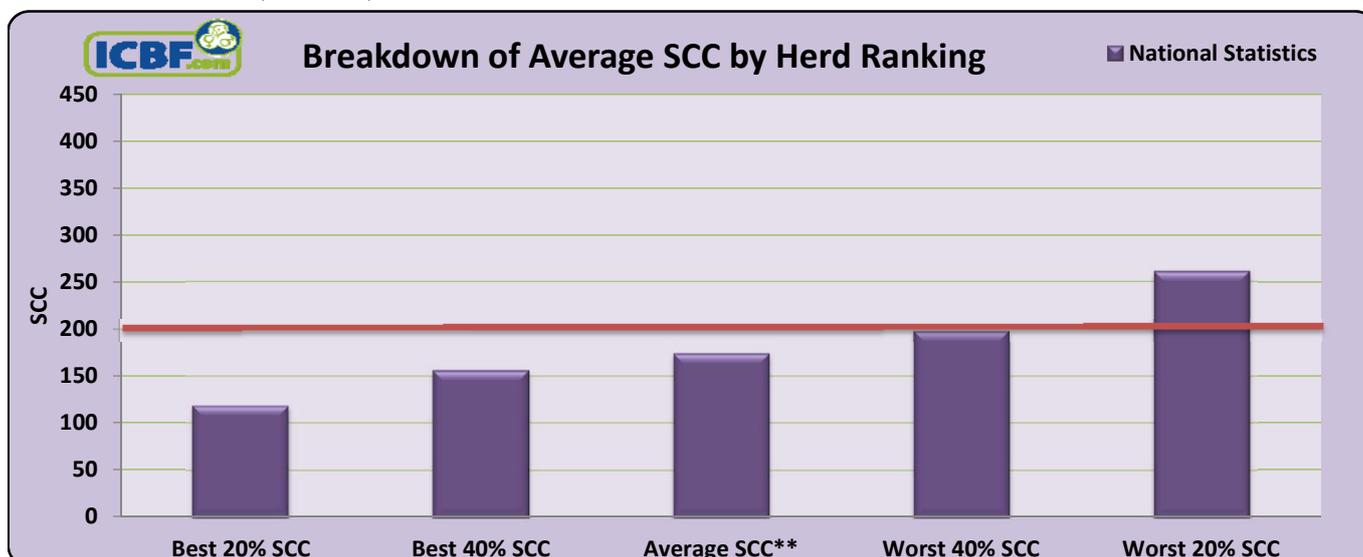
* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 02-SEP-2015 To 11-SEP-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	27	1,437	53	120	170	177	202	272
Leinster	156	13,830	89	120	166	180	210	278
Munster	629	54,382	86	119	154	173	195	253
Ulster	34	2,400	71	117	157	172	188	302
National Statistics	846	72,049	85	119	156	174	198	261

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



Tissue tags arriving on BDGP farms

Tissue tags for collecting DNA samples as part of this year's Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

have started arriving on farms. Each tag pack contains:

- The participating farmer's tissue tags for the 2015 programme.
- An instruction leaflet detailing how to apply the tags.
- A Freepost envelope for the return of the tags to the genotyping laboratory.
- A document containing frequently asked questions.

In addition to the BDGP tag pack, farmers will receive a BDGP tag report that contains some additional information to help them more quickly establish the animals that have been selected for tissue tagging as part of this year's programme, eg sex, breed and age of animal.

Farmers are encouraged to quickly undertake their genotyping requirement, as the closing date for receipt of the samples is 28 days after the receipt of the tags.

It is also important to note that participants should sample all of the requested animals in the tissue tag pack. However, if farmers receive tags for animals that have died, left the farm or are too dangerous to tag, then they should contact the BDGP help-line number (1850 625 626) to request

DNA kits for replacement animals. When selecting animals for genotyping, the priority was to help ensure that herds would have enough 4 and 5 star genotyped animals to meet the programme requirements. On that basis, the ICBF has targeted stock bulls, 4 and 5 star cows (up to those with 5 calves) and 4 and 5 star heifers that have not yet been genotyped, until the target number of animals has been reached.

Once these 4 and 5 star animals have been exhausted on individual farms, other animals, including those with more than five calves, may be requested. If a herd has young pedigree male and female animals, these have been selected first. Of the 350,000 animals that will be genotyped as part of this year's programme, almost 70% will be existing 4 and 5 star animals on farms.

The ICBF's plan is to have a system that allows participants select and de-select animals for genotyping next year. Unfortunately, it was not possible to have such a system in place this time around due to time constraints and the need to have farmers quickly complete their first year of genotyping.

At this stage, around 10,000 herds have received their BDGP tissue tag packs. The balance (some 19,000 packs in total) will be distributed over the next two to three weeks.

Tissue tags for collecting DNA samples as part of the BDGP scheme have started arriving on farms.



One of Grattan Evans' best cows. This February 2008-born CHX cow has a Replacement Index of €127 (5 stars). She calved for the first time at 25 months. She has produced seven calves to date (one set of twins) with an average calving interval of 364 days. Her current calf is achieving an ADG of 1.4kg.

Q&A

What is genomics?

Genomics is the analysis of an animal's DNA to help predict how it will breed in the future. It will help to speed up the rate of genetic gain in the national suckler herd by identifying superior animals from a younger age.

How were animals selected for genotyping?

Priority was given to stock bulls and 4 and 5 star females. Where a herd has young pedigree animals, these were selected first. Animals have been selected to help ensure that herds will have enough 4 and 5 star genotyped animals to meet programme requirements.

I have received a tag for an animal that has left my farm - what should I do?

If you have received tags for departed (sold or dead) or dangerous animals, please contact 1850 625 626 to order replacements as soon as possible. Tags received for departed or dangerous animals should not be used.

FARMER FOCUS: GRATTAN EVANS

'It will help me to breed better stock'

Name: Grattan Evans, Delgany, Co Wicklow.

Farming system: Suckler to beef.

BDGP cow reference No: 49

4 or 5 star females: 21 cows; 30 heifers.

Stock bull or AI: Two stock bulls: Charolais and Limousin.

Replacement strategy: Up to now, buying in and breeding my own. Breeding own in future.

Why did you join the BDGP? My main reason was I feel that it's a positive programme and it will push me to pay more attention to breeding indexes, which will help me to breed better stock, have a more efficient herd and, in turn, increase profitability. Anything that challenges me to analyse my system, I see as a positive.

Do you feel it will deliver for the national suckler herd? It's a step in the right direction. I think that it will help bring the national herd forward through more comprehensive, reliable breeding information and by incentivising farmers to introduce more efficient breeding stock into their herds.

How did you find the BDGP Euro-Star report?

I found it clear and straightforward. I was very happy with it. I think that farmers now need to be given guidance on how to move their herds in the right direction to meet the programme targets.

What replacement strategy do you plan to implement in light of the scheme? I plan to breed all of my own replacements. I may have to change one of my stock bulls and replace him with a high Replacement Index bull (probably



Wicklow suckler farmer Grattan Evans.

Simmental) to mate with my highest Replacement Index cows.

Do you know much about genomics? I know the basics. I know that it involves taking DNA from an animal and using it to predict how that animal will perform in the future. It will help to take some of the guess work and risk out of breeding, which will be a big benefit.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

September: Genotyping tags, paper survey forms and any remaining BDGP Euro-Star reports arriving on farms.

Thursday 10 September @ 2pm: Teagasc/ICBF, BDGP and Euro-Star information open day on Billy and Niall Nicholson's farm, Crosshaven, Co Cork.

22-24 September: National Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, Co Laois. Livestock demonstrations at the Irish Farmers Journal stand. Your BDGP questions answered at the DAFM stand.

The Nicholson Farm

- Total farm size 175ha / 432 acres
 - **Grass:** 96ha/ 237 acres
 - **F. beet:** 4.6ha/ 11 acres
 - **S. barley:** 42ha/ 104 acres
 - **Woodland:** 32.4ha/ 80acres

- Stocking rate 2.05LU/ha
- Organic Nitrogen 163Kg N /ha grass
- Whole farm organic Nitrogen 111Kg/ha
- Beef Output kg/ha 720
- Gross Output/ha €1,569
- Gross margin/ha €746



2015 livestock

- 104 Suckler cows
- 104 Weanlings (58heifers, 46 bulls)
- 17 In-calf heifers
- 34 Beef heifers
- 57 Bulls
- 5 Stock Bulls (2 CH, 2 LM, 1 SM)

Calving Season (Jul 14-Jun 15)

Cows Calved: 107 (incl. 21 heifers)

Calving interval: 363 days

Calves/cow/year: 0.98

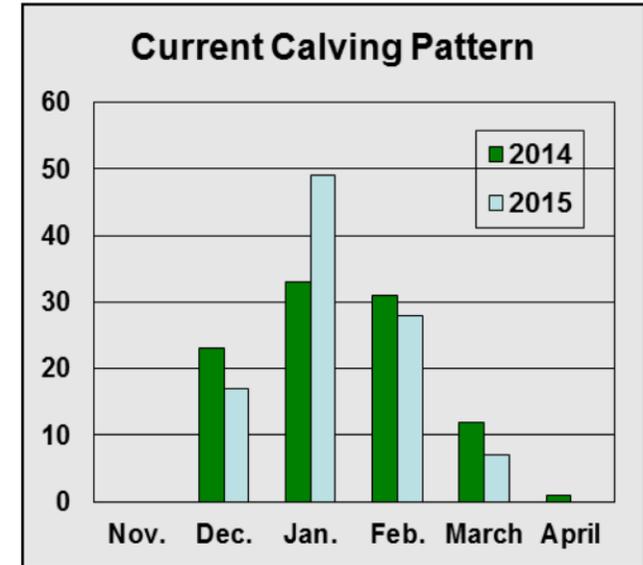
Calves live at birth: 106

Dead at birth: 1.9%

Dead at 28 days: 2.8%

Age 1st calving: 23 months

Calvings	% of Herd
1 st	21
2 nd	20
3 rd – 4 th	31
5 th – 7 th	28
> 7 th	3



Beef Enterprise

2015 BULLS

- 23 Slaughtered to-date
- 96% U and 4% R grade
- Average age 16.9mths (15-17mths)
- Carcass Wt. 423Kg
- Value €4.31/kg or €1,824/head

2014 BULLS

- 34 Slaughtered
- 71%U, 26% R grade, 3% O grade
- Average age 18.2mths (15-23mths)
- Carcass Wt. 410Kg
- Value €3.77/Kg or €1,548/head

Bull Diet

- Barley 75%
- Maize Gluten 12.5%
- Citrus Pulp 12.5%
- + minerals and vitamins
- Building to ad lib
- Silage provided for roughage and beet will be added once harvested.



2014 Steers

- 30 Slaughtered
- 33% U and 66% R grade
- Average age 22.2mths (20-23mths)
- Carcass Wt. 386Kg
- Value €4.11/kg or €1,602/head

2014 HEIFERS

- 53 Slaughtered
- 5% U, 83% R and 4% O grade
- Average age 22mths (16-26mths)
- Carcass Wt. 326Kg
- Value €4.13/Kg or €1,348/head

2014 COWS

- 19 Slaughtered
- 5% U, 37% R and 58% O grade
- Average age 7 years (3-14years)
- Carcass Wt. 374kg
- Value €3.50/Kg or €1,312/head

Report Date: 08-Sep-15 (Aug 2015 Evaluation)
Herd: D2160138 /IE1416311
Herd Owner: WILLIAM NICHOLSON

D. Female Replacement Index Euro-Star Summary

(Based on animals in the herd on 08-Sep-15)

This section gives a breakdown of the number of female(s) in the herd within each Euro-Star rating on the Replacement Index.

	Replacement Index							Total 4 or 5 Stars	Percent 4 or 5 Stars (Based on 94 Reference Animals)
	Total	Females Missing Stars #	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★		
Cows	104	5	4	6	10	34	45	79	84%
1yr+ heifers	50	1	1	8	7	14	19	33	35%
0-1yr heifers	58	0	0	6	6	28	18	46	49%
Total	212	6	5	20	23	76	82	158	168%

Reference
Animals:

94

Herd Replacement Index

€93 ★★★★★

Bulls Replacement Index

€77 ★★★★★

Heifer Replacement Index

€100 ★★★★★

Bulls in the Herd

SI	Bearna-Dhearg Captain	€138	★★★★★
LM	Elite Gay Et	€97	★★★★
LM	Meelickaduff Hollywood	€88	★★★★
CH	Roughan Fallon	€56	★★★
CH	Mearain Ivan Et	€7	★

Euro-Star Performance Comparison

	Replacement Index			Fertility		Weaning	Carcass	
Num Cows	Group		Index	Age at First Calving (months)	Calv Interval (days)	Weaning Weight (kg)	Age at Slaughter (days)	Carcass Weight (kg)
79	5 and 4 Star	★★★★★ ★★★★	€105	24.5	370	304	641	379
22	3, 2 and 1 Star	★★★★ ★★ ★	€45	36.5	374	279	712	353
Difference			€60	-12	-4	25	-71	26

Replacements

2015 Breeding Season

Heifers Bullied: **21**

Bull out: **8 weeks** (9th Mar -3rd May)

Scanned: **17 in calf** (4th Jun)

Weight: **554kg** (15th Aug)

Elite Gay ET
Replacement Index

€97 ★★☆☆

Calving Difficulty: 4.7%



Lot 1 BEARNA-DHEARG CAPTAIN

ID: IE341135160418

Breed: Simmental

Sex: Male

DOB: 24-Sep-2011

Owner: William Nicholson - Hoddersfield Crosshaven Co Cork

Breeder: Mary O'Halloran - Chamberlainstown Cahir Co Tipperary

Sire: Milnafua Graduate
MFU

Milnafua Diamond

Hayton Walcott

Milnafua Velvet

Milnafua Barbie

Brinkton Vibrant

Milnafua Vertu

Dam: Mohona Alana
IE141661560551

Kilbride Farm
Newry

Dovefields Gallant

Kilbride Farm Eunice D29

Clonagh Tingle
Hazel

Marbelhill Liam

Clonagh Hazel

Star Rating (Within Simmental breed)	Economic Indexes	€uro value per progeny	Index Reliability	Star rating (across all beef breeds)
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★★★★★	Terminal Index	€ 102	37% (Low)	★★★
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★★★★★	Replacement Index Maternal Cow Traits : Maternal Progeny Traits :	€ 138 € 70 € 68	34% (Low) 31% 41%	★★★★★
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	Dairy Beef			
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Star Rating (Within Simmental breed)	Key profit traits	Index Value	Trait Reliability	Star rating (across all beef breeds)
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Expected progeny performance				
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	Calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 5.39%,All breeds ave: 4.49%	+5.3%	63% (High)	
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★★★★★	Docility (1-5 scale) Breed ave: 0.04,All breeds ave: 0	0.12 scale	45% (Average)	★★★★★
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★★★★★	Carcass weight (kg) Breed ave: 19.75kg,All breeds ave: 13.98kg	+33kg	32% (Low)	★★★★★
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★★★★	Carcass conformation (1-15 scale) Breed ave: 1.26,All breeds ave: 1.23	+1.38 scale	30% (Low)	★★★★
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Expected daughter breeding performance				
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	Daughter calving diff (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 6.18%,All breeds ave: 6.48%	+5.8%	25% (Low)	
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★★★★	Daughter Milk (kg) Breed ave: 8.95kg,All breeds ave: 2.97kg	+10.7kg	29% (Low)	★★★★
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★★★★	Daughter calving interval (days) Breed ave: 0.74days,All breeds ave: -0.39days	+0.07days	32% (Low)	★★★
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Lot 1 MEARAIN IVAN ET

ID: IE291689860019

Breed: Charolais

Sex: Male

DOB: 08-Sep-2013

Owner: William Nicholson - Hoddersfield Crosshaven Co Cork

Breeder: Christopher Marron - Corbane Shantonagh Castleblayney Co Monaghan

Sire: Dromiskin Viceroy
VCR

Doonally New

Hermes

Intruse

Dromiskin Princess

Mogador

Folistown Maye

Dam: Dereskit Ulanda
IE121402040326

Nevers Rj

Gandin

Aghafad Laureate

Dereskit Rosetta

Meillard Rj

Dereskit Nicola

Star Rating (Within Charolais breed)	Economic Indexes	€ uro value per progeny	Index Reliability	Star rating (across all beef breeds)
★★★★★	Terminal Index	€ 155	35% (Low)	★★★★★
★★★	Replacement Index Maternal Cow Traits : Maternal Progeny Traits :	€ 7 -€ 89 € 96	34% (Low) 33% 35%	★
	Dairy Beef			

Star Rating (Within Charolais breed)	Key profit traits	Index Value	Trait Reliability	Star rating (across all beef breeds)
Expected progeny performance				
	Calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 7.58%, All breeds ave: 4.49%	+8.8%	33% (Low)	
★★★★★	Docility (1-5 scale) Breed ave: 0.04, All breeds ave: 0	0.12 scale	45% (Average)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Carcass weight (kg) Breed ave: 30.88kg, All breeds ave: 13.98kg	+45kg	40% (Average)	★★★★★
★★★★★	Carcass conformation (1-15 scale) Breed ave: 1.78, All breeds ave: 1.23	+2.03 scale	36% (Low)	★★★★★
Expected daughter breeding performance				
	Daughter calving diff (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 5.89%, All breeds ave: 6.48%	+8.6%	29% (Low)	
★★★★	Daughter Milk (kg) Breed ave: -6.06kg, All breeds ave: 2.97kg	-4.8kg	32% (Low)	★
★	Daughter calving interval (days) Breed ave: 0.4days, All breeds ave: -0.39days	+4.17days	34% (Low)	★

BDGP

Beef Data & Genomics Programme

Requirements

1. Calving details
2. Surveys
3. Genotyping
4. Replacement strategy
5. Carbon Navigator
6. Training

Nicholson's Calculations

Reference Animals: 94

$$94 \div 1.5 = 62.7ha$$

6.666ha	56.03ha	€7,673.50
<u>x €142.50</u>	<u>x €120</u>	<u>- €1,344</u> (approx. genotyping cost)
€949.90	€6,723.60	€6329.50

(Payment for 6 years)

Payment Calculation

Number of Reference Animals divided by stocking rate of 1.5 to give maximum payable ha.

Payment of €142.50 for first 6.66ha and €120 on the remaining ha up to the maximum number.