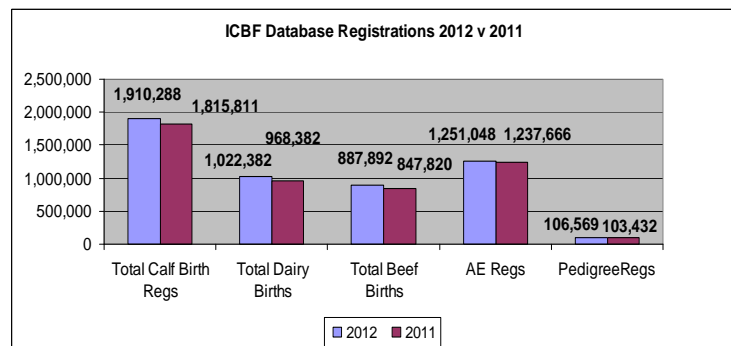
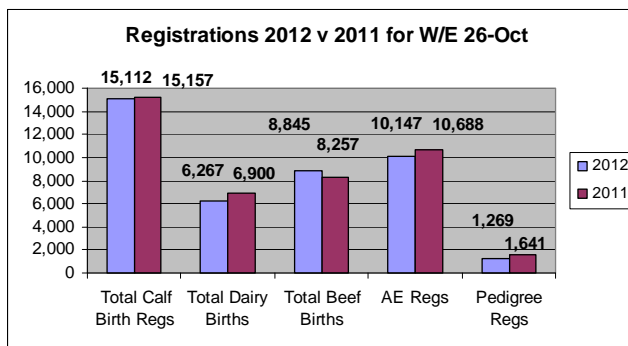


ICBF Weekly Update 26th October 2012

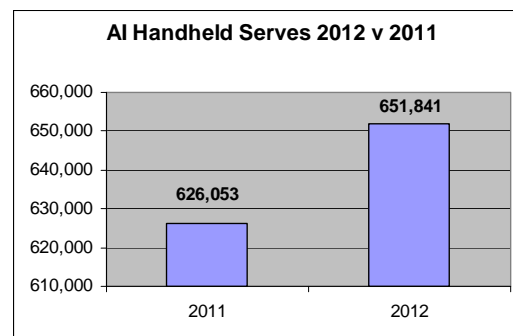
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Wednesday 31st October, 10:00 - 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Event at Tully** – Saturday 10th November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.
- ✚ **ICBF & Teagasc Genomics Conference for Beef & Dairy Industries** – Wednesday 14th November, 10:00 – 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Monday 26th November from 16:00 to 19:00, Horse & Jockey, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 29th November 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 29th November from 14:00 to 16:30, 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 416,851, with the number of animals weaned at 205,940.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 585,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 452,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new EuroStar indexes, and the development work on these is underway.
- ✚ Weight recording continues to gather momentum, with a 40% increase in animal numbers weighed last week (1,400) compared to the week before (1,000). However, in overall terms, these numbers are still low, and we will be looking at ways to increase awareness as to the value of weight recording.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



3 Tully

Current intake

- ✚ The current intake of 77 GENÉIRÉLAND progeny (born between 1st August and 30th September 2011) at the ICBF GENÉIRÉLAND progeny Test Centre are due to finish test on 20th November 2012. To date, nine live-weights have been obtained on the bulls, with the group gaining on average 1.96 kg per day. Average daily gain ranged within the group from 0.5kg to 2.6kg.
- ✚ This group of animals are due to be slaughtered in early December, with information such as carcass grades and weight, primal yields and meat eating quality being obtained on individual bulls. Blood samples have also been collected on the group as part of looking to quantify the relationship between genetics and health/disease of an animal.
- ✚ The animals have been scanned twice (start and middle of test) for muscle and fat depth. They will also be scanned for muscle and fat depth at the end of their performance test. Each time the animals are scanned there is also a scrotal circumference measurement obtained, which is a useful indicator of fertility.
- ✚ To date the group has been linear scored for muscle, skeletal and functionality traits on three separate occasions.

Please see pictures below of **Brendan O' Shea (farm staff) feeding the 77 commercial progeny currently on test at the GENÉIRÉLAND progeny Test Centre, Tully, Co. Kildare** and a selection of GENÉIRÉLAND progeny that will be on display at the up-coming ICBF Beef Breeding event on Saturday, 10th November, 2012.



New Intake

- ✚ Over half of the 80 commercial bulls purchased for the new Tully intake have arrived on site. Similar to the last intake, only commercial progeny that were born within a certain age (1st October and 31st November 2011) and had both their sire and maternal grand sire recorded were eligible for selection. Progeny were selected from AI bulls (mainly G-EN-€IR-€LAND bulls) that are not fully proven. Progeny were also selected from some proven bulls i.e. high reliability on new indexes. 10-12 progeny will be tested on each bull.
- ✚ All commercial progeny were BVD and T.B tested on-farm. Also, all animals were DNA parentage verified on-farm. The new intake will be acclimatised for 30 days prior to the start of test, where they were built up on-to an ad-lib concentrate diet. They will also receive anthelmintic treatment for fluke and worms along with vaccinations for RSV, PI3, BVD, IBR and various clostridia diseases.

Upcoming ICBF Beef Breeding Event at Tully

- ✚ ICBF are holding a Beef Cattle Breeding Event on Saturday, 10th of November at Tully. The event will run from 10.30am to 2.00pm. This event will provide beef breeders and commercial beef producers with information on recent developments in beef cattle breeding. It will feature five “stops” covering developments in; €uro-Star indexes, G-EN-€IR-€LAND, Weight Recording, HerdPlus and progeny testing at Tully (including details of all the information being captured on the animals).
- ✚ The event will coincide with the completion of test for the first group of G-EN-€IR-€LAND progeny under the new regime at Tully. These animals will go to slaughter soon after the event. The group of younger progeny starting test at Tully will also be on display. The event is sponsored by FBD.

4 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ Our plan for November is to arrange a number of meetings around the country to help spread the Sheep Ireland message. There have been a number of very exciting developments in recent weeks with industry funding having been secured in the form of a €0.07 voluntary levy on all lamb slaughtering's. The challenge is now going to be to justify this levy to the commercial farmers that will be paying it. These November meetings will be the first step along this road.
- ✚ The objective of the meetings will be two fold – to educate and to gather suggestions and feedback as to how we can continue to improve and develop. We will be inviting all pedigree breeders, both LambPlus and non-LambPlus. The wider commercial industry will also be invited to try and increase the level of awareness to our programme, which is currently not where it needs to be.
- ✚ We intend on advertising these meetings in the National Press and all will be welcome

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Test runs for new calving and beef genetic evaluations should be available for circulation within the next two weeks.
- ✚ Improvements to calving evaluations will include new genetic parameters and also additional predictor traits such as birth weights, later weights, linear scores and carcass data.
- ✚ Improvements to beef evaluations will include new genetic parameters and also additional traits such as dairy herd calf price and carcass cut traits.
- ✚ Extracts for the next full genetic evaluation run will commence in the coming week

6 GENEIRLAND® Beef

- ✚ Sign-ups are well underway for the GENEIRLAND autumn program.
- ✚ 168 herds taking a total of 3630 straws have signed up so far.
- ✚ The Limousin bull EFZ has become the second bull to reach the 500 straws target.
- ✚ All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- ✚ To learn more or to sign up please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ The approx. total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the table below.

Code	GJB	TQL	VMP	RWM	FWO	FSZ	FYB	LZF	GZS	TVR	EFZ	WLZ	KJB	FTH	CJH	FQR
# Straws	105	100	210	125	170	140	250	250	80	410	500	280	500	210	105	85

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 26/10/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 26/10/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 26/10/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 26/10/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 26/10/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,737	1,090	29%	306,241	95,499	31%
Progressive	2,476	1,008	41%	225,968	93,345	41%
Tipperary	121	43	36%	10,196	3,414	33%
Total	6,334	2,141	34%	542,405	192,258	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 26/10/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 26/10/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	302,906	306,241	1.1%
Progressive	216,998	225,968	4.0%
Tipperary	13,117	10,196	-28.6%
Total	533,021	542,405	1.7%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

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, 17-OCT-2012 To 26-OCT-2012

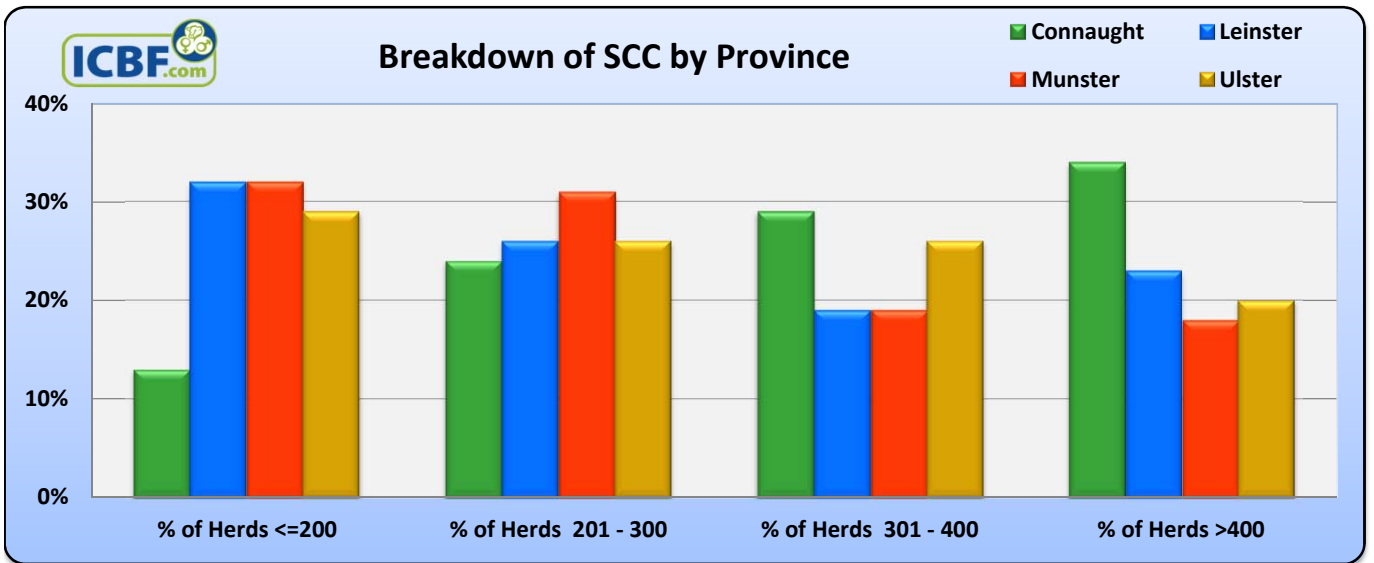
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	38	1,877	49	17.5	4.20	3.57	1.35	355
Leinster	148	11,209	76	15.2	4.49	3.78	1.24	254
Munster	563	39,688	70	14.0	4.47	3.85	1.16	261
Ulster	35	2,286	65	16.0	4.25	3.51	1.22	274
National Statistics	784	55,060	70	14.5	4.45	3.81	1.19	264

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 17-OCT-2012 To 26-OCT-2012

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	38	1,877	49	13%	24%	29%	34%	355
Leinster	148	11,209	76	32%	26%	19%	23%	254
Munster	563	39,688	70	32%	31%	19%	18%	261
Ulster	35	2,286	65	29%	26%	26%	20%	274
National Statistics	784	55,060	70	31%	29%	20%	20%	264

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 17-OCT-2012 To 26-OCT-2012

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	38	1,877	49	234	318	346	380	459
Leinster	148	11,209	76	155	224	264	307	409
Munster	563	39,688	70	167	223	251	289	388
Ulster	35	2,286	65	174	230	285	319	398
National Statistics	784	55,060	70	168	225	258	300	401

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

