

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 1st December, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 1st December, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **HerdPlus[®] and GENÉIRELAND[®] User Day** - Wednesday 7th December, 10:00 to 14:00, Corrin Mart, Rathcormac.

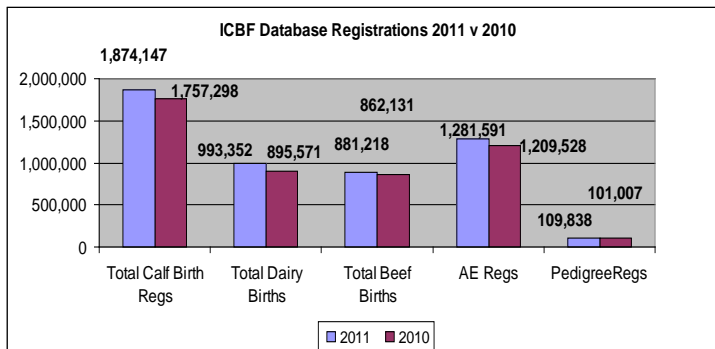
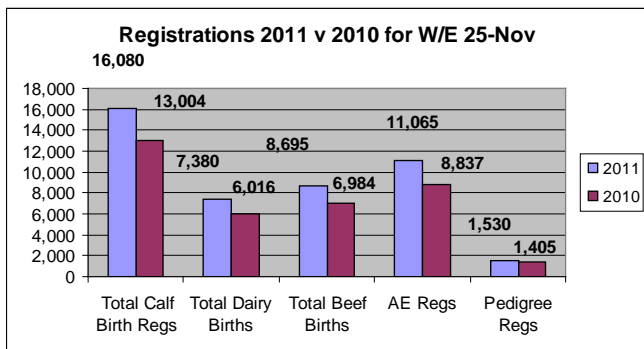
2 Audit & Finance Sub Committee

At its meeting on Thursday the Sub-Committee examined the latest financial forecasts for ICBF and Sheep Ireland, for 2011 and draft budgets for 2012. The Sub-Committee has recommended the adoption of these by the respective Boards at their meetings next week.

3 OptiMIR

ICBF and Teagasc were represented at Research and Steering Committee meetings for the OptiMIR project held this week in Paris. This collaborative project is partially funded by Interreg and is focused on exploiting the use of mid-infra-red (MIR) measurements in milk recording samples to predict a range of fertility, nutrition, health and environmental traits on dairy farms. The five year project is currently in its first year of operation.

4 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 492,169 with the number of animals weaned at 329,345.

✚ 5,554 herds have already completed their Dairy Efficiency Programme (DEP) health recording requirements for 2011.

✚ Testing continues on the prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software.

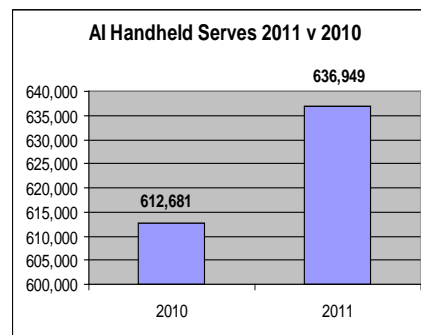
✚ The development of a new 'Bull-Tracker' report for pedigree herds is on-going. The focus of the report is the performance of stock-bull offspring.

✚ Work is on-going in building the systems that will support the up-coming national BVD eradication programme.

✚ The loading of the high density beef genotype files to the ICBF database is on-going.

✚ The IGENOP application is now in the final stages of testing by some of our international partners.

✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Files have been sent to Interbull for the international dairy evaluations. Evaluations for other traits are currently on-going.
- ✚ Quality assurance checking is proceeding for the planned implementation later this year of updated evaluation systems for beef maternal weaning weight and daughter fertility.

6 GENEIRELAND®

Dairy

- ✚ There are 104 herds signed up to the programme so far taking a total of 3,403 straws.
- ✚ Straws of 4 bulls are currently available.
- ✚ 83 herds have received straws. The remainder of the allocations will be done in December when all the straws are available.

7 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ Over the past two weeks, Sheep Ireland has been in attendance at events at both ends of the country.
- ✚ On Wednesday 16th November, we were kindly invited to Letterkenny, Co. Donegal by Teagasc sheep advisor John Cannon to speak about Sheep Ireland and the €uro-Star evaluations. The long journey was certainly worth the effort as there was a great attendance of over 100 farmers. Interest in the €uro-Stars was also very evident with excellent questions and discussion coming from those present. The main issue being raised was the poor availability of recorded rams. From a Sheep Ireland point of view it is hugely encouraging that these farmers are aware and willing to use recorded rams. My advice to all in attendance was to ask their ram providers, about €uro-Stars every time they purchase a ram. Demand from commercial ram buyers will be the main encouragement to Pedigree breeders to provide this additional information and justifiable so. We want participating breeders to be rewarded for the extra effort that is involved in gathering information for our evaluations.
- ✚ On Wednesday 23rd November we spoke at the Teagasc sheep seminar in Dungarvan, organised by Teagasc advisor Paddy O'Brien. Again the attendance was strong, up on previous years. Interest in the €uro-Stars was again very evident. Michael Gottstein spoke strongly about breeding, the great potential that exists currently with the €uro-Stars and the gains that we can make through improved genetics. This area is a Waterford Blackface Sheep stronghold and there is a strong appetite among pedigree breeders to begin recording the parentage of pure bred lambs. Sheep Ireland plan to meet with a group of interested breeders who have single sire mated this Autumn, with a view to kick-starting a formal flock book for the group. Again, a big issue on the night was the lack of availability of rams with €uro-Star evaluations. I have no doubt that the farmers present will be asking questions the next time they attend a ram sale. The availability of recorded Blackface mountain rams for hill-sheep farmers had not been in place prior to the setting up of Sheep Ireland, and currently we have a small number of Mayo Mountain Blackface breeders providing this information in the West. The setting up of formal flockbooks for these breeds in Ireland will pave the way for a positive future. Hill sheep are currently enjoying a resurgence in popularity after a number of difficult years. We hope that in the not too distant future, €uro-Star evaluations will become common currency among these hill sheep farmers.
- ✚ In the coming week we will continue with our drive to recruit more pedigree breeders into LambPlus. We have developed some promotional literature and this will be circulated throughout the industry. Teagasc are currently producing sheep breeding advice material, which will be available to farmers. This material will carry advice on how to interpret and use €uro-Star evaluations, and the potential benefits of doing so. This will be another fantastic medium for us to get our message out there. Articles have also been submitted to the farming press this week, these articles will be published in the next few weeks.

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 25/11/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 25/11/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 25/11/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 25/11/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 25/11/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,673	1,042	28%	304,742	95,579	31%
Progressive	2,393	918	38%	219,836	83,708	38%
Tipperary	144	64	44%	13,151	6,326	48%
Total	6,210	2,024	33%	537,729	185,613	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 25/11/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 25/11/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	279,458	304,742	8.3%
Progressive	197,098	219,836	10.3%
Tipperary	11,998	13,151	8.8%
Total	488,554	537,729	9.1%

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 15/11/11 to 25/11/11								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	4	200	50	23.6	4.35	3.32	1.81	341
CAVAN	23	1,219	53	19.3	3.93	3.29	1.39	313
CLARE	15	698	47	15.4	4.26	3.62	1.21	411
CORK STH	210	11,044	53	16.4	4.31	3.58	1.29	273
CORK NTH	153	9,207	60	15.5	4.56	3.77	1.29	313
DONEGAL	15	1,097	73	13.8	4.60	3.82	1.16	283
DUBLIN	3	138	46	24.3	4.12	3.37	1.82	242
GALWAY	16	882	55	17.5	4.09	3.33	1.30	324
KERRY	101	5,614	56	15.6	4.23	3.45	1.20	391
KILDARE	15	931	62	22.9	3.98	3.34	1.68	302
KILKENNY	14	1,077	77	17.4	4.50	3.79	1.44	360
LAOIS	17	1,381	81	13.8	4.49	3.58	1.11	340
LEITRIM	2	69	35	18.5	3.97	3.29	1.34	573
LIMERICK	89	5,385	61	17.2	4.18	3.53	1.33	361
LONGFORD	6	365	61	14.0	4.15	3.43	1.06	242
LOUTH	13	893	69	25.3	3.84	3.29	1.80	281
MAYO	17	839	49	16.9	4.03	3.47	1.27	400
MEATH	33	2,295	70	17.9	4.00	3.39	1.32	276
MONAGHAN	18	985	55	15.7	3.88	3.31	1.13	291
OFFALY	7	321	46	18.2	4.29	3.57	1.43	381

ROSCOMMON	1	32	32	18.3	3.85	3.66	1.37	669
SLIGO	7	253	36	14.2	4.45	3.63	1.15	460
TIPPERARY NTH	15	934	62	13.4	4.65	3.92	1.15	365
TIPPERARY STH	18	981	55	14.4	4.31	3.65	1.15	257
WATERFORD	20	1,362	68	17.3	4.58	3.71	1.43	284
WESTMEATH	13	799	61	18.2	3.99	3.33	1.33	308
WEXFORD	28	1,556	56	19.3	4.24	3.49	1.49	284
WICKLOW E	10	838	84	19.1	4.21	3.43	1.46	283
WICKLOW W	6	574	96	25.1	4.16	3.18	1.84	334
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
National	889	51,969	59	17.9	4.21	3.50	1.38	343

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 15/11/11 to 25/11/11								
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	619	35,225	57	16.3	4.30	3.58	1.28	325
Leinster	169	11,368	67	19.9	4.16	3.42	1.51	306
Connacht	43	2,075	48	17.1	4.08	3.48	1.29	485
Ulster	56	3,301	59	16.3	4.14	3.47	1.24	296

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