

## ICBF Weekly Update 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10:00 to 12:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM** - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 12:30 to 13:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 14:00 – 17:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICAR 2012 Conference** - [www.icar2012.ie](http://www.icar2012.ie) – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Cork.
- ✚ **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Athenry.

### 2 Special Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting

At special ICBF cattle breeding industry consultation meeting was held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April to consider:

- The outcome of the Euro-Star review, and
- Proposals for GENIRLAND<sup>®</sup> Beef.

After considerable discussion the well-attended meeting endorsed the recommendations as below. These recommendations will be considered at next week's ICBF Board meeting.

#### **Euro-Star Review**

Recommendations endorsed at Breeding Industry Consultation meeting:

##### *1. Economic Values.*

- To use the Teagasc Grange Farm Systems model as the basis for future development in economic values for ICBF beef Euro-Star system's.
- To incorporate three new traits into future economic indexes (polledness, docility and meat eating quality premium).

##### *2. Construction of indexes.*

- To introduce a new Terminal index, for the identification of sires suitable for breeding high profit animals (males and females) for slaughter. This index would replace the current weanling export sub-index and carcass sub-index. It would be published in the units of €progeny.
- To introduce a new Maternal index, for the identification of animals (sires and/or suckler female replacements), suitable for breeding and selecting high profit replacement females. The index would replace the current milk and fertility sub-index. The index would include maternal cow traits and terminal traits and would be published in the units of €progeny.
- To introduce a new Dairy beef index, for the identification of sires suitable for use on dairy cows. The index would be published in units of €progeny.
- To cease publishing the Suckler Beef Value as an overall index and instead promote the appropriate use of the above three indexes.

##### *3. Ongoing work & future research.*

- ICBF and Teagasc to continue development work on economic values and traits of interest, with this work reported through regular herdbook and industry consultation meetings. Priority areas of work

include; (i) stock bull functionality (trait and economic value), (ii) calving and docility (non-linearity of economic values), (iii) calving traits, including the use of birth weight data (trait and economic value), (iv) feed intake/efficiency for suckler females (trait and economic value), (v) premiums for meat eating quality, (trait and economic value) and (vi) sensitivity of economic values to changes to the definition of systems (e.g., calf to steer system versus bull beef system).

- ICBF and Teagasc to work with industry stakeholders regarding accuracy of Maternal evaluations, with these results reported through regular herdbook and industry consultation meetings.

#### 4. Publication and roll-out.

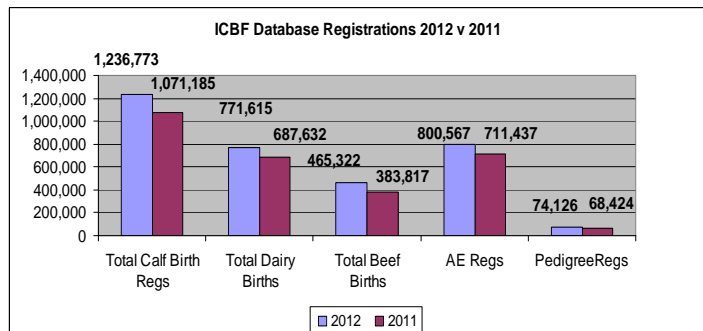
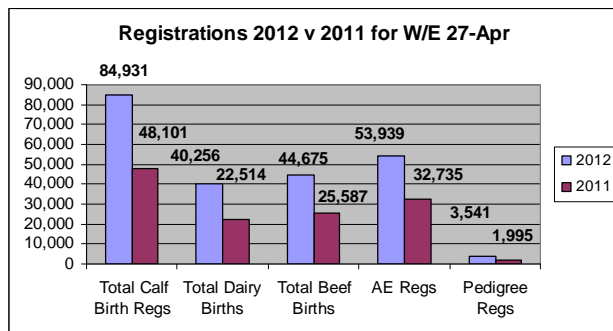
- That an implementation group be established to oversee the presentation, publication and roll-out of these new indexes.

### GENEIRLAND® Beef

Recommendations endorsed at Breeding Industry Consultation meeting:

- The industry supports the principles of the proposed new GENEIRLAND® beef breeding program.
- That ICBF and industry partners (i.e., bull breeders, farmers, AI companies and Herd Books) move to implementation of the new program.

## 3 Database



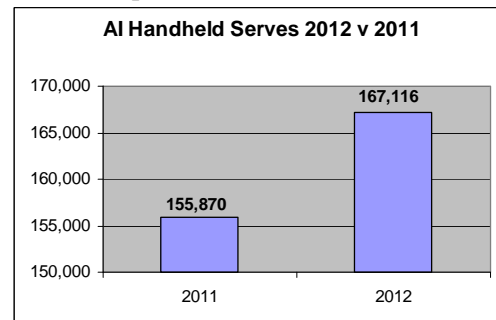
✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.

✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 608,165 with the number of animals weaned at 536,066.

✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 555,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 329,000 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 is now running the latest version of the new weight recording infrastructure, including the 'forward predicting' of weights.

✚ The on-going developments to further enhance the loading of genotype information to the database are continuing. This process is now nearing completion, and significant progress has been made in the speeding up of loading and extracting genotypes from the database.



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

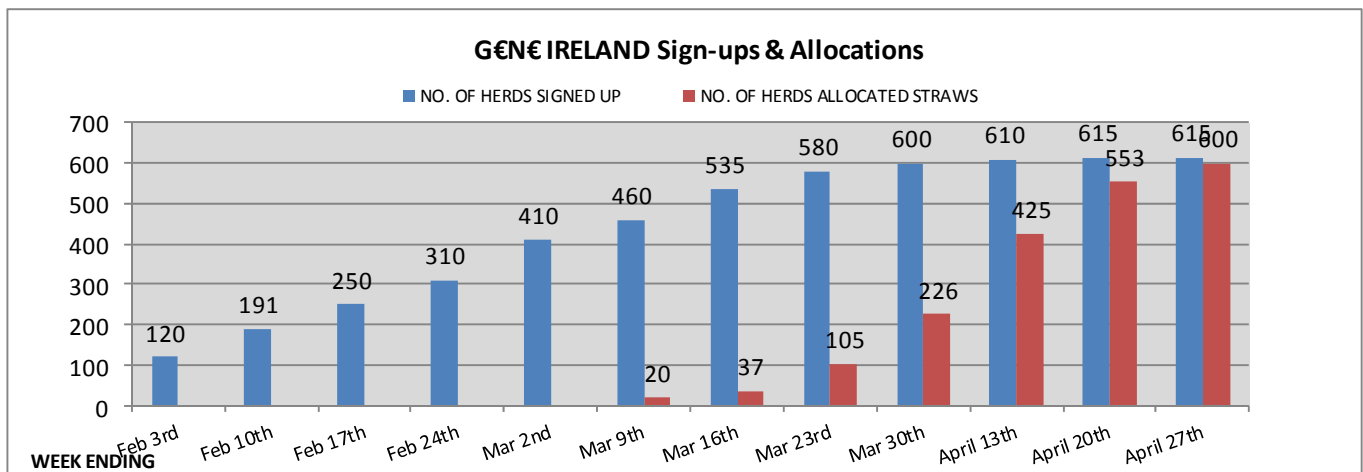
#### 4 GROW

- 367 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in March (up by 59 from March 2011).
- 230 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in March (up by 73 from March 2011).
- A meeting was held with the Scorers this week to inform them of the recent developments in Gene Ireland and the national weight recording service.
- Ongoing dual scoring sessions are being held with the scorers.

#### 5 GENEIRELAND®

##### Dairy

- Allocations are almost complete.
- We are awaiting the arrival of a Norwegian Red bull to complete the Mixed Packs.
- Straws can still be ordered by calling 1850 600 900



#### 6 Sheep Ireland

- This week Sheep Ireland met with Texel breeders from two regions – the South East region in New Ross on Tuesday night and the South West region in Castleisland on Wednesday. Both meetings were very positive with breeders acknowledging the efforts being made by Sheep Ireland to increase breeder participation and promote the Euro-Star message.
- Our plans for the 2012 scanning service are coming together. Our scanning machines have been serviced and are ready for use. The cost of the scanning service has been reduced significantly on last year so we are hopeful that this will incentivise more breeders to scan and breeders currently scanning to scan more lambs. We also intend on limiting entry to our three LambPlus promotional sales to only scanned lambs for Terminal breeds.
- The scanning information is currently very important for our evaluations. The accuracies of the information that we are producing can be greatly improved by incorporating this data into the Euro-Stars. In time, with more

breeders recording across the various breeds and more commercial farm information flowing into our evaluations from our MALP & CPT projects and Teagasc farms, we will be in a better position to assess the cost benefit of gathering this information. At present it is very valuable data and from a genetic gain point of view, we cannot afford to drop it.

## 7 Genetic Evaluations

### Beef

- Extracts for the monthly beef evaluation update for linear scored animals have now been completed and the evaluation will start with results available towards the end of next week.

### Sheep

- More pedigree data has been coming into the Sheep Ireland database recently. In order to stay efficient and provide a weekly update of the breeding values and accuracies, the sheep genetic evaluation process had to go under a series of tests for the last 2 weeks. These tests are coming to an end and new breeding values should be available early next week.

## 8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 27/04/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 27/04/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 27/04/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 27/04/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 27/04/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,228	830	26%	216,307	60,441	28%
Progressive	2,048	702	34%	154,217	51,759	34%
Tipperary	84	21	25%	6,240	1,627	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,360</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>376,764</b>	<b>113,827</b>	<b>30%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 27/04/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 27/04/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	195,755	216,307	9.5%
Progressive	137,723	154,217	10.7%
Tipperary	6,625	6,240	-6.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340,103</b>	<b>376,764</b>	<b>9.7%</b>



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