

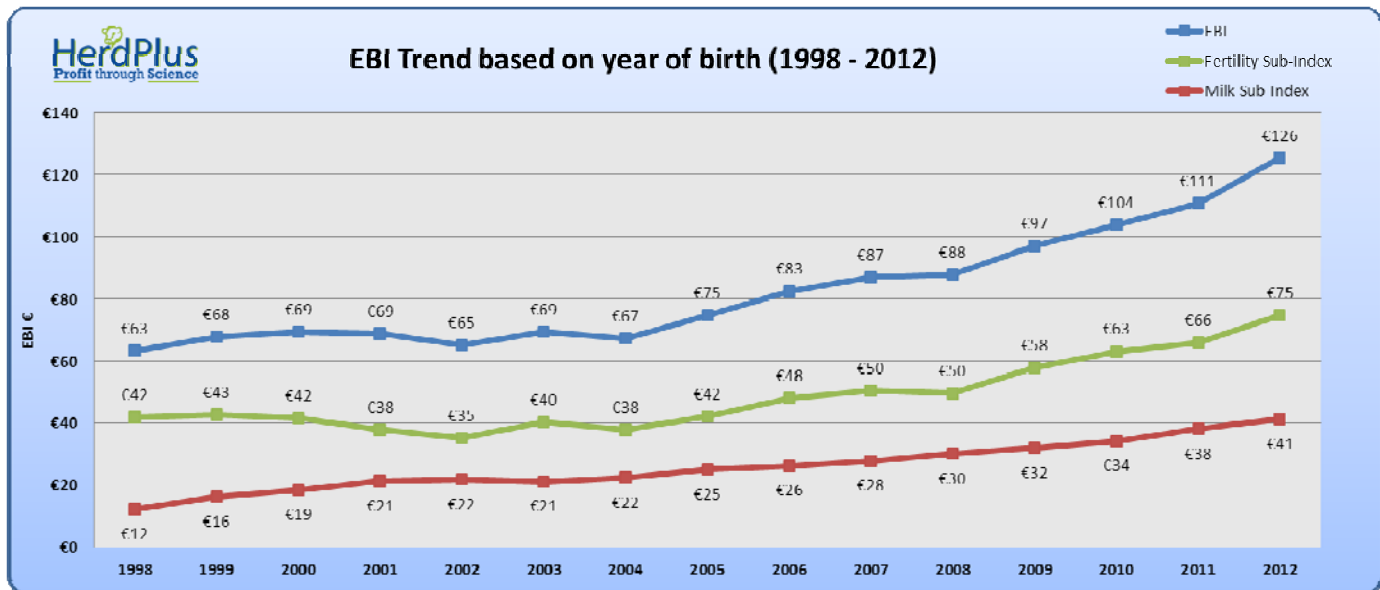
## ICBF Weekly Update 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 11:00 – 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Launch of Beef Breeding Day at Tully** – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 11:00 to 13:00 at Tully.
- ✚ **Teagasc & ICBF Suckler Cow Breeding Conference** – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 9:15am -5:00pm at Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Day at Tully** – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.

### 2 HerdPlus®

- ✚ This week we released the EBI reports for our 6,000 dairy herds. For the first time the national average EBI for animals has hit the €100 mark. It's just a few short years since we had the EBI100 competition, which saw only the very best farmers in the country achieving this target. Today this is the average for the national herd.
- ✚ The graph showing the 15 year trend in EBI based on year of birth shows some big improvement in the last 3-4 years. The median EBI of 2012 born females is €126. While the Fertility sub-index has seen some strong gains in the last few years, the Milk sub-index has also continued to improve at a steady rate. The main reason for the big improvement in the last couple of years is as a result of the big uptake in the use of genomic sires which accounted for 47% of the AI usage in 2011.



### 3 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The extra information tabs for the traits in the genetic evaluation has now been uploaded to the database and is available on the bull search.
- ✚ This week staff met with different breed societies and AI companies to update them on the new beef indexes.
- ✚ Extracts for a new beef linear evaluation have been done. Results will be available around 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## 4 Sheep Ireland

Over the past week Sheep Ireland have presented at a number of sheep meetings. On Friday last we were on the farm of John Brooks, a well-known pedigree and commercial sheep farmer based in Ballinasloe. The meeting was centered around preparation for mating – preparation of the ram and the ewes. There was a very interested and receptive group present on the day and it was refreshing to see that many were already making use of the €uroStar evaluations.

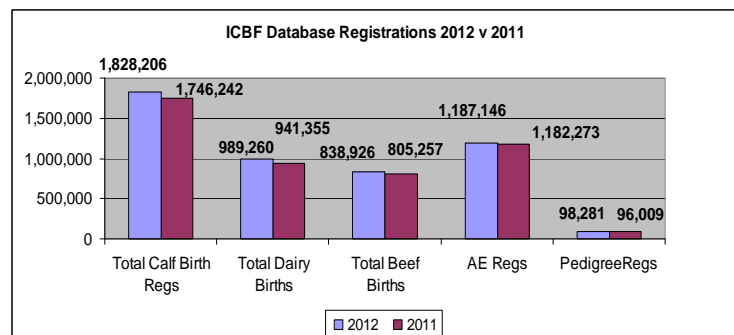
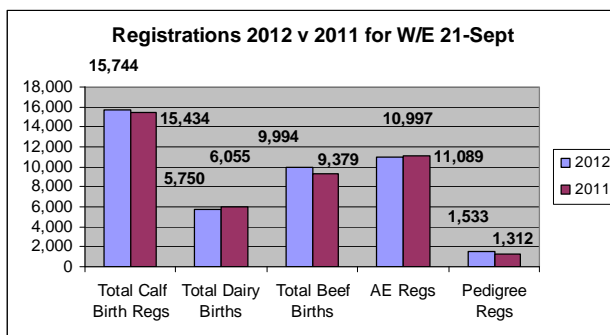
On Monday evening we met with the Offaly Lamb Producer group who are doing fantastic work to help promote the Sheep Ireland breed improvement programme. This year the group offered a financial incentive to their members to purchase high genetic merit rams. Qualification for this incentive was not only dependent on the purchase of a Five Star ram but also on the condition that the flock owner attends a Sheep Ireland information meeting. It is hugely encouraging that groups such as this are now taking this kind of initiative. Education is absolutely critical to the success of the €uroStars. While it is great to hear that commercial farmers are buying more Five Star rams, they need to know why they are buying them.

We are always more than happy to attend any meetings to help people (pedigree breeders & commercial farmers) understand why the €uroStars are so important to the future progress of sheep in this country. Sheep Ireland will be present at the National Ploughing championships in New Ross next week. We will be located in the Sheep tunnel so anyone with any queries is welcome to call by.



Sheep farmers at the Teagasc farm walk on the farm of John Brooks.

## 5 Database

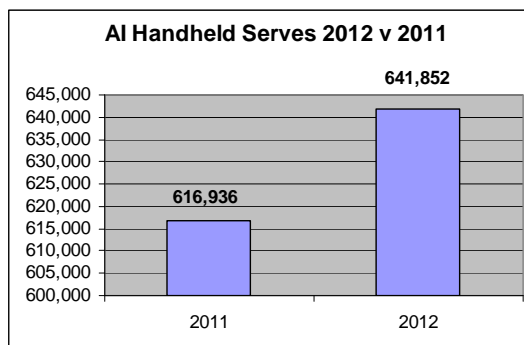


The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.

In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 248,546, with the number of animals weaned at 48,589.

BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 583,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 433,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.

- The new Dairy and Beef bull search on the website continues to get a lot of use following the release of the latest proofs. We are currently working on a mobile friendly version of the bull search.
- While some of the components have been released, work continues on the modification for other outputs to incorporate proposed changes to the Beef EuroStar indexes.
- Work is continuing on the back-end ICBF web infrastructure with a view to making it more standardised and robust.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



## 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 21/09/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 21/09/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 21/09/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 21/09/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 21/09/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,734	1,088	29%	304,541	95,070	31%
Progressive	2,462	998	41%	222,275	91,996	41%
Tipperary	120	42	35%	10,024	3,313	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,316</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>536,840</b>	<b>190,379</b>	<b>35%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 21/09/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 21/09/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	301,300	304,541	1.1%
Progressive	213,760	222,275	3.8%
Tipperary	13,074	10,024	-30.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>528,134</b>	<b>536,840</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

Please see milk recording stats attached.

**Brian Wickham** (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email [bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@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](http://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](http://www.sheep.ie).

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 12-SEP-2012 To 21-SEP-2012

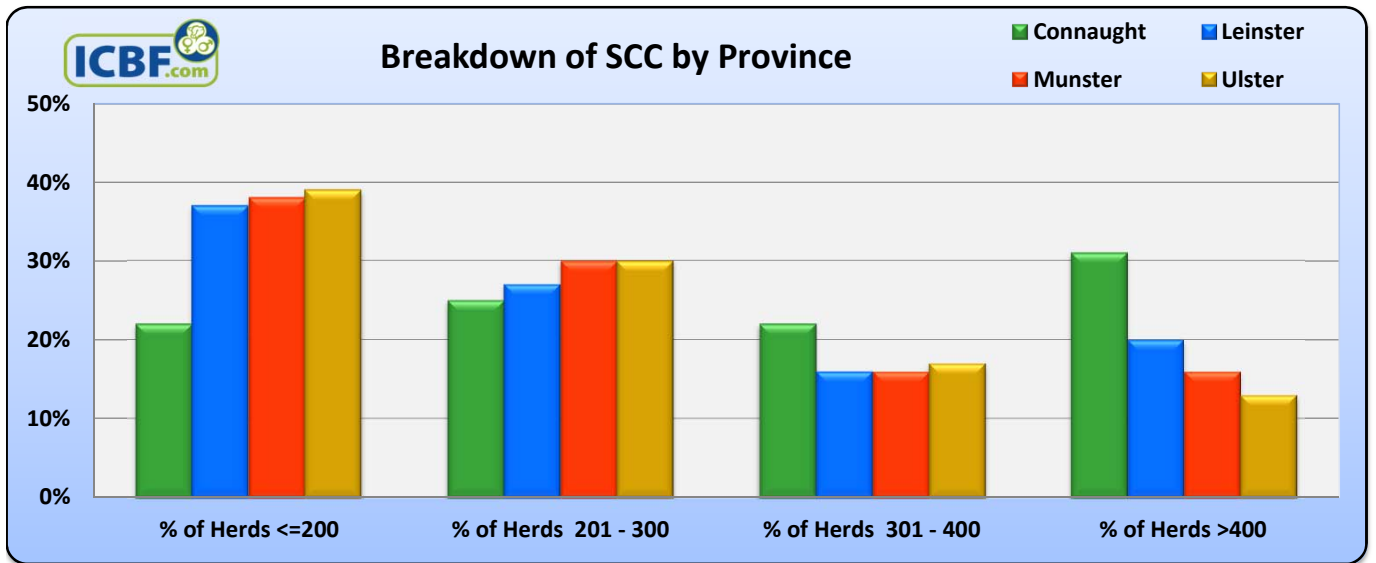
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	32	2,087	65	18.1	4.07	3.52	1.37	308
Leinster	160	12,401	78	17.0	4.11	3.61	1.31	247
Munster	540	39,443	73	16.8	4.16	3.65	1.31	238
Ulster	46	3,473	76	17.7	4.08	3.49	1.33	237
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>57,404</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>4.14</b>	<b>3.62</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>242</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 12-SEP-2012 To 21-SEP-2012

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	32	2,087	65	22%	25%	22%	31%	308
Leinster	160	12,401	78	37%	27%	16%	20%	247
Munster	540	39,443	73	38%	30%	16%	16%	238
Ulster	46	3,473	76	39%	30%	17%	13%	237
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>57,404</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>242</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



### % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 12-SEP-2012 To 21-SEP-2012

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	32	2,087	65	196	274	307	338	466
Leinster	160	12,401	78	160	208	253	286	397
Munster	540	39,443	73	154	210	236	261	360
Ulster	46	3,473	76	152	203	245	266	330
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>57,404</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>375</b>

\*\* Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

