

ICBF Weekly Update 13th January 2012

1 Important Dates

- + **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 26th January, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 26th January, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.
- + **Herdbook Technical Breeding Consultation Meetings** – Tuesday 28th February, 10:30 to 13:00, Portlaoise.
- + **Breeding Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 14th March, 10:30 to 17:00, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30th June, Athenry.

2 Meetings - Brian Wickham

This week, my first “back in the office” after the festive season involved two significant meetings: the ICAR 2012 Organising Committee and the Interbeef Working Group.

ICAR 2012 Organising Committee

Ireland is hosting the ICAR (International Committee for Animal Recording – www.icar.org) biennial conference in Cork this year from Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June. We are expecting some 500 delegate from 50 countries to attend. The event will be held in the Rochestown Park Hotel. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Irish animal recording industry. We are working with a wide range of sponsors nationally and internationally. The program is rapidly firming up (see the latest draft attached). We will be seeking help from our members in hosting this major event and believe that the key staff and directors of all our member organisations will find many parts of the program of great interest and relevance to their businesses.

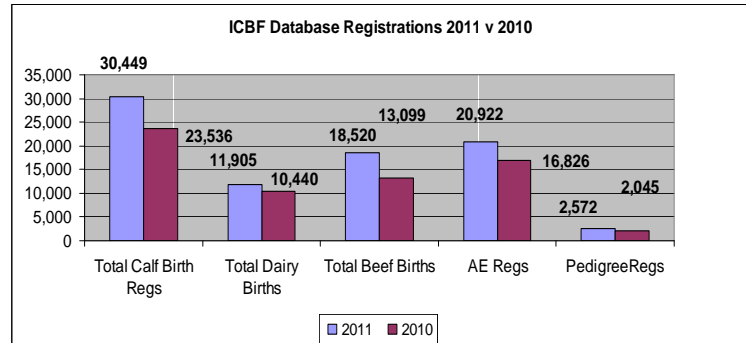
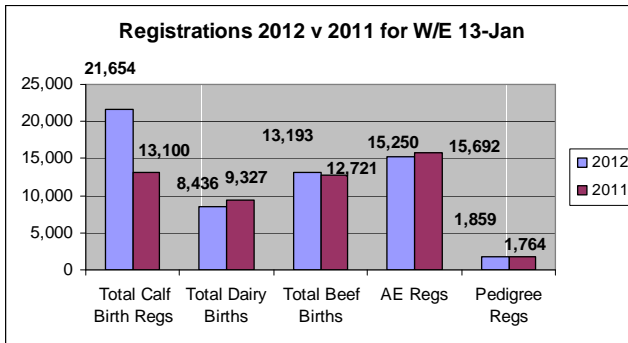
Interbeef Working Group of ICAR

I am chairperson of the Interbeef WG of ICAR. The work of this group has taken a major step forward with the recent agreement by nine Service Users, including ICBF and organisations in France, UK, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Czech Republic and South Africa to establish an international beef genetic evaluation service which will be provided by the Interbull Centre and the Swedish University of Agricultural Science. The next steps in establishing these services were agreed this week. Immediate priority is on the creation of a database containing all of the identification and ancestry of all the beef animals of interest to the nine Service Users. This is a largely automated system for ensuring all foreign born ancestors have been correctly identified nationally.

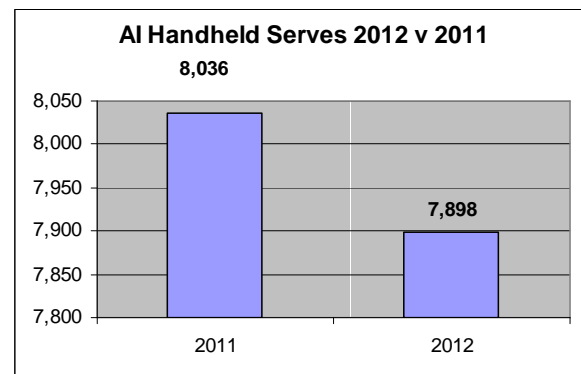
3 Genetic Evaluations

- + Files are being prepared for the January INTERBULL test run for dairy linear type.
- + Francis Kearney gave a talk on genomics at the IGA conference in both Athlone and Cork this week.
- + Work has commenced on the integration of carcass cut traits and dairy calf price into the routine beef evaluation.

4 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 560,432 with the number of animals weaned at 463,150.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 3000 herds have purchased a total of 205,000 tissue tags for BVD testing at this stage.
- ✚ Around 5,600 herds have already completed their Dairy Efficiency Programme (DEP) health recording requirements for 2011.
- ✚ The development of a new 'Bull-Tracker' report for pedigree herds is on-going. The focus of the report is to show the performance of stock-bull offspring. Testing on this report will continue next week.
- ✚ We are working with the manufacturer of the blue-tooth weighing scales company with a view to further waterproofing the unit. A weight recording report has been designed, and building of this report will continue next week.
- ✚ Some further developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database is continuing.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



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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.

Monday 28th May 2012

8:00

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**Registration
& Industrial
Exhibition**

**Dairy Industry Day -
Information for
Profitable Dairy
Farming (A)**

**Interbull
Technical**

**Interbull Steering
Committee
Meeting**

**Interbull Business
Meeting**

**Interbeef WG
Meeting &
Workshop**

**WG on
Functional
Traits**

**Reference
Laboratory
Network**

**Animal
Recording
Data WG**

Accompanying persons tours.

Casual Buffet for ICAR Board, Interbull Steering Committee, SC, WG & TF members meeting during day, participants in Interbull Business meeting.

Tuesday 29th May 2012

8:00

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**Registration
& Industrial
Exhibition**

**Beef & Sheep
Industry Day with
theme of
Information for
Profitable Beef
& Sheep Farming
(B)**

**Interbull
Open
Meeting**

**Interbull Business
Meeting**

ICAR Cert. of
Quality Auditors

Dairy Sheep WG

Analytical
Workshop

World Breed Assns
- Dairy & Beef

WG on
Milk
Recording

Animal Recording
Data WG

Accompanying persons tours.

Subcommittee
on Milk Analysis

Parentage
Recording WG

WG Goats

Identificartion
Subcommittee

Animal Recording Data
WG Meeting with
Manufacturers.

Welcome Social Evening - Irish Style!

Poster Session

Wednesday 30th May 2012

8:00

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Plenary with theme of How Can Animal Recording Improve the Profitability of Animal Farming? (P1)

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ICAR General Assembly (P2)

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**Registration
& Industrial
Exhibition**

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**Joint Interbull, Interbeef, ICAR:
Identifying the Most Profitable
Animals for Breeding - Dairy,
Beef, Sheep (T1)**

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**On-Farm and On-Animal Devices
for Identification and Recording
(T2)**

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**Interbull Technical
Committee Meeting**

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Evening Free to Enjoy Cork & Environs.

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Accompanying persons tours.

Thursday 31st May 2012

8:00

9	Plenary with theme of Practical Implications of Genomic Technologies for Animal Agriculture (P3)			
10	Industrial Exhibition	Information Systems for Providing Farmers (and Breeders) with Information Needed to Increase Profitability (T5)	Developments in Off-Farm Recording & analysis - for Milk, Meat, ... (T6)	Interbull Steering Committee Meeting
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13	Technical tours - dairy, beef and sheep farms - how are Irish Farmers increasing the profitability and sustainability of their farms?			
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20	Gala Dinner			
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Friday 1st June 2012

8:00

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**Industrial
Exhibition**

**Plenary with theme of The Future Organisation of Animal
Recording & Genetic Evaluations - keeping the balance between
Commercial, Industry Good and Public Good (P4)**

**Special Issues for
Sheep, Goats and
other Species (T7)**

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Presentations by TF, SC, & WG (P5)

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General Assembly (P6)

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ICAR Board meeting with Chairpersons of TF, SC, and WG.

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ICAR Board Meeting.