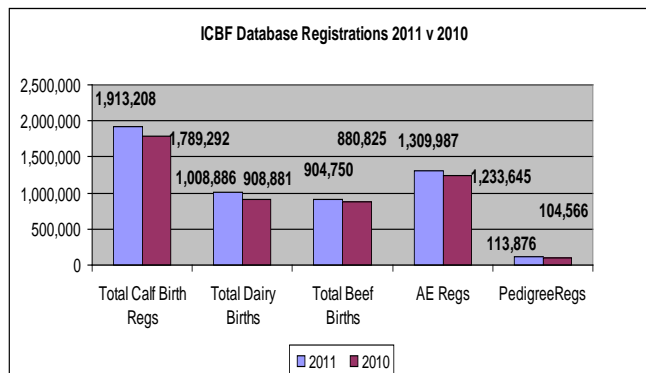
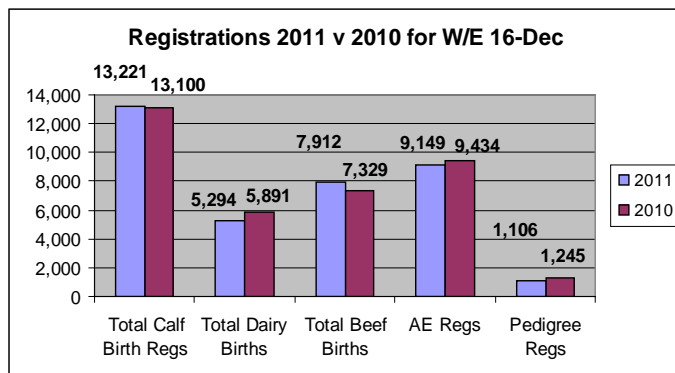


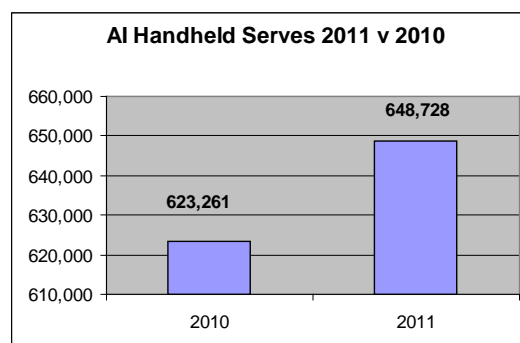
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 26th January, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 26th January, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.

2 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 538,662 with the number of animals weaned at 420,257.
- Around 5,590 herds have already completed their Dairy Efficiency Programme (DEP) health recording requirements for 2011.
- Testing continues on the prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software.
- 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.
- The developments to the up-coming national BVD eradication programme went live this week. Further updates to the development are on-going.
- Some further developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database are continuing.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



3 Sheep Ireland

- The past two weeks have been busy here in Sheep Ireland. New breeder sign-ups continue to arrive which is hugely positive. In the coming days all breeders that recorded in 2011 will receive their 2012 LambPlus lambing notebooks along with renewal sign-ups for the coming season.
- We have continued our work with regional Teagasc advisors over the past two weeks by speaking at Sheep Seminars in Nenagh and Cahir in Co. Tipperary. Attendances on both nights were very strong and it was a great

opportunity to educate more commercial sheep farmers as to the benefits of buying Euro-Star rams. I have no doubt that these farmers will be looking for evaluations at ram sales next year.

- ✚ This past week we have also been collecting DNA samples from all the rams that were used on the MALP farms over the 2011 breeding season. These DNA samples will now be sent to Germany where they will be ready to match up with all the lamb DNA samples that we will be taking next spring once lambing & weighing commences across these MALP farms. Once sires are matched up/assigned to the lambs we can then run the genetic evaluations on these animals.
- ✚ Discussions are currently taking place with Teagasc also in relation to the new demonstration flock which researcher Philip Creighton has set-up in Athenry. This flock will be a fantastic resource for Irish sheep farmers to assess the potential economic effects of various stocking rates and ewe prolificacy. From a Sheep Ireland point of view the flock will also be an invaluable source of information for our Euro-Star evaluations. As many of the ewes on the farm have been sourced from our MALP program, all measurements taken on the farm will add significantly to the data which we are currently generating. Data on the maternal performance of our rams in this country is extremely limited. The flock in Athenry will provide another much needed source.
- ✚ Their intention to get accurate slaughter/factory data on every lamb born in the flock will be of major benefit to our evaluations also. To date Sheep Ireland have been relying on ultra-sound scanning and weight information as a predictor of slaughter values. When we receive reliable factory data from Teagasc we can then carry out detailed assessments of the correlations between our weight/scanning information and the actual kill-out performance of each lamb. This will benefit our entire genetic evaluation process as we will then be able to make any adjustments necessary based on this data.

4 GENIreland®

Dairy

- ✚ The autumn programme is now complete with straws allocated to all the herd-owners.
- ✚ There are 106 participants in the programme taking a total of 3,508 straws.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ All the evaluations have now been completed for the December evaluation. Parental averaging is now being completed. Results will be available on the ICBF website through the bull search, online herdbooks and the online herd profiles on Monday evening next 19th December.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 06/12/11 to 16/12/11								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	10	541	54	24.4	4.46	3.46	1.93	329
CAVAN	32	1,372	43	17.9	4.01	3.32	1.31	396
CLARE	5	254	51	27.2	3.98	3.28	1.97	378
CORK STH	160	7,569	47	19.2	4.33	3.43	1.49	299
CORK NTH	85	4,919	58	19.0	4.26	3.49	1.47	309

DONEGAL	5	660	132	15.0	4.53	3.65	1.23	365
DUBLIN	4	202	51	23.9	3.92	3.33	1.73	546
GALWAY	10	410	41	18.5	4.28	3.23	1.39	384
KERRY	55	3,232	59	19.2	4.16	3.41	1.45	383
KILDARE	18	1,083	60	20.4	4.02	3.31	1.50	298
KILKENNY	9	438	49	21.9	4.42	3.46	1.73	287
LAOIS	22	1,097	50	20.9	3.97	3.44	1.55	331
LEITRIM	7	389	56	17.7	3.93	3.32	1.28	304
LIMERICK	42	2,420	58	20.6	4.19	3.46	1.58	274
LONGFORD	7	472	67	16.0	4.06	3.35	1.19	250
LOUTH	14	895	64	22.2	4.06	3.38	1.65	221
MAYO	13	728	56	15.2	4.07	3.37	1.13	437
MEATH	47	3,567	76	21.1	3.99	3.29	1.54	305
MONAGHAN	21	865	41	18.3	3.96	3.40	1.35	297
OFFALY	14	708	51	16.7	4.14	3.32	1.25	370
ROSCOMMON	3	254	85	15.3	3.86	3.16	1.07	363
SLIGO	5	191	38	19.8	3.54	3.24	1.34	328
TIPPERARY NTH	8	531	66	16.7	4.92	3.73	1.44	355
TIPPERARY STH	6	284	47	19.7	4.48	3.60	1.59	336
WATERFORD	20	1,235	62	23.2	4.52	3.62	1.89	325
WESTMEATH	17	1,133	67	19.6	4.41	3.44	1.54	283
WEXFORD	48	2,719	57	20.0	4.09	3.47	1.51	316
WICKLOW E	18	1,241	69	20.2	4.05	3.39	1.50	340
WICKLOW W	12	968	81	25.1	4.25	3.42	1.93	448
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	717	40,377	60	19.8	4.17	3.41	1.50	340

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 06/12/11 to 16/12/11

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	390	20,444	52	21.0	4.29	3.47	1.63	323
Leinster	240	15,064	63	21.0	4.13	3.39	1.58	333
Connacht	38	1,972	52	17.3	3.94	3.26	1.25	363
Ulster	58	2,897	50	17.1	4.17	3.46	1.30	353

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 16/12/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 16/12/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 16/12/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 16/12/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 16/12/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,674	1,043	28%	305,812	95,701	31%
Progressive	2,397	922	38%	222,054	84,422	38%
Tipperary	145	65	45%	13,156	6,331	48%
Total	6,216	2,030	33%	541,022	186,454	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 16/12/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 16/12/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	280,296	305,812	8.3%
Progressive	198,328	222,054	10.7%
Tipperary	12,000	13,156	8.8%
Total	490,624	541,022	9.3%

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