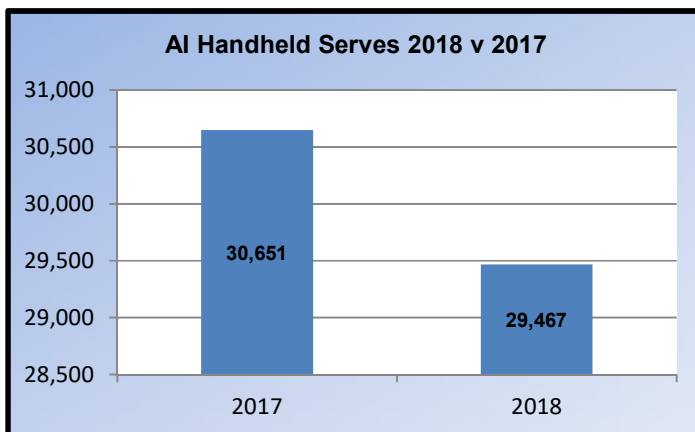
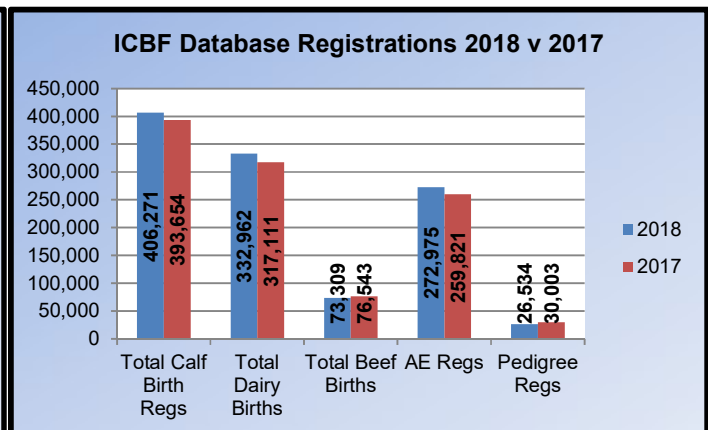
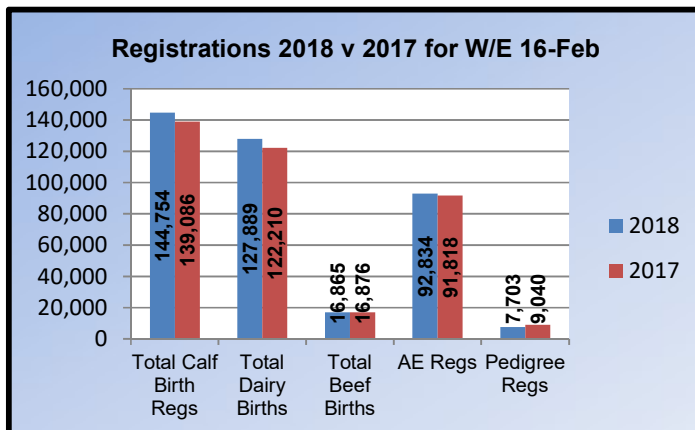


ICBF Weekly Update 16th February 2018

1 Important Dates

- ✦ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 29th March at 10:00am, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✦ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 5th April at 10:00am, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✦ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 5th April at 2:00pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Database



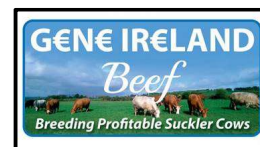
- ✦ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✦ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 358,804 results received since January 1st, of which 123,664 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 12,280,321 results have now been received.
- ✦ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2018 compared with 2017.



3 Herd Plus®

✦ We are delighted to present you with the latest list of dairy bulls which have been selected for the Spring Dairy Gene Ireland programme. Click [here](#) for more details.



✦ The first calves from the Spring 2017 Gene Ireland beef bulls are currently being born on farms. If you have any photos of Gene Ireland progeny that you would like to share with us, please email them to query@icbf.com. Click [here](#) for more details.



<p>✚ EdX in conjunction with Wageningen University and Research are offering a free 7-week online course on Animal Breeding and Genetics. This online course opens on the 13th February. Click here for further details.</p> 	<p>✚ You may already be familiar with the term Genomics as part of the Beef, Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) or just from using genomics as a helpful management tool, but what exactly is genomics? Click here for further details.</p> 
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4 GENE IRELAND[®] Beef

- ✚ Orders are continuing for the GI Beef Spring 2018 bulls.
- ✚ 128 herds taking a total of 1920 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 15 straws per herd.
- ✚ The Salers bull SA2366 reached the 500 straw target this week.
- ✚ A new bull SA4461 has been added to the panel this week.
- ✚ Details on the bulls available can be viewed on the ICBF website.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Replacement Index	Across Breed Stars	Total Straws Ordered
SH4376	Castlehaven Rocky	SH	€156	5	375
SA4461	Spiddal Pat	SA	€155	5	0
SI4322	Kickhams Handsome	SI	€154	5	350
CH4320	Liseron	CH	€127	5	420
SI4347	Leeherd Harry	SI	€122	5	135
SI4350	Rubyjen Here's Johnny	SI	€122	5	60
AA4375	Carrigroe Nationwide	AA	€118	5	140
LM4356	Coisceim Lex	LM	€113	5	260
LM4360	Aherla K 7 P	LM	€109	5	90
LM4358	Montclare Lopez	LM	€106	5	55
AA4357	Mckeague Noddy	AA	€105	5	45
CH4213	Blanchefield Lester	CH	€91	4	105
PT4215	Leacan King	PT	€90	4	145
CH4218	Woodhead Meldrew	CH	€88	4	230
BA2357	Terelton Isaac	BA	€88	4	430
HE4292	Allowdale Rory 594	HE	€83	4	175

- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please telephone **023 8820452**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed above.

5 GENE IRELAND[®] Dairy

- ✚ There are 90 herds signed up to the programme taking a total of 3,719 straws.
- ✚ The panel consists of 60 Holstein Friesians, 7 Pure Friesians, 5 Jerseys, 4 Crossbreds and 2 Norwegian Reds.

BREED PACKS AND AVERAGE EBI'S

- Holstein-Friesian: €285
- Pure Friesian: €91
- Multi Breed: €202

- # Multi-breed pack may contain Holstein, Friesian, Norwegian Red, Jersey and Crossbred bulls.
- # To order straws please telephone **023 8820452** or check website for details.
- # [Click here for potential Holstein/Friesian Dairy list](#)
- # [Click here for potential Pure Friesian, Norwegian Red, Jersey and Jersey Crossbred list](#)

6 Tully

Viking Genetics

- # Viking Genetics visited Tully on the 12th February 2018. Viking Genetics is one of the largest AI-companies in the world, owned by 25,000 farmers in Denmark, Sweden, and Finland. This group consisted of 12 individuals from three countries, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Very informative topics were discussed including:
 - ICBF Database.
 - Beef Genomics.
 - Gene Ireland Breeding Programs.
 - Whole Herd Performance Recording.
 - Tully Gene Ireland Progeny Test Centre.

Teagasc Grange

- # Researchers from Teagasc Grange visited Tully on the 13th February 2018. Grange is one of the world's leading beef production research programmes. The aims of the programme are to identify the key priority needs of the sector and using the latest scientific knowledge identify the technologies that need to be developed in order to meet these needs, and thus underpin the future of the sector. The main aim of the visit was to view the performance of animals in Tully Test Centre. There are 53 heifers and 57 steers from Teagasc Grange currently on test in Tully.

Animals on Test in Tully

- # There are currently 205 animals on test in Tully Test Centre. These groups consist of:
 - Bulls to be slaughtered under 16 months and 18 months.
 - Steers to be slaughtered at 23 months.
 - Heifers to be slaughtered at 23 months.
- # All animals will be slaughtered from the end of March onwards.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 16/02/18						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 16/02/18	No. EDIY Herds YTD 16/02/18	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 16/02/18	No. EDIY Cows YTD 16/02/18	% Cows EDIY
Munster	366	22	6%	23,764	1,678	7%
Progressive	575	81	14%	41,546	6,166	15%
Tipperary	5	1	20%	308	40	13%
Total	946	104	11%	65,618	7,884	12%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2017 Cows Recorded 01/01/17 - 16/02/17	YTD 2018 Cows Recorded 01/01/18 - 16/02/18	2018 vs 2017 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	21,960	23,764	8.2%
Progressive	42,649	41,546	-2.6%
Tipperary	309	308	-0.3%
Total	64,918	65,618	1.1%

8 Shee Ireland

UCD Agriculture Careers Day

✚ This week Sheep Ireland and ICBF attended the annual UCD Agriculture Careers Day. This event is a great opportunity for 4th year Agricultural Students to meet future potential employers. It was a great event for us to attend as we met a lot of students who have a huge interest in Sheep and Cattle Breeding and Genetic gain. There is potential for some of these students to work with Sheep Ireland and ICBF in the future, so it was great to meet them. The Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed was also in attendance. He gave a speech to the students on the day, highlighting the fact that the students were the next generation of people who would influence Agriculture in Ireland.



Visit to Teagasc BETTER Farmer John Doyle

✚ Sheep Ireland's Eamon Wall attended an event on the farm of John Doyle Co. Wexford, where the students of Carlow IT were in attendance. Eamon explained to the students the importance of using the Euro-Star indexes as a guidance tool when selecting rams for breeding. It is great for Sheep Ireland to attend events like these, as these students are the next generation of people who will be farming and it is important that they know the benefit of the Euro-Star Indexes.



Time to Start Recording the 40-day weight

✚ For early lambing flocks, now is the optimal time to record the 40-day weights for your lambs. It is important to note that the bracket for this weight is between 20 – 65 days. If a weight slips out of the bracket it will affect your DQI. For more information about when to weigh you lambs click [here](#)