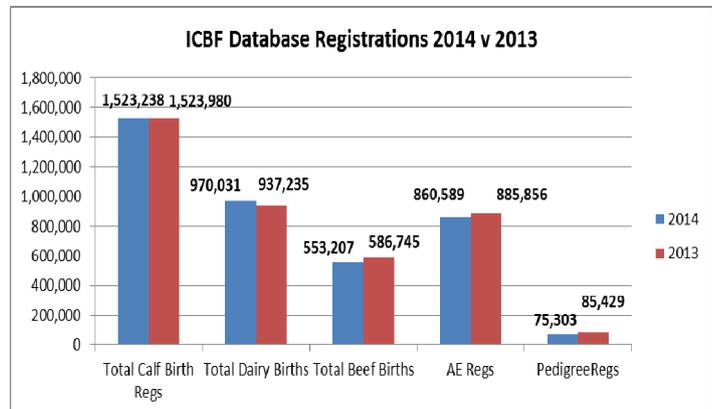
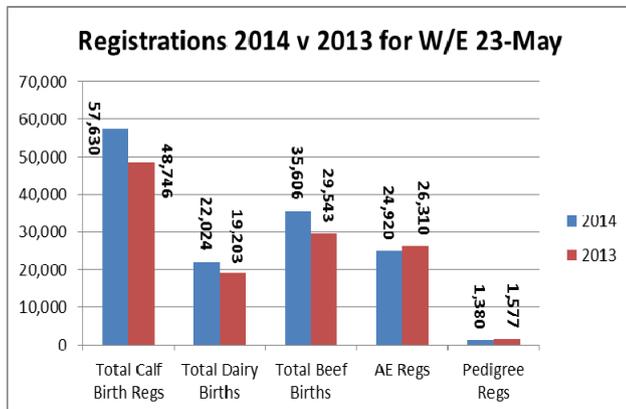


ICBF Weekly Update 23rd May 2014

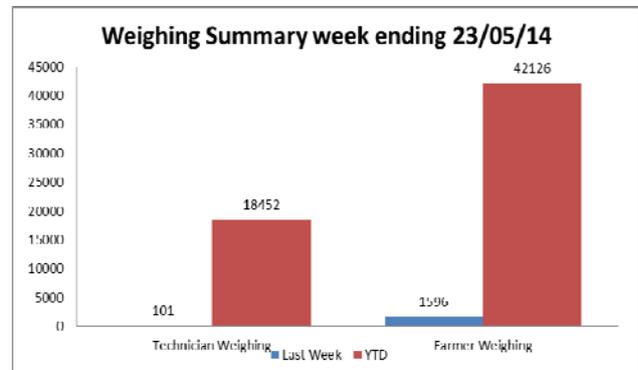
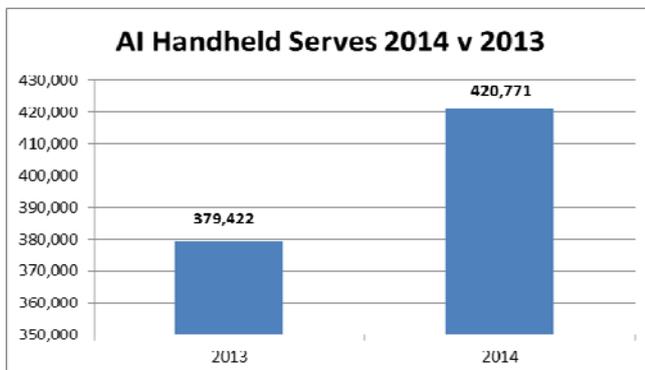
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry Meetings** –Tuesday 27th May 2014, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** –Friday 11th July 2014, 10:00 to 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, 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 1,602,000 results received since January 1st, of which 61,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.26 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 101 weights received through the technician service and 1596 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 ICAR/Interbull Conference

✚ This week, ICBF were represented at the ICAR/Interbull conference in Berlin. The ICAR/Interbull community continues to be an extremely valuable resource for ICBF and its industry partners, ensuring that we are staying abreast of the latest ideas and technologies, and helping us to avoid ‘reinventing the wheel’ by collaborating with our international colleagues. Some of the key items of discussion this week included:

✚ **Interbeef:** Progress continues to be very solid on Interbeef. Interbeef is the group tasked with delivering international evaluations for beef cattle, similar to what has been of benefit to dairy farmers for many years now. The challenges on beef are significant due to significantly less usage of the same bulls across multiple countries, unlike the situation in dairy. The initial focus is on the Charolais and Limousin breeds, due to the relatively large volumes of records that are available to work with. Thierry Pabiou and Ross Evans are leading the work from an ICBF perspective. Thierry presented his work on the genetic parameters for weaning weight for Limousine and Charolais. It is hoped that an implementation run of ebvs will be carried out in the next few months after which the proofs will be made official for use in the respective countries.

Genomics: Matt McClure and Donagh Berry (Teagasc) both delivered excellent papers on genomics. Matt’s paper on the use of imputed microsatellites from SNP’s to assist with parentage verification was very well received. Donagh delivered an excellent paper on the use of genomics on novel traits. We continue to be very fortunate to have strong capability in this area with the combined resources of Teagasc and ICBF to deliver value to the Irish industry in this area.

Functional/Health and Disease traits: There is no doubt that this continues to be an area with a lot of new research on-going, and a realisation that this is the next big nut to be cracked. In Ireland, we need to continue to work towards integrating our processes to ensure that data captured on farm in relation to health and disease is not duplicated (i.e. only a need to have the data recorded once), and is available for multiple uses. This will ultimately reduce hassle and cost for the farmer on the ground.

Carry over in milk samples: Carry over in milk samples occurs where milk sampling methods mean that some milk from the previous cow is included in the sample of the subsequent cow. Reducing carry over to zero is not realistic, but with the increased use of milk samples for multiple purposes (e.g. disease testing, pregnancy testing, etc.), keeping it to a minimum will be critical in order to ensure maximum accuracy of the tests.

✚ We can be confident that the Irish industry is well positioned in the various data capture and genetic evaluation capacities, relative to our international partners. However, the various technologies are continuing to move at an incredible pace, and we will have to continue to invest, and be on top of our game to ensure that we stay to the forefront.

4 GROW[®]

✚ 291 Pedigree animals were scored in April.

✚ This is down by 110 animals from April 2013.

✚ 992 Pedigrees were weighed in April.

✚ This is up by 591 animals from April 2013.

✚ These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

5 Herd Plus®

- The record heat/serve screen now allows farmers to record heats where the animal was not served. This should prove a useful management tool for farmers who are observing heats in their animals outside of the breeding season. Once the breeding season starts a farmer will have an idea as to when animals should be coming in heat again and therefore lessen the risk of missing the next heat. *See graphic below on how to use this new screen.*

Recording Heats & Serves on

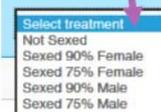


Use our new user friendly screens to record heats and serves

Jumbo	Animal Number	Lact	Calving Date	Last Heat / Serve	Last Bull	Num Serves	Date	Bull Used	Treatment
1	IE161313341001	3	18-FEB-14	01-MAY-14	PSZ	3			Select treatment

To Record a Heat

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click Save. A heat event for the cow has been created!



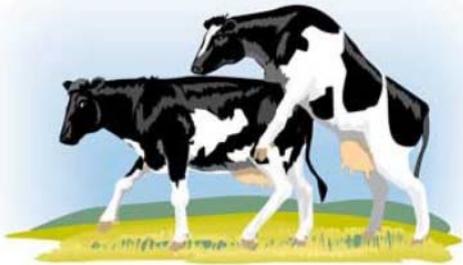
To Record a Serve

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click in the bull used column. Enter an AI code or tag number (stock bull). The sire check column will confirm the bull code/tag is valid.
- Click in the treatment column. A treatment must be selected.

Note: For stock bull serves and conventional straws (non sexed) the treatment selected will always be Non Sexed.

The majority of sexed straws available will be sexed 90% female. Check with your AI company if you are in doubt.

- Click Save. A serve event for the cow has been created!



If you make a mistake don't worry, click on the cow tag in blue font to delete any mistakes or to view further details.

Remember: Heats and serves can also be recorded via farm software. If you are on the AI technician service & your AI technician has a handheld, AI inseminations will be sent to ICBF automatically.

HerdPlus
Profit through Science
1850 600 900

- The breeding season is in full swing on many dairy and beef farms at the moment. For farmers doing DIY AI or whose AI technicians are not on the handheld service please ensure that you submit your serves online either through your HerdPlus login or farm software package. This data is of vital importance to genetic evaluations but also to the reports which we provide to farmers throughout the year. The screen also allows for the recording of stock bull serves.
- For farmers that are submitting serves, fertility reports can be generated throughout the breeding season to monitor fertility. The first 3 weeks of breeding have now passed on many dairy farms so now is a good time to generate a report. A report can be generated through the fertility section in your HerdPlus login. Prior to generating a report, ensure that you have marked for culling any animals which you do not intend to breed and that all serves have been recorded. It is important to do this to ensure that your submission rates are accurate. *See example of a fertility report below:*

Mating Start Date (MSD): 16/04/2014 (Cows) 16/04/2014 (Heifers)

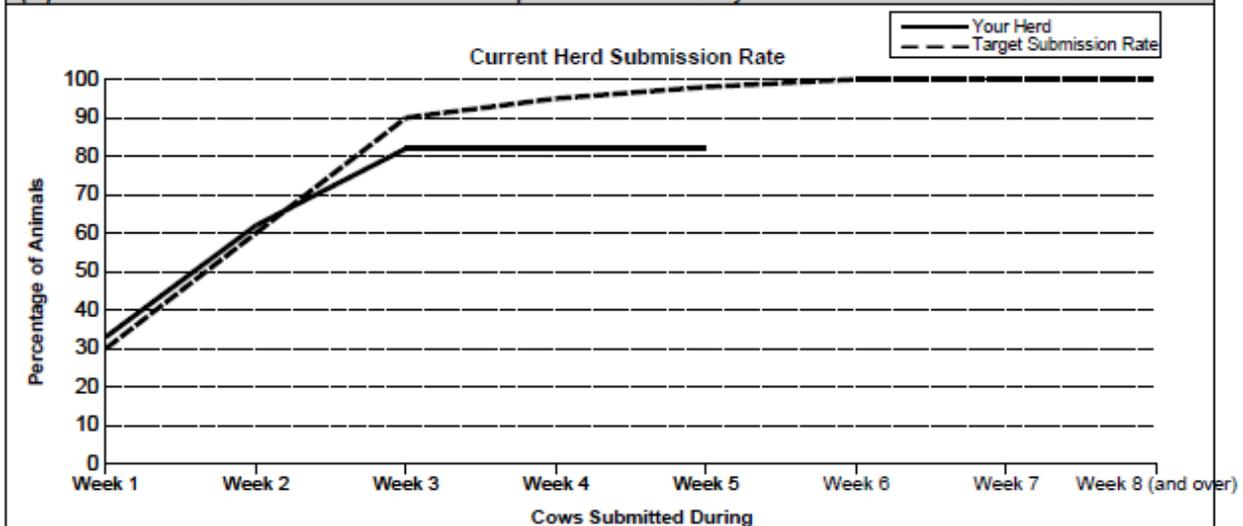
(a). Calving Summary Data - Report is based on dairy cows that calved from 16/01/2014

	Spring Dairy Calving Dates		Spring Dairy Calving Pattern		
	Start Calving	Median Calving ¹		Num. Calved (%)	Top 15%
Cows	16/01/2014	16/02/2014 (32 days)	Week 3	43 (35%)	52%
Heifers	15/01/2014	07/02/2014 (24 days)	Week 6	83 (68%)	79%
Herd	15/01/2014	13/02/2014 (30 days)	Week 9	109 (89%)	91%

¹ Date on which 50% of cows/heifers have calved as % of total calvings on report date.

Total Dairy Calvings	122
Total Dairy Calves Born	123

(b). Current Herd Submission Rate - Report is based on dairy cows that calved from 16/01/2014



(c). Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)

Days since MSD:	38		Your Herd	Nat. Avg.	Btm. 5%		Top 5%	
	Cows	Heifers			Your Herd	Top 5%		
1. 21-day Submission rate Cows/heifers submitted for mating within 21 days of MSD (34 cows/ 48 heifers) as a percentage calved up to 21 days after MSD (114 cows) /dairy heifers > 11mths (54)	Cows	82%	80%	36%	85%			
	Heifers	89%	64%	33%	96%			
2. 42-day Submission rate Cows/heifers submitted for mating within 42 days of MSD as a percentage calved up to 42 days after MSD	Cows	-	79%	59%	96%			
	Heifers	-	76%	47%	99%			
3. Cows calved >30 days and not bred % of cows calved greater than 30 days at MSD (105 cows) and not yet submitted within 21 days of MSD (13 cows)	Cows	12%	32%	71%	8%			

Beef farmers participating in the beef data programme are reminded to record any outstanding data on 2013 born calves before 30th June. This data can be recorded on postal forms, on the ICBF website or through your farm software package.

6 GENÉIRLAND® - Beef

- + Sign-ups are almost complete for the Beef GENÉIRLAND Spring 2014 programme.
- + 426 herds taking a total of 7000 straws have joined so far.
- + The average order is almost 17 straws.
- + All orders received have been dispatched.
- + To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- + Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 11 remaining available bulls are in the table below.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JZJ	Cairnmor Jameson	AA	435
YCM	Clewboy High-Master	CH	320
GGM	Gageboro Morgan	HE	385
OHT	Roundhill Hunter	LM	400
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	PT	170
ZGH	Hurricane Gonzo	PT	220
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	125
KTM	Knottown Michael	SA	170
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	65
LZZ	Lisnacran Demertios	SI	300
KDZ	Curaheen Dickens	SI	420

7 Genetic Evaluations

- + INTERBULL steering committee meetings, which are attended by Andrew Cromie as the representative for Ireland and the UK, coincided with the ICAR/Interbull conference in Berlin this week. There was also an INTERBEEF Technical committee meeting and an INTERBEEF Working Group meeting during the conference.
- + Preparations are underway for the industry meetings due to take place next Tuesday 27th May in the Killeshin Hotel. An agenda for this meeting has been circulated earlier this week.

Beef Genomic Scheme

- + Approximately 95,000 ear tags have now been sent to farms. Over 66,000 samples (70% of total) have already been returned to Weatherbys to date. A further 18,000 tags are due on farms next week. Hair sampling kits are being issued on a daily basis for those herds who have animals that have left or sold in the time between sign-up and receipt of the tags. Genotyping of the returned samples has commenced. DNA & genotype quality is excellent with less than 0.5% of samples genotyped so far below the 90% call rate threshold. This will ensure the highest number of genotypes are available for research purposes.

8 Sheep Ireland

2014 Lambing data

The vast majority of lambing data has now been entered on the Sheep Ireland database for 2014, the only data outstanding at this point is the lambing information that was submitted by our paper recording breeders, we continue to key this information and hope to have this work completed within the next week.

Ultrasound Scanning

The organisation of our 2014 Ultrasound scanning season will be another focus for the next number of weeks. We will be making every effort to accommodate breeders when allocating dates and times to carry out this scanning, however to ensure the service is provided in an efficient manner we will be attempting to scan breeders in the same geographical area on the same day.

€uro-Star Catalogue

With the new Replacement and Terminal Index being rolled out this year the old €uro-Star profiles and Sheep Ireland catalogues need to be redesigned in order to display this updated information. We have been sending out early evaluations on an individual basis until now upon the request from breeders. The new €uro-Star profile should be available to each breeder on their Sheep Ireland account by the end of this week and the catalogue is now almost ready to be sent to the IT developers in order to be ready for the first premier sale in mid-July. It is crucial that this is clear and easy to understand at a glance as this is what both pedigree and commercial farmers will be presented with in their sales catalogues.



Gorey Golden Shears

Sheep Ireland will have a trade stand at the Golden Shears competition in Goery today (Friday), Saturday and Sunday. We hope to meet some of our LambPlus breeders as well as some prospective pedigree recorders and commercial farmers. You will find us in the sheep tunnel; check out our Facebook page for some photos. Hope to see you there.

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