

ICBF Weekly Update 20th January 2012

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 26th January, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Herdbook Technical Breeding Consultation Meetings** – Tuesday 28th February, 10:30 to 13:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 14th March, 10:30 to 17:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30th June, Athenry.

2 Team Development

Several members of the ICBF team are involved in PhD programs. Two of these are nearing completion:

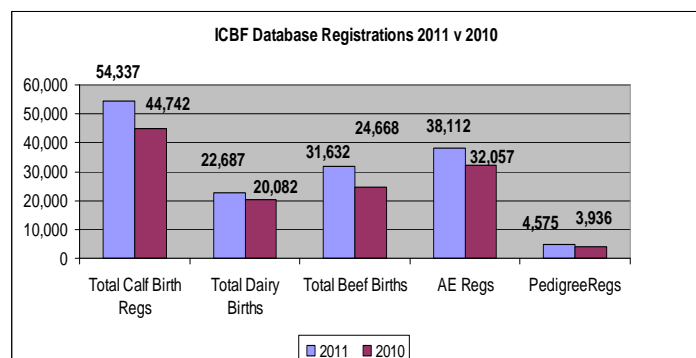
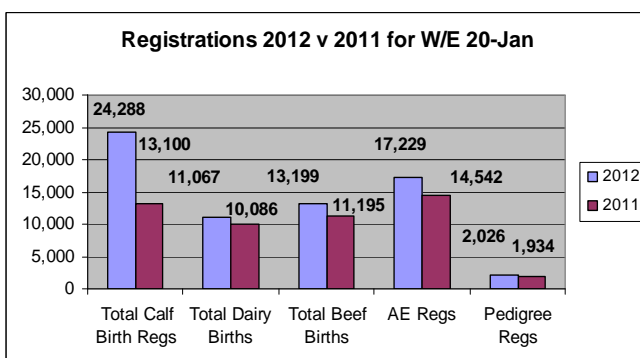
- ✚ Thierry Pabiou will be defending his Thesis in Sweden next week. Thierry's research has been focused on the use of carcass images, as collected by the mechanical grading system used in Ireland, in beef cattle breeding. His research has established a practical system for using this information to increase the accuracy of the beef genetic evaluation system for carcass traits. We expect to be implementing his findings in the next twelve months.
- ✚ Stephen Conroy filed his Thesis in December last year. His work focused on measures on live-animals that can be used to predict carcass traits. Much of Stephen's research was conducted prior to his joining the ICBF team.

Copies of both Theses are in the publications section of www.icbf.com.

3 Next Generation Research Herd

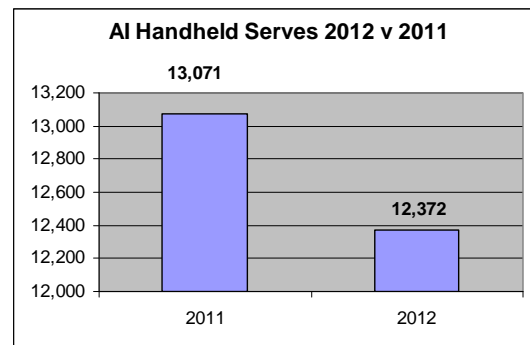
ICBF is working with Teagasc to establish the first Next Generation Research Herd. A lot of work has gone into this and discussions are on-going. The need for such herds was established in the dairy breeding scheme review conducted by ICBF in 2010. Our current focus is on finding a mechanism for ensuring such a herd is created and made available to Teagasc for use in research.

4 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.

- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 565,822 with the number of animals weaned at 472,301.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 4,000 herds have purchased a total of 283,000 tissue tags for BVD testing at this stage. Around 3,000 samples have been returned at this stage.
- ✚ The development of a new 'Bull-Tracker' report for pedigree herds is on-going. The focus of the report is to show the performance of stock-bull offspring. Testing on this report will be completed next week.
- ✚ We are working with the manufacturer of the blue-tooth weighing scales company with a view to further waterproofing the unit. A weight recording report has been designed, and building of this report will continue next week.
- ✚ Some further developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database is continuing.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Files have been submitted to the INTERBULL test run for dairy linear type.
- ✚ Work has commenced on the integration of new traits into the beef performance evaluation. The new traits include 4 carcass cut traits predicted from digital images at slaughter and also additional mart price traits for dairy calves and animals sold from 300 – 600 days.
- ✚ The files for the mini beef run have been extracted and the evaluation has commenced.

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