





ICBF Weekly Update 25th May 2012

1 Important Dates

-  **ICAR 2012 Conference** - www.icar2012.ie – Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June, Cork.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 28th June, 10:00 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
-  **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 28th June, 14:00 – 16:30, Portlaoise.
-  **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30th June, Athenry.

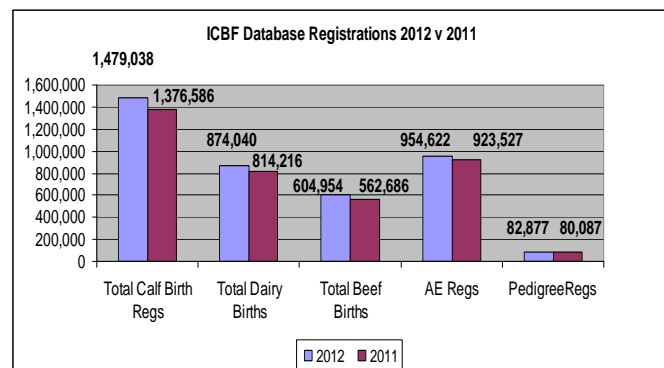
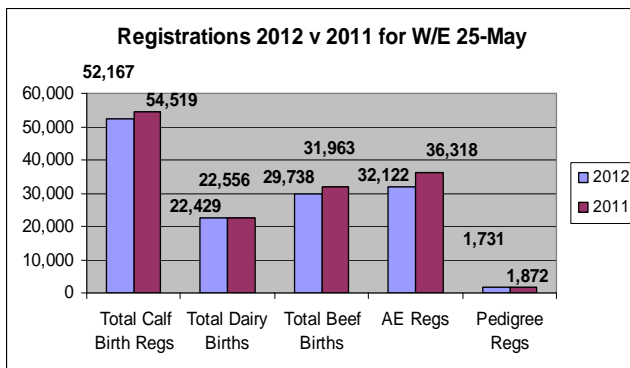
2 ICAR 2012






We are currently focused on organising the ICAR conference which will take place next week at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Cork. Over 600 people from 50 countries will be attending one or more events during the week. We are greatly appreciative of all the support we have received from our members, from farmers and from a wide array of sponsors in helping us host this major event.



We are still accepting registrations from farmers who wish to attend. Please text “ICARD” or “ICARB” to 089 457 7663 for the Dairy (Monday 28th May) and Beef & Sheep (Tuesday 29th May) days respectively. There will be no charge for Irish farmers to attend.

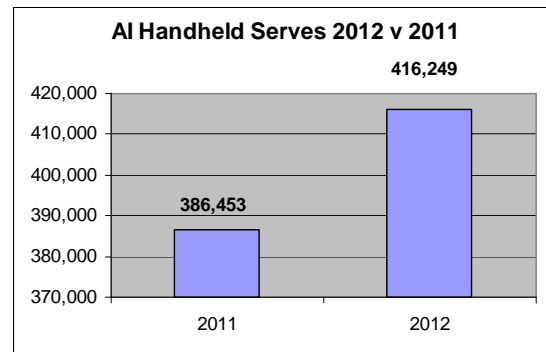
3 Database



-  The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
-  In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 615,475 with the number of animals weaned at 544,714.
-  BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 564,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 374,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.60% BVD Virus Positive rate.
-  The current trial weight recording cell operating out of Tully continues to work well in conjunction with the newly designed ‘split platform’.
-  The on-going developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database are continuing. Some final tweaks have been made to the genotype sharing application. This will again be available for demonstration at the ICAR conference next week.

- Significant progress has been made in relation to the system design of the OPTIMIR spectral data project, and good progress is being made with the milk testing laboratories in relation to the extracts of the spectral data on an on-going basis.

- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



4 Sheep Ireland

- On Tuesday last (22nd May) the Irish Grassland Association annual conference and farm walk was hosted by LambPlus breeders Gordon & Yvonne Johnston. The day was a great success with a very large attendance and hugely interesting and relevant papers presented. The Johnston farm is an excellent example of what can be achieved by maintaining detailed flock records on every animal from birth. All lambs are tagged at birth with no fuss and strict culling decisions are made annually based on records gathered from this point forward throughout the year. The end product of this work has resulted in the development of a highly productive flock of mainly Lleyn X Texel sheep scanning 2 lambs per ewe annually.



- Next week will be a very busy one for Sheep Ireland. ICAR 2012 boasts the strongest ever program of sheep orientated papers being presented. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are the days most relevant to sheep enthusiasts, with Thursday's events involving a technical tour to the farms of John Large & John Renehan – two farmers heavily involved in the Sheep Ireland program since its development. The objective of these tours will be to illustrate to attending delegates how Irish sheep farmers are increasing profitability and sustainability on their farms. Please go to www.ICAR2012.ie to view the full program of sheep events and speakers.
- Data continues to flow in from our LambPlus, MALP & CPT flocks. Evaluations are running on a weekly basis now. We encourage breeders who have not yet submitted information, to do so as soon as possible. The sale season is fast approaching and our intention to include Euro-Star information in all early sale catalogues will be dependent on breeder's cooperation in terms of submitting information. First society sale this year will be the Suffolk premier sale in Roscrea on the 14th July, followed closely by the Vendeen sale on the 18th. It will be hugely important that we have all information submitted a month in advance of these sale dates to facilitate each society adequate time to prepare and print catalogues. Ultrasound scanning has commenced and all breeders will be contacted in the coming days to book appropriate times to get this valuable information collected.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Preparations for presentations at the Interbull and ICAR meeting were finalised this week.
- ✚ A new genomic evaluation is underway and results will be made available on Monday next week.
- ✚ A new beef linear evaluation for recently scored animals is currently underway.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 25/05/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 25/05/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 25/05/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 25/05/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 25/05/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,617	1,031	29%	264,963	80,509	30%
Progressive	2,335	913	39%	189,447	73,751	39%
Tipperary	114	40	35%	8,711	2,936	34%
Total	6,066	1,984	33%	463,121	157,196	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 25/05/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 25/05/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	260,729	264,963	1.6%
Progressive	181,591	189,447	4.1%
Tipperary	10,740	8,711	-23.3%
Total	453,060	463,121	2.2%

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