

## ICBF Weekly Update 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### 1 Important Dates

- + **Sheep Ireland Multi-breed Euro-Star ram Sale** – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Aug, Tullamore Mart, Co. Offaly.
- + **Irish Grasslands Beef Conference & Farm Walk 2012** [www.irishgrassland.com](http://www.irishgrassland.com) – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- + **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 10:30 to 15:30, ICBF, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.
- + **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10:00 – 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 11:00 – 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Launch of Tully Open Day** – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 11:00 to 13:00 at Tully.
- + **Beef Breeding Day at Tully** – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.

### 2 Beef Breeding - Euro-Star Enhancements

The enhancements resulting from the Euro-Star review went live this week. This is the first step of a major effort which will take several months to complete. This week the focus has been on changing the bull search and the HerdPlus Euro-Star reports.

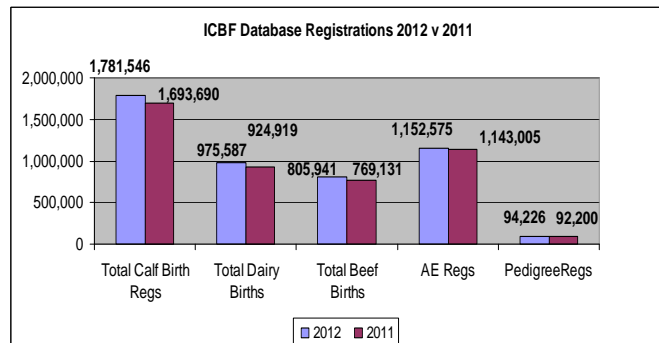
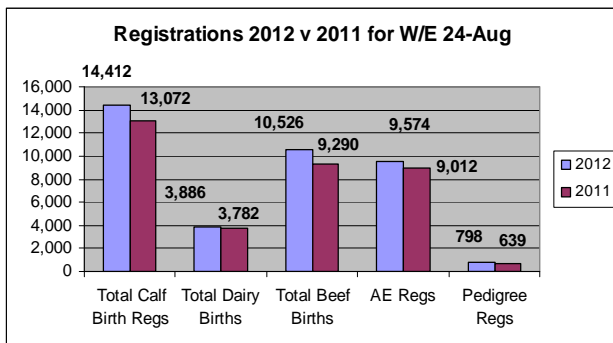
Over the coming weeks and month we have a major campaign planned to both implement the enhancements in all ICBF supported systems and to ensure advisors and farmers quickly come to understand how to make best use of the improved information.

Our extension and education campaign is focused on educating the educators and includes a relatively small number of public events where breeders can hear directly from the key technical people responsible for the enhanced beef evaluations. The main elements are:

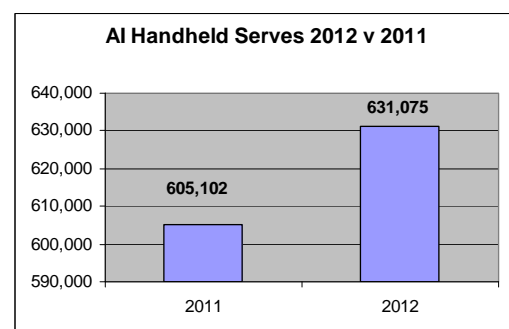
- **Training of 115 Teagasc B&T Advisors.** This will take place next week at five locations (Ennis, Macroom, Dundalk, Longford and Kildalton). Teagasc advisory services, as the deliverers of information and knowledge to farmers, are a key part of our overall strategy.
- **Briefing of Herd Book Councils.** At their forthcoming meetings the Councils of all beef Herd Books will be briefed on the enhancements by one of ICBF's beef specialists.
- **Weekly Journal Page.** ICBF's page in the Irish Farmers Journal will be used over the next few weeks to explain the enhancements, the reasons they are being made and the implications for beef breeding decisions.
- **Pedigree Bull Sales.** ICBF will provide, on request, a beef specialist to attend pedigree bull sales and provide a summary of the enhancements as well as answering questions and investigating concerns.
- **Irish Grassland Assn Beef Conference and Farm Walk** (4<sup>th</sup> September). Beef breeding (including new indexes, weight recording and ICBF HerdPlus) will play a prominent role at the afternoon farm walk.
- **Ploughing.** (25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September in Wexford). ICBF will have two beef specialists in attendance each day to answer any technical queries relating to the new indexes.
- **Teagasc / ICBF Suckler Cow Conference** (11<sup>th</sup> October at Tullamore Court Hotel) will include papers giving the background to the enhancements and provide a forum for sharing knowledge.
- **ICBF / TEAGASC Cattle Genetics & Genomics Conference** (6<sup>th</sup> November, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise). This will be a technical / scientific meeting aimed at ensuring the science community is focus on the priority issues for beef and dairy cattle breeding.

- **ICBF / FBD Beef Cattle Breeding Event at Tully** on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November. This event will feature live cattle including 80 animals completing the first progeny test at the revamped Tully. It will be the culmination of our extension and education efforts in 2012 addressing the full range of enhancements in Ireland's beef cattle breeding systems and services.
- **ICBF HerdPlus** office (1850 600 900) will be taking calls from clients to discuss the enhancement and provide support to herd owners.
- **HerdPlus Farmers** will be getting a direct mailing in next month with their own animals evaluation with explanatory material.
- **HerdPlus Farmers** can query their own New Index Profiles as of today.

### 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 112,474, with the number of animals weaned at 13,786.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 580,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 426,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ The new Dairy and Beef bull search on the website has been released this week.
- ✚ While some of the components have been released, work continues on the modification for other outputs to incorporate enhancements to the Beef Euro-Star indexes.
- ✚ Work is continuing 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 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ New genetic evaluations are now available for dairy and beef animals. Extra information on the bull search for each of the traits will be updated as it becomes available.
- ✚ Work is underway for the next Interbull test-run in early September. This includes validation of genomic proofs in advance of the introduction of an International Genomic Evaluation for foreign bulls.

## 5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/08/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/08/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/08/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/08/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/08/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,733	1,086	29%	303,311	94,557	31%
Progressive	2,448	991	40%	219,625	90,867	41%
Tipperary	119	42	35%	9,921	3,271	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>532,857</b>	<b>188,695</b>	<b>35%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 24/08/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 24/08/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	299,948	303,311	1.1%
Progressive	211,431	219,625	3.7%
Tipperary	13,045	9,921	-31.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>524,424</b>	<b>532,857</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 14/08/12 to 24/08/12								
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	985	75,967	77	19.9	3.97	3.42	1.47	214
Leinster	295	23,057	78	20.3	3.93	3.42	1.49	244
Connacht	52	3,319	64	21.3	3.83	3.32	1.52	294
Ulster	82	5,452	66	21.3	3.85	3.34	1.53	230

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