

ICBF Weekly Update 14th September 2012

1 Important Dates

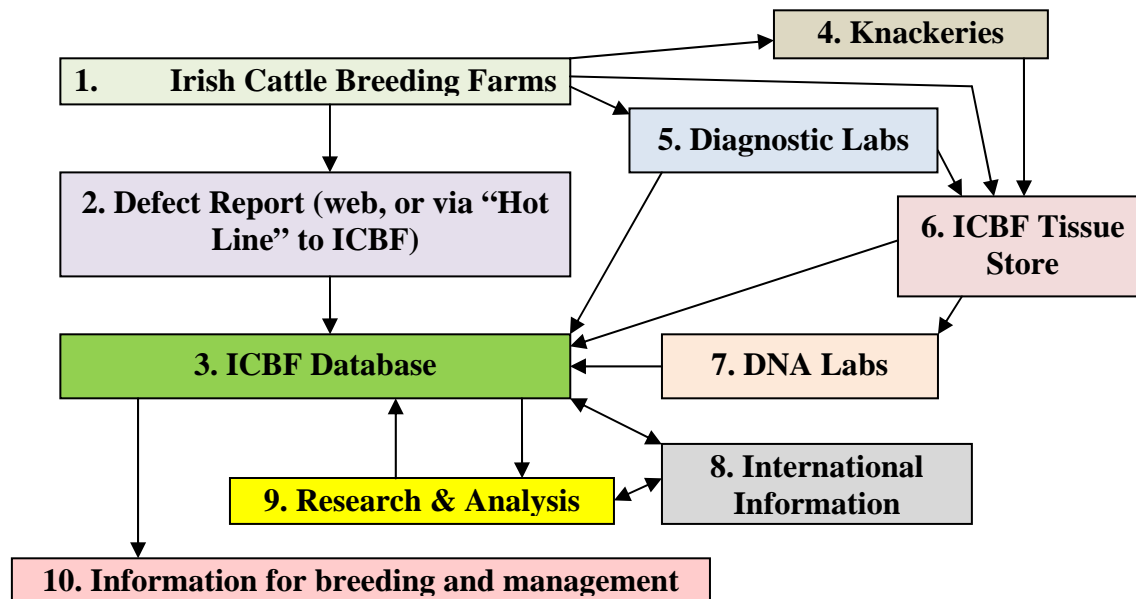
- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Tuesday 9th October, *Please note date change.*
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Friday 21st September, 11:00 – 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. *Please note new date.*
- ✚ **Launch of Beef Breeding Day at Tully** – Tuesday 2nd October from 11:00 to 13:00 at Tully.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Day at Tully** – Saturday 10th November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.

2 Defects

At its meeting on Thursday 6th of September the Board of ICBF considered a draft proposal for reducing the impact of genetic and other defects on Irish cattle farms.

The motivation for attempting to reduce the level of defects is:

- In cattle, there are a number of genetically controlled defects, many of which are recessive and lethal.
- New genetically controlled defects are being discovered worldwide on a regular basis. Each new discovery is usually accompanied by a genetic test which can be used effectively in control. With each discovery there is a need to establish the extent to which the defect is present in the Irish population and to implement changes to breeding programs to control the spread of the defect in the Irish population.
- Current breeding practices, especially the increasing use of genomic selection, open the possibility of readily controlling known defects. However, without progeny testing prior to selecting bulls for widespread use we expect to see more widespread expression of unknown genetic defects.
- There is an ever present risk of environmental factors leading to defects. These risks need to be closely monitored as they may be evidence of an underlying risk to human health.
- Early embryonic deaths, and deaths at birth result in significant losses in efficiency and profitability.
- The draft proposal has elements as summarized in figure 1:

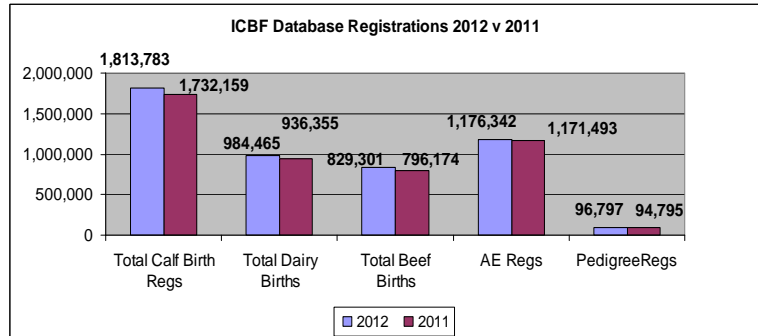
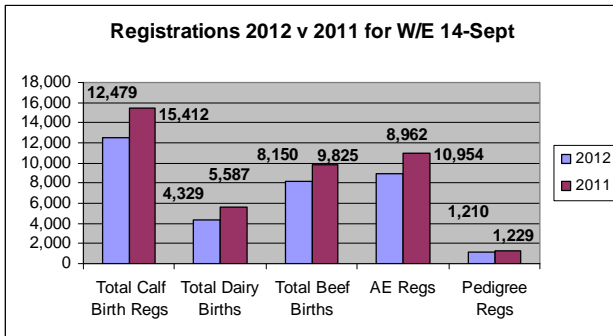


- The Board agreed that this work should be progressed in consultation with the wider industry.

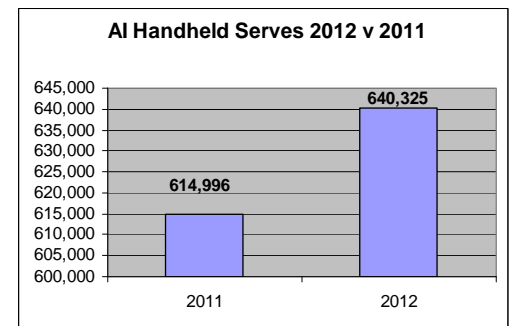
3 Sheep Board

The Sheep Board will meet next week to progress the establishment of a permanent structure for Sheep Ireland. This follows agreement amongst the key stakeholders on a mechanism for future funding.

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 238,211, with the number of animals weaned at 38,189.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 582,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 432,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- The new Dairy and Beef bull search on the website continues to get a lot of use following the release of the latest proofs. Over 18,000 individual bull searches have been logged in the past week.
- While some of the components have been released, work continues on the modification of other outputs to incorporate proposed changes to the Beef Euro-Star indexes.
- Work is continuing on the back-end ICBF web infrastructure with a view to making it more standardised and robust.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



5 Genetic Evaluations

The usual extra evaluation information on individual bulls relating to the August evaluation is almost completed and will be available through the bull search next week. The breed percentiles file has been amended to include the new beef indexes and is now available in the usual place under genetic evaluations. The excel file indicating the level and average breed performance will also be available next week.

Research work continues on calving and beef performance traits with the aim of having test proofs available to the industry in November.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 14/09/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 14/09/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 14/09/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 14/09/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 14/09/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,734	1,088	29%	304,212	94,973	31%
Progressive	2,460	997	41%	221,754	91,817	41%
Tipperary	119	42	35%	9,974	3,307	33%
Total	6,313	2,127	34%	535,940	190,097	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 14/09/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 14/09/12	2012 vs 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	300,993	304,212	1.1%
Progressive	213,228	221,754	3.8%
Tipperary	13,073	9,974	-31.1%
Total	527,294	535,940	1.6%

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, 05-SEP-2012 To 14-SEP-2012

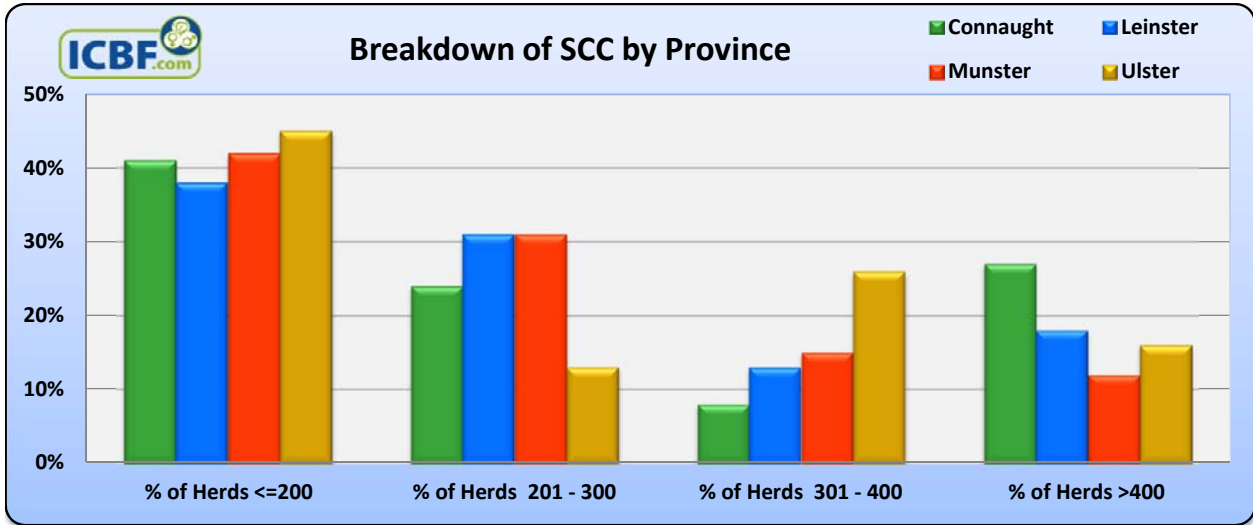
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	37	2,298	62	18.3	3.87	3.48	1.33	257
Leinster	147	11,460	78	18.1	4.07	3.55	1.37	237
Munster	475	33,639	71	17.4	4.06	3.57	1.32	223
Ulster	38	2,898	76	19.1	3.94	3.45	1.41	236
National Statistics	697	50,295	72	17.7	4.05	3.55	1.34	228

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 05-SEP-2012 To 14-SEP-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	37	2,298	62	41%	24%	8%	27%	257
Leinster	147	11,460	78	38%	31%	13%	18%	237
Munster	475	33,639	71	42%	31%	15%	12%	223
Ulster	38	2,898	76	45%	13%	26%	16%	236
National Statistics	697	50,295	72	41%	30%	15%	14%	228

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 05-SEP-2012 To 14-SEP-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	37	2,298	62	138	201	220	237	487
Leinster	147	11,460	78	155	207	244	279	394
Munster	475	33,639	71	146	196	225	253	333
Ulster	38	2,898	76	139	196	251	307	371
National Statistics	697	50,295	72	146	196	227	258	343

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

