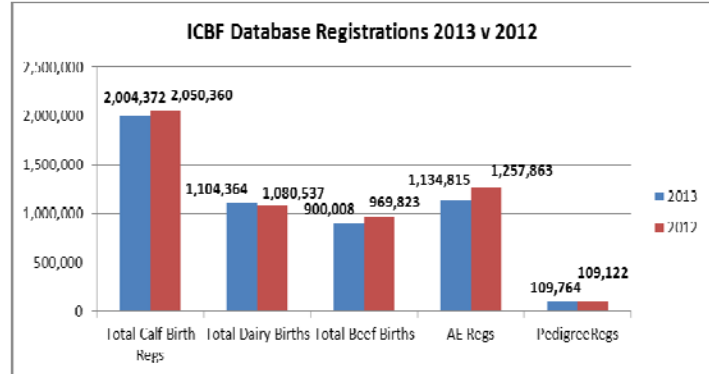
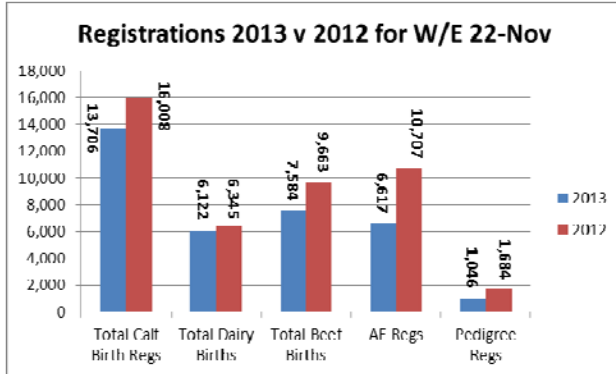


ICBF Weekly Update 22nd November 2013

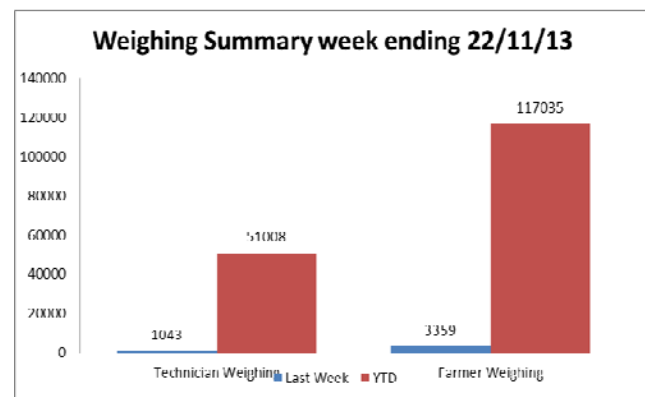
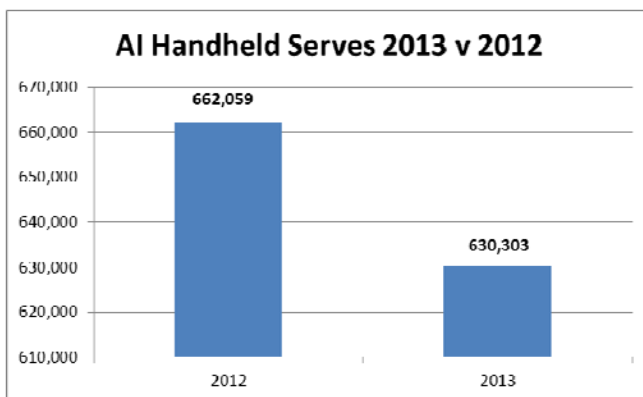
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 10:30 to 13:00, **Silken Thomas, Kildare Town.**
- ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 14:00 to 16:00, **Silken Thomas, Kildare Town.**

2 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 668,137 with the number of animals weaned at 627,772.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 2,104,000 results received since January 1st, of which 14,800 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.59 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- This week there were 1043 weights received through the technician service and 3359 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ Dairy pocket notebooks are currently being packed and posted to farmers.
- ✚ Dry-off sheets are also being posted out with milk recording results.
- ✚ Farmers can use these sheets, or alternatively record dry-offs online through HerdPlus® or a farm software package.
- ✚ It is important that farmers record dry-off dates so that milk recording data will be accurate.
- ✚ The BTAP screens will be switched off over the weekend to allow for the verification of tasks.
- ✚ It is important that all data is entered before these screens are switched off.
- ✚ Some new items have been added to the ICBF website over the last few weeks. These include:
 - **Bull of the Week:** Bull of the week will feature a different AI bull (beef and dairy) every week. Some of them will offer a nostalgic trip down memory lane. See on the ICBF homepage @ <http://www.icbf.com/?p=1295> .
 - **Suckler Fertility Article:** This article deals with the reproductive performance of the suckler herd based on the latest calving reports. It also looks at calving spread and management of beef heifers to calve at 24 months. See article on the ICBF homepage @ <http://www.icbf.com/?p=1312> .
 - **Beef Euro-Star Index FAQ's:** This article was developed as a help document for farmers and advisors on the new beef index. In a question and answer format, the questions were chosen based on the most frequently asked questions which ICBF receives on the index. This list will be added to over time. See document on the ICBF homepage @ <http://www.icbf.com/?p=1332> .
- ✚ A similar FAQ document will be developed for the dairy EBI index over the next few weeks.
- ✚ If farmers, advisors or indeed anybody in the industry have any questions on any of the above, do not hesitate to contact ICBF HerdPlus® on **1850 600 900**.

4 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 22/11/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/11/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/11/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/11/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/11/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,686	1,069	29%	313,133	98,474	31%
Progressive	2,457	1,011	41%	237,521	99,378	42%
Tipperary	114	41	36%	10,149	3,872	38%
Total	6,257	2,121	34%	560,803	201,724	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 22/11/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 22/11/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	308,100	313,133	1.6%
Progressive	229,430	237,521	3.4%
Tipperary	10,323	10,149	-1.7%
Total	547,853	560,803	2.3%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

5 Sheep Ireland

- Our round of regional meetings concluded this week in Ballybofey, Co. Donegal. The meeting was very well attended with over 65 in attendance. It was very promising to see the wide spectrum of people attending the meeting from pedigree and commercial sheep farmers as well as some of the facilitators and advisers from around the country. You can see the presentation that was presented at these meetings on the Sheep Ireland web-site under "Reference Documents".
- Sheep Ireland was also invited to University College Dublin this week to meet with the second year vets to give a breakdown of Sheep Ireland and what Sheep Ireland is trying to achieve. This was a very productive meeting and we also invited any students wishing to gain some work experience on some of our commercial projects to get in touch.
- Our attention now moves to preparing for the upcoming 2014 recording season. There are a number of AGMs taking place over the coming weeks, many of which we are attending to present some updates of progress with the breed improvement programme. Teagasc have also begun their round of Winter Seminars in locations all around the country, Sheep Ireland have been invited as guest speakers at many of these events which will help to further spread the message of the Euro-Stars to the commercial farmer audience.
- The deadline for signing up to LambPlus for 2014 is fast approaching and breeders have responded very well. With the increased commercial demand for performance recorded rams in 2013, no pedigree ram breeder wants to miss out for 2014, which is fantastic for the Euro-Stars. With so many new breeders getting involved in LambPlus for 2014 the importance of our minimum requirements to receive Euro-Star evaluations will be all the more critical in providing as accurate and truthful genetic evaluations as we possibly can for the industry.
- All participating breeders will be receiving a Sheep Ireland recording booklet in advance of the lambing season which will clearly detail exactly what is required of each breeder in order to guarantee Euro-Stars for their lambs in 2014.

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-NOV-2013 To 22-NOV-2013

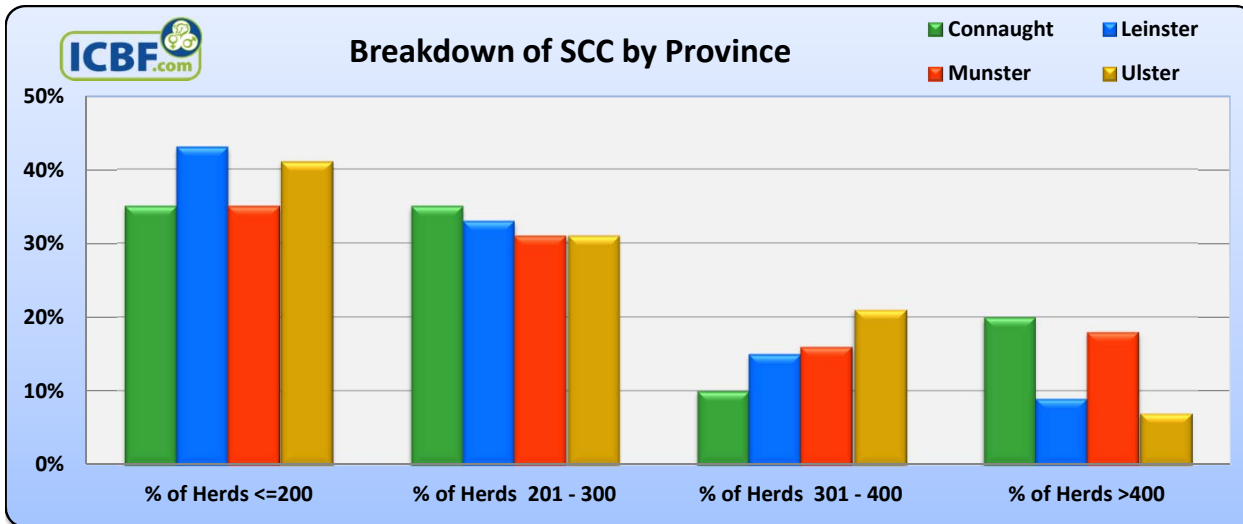
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	20	1,092	55	17.9	4.35	3.57	1.40	226
Leinster	116	8,480	73	17.7	4.31	3.62	1.39	222
Munster	432	26,950	62	14.4	4.56	3.81	1.19	247
Ulster	29	1,743	60	17.3	4.14	3.60	1.32	214
National Statistics	597	38,265	64	15.3	4.49	3.76	1.25	240

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 13-NOV-2013 To 22-NOV-2013

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	20	1,092	55	35%	35%	10%	20%	226
Leinster	116	8,480	73	43%	33%	15%	9%	222
Munster	432	26,950	62	35%	31%	16%	18%	247
Ulster	29	1,743	60	41%	31%	21%	7%	214
National Statistics	597	38,265	64	37%	31%	16%	16%	240

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 13-NOV-2013 To 22-NOV-2013

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	20	1,092	55	137	206	223	246	369
Leinster	116	8,480	73	150	195	219	238	329
Munster	432	26,950	62	155	211	241	279	382
Ulster	29	1,743	60	169	195	238	249	310
National Statistics	597	38,265	64	155	207	234	267	365

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

