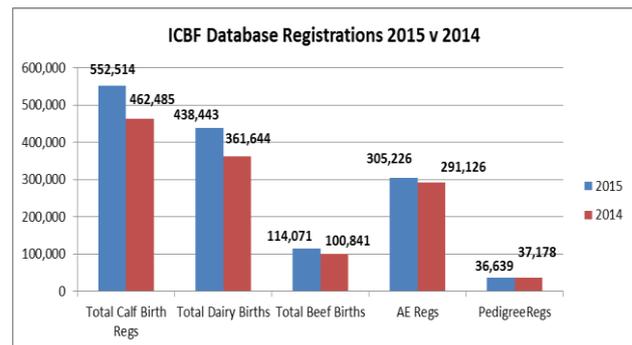
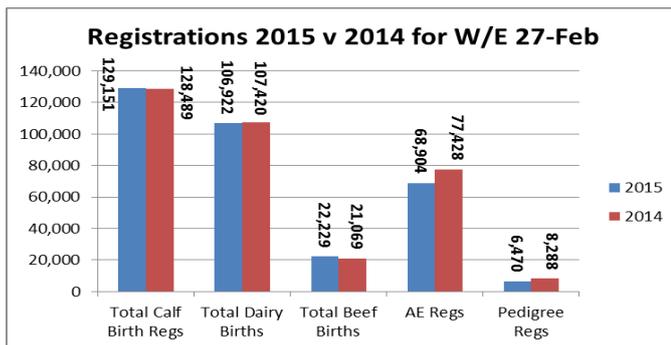


ICBF Weekly Update 27th February 2015

1 Important Dates

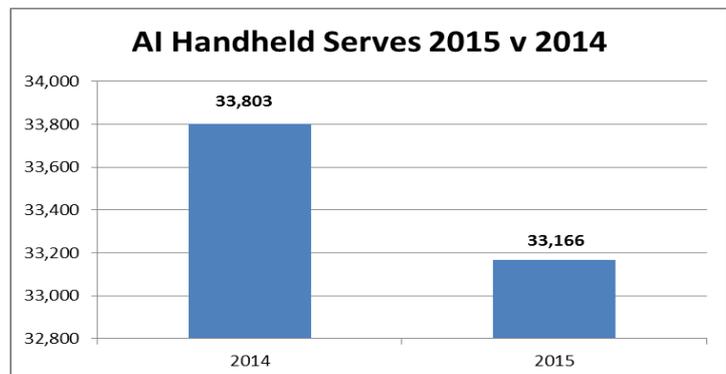
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 12th March 2015, 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 26th March 2015, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 26th March 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 545,000 results received since January 1st, of which 137,200 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 5.48 million results have now been received.
- ✚ As was emphasised again at the most recent BVD Implementation Group meeting, the removal of PI animals is critical to the success of the BVD Eradication Scheme. The Minister for Agriculture recently announced further supports to aid with this for 2015. It is a requirement that all PI animals born in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are disposed of prior to **1 March 2015** in order to avail of any 2015 supports. The removal of PI animals will also be a stipulation of the proposed Beef Data Genomics Programme and successor programmes.

- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.

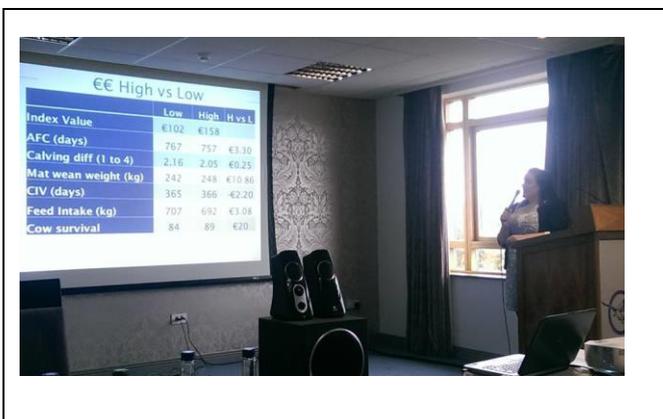


3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ EBI & Dairy Cow reports are now available online. Dairy Cow Reports are currently being printed and dispatched.
- ✚ Sire advice for the 2015 breeding season can now be run by HerdPlus dairy customers.
- ✚ Beef HerdPlus customers will be receiving their Euro-Star reports in the post next week. These reports are also available online.
- ✚ As spring calving will have commenced or is about to commence on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is an appropriate time to remind farmers of the importance of data recording. ICBF acknowledges that spring can be a busy and stressful time for farmers with an endless list of tasks to be done. However,

ensuring that data (namely sires and calving ease) is recorded comprehensively and accurately is vital, not only to the work that ICBF does, but also to the development of our Agri-food industry going forward.

- ✚ Better data recording leads to more accurate genetic indexes. This will in turn lead to more informed breeding decisions which will leave more profitable stock on farms and increase output at both farm and processor levels. For this reason, people across the industry that find themselves in regular contact with farmers e.g. agri advisors, breed society representatives, AI company reps & technicians etc. need to constantly stress the importance of recording basic breeding information when registering calves. Click [here](#) for a link to an article on best practice in on farm data recording.
- ✚ Any farmers that still register calves on the white cards which come with the tags, should be encouraged to switch to an animal events book or, where possible, to register calves online through www.agfood.ie or through a farm software package. The animal events book and online methods allow for much more comprehensive data recording at calf registration. Animal events books can be ordered by calling **1850 625 626**. Online registration can be set up by going to the Department of Agriculture and Food website or contacting your farm software provider.
- ✚ An In Service Training for Teagasc Drystock advisors took place on Wednesdays 25th in the Osprey Hotel, Naas and the Tully Performance Test Centre. The focus for the day was on breeding and genetics. A number of speakers from both Teagasc and ICBF gave presentations. These included:
 - **Noirin McHugh, Teagasc** gave an introduction to the basics of genetic indexes and explained the terminology used. Noirin also gave a presentation on the work being done in Grange.
 - **Ross Evans, ICBF** gave a presentation on the make-up of the Euro-Star index and the effects that different traits have on the overall index figures.
 - **Chris Daly, ICBF** gave a presentation on how to interpret the Euro-Star Index of a bull and what all of the various trait and index figures actually mean.
 - **Pat Donnellan, ICBF** spoke about the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeder Programme and why such a breeding programme is required.
 - **Niall Kilrane, ICBF** spoke on the progeny test element of Gene Ireland and asked advisors to encourage farmers to sign up to use straws of these elite maternal young bulls.
 - **Ciaran Costello, ICBF** spoke on the bull tendering and sale process for the bulls that have completed their semen collection.
 - **Stephen Conroy, ICBF** spoke about the new Tully Performance Test model and the data being collected through the facility.
- ✚ The day was hugely successful with some excellent discussion between the various speakers and advisors. The feedback from advisors was very positive. They can now take this knowledge out into the field and disseminate it among the many thousands of Teagasc clients around the country. Click [here](#) for a link to see presentations attached.



Noirin McHugh, Teagasc giving her presentation on the Grange Maternal Herd.



Some of the advisors in attendance.



Pat Donnellan, ICBF explaining the Gene Ireland Maternal Programme and why it is needed. The afternoon session was held in Tully. As can be seen from the picture it is an ideal setting for talks and presentations.



Niall Kilrane, ICBF explaining the progeny test element of Gene Ireland and the benefits for commercial farmers.



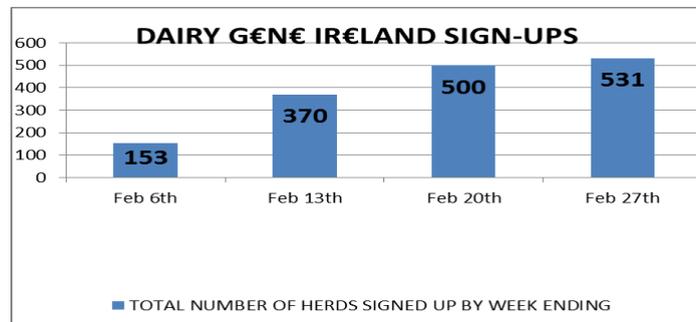
Ciaran Costello explaining the bull tender process once bulls have come back from stud.



Ross Evans, Niall Kilrane & Ciaran Costello ICBF.

4 GENE IRELAND® Dairy

- ✚ Postal and telephone sign-ups are ongoing.
- ✚ The panel consists of 54 Holstein Friesians, 4 Pure Friesians, 6 Jerseys and 4 Crossbreds.
- ✚ 531 herds are signed up to date, taking a total of 19,043 straws.



5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ A beef run has commenced for animals linear scored between 15th January and 15th February. Updated indexes for these animals will be loaded to the database next week.
- ✚ Extracts for the April routine evaluation run are almost complete and evaluations will commence next week.

- Research work continues in areas such as calving difficulty, genomics, meat yields, Test day model for milk production and health and disease.

6 GENE IRELAND® Beef

- Sign Ups have commenced for the spring 2015 Beef programme.
- 95 herds taking a total of 1600 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 17 straws per herd.
- The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 24 bulls are in the table.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	25
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	220
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	360
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	300
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	15
AGY	Rosemount Giga ET	BB	415
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	20
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	35
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	35
HHJ	Heracles	CH	20
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	60
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	205
YOB	Barryroe ICE	LM	120
KAC	Keltic Isaac	LM	40
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	50
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	60
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	300
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	50
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	115
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	165
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	105
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	110
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	60
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	80

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 27/02/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 27/02/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 27/02/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 27/02/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 27/02/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	711	44	6%	39,662	3,374	9%
Progressive	880	175	20%	54,632	11,102	20%
Tipperary	9	1	11%	543	51	9%
Total	1,600	220	14%	94,837	14,527	15%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 27/02/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 27/02/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	34,934	39,662	11.9%
Progressive	61,161	54,632	-12.0%
Tipperary	509	543	6.3%
Total	96,604	94,837	-1.9%

8 Sheep Ireland

UCD Agriculture and Food Careers Day

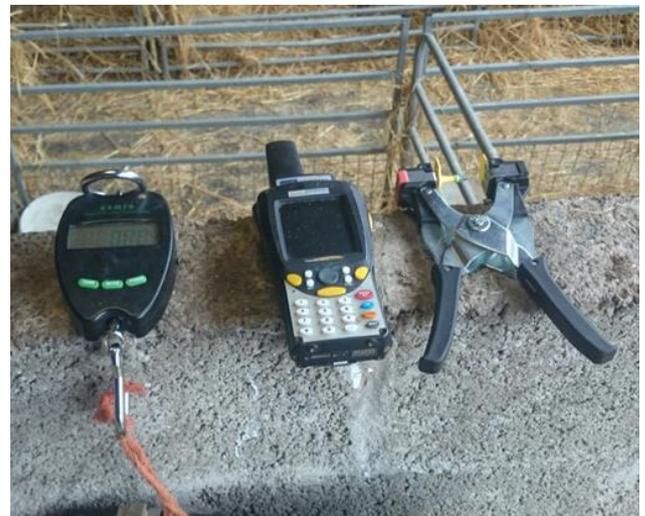
- This week Sheep Ireland and ICBF attended this very important day in the Irish agricultural calendar as it gives the soon to be graduates a chance to network with potential future employees, as well as giving future employees a chance to introduce themselves to some of the best candidates in the country for current/future positions. Minister Simon Coveney opened the event which is organised by the students and spoke how Ireland needs to become a world leader in the agricultural and food sectors using all the science and technologies available in order to become more efficient, profitable and sustainable. There were a record number of 40 exhibitors attending the event.
- Both Sheep Ireland and ICBF received a great deal of interest and some excellent CV's. We would once again like to thank the committee for the invitation to the very well organised event.



2015 Central Progeny Test lambing has commenced

- This week the first CPT lambs of 2015 were born on the Teagasc Better farm of Brian Nicholson in Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny. 250 ewes in total were AI'd on Brian's farm last autumn and a conception rate of 76% was recorded at scanning time - this means 190 ewes will lamb down in a very short period of time. On Wednesday, while busy gearing up for the busy days ahead, Brian also hosted UTV Ireland's film crew for their 'Diary of a Farmer' news feature. To see the footage from Brian's farm please go to the UTV Ireland website and search for 'Diary of a farmer'.
- While temperatures remain low, the weather is allowing for lambs to be released to grass daily which is hugely advantageous on a number of fronts - labour, disease, shed space, feed costs, the list goes on. *See below for some images from the Nicholson flock this week.*
- Next week the remaining CPT ewes will kick off their lambing season. Across the entire CPT, just under 2,500 ewes were AI'd with an average conception rate of 78%. This translates into 1,950 ewes lambing

down in the next few weeks. Lambing dates across the flocks are staggered somewhat - this is partly by design to help spread the workload for the Sheep Ireland technicians, but also caused by the shear workload of the AI programme which takes almost 2 weeks to complete. This year we will be collecting some new measurements across all the flocks including lamb vigor at birth, ewe mothering ability and a score for ewe milk. Once captured we'll investigate the potential contribution that these measurements could make to our replacement Indices.



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, 18-FEB-2015 To 27-FEB-2015

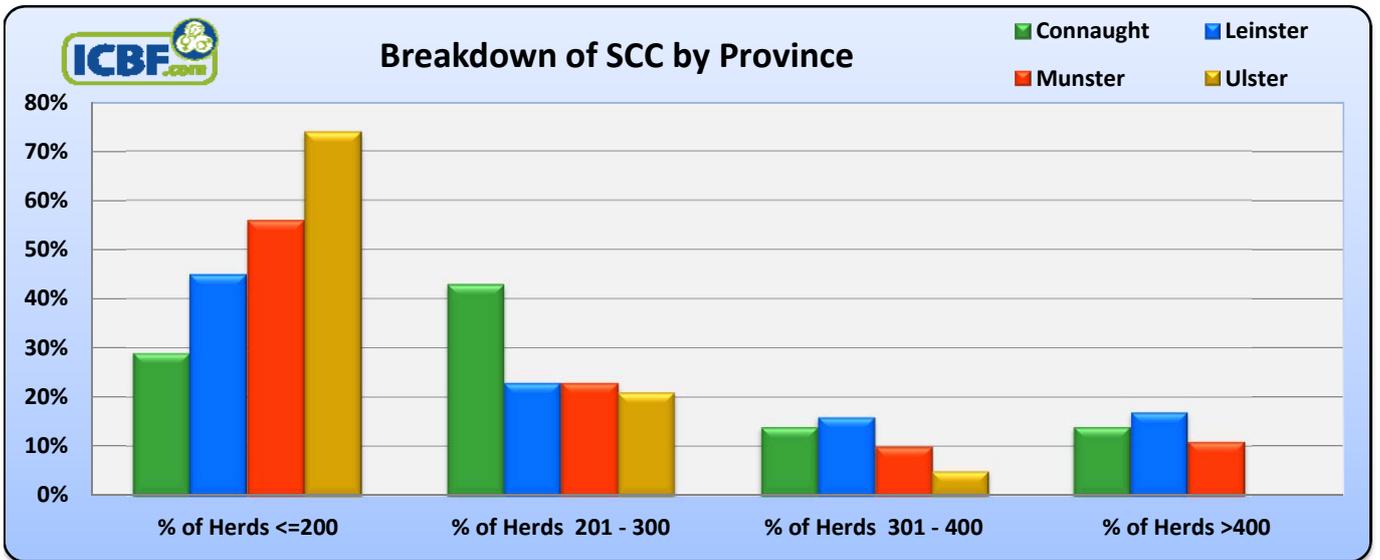
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	14	692	49	23.0	3.96	3.14	1.64	229
Leinster	109	7,691	71	23.1	4.18	3.34	1.74	201
Munster	228	12,107	53	24.0	4.32	3.32	1.84	186
Ulster	19	784	41	24.6	3.79	3.13	1.70	124
National Statistics	370	21,274	57	23.7	4.24	3.31	1.79	188

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 18-FEB-2015 To 27-FEB-2015

ICBF	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	14	692	49	29%	43%	14%	14%	229
Leinster	109	7,691	71	45%	23%	16%	17%	201
Munster	228	12,107	53	56%	23%	10%	11%	186
Ulster	19	784	41	74%	21%	5%	0%	124
National Statistics	370	21,274	57	53%	24%	11%	12%	188

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 18-FEB-2015 To 27-FEB-2015

ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	14	692	49	152	228	241	247	317
Leinster	109	7,691	71	104	175	217	266	354
Munster	228	12,107	53	115	161	183	211	307
Ulster	19	784	41	66	111	126	163	227
National Statistics	370	21,274	57	109	165	192	222	319

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

