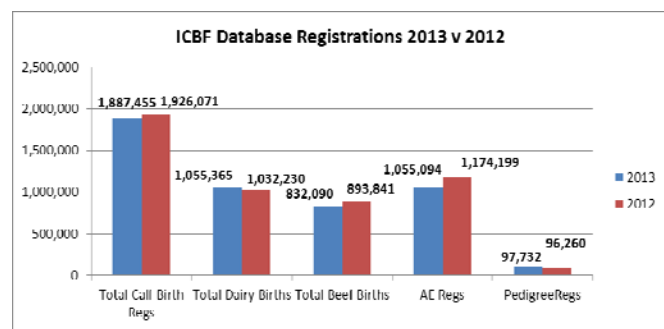
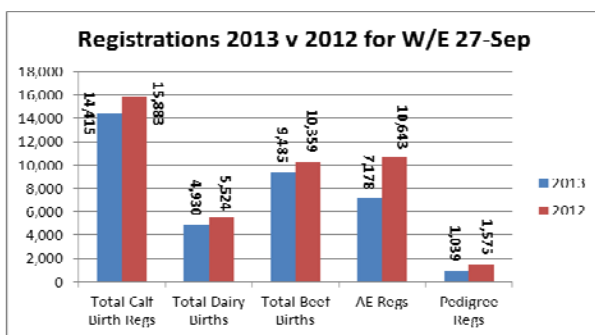


ICBF Weekly Update 27th September 2013

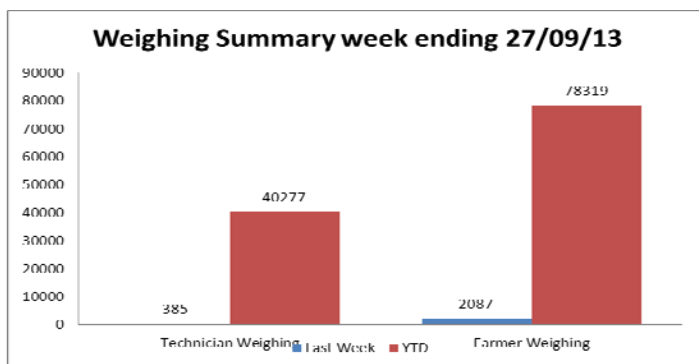
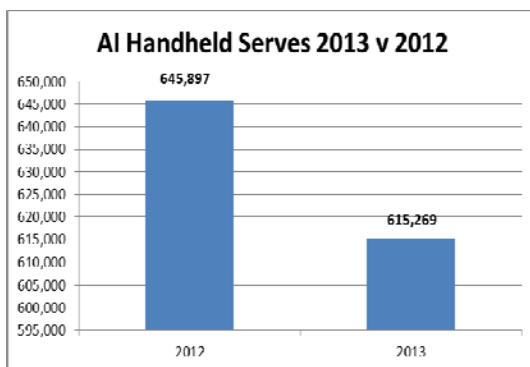
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Industry Consultation Meeting** – Tuesday 8th October, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Industry Consultation Meeting** – Wednesday 9th October, 14:00 to 17:00, Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- ICBF GENÉIRELAND Beef Open Day** – Saturday 12th October, commencing 11:00, Tully Progeny Test Center, Kildare.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 17th October, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Database

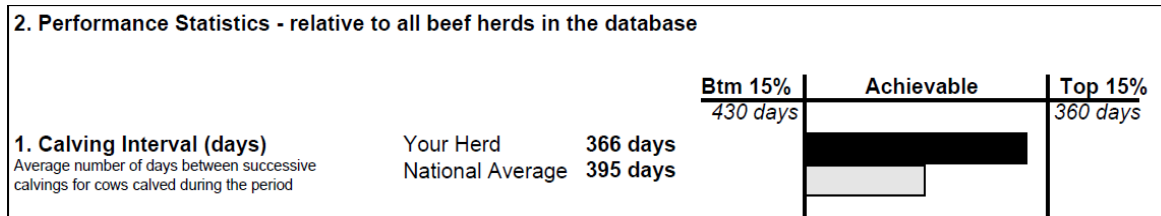


- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 660,603 with the number of animals weaned at 610,502.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,979,000 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, 2.47 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- This week there were 385 weights received through the technician service and 2087 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.

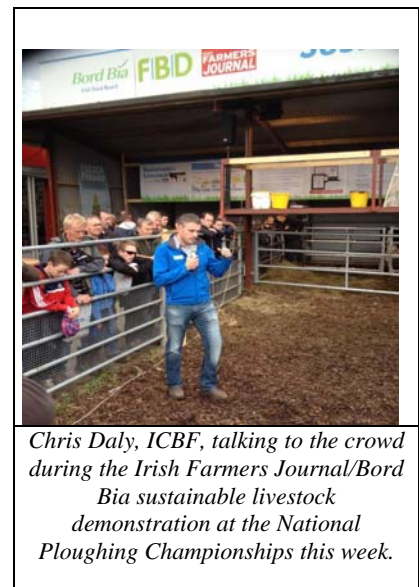


3 HerdPlus®

- ✚ Beef calving reports have been generated and posted to all beef HerdPlus farmers.
- ✚ The calving report is a very useful tool; as a farmer can compare his/her herd to national averages as well as the top performing herds.
- ✚ The national average calving interval is now at 395 days, an improvement of only 1 day on 2012.
- ✚ The average suckler cow in Ireland is calving once every 13 months, whereas cows in the top 15% of herds are calving inside 12 months (360 days) which means it is possible to achieve.



- ✚ Advisors are also reminded that they can now generate discussion group calving reports with these updated figures.
- ✚ Beef GEN€IR€LAND catalogues have been sent to some 2,000 beef herds.
- ✚ Farmers have also been sent sign-up forms and return envelopes which they can fill up and send back to ICBF if they want straws from these bulls.
- ✚ The bulls have been selected based on their maternal index.
- ✚ As all of these bulls are test sires, ICBF does not recommend that they are used on maiden heifers.
- ✚ We currently have 50 herds signed up to take straws.
- ✚ Please see catalogue attached (Note: The Simmental bull QCD is no longer available).
- ✚ EBI reports with the August evaluations are now available online for HerdPlus dairy farmers.
- ✚ Reports have been posted to postal customers.
- ✚ €uro-Star reports are currently being generated and should be available online next week.
- ✚ ICBF was in attendance at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Irish Farmers Journal/BordBia Sustainable Livestock demonstrations.
- ✚ Demonstrations took place throughout each of the three days.
- ✚ ICBF staff spoke about
 - The current progeny test model in Tully and the upcoming open day on 12th October.
 - The importance of weight recording to quantify the on-farm performance of animals.
 - Two steers were on display from a group that are currently on test in Tully.
 - Both animals were of similar breeding and age, yet there was a huge difference in the performance of both animals.





- ✚ On a slightly different note, ICBF staff member Lisa Ring was a participant at the National Ploughing Championships this week.
- ✚ Lisa competed in the Farmerette Conventional Class and gave an excellent account of herself.
- ✚ All in ICBF are very proud.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ A new beef genetic evaluation is currently underway for animals linear scored since the August evaluations. Results will be available next week.
- ✚ Research currently on-going with regards to potential updates to EBI for the December run, including the test-day model production proofs and a base change. Results on these will be presented at the next industry meeting in October.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 27/09/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 27/09/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 27/09/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 27/09/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 27/09/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,680	1,065	29%	309,933	96,466	31%
Progressive	2,438	997	41%	231,136	96,847	42%
Tipperary	114	41	36%	10,041	3,759	37%
Total	6,232	2,103	34%	551,110	197,072	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 27/09/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 27/09/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	304,758	309,933	1.7%
Progressive	223,128	231,136	3.5%
Tipperary	10,118	10,041	-0.8%
Total	538,004	551,110	2.4%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

6 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ This week was Ploughing week and Sheep Ireland was in attendance. We were once again kindly invited into the National Sheep Breeders tent where all the sheep breed societies promote their respective breeds to the public. Thousands of people passed through the tent over the three days of the event and the Sheep Ireland stand was busy throughout. The awareness of Sheep Ireland across the sheep industry has increased hugely this year,

the number of ram breeders enquiring about signing up to LambPlus was testament to this. Farmers are now looking for Euro-Star ratings when purchasing their rams, much of this can certainly be attributed to STAP, but we have no doubt farmers have liked the idea of having this valuable data available when spending their money on breeding rams, their desire for this information will not disappear beyond STAP.

A very important event in the Sheep Ireland calendar will take place on Wednesday 9th October. The Sheep Industry Consultation meeting is where Sheep Ireland in association with Teagasc will present some very recent work that has been carried out to improve the sheep Eurostar index. These potential improvements include changes to the way our current indexes are displayed and also some changes to the ingredients that currently contribute to our different indexes, mainly the Maternal Index.

- ✚ We will also use this meeting to discuss the huge potential benefits that genomics could play in the Irish sheep industry. There are a number of actions that the industry could now take, to facilitate rapid progress in future years once affordable options for genomics become available. Invitations for this meeting are being circulated at present.



A view of the busy sheep tunnel at the recent National Ploughing Championships

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