

ICBF Weekly Update 17th October 2014

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 4th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Industry Consultation Meeting

We had a very well attended Industry Consultation meeting this week. Some of the key items discussed included:

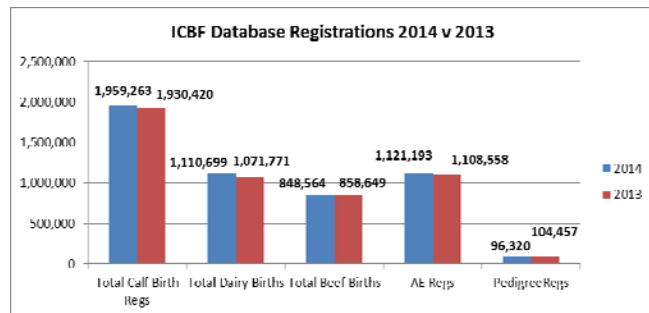
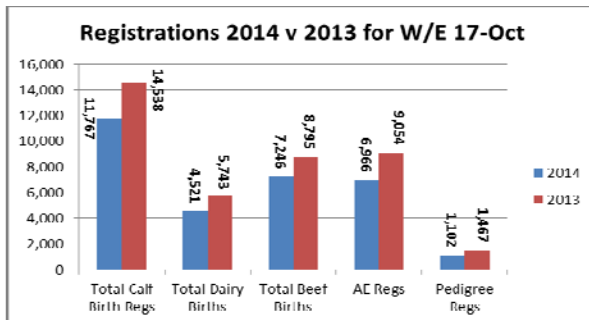
- ✚ An update from John McCarthy on the Test Day Milk Production Model. A very significant piece of work on validating the model has been completed. A submission will be made to the Interbull Test Run in January, and the follow on implementation is planned for August 2015.
- ✚ Francis Kearney presented a report on the validation of the variance between predicted genomic evaluations, and subsequent daughter proven evaluations. The predictions were very close to what transpired. Farmer confidence in Irish Genomic Evaluations has been well placed.
- ✚ Sinead McParland (Teagasc) presented the latest data from the Next Generation Herd in Moorepark. The elite group continue to out-perform the ‘national average’ group significantly both in terms of milk production, and in terms of fertility.
- ✚ Ross Evans provided an update to the research in terms of the Calving Performance evaluations. There are significant challenges in this area, and further consultation is required in order to come up with a workable solution that finds the optimum balance between accuracy for a given purpose, and simplicity at farm level, in relation to the presentation of calving difficulty figures.
- ✚ Donagh Berry (Teagasc) presented some initial results in relation to the Beef Genomics Research. It is early days, but initial results in relation to the carcass traits look promising.
- ✚ Francis Kearney presented an update on the Meat Eating Quality research, which is showing up some extremely positive results with lots of genetic variation demonstrated in the samples.
- ✚ Ross Evans presented some very interesting results around the ‘Milkability Score’ which suckler farmers are recording as part of the Beef Data Programme. The results indicate that farmers are very accurate when assessing a cow for ‘milkability’. This has a lot of potential as we move forward on this trait, and validates its inclusion as part of the Beef Data Programme on an on-going basis.
- ✚ Stephen Conroy provided the status of the Gene Ireland Beef Programme. 40 bulls have been purchased to date. The next round of Breed Committee meetings will take place in November.

3 ICBF Board Meeting

Some of the key topics covered at ICBF’s board meeting this week:

- ✚ ICBF Strategic Direction for 2015 and beyond.
- ✚ An update on the Industry Consultation meeting, covering the points above.
- ✚ Beef Genomics Scheme update.
- ✚ An update was provided on the progress of the Beef Genomics Scheme. The scheme has run very well at farm level, with the vast majority of samples now returned. We continue to work our way through the genotyping process.

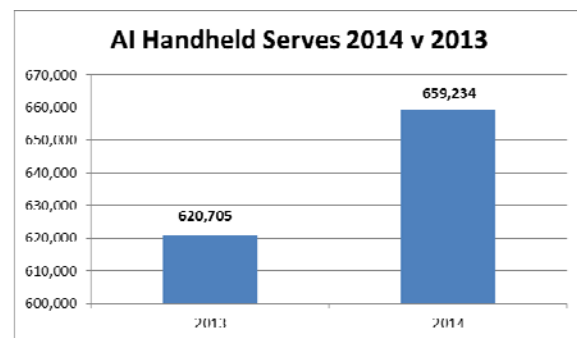
4 Database



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 2,097,000 results received since January 1st, of which 24,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.75 million results have now been received.

The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.



5 Herd Plus®

Remember to record any outstanding serves and pregnancy diagnosis as soon as possible. For help recording contact Herdplus on **1850 600 900**.



Recording Pregnancy Scanning

To Record a Pregnancy Diagnosis

- Click into the green box & select the date the cow's & heifer's were scanned.
- Select from the drop down menu the result of the pregnancy diagnosis: In calf, Empty or in calf with twins.
- If in calf, record the number of days in calf if known. Where serves are recorded, the number of days will fill automatically.
- If the number of days differs from the scanning results, insert the correct number of days. A pop-up box will appear to record the sire of the serve. Press save when complete.
- When all results have been recorded, scroll to the bottom of the page and press SAVE!



Recording Heats & Serves

To Record a Heat

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click Save. A heat event for the cow has been created!

To Record a Serve

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click in the bull used column. Enter an AI code or tag number (jack bull). The sire check column will confirm the bull code/tag is valid.
- Click in the treatment column. A treatment must be selected.
- Click Save. A serve event for the cow has been created!

Dairy Fertility Reports will be generated next week. Reports will then be made available online for all dairy Herdplus herds and will be posted to postal Herdplus herds.

The deadline for BTAP (Beef Technology Adaption Programme) is fast approaching. Ensure you have all your tasks completed before the deadline. Tasks that can be recorded on the ICBF website are: Profit Monitor, Weighing, Serves and Pregnancy Scanning.

6 GROW

730 Pedigree animals were scored in September.

This is up by 115 animals from September 2013.

1150 Pedigrees were weighed in September.

This is up by 183 animals from September 2013.

These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

7 GENÉIRELAND® - Beef

- ✚ The 2014 GENÉIRELAND Beef Autumn programme began this week.
- ✚ The catalogue was posted to 3000 suckler farmers.
- ✚ The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- ✚ 58 herds taking a total of 930 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 16 straws.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 18 available bulls are in table 1.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	30
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	120
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	10
AGY	Rosemount Giga ET	BB	10
RFF	Ringfort Goulu	BB	10
YCM	Clewbay High-Master	CH	333
GEZ	Gedeon	CH	10
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	10
ZCH	Carrowreagh Honduras	LM	10
OHT	Roundhill Hunter	LM	415
OKH	Keltic Handsome	LM	10
XGL	Glorieux	LM	10
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	PT	245
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	155
KTM	Knottown Michael	SA	175
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	70
EMS	Doon Erasmus (P)	SH	15
LZZ	Lisnacraan Demertios	SI	300

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 17/10/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 17/10/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 17/10/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 17/10/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 17/10/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,874	1,157	30%	332,136	105,619	32%
Progressive	2,516	1,096	44%	241,624	105,497	44%
Tipperary	116	45	39%	10,100	3,929	39%
Total	6,506	2,298	35%	583,860	215,045	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 17/10/13	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 17/10/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	310,993	332,136	6.4%
Progressive	233,051	241,624	3.5%
Tipperary	10,099	10,100	0.0%
Total	554,143	583,860	5.1%

9 Sheep Ireland

Sheep Ireland Board Meeting

- ✚ The Sheep Ireland Board met yesterday (Thursday 16th October). Among the main points for discussion were preparations for the 2015 LambPlus recording season. The deadline for signing up to LambPlus for next years' service will be the 14th November. Last year this sign-up deadline was the 15th December. To ensure all breeders are aware of this date, letters will be circulated to all existing LambPlus and non-LambPlus ram breeders in Ireland in the coming days.

STAP Summary

- ✚ The 2014 STAP year has now come to an end. The programme has worked extremely well over the past 2 years and the recent announcement by the Minister of Agriculture Simon Coveney that a further €4 million has been allocated to the Sheep Technology Adoption Programme for 2015 is hugely encouraging. Promoting genetic gain through the use of €uroStar rams will again play an important role in the tasks that programme participants will need to carry out.
- ✚ Over the first two years of STAP over 2,700 farmers purchased €uroStar rams for the purposes of Task 1 in the programme. Just over 1,000 flocks chose to take part in Task 2 of the programme which is hugely encouraging and illustrates that Irish commercial farmers are not averse to the idea of performance recording their sheep flock.

CPT Sires 2014

- ✚ The CPT AI programme concludes today (Friday 17th October). 2,500 ewes have been AI'd this season and the campaign has gone extremely well. Our focus when selecting the rams this year was to use the highest indexed rams that we could find on both the Replacement and Terminal Indices. For a full catalogue of these rams, go to www.sheep.ie and a catalogue of these rams can be found on our homepage. The objective of sourcing these high index rams will be to generate a substantial amount of commercial farm data to help increase their accuracies. With higher accuracies we will promote a selection of these rams to pedigree LambPlus breeders. Identifying high index animals is of little use to our industry unless pedigree breeders use these rams and spread these genetics. By 'proving' a number of these high index CPT sires we hope that breeders will be attracted to using these bloodlines to breed high index ram lambs.

Dr. Tim Byrne visiting Sheep Ireland

- ✚ Tim Byrne from AbacusBio in New Zealand is currently visiting Sheep Ireland for a few days. Tim was heavily involved in the development of the Sheep Ireland breed improvement programme and continues to stay in regular contact. We will be discussing a number of important topics with Tim while he is with us and we have no doubt his experience will help us to develop our plans for 2015 recording season. While updating us on the major progress that is being made with the New Zealand sheep genetic improvement programme, an interesting figure jumped out – 87% of all rams purchased each year are performance recorded rams.

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 872903121, Email scoughlan@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, 08-OCT-2014 To 17-OCT-2014

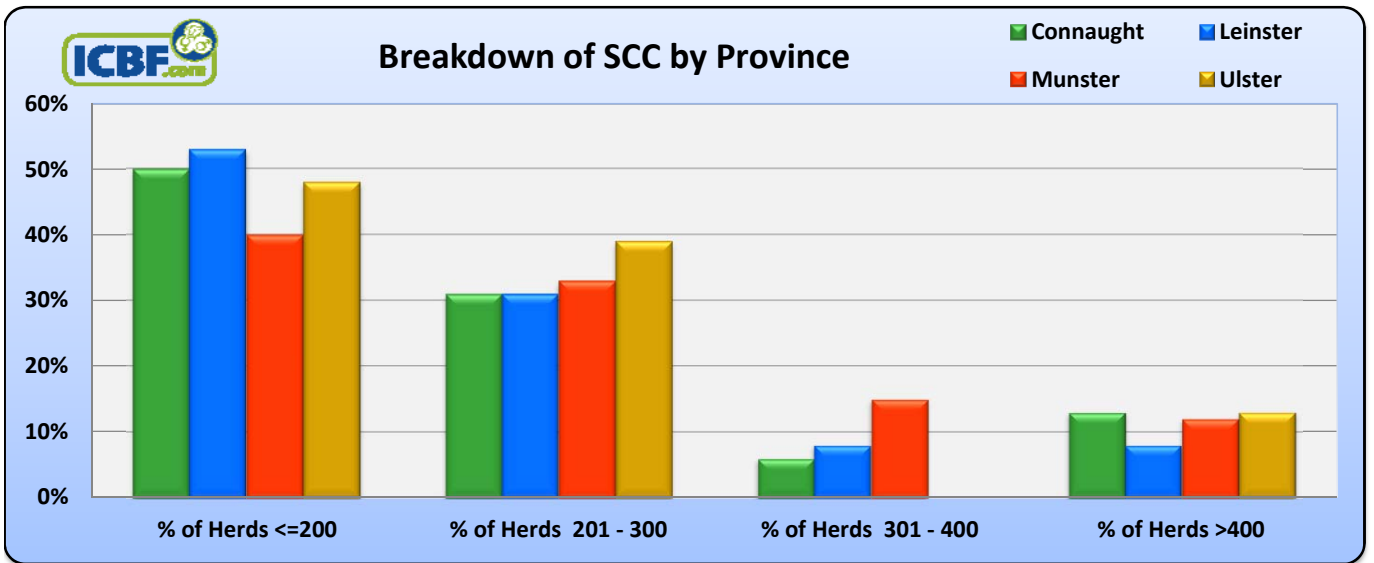
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	16	627	39	18.2	4.35	3.98	1.48	206
Leinster	177	13,869	78	17.0	4.45	3.89	1.40	202
Munster	586	44,867	77	15.6	4.57	3.97	1.32	230
Ulster	23	1,384	60	18.8	4.02	3.71	1.43	206
National Statistics	802	60,747	76	16.1	4.52	3.94	1.34	222

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 08-OCT-2014 To 17-OCT-2014

ICBF	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	16	627	39	50%	31%	6%	13%	206
Leinster	177	13,869	78	53%	31%	8%	8%	202
Munster	586	44,867	77	40%	33%	15%	12%	230
Ulster	23	1,384	60	48%	39%	0%	13%	206
National Statistics	802	60,747	76	43%	32%	13%	11%	222

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 08-OCT-2014 To 17-OCT-2014								
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	16	627	39	109	185	202	231	288
Leinster	177	13,869	78	143	175	192	218	288
Munster	586	44,867	77	155	201	228	259	337
Ulster	23	1,384	60	134	186	217	264	290
National Statistics	802	60,747	76	146	192	218	252	322

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

