

ICBF Weekly Update 12th April 2013

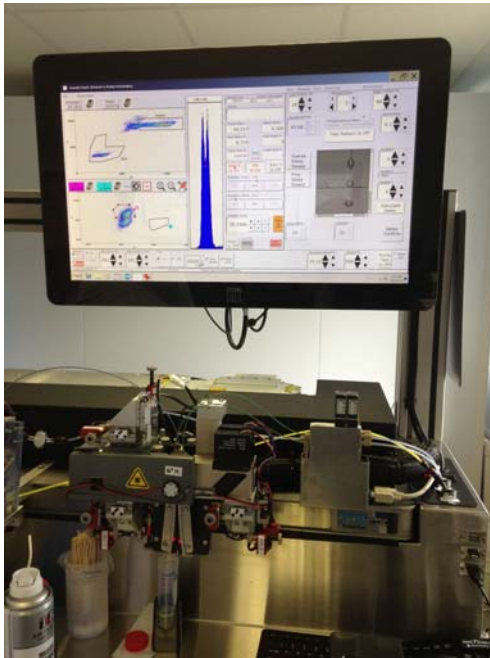
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 2nd May, 10:00 to 12:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM Meeting** – Thursday 2nd May, 12:30 to 13:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board / AGM Meeting** – Thursday 16th May, 11:00 to 14:00, Highfield House, Bandon.

2 Sexed Semen Project

The Sexed Semen Project continues at pace. This week, the lab was officially approved by the Dept. of Agriculture as an EU approved semen processing centre. Having reached our sign-up target in terms of herds, we also held meetings with the AI company technicians, in advance of the first semen dispatches next week. A phenomenal amount of work has been completed over the past number of weeks, with dedicated people in all the organisations involved, giving their all, and working together to achieve a common goal.

There are, of course, significant challenges to be faced in the coming weeks around the logistics of the semen distribution, and a lot will be learned by all parties. This, of course, is why we are carrying out the trial.



Semen Sorting machine



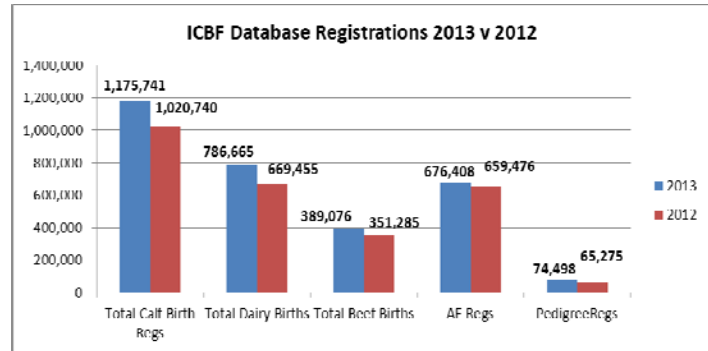
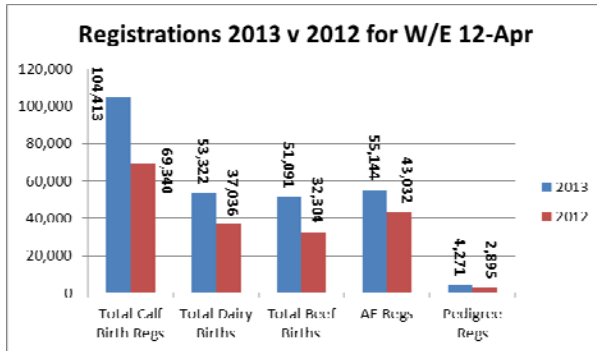
Andrew Cromie ICBF, Terry Dillon & Anthony Cronin Munster AI, Enda Dooley Dover Genetics, Robert Monahan NCBC, Frank DeGraaf Sexing Technologies

3 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Genomic evaluations are currently being updated for dairy animals. Official publication of proofs is next Tuesday evening.
- ✚ We would like to welcome Dr. Matt McClure who officially started work for ICBF this week. Matt previously worked for USDA-ARS and has worked extensively on developing the system of predicting microsatellites from SNPs for use in parentage verification. Matt's initial work will focus on this area and comes at a time where most of the beef herd books have moved from microsatellites to SNPs for parentage identification. In addition to this, Matt will also be working in the area of genetic defects and beef genomics. Matt will be based in the US until June when

he will move to Ireland on a full-time basis. Matt is originally from a beef farming background and we are delighted to have him on-board as the whole area of genomics progresses.

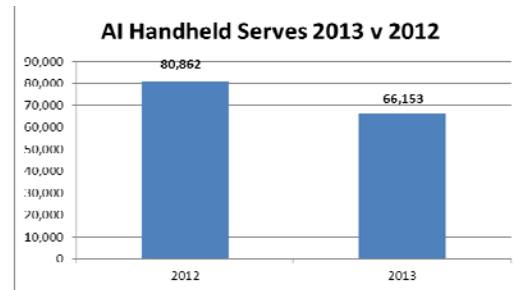
4 Database



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 609,074 with the number of animals weaned at 530,242.

BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,162,000 results received since January 1st, of which 105,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 1.65 million results have now been received.



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

5 Sheep Ireland

Queries in relation to Task 1 of STAP are coming into the Sheep Ireland office in big numbers every day. Task 1 requires STAP participants to use a performance recorded ram in their flock in year 1 or 2 of the programme. Rams purchased from 2010 are eligible for the task provided they have been performance recorded in the Sheep Ireland breed improvement programme.

It is clear that many farmers who have purchased rams in recent years are unsure as to whether or not the ram in question originated from a performance recorded flock. As a result of this we are getting a lot of queries, which is great. Farmers that submit query forms, receive an individual reply from Sheep Ireland. If their rams do not meet the eligibility criteria of STAP, they are provided with an explanation. Similarly, if their ram satisfies the criteria of the programme, they receive notification of this in association with the most recent genetic evaluation result for the eligible ram.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Sheep Ireland to educate the industry about the ram EuroStars and we plan to maximise it.

Our Pedigree LambPlus breeders continue to send us valuable data each week. We are currently finalising plans for our Ultrasound scanning for 2013. A letter will be circulated to breeders in the coming days. Our Sheep Ireland ram sale will take place in Tullamore on Saturday 24th August – only scanned flocks will be eligible for entry into this sale following a recent decision by the Sheep Ireland board of Industry representatives. Minimum criteria (in terms of numbers etc.) for scanning flocks will also be set in order for Sheep Ireland to maximise the benefits of collecting these Ultrasound scans to the breed improvement programme.

6 GENEIRELAND®

Beef

- ✚ Sign-ups are continuing for the GENEIRELAND spring program.
- ✚ 200 herds taking a total of 3700 straws have signed up so far.
- ✚ All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900** or **045 521573**.
- ✚ The approximate total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the tables 1 & 2.

Table 2. List of Terminal Bulls currently on-test

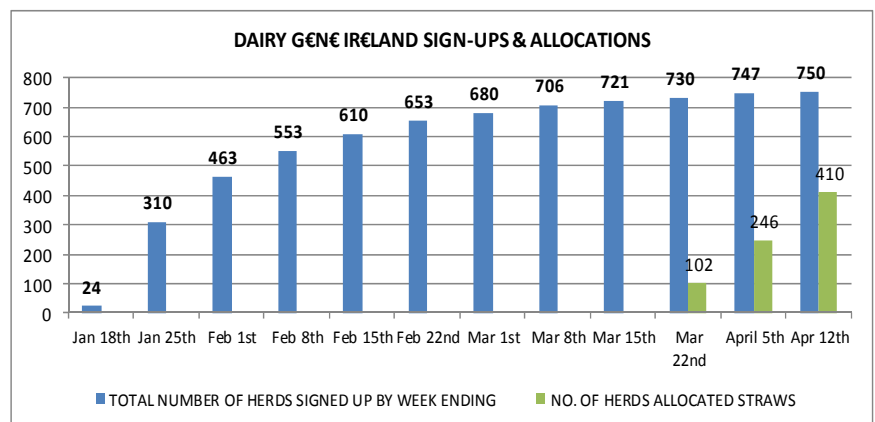
Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws
ZSD	Serpentin	BB	100
FSN	Folon	BB	75
GLP	Galopeur	BB	50
FFK	Conval Frank	CH	180
FGG	Leagaun Figaro	CH	145
FZM	Lenagh Equaliser	LM	75

Table 1. List of Maternal Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws
GJB	Goulding Jumbo King	AA	370
TQL	Templequain Lord Jake	AA	275
VMP	Villablues Empire ET	BB	385
RWM	Rosemount Emlyn	BB	240
FWO	Fleetwood	CH	360
FSZ	Fiston	CH	350
LZF	Cavelands Fenian	CH	500
FYB	Ballylannon Frankey ET	CH	475
GRF	Gerard	CH	200
GPD	Guepard	CH	70
GZS	Gouldingpoll Superduty	HE	210
WLZ	Wilodge Enrico	LM	500
FTH	Elite Fred ET	LM	500
CJH	Filou	LM	230
FQR	Ballygarvan Stud Fernando	LM	215
GWO	Castleview Gringo ET	LM	430
FTY	Lennon Frosty	LM	500
EBY	Elderberry Galahad	LM	55
PZB	Bonaparte	SA	200
QCD	Cloondroon Calling	SI	330

Dairy

- ✚ Allocations are continuing at a rate of 40 per day.
- ✚ The majority of the remaining packs will be allocated in the next two weeks, according to AI start date.
- ✚ The average EBI of the Holstein-Friesian panel is **€275**.
- ✚ There are currently only 3 Pure Friesian bulls available.



7 HerdPlus®

- ✚ Dairy Breeding Charts were printed and packed this week.
- ✚ Farmers can still complete their sire advice, but the suggested bulls will not be included on breeding charts as the deadline has passed.
- ✚ Orders for GENÉIRÉLAND beef straws are still being placed.
- ✚ Herd recruitment for the dairy sexed semen trial is now complete.
- ✚ Contracts are being sent back by farmers.

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 12/04/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 12/04/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 12/04/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 12/04/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 12/04/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	2,490	424	17%	162,537	31,985	20%
Progressive	1,665	492	30%	126,171	38,747	31%
Tipperary	40	6	15%	2,466	379	15%
Total	4,195	922	22%	291,174	71,111	24%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 12/04/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 12/04/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	167,031	162,537	-2.8%
Progressive	127,114	126,171	-0.7%
Tipperary	4,008	2,466	-62.5%
Total	298,153	291,174	-2.4%

Please see milk recording stats attached

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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, 03-APR-2013 To 12-APR-2013

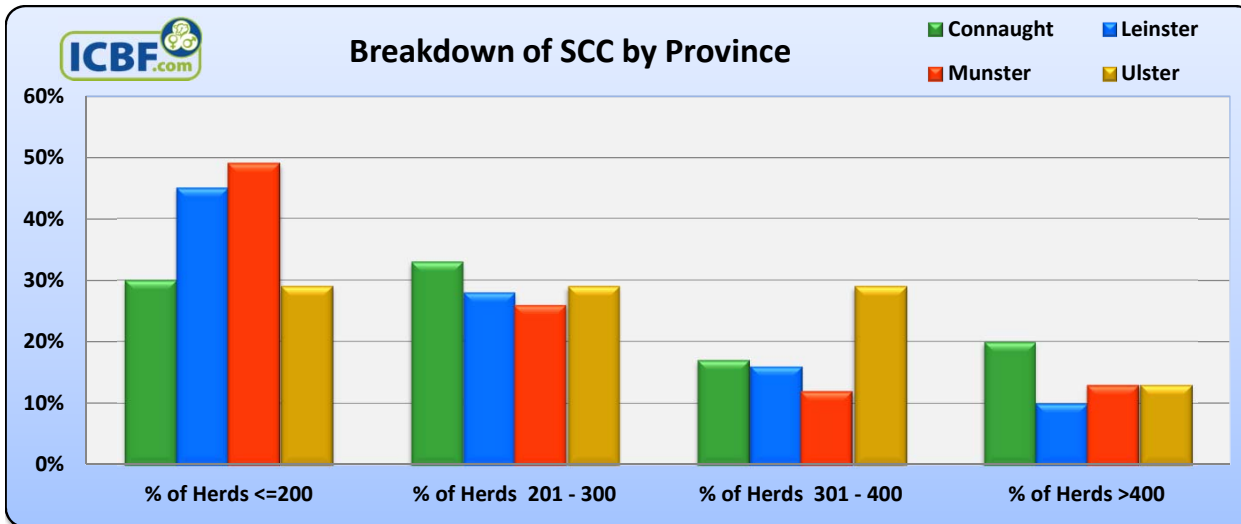
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	30	1,550	52	26.3	3.88	3.19	1.86	250
Leinster	124	9,081	73	23.8	3.85	3.25	1.69	217
Munster	515	37,277	72	25.3	3.86	3.27	1.80	201
Ulster	24	1,295	54	24.6	3.75	3.19	1.70	261
National Statistics	693	49,203	71	25.0	3.85	3.26	1.78	208

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 03-APR-2013 To 12-APR-2013

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	30	1,550	52	30%	33%	17%	20%	250
Leinster	124	9,081	73	45%	28%	16%	10%	217
Munster	515	37,277	72	49%	26%	12%	13%	201
Ulster	24	1,295	54	29%	29%	29%	13%	261
National Statistics	693	49,203	71	47%	27%	13%	13%	208

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 03-APR-2013 To 12-APR-2013

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	30	1,550	52	166	224	253	281	380
Leinster	124	9,081	73	145	189	214	250	331
Munster	515	37,277	72	116	168	203	239	340
Ulster	24	1,295	54	163	272	281	308	347
National Statistics	693	49,203	71	123	181	211	246	340

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

