

## ICBF Weekly Update 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Beef Herd Book Technical Breeding Consultation Meeting** - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 9:00 to 11:00, Teagasc, Grange, Co. Meath.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 14:00 – 16:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Athenry.
- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Meeting** - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 10:00 to 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

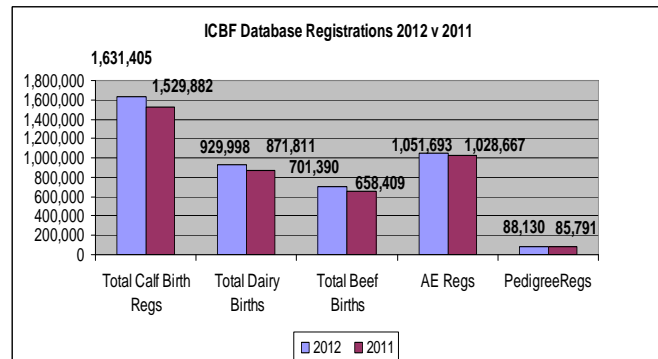
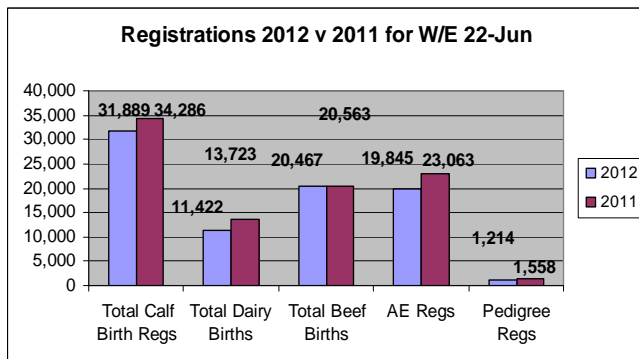
### 2 ICAR 2012

The organising committee held its final meeting this week. Feedback on the conference was obtained through two post-conference surveys. One of all delegates was organised by ICAR and the other of Irish delegates was organised by ICBF. All feedback has been taken into consideration in the final report of the organising committee which has been provided to ICAR, the organisers of the next three ICAR meetings and to the Board of ICBF.

Videos of the presentations at the ICAR 2012 meeting are now available at

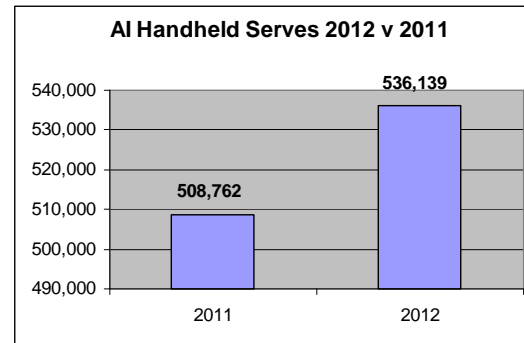
[http://www.icar.org/Cork\\_2012/](http://www.icar.org/Cork_2012/). These have turned out very well and I urge readers to check them out.

### 3 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 627,806 with the number of animals weaned at 562,923.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. 568,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. 401,450 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.60% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ Final testing of the integrated weight recording solution took place this week with a view to getting the first cells operational by the end of June. Discussions with contractors to provide the service are on-going.

- ✚ The Euro-Star Implementation group meeting was held this week to discuss the changes in how the Beef Euro-Stars are presented on ICBF outputs (Bull search, reports, web outputs, catalogues, etc.)
- ✚ Work is on-going 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.



#### 4 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ This week a meeting was arranged to look into a number of different aspects of our genetic evaluations. Our aim is to work towards improving and updating the information upon which our genetic evaluations are based. The aspects currently being assessed are:
  - Ewe mature weight and its influence on the Maternal index.
  - Feed costs – updating based on most recent and relevant data.
  - Cost of replacing ewes within the flock.
  - Adjustment of lamb and cull ewe prices – to include 2009, 2010 & 2011 averages within our current 12 year average.
- ✚ This work is being carried out following on from an industry meeting which took place in July 2011, which coordinated the very best expertise available to the Irish industry. Teagasc geneticists, researchers and advisors in association with the Sheep Ireland team put together a list of objectives and actions to address in the short and medium term. Many of these actions have been addressed throughout the past year, with others in progress.
- ✚ The Sheep Ireland program is not one that is set in stone. We recognise that we need to continually adapt and reassess every aspect of the program in response to pedigree breeders and ram buyer's needs. By doing this in association with the program participants we will deliver on the number one objective – adding value to industry through genetic improvement.
- ✚ Scanning continued throughout the week. Evaluations are now updated on each breeders Euro-Star profile on a weekly basis. At this stage of the year, breeders need to be aware of the potential for these evaluations to change and update as information flows into the database from different sources. Our MALP data will soon be included in our evaluation, once each lamb's parentage is identified by DNA. When this happens our evaluations will have a more complete picture upon which breeders can base their breeding decisions on with a higher degree of confidence.



## 5 InterBeef Validation

Following the successful meeting of the InterBeef working group in Cork during ICAR 2012, pedigree files from Ireland have been uploaded onto the InterBeef database. This week, ICBF has validated details and uploaded pedigrees of Irish animals used abroad (144 from the UK, 5 from Denmark).

## 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 22/06/12								
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/06/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/06/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/06/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/06/12	% Cows EDIY		
Munster	3,718	1,077	29%	292,009	90,131	31%		
Progressive	2,408	963	40%	206,903	83,226	40%		
Tipperary	118	41	35%	9,604	3,112	32%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,244</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>508,516</b>	<b>176,469</b>	<b>35%</b>		
Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison								
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 22/06/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 22/06/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)					
Munster	285,681	292,009	2.2%					
Progressive	198,258	206,903	4.2%					
Tipperary	12,238	9,604	-27.4%					
<b>Total</b>	<b>496,177</b>	<b>508,516</b>	<b>2.4%</b>					
National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 12/06/12 to 22/06/12								
Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	928	74,021	80	25.2	3.82	3.43	1.83	224
Leinster	341	27,929	82	24.9	3.82	3.41	1.80	246
Connacht	64	4,153	65	25.5	3.51	3.35	1.75	214
Ulster	82	5,369	65	26.7	3.77	3.38	1.91	248

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