ICBF Weekly Update 15th June 2012

1 Important Dates

- **Herd Book Technical Breeding Consultation Meeting -** Wednesday 27th June, 10:00 to 13:00, Killeshin Hotel. Portlaoise.
- **ICBF Board Meeting -** Thursday 28th June, 10:00 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- **Interim Sheep Board –** Thursday 28th June, 14:00 – 16:30, Portlaoise.
- **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30th June, Athenry.

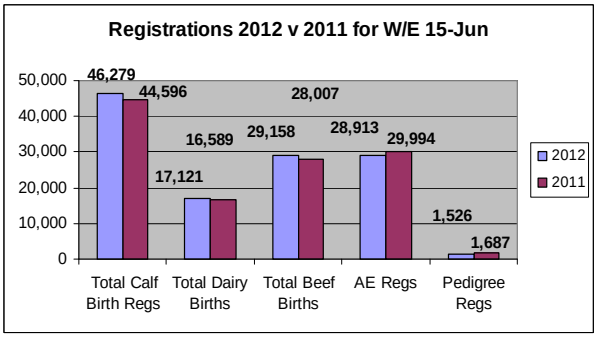
2 ICAR 2012

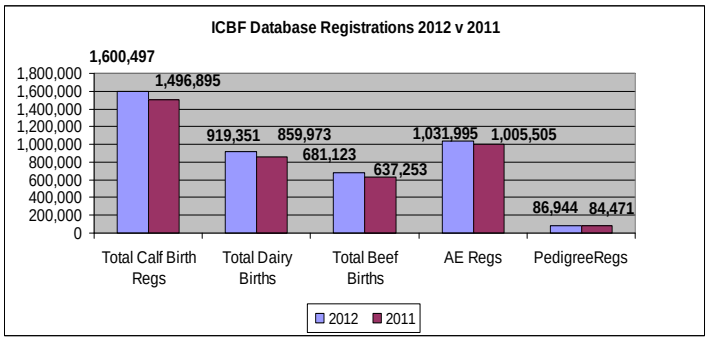
Next week we will be reviewing the lessons from hosting ICAR 2012. In preparation two surveys have been conducted. One survey of all delegates and one survey restricted to just the Irish participants. Feedback in both surveys is very positive for; the technical content, the social content and the overall organisation. Indications are that the conference income was sufficient to cover costs.

3 Animal Health Ireland (AHI)

The AGM of AHI was held this week in Dublin. The meeting was addressed by the Minister of Agriculture, Simon Coveney, who emphasised how pleased he is see the progress being made in animal health through the collaborative approach adopted by AHI. ICBF is proud to be associated with these initiatives and to be playing a key role through the provision of supporting information services as an extension of the ICBF database.

4 Database





- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 622,773 with the number of animals weaned at 555,398.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 568,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 398,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.60% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- Final testing of the integrated weight recording solution took place this week and will be completed next week with a view to getting the first cells operational by the end of June. Discussions with contractors to provide the service begin today.

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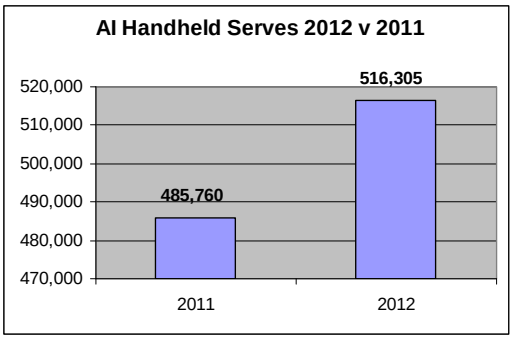
- Preparations for the changes in how the Beef €uro-Stars are presented on ICBF outputs (Bull search, reports, web outputs, catalogues, etc.) began this week in advance of the €uro-Star Implementation group meeting next week.
- Work is on-going on the back-end ICBF web infrastructure with a view to making it more standardised and robust.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012compared with 2011.



5 Sheep Ireland

- Ultrasound Muscle & Back fat scanning continued on pedigree flocks this week. The cost of the service is considerably reduced this year by offering the service at a price to cover travel and labour expenses. We would like breeders to keep in mind that this is new ground for Sheep Ireland and our team of recently trained scanning technicians. The objective of the change in service operator was primarily to offer more value to our recording breeders, which we have, by reducing the cost of scanning by approximately 50% on last year's rates. The first year of this venture will undoubtedly be the most challenging, but I have no doubt that breeders will acknowledge the savings that we are delivering. Our goals are to: increase the level of scanning, to keep costs down, and to achieve greater efficiency in the use of labor and travel.
- Our planned sale in Tullamore this August will be limited to scanned flocks. We have been contacting breeders over the last number of weeks to organise scanning on an area by area basis (to keep travel costs to a minimum). The earlier lambing breeders have been our priority to this point with later lambing breeders being contacted presently. Any breeder anxious to scan their earlier born lambs and have not yet been contacted by Sheep Ireland, please call us on 023 882 0454 and we will organise your scanning as soon as possible, otherwise we will use a breeders average lambing date to allocate an 'ideal' scanning date (approximately 140 days of age).
- The cost of scanning this year involves a call-out charge of €60 which will cover the cost of scanning the first 10 lambs scanned. The next 70 lambs scanned will cost €2.50 for each lamb. After this point, each lamb scanned will cost the breeder €0.50.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 15/06/12

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 15/06/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 15/06/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 15/06/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 15/06/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,712	1,074	29%	288,292	88,806	31%
Progressive	2,398	958	40%	203,391	81,658	40%
Tipperary	118	41	35%	9,486	3,050	32%
Total	**6,228**	**2,073**	**33%**	**501,169**	**173,514**	**35%**

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Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	**YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 15/06/11**	**YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 15/06/12**	**2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)**
Munster	280,230	288,292	2.8%
Progressive	194,514	203,391	4.4%
Tipperary	11,955	9,486	-26.0%
Total	**486,699**	**501,169**	**2.9%**

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 05/06/12 to 15/06/12								
Provincial	***No. Herds Recorded***	***No. Cows Recorded***	***Average Herd Size***	***Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow***	***Average Fat %***	***Average Protein %***	***Average F + P kg***	***Average SCC***
Munster	952	73,502	77	26.1	3.79	3.41	1.88	218
Leinster	343	28,725	84	26.7	3.74	3.38	1.90	222
Connacht	68	4,460	66	27.3	3.58	3.32	1.89	225
Ulster	73	4,732	65	26.1	3.69	3.32	1.83	260

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