

ICBF Weekly Update 23rd November 2012

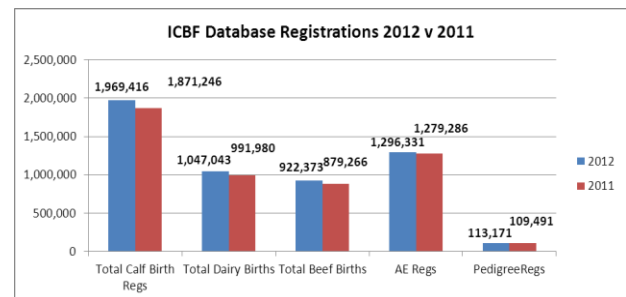
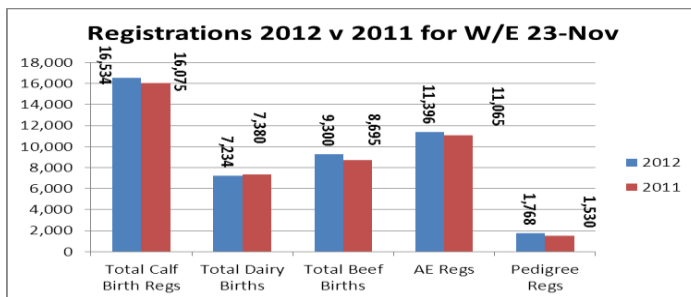
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **OptiMIR Workshop** - Tuesday 27th November, Teagasc, Moorepark.
- ✚ **ICBF Industry Dairy & Beef Consultation meetings** – Wednesday 28th November, 10:00am – 4:00pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Wednesday 28th November, 7.00pm. Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 29th November 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – Deferred until December, date to be confirmed.

2 The Business Case for Milk Recording

At a well-attended Teagasc Dairy Conference this week in Tralee, the Animal Health Ireland Cell-Check group launched its new Cell-Check report, along with an on-line calculator which calculates the lost farm profit as a result of high cell counts. The annual profit difference between a cow at an average SCC of 300,000 and 100,000 is in the region of €100/cow/year. If you have an 80 cow herd, that's an extra €8,000 in profit. The main costs are not the tubes and antibiotics, but are the loss of production and culling costs. Milk recording has many benefits, and helping to keep cell counts under control is a key one. The next step is to now engage with the Milk Recording organisations to ensure a fully informed and coordinated approach to getting the reports out to farmers, and increasing the levels of milk recording.

3 Database

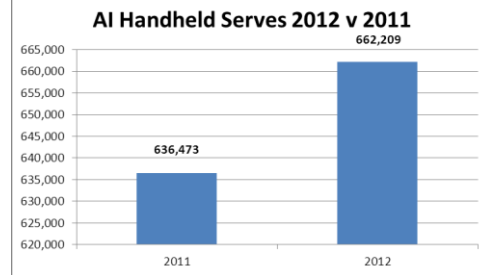


- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 486,075 with the number of animals weaned at 344,767.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 585,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 467,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new EuroStar indexes, and the development work on these is continuing.
- ✚ The 2013 Dairy personalised notebooks continue to be generated and printed.
- ✚ Weight recording figures this week were at 461 animals, from 1000 the previous week. We also had 2045 DIY weights recorded by farmers this week.

- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.

4 GROW[®]

- 1248 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in October.
- This is up by 432 animals from October 2011.
- 832 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in October.
- This is up by 317 from October 2011.



5 GENE IRELAND[®]

Dairy

- The panel consists of 10 bull's with an average EBI €220.
- Straws have been allocated to 103 herd's signed up to the programme.
- There is still some availability. Call 1850 600 900 to order.

Beef

- Sign-ups are continuing for the GENE IRELAND autumn program.
- 212 herds taking a total of 4530 straws have signed up so far.
- All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- Work is beginning on identifying bulls for the 2013 panel.
- To learn more or to sign up please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- The approx. total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the table below.

Code	GJB	TQL	VMP	RWM	FWO	FSZ	FYB	LZF	GZS	TVR	EFZ	WLZ	KJB	FTH	CJH	FQR
# Straws	135	120	250	140	230	225	340	420	140	500	500	415	500	310	130	140

6 Sheep Ireland

- Next week letters will be circulated to each breeder that submitted rams to this years CPT. These letters will detail the number of ewes that were inseminated by each ram along with the number of straws that were frozen by Sirebank on behalf of each participating breeder. Each year there is always a number of rams that fail to produce adequate quality semen for freezing. Unfortunately this is just a practical reality of dealing with sheep or any livestock in such a breeding programme.
- Although each ram is managed and handled as sensitively as possible throughout the weeks of the CPT - for some rams, the change of environment can be stressful and this may be one of the contributing factors to poor semen quality. Also when the CPT commences each year, pedigree rams have just concluded a busy mating season and this may further add to semen quality issues. Sirebank in UCD took care of all semen testing and freezing this season on behalf of Sheep Ireland.
- When evaluating the potential to freeze semen, Sirebank assess a number of criteria. Among these are sperm mobility, concentration and volume. A high rate of dead or immobile sperm will render the sample unsuitable for freezing. Although sperm may be unsuitable for freezing, in most cases it may be adequate to use for

insemination - as a fresh sample. As such, only 3 rams from the 34 rams used this year, were not used to inseminate ewes. Two of these 3 simply would not jump to provide us with semen - despite numerous efforts. The third rams semen was deemed unsuitable for insemination due to a high percentage of dead sperm - however this ram mated a high number of ewes before entering the CPT and as most of these held in lamb, we can concluded that he is fine for natural mating.



✚ Many problems with ram semen can be temporary and caused by a huge range of different things. We are now lucky enough in Ireland to have a number of operators offering valuable breeding services such as, semen evaluation, freezing of ram semen etc. Where breeders identify rams that are performing exceptionally well, they should make every effort to try and preserve these genetics as they may prove valuable in the future.

'Rams relaxing during this year's CPT'

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 23/11/12

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 23/11/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 23/11/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 23/11/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 23/11/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,739	1,090	29%	308,025	95,766	31%
Progressive	2,479	1,009	41%	229,430	94,366	41%
Tipperary	122	44	36%	10,323	3,508	34%
Total	6,340	2,143	34%	547,778	193,640	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 23/11/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 23/11/12	2012 vs 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	304,541	308,025	1.1%
Progressive	219,602	229,430	4.3%
Tipperary	13,151	10,323	-27.4%
Total	537,294	547,778	1.9%

Please see milk recording stats attached

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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, 14-NOV-2012 To 23-NOV-2012

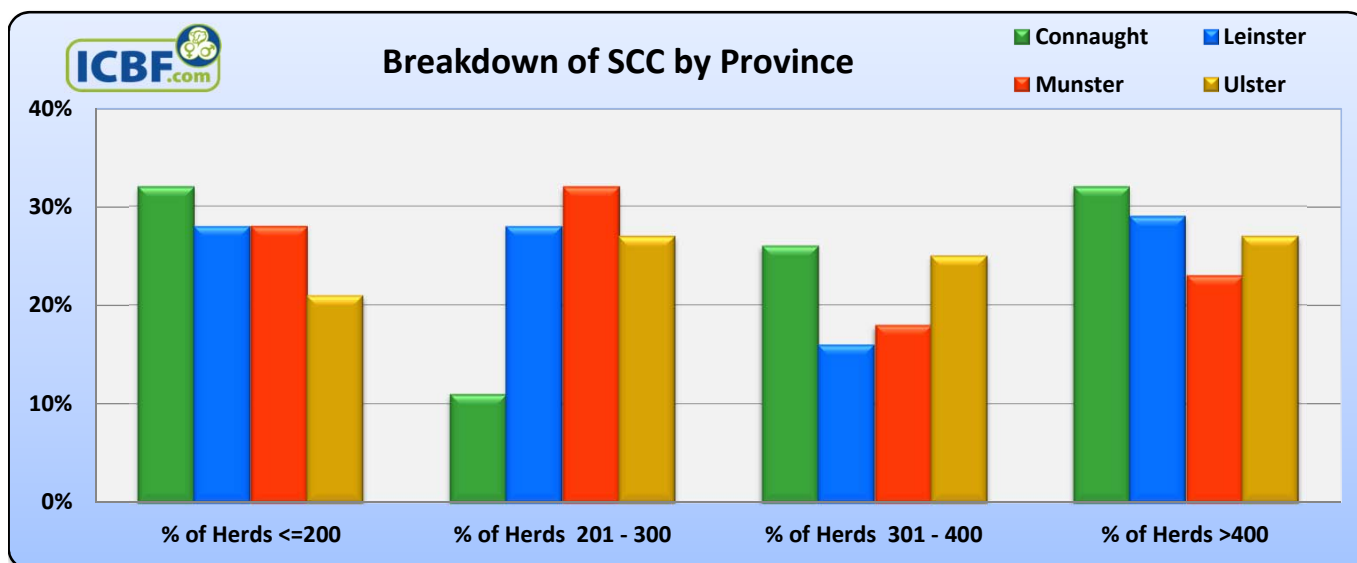
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	19	810	43	16.4	4.26	3.38	1.25	313
Leinster	122	9,054	74	17.0	4.20	3.48	1.29	289
Munster	382	23,083	60	13.6	4.54	3.70	1.11	272
Ulster	52	2,914	56	15.5	4.22	3.41	1.18	296
National Statistics	575	35,861	62	14.6	4.43	3.62	1.16	279

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 14-NOV-2012 To 23-NOV-2012

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	19	810	43	32%	11%	26%	32%	313
Leinster	122	9,054	74	28%	28%	16%	29%	289
Munster	382	23,083	60	28%	32%	18%	23%	272
Ulster	52	2,914	56	21%	27%	25%	27%	296
National Statistics	575	35,861	62	28%	30%	18%	25%	279

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 14-NOV-2012 To 23-NOV-2012

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	19	810	43	171	288	321	342	498
Leinster	122	9,054	74	185	249	280	329	439
Munster	382	23,083	60	176	230	274	300	418
Ulster	52	2,914	56	198	255	312	341	438
National Statistics	575	35,861	62	179	246	277	321	431

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

