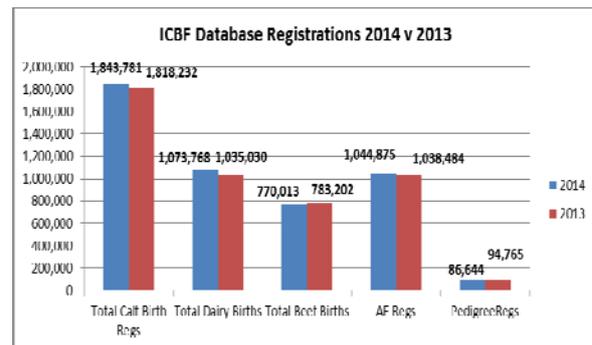
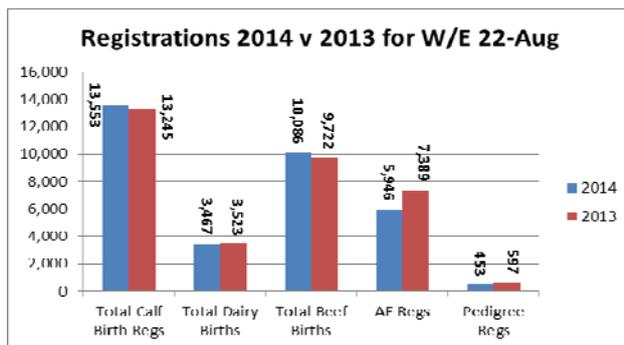


ICBF Weekly Update 22nd August 2014

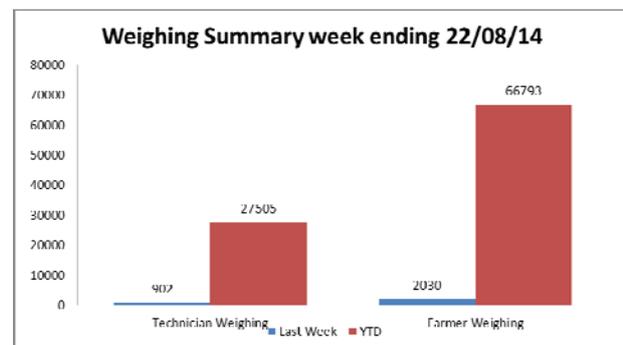
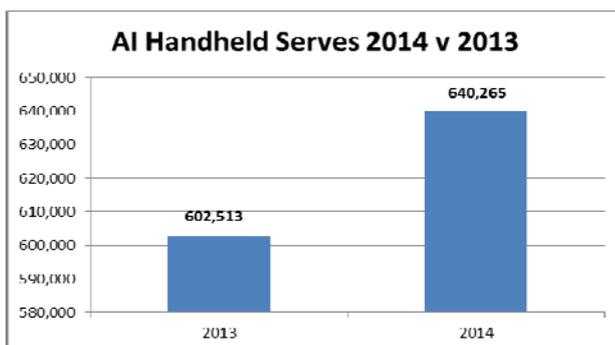
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th September 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th September 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland EuroStar Ram Sale** - Saturday 23rd August 2014, 12:30pm, Tullamore.

2 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 1,964,000 results received since January 1st, of which 14,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.62 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- ✚ This week there were 902 weights received through the technician service and 2030 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 GROW[®]

- ✚ 1002 Pedigree animals were scored in July.
- ✚ This is up by 233 animals from July 2013.
- ✚ 1452 Pedigrees were weighed in July.
- ✚ This is up by 157 animals from July 2013.
- ✚ These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

4 Herd Plus®

Website Updates

- We have updated some web screens this week. The screens updated include the Basic Herd Profile, Pedigree Herd Profile and the EBI profile. There is also a new web screen for recording missing sires. The new web screens are more user friendly. Updating of further screens will continue throughout the year.

Exploiting Genetics for Profitable Beef Farming

- A BTAP approved event for all beef farmers, both suckler and finisher, that are interested in maximising the genetic potential of their herds will be held in Kilmallock Mart, Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm sharp. There will be a selection of speakers from across the industry including ICBF dealing with topics such as:
 - Economics of breeding genetically superior animals.
 - Feed efficiency and feed intake testing.
 - Stock bull functionality.
 - How to use Euro-Stars to pick the breeding stock for your system.
 - Successful use of AI.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- Official AI bull files for August 2014 evaluation for both dairy and beef are available on the website under Genetic Evaluations section.
- It is hoped to have the new proofs available through all other channels (bull search, profiles, catalogs,) early next week.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 22/08/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/08/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/08/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/08/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/08/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,835	1,143	30%	326,654	103,415	32%
Progressive	2,502	1,087	43%	237,232	103,808	44%
Tipperary	115	44	38%	9,957	3,852	39%
Total	6,452	2,274	35%	573,843	211,075	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 22/08/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 22/08/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	308,260	326,654	5.6%
Progressive	228,210	237,232	3.8%
Tipperary	9,887	9,957	0.7%
Total	546,357	573,843	4.8%

Sheep Ireland

Sheep Ireland Multi-breed Sale

- Final preparations are now being put in place for the Sheep Ireland Multibreed sale which takes place tomorrow 23rd August in Tullamore Mart, Co. Offaly. There are some fantastic Euro-Star evaluations available throughout the catalogue and no doubt the quality of stock will be top class, similar to previous years. This will be a great opportunity for commercial farmers to come and avail of the very best sheep genetics available in the Irish sheep industry.

Donegal STAP event

- Yesterday (Thursday 21st August) Sheep Ireland presented to a large audience in Donegal Mart. This STAP national event organised by Teagasc was another example of why STAP has been so beneficial to the industry. Over the event a number of important topics were discussed including a strong focus on breeding. Teagasc covered the important points of the "Ram NCT" and "Ewe NCT" which is an essential part to any breeding policy. This was also a good opportunity to explain to farmers that any ram that fails the NCT should not be used for breeding, regardless of his Stars. The "pros & cons" of different breeds were also presented on the night, and again these need to be taken into consideration when using the Sheep Ireland stars as well as currently all evaluations are within breed, so it is still important to take each breeds characteristics into account when selecting a ram. Sheep Ireland then covered the new indexes and briefed farmers on why they are such an important tool when making breeding decisions and how they can use them to their benefit. *See some pictures from the event attached.*

MALP meetings

- Today (Friday), we met with the lowland farmers currently participating in our MALP commercial recording programme. Overall we have had a very successful recording year with these flocks. The move from using DNA analysis (micro-satellites), to single sire mating in order to assign lamb parentage has been very successful. While single sire mating presents many practical challenges from farm point of view, mainly surrounding the need for more grazing groups at mating, we have achieved excellent results at a far lower cost. We will be meeting with our hill MALP flocks in Westport next Tuesday.

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, 13-AUG-2014 To 22-AUG-2014

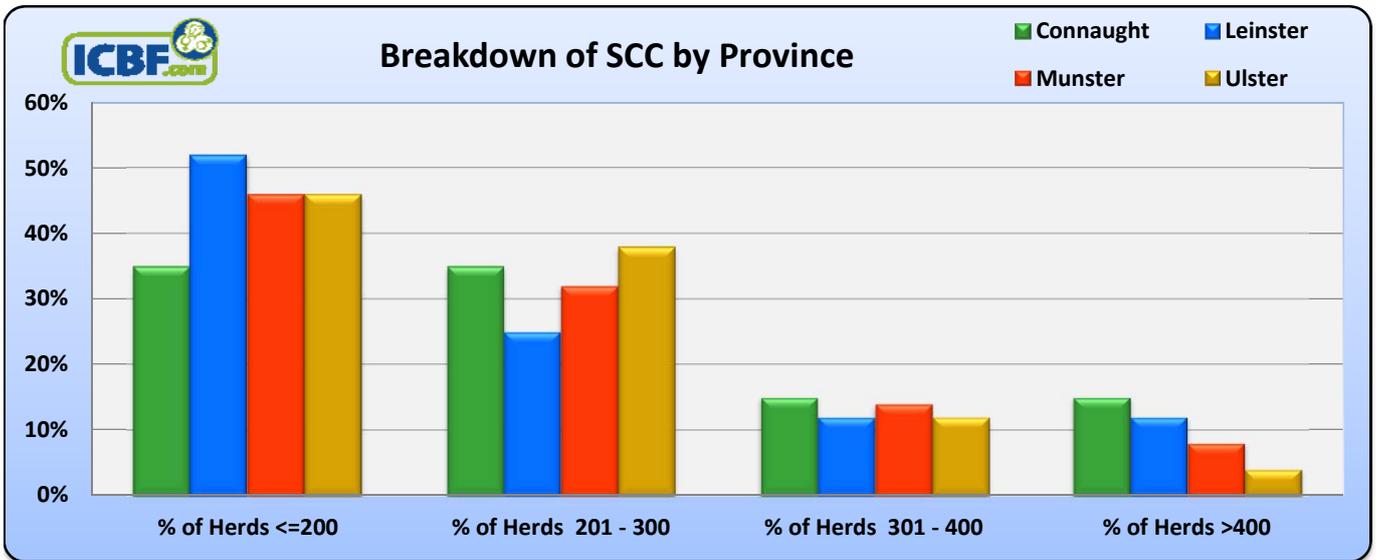
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	20	985	49	22.5	3.84	3.43	1.63	261
Leinster	164	13,293	81	20.8	3.91	3.46	1.53	190
Munster	573	46,157	81	20.3	3.99	3.53	1.52	202
Ulster	26	1,836	71	22.1	3.80	3.36	1.57	177
National Statistics	783	62,271	80	20.5	3.97	3.51	1.53	200

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 13-AUG-2014 To 22-AUG-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	20	985	49	35%	35%	15%	15%	261
Leinster	164	13,293	81	52%	25%	12%	12%	190
Munster	573	46,157	81	46%	32%	14%	8%	202
Ulster	26	1,836	71	46%	38%	12%	4%	177
National Statistics	783	62,271	80	47%	31%	14%	9%	200

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 13-AUG-2014 To 22-AUG-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	20	985	49	152	237	256	269	343
Leinster	164	13,293	81	112	166	197	238	313
Munster	573	46,157	81	128	181	207	228	314
Ulster	26	1,836	71	118	183	204	239	276
National Statistics	783	62,271	80	126	179	206	234	314

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

