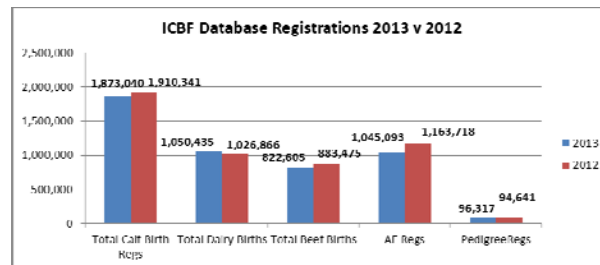
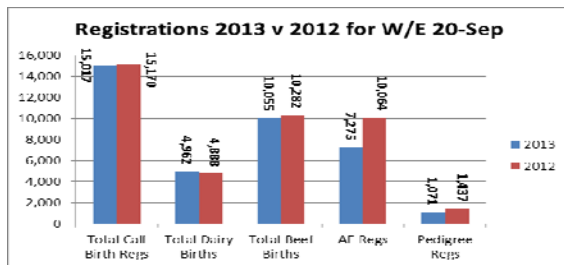


ICBF Weekly Update 20th September 2013

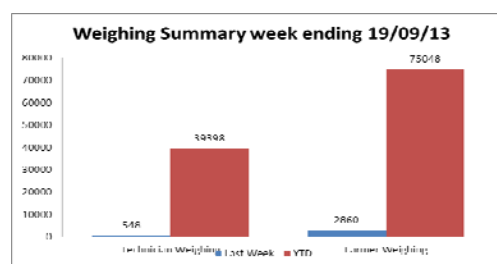
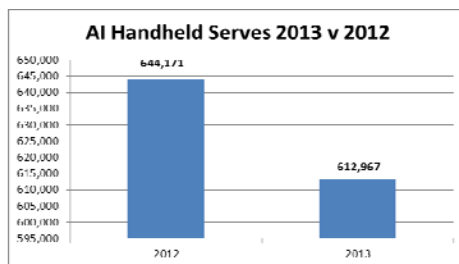
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Industry Consultation Meeting** – Tuesday 8th October, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF GENÉIRÉLAND Beef Open Day** – Saturday 12th October, commencing 11:00, Tully Progeny Test Center, Kildare.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 17th October, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 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 659,011 with the number of animals weaned at 606,899.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,961,000 results received since January 1st, of which 16,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.45 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- This week there were 548 weights received through the technician service and 2860 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Genetic Evaluations

- Research continues on analysis of sexed semen results. There are almost 5,500 pregnancy diagnosis records recorded now, which are crucial to the analysis.
- As part of INTERBEEF project variance component estimation for Limousin has been completed and sent to project partners. The current focus is on parameter estimation for Charolais breed.

4 Launch of ICBF Beef Breeding Event

✚ Pictured at the launch of the ICBF Beef Breeding Event is Stephen Conroy (ICBF) and Andrew Cromie (ICBF) with GENE IRELAND award winners and Industry representatives. The launch took place at the GENE IRELAND progeny test center, Tully, Co. Kildare. The aim was to highlight the up-coming ICBF Beef Open Day at Tully, Kildare town, Co. Kildare on Saturday 12th October. The focus of the event is profitability in beef through genetic improvement. Information at the event will include talks on Euro-Star Indexes, GENE IRELAND Maternal beef breeding program along with performance test results from the 217 commercial progeny (all sired by AI bulls) on test at Tully. *(Please see more photos attached)*



GENE IRELAND award winners announced

As part of the GENE IRELAND Beef breeding event launch, twelve GENE IRELAND award winners were announced in three main categories (see winners details below). In recognition of their achievements the breeders in the under and over 30 cow category for top GENE IRELAND data recording herds received €1000 each, while the breeders whose bulls excelled as part of the GENE IRELAND progeny test program received €2000 each.

Category 1. Gene Ireland Bull Breeder Award Winners

1. Patrick J Hennelly, Cregconnell, Rosses Point, Sligo, Co Sligo for breeding the bull IS4.
2. Patrick Bones, Derough, Kilkelly, Co Mayo for breeding the bull DRU.

Category 2. Top Data Recording Herds (<30 Cows) in the Gene Ireland progeny test

1. Patrick J McLaughlin, Drumley, Gleneely, Carndonagh, Co Donegal
2. Larry Murphy, Cloughbally Lower, Mullagh, Kells, Co Meath
3. Patrick Doyle, Ballinahinch, O'Callaghans Mills, Co Clare
4. Trevor Harris, Cooltrim, Donadea, Naas, Co Kildare
5. Richard Irwin, Drummeny, Donegal, Co Donegal

Category 3. Top Data Recording Herds (>30 Cows) in the Gene Ireland progeny test

1. William Keegan, Dublin Road, Morette, Emo, Portlaoise, Co Laois
2. Thomas Brady, Ballinlough, Crossakiel, Kells, Co Meath
3. Gerard Collins, Acres, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare
4. Leslie Stanley, Lisbryan House, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary
5. Anne Kelly, Cattaganstown, Killenaule, Thurles, Co Tipperary

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 20/09/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 20/09/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 20/09/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 20/09/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 20/09/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,680	1,065	29%	309,638	96,393	31%
Progressive	2,435	995	41%	230,654	96,678	42%
Tipperary	114	41	36%	10,037	3,756	37%

Total	6,229	2,101	34%	550,329	196,827	36%
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Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 20/09/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 20/09/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	304,541	309,638	1.6%
Progressive	222,275	230,654	3.6%
Tipperary	10,024	10,037	0.1%
Total	536,840	550,329	2.5%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

6 Sheep Ireland Board Meeting 19th September

- This week Sheep Ireland held their regular board meeting and many topics were discussed. Plans for the 2014 season are already afoot and many center around improving the quality and quantity of data being recorded by breeders on the Sheep Ireland database.

There will be clear guidelines set out for every breeder next year as to the minimum requirements of participation in the LambPlus programme and if these minimum criteria are not met, Euro-Star evaluations will not be provided. A detailed list of these criteria is currently being prepared and will be circulated to all current and future LambPlus breeders in advance of the 2014 lambing season kicking off. An example of one such change to LambPlus next year will be an insistence on receiving the NSIS (Official Department tag number) for each and every performance recorded lamb entered onto the Sheep Ireland database (dead lambs will obviously be exempt). Genetic evaluations will not be provided for any animal failing these criteria.

While we accept that some breeders may not actually tag lambs with the full EID NSIS at the point of birth, we will be insisting that all lambs are tagged by breeders in advance of the Ultrasound scanning technician visiting the farm, which takes place between May and August. The presence of an official NSIS tag in the ear of an animal is the most reliable and efficient way to capture performance data on farm and it will now form the standard entry criteria to the LambPlus scheme. This issue has become all the more important with the introduction of the Sheep Technology Adoption Programme – effective administration of this scheme is completely dependent on a sound animal identification system and the official department tags are the only way to achieve this.

- Other LambPlus issues discussed by the board included:
 - The setting of a clear deadline for new flocks signing up to the LambPlus programme. There will be a clear deadline set-out this year and this will be publicised widely.
 - Setting clear deadlines for the submission of lambing information and other performance data.
- Outside of the LambPlus and STAP programmes other topics were discussed such as:
 - The critical importance of initiating a campaign to collect DNA samples from performance recorded breeding stock in Ireland. Lack of stored DNA has been a major barrier to introducing genomics on the beef side, and we do not want to repeat this mistake in the sheep industry. A round of Sheep Ireland meetings will be organised in the coming weeks and this topic will be high on our agenda. We will be making a proposal as to most effective and reliable ways breed societies can begin collecting this vital resource.
 - A review of the current Sheep Ireland Euro-Star Index. Sheep Ireland in association with Teagasc and Abacus Bio are currently looking into the possibility of splitting the Sheep Euro-Star Index into a ‘Terminal’ and ‘Replacement’ Index. We feel this model would be more understandable for both breeders

and commercial farmers alike. An industry consultation meeting is planned for early October to discuss this with all relevant stakeholders. Invitations for this meeting will be circulated in the coming days.

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, 11-SEP-2013 To 20-SEP-2013

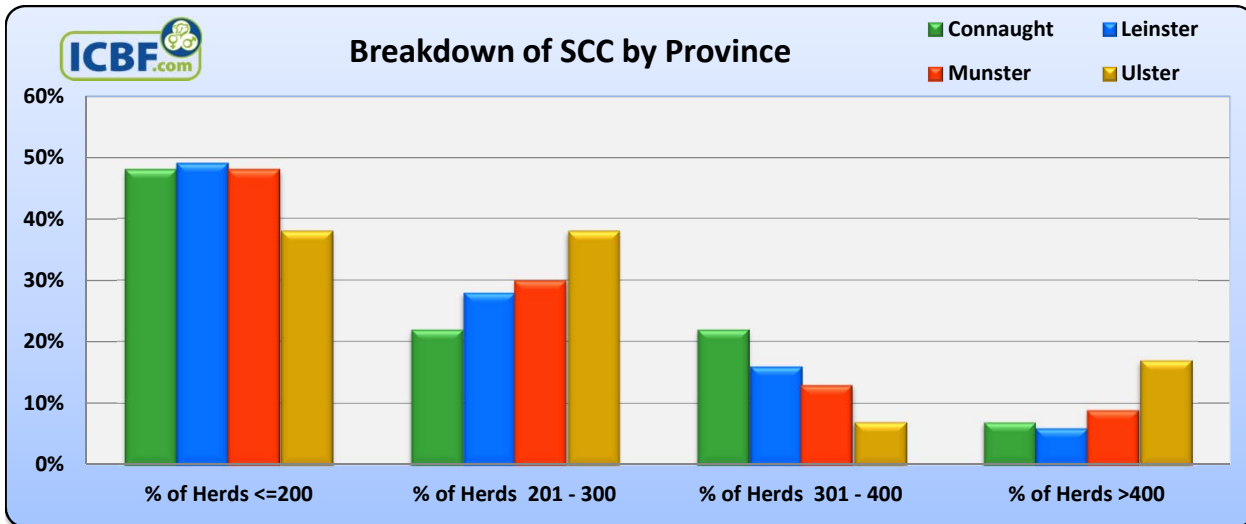
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	27	1,840	68	19.0	4.13	3.62	1.46	196
Leinster	178	14,809	83	18.7	4.02	3.66	1.43	205
Munster	459	33,469	73	18.4	4.12	3.69	1.43	205
Ulster	29	2,431	84	20.0	3.88	3.54	1.48	239
National Statistics	693	52,549	76	18.6	4.08	3.68	1.43	206

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 11-SEP-2013 To 20-SEP-2013

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	27	1,840	68	48%	22%	22%	7%	196
Leinster	178	14,809	83	49%	28%	16%	6%	205
Munster	459	33,469	73	48%	30%	13%	9%	205
Ulster	29	2,431	84	38%	38%	7%	17%	239
National Statistics	693	52,549	76	48%	29%	14%	9%	206

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 11-SEP-2013 To 20-SEP-2013

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	27	1,840	68	126	186	207	241	353
Leinster	178	14,809	83	144	181	202	237	311
Munster	459	33,469	73	133	181	205	229	313
Ulster	29	2,431	84	164	204	226	243	351
National Statistics	693	52,549	76	135	182	205	234	313

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

