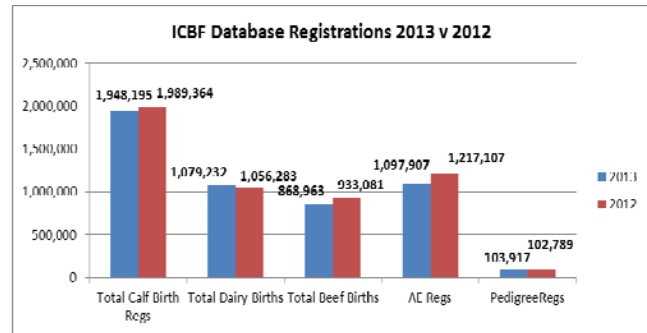
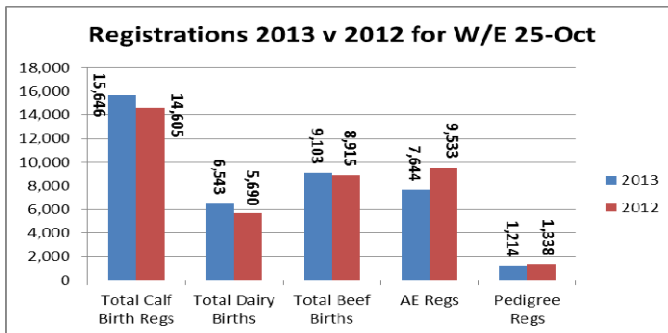


ICBF Weekly Update 25th October 2013

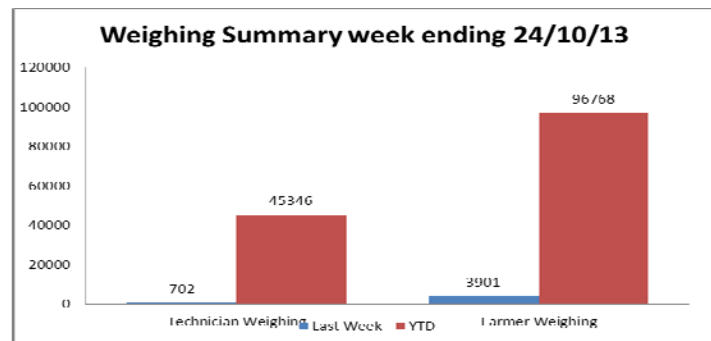
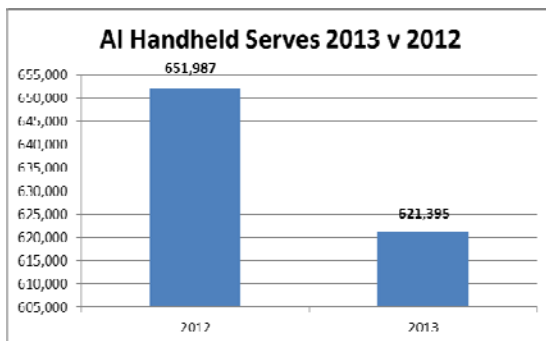
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 14:30 to 18:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 18:00 to 20:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 664,367 with the number of animals weaned at 618,883.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 2,039,000 results received since January 1st, of which 16,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.53 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- This week there were 702 weights received through the technician service and 3901 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Test Day Model Implementation Postponed

- We have decided to hold the implementation of the Test day model for milk production traits and the base change pending further testing.
- This decision was based on some as of yet unresolved changes in bull proofs but also feedback from the industry regarding the latest set of test proofs circulated last week.

- ✚ The Irish data passed the INTERBULL Test run and therefore has a green light for implementation at the INTERBULL level. However any adjustments to that model even if they are minor will need to be submitted to the January test run in order to allow ICBF submit the new model to a routine run and subsequently use these international breeding values in official evaluations. The next INTERBULL test run is scheduled for January 2014 and it is anticipated that any revisions to the evaluation will be submitted at that stage.
- ✚ The reason for also holding the base change, is in case any changes made to the Test day model have an impact on the base animals which would then affect all proofs in subsequent evaluations post the December 2013 run.

4 HerdPlus®

- ✚ Ensure all serves and pregnancy data is added to the ICBF database before the 4th of November. This is to ensure that this data is included in the Pocket Notebook.
- ✚ See poster attached of upcoming ICBF/Teagasc/AHI farmer information nights.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ As a result of the decision to withhold the implementation of the test day model proofs further testing on the proofs is underway. Any new changes will then be validated in the next Interbull test run in January.
- ✚ The deadline for data for the next routine evaluation is Monday. The schedule for the next evaluation is as follows:

28 th October 2013	Last Date for Data to be recorded
19 th November 2013	Interbull Submission Date
3 rd December 2013	Interbull Release Date
10 th December 2013	Official Publication Date

6 Tully

- ✚ There are currently 217 progeny (163 bulls and 54 steers) in Tully made up of 4 separate intakes.

Summary of intakes currently in Tully

- ❖ 87 bulls (dob: 1st September 2012 – 31st October 2012)
 - Starting test: 29th October 2013
 - ❖ 46 bulls (dob: 1st May 2012 – 31st June 2012)
 - Started test: 2nd July 2013
 - Due to be slaughtered: 29th October 2013
 - ❖ 30 bulls (dob: 1st July 2012 – 31st August 2012)
 - Started test: 28th August 2013
 - ❖ 54 steers (dob: 1st Nov 2011 – 31st Dec 2011)
 - Started test: 1st August 2013
- ✚ The intake of 46 bulls have recently completed their 90 day performance test and will be slaughtered on Tuesday of next week. The following week will see the intake of 54 steers being slaughtered. 100 progeny are currently being sourced from farms to replace the progeny that are due to be slaughtered.

Recent events and groups at Tully

- ✚ One of the new roles at Tully following the changeover to testing commercial progeny is to educate farmers and industry representatives on the recent develops in beef breeding. Therefore, a number of groups have been visiting the center on a weekly basis from individual farmers to organised tours. Last week Tully hosted the

ASA conference which was kindly sponsored by Dunbia (see pictures of the event below). The event covered the challenges beef farmers face in terms of increasing profitability and the important role that Euro-Star indexes (especially maternal), data from Tully and the GENÉIRÉLAND Beef breeding programs have in helping the industry achieve a more profitable beef sector. Some other groups recently visiting Tully included farmer groups, forty final year Animal Science students from Wageningen University in Holland and Vets from UCD.



Gerry McNally, Dunbia, ASA President Sean Farrell, Dr. Andrew Cromie ICBF and Cormac Healy, Meat Industry Ireland pictured during the ASA autumn beef tour and seminar in the ICBF beef progeny testing center at Tully, Co. Kildare.



John Shirley, discussion moderator, Margaret Lynch, Dunbia, ASA President Sean Farrell and Dr. Andrew Cromie, ICBF pictured at the ASA autumn beef tour and seminar in the ICBF beef progeny testing centre at Tully, Co. Kildare.



Dr. Stephen Conroy, ICBF, Margaret Lynch, Dunbia and ASA Sean Farrell at the ASA autumn beef tour and seminar in the ICBF beef progeny testing center at Tully, Co. Kildare.



A section of the attendance of ASA members at our autumn beef tour and seminar in the ICBF beef progeny testing centre at Tully, Co Kildare.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 25/10/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 25/10/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 25/10/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 25/10/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 25/10/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,683	1,068	29%	311,575	98,164	32%
Progressive	2,447	1,002	41%	234,065	97,846	42%
Tipperary	114	41	36%	10,111	3,852	38%
Total	6,244	2,111	34%	555,751	199,862	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 25/10/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 25/10/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	306,404	311,575	1.7%
Progressive	225,968	234,065	3.5%
Tipperary	10,196	10,111	-0.8%
Total	542,568	555,751	2.4%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

8 Sheep Ireland

- Final preparations for the upcoming 2014 LambPlus recording season are now being put in place here in Sheep Ireland. There will be a very strict deadline for signing up to LambPlus and this has been set for **December 15th** by the Sheep Ireland Board. Any breeders wishing to sign-up after this deadline will unfortunately have to wait until the following year. In the initial years of Sheep Ireland there was such an emphasis on getting ram breeders involved, deadlines were never high on the agenda. Such is the workload now that imposing strict deadlines for sign-ups and data entry will need to become a major part of the breed improvement programme. All breeders will receive ample warning as each deadline approaches so we do not anticipate any issues.
- Unlike the 'HerdPlus' service offered by the ICBF, the Sheep Ireland 'LambPlus' service operates on a very seasonal basis. Farmers can join HerdPlus at any time throughout the year. Unless we engage with a ram breeder in advance of the lambing season commencing then there is a chance that very important data will not be recorded properly. As many pedigree breeders commence lambing in mid-late December it is critical we impose our December 15th deadline. Letters are currently being prepared for circulation to all Irish pedigree breeders.

Round of regional LambPlus meetings

- The times, dates and venues have been finalised for our round of breeder meetings this Autumn (please see table below). These meetings will be a chance for all pedigree ram breeders (LambPlus and Non-LambPlus) to come along and discuss the breed improvement programme. The Sheep Technology Adoption Programme helped to put the Euro-Star evaluations on the map in 2013 and this programme will play a huge role for the genetic improvement programme for the coming year also.
- A strong attendance is critical at these meetings. The current sheep breed improvement is by no means the 'finished article', but we can only make progress through active engagement with the country's ram breeders. We will be circulating details of these meetings to all sheep breed societies and their members.

Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Venue	Time of meeting
Thursday 07/11/13	Kilkenny	New Park Hotel	7:30
Monday 11/11/13	Mallow	Hibernian Hotel	7:30
Wednesday 13/11/11	Tuam	ArdRi Hotel	7:30
Thursday 14/11/13	Navan	Ardboyne Hotel	7:30
Monday 18/11/13	Ballyboffey	Jacksons Hotel	7:30

Sheep Ireland CPT mating for 2013

- The Sheep Ireland Central Progeny Test (CPT) is an integral part of the sheep genetic improvement programme. The mating on these CPT flocks has just finished and was very successful again this year. In all just over 2100 ewes were artificially inseminated. A total of 43 high Index performance recorded pedigree rams were used

throughout the AI programme. These rams are carefully selected from existing performance recording flocks to help 'link' up as many pedigree flocks across the country as possible.

- ✚ The CPT is also a fantastic source of commercial data for the Euro-Star evaluations. All the farms involved operate conventional grass based production systems and the CPT helps Sheep Ireland evaluate pedigree rams where it matters most – on Irish commercial sheep farms.
- ✚ In the next number of days letters will be circulated to all ram breeders that kindly made rams available to our CPT programme. This letter will contain details on how many ewes were inseminated by their rams, if there were any issues with semen quality etc.

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-OCT-2013 To 25-OCT-2013

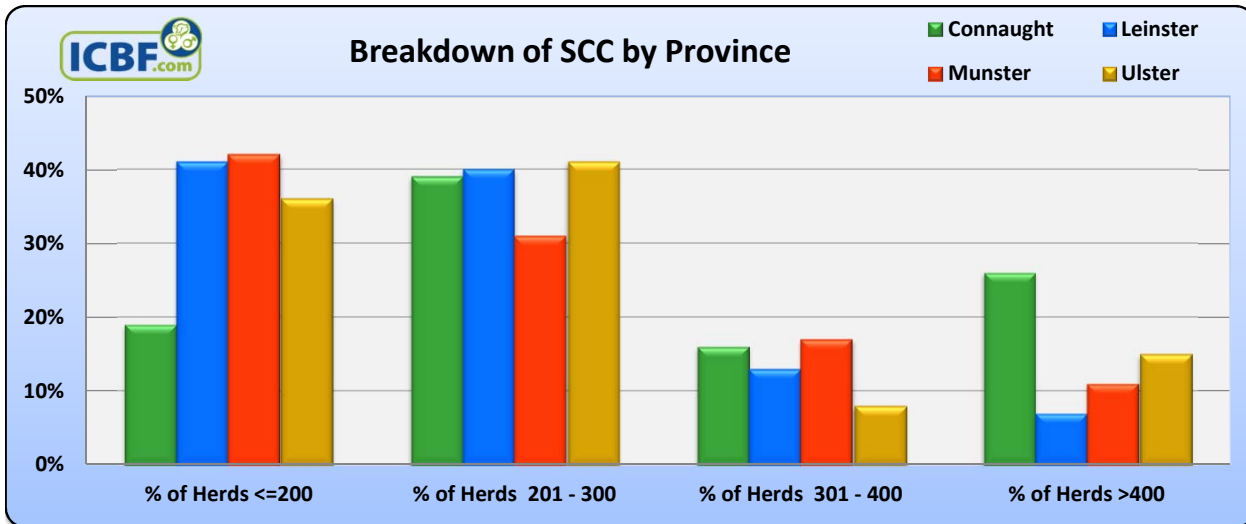
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	31	1,676	54	17.1	4.35	3.81	1.39	289
Leinster	176	13,118	75	16.8	4.34	3.79	1.35	209
Munster	495	37,539	76	15.5	4.41	3.91	1.28	223
Ulster	39	2,045	52	18.3	4.02	3.63	1.39	236
National Statistics	741	54,378	73	16.0	4.37	3.86	1.30	223

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 16-OCT-2013 To 25-OCT-2013

ICBF.com	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	31	1,676	54	19%	39%	16%	26%	289
Leinster	176	13,118	75	41%	40%	13%	7%	209
Munster	495	37,539	76	42%	31%	17%	11%	223
Ulster	39	2,045	52	36%	41%	8%	15%	236
National Statistics	741	54,378	73	41%	34%	15%	11%	223

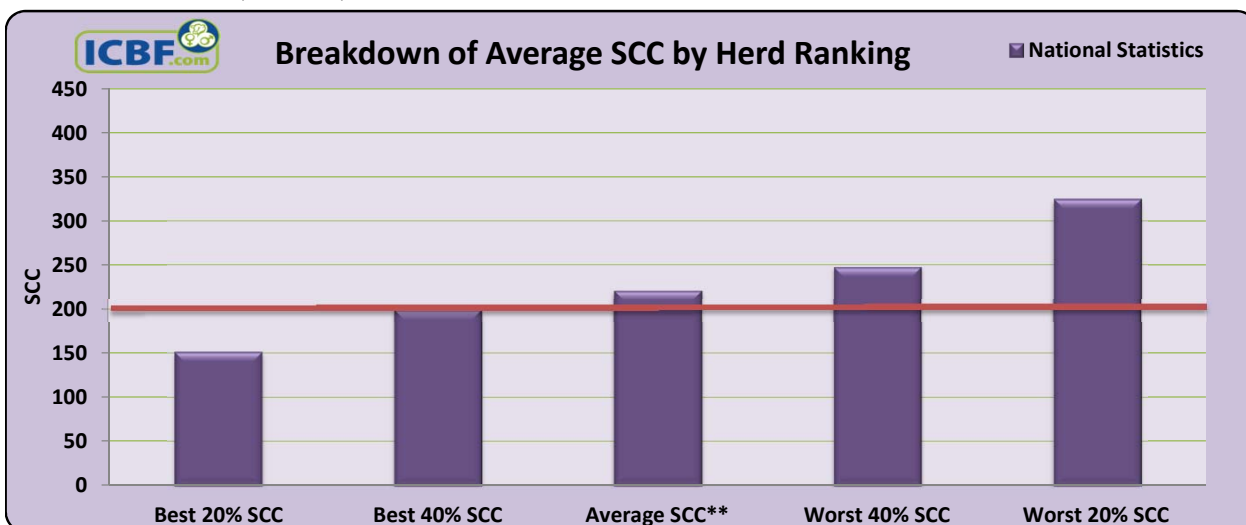
* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 16-OCT-2013 To 25-OCT-2013

ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	31	1,676	54	206	233	257	306	424
Leinster	176	13,118	75	144	199	215	237	294
Munster	495	37,539	76	149	195	221	252	329
Ulster	39	2,045	52	185	205	211	233	335
National Statistics	741	54,378	73	152	200	221	248	325

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)





ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND/ICBF/TEAGASC JOINTLY HOST SUCKLER FARMER INFORMATION NIGHTS

Topics to be covered include:

- New beef indexes & latest breeding developments - ICBF
- Management of the suckler heifer to calf at 24 months – Teagasc
- Colostrum Management - AHI
- IBR – AHI
- Parasite Control - AHI

Venues

Each Information Night commences at 7pm

29th October – Castleisland Mart, Castleisland

4th November – Cillin Hill, Kilkenny

7th November – Elphin Mart, Roscommon

11th November – Ennis Mart, Ennis

12th November – Ballybay Mart, Monaghan

No booking necessary