


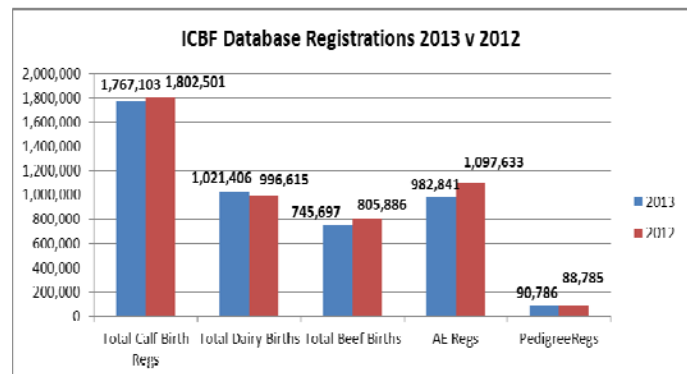
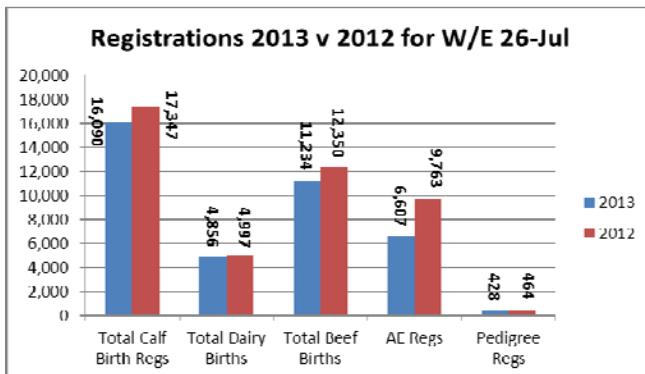








ICBF Weekly Update 26th July 2013

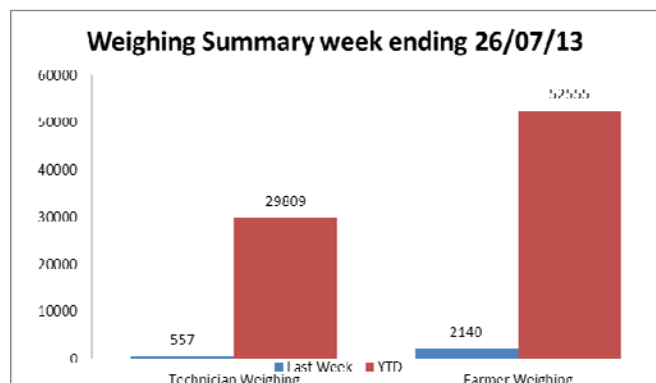
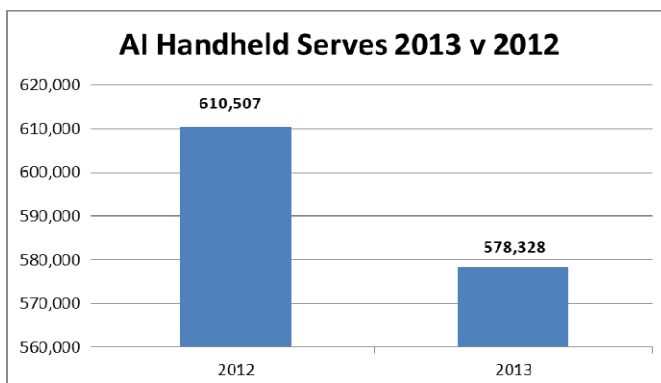
1 Important Dates

-  **ICBF Industry Consultation Meeting** – Thursday 1st August, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 12th September, 10:30 to 14:00, Highfield House, Bandon.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 12th September, 14:00 to 16:30, Highfield House, Bandon.

2 Database



-  The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems. We have updated the way we report the figures to better reflect what is happening on the ground nationally.
-  In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 646,388 with the number of animals weaned at 582,655.
-  BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,849,000 results received since January 1st, of which 15,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.34 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
-  This week there were 557 weights received through the technician service and 2140 weights recorded by farmers.
-  The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ On Wednesday the Teagasc Better Farm/Sheep Ireland farm walk took place in Andrew Maloney's farm in Edenderry. Andrew has been a Sheep Ireland CPT (Central Progeny Test) flock since 2009 and joined the Teagasc Better farm programme in 2012. There was a good attendance, estimated at between 200 & 250 farmers, and the level of engagement was very good. Unfortunately many sheep farmers in Ireland are unaware of the valuable work being carried out on our CPT farms every year and it was clear that those present at the farm walk were impressed by the scale of the programme and the contribution it was making in helping us learn more about our breeding rams.
- ✚ Up to now, the rams being used in the CPT have been sourced, based on their potential contribution to improve the 'linkage' of the pedigree ram flocks that are involved in LambPlus. Linkage is essential to allow Sheep Ireland provide meaningful evaluation to farmers, and allows us to compare the performance of rams from different bloodlines and different parts of the country. The example used at the farm walk, was the isolated family of Suffolks in Donegal and another isolated family of Suffolks in Cork. By taking a Pedigree ram from both isolated families into the CPT, we can instantly 'link' these two families and evaluate their performance in a commercial setting. *Please see all the Sheep Ireland boards from the walk attached.*
- ✚ The level of linkage that we are now achieving across our pedigree flocks is quite good, but this will need to be maintained on an on-going basis, especially with large numbers of new flocks joining the scheme each year. As mentioned above, linkage has been our number one objective within the CPT and this will continue to be a high priority. However we now hope to use more rams with very high genetic merit from our database. The CPT is a great showcase for the Sheep Ireland breed improvement programme and by using high Euro-Star rams in the Central Progeny Test it will hopefully help to promote the benefits of what we are doing to an even wider audience.



'A group of farmers at the lamb performance stand at Andrew Maloney's farm walk'

4 HerdPlus®

- ✚ Co-Op Performance Reports for the second quarter are currently being packed and posted to farmers. The final batches should be posted next week.
- ✚ Bull Tracker reports will be available for online viewing in the next few weeks. These will also be posted to the relevant farmers.
- ✚ The new ICBF website will be going live next week. This new website has a number of excellent features including current news feed and links to social media.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Conversions of foreign dairy traits in New Zealand Jersey and Norwegian Red cattle are in progress; this routine process allows foreign bulls with no or little information in Ireland yet to have an equivalent EBI. A research collaboration with Wageningen University has started to enhance health traits evaluation.
- ✚ Work continues on estimation of parameters for Heterogeneity of variance in milk production test day model.
- ✚ Evaluation files were sent to Interbull this week for the upcoming evaluation run.
- ✚ Some domestic evaluations are currently running, the remainder will run in the next 2 weeks.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 26/07/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 26/07/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 26/07/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 26/07/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 26/07/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,669	1,054	29%	305,923	94,581	31%
Progressive	2,406	970	40%	225,472	93,653	42%
Tipperary	112	39	35%	9,717	3,538	36%
Total	6,187	2,063	33%	541,112	191,772	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 26/07/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 26/07/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	301,038	305,923	1.6%
Progressive	216,350	225,472	4.0%
Tipperary	9,854	9,717	-1.4%
Total	527,242	541,112	2.6%

Please see milk recording stats attached

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