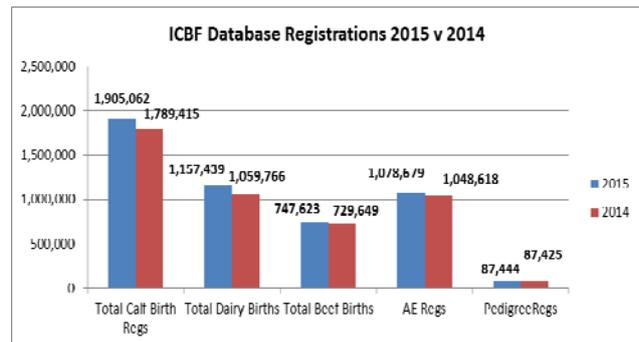
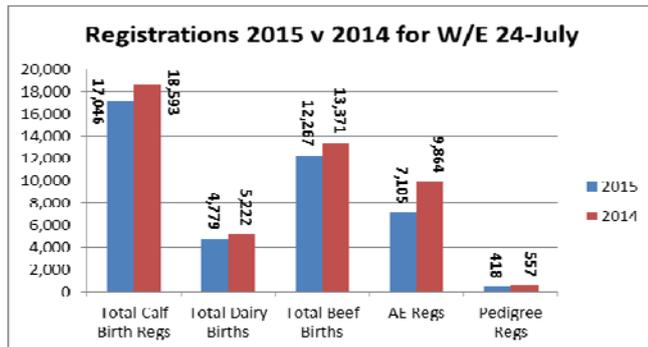


ICBF Weekly Update 24th July 2015

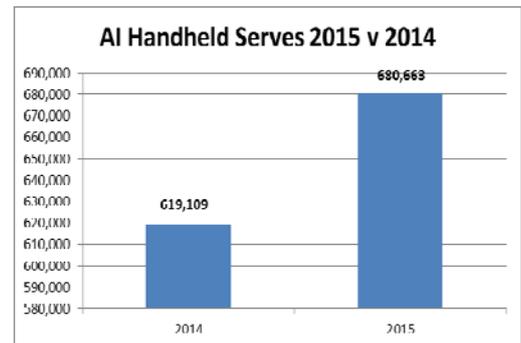
1 Important Dates

- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 10th September 2015 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Friday 11th September 2015 at 10:30, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 18th September 2015 at 10:30, 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 1.99 million results received since January 1st, of which 20,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 6.94 million results have now been received.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



3 GENÉIRELAND[®] Beef

- Sign Ups are still open for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- 401 herds taking a total of 6120 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 15 straws per herd.
- The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone 1850 600 900.
- Approximately total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in Table 1.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	445
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	450
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	440
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	180
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	215
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	355
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	215
HHJ	Heracles	CH	325
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	270
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	220
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	380
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	430
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	215
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	205
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	305
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	355
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	335
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	195
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	265

4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Ebvs have been sent to the Interbull Centre in advance of the Interbull routine August run for dairy traits.
- ✚ Work continues on the evaluations ahead of the August proof release. All beef evaluations have been completed at this stage and loaded to the database. Currently parental averaging and calculation of percentiles are underway.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/07/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/07/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/07/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/07/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/07/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,976	1,269	32%	360,028	123,922	34%
Progressive	2,459	1,039	42%	246,882	105,951	43%
Tipperary	124	52	42%	11,419	4,945	43%
Total	6,559	2,360	36%	618,329	234,818	38%

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6 Sheep Ireland

Sheep Ireland Online Ram Search

- ✚ The Sheep Ireland Ram Search has been updated as part of ongoing works to improving the Sheep Ireland website. The Ram Search allows farmers and breeders to look up the most up to date evaluations for specific animals as well as allowing them to search for new rams that fit the farmer's criteria. Rams can be filtered by EuroStar evaluations, age, location, and ID. This is just another vital tool to be added to the belt of the farmer looking for the best genetics to add to their flock, and for the LambPlus breed who is producing these genetics to advertise their rams. This site was widely used since its original launch just over two years ago with 60,000 hits in the last two years, and hopefully this trend will continue to grow. This search is a critical part of the overall plan to increase the rate of profitable genetic gain across the Irish national flock as it allows farmers to check the current stars of a ram at the click of a button before a potential purchase, for example. Some further improvements will be made to the search over the coming weeks and user feedback is welcomed.

Flock Linkage reports

- ✚ This week we sent out a flock linkage report to every LambPlus flock updating them on the current status of their flock. Flock linkage or flock connection refers to the genetic connectivity (similar bloodlines) between Sheep Ireland performance recording flocks. Genetic linkage is crucial for genetic evaluation as it allows fair and accurate comparisons between flocks. Flocks become linked by using rams that were bred in or used by linked flocks to mate with your ewes. The subsequent lambs must then also have weights recorded on them at the recommended times. Genetic linkage needs to be kept up-to-date: a guideline for breeders would be to make sure they use a linked ram every 3 years.
- ✚ When a unlinked flock becomes linked with other flocks this will have a positive effect on the flock Acc% as the data in the flock can now be compared against a greater number of animals in the database and as a result the flock Acc% levels may be lower than they could be.

LambPlus Sale 2015

- This year Sheep Ireland will be holding the 5th Sheep Ireland Multi-Breed Ram Sale in Tullamore Mart, Co. Offaly on **Saturday 22nd August**. Sale will commence at **12.30pm**. This sale has proven to be very successful to date with excellent clearance rates as it attracts and showcases some of the best EuroStar rams in the country each year. All rams at this sale will be eligible for the STAP scheme and this will only add to the demand that is already in place for these rams.

Minimum Sale Entry Criteria

As usual there will be minimum criteria for each ram entering this sale:

- All rams must have been born in a flock that **ultrasonically scanned** a proportion of their lambs for muscle and fat depth in 2015.
- All rams must have five EuroStars for either the **Replacement or Terminal** index and in conjunction with this five EuroStars requirement, the adjoining accuracy (Acc) % is required to be **30% or greater**. These can be checked using your Sheep Ireland online EuroStar report or the new ram search for the most up to date results.
- The minimum Acc% has risen from 20% in 2013, 25% in 2014 to 30% in 2015, this is credit to LambPlus breeders that continue to increase the quality and quantity of data recorded each year.
- All rams must be physically correct similar to any breed society sale. Sheep Ireland will carry out ram inspections on the day and will inspect all rams upon entry to the sale. Any sheep which, in our opinion, are unfit for sale will be rejected immediately.
- All entries must be returned to **Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork** before the closing deadline of **August 6th 2015**.

Sheep Events

Sheep Ireland attended several events during the week. These are very important for spreading the message of Sheep Ireland and educating farmers on how to interpret the new data (EuroStars) so they can take full advantage of their benefits.

- Brian Nicholson's Betterfarm open day in Kilkenny – Brian is also one of Sheep Ireland's commercial recording flocks with the CPT
- Sean McGee's STAP group in Cavan – Sean is a pedigree Texel LambPlus breeder
- John Curley's Betterfarm open day in Roscommon





Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 872903121, Email scoughlan@icbf.com, **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, 15-JUL-2015 To 24-JUL-2015

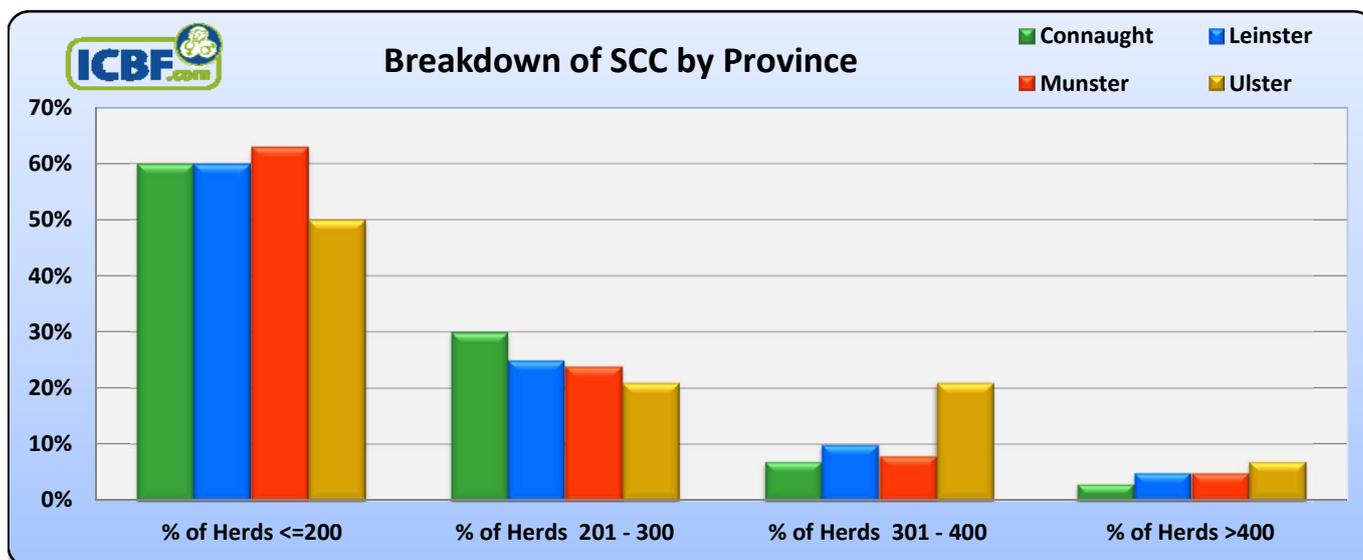
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	30	2,275	76	24.2	3.88	3.39	1.76	166
Leinster	168	17,446	104	22.3	3.87	3.44	1.63	174
Munster	565	49,488	88	22.8	3.95	3.45	1.68	174
Ulster	28	1,736	62	26.1	3.69	3.35	1.83	204
National Statistics	791	70,945	90	22.8	3.92	3.45	1.68	174

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 15-JUL-2015 To 24-JUL-2015

ICBF	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	30	2,275	76	60%	30%	7%	3%	166
Leinster	168	17,446	104	60%	25%	10%	5%	174
Munster	565	49,488	88	63%	24%	8%	5%	174
Ulster	28	1,736	62	50%	21%	21%	7%	204
National Statistics	791	70,945	90	62%	24%	9%	5%	174

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 15-JUL-2015 To 24-JUL-2015								
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	30	2,275	76	107	141	171	200	259
Leinster	168	17,446	104	113	154	179	200	278
Munster	565	49,488	88	115	153	170	189	260
Ulster	28	1,736	62	139	171	199	273	337
National Statistics	791	70,945	90	114	153	172	195	267

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

