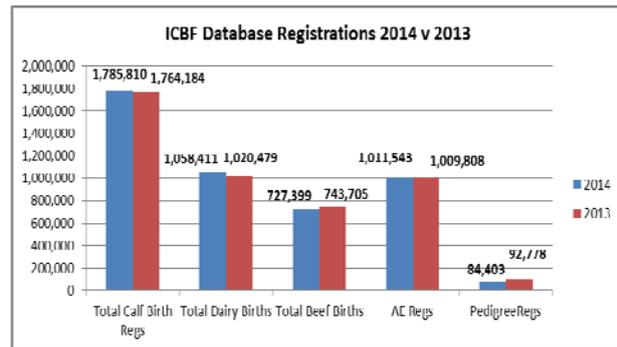
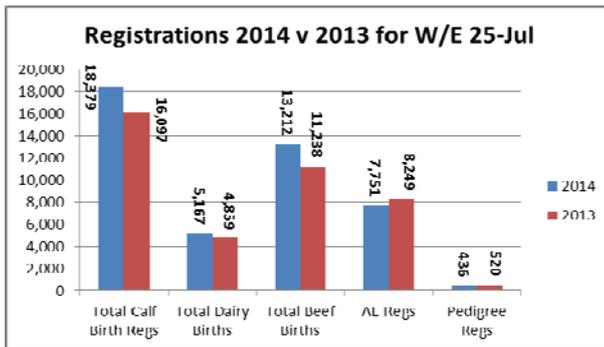


ICBF Weekly Update 25th July 2014

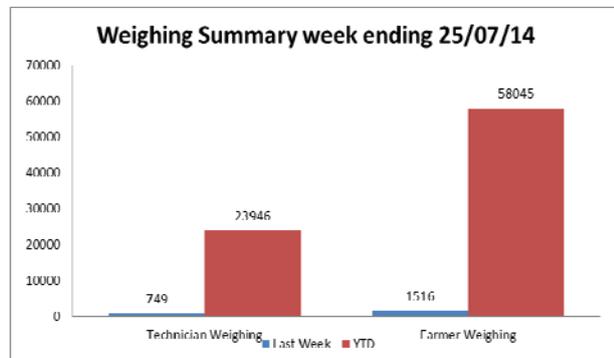
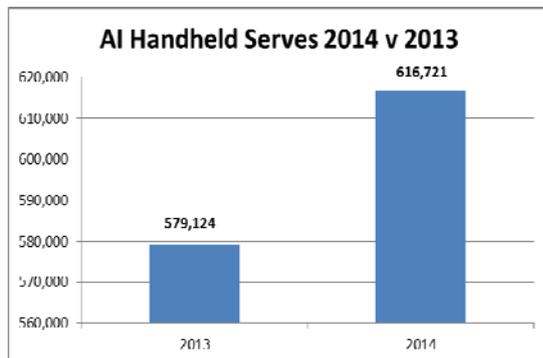
1 Important Dates

-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 4th September 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Highfield House, Bandon.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 4th September 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Highfield House, Bandon.

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 1,895,000 results received since January 1st, of which 25,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.56 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
-  This week there were 749 weights received through the technician service and 1516 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

IGA Beef Summer Tour

-  The Irish Grassland Association (IGA) Beef Summer Tour 2014 is titled “Making Suckling Work for You – The right cow on the right grass”
-  It will take place on Tuesday 29th July and is being sponsored by IFAC and Herdplus.
-  Two beef farms that are both Herdplus members will be visited:
 - Tom and Bridget Murphy, Ballycahane, Portlaw, Co. Waterford.
 - James and Mary Grace, Ballincur Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.

- ✚ Both farms from strong hurling counties and both farms delivering a healthy profit from suckling! The tour will provide a great opportunity to discover the factors underpinning their profitability.
- ✚ See Leaflet attached for further information.
- ✚ Signup Reminder: To register for this event please note that bookings can be made online until Sunday 27th July at www.irishgrassland.com

Beef Gene Ireland Open Day

- ✚ ICBF hosted a Beef Gene Ireland Open Day for Discussion Groups on Wednesday last at the ICBF Tully Test Centre, Co. Kildare. The event was a great success with over 200 farmers attending on the day. Farmers learned about the Euro-Star Indexes, the Maternal Beef Programme and how the Tully Test Centre is managed. There was a lively discussion on the day between ICBF and the farmers present. Farmers were invited to view the Insentec Automated Feeding System. Details of all the bulls onsite were made available for farmers. Discussion group facilitators that are interested in organizing groups to attend a similar event should contact Stephen Conroy or Niall Kilrane at **045 521 573** or by email sconroy@icbf.com.



Chris Daly explains the Euro Star Index to the large group



Farmers engaging in a lively debate



Pat Donnellan explains the Maternal Beef Programme



Five Star cow and her offspring

4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ All evaluations have commenced ahead of the routine August evaluation update on the 19th August.
- ✚ Research work is on-going in the areas of INTERBEEF, meat eating quality and liver fluke.

Beef Genomics Scheme

- ✚ Over 106,000 samples have been received in the lab. Currently the rate of sample return from farms is 90%. DNA and genotyping quality continues to be excellent with over 30,000 genotypes returned to ICBF from Weatherbys to date. Sampling kits for any outstanding herds will be processed next week.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 25/07/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 25/07/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 25/07/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 25/07/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 25/07/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,834	1,143	30%	324,910	102,833	32%
Progressive	2,483	1,069	43%	233,289	100,778	43%
Tipperary	115	44	38%	9,924	3,823	39%
Total	6,432	2,256	35%	568,123	207,434	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 25/07/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 25/07/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	306,245	324,910	5.7%
Progressive	225,468	233,289	3.4%
Tipperary	9,717	9,924	2.1%
Total	531,713	568,123	6.4%

6 Sheep Ireland

Premier Sale season commences

The ram sale season is now kicking off around the country for all the breeds. The Vendeen Premier sale took place in Roscommon on Wednesday. An 80% clearance was achieved on the day which is excellent and this positive demand will hopefully bode well for the many upcoming Premier sales over the coming weeks.

Upcoming Sales

Tomorrow Saturday 26th July, the Irish Charollais sheep society will hold their premier sale in Tullow, Co. Carlow. The number of Sheep Ireland performance recorded entries in this sale will be at its highest level ever, emphasising the major growth in performance recording breeders in the breed. This rapid growth in performance recording breeders, has created some difficulties. With such a major influx of data from many new breeders, we are learning more about how the many different bloodlines are performing. This has inevitably caused movements in genetic Indices for many breeders. This coupled with the structural changes to the Indices themselves has resulted major updates to the EuroStars that were provided to some breeders in 2013.

2014 Charollais EuroStar evaluations

The evaluations that we are providing to Charollais breeders in 2014 are better than last year. The reason they are better is due to the fact that we are collecting far more data from many more different breeders. While this large increase in data collection has caused movements in the Indices, the Indices that are now being displayed are more accurate - more accurate for the commercial farmer buying the ram. We are currently trying to build a picture of how all the various bloodlines within the Charollais breed are performing. Up to now, making out this picture has been impossible due to the very small amount of data being recorded annually. Only now are we in a position where sufficient volumes of data are being generated to produce meaningful evaluations for the breed. This needs to continue for a number of years and we need to have the full backing of the Charollais society and their breeders to deliver significant genetic gain for the benefit of Irish sheep farmers.

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, 16-JUL-2014 To 25-JUL-2014

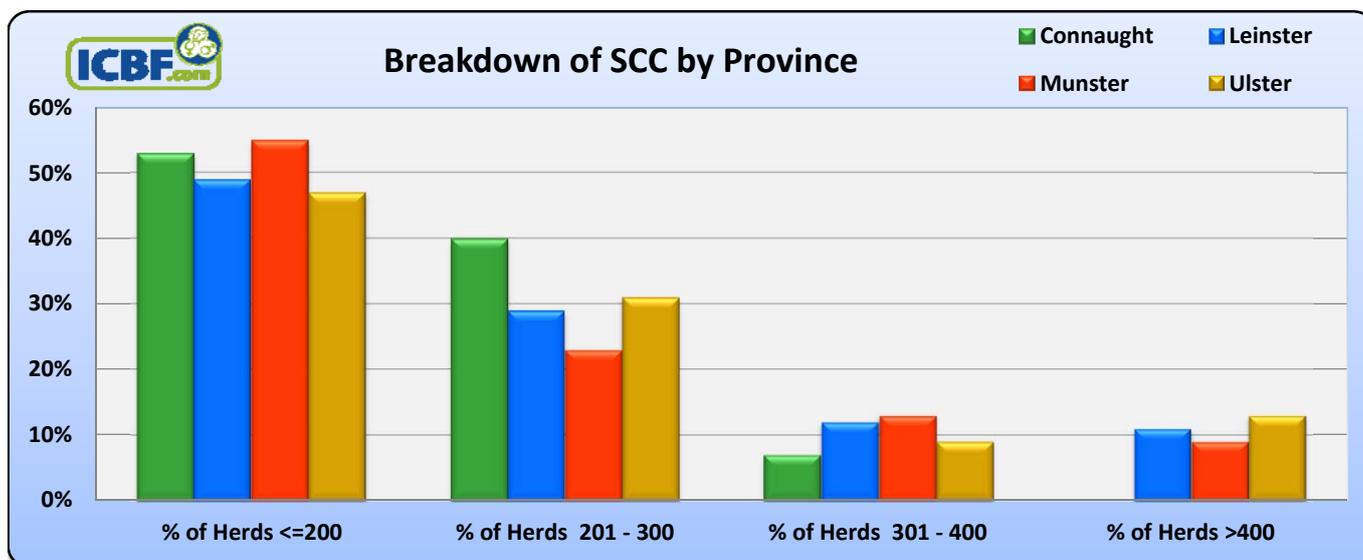
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	30	2,447	82	23.7	3.83	3.35	1.69	182
Leinster	189	16,284	86	22.1	3.81	3.46	1.60	187
Munster	670	53,011	79	22.6	3.84	3.44	1.64	190
Ulster	32	2,243	70	23.4	3.70	3.24	1.63	206
National Statistics	921	73,985	80	22.5	3.83	3.44	1.63	189

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 16-JUL-2014 To 25-JUL-2014

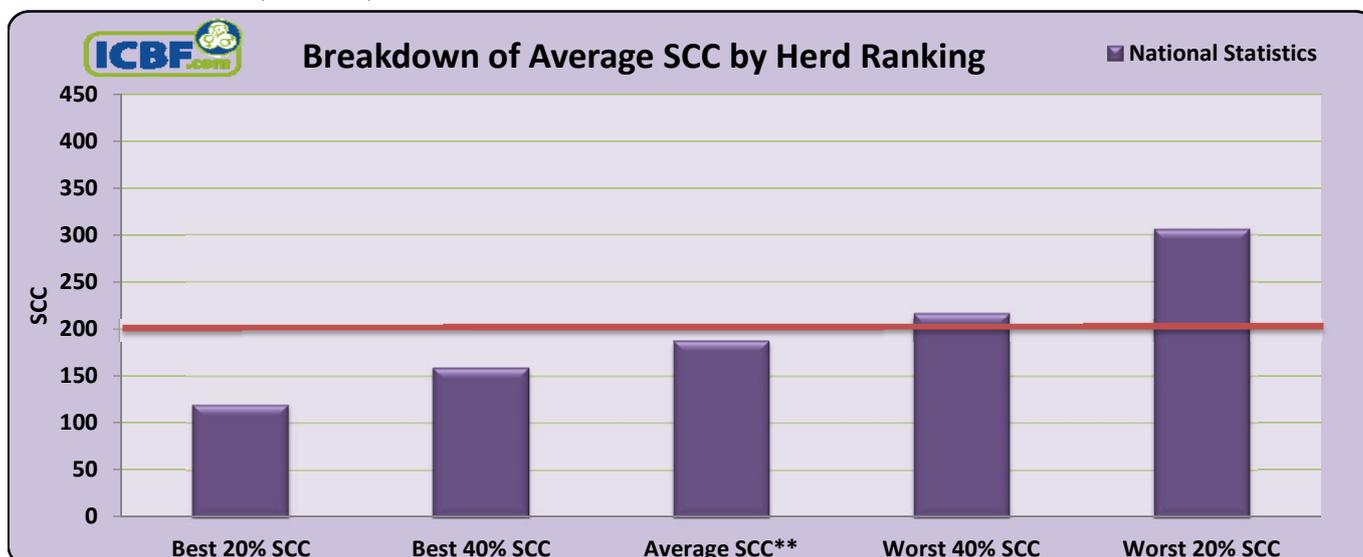
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	30	2,447	82	53%	40%	7%	0%	182
Leinster	189	16,284	86	49%	29%	12%	11%	187
Munster	670	53,011	79	55%	23%	13%	9%	190
Ulster	32	2,243	70	47%	31%	9%	13%	206
National Statistics	921	73,985	80	54%	25%	12%	9%	189

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 16-JUL-2014 To 25-JUL-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	30	2,447	82	140	184	192	205	238
Leinster	189	16,284	86	110	157	206	227	310
Munster	670	53,011	79	121	159	182	215	307
Ulster	32	2,243	70	131	167	205	246	306
National Statistics	921	73,985	80	120	159	188	217	306

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)





BOOK EARLY Half Price Tickets

Book _____ member(s) at €40 €20 each Total: € _____

Book _____ non member(s) at €80 €40 each Total: € _____

Cheque enclosed: Total: € _____

ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (DELEGATE 1): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME (DELEGATE 2): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

YOU CAN REGISTER AND AVAIL OF DISCOUNTED RATES IF YOU REGISTER AND PAY BEFORE FRIDAY 18th JULY.

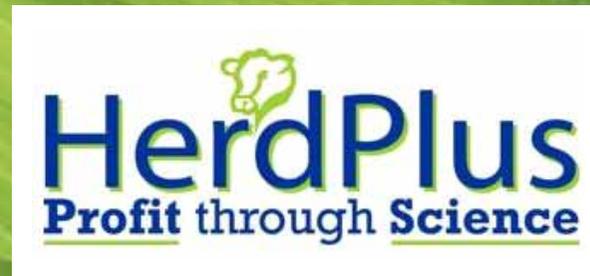
To avail of this offer post this coupon and your cheque to: Discounted BEEF Registration, IGA, Cookstown, Kells, Co. Meath

SUMMER TOUR FEE INCLUDES:

- Attendance on Beef Summer Tour
- Copy of the proceedings
- Refreshments on arrival and packed lunch
- Bus transfers between farms
- Please note that as part of its initiative to attract new members the conference attendance fee for non-members also includes one year's FREE membership to the Irish Grassland Association worth an amazing €60!
(This offer is available for all new d/d memberships only)

So, if you are thinking of attending then book today and don't miss out on these excellent offers!

We would like to
thank our sponsors



Please send fully completed signed form to
Irish Grassland Association, Kells, Co. Meath.

t: 087 9626483

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Irish Grassland Association

BEEF SUMMER TOUR Kilkenny & Waterford Tuesday 29th July 2014

Making Suckling Work for You!
The Right Cow on the Right Grass



BTAP Approved Event

Making Suckling Work for You!

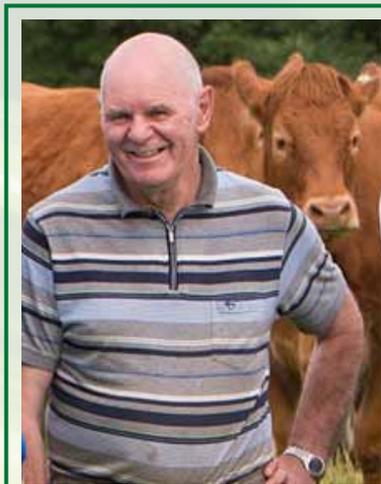
The Right Cow on the Right Grass

- 9.00am Registration at Thomas Murphy's Farm, Mountbolton, Portlaw, Co. Waterford (refreshments will be provided on arrival)
- 10:20am Buses depart for James Grace's Farm
- 10:40am Farm 1: James and Mary Grace
- 12.40pm Buses depart for Thomas Murphy's Farm
- 1.00pm Packed lunch provided for all delegates
- 1.45pm Farm 2: Thomas and Mary Murphy
- 4.00pm Close of Farm tour

DIRECTIONS:

The event will be signposted from Carroll's Cross on the N25 Dungarvan/Waterford road and from Portlaw.

Parking and BTAP registration will only be provided on Tom Murphy's farm. Buses will be provided to James Grace's farm.



FARM PROFILE Thomas & Bridget Murphy

Thomas and Bridget farm 92 ha with 150 suckler cows, all offspring are brought to slaughter. They are achieving a 348 day calving interval with 0.97 calves/cow/year. 70% of the heifers are calving at 22-26 months. How are they achieving this?

One of the key areas identified for improvement has been to increase milk in his cows so he has now purchased in beef heifers from the dairy herd. This approach will be discussed on the day and how the new Replacement Index can be used to breed replacements.



FARM PROFILE James & Mary Grace

James and Mary Grace farm 53 ha with 51 suckler cows. The bulls are sold as weanlings and the heifers are finished. They also purchase 30 dairy-bred calves which are brought to beef. This is an excellent opportunity to see how a dairy calf to beef enterprise complements suckler beef production and can be used to increase output and profitability.

One of the key areas identified for improvement has been soil fertility. James has soil sampled the farm and uses this to make out a fertilizer plan for each paddock. He also measures grass. This will be discussed on the day and how he uses this to manage grass.

