ICBF Weekly Update 19th May 2017

1 Important Dates

- **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 22nd June 2017 at 10:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 22nd June 2017 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 22nd June 2017 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Database


- **ICBF Database Registrations 2017 v 2016**
  - Total Calf Birth Regs: 1,726,262 (2017), 1,700,393 (2016)
  - Total Dairy Births: 1,180,296 (2017), 1,140,210 (2016)
  - Pedigree Regs: 78,471 (2017), 80,221 (2016)

3 Herd Plus®

- The latest HerdPlus Beef Output Reports have been generated and are now available online. The HerdPlus team has just completed the process of posting reports to customers. Click here for more details.

- Latest work by Teagasc has indicated that each €1 gain in herd EBI is worth €1.96 in terms of additional net profit per cow per year. Click here for more details.
Minister Creed announced on Tuesday this week that the original 31st May deadline for completion of meetings and Farm Improvement Plan in Knowledge Transfer Groups will be extended until 31st July 2017. Click here for further details.

Straws from the Beef Gene Ireland Spring 2017 Bulls are now available for purchase (€5 per straw) by calling 023-8820452. Click here for more details.

The first calves from the Spring 2016 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

The latest HerdPlus EBI reports have been generated and are now available online. They will be dispatched by post to postal customers within the coming week. Click here for more details.

### 4 Milk Recording

#### National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 19/05/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk Recording Organisation</th>
<th>Total Herds Recorded YTD 19/05/17</th>
<th>No. EDIY Herds YTD 19/05/17</th>
<th>% Herds EDIY</th>
<th>Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 19/05/17</th>
<th>No. EDIY Cows YTD 19/05/17</th>
<th>% Cows EDIY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munster</td>
<td>3739</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>346863</td>
<td>122047</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive</td>
<td>2138</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>222740</td>
<td>90357</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>9710</td>
<td>4012</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,980</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,122</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
<td><strong>579,313</strong></td>
<td><strong>216,416</strong></td>
<td><strong>37%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk Recording Organisation</th>
<th>YTD 2016 Cows Recorded 01/01/16 - 19/05/16</th>
<th>YTD 2017 Cows Recorded 01/01/17 - 19/05/17</th>
<th>2017 vs 2016 Year on Year Difference (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munster</td>
<td>310302</td>
<td>346863</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive</td>
<td>204009</td>
<td>222740</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary</td>
<td>9225</td>
<td>9710</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>523,536</strong></td>
<td><strong>579,313</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5 Sheep Ireland

**Ultrasound Scanning (Muscle and BackFat) 2017**

To book a place for Ultrasound Scanning, it is necessary to text the word ‘Scanning’ to 089-4577665 before our deadline of Monday 22nd May. Sheep Ireland technicians are already out scanning flocks and we intend to get flocks scanned as quickly as possible, well in advance of the upcoming ram sale season. There are two major benefits to this;

1. Ensuring that the breeders investment in scanning is being maximised and reflected in the Euro-Star evaluations in time for the ram sales, but more importantly
2. The information being provided to the ram buyer is the best possible information available on the day of the ram sale.
When is the Ideal Time to Scan My Lambs?

This is a question that we get asked quite often and many breeders are of the opinion, that the later in life that lambs are scanned the better. This is not true. An older animal, of course will likely weigh heavier and scan a higher muscle score than a younger animal. However the genetic evaluation will adjust all measurements for the age of the animal. The desired age range to scan lambs is between 120 and 180 days of age, with 150 being the ideal age. All flocks will have a range of ages depending on their lambing spread, but breeders should be aware of the fact that there is no benefit to delaying scanning.

What is a Good Ultrasound Muscle Scan for a Lamb?

This is another question which we get asked regularly. All flocks differ in management. The ultrasound scans recorded by a ram breeder who focuses on producing rams from grass, cannot be directly compared to a ram breeder who heavily feeds their lambs with concentrates. The highest Ultrasound scan on these breeder’s flocks will be very different figures, i.e. the grass reared lambs will scan much lower on average. This does not mean that they are genetically inferior and this is precisely why genetic evaluations are required to fairly compare the performance of these two flocks.

We have often been asked to display the raw Ultrasound muscle scores of individual animals on the €uro-Star catalogues. This is something we will never do, as this raw figure is not adjusted for the age of the animal at scanning, sex, breed, rearing type (single/twin/trip/quad/pet), management system, etc., etc. Only the genetic evaluation can allow for all of these variables.

OVIGEN – Next Phase of Sheep Genomics

We would like to remind all LambPlus breeders that it is now possible to order genotypes for purebred sheep via the Sheep Ireland online web screens. As has been detailed in previous weekly updates, this genotyping is being made available in 2017 at a highly subsidised rate, which will hopefully entice breeders to continue genotyping their breeding animals, thus maintaining a full flock of genotyped ewes and breeding rams. Click here for more information on what’s involved.

We are receiving a high level of genotype orders from breeders at the moment through our new online screens. The first DNA sampling tags hit farms this week, so it will be full steam ahead from this point forward. Breeders who order genotypes and DNA tags are encouraged to return them as soon as possible. Quick return of samples will allow for quick turnaround of results. Our next batch of DNA samples will be sent for genotyping in the next two weeks, so by ensuring that samples are returned in advance of this, breeders will give themselves the greatest chance of receiving results back in advance of the 2017 ram sale season.
### National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 10-MAY-2017 To 19-MAY-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>No. Herds Recorded</th>
<th>No. Cows Recorded</th>
<th>Avg Herd Size</th>
<th>Avg Milk kg/Cow</th>
<th>Average Fat %</th>
<th>Average Protein %</th>
<th>Average F+P kg</th>
<th>Average SCC*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connaught</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leinster</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>15,147</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munster</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>49,993</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulster</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### National Statistics
- No. Herds Recorded: 732
- No. Cows Recorded: 68,548
- Avg Herd Size: 94
- Avg Milk kg/Cow: 28.5
- Average Fat %: 3.70
- Average Protein %: 3.43
- Average F+P kg: 2.02
- Average SCC*: 135

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

### SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 10-MAY-2017 To 19-MAY-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>No. Herds Recorded</th>
<th>No. Cows Recorded</th>
<th>Avg Herd Size</th>
<th>% of Herds &lt;=200</th>
<th>% of Herds 201 - 300</th>
<th>% of Herds 301 - 400</th>
<th>% of Herds &gt;400</th>
<th>Average SCC*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connaught</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leinster</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>15,147</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munster</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>49,993</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulster</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### National Statistics
- No. Herds Recorded: 732
- No. Cows Recorded: 68,548
- Avg Herd Size: 94
- % of Herds <=200: 75%
- % of Herds 201 - 300: 18%
- % of Herds 301 - 400: 5%
- % of Herds >400: 2%
- Average SCC*: 135

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

### Breakdown of SCC by Province

![Breakdown of SCC by Province](image)

### % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 10-MAY-2017 To 19-MAY-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>No. Herds Recorded</th>
<th>No. Cows Recorded</th>
<th>Avg Herd Size</th>
<th>Best 20% SCC</th>
<th>Best 40% SCC</th>
<th>Average SCC**</th>
<th>Worst 40% SCC</th>
<th>Worst 20% SCC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connaught</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leinster</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>15,147</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munster</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>49,993</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulster</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### National Statistics
- No. Herds Recorded: 732
- No. Cows Recorded: 68,548
- Avg Herd Size: 94
- Best 20% SCC: 83
- Best 40% SCC: 119
- Average SCC**: 138
- Worst 40% SCC: 159
- Worst 20% SCC: 221

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

### Breakdown of Average SCC by Herd Ranking

![Breakdown of Average SCC by Herd Ranking](image)