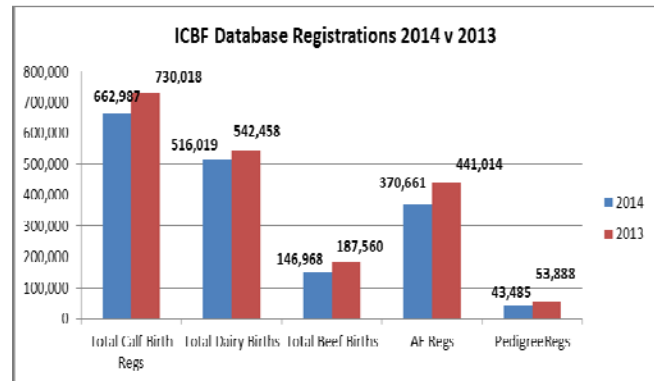
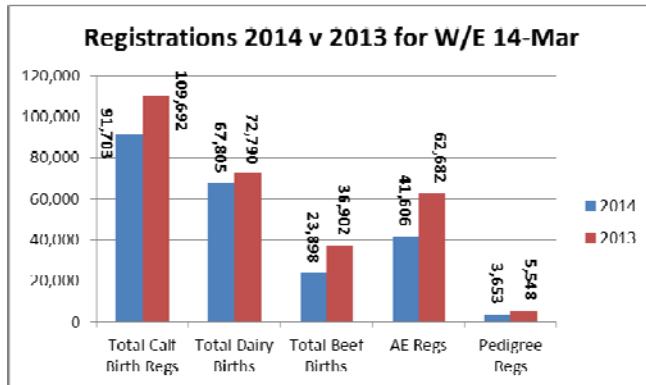


ICBF Weekly Update 14th March 2014

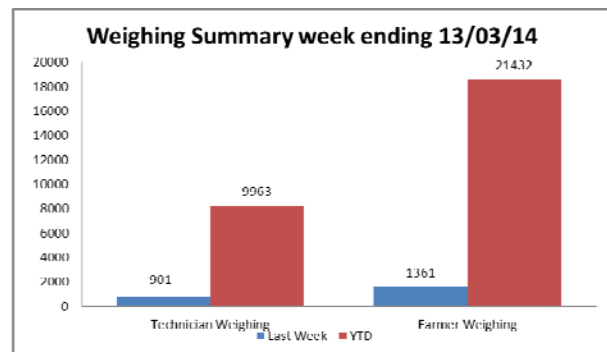
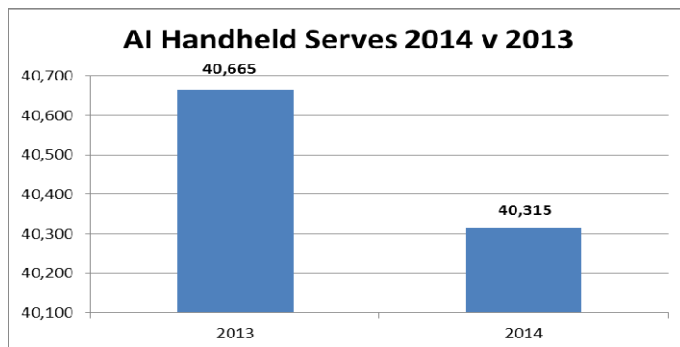
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 14:00 to 17:00, 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 693,000 results received since January 1st, of which 103,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 3.36 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 901 weights received through the technician service and 1361 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



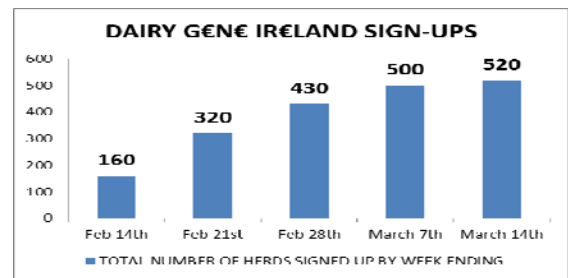
3 Genetic Evaluations

- Most work at the moment is focusing on the next routine genetic evaluations. We submitted data to Interbull during the week and the routine beef evaluations are underway. The official release date for the proofs is April 8th.
- Research on meat eating quality and health and disease was presented by Brian Meredith and Jen McClure respectively at the annual Ag Research forum on Monday and Tuesday.

- Weekly genomic evaluations are continuing. Despite an increase in the number of animals being genotyped average turnaround times are about 17 days from receipt of sample to results which is about 5 days quicker than 2013. Less than 1% of tested animals are 42 days or older when the results are obtained.

4 GENEIRELAND® Dairy

- Allocations will commence as soon as a panel of bull's are available.
- The Holstein average EBI is €304.
- There are 7 Friesians, 4 Jerseys and 9 Crossbred Jerseys on the panel to date.
- Call 1850 600 900 to order.



5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 14/03/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 14/03/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 14/03/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 14/03/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 14/03/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	1,258	99	8%	69,838	7,633	11%
Progressive	1,193	259	22%	77,655	17,889	23%
Tipperary	16	2	13%	749	117	16%
Total	2,467	360	15%	148,242	25,639	17%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 14/03/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 14/03/14	2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	87,209	69,838	-24.9%
Progressive	85,218	77,655	-9.7%
Tipperary	902	749	-20.4%
Total	172,427	148,242	-16.3%

6 Sheep Ireland

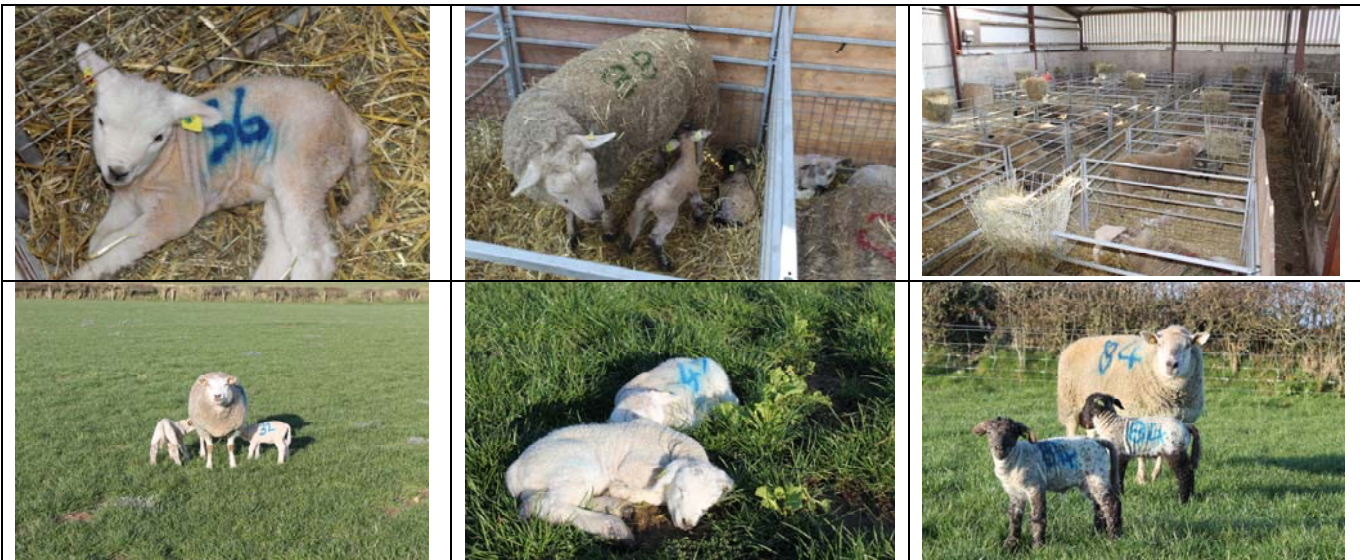
- The week has been an extremely busy one across our CPT flocks, but we have passed the halfway mark at this stage and things have gone very well up to this point, helped in no small part by the dry weather. As of last night (Thursday night) John Large had 685 lambs loaded onto the Sheep Ireland database, Andrew Moloney – 526 lambs and James Napper– 614. This data is invaluable to our genetic evaluations and will greatly improve the linkage and accuracy% across a large proportion of Pedigree ram breeding flocks involved in LambPlus.

✚ We visited the flock of John Large on Tuesday to see how progress was going. On the previous day 170 lambs had been tagged, weighed and scored for lambing difficulty and things were running extremely smoothly. There has been a high number of triplet lambing ewes on the farm this year so the fostering of extra lambs onto single bearing ewes is high priority. John tries to wet foster as many lambs as possible as it is without doubt the most successful way to 'trick' the ewe. There are also a number of fostering crates (see picture) employed to deal with the more stubborn ewes.



✚ Lambs are moving to the fields on a daily basis. They are being left in small groups for the first day or two to acclimatize to their new surroundings before being joined into larger grazing groups. Grass is available to the freshly lambing ewes, with approx. 4-5cms in fields where ewes are being released, fertiliser has been applied this week also to maximise the growth that has kicked off with the recent rise in temperatures.

✚ The first MALP lambs have been born this week also. As we no longer use DNA analysis to verify the parentage of MALP lambs it means all lambs need to be tagged at birth and matched to their mothers. We assign the sires to lambs through the single sire mating records that were collected across all the MALP flock last Autumn. All lambs are being double tagged at birth with an EID on one side and a tissue tag in the other ear. We are taking ear tissue samples from all MALP & CPT lambs this year with a view to planning for genomics in the future. We will be making big efforts to collect DNA samples from as many performance recorded stock rams in our LambPlus flocks this year also.



CPT lambing on the farm of John Large, Gortnahoe, Co. Tipperary.

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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, 05-MAR-2014 To 14-MAR-2014

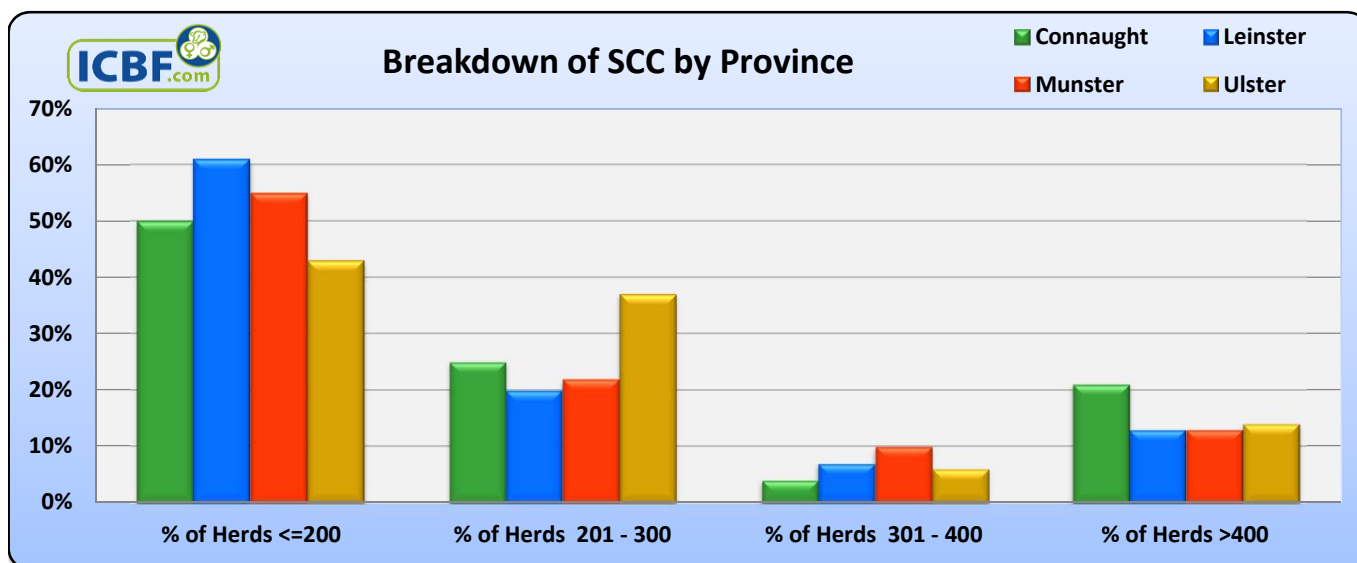
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	24	1,203	50	25.4	3.84	3.15	191
Leinster	128	8,445	66	24.3	4.06	3.29	170
Munster	280	15,521	55	24.5	4.05	3.21	186
Ulster	35	1,304	37	25.1	3.71	3.22	181
National Statistics	467	26,473	57	24.5	4.02	3.23	181

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 05-MAR-2014 To 14-MAR-2014

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	24	1,203	50%	25%	4%	21%	191
Leinster	128	8,445	61%	20%	7%	13%	170
Munster	280	15,521	55%	22%	10%	13%	186
Ulster	35	1,304	43%	37%	6%	14%	181
National Statistics	467	26,473	55%	23%	9%	13%	181

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 05-MAR-2014 To 14-MAR-2014								
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC	
Connaught	24	1,203	50	98	151	197	233	384
Leinster	128	8,445	66	95	136	161	198	296
Munster	280	15,521	55	107	159	184	220	319
Ulster	35	1,304	37	95	181	223	251	297
National Statistics	467	26,473	57	100	149	180	221	319

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

