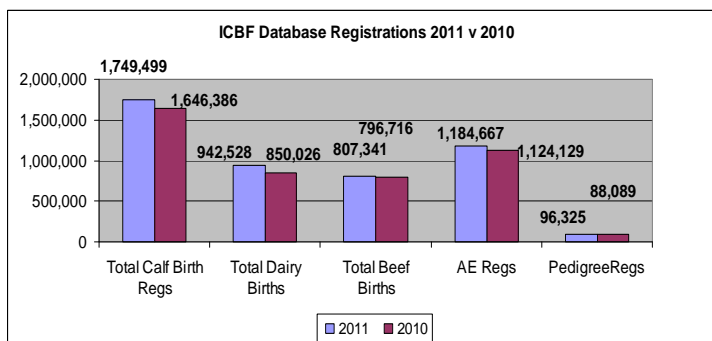
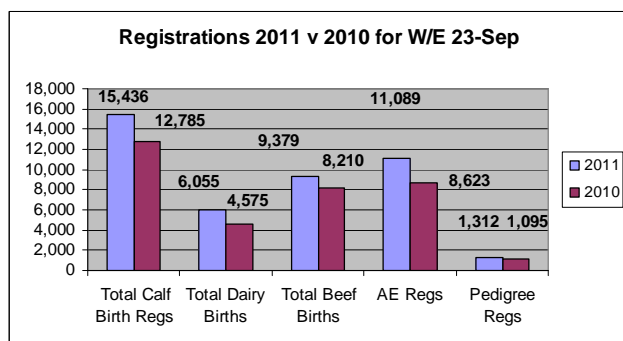


1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep Ireland - LambPlus User Meeting** – Wednesday 28th September, 19:00 to 21 :00 – Hibernian Hotel, Mallow.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland - LambPlus User Meeting** – Thursday 29th September, 19:00 to 21:00 – Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland - LambPlus User Meeting** – Monday 3rd October, 19:00 to 21 :00 – Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone.
- ✚ **Sheep Breeding Consultation Industry Meeting** – Thursday 6th October, 11:00 to 14:00 – Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 6th October, 14:00 to 16:30 – Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore.
- ✚ **High Health Status Beef Bull Sale** – Saturday 15th October 2011 – 12:00 to 2:00 - Tully Performance Test Centre.

2 Database



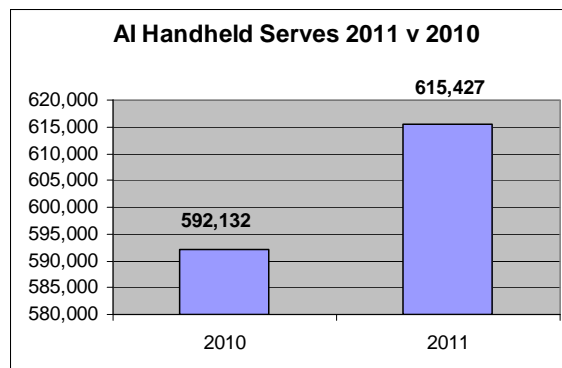
- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2010 born calves with meal introduced is 665,801 with the number of animals weaned at 613,187.

✚ The health recording forms for the Dairy Efficiency Scheme (DEP) have been distributed to farmers. These are due to be returned by October 31st.

✚ Testing continues on the prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software. It is intended to start field trials with it from October 1st.

✚ Work is on-going in building the systems that will support the up-coming national BVD eradication programme.

✚ The loading of the high density beef genotype files are currently being loaded to the ICBF database.



✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.

3 Tully

Final performance test results

The final live-weight on the 52 bulls in Tully were obtained on Monday of this week (Table 1). The performance test has now been completed with 85 days of individual feed intake and five live-weights obtained.

Measurements obtained on bulls include average daily gain, feed efficiency, dry matter intake, ultrasonic scanned muscle and fat depth and scrotal circumference. Detailed figures on all bulls can be viewed by logging onto the Tully website at <http://www.icbf.com/services/tully/index.php>.

Below is a summary of each trait measured at Tully:

- ✚ *Average daily gain (kg/day)*: A key indicator of growth rate, which is an important factor in all aspects of beef production.
- ✚ *Feed conversion efficiency (DMI/ADG)*: The ratio describing the amount of feed consumed per unit of production. It is important to identify animals that are efficient users of feed.
- ✚ *Scanned muscle and fat depth (mm)*: These traits are accurate indicators of meat and fat yield (very important with the new pricing GRID in place).
- ✚ *Scrotal circumference (cm)*: Increased scrotal circumference is associated with earlier age at puberty, increased semen production and improved semen quality. It also has a favourable relationship with female fertility in daughters produced.

Table 1. Average live-weight and overall average daily gain (85 day period) of bulls by breed

Breed	AA (n = 4)	BA (n = 3)	BB (n = 2)	CH (n = 16)	LM (n = 18)	PT (n = 2)	SA (n = 1)	SI (n = 6)
Average Live-weight (kg)	658	737	632	746	678	715	680	676
Overall average daily gain (kg)	2.39	2.26	2.37	2.30	2.13	2.05	2.25	2.44

Bull owners and breed societies have received letters and e-mails, respectively, updating them on the performance of bulls to date, which included all the measurements outlined above. Also, AI companies have received the latest performance figures of bulls, along with all other relevant information.

Sale

- ✚ All bulls have been entered for the up-coming sale, which will take place in Tully on Saturday **15th October, starting at 12.00pm**. The catalogue for the sale is being prepared at present and will be on the Tully website 26th September.
- ✚ The order of breeds into the sale ring is as follows:
3 Blonde d'Aquitaine, 1 Saler, 2 Parthenaise, 4 Angus, 18 Limousin, 16 Charolais, 6 Simmental 2 Belgian Blue. Bulls will be sold from oldest to youngest within each breed. The sale is currently being advertised through various forms of media.
- ✚ Ger O' Brien (Linear scorer) visually assessed all the bulls for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits, as part of the process for selecting the Champion bull from each breed. The visual assessment along with the final performance test and new Euro-Star evaluation figures will form the bases for identifying the Champion bull, which will be known early next week. These bulls will be photographed and will feature in the relevant newspapers.

- ✚ Breeders that own bulls at Tully have been notified of the different procedures that will take place on the day of sale to minimise disease risk to their animals i.e. refrain from bringing power-washers etc.
- ✚ Bulls are being halter trained at present. Their concentrate offering is being gradually decreased leading up to the sale, to ensure they are acclimatised to their new on-farm environment.
- ✚ Preparation of the facilities is on-going.
- ✚ Bulls have received hoof-care where it was deemed necessary.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ A new beef linear evaluation and evaluations for Tully bulls are currently being done. Results will be uploaded to the database next week.
- ✚ Work continues on calving, beef maternal and fertility evaluations.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 23/09/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 23/09/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 23/09/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 23/09/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 23/09/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,669	1,041	28%	301,500	94,933	31%
Progressive	2,373	903	38%	213,990	81,432	38%
Tipperary	144	64	44%	13,080	6,298	48%
Total	6,186	2,008	32%	528,570	182,663	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 23/09/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 23/09/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	275,401	301,500	8.7%
Progressive	190,920	213,990	10.8%
Tipperary	11,919	13,080	8.9%
Total	478,240	528,570	9.5%

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 13/09/11 to 23/09/11								
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	1005	72,604	72	18.2	4.25	3.75	1.46	289
Leinster	292	21,911	75	18.4	4.14	3.62	1.43	300
Connacht	55	3,061	56	19.3	4.11	3.62	1.50	354
Ulster	84	5,354	64	18.2	4.08	3.52	1.38	285

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 13/09/11 to 23/09/11

	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
CARLOW	6	316	53	16.0	4.35	3.57	1.27	338
CAVAN	38	2,108	55	18.3	4.01	3.49	1.37	303
CLARE	38	2,083	55	17.4	4.25	3.75	1.39	326
CORK STH	282	19,015	67	19.0	4.23	3.75	1.52	231
CORK NTH	261	19,157	73	18.4	4.33	3.81	1.50	274
DONEGAL	13	1,341	103	17.9	4.23	3.64	1.41	306
DUBLIN	4	393	98	19.0	4.21	3.53	1.47	350
GALWAY	25	1,510	60	17.7	4.31	3.72	1.42	340
KERRY	144	9,593	67	19.1	4.09	3.63	1.47	308
KILDARE	18	1,158	64	19.1	4.07	3.60	1.46	329
KILKENNY	47	3,625	77	17.0	4.26	3.73	1.36	262
LAOIS	44	3,253	74	17.7	4.17	3.72	1.40	271
LEITRIM	3	174	58	16.4	4.33	3.62	1.30	413
LIMERICK	129	9,480	73	19.3	4.09	3.69	1.50	292
LONGFORD	7	428	61	18.2	4.02	3.57	1.38	260
LOUTH	13	1,020	78	18.6	3.94	3.64	1.41	339
MAYO	14	692	49	22.0	3.73	3.54	1.60	396
MEATH	35	2,912	83	20.0	3.99	3.58	1.51	255
MONAGHAN	33	1,905	58	18.4	4.00	3.43	1.37	246
OFFALY	17	1,216	72	19.2	4.20	3.66	1.51	298
ROSCOMMON	3	172	57	20.9	4.10	3.60	1.61	268
SLIGO	10	513	51	19.7	4.10	3.62	1.52	353
TIPPERARY NTH	42	3,795	90	17.1	4.31	3.79	1.39	308
TIPPERARY STH	66	6,145	93	17.3	4.42	3.75	1.41	306
WATERFORD	43	3,336	78	18.2	4.25	3.80	1.47	269
WESTMEATH	15	1,579	105	15.9	4.75	3.67	1.34	244
WEXFORD	65	4,282	66	19.0	4.19	3.68	1.50	280
WICKLOW E	14	1,157	83	18.7	3.85	3.60	1.39	327
WICKLOW W	7	572	82	20.9	4.00	3.52	1.57	348
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,436	102,930	72	18.5	4.16	3.64	1.44	305

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