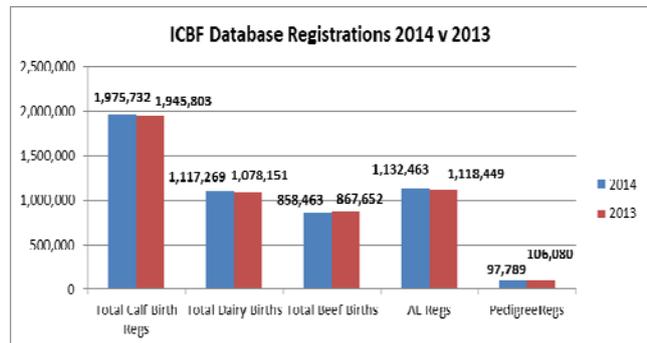
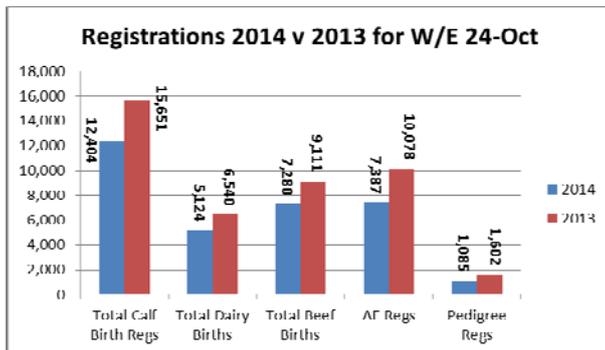


ICBF Weekly Update 24th October 2014

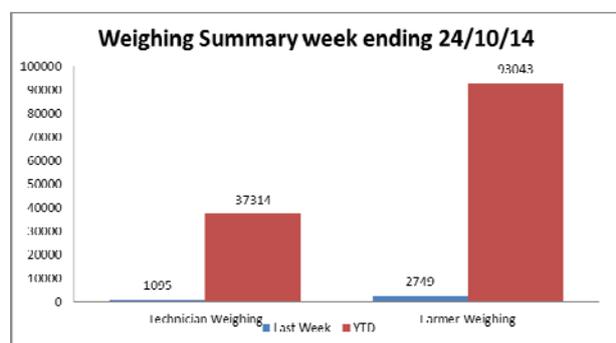
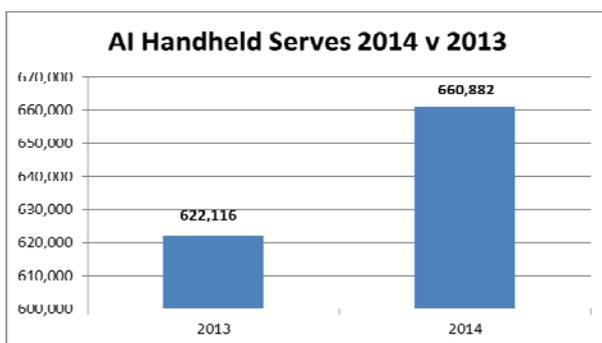
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 4th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, 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 2,117,000 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, 4.78 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- ✚ This week there were 1095 weights received through the technician service and 2749 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Data extracts for the December genetic evaluation run are done.
- ✚ The beef mini-run is currently underway – proofs will be uploaded next week.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the calving indexes.

4 GENÉIRELAND® - Beef

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	130
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	240
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	75
AGY	Rosemount Giga ET	BB	145
RFF	Ringfort Goulou	BB	45
YCM	Clewbay High-Master	CH	355
GEZ	Gedeon	CH	90
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	75
ZCH	Carrowreagh Honduras	LM	390
OHT	Roundhill Hunter	LM	465
OKH	Keltic Handsome	LM	265
XGL	Glorieux	LM	80
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	PT	290
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	190
KTM	Knottown Michael	SA	235
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	80
EMS	Doon Erasmus (P)	SH	50
LZZ	Lisnacraan Demertios	SI	400

- 126 herds taking a total of 2150 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 17 straws.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 18 available bulls are in the table 1.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/10/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/10/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/10/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/10/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/10/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,882	1,163	30%	333,005	106,125	32%
Progressive	2,519	1,099	44%	242,180	105,661	44%
Tipperary	117	48	41%	10,294	4,116	40%
Total	6,518	2,310	35%	585,479	215,902	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 24/10/13	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 24/10/14	2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	311,508	333,005	6.5%
Progressive	234,065	242,180	3.4%
Tipperary	10,111	10,294	1.8%
Total	555,684	585,479	5.1%

6 Sheep Ireland

Kerry Blackface Mountain Breeders

- On Tuesday night Sheep Ireland visited the West Kerry Blackface Mountain Sheep Breeders Association in Dingle, Co. Kerry to discuss establishing a flockbook for the breed. This group of breeders is concerned about the threats posed to their unique strain of blackface sheep by both inbreeding and dilution of the strain by other types of blackface sheep - Lanark, Swaledale etc. These concerns are shared by many different

blackface mountain groups around the country and it is clear that the only way to effectively combat these threats is for these groups to begin recording parentage data.

- ✚ Sheep Ireland are more than happy to engage with all of these individual groups but all need to be aware that building flockbook ancestry requires a lot of commitment and willingness from all breeders involved, without these ingredients the long-term survival of the process will not be possible.

Hill Lamb Prospects

- ✚ This week Sheep Ireland was also part of a meeting which was assessing the options on how to improve the outlook for sheep farmers on our hills. Current proposals for the new GLAS environmental programme and a requirement to maintain Ireland's hill areas in good agricultural and environmental condition will undoubtedly result in an increase in hill ewes in Ireland. In recent years, a reduction in important markets for the offspring from these hill breeds has severely reduced returns for the sector. Significant efforts are now planned by a number of industry stakeholders to improve this situation. Teagasc, from their research institute in Athenry, Co. Galway are currently looking at finishing systems for this type of lamb. This work will hopefully give confidence to Irish lamb finishers to invest in hill lambs annually, which will provide a lifeline for these farmers.
- ✚ Sheep Ireland will work with Teagasc to further promote genetic improvement across these hill sheep breeds. The current trial in Athenry is demonstrating that there is huge variation in the growth rate and feed intake of hills lambs and there is certainly a genetic element to this variation. To identify the genetically elite strains with hill breeds, we need more ancestry and performance recording to take place.

Please see below images from the Lamb Trial in Athenry



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-OCT-2014 To 24-OCT-2014

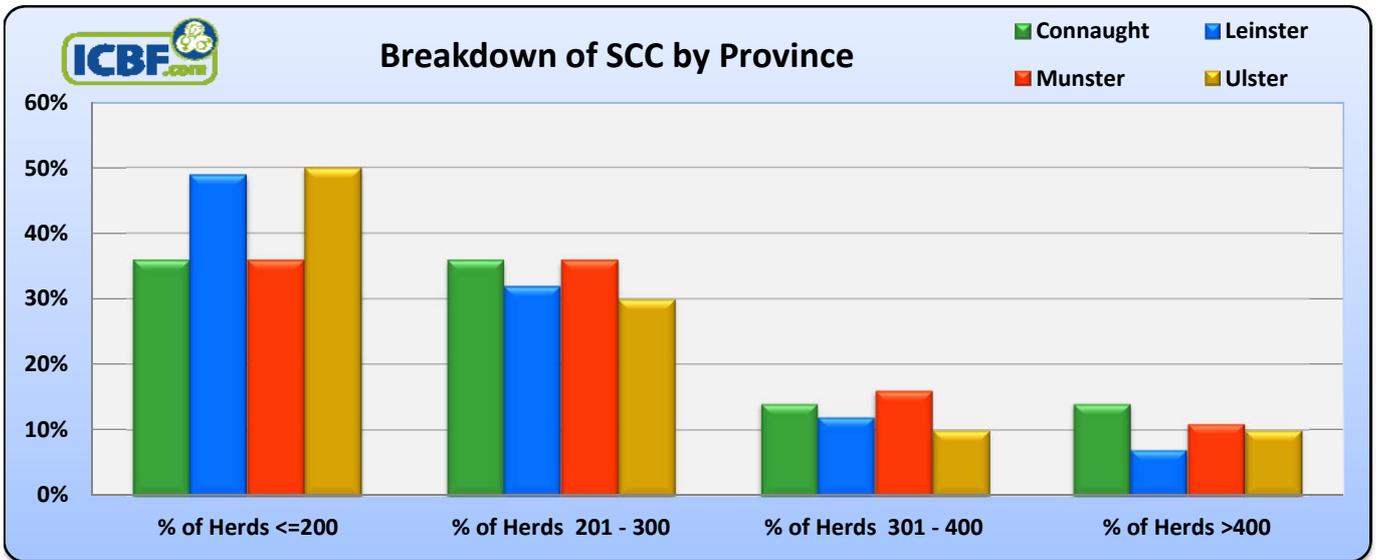
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	22	1,191	54	17.0	4.39	3.88	1.39	246
Leinster	164	12,623	77	16.1	4.51	3.94	1.34	198
Munster	524	39,810	76	15.3	4.52	4.00	1.29	236
Ulster	40	2,430	61	18.7	4.19	3.79	1.48	219
National Statistics	750	56,054	75	15.7	4.49	3.98	1.32	226

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 15-OCT-2014 To 24-OCT-2014

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	22	1,191	54	36%	36%	14%	14%	246
Leinster	164	12,623	77	49%	32%	12%	7%	198
Munster	524	39,810	76	36%	36%	16%	11%	236
Ulster	40	2,430	61	50%	30%	10%	10%	219
National Statistics	750	56,054	75	40%	35%	14%	10%	226

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 15-OCT-2014 To 24-OCT-2014								
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	22	1,191	54	175	202	232	264	325
Leinster	164	12,623	77	133	176	201	230	290
Munster	524	39,810	76	163	208	227	262	329
Ulster	40	2,430	61	153	175	203	240	300
National Statistics	750	56,054	75	154	201	223	254	322

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

