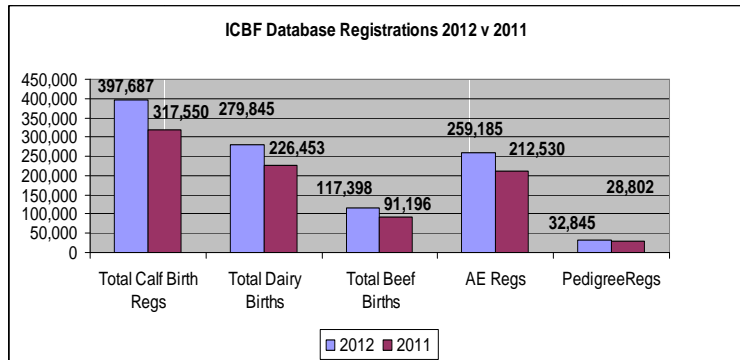
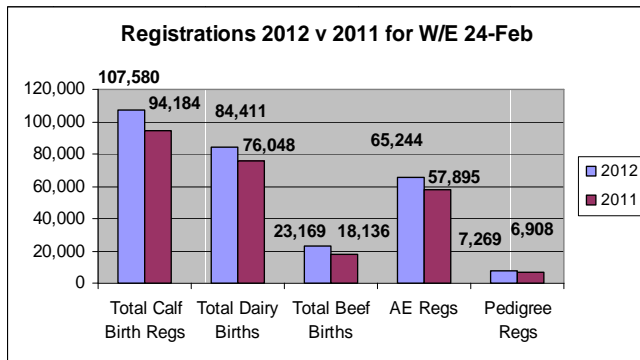


ICBF Weekly Update 24th February 2012

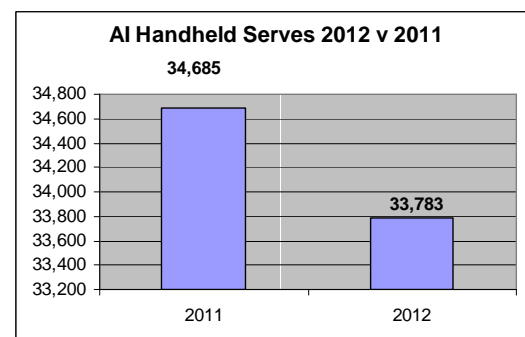
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Herdbook Technical Breeding Consultation Meeting** – Tuesday 28th February, 10:30 to 13:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 14th March, 10:30 to 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** - Thursday 15th March, 10:30 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 29th March, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 29th March, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICAR 2012 Conference** www.icar2012.ie – Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June, Cork.
- ✚ **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30th June, Athenry.

2 Database



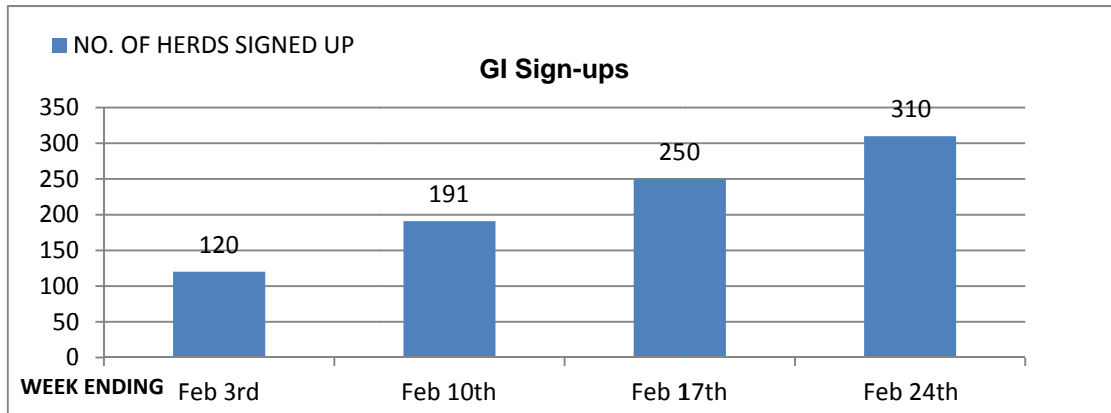
- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 584,903 with the number of animals weaned at 502,458.
- ✚ Distribution of the 5 Year Trend report has begun this week to all Suckler Scheme participants along with a Suckler Cow 'Milk and Docility' survey. Farmers will also receive their annual supply of freepost Animal Events envelopes.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 493,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 73,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.61% BVD PI Positive rate.
- ✚ Pilot testing has begun on the new 'Bull-Tracker' report for pedigree herds.
- ✚ A weight recording report is under development at the moment, which will be distributed to farmers involved in weight recording after each submission of weights.
- ✚ Some further developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database is continuing.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



3 GENÉIRLAND®

Dairy

- + Sign-ups continue to be received by post daily. Calls commenced to herd-owners this week.
- + A total of 12,104 straws have been requested. Allocations will commence shortly.
- + Potential bull lists and catalogues are available in the GENÉIRLAND section of the ICBF website.



4 Genetic Evaluations

- + A new genomic run was completed this week with just over 1000 dairy animals receiving a genomic EBI.
- + Cut-off date for data to be recorded for the next routine evaluation is Monday 27th Feb.

5 Sheep Ireland

Sheep Ireland made presentations to three groups this week:

- + We were kindly invited to the IFA annual Lamb Producers Group meeting which took place in Portlaoise on Wednesday evening. Speaking to groups like this is exactly where we need to be, as these are the ultimate beneficiaries of the Euro-Star evaluations. To stimulate further participation among pedigree breeders, demand from commercial ram breeders will be critical. We would like to thank the IFA sheep representatives for our invite and look forward to making further progress with these groups as the year progresses.
- + On Thursday we were in Portlaoise to speak to the National Sheep Breeders Association. There was a good attendance on the night with all main breeds represented. There were issues raised in relation to our evaluations and the role that certain measurements play in the final Euro-Star generation. There was also quite a bit of discussion in relation to our proposed LambPlus sales for 2012. We are going to take the opinions of as many parties as possible on board and discuss the matter at our next Sheep Ireland board meeting, at which point I have no doubt a decision can be made in relation to venues and dates etc, to hopefully satisfy all those involved. We have to emphasise that the objective here in Sheep Ireland is to add value to our sheep industry through the provision of better rams to the commercial farmer. Until such time as farmers and breeders become more educated about the potential benefits of the Euro-Stars, the LambPlus sales are a crucial promotional tool. A tool which participating breeders can use to great effect to attract progressive commercial ram buyers.
- + On Thursday we also met with some of our MALP participants to run through plans for the 2012 lambing season. We also carried out some updates on the handheld devices that each of these farmers use to record their flock data for the Euro-Star evaluations. Hopefully the improvements we have made will pave the way for easier more efficient recording, while also ensuring that we here at Sheep Ireland collect as much relevant data as possible for our evaluations. The main body of discussion at this meeting centred around our evaluations and

especially our maternal index. There were many questions asked and great suggestions made in regard to possible future improvements to the index. It is hugely positive that this is where we are now with our MALP farmers and participating LambPlus breeders. We are quickly moving away from practical recording issues to more in depth evaluation issues and this is where we will make most significant genetic improvement in our industry. We look forward to further such discussion throughout 2012.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 14/02/12 to 24/02/12								
	<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	11	637	58	27.2	4.56	3.38	2.16	316
CAVAN	33	1,484	45	22.4	4.24	3.41	1.71	226
CLARE	2	48	24	26.0	3.81	3.20	1.82	97
CORK STH	151	6,623	44	24.8	4.27	3.30	1.88	285
CORK NTH	119	6,516	55	18.9	4.50	3.63	1.54	299
DONEGAL	4	370	93	26.2	3.93	3.33	1.90	306
DUBLIN	7	343	49	25.2	3.67	3.21	1.73	352
GALWAY	8	326	41	24.5	4.09	3.23	1.79	286
KERRY	33	1,287	39	23.4	4.10	3.30	1.73	341
KILDARE	17	1,129	66	25.7	3.80	3.26	1.81	352
KILKENNY	15	1,006	67	21.7	3.84	3.13	1.51	232
LAOIS	19	1,111	58	24.7	3.94	3.41	1.82	271
LEITRIM	6	282	47	19.9	3.94	3.27	1.43	271
LIMERICK	46	2,316	50	28.2	3.95	3.32	2.05	301
LONGFORD	6	291	49	23.9	4.14	3.35	1.79	222
LOUTH	20	1,076	54	22.9	4.03	3.39	1.70	261
MAYO	32	1,298	41	22.1	3.85	3.28	1.58	328
MEATH	41	2,587	63	24.4	4.16	3.35	1.83	275
MONAGHAN	18	815	45	24.2	3.80	3.23	1.70	316
OFFALY	7	249	36	24.0	3.93	3.23	1.72	205
ROSCOMMON	1	26	26	26.4	3.53	3.53	1.86	259
SLIGO	4	117	29	21.8	3.54	3.06	1.44	232
TIPPERARY NTH	6	222	37	25.7	4.14	3.32	1.92	340
TIPPERARY STH	21	1,268	60	20.1	4.43	3.49	1.59	302
WATERFORD	14	824	59	26.2	4.25	3.26	1.97	226
WESTMEATH	9	531	59	26.0	4.02	3.27	1.90	142
WEXFORD	46	2,473	54	24.5	4.09	3.37	1.83	282
WICKLOW E	15	978	65	21.5	4.04	3.32	1.58	297
WICKLOW W	11	971	88	24.9	4.18	3.30	1.86	281
	<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	722	37,204	52	24.0	4.03	3.31	1.77	273

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 14/02/12 to 24/02/12

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	395	19,104	48	24.2	4.17	3.35	1.82	249
Leinster	224	13,382	60	24.4	4.01	3.31	1.78	268
Connacht	51	2,049	40	22.9	3.79	3.27	1.62	275
Ulster	55	2,669	49	24.3	3.99	3.32	1.77	283

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/02/12

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/02/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/02/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/02/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/02/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	754	43	6%	38,984	2,810	7%
Progressive	1,033	205	20%	61,918	12,498	20%
Tipperary	9	0	0%	480	0	0%
Total	1,796	248	14%	101,382	15,308	15%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 24/02/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 24/02/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	41,254	38,984	-5.8%
Progressive	67,902	61,918	-9.7%
Tipperary	638	480	-32.9%
Total	109,794	101,382	-8.3%

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