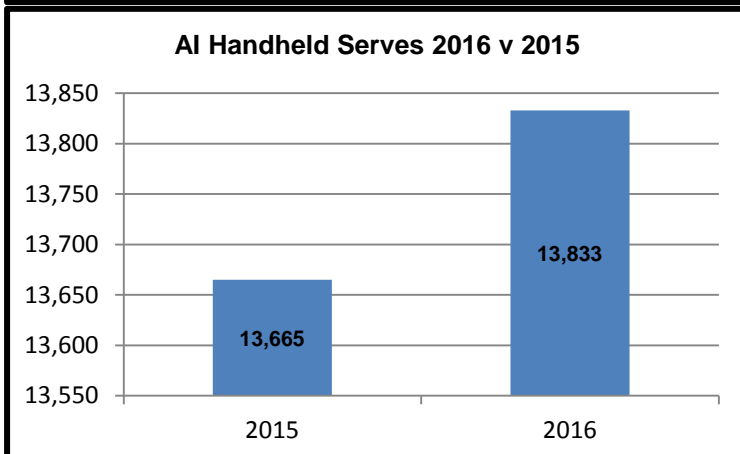
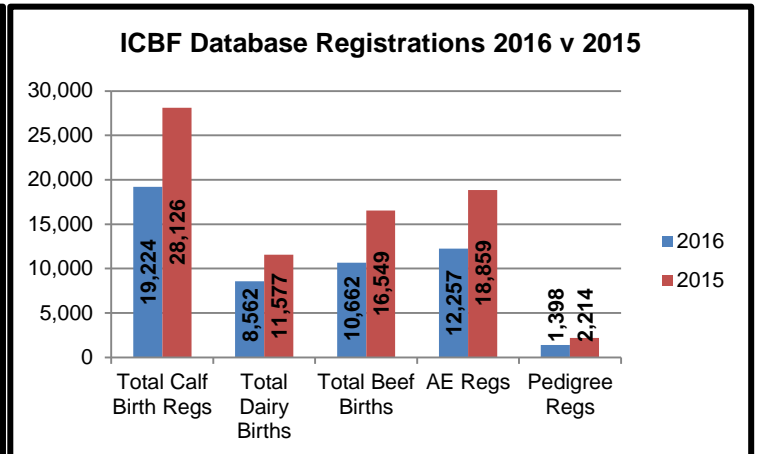
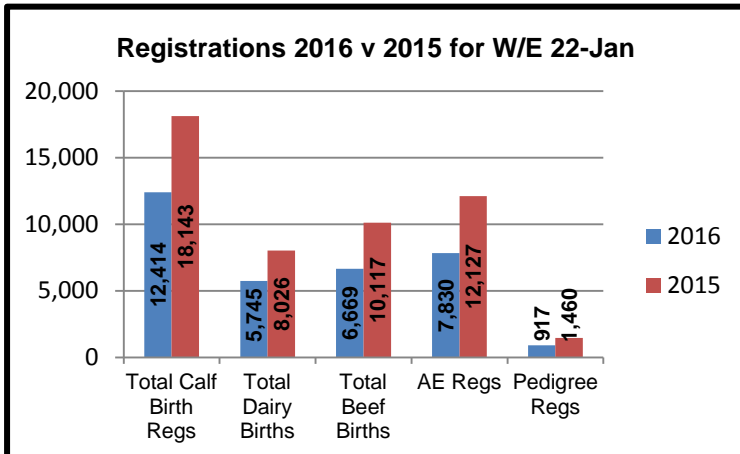


ICBF Weekly Update 22nd January 2016

1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 31st March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th January 2016, at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

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 74,525 results received since January 1st, of which 27,683 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.40 million results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

3 ICBF Board Meeting 21st January

Topics covered at the ICBF Board meeting yesterday included:

- An update on the latest developments in relation to the Beef Genomics and Data Programme, including the progress being made on Genomic Evaluations.
- A presentation on the current status of the Gene Ireland Dairy, Beef, and Dairy Beef Programmes.
- A discussion on challenges and risks facing ICBF into the future.
- A decision to move the minimum reliability on the ICBF Dairy Active Bull list to 70% for the Calving Difficulty trait.

4 ICBF Database Upgrade last weekend – Webside unavailable

The upgrade was completed over last weekend and we continue to work through some outstanding issues. Thank you for your co-operation and patience, hopefully you will see improvements in the performance over the coming weeks.

5 GENE IRELAND® Beef

Autumn 2015 Beef Programme

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- ✚ 261 herds taking a total of 4540 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 17 straws per herd.
- ✚ The catalogue is available to view at the link below.
http://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/gi_beef_autumn_2015_catalogue
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed below.

List of Bulls Currently On-Test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
AA2064	Carrigroe Kian	AA	430
AA2163	Liss Brendan	AA	145
AU2155	Slaneymill Jack	AU	320
CH2159	Bondi Jacob	CH	185
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	365
CH2154	Polar Joe 2	CH	80
HE2148	Ballyville Hamlet	HE	215
LM2156	Clonark Jumbo	LM	475
LM2151	Ballygarvan Stud Ike	LM	230
LM2116	Tomschoice Ironstone	LM	200
OEO	Ivoire	LM	120
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	370
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	110
SA2153	Highfield Odran	SA	280
SH2181	Coolvin Dominator	SH	25
SI2152	Curaheen Earp	SI	430
SI2158	Seepa Fionn	SI	340
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	275

6 GROW®

- ✚ 729 Pedigree animals were scored in December. This is down by 3 animals from December 2014.
- ✚ 1077 Pedigrees were weighed in December. This is up by 24 animals from December 2014.
- ✚ These totals do not include animals scored as part of the initial Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.
- ✚ See Table which contains summary stats for the last 8 years

Data Recorded via GROW on Pedigree Animals			
Year	Nbr Scored	Nbr Weighed	% Weighed
2007	10875	4531	41%
2008	11865	9469	79%
2009	8892	8054	90%
2010	9235	8873	96%
2011	8866	8748	98%
2012	8662	8590	99%
2013	7272	10901	149%
2014	7806	14255	182%
2015	8571	13716	160%

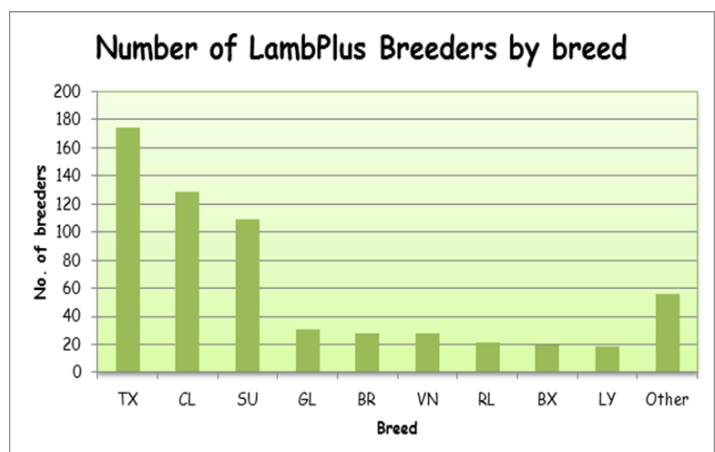
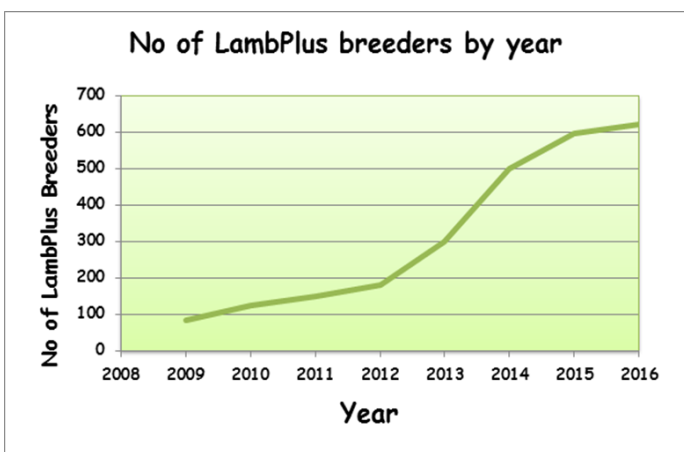
7 Herd Plus®

- ✚ HerdPlus members attended the British Cattle Breeders Club annual conference earlier this week. This was a 3 day conference and discussion. There were very interesting talks from both farmers and industry professionals given over the course of the 3 days. HerdPlus found the conference very beneficial especially in the areas of genomics, feed efficiency and modern technology which can be applied to the industry.
- ✚ The latest 'Top 2000' cow list is now up online and available for viewing under the 'Genetic Evaluations' section.
- ✚ This year's RDS 'Champion of Champions' awards for EBI and Euro-Star Replacement Index will be going to Noel Beecher (EBI) for his cow 'Beesimon HZO Avaleen' who has an EBI of €421. The Euro-Star replacement award will be going to Gerald Harney for his cow 'Actualite' who has an index of €233.
- ✚ HerdPlus have now started printing the 'HerdPlus Dairy Cow' reports and these will be going out to herd-owners in the coming weeks.

8 Sheep Ireland

LambPlus Participation 2016

- ✚ The number of pedigree ram breeders that have signed up to the LambPlus recording programme for the 2016 season has once again increased albeit at a much slower rate than that witnessed in previous years. It is critically important for Sheep Ireland that we retain these breeders within the programme from this point forward. It is unlikely that the number of breeders participating in LambPlus will increase substantially in the coming years as the majority of breeders are now involved. While this is great, it means that the scope for generating larger volumes of data is limited, and we must generate data from other sources.
- ✚ When we use the term 'Pedigree ram breeder' we are speaking about breeders that are members of recognised sheep breed societies. Of course there are many other ram breeders around Ireland that are not members of any breed society and these are supplying a large proportion of the rams required by the industry annually. These breeders are generally not recording any parentage data on their sheep so as a result cannot be a source of useable data for the Euro-Star evaluations.
- ✚ Of course ram breeders are not the only breeders providing data, commercial farm data is equally as valuable to the Sheep Ireland Euro-Star evaluations. Collecting more and more commercial data will have to be a major focus for Sheep Ireland if there is any chance of generating high accuracy genetic evaluations for Irish sheep farmers.



TX – Texel, CL – Charollais, SU – Suffolk,
GL – Galway, BR – Belclare, VN –
Vendeen, RL – Rouge, BX – Beltex, LY –

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 13-JAN-2016 To 22-JAN-2016

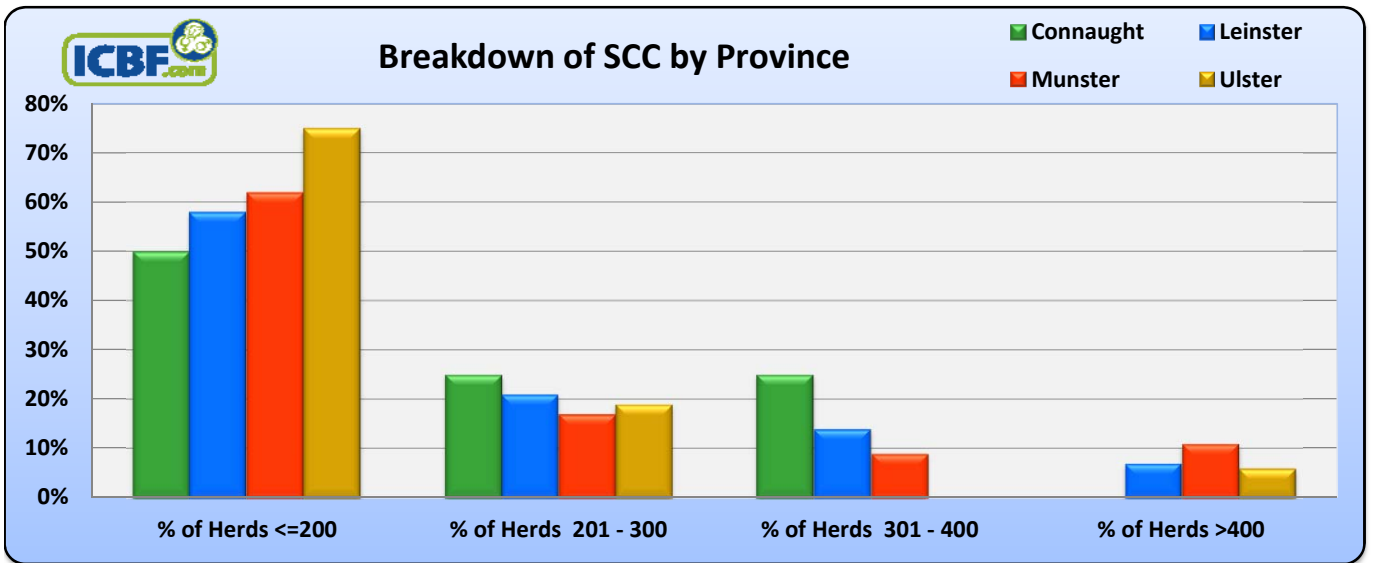
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	4	154	39	21.5	3.71	3.15	1.47	203
Leinster	72	4,827	67	21.8	4.19	3.35	1.64	180
Munster	87	5,471	63	22.6	4.20	3.28	1.69	182
Ulster	16	884	55	21.9	4.18	3.31	1.62	138
National Statistics	179	11,336	63	22.2	4.19	3.30	1.66	177

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 13-JAN-2016 To 22-JAN-2016

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	4	154	39	50%	25%	25%	0%	203
Leinster	72	4,827	67	58%	21%	14%	7%	180
Munster	87	5,471	63	62%	17%	9%	11%	182
Ulster	16	884	55	75%	19%	0%	6%	138
National Statistics	179	11,336	63	61%	19%	11%	9%	177

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 13-JAN-2016 To 22-JAN-2016

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	4	154	39	154	182	191	200	278
Leinster	72	4,827	67	110	170	183	203	302
Munster	87	5,471	63	105	148	171	196	318
Ulster	16	884	55	90	123	138	145	208
National Statistics	179	11,336	63	106	150	175	199	295

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

