

ICBF Weekly Update 16th November 2012

1 Important Dates

- Optimir Workshop** - Tuesday 27th November, Teagasc, Moorepark.
- ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Wednesday 28th November from 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Industry Dairy & Beef Consultation meetings** – Wednesday 28th November, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 29th November 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 29th November from 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.

2 Two Interesting Industry Events

This past week has seen ICBF host two industry events.

Last Saturday, Tully hosted its first Open Day in its new guise as a commercial progeny test centre. The switch to testing commercial progeny has made the testing station more relevant to commercial farmers, and the feedback was positive in this regard.

There was also some constructive feedback in relation to the plans around slaughtering the entire batch as one group, regardless of the state of readiness. We are taking this feedback on board and are amending our slaughter strategy, while also bearing in mind what we need for comprehensive genetic analysis. As usual, Stephen Conroy and the team at Tully had the event very well organised on the day.

On Wednesday of this week, ICBF and Teagasc held a joint conference on the current state of Genomics in Ireland. It was well attended by a cross section of the industry. Some key discussions were had around the need for Ireland to move all parentage testing away from micro-satellites, and on to the SNP chip technology, so that genomic evaluations are also facilitated.

IHFA showed vision and leadership eight years ago when it decided that all pedigree male registrations should be parentage verified, and are going to reap the rewards of that now. It was great to see the Beef Herdbooks so positive about the possibilities also, and we look forward to working with them to come up with a similar, cost effective model that they can run with.

In general, Ireland is in a very good position to take advantage of the genomic technologies, and we are very fortunate to have the leadership of Andrew Cromie (ICBF), Donagh Berry (Teagasc) and their respective teams to help take the Irish industry forward in this area.

The presentations from Wednesday's conference are available in the publications section of the ICBF website.

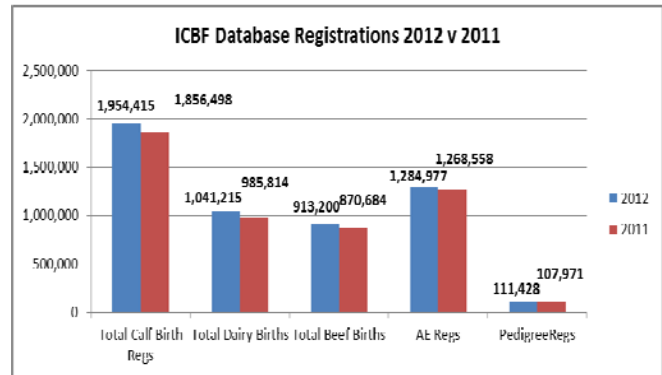
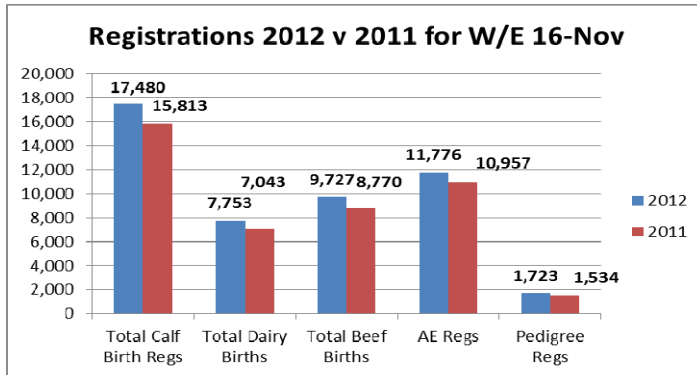
3 ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event at Tully

Around 500 farmers attended the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event at Tully last Saturday, 10th November. The event was kindly sponsored by FBD. It featured three main stands covering information on the new GENÉIRÉLAND Maternal Breeding program, Euro-Star Indexes and new GENÉIRÉLAND progeny test program. There was also an information area updating farmers on developments in ICBF weight recording service and HerdPlus. As part of the information area farmers could also avail of breeding advice from AI companies and Herdbooks.

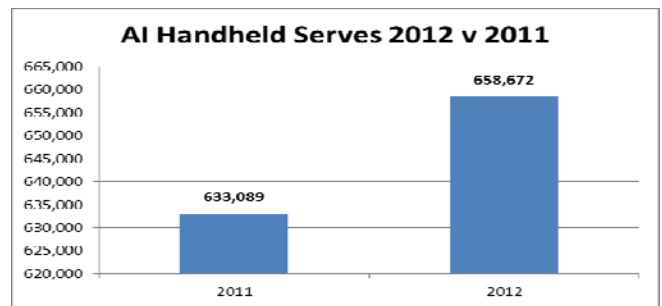
137 progeny (mainly sired by GENÉIRÉLAND bulls) were on display at the event. They were in two separate groups which consisted of bulls currently on-test (77 bulls) and the new intake of bulls which is due to commence test shortly (60 bulls). These animals had individual performance and parentage information displayed which created a lot of interest and discussion among farmers. Performance information displayed for the bulls currently on-test consisted of average daily gain, dry matter intake, feed efficiency, current live-weight along with scanned

muscle and fat depth. Overall the event was successful in fulfilling its objective, which was to update farmers on ICBF's new initiatives that will allow for much greater rates of genetic improvement in Irish beef production. See photographs attached.

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 475,227, with the number of animals weaned at 313,532.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 585,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 463,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new EuroStar indexes, and the development work on these is continuing.
- The 2013 Dairy personalised notebooks continue to be generated and printed.
- Weight recording figures this week were at 1013 animals, from 700 the previous week. We also had 461 DIY weights recorded by farmers this week.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



5 GENÉIRLAND®

Dairy

- The panel consists of 10 bull's with an average EBI €20.
- Straws have been allocated to the 100 herds signed up to the programme.
- Packs can be ordered on 1850 600 900.

Beef

- Sign-ups are continuing for the GENÉIRLAND autumn program.

- ✚ 204 herds taking a total of 4080 straws have signed up so far.
- ✚ All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- ✚ To learn more or to sign up please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ The approximate total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the table below.

Code	GJB	TQL	VMP	RWM	FWO	FSZ	FYB	LZF	GZS	TVR	EFZ	WLZ	KJB	FTH	CJH	FQR
# Straws	125	105	250	140	225	220	290	380	110	500	500	400	500	280	110	140

6 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ On Wednesday night last we visited the Ard Rí Hotel in Tuam. This was a Sheep Ireland public meeting and was attended by LambPlus ram breeders, non LambPlus ram breeders and by commercial farmers with an interest in sheep breeding. There was some very good debate on the night with a wide range of views expressed. Excellent suggestions were made as to how sheep breeding in Ireland can progress and it was deemed that Sheep Irelands development may be hampered until a number of serious issues are addressed - the biggest of these issues being the large volumes of non-pedigree and cross bred rams moving through livestock marts each week.
- ✚ These rams are being purchased by commercial farmers for very small amounts of money each week and this is seriously undermining the pedigree - performance recording breeder. Unfortunately although these rams may seem like value to the commercial farmer on mart day - the reality is that these rams are doing nothing for individual flock development, genetic improvement and ultimately the progress of the national flock.
- ✚ To alter the behavior of commercial farmers sourcing their rams in this fashion is going to be a major task but is one which has to be met head on by all stakeholders if significant industry progress is to be made.

7 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Routine evaluations are currently underway. The deadline of submission of data for Interbull is next Tuesday.
- ✚ Work on the new calving evaluations is advancing. We hope to be in a position to provide test proofs to the industry next week.
- ✚ Test proofs for the new management traits are also underway.

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 16/11/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 16/11/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 16/11/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 16/11/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 16/11/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,738	1,090	29%	307,632	95,684	31%
Progressive	2,477	1,008	41%	228,299	93,967	41%
Tipperary	122	44	36%	10,323	3,508	34%
Total	6,337	2,142	34%	546,254	193,159	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 16/11/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 16/11/12	2012 vs 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	304,044	307,632	1.2%
Progressive	219,132	228,299	4.0%
Tipperary	13,135	10,323	-27.2%
Total	536,311	546,254	1.8%

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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, 07-NOV-2012 To 16-NOV-2012

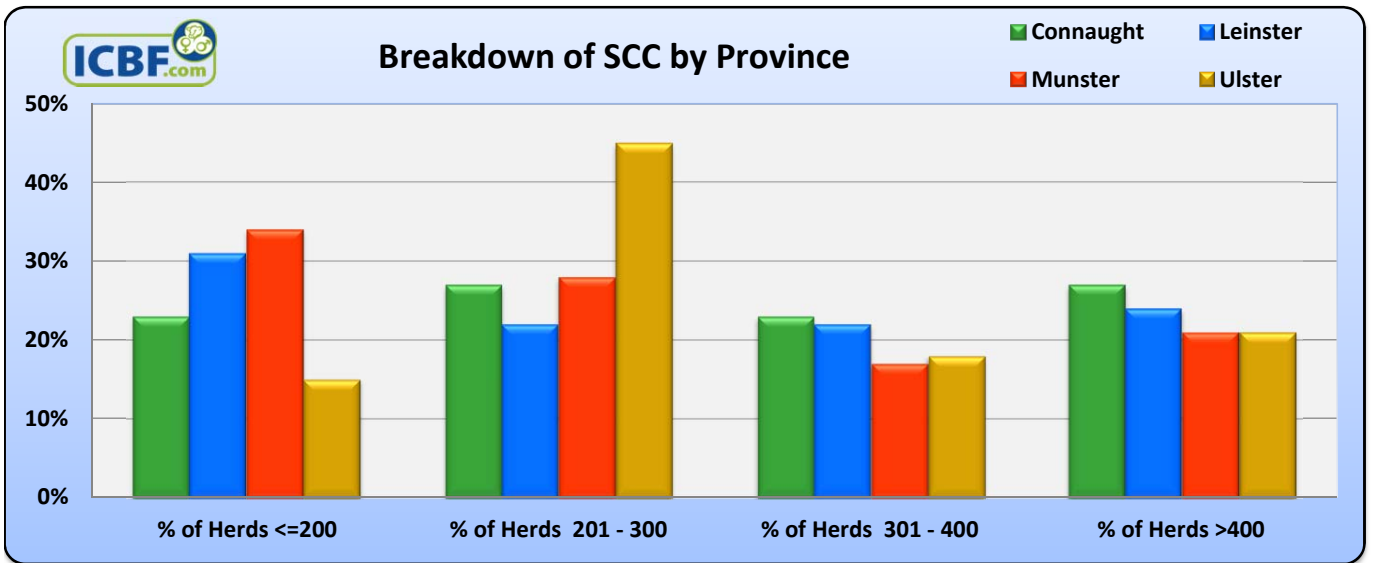
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	30	1,357	45	16.0	4.38	3.58	1.26	300
Leinster	103	8,225	80	15.6	4.40	3.66	1.23	270
Munster	463	30,182	65	13.7	4.57	3.82	1.14	263
Ulster	33	2,611	79	13.4	4.37	3.60	1.06	290
National Statistics	629	42,375	67	14.1	4.52	3.77	1.15	267

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 07-NOV-2012 To 16-NOV-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	30	1,357	45	23%	27%	23%	27%	300
Leinster	103	8,225	80	31%	22%	22%	24%	270
Munster	463	30,182	65	34%	28%	17%	21%	263
Ulster	33	2,611	79	15%	45%	18%	21%	290
National Statistics	629	42,375	67	32%	28%	18%	22%	267

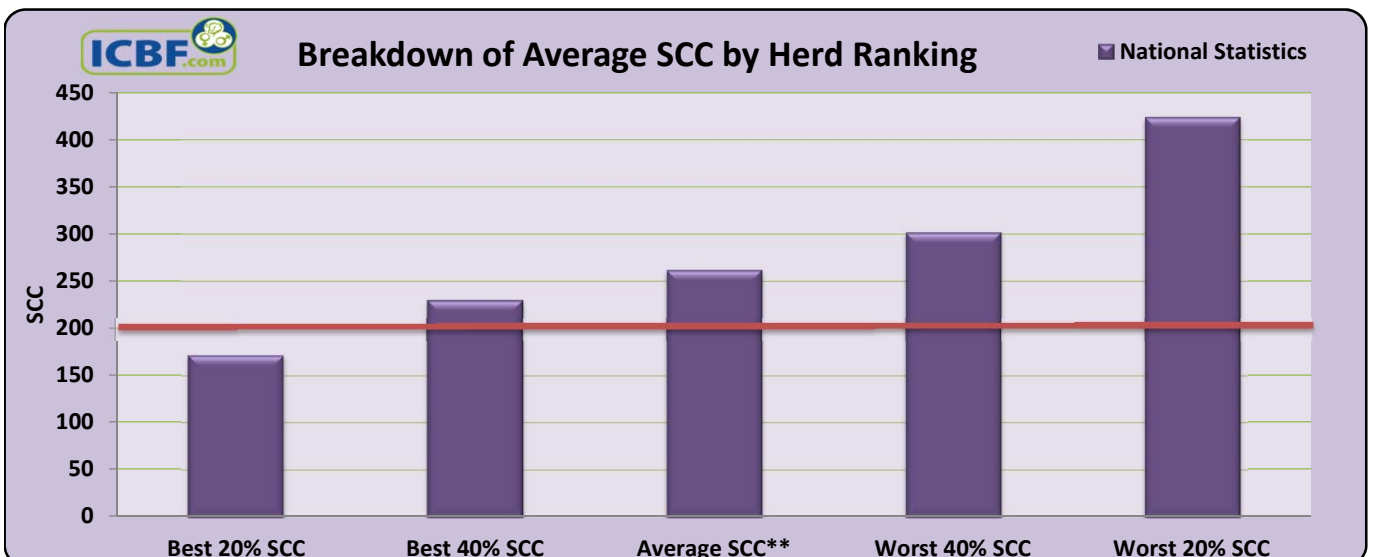
* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 07-NOV-2012 To 16-NOV-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	30	1,357	45	188	245	298	329	407
Leinster	103	8,225	80	179	253	274	325	452
Munster	463	30,182	65	169	225	257	293	412
Ulster	33	2,611	79	226	265	279	298	443
National Statistics	629	42,375	67	172	230	262	302	424

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



Photographs from the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event at Tully, 10th November 2012



Sean Coughlan (ICBF Chief Executive), giving a welcome and an overview of the event to the farmers



Ross Evans addressing the crowd on the new Euro-Star indexes



Ross Evans addressing the crowd on the new Euro-Star Indexes



Andrew Cromie giving an overview of the GENIE IRELAND program



Stephen Conroy addressing the crowd on the new progeny test program at Tully
A section of the Large crowd that attended the event



Photographs from the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event at Tully, 10th November 2012



Some of the bulls on display at the event



"It's been a tough day with all these people looking at me, it's time for some lunch".



Liam Brophy, Mark Brophy, Conor Keegan, John Keegan and Willie Keegan (all from Laois) enjoying the event



Michael Cullen, Nuala Hourihane (Irish Charolais Cattle society), Mary Duggan (Belgian Blue Cattle society) and Martin Regan enjoying the event.



Tom Kellaghan (Westmeath), studying the performance and parentage information displayed in the catalogue for individual animals.



Michael O'Donovan, Sean Buckley, Catriona Sisk and Joe Barrett (all from Cork) observing the bulls in their pens.



Eddie Heslin (Cavan) Aidan Connell (Offaly) and Mary Murphy (ICBF) discussing the new ICBF weight recording service



Aline Crevecoeur, Jarlath Duggan, Sean Sherman and Mary Duggan (Belgian Blue Cattle society) in the general information area.

Photographs from the ICBF/FBD Beef Breeding Event at Tully, 10th November 2012



Mary Russel and Ellen Carice closely studying information on the animals on display



The bulls curious about their new visitors



Lots of chat and discussion at the general information area



Farmers closely studying the animals on display