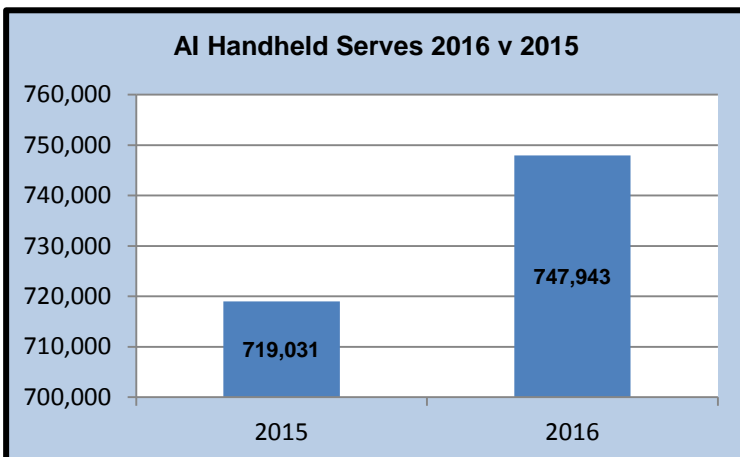
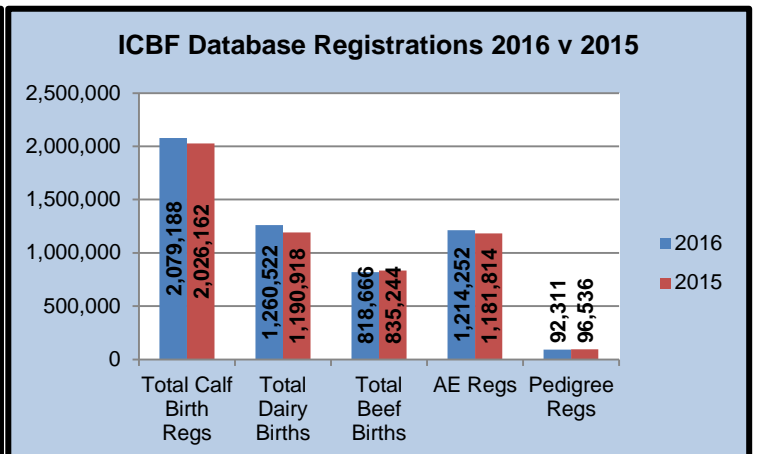
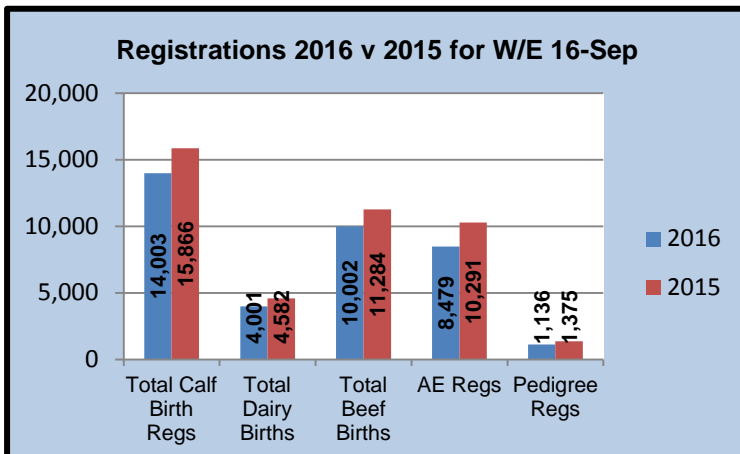


ICBF Weekly Update 16th September 2016

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Meeting** – Monday 14th November 2016 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24th November 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Friday 30th September at 10:00am in Lyons Estate, UCD – Newcastle, Co. Kildare.

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 2,688,300 results received since January 1st, of which 42,826 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 10,016,738 results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ Genetic Evaluations in Beef and Dairy have now gone live, including the new Beef Genomic Evaluations. The latest results can be viewed using the Animal Search or by logging in to www.icbf.com. To learn more about how genomic evaluations work, check out this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfQTW8O2L8Y>.
- ✚ The changes to the EBI genetic base cow have now gone live. The EBI genetic base cow, which is the genetic reference point for all dairy cattle in Ireland, is now younger, having moved from a 1995 to a 2005 born genetic base cow. For more information on this base change, go to <http://www.icbf.com/?p=5852>
- ✚ The Dairy and Beef Calving reports for 2016 are now available to view at www.icbf.com

4 Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

- ✚ The Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed TD, today officially launched the first ever incorporation of the genomic evaluations into the breeding indices developed by the ICBF. These new evaluations will now be used to provide individual herd-specific reports to each participant in the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and these reports will start to issue the week after the ploughing.
- ✚ Speaking at the launch Sean Coughlan, CEO of the ICBF commented *“The official publication of Genomic Evaluations for the suckler herd is a very important development in the on-going battle to ensure we have a sustainable and profitable suckler sector. Genomic evaluations are another key tool which suckler farmers can use in order to maximise the profitability on their farms. The level of interest and demand from suckler farmers over the last few months, in anticipation of getting their genomic evaluation reports, shows that a large number of suckler farmers are ready, willing and able to adopt the most up to date technologies as they look to secure a profitable and sustainable farming future.*
- ✚ Concluding the Minister said, *“No other country has undertaken such an ambitious programme of applying the latest technology to accelerate the genetic gain of their national beef herd. This programme is another tangible example of Ireland’s climate smart approach to agriculture and food production. Correct breeding choices will deliver long-term and cumulative positive effects on the Irish suckler herd. Using the information contained in these BDGP reports, Irish suckler farmers can make the correct breeding choices to ensure the future competitiveness and sustainability of the Irish suckler herd.*



The Minister is pictured above on the farm of Seán McSweeney, Macroom, Co. Cork with a Speckled Park Suckler Cow at the launch of the Genomic Euro-Star Indexes with Michael Doran, Chairman of ICBF

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 16/09/16						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 16/09/16	No. EDIY Herds YTD 16/09/16	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 16/09/16	No. EDIY Cows YTD 16/09/16	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,654	1,121	31%	355,597	119,197	34%
Progressive	2,309	936	41%	249,531	101,471	41%
Tipperary	116	52	45%	11,138	4,873	44%
Total	6,079	2,109	35%	616,266	225,541	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15- 16/09/15	YTD 2016 Cows Recorded 01/01/16- 16/09/16	2016 vs 2015 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	363,507	355,597	-2.2%
Progressive	254,059	249,531	-1.8%
Tipperary	11,764	11,138	-5.3%
Total	629,330	616,266	-2.1%

6 Sheep Ireland

Sheep Ireland at the National Ploughing Championships

Final preparations are now being put in place for the Ploughing Championships in Tullamore next week. Similar to the past number of years, Sheep Ireland will have a presence at the Irish Farmers Journal livestock demonstration stand. This is a fantastic showcase for Sheep Ireland and the sheep Euro-Star indexes. In past years the number of sheep farmers that we have engaged with through our involvement in the IFJ stand has been huge and no doubt 2016 will be no different. We encourage all ram breeders to call into the IFJ stand over the three days.

The basis of Sheep Ireland message at the ploughing will be the potential to improve maternal genetics within a commercial flock. While Terminal (growth) traits are very important,

it's probably on the Replacement (Maternal) side that the major profit gains can be made. Over the course of livestock demonstration next week, we will display a group of ewe lambs that have been selected for breeding by one of the Sheep Ireland CPT farmers, Andrew Moloney. This group of lambs were sired by two different sires and their future predicted performance looks very different as a result.

The board above will form the centre of Sheep Ireland message in Tullamore next week.

Euro-Stars Validation	
Trait	Vs
Lamb Mortality (%)	7% less lamb mortality
Number of lambs born	0.13 more lambs per ewe
Ewe mature weight (kg)	4.2kg lighter
Lambing Difficulty	13% less ewes handled
40 day weight (kg)	0.5 kg heavier at 40 days
Weaning weight (kg)	1.1kg heavier at 100 days

This validation was conducted using 2013-2015 CPT data (7,644 animals) and was conducted by Teagasc

CPT Ram Selection

We are currently busy contacting ram breeders to find this seasons CPT rams. The first rams will be assembled in UCD (CPT central base) from Wednesday 28th September and will remain in the ram shed until the end of October. This one month period is necessary in order to put all CPT rams through a period of isolation, veterinary inspection, training to jump and provide semen and to actually provide semen to facilitate the AI of our 2,500 commercial CPT ewes.

Rams will be selected based on their Replacement Index, with the intention of increasing the accuracy% of each ram's genetic evaluation. These rams will then hopefully be potential candidates for AI in the future. Dispersing high index genetics as widely as possible in the future is a critical step if Irish commercial sheep farmers are to benefit from the genetic improvement being made by our sheep breeds.

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, 07-SEP-2016 To 16-SEP-2016

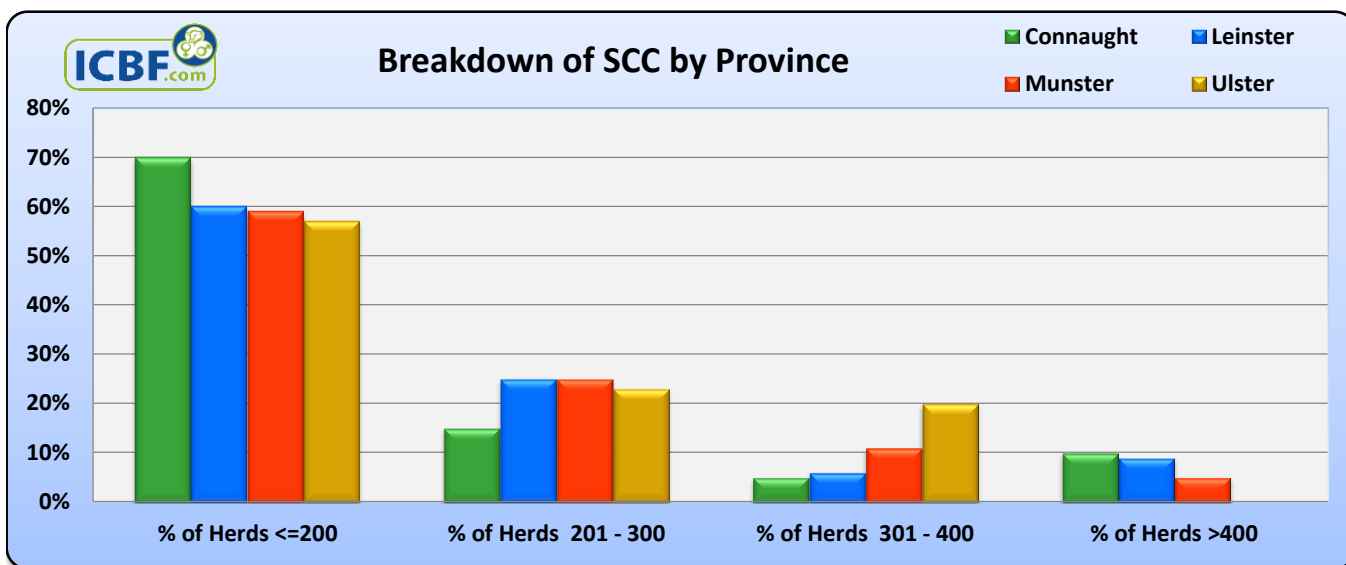
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	20	1,297	65	19.0	4.04	3.51	1.42	155
Leinster	151	13,836	92	19.2	4.17	3.55	1.47	183
Munster	518	45,632	88	18.3	4.29	3.68	1.46	178
Ulster	35	2,717	78	19.2	4.01	3.47	1.42	191
National Statistics	724	63,482	88	18.6	4.25	3.64	1.46	179

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 07-SEP-2016 To 16-SEP-2016

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	20	1,297	65	70%	15%	5%	10%	155
Leinster	151	13,836	92	60%	25%	6%	9%	183
Munster	518	45,632	88	59%	25%	11%	5%	178
Ulster	35	2,717	78	57%	23%	20%	0%	191
National Statistics	724	63,482	88	59%	25%	10%	6%	179

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 07-SEP-2016 To 16-SEP-2016								
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	20	1,297	65	84	146	154	161	270
Leinster	151	13,836	92	120	165	183	198	256
Munster	518	45,632	88	114	154	176	204	280
Ulster	35	2,717	78	134	186	195	208	284
National Statistics	724	63,482	88	115	156	179	203	278

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

