

## ICBF Weekly Update 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012

### 1 Important Dates

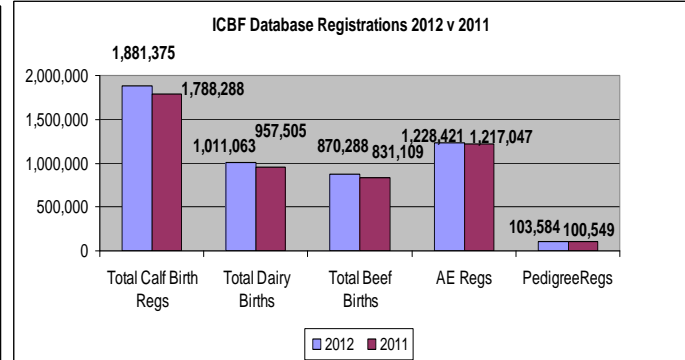
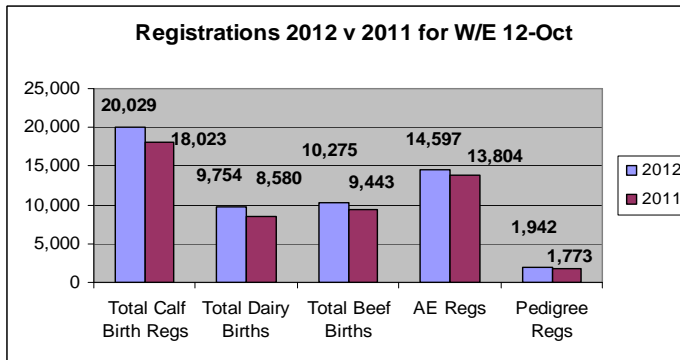
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 10:00 - 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Event at Tully** – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.
- ✚ **ICBF & Teagasc Genomics Conference for Beef & Dairy Industries** – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 10:00am – 17:00pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 10:00 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey, Portlaoise.

### 2 Teagasc and ICBF Suckler Cow Breeding Conference

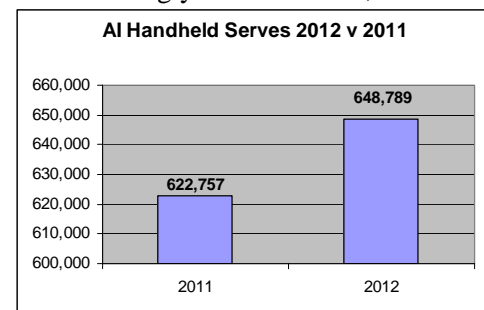
Yesterday saw a high quality and well attended Suckler Cow breeding conference in Tullamore. ICBF was well represented, with Andrew Cromie and Ross Evans delivering papers along with Teagasc colleagues. Some key points to note from the conference include:

- ✚ The new maternal index shows higher differences within breeds than between breeds, so as an industry, we should avoid focusing on just breed differences. There are 5 star Maternal Index bulls in all breeds.
- ✚ We need to ensure there is a continued flow of accurate data to the ICBF database in order to continue to build on the accuracy of the genetic evaluations. Of particular interest, is to get weights from calves while they are still suckling the cow.
- ✚ If milk recording on the dairy side is compared to weight recording on the beef side, there is quite a stark difference in data flows. Roughly 50% of dairy cows are milk recorded vs. 4% weight recording of calves on the beef side (which is how milk on the beef cow is measured). We need to significantly increase the use of weight recording among suckler herds in order to increase the reliability of the maternal traits on beef cows and bulls.
- ✚ The indexes do work, but farmers need to be aware of the risks associated with using low reliability bulls and how this risk can be mitigated.
- ✚ Getting widespread use of the new indexes as a tool in bull and replacement heifer purchasing decisions represents a major challenge to the industry. The industry needs to make this information easily accessible at the point of purchase/sale.
- ✚ This is a challenge we need to address head on if we are to make the genetic progress in the Suckler Cow herd.

### 3 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 304,407, with the number of animals weaned at 65,311.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 583,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 445,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new EuroStar indexes, and the development work on these is underway.
- Updates to the weight recording software are on-going, with some work completed this week in relation to dairy heifer weighing.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



### 4 Sheep Ireland

- All 35 rams have now been collected from breeders and are present in UCD. Today Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October our CPT team are on the farm of Andrew Moloney in Co. Offaly. The next week will be an action packed number of days as we get to each of the CPT flocks. In total over 2100 ewes will be laparoscopically AI'd.
- To this point 31 of the 35 rams have been successfully trained to jump and give semen. Sirebank will now get down to the task of collecting straws from each ram involved in the programme. In return for providing each ram to the CPT, breeders will receive 25 straws along with a summary of semen quality and performance over the CPT AI programme.
- We will not know the full effect of the CPT on each rams evaluations until all the relevant performance information has been collected next spring & summer. One thing is for sure however, each ram successfully used will benefit from far greater evaluation accuracies, upon which their owners can make more informed decisions to drive genetic gain in their flocks.
- The target is to mate each ram with approximately 40 ewes on at least two farms. Inevitably each year some rams fail to 'jump' consistently enough to provide adequate quantities and/or quality of semen – this is just a practical reality of dealing with animals. Having Sirebank technicians at hand in our base at UCD will greatly help minimise this risk as rams failing to perform can be re-assessed daily.



Laparoscopic AI being carried out on a CPT ewe



One of the CPT rams in UCD from last year's AI campaign.

## 5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 12/10/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 12/10/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 12/10/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 12/10/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 12/10/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,735	1,089	29%	305,477	95,331	31%
Progressive	2,475	1,007	41%	224,503	92,964	41%
Tipperary	121	43	36%	10,127	3,403	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,331</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>540,107</b>	<b>191,698</b>	<b>35%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 12/10/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 12/10/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	302,268	305,477	1.1%
Progressive	215,715	224,503	3.9%
Tipperary	13,100	10,127	-29.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>531,083</b>	<b>540,107</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

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](http://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](http://www.sheep.ie).

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 03-OCT-2012 To 12-OCT-2012

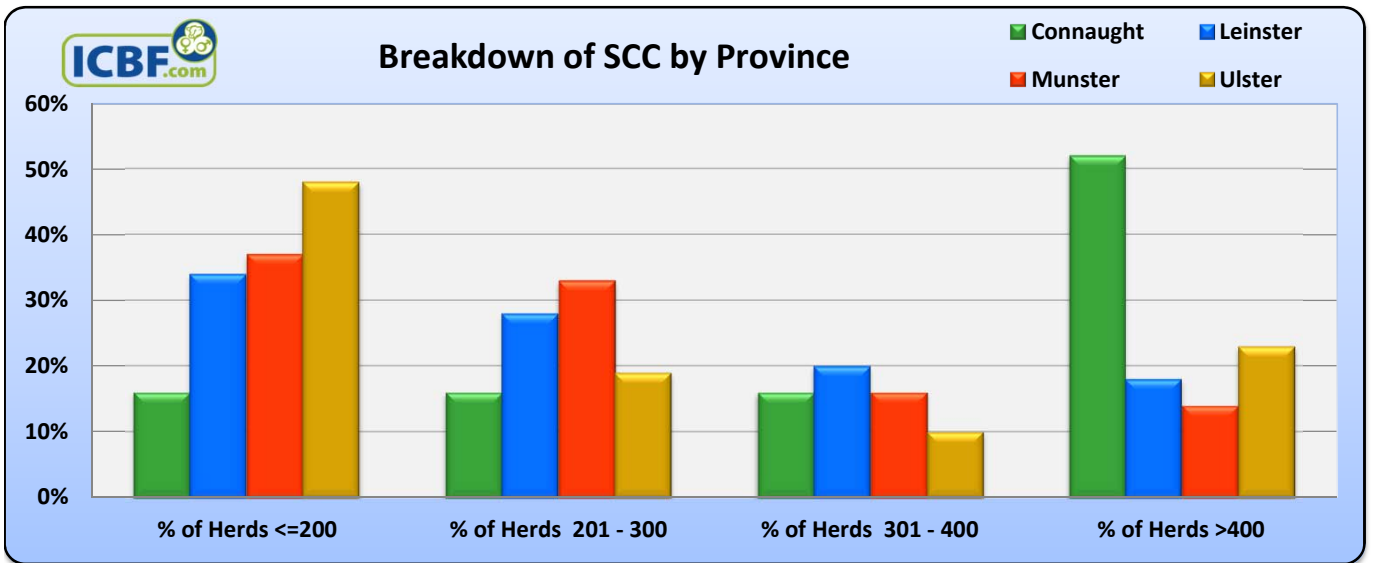
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	25	1,837	73	15.7	4.34	3.63	1.23	389
Leinster	170	12,677	75	16.9	4.27	3.74	1.34	252
Munster	568	41,757	74	15.8	4.35	3.84	1.29	238
Ulster	31	1,537	50	16.6	4.04	3.56	1.26	224
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>57,808</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>4.32</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>244</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 03-OCT-2012 To 12-OCT-2012

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	25	1,837	73	16%	16%	16%	52%	389
Leinster	170	12,677	75	34%	28%	20%	18%	252
Munster	568	41,757	74	37%	33%	16%	14%	238
Ulster	31	1,537	50	48%	19%	10%	23%	224
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>57,808</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>244</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 03-OCT-2012 To 12-OCT-2012								
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	25	1,837	73	261	351	416	442	575
Leinster	170	12,677	75	170	225	263	296	390
Munster	568	41,757	74	156	207	236	268	355
Ulster	31	1,537	50	157	183	206	239	402
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>57,808</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>373</b>

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

