

ICBF Weekly Update 22nd February 2013

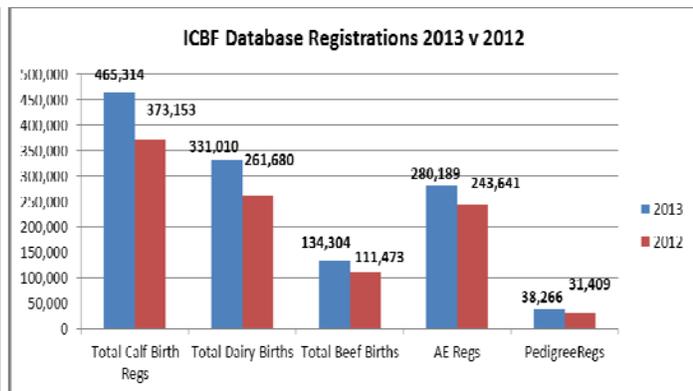
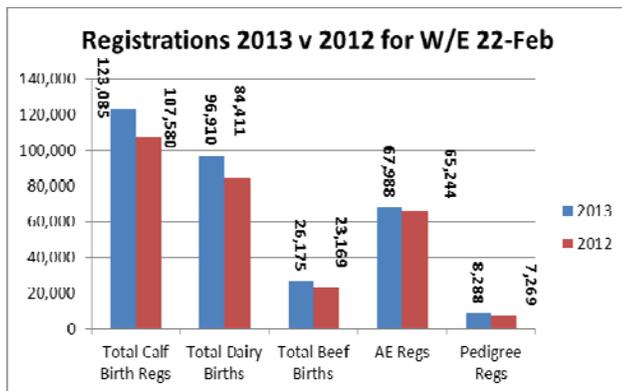
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting** – Thursday 14th March, 10:00 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th March, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th March, at 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

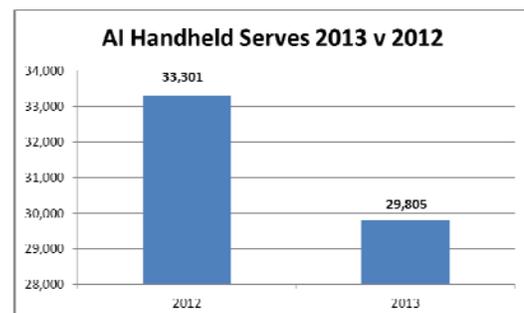
2 IHFA makes key strategic decision in relation to genomic testing of pedigree males

- ✚ Eight years ago, IHFA made a key strategic decision – that it was going to ‘parentage verify’ all pedigree registered males. That proved to be an excellent decision, and it positioned the Holstein Friesian breed very well to take advantage of genomics.
- ✚ This week, the Irish Holstein Friesian Association (IHFA) made another highly significant decision - to move to SNP technology to verify parentage on all pedigree registered males. The move will also allow the calculation of genomic evaluations on all of these bulls, significantly increasing the possibility of finding the exceptional bulls on the various traits. There will be some extra costs associated with providing the new service and ICBF and IHFA are working together in the funding of those costs, with the costs to the breeder remaining unchanged for 2013.

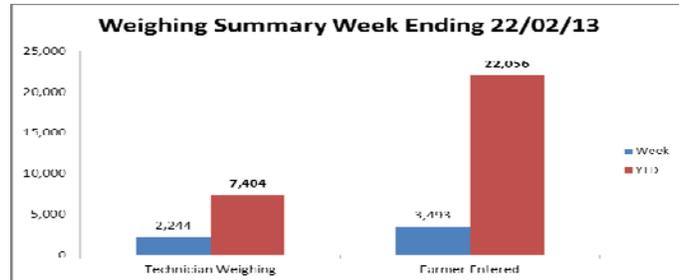
3 Database



- ✚ 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 584,656 with the number of animals weaned at 506,283.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 430,000 results received since January 1st, of which 120,000 have come in the last 7 days.
- ✚ The graph Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.



- This week there were 2,244 weights received through the technician service and 3,498 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



4 Sheep Ireland

- This week we met with some breed society representatives of the main breeds currently participating in LambPlus. The approaching ram sale season is a critically important one for our national sheep breed improvement programme. STAP is now providing a huge opportunity to this programme and pedigree ram breeders alike.
- Many issues were discussed at the meeting. Some can be addressed in the short term by Sheep Ireland, others will need to be worked through in the medium to long term. A brief summary of the main issues raised are as follows:
 - STAP and the need for maximum visibility of EuroStar evaluations at all pedigree sales.
 - Necessity to update information contained on the Sheep Ireland homepage.
 - Catalogue generation access to be made available to all societies. Catalogue format availability to be expanded beyond what is currently available.
 - Data quality and the need for deadlines for data submission need to be addressed immediately.
 - Access to historical flockbook data for some breeds was agreed would be hugely beneficial to the evaluations being provided by Sheep Ireland. It was also acknowledged that there are difficulties associated with this issue, especially in relation to data ownership. Further discussion and explanation on the implications of data transfers to Sheep Ireland was agreed to be a good idea. In the short term some very good suggestions were made in relation to the transfer of individual breeders flock data to Sheep Ireland - these suggestions will be explored as a priority.
 - Finally DNA and the importance of establishing a 'bank' of DNA samples across all our sheep breeds was discussed briefly. Future sheep genomics work will depend on this happening. Significant discussion with all our breed societies needs to take place on this topic.
- We would like to sincerely thank all those that attended this meeting. All issues raised were discussed in a positive manner and it was clear that those present have a willingness to make this breed improvement work. With this attitude we can solve any issues, no matter how large.

5 HerdPlus®



- First batch of EBI and Dairy Cow Reports have been posted.
- The CellCheck report which was developed in conjunction with Animal Health Ireland (AHI) has now been incorporated into all milk recording reports. Please see CellCheck Farmer Summary attached.
- Work is currently being done on discussion group reports.

6 Genetic Evaluations - Interbeef

- Testing is underway on the INTERBEEF pedigree file to ascertain if the current format is adequate to derive the correct heterosis and recombination coefficients necessary for international evaluations.
- Weekly genomic evaluation runs have commenced.

7 GENEIRELAND® - Beef

- ✚ The 2013 GENEIRELAND Beef Catalogue will be posted to 2500 suckler herds next week.
- ✚ A Terminal Section has been added to the panel this year. If you order straws from the Terminal Section you must order at least the same amount of straws from the Maternal Section.
- ✚ The catalogue can be viewed on the ICBF website:
http://www.icbf.com/services/geneireland/beef/files/2013_Beef_Spring_Catalogue.pdf
- ✚ These straws are limited and are dispatched on a first come first served basis.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.

8 GROW®

- ✚ 402 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in January.
- ✚ This is 387 fewer animals than January 2012.
- ✚ 48 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in January.
- ✚ This is down by 251 animals from January 2012.

9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 22/02/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/02/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/02/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/02/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/02/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	668	30	4%	36,624	2,057	6%
Progressive	993	187	19%	61,343	12,550	20%
Tipperary	10	1	10%	541	33	6%
Total	1,671	218	13%	98,508	14,640	15%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 22/02/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 22/02/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	34,383	36,624	6.1%
Progressive	58,422	61,343	4.8%
Tipperary	474	541	12.4%
Total	93,279	98,508	5.3%

Please see milk recoding stats attached

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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.