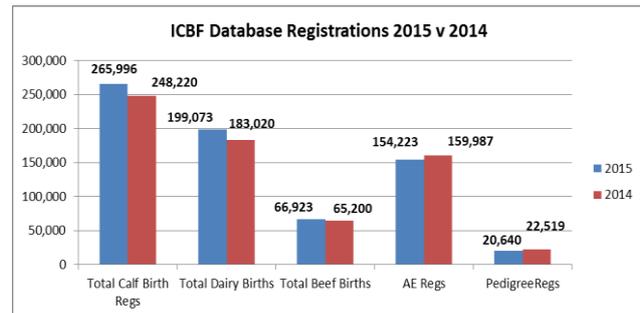
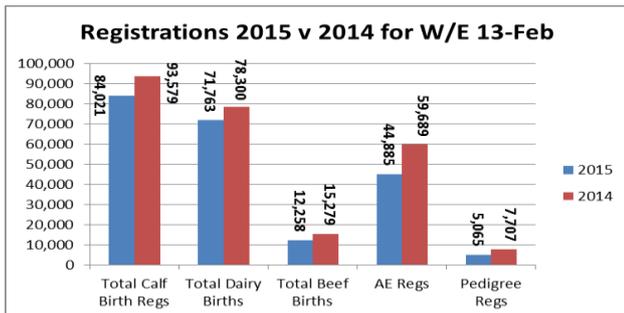


## ICBF Weekly Update 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

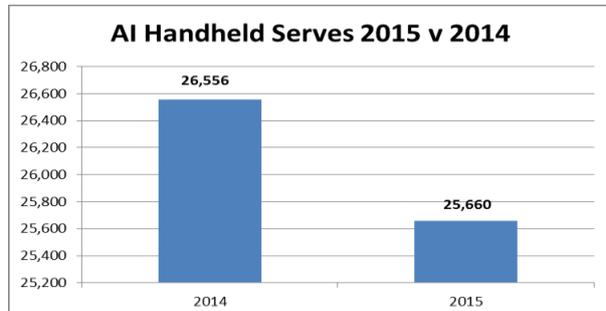
### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, 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 281,000 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 98,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 5.22 million results have now been received.
- ✚ As was emphasised again at the most recent BVD Implementation Group meeting, the removal of PI animals is critical to the success of the BVD Eradication Scheme. The Minister for Agriculture recently announced further supports to aid with this for 2015. It is a requirement that all PI animals born in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are disposed of prior to **1 March 2015** in order to avail of any 2015 supports. The removal of PI animals will also be a stipulation of the proposed Beef Data Genomics Programme and successor programmes.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



### 3 Herd Plus®

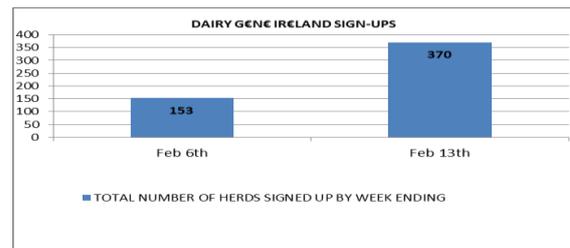
- ✚ EBI and Dairy Cow reports are now available online. Dairy Cow Reports are currently being printed and dispatched.
- ✚ Dairy HerdPlus customers that wish to run sire advice for the 2015 breeding season can now do so as all December evaluations are up to date.
- ✚ Farmers need to ensure that dry off dates are recorded so that milk recording records will be accurate. Annual reports also require that dry off dates are recorded. This can be done through the dry off sheets which were posted out by the milk recording organisations or online through ICBF or a farm software package.
- ✚ As spring calving will have commenced or is about to commence on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is an appropriate time to remind farmers of the importance of data recording. ICBF acknowledges

that spring can be a busy and stressful time for farmers with an endless list of tasks to be done. However, ensuring that data (namely sires and calving ease) is recorded comprehensively and accurately is vital, not only to the work that ICBF does, but also to the development of our Agri-food industry going forward.

- ✚ Better data recording leads to more accurate genetic indexes. This will in turn lead to more informed breeding decisions which will leave more profitable stock on farms and increase output at both farm and processor levels. For this reason, people across the industry that find themselves in regular contact with farmers e.g. agri advisors, breed society representatives, AI company reps & technicians etc. need to constantly stress the importance of recording basic breeding information when registering calves. Click [here](#) for a link to an article on best practice on farm data recording.
- ✚ Any farmers that still register calves on the white cards which come with the tags, should be encouraged to switch to an animal events book or, where possible, to register calves online through [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) or through a farm software package. The animal events book and online methods allow for much more comprehensive data recording at calf registration. Animal events books can be ordered by calling **1850 625 626**. Online registration can be set up by going to the Department of Agriculture and Food website or contacting your farm software provider.
- ✚ As part of the Milk Recording initiative between Munster Cattle Breeding Services, Progressive Genetics, Tipperary Co-op and ICBF the following advert will run for 2 weeks in the Irish Farmers Journal. We would encourage advisers, co-ops and farmers to spread the message “Milk Recording, Making you Money” wherever they can. *Please see advert attached.*

#### 4 GENE IRELAND® Dairy

- ✚ Postal and telephone sign-ups are ongoing.
- ✚ The panel consists of 54 Holstein Friesians, 4 Pure Friesians, 6 Jerseys and 4 Crossbreds.



#### 5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ A beef performance evaluation was conducted this week and updated indexes (carcass traits, docility and linears) were uploaded to the database for animals linear scored in January 2015. This run factored in an age limit change recommendation (from 250 to 350 days to 250-365 days).
- ✚ Results from the Interbull test run for the Test day model and dairy heifer calving were analysed. Results will be communicated to the industry at the next industry meeting.

#### 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 13/02/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 13/02/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 13/02/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 13/02/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 13/02/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	390	17	4%	21,927	1,802	8%
Progressive	684	124	18%	41,413	7,860	19%
Tipperary	6	1	17%	410	51	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>63,750</b>	<b>9,713</b>	<b>15%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 13/02/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 13/02/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	23,086	21,927	-5.3%
Progressive	49,643	41,413	-19.9%
Tipperary	454	410	-10.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,183</b>	<b>63,750</b>	<b>-14.8%</b>

## 7 Sheep Ireland

### MALP & CPT meetings

- This week we met with our CPT and MALP flocks to update them on the latest Sheep Ireland activities and discuss plans for the upcoming lambing season. While the lambing season is an extremely busy time for all sheep farmers, the tagging and collection of data on each lamb born adds more work to the daily routine. Each MALP and CPT flock owner has been recording data for a number of years now and as each year passes, the performance recording process is being tweaked and improved to maximise efficiency. All of these flocks are very committed to the collection of the required data and the contribution that this data makes to the genetic evaluations is hugely significant.
- In total 25 rams were used this autumn in our CPT, with almost 80 different sires used across the MALP flocks. The average conception rate to the artificial insemination in our CPT programme is 78% with an average scanning rate of 1.8 across the ewes that successfully conceived.

### Ovigen

- Yesterday (Thursday) we visited the very first flocks as part of our DNA collection campaign for genotyping under the Ovigen research project. Vendeen flocks will be targeted for our first visits. Irish Vendeen breeders generally lamb their ewes earlier than other breeds, which means lambs should now be old enough to be handled without fear of injury or distress. We will be contacting all LambPlus breeders across the breeds taking part in Ovigen in the coming weeks and months to arrange suitable dates and times to visit the flock. It will be a huge task, but one we look forward to.

### Lambing 2015

- The first AI'd ewes will begin lambing from the 25<sup>th</sup> February on the farm of Brian Nicholson. Brian is a participant in the Teagasc Better farm programme and has been tagging lambs at birth and collecting data since he joined this programme. With this in mind his flock was an ideal location to carry out some AI. Preparation for lambing is already underway across all the CPT flocks, with lambing pens now being erected. Up to 350 ewes are AI'd per day each autumn – as a result of this lambing time is extremely busy. The farmers will expect to see up to 75/80 ewes lambing down on the peak lambing day. This means a lot of individual pens are required, especially when weather conditions may not be ideal to release new born lambs.



*The Calm before the storm on the farm of Brian Nicholson*

**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](mailto: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](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, 04-FEB-2015 To 13-FEB-2015

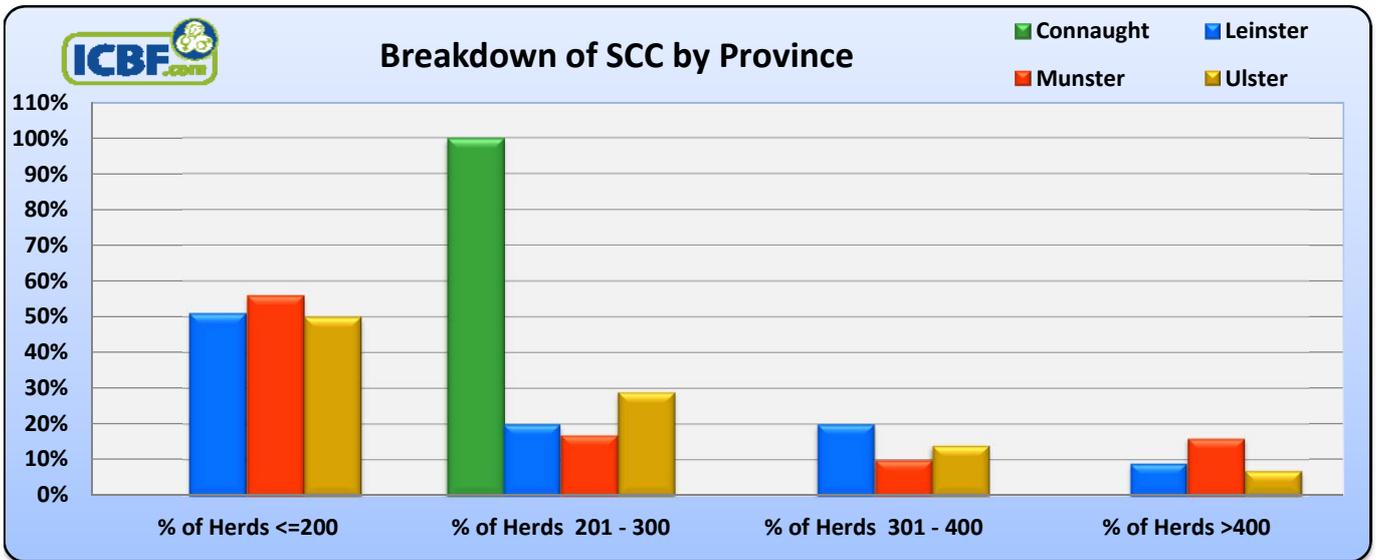
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
<b>Connaught</b>	1	60	60	18.1	4.03	3.08	1.29	244
<b>Leinster</b>	65	4,051	62	23.4	4.20	3.33	1.76	194
<b>Munster</b>	124	6,032	49	23.2	4.29	3.38	1.78	182
<b>Ulster</b>	28	1,085	39	22.6	3.86	3.22	1.59	180
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>11,228</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>4.21</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>186</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 04-FEB-2015 To 13-FEB-2015

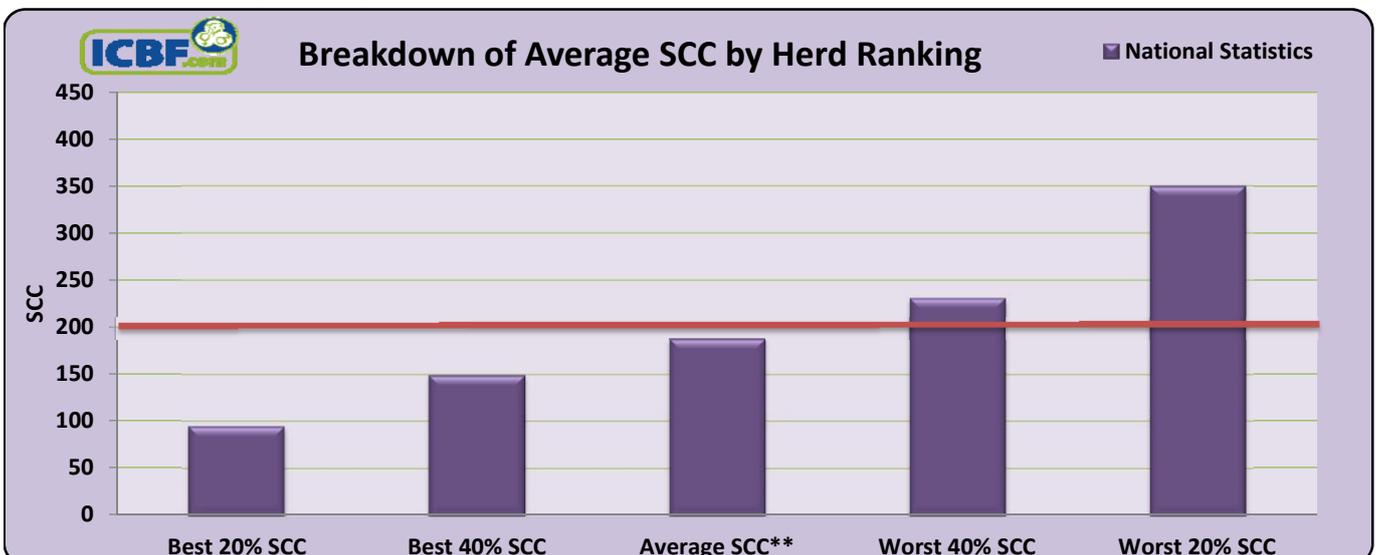
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
<b>Connaught</b>	1	60	60	0%	100%	0%	0%	244
<b>Leinster</b>	65	4,051	62	51%	20%	20%	9%	194
<b>Munster</b>	124	6,032	49	56%	17%	10%	16%	182
<b>Ulster</b>	28	1,085	39	50%	29%	14%	7%	180
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>11,228</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>186</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 04-FEB-2015 To 13-FEB-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
<b>Connaught</b>	1	60	60	244	244	244	244	244
<b>Leinster</b>	65	4,051	62	105	153	188	264	355
<b>Munster</b>	124	6,032	49	93	142	177	221	357
<b>Ulster</b>	28	1,085	39	98	171	198	227	299
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>11,228</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>350</b>

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



# MILK RECORDING

## MAKING YOU MONEY

DELIVERING

# €12,000

## HIGHER MILK OUTPUT

	Milk Kgs per Cow	Fat + Prot Kgs	Milk Value	Difference per Cow	Difference 70 Cow
Never Milk Recorded	4107	303	€1,281		
Started Milk Recording in 2012	4284	319	€1,345	<b>+€64</b>	<b>€4,480</b>
Continually Milk Recording + Discussion Group and/or Herdplus	4616	347	€1,465	<b>+€184</b>	<b>€12,880</b>

Milk Value A+B-C @27c/l; Source ICBF 2014

## CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO KNOW YOUR HIGH SCC COWS

SCC (,000)	Litres Lost/Lact	€ Lost per cow @28 c/l	€ Lost per 70 cow herd @28 c/l
50-100	0		
100-200	-174	€48.72	€3,410
200-300	-309	€86.52	€6,056
300-400	-367	€102.76	€7,193
400+	-422	€118.16	€8,271

Source: Costcheck, Animal Health Ireland

## DON'T POUR MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN - CALL TODAY



t: 022 43228



t: 01-4502142



t: 062-33111