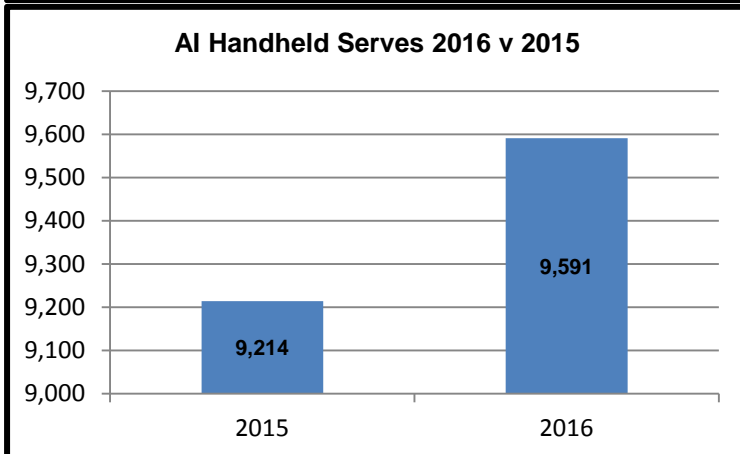
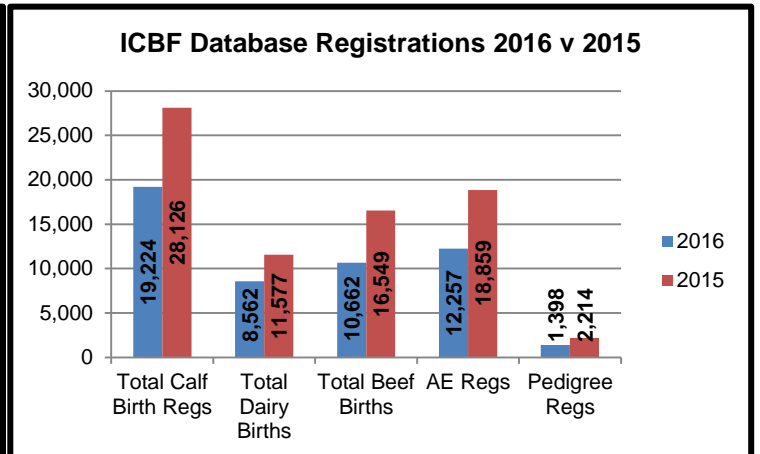
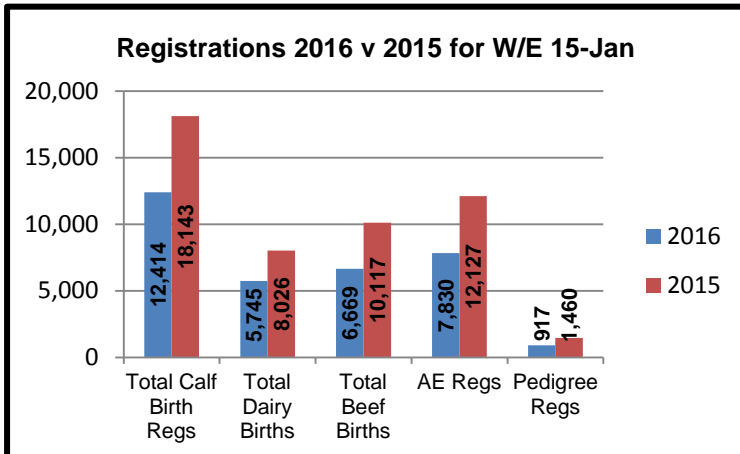


ICBF Weekly Update 15th January 2016

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 21st January 2016, 10:30am Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th January 2016, at 14:00, 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 20,644 results received since January 1st, of which 20,639 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.34 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

3 ICBF Website down from 4:00pm today to 9:00am Monday 18th January.

- ✚ There will be a maintenance window from 4:00pm today to 9:00am Monday 18th January. This means that the website will be down during this period. The bull search will be running.

4 Herd Plus®

- ✚ The Top 200 herds for EBI have been revealed. This run has seen no major changes at the top, with the top 5 herds remaining the same as the previous run. The top herd has also seen no change to the EBI figure remaining at €235, the same as the previous run. Again it is Patrick Flynn, Kilworth, Co. Cork who remains in pole position. This is in fact Patrick's fifth consecutive time in the number 1 position. Patrick has an average herd EBI of €235 (€24 coming from the milk sub-index and €180 coming from the fertility sub-index).
- ✚ The latest EBI Reports are now available to view on our web site. The average herd EBI is now €134.
- ✚ HerdPlus Dairy Pocket notebooks are currently being sent to herd-owners.

5 Genetic Evaluations.

- Files were submitted to the INTERBULL test run for production and fertility evaluations. The purpose of this participation was to submit ebvs based on a proposed new base which will be implemented in the August routine evaluation.
- Test genomic evaluations for beef traits are on-going. Current testing includes 150,000 genotyped animals in the evaluations. It is anticipated results will be distributed ahead of the next industry meeting.

6 GENE IRELAND® Beef

Autumn 2015 Beef Programme

- Sign Ups are continuing for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- 256 herds taking a total of 4500 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 17 straws per herd.
- The catalogue is available to view at the link below
http://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/gi_beef_autumn_2015_catalogue
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed below.

List of Bulls Currently On-Test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
AA2064	Carrigroe Kian	AA	420
AA2163	Liss Brendan	AA	145
AU2155	Slaneymill Jack	AU	310
CH2159	Bondi Jacob	CH	185
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	365
CH2154	Polar Joe 2	CH	80
HE2148	Ballyville Hamlet	HE	210
LM2156	Clonark Jumbo	LM	465
LM2151	Ballygarvan Stud Ike	LM	230
LM2116	Tomschoice Ironstone	LM	200
OEO	Ivoire	LM	120
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	370
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	110
SA2153	Highfield Odran	SA	280
SH2181	Coolvin Dominator	SH	25
SI2152	Curaheen Earp	SI	430
SI2158	Seepa Fionn	SI	335
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	275

7 Sheep Ireland

Recording Lambing Data in 2016

- Lambing is the most important time of the year from a genetic evaluation point of view. The accuracy of the Euro-Star evaluations is central to the accuracy of the lambing data recorded by each LambPlus breeder. Parentage, lamb mortality and lambing performance are some of the most critical elements which determine each lamb's Euro-Star evaluations. Genomics will hopefully help breeders to achieve 100% parentage

accuracy. However genomics will never replace the need for the accurate recording of lambing data. All LambPlus breeders are encouraged to use the Sheep Ireland lambing notebooks to record their lambing data as these booklet contain all the necessary fields required to guarantee complete data records.



OVIGEN Genotyping Pilot Project

- ✚ Sheep Ireland continue to collect DNA samples from Pedigree flocks for the OVIGEN genomics research project. While lambing is well underway on many ram breeders flocks, there is still a number of late lambing flocks which we are visiting. In 2016 OVIGEN will fund a pilot project involving 10 breeders from each of the main breeds involved in the project (Texel, Charollais, Suffolk, Belclare & Vendeen). Flocks have been selected to partake in this project based on their flock DQI score. These flocks will now be offered the opportunity to genotype 50% of the male lambs born into their flocks this year. This genotyping will be carried out free of charge. We will be requesting breeders to select their best male lambs (i.e. the lambs that are likely to be presented for sale as breeding animals).
- ✚ Provided that we have successfully genotyped both the Sire and Dam of the relevant ram lamb, we will be in a position to verify the parentage of each ram lamb involved. Breeders will be in a position to advertise their stock as '*parentage verified*'. This should provide breeders involved in the pilot project with a significant advantage in the market place. Not only will it guarantee accurate parentage, it will also increase the level of confidence in the genetic evaluations being provided by Sheep Ireland.
- ✚ The objective of this pilot project will be to develop the required systems to facilitate the widespread genotyping of Irish pedigree sheep. Significant investment is required in the Sheep Ireland web screens to provide a system where each LambPlus breeder can view the 'DNA status' of each animal in their flock – For example, animals in every flock may have a different status – DNA sample not available, DNA sample in storage, DNA sample being genotyped, Genotype available, etc. etc. Development of ways to report the results of genotyping for each breeder's sheep will be a critical element also. Our aim is to have significant progress made in this area by 2017.

Reminder of System Updates

- ✚ Just a quick reminder that the Sheep Ireland website will be completely unavailable from this evening (Friday 15th) to Monday morning (18th January) due to a major upgrade of the computer hardware on which all of its services are hosted. This upgrade will not change how screens are presented but will hopefully improve their performance significantly.

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Email info@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. **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, 06-JAN-2016 To 15-JAN-2016

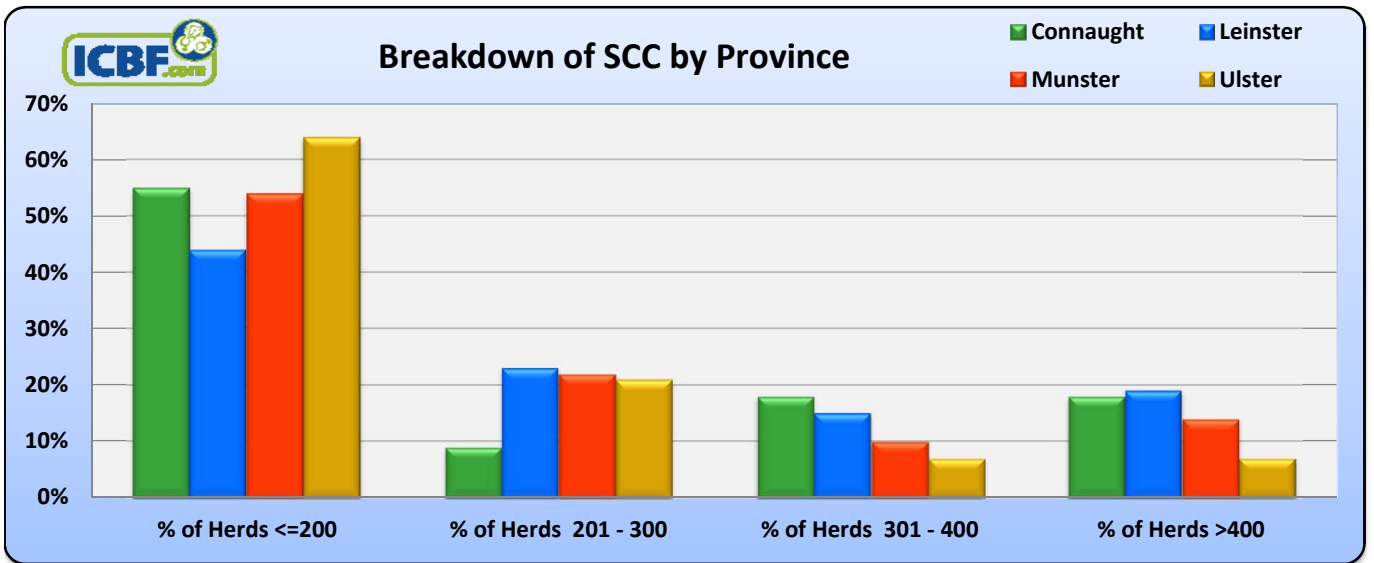
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	11	465	42	22.1	4.19	3.31	1.65	215
Leinster	75	4,493	60	21.3	4.12	3.34	1.58	216
Munster	87	4,784	55	21.2	4.29	3.36	1.61	207
Ulster	14	715	51	22.5	3.77	3.20	1.56	149
National Statistics	187	10,457	56	21.4	4.18	3.34	1.60	206

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 06-JAN-2016 To 15-JAN-2016

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*
Connaught	11	465	42	55%	9%	18%	18%	215
Leinster	75	4,493	60	44%	23%	15%	19%	216
Munster	87	4,784	55	54%	22%	10%	14%	207
Ulster	14	715	51	64%	21%	7%	7%	149
National Statistics	187	10,457	56	51%	21%	12%	16%	206

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 06-JAN-2016 To 15-JAN-2016

ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	11	465	42	133	170	184	266	344
Leinster	75	4,493	60	125	187	215	277	376
Munster	87	4,784	55	121	178	195	221	337
Ulster	14	715	51	89	119	144	178	246
National Statistics	187	10,457	56	118	178	198	230	353

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

