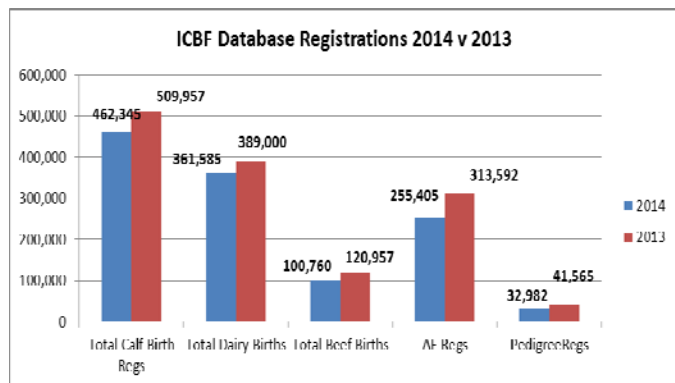
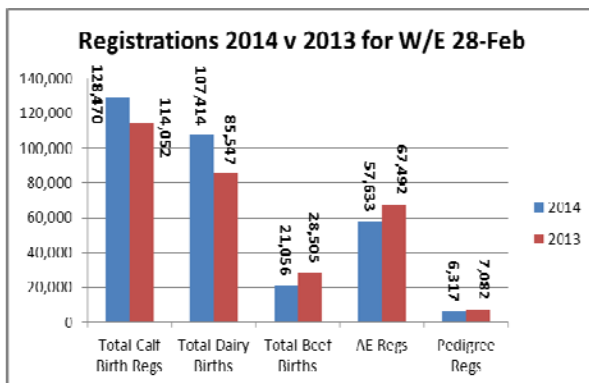


ICBF Weekly Update 28th February 2014

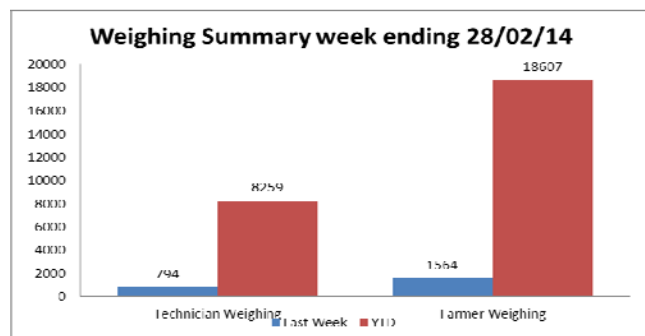
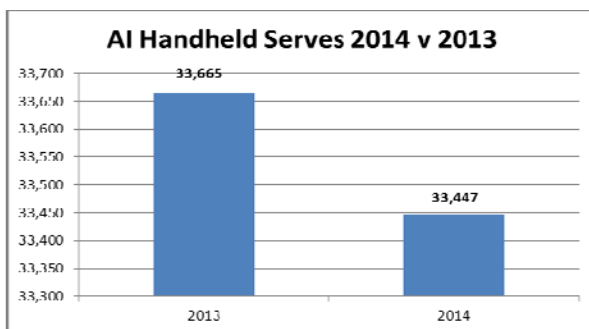
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting** – Thursday 13th March, 10:00 to 13:30, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 14:00 to 17:00, 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 507,000 results received since January 1st, of which 128,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 3.17 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 794 weights received through the technician service and 1564 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

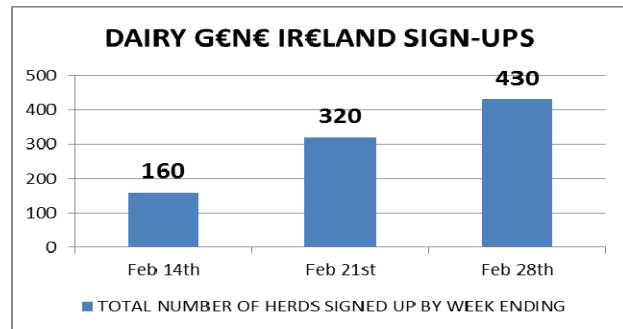
- The 2014 Dairy Active Bull List was published this week (see attached list and explanation). Dairy farmers are encouraged to use the online Sire Advice Tool to aid them when picking bulls for 2014.

- Suckler farmers participating in the BTAP (discussion groups) scheme are reminded to record any data for the upcoming year. Autumn calving herds will be pregnancy scanning this spring and it is important that this data is recorded ASAP after the event. AI serves and weights should also be recorded as they occur.

4 GENEIRELAND®

Dairy

- Orders continue to be received for this programme.
- Allocations will commence as soon as a panel of bulls are available.
- The Holstein-Friesian panel consists of 44 potential bulls with an average EBI of €296.
- There are 3 Friesians, 4 Jerseys and 8 Crossbred Jerseys on the panel to date.
- Call **1850 600 900** to order.



Beef

- 1160 Pedigree animals were scored in January.
- This is up by 758 animals from January 2013.
- 1964 Pedigrees were weighed in January.
- This is up by 1562 animals from January 2013.
- These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Bull Breeding Program.
- A referencing session for the linear scorers was held in Tully on Thursday 20th February.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- Evaluations for the next routine evaluation are currently underway. The deadline for submission of files to Interbull is 11th March. We will be submitting data for fertility and calving for Red Dairy Breeds for the first time.
- An update of foreign beef breeding values have been received from France and the UK Limousins.
- Weekly genomic evaluations are currently underway and the level of genotyping is up on previous years.

6 Milk Recording

| National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 28/02/14 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 28/02/14 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 28/02/14 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 28/02/14 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 28/02/14 | % Cows EDIY |
| Munster | 674 | 38 | 6% | 36,738 | 2,826 | 8% |
| Progressive | 988 | 190 | 19% | 61,161 | 12,627 | 21% |
| Tipperary | 11 | 2 | 18% | 509 | 117 | 23% |
| Total | 1,673 | 230 | 14% | 98,408 | 15,570 | 16% |

| Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 28/02/13 | YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 28/02/14 | 2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%) |
| Munster | 40,972 | 36,738 | -11.5% |
| Progressive | 66,105 | 61,161 | -8.1% |
| Tipperary | 541 | 509 | -6.3% |
| Total | 107,077 | 98,408 | -8.8% |

Please see milk recording stats attached.

7 Sheep Ireland

- The CPT lambing season is due to kick off on the farm of James Napper on Wednesday 5th March. All preparations are now in place, the only thing outside of our control at this stage is the weather. It is very important to be able to get ewes and lambs out to grass as soon after lambing as possible to keep the lambing pens available for newborns. Ewes generally will not spend more than 24 hours in the lambing pens such is the intensity of the lambing spread. Where lambing is straightforward this is generally not an issue, but where fostering etc. needs to take place, then this can significantly delay the clearance of these valuable lambing pens. Then of course there will be the small matter of tagging almost 3,000 lambs, recording their birth weight, lambing difficulty and dam details.
- Our first MALP lambs will be hitting the ground in the first week of March also. This year all MALP flocks will tag lambs at birth using a tissue tag. This ear tissue will be collected and stored with a view to laying the foundations for the future implementation of genomics in sheep here in Ireland. This DNA along with the performance records collected by our MALP & CPT farmers will be an invaluable resource for our industry in the near future.
- LambPlus operations remain extremely busy. Entry of 2014 lambing data continues to be submitted in a timely fashion. In mid-March we will begin a campaign of contacting breeders reminding them of the April 30th deadline for lambing data submission. This deadline will be rigidly enforced. It will be up to us here in Sheep Ireland to give every opportunity to breeders by sending regular reminders etc., and we will certainly not fall down in this regard.
- Today we are printing and packing lambing sheets to post out to all our paper recording breeders. These paper lambing sheets have been redesigned for the 2014 season. We now require all paper recording breeders to record data for each and every ewe in their flock, regardless of whether the ewe lambed down or not. There are many objectives to doing this, practical ones such as keeping breeders flock inventories up to date on our database, but there will also be many benefits from a genetics point of view. The capture of data on ewe barrenness, abortion, and death/culling information will all help us to build towards an index for ewe longevity, a hugely important trait but one which we currently have very little available data.

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, 19-FEB-2014 To 28-FEB-2014

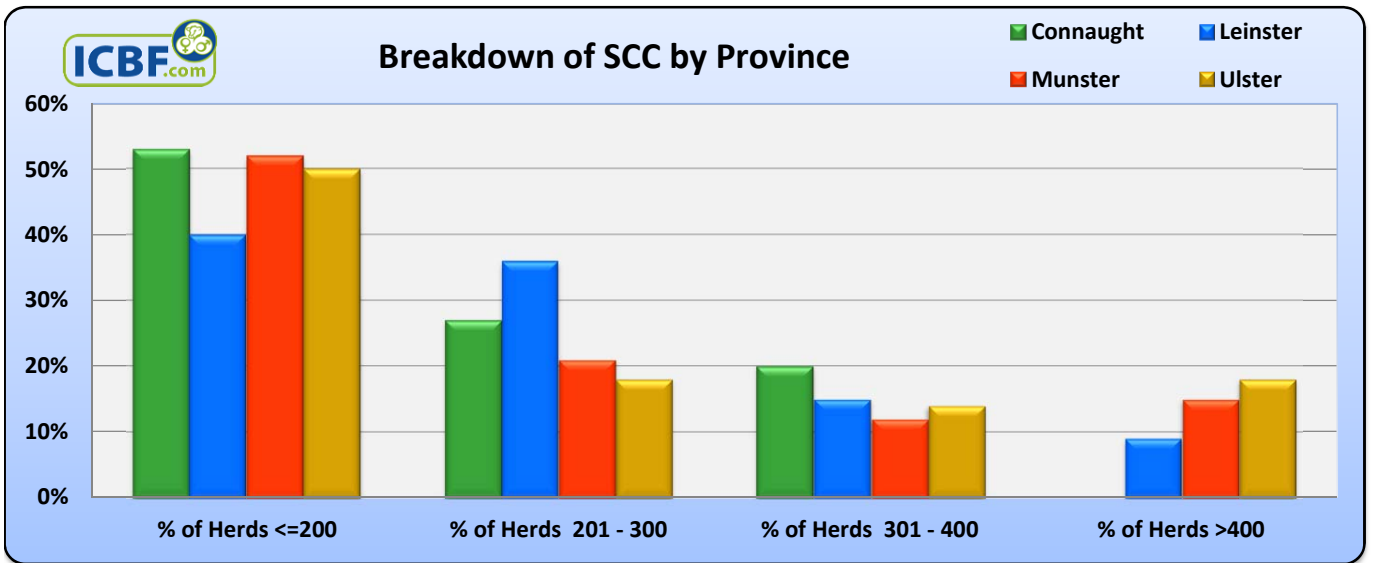
| ICBF.com | No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Avg Herd Size | Avg Milk kg/Cow | Average Fat % | Average Protein % | Average F+P kg | Average SCC* |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Connaught | 15 | 725 | 48 | 22.7 | 3.85 | 3.22 | 1.61 | 184 |
| Leinster | 104 | 6,792 | 65 | 23.8 | 4.07 | 3.37 | 1.77 | 196 |
| Munster | 202 | 10,509 | 52 | 24.4 | 4.09 | 3.26 | 1.79 | 204 |
| Ulster | 22 | 976 | 44 | 24.4 | 3.69 | 3.25 | 1.69 | 204 |
| National Statistics | 343 | 19,002 | 55 | 24.1 | 4.05 | 3.29 | 1.77 | 201 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 19-FEB-2014 To 28-FEB-2014

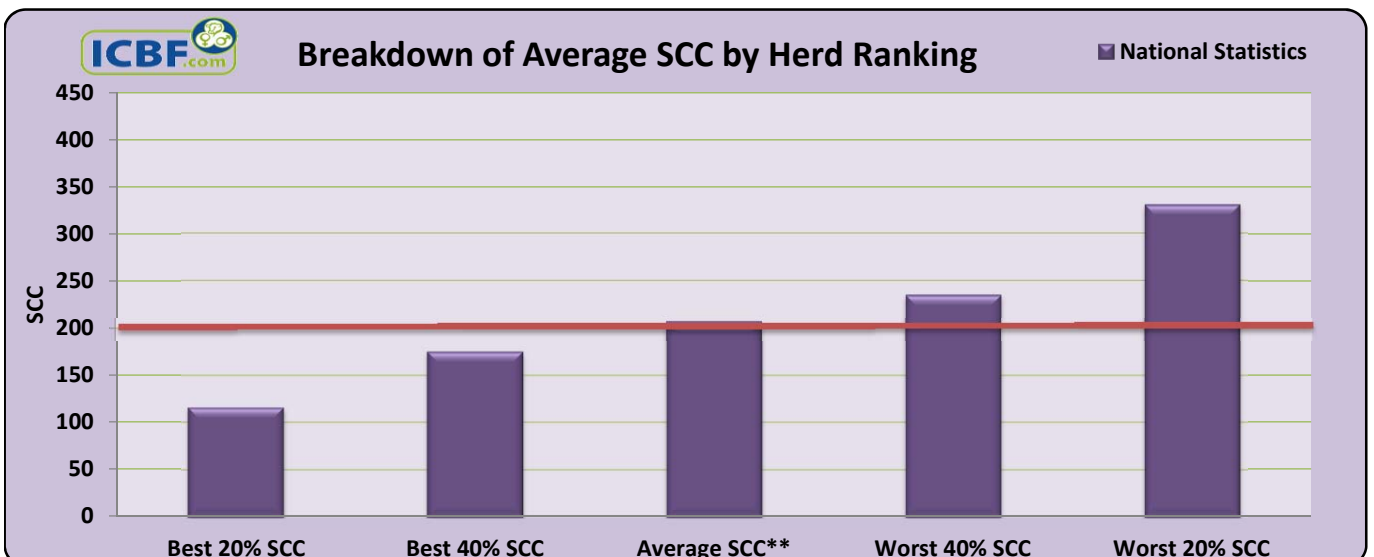
| ICBF.com | No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Avg Herd Size | % of Herds <=200 | % of Herds 201 - 300 | % of Herds 301 - 400 | % of Herds >400 | Average SCC* |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Connaught | 15 | 725 | 48 | 53% | 27% | 20% | 0% | 184 |
| Leinster | 104 | 6,792 | 65 | 40% | 36% | 15% | 9% | 196 |
| Munster | 202 | 10,509 | 52 | 52% | 21% | 12% | 15% | 204 |
| Ulster | 22 | 976 | 44 | 50% | 18% | 14% | 18% | 204 |
| National Statistics | 343 | 19,002 | 55 | 48% | 25% | 13% | 13% | 201 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



| % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 19-FEB-2014 To 28-FEB-2014 | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 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 | 15 | 725 | 48 | 130 | 157 | 199 | 212 | 282 |
| Leinster | 104 | 6,792 | 65 | 116 | 194 | 223 | 246 | 320 |
| Munster | 202 | 10,509 | 52 | 119 | 172 | 191 | 224 | 343 |
| Ulster | 22 | 976 | 44 | 110 | 162 | 213 | 283 | 344 |
| National Statistics | 343 | 19,002 | 55 | 116 | 175 | 207 | 235 | 330 |

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----|-----|----|-------------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|--------|-------|--------|-----|------|--------------|
| 58 | HYZ | SCOTTS VHA HYDRAULIC S2F | V H APPLAUSE-ET S2F | HO | SRM | 56 | €256 | 60% | DP-INT | €86 | €138 | €27 | -€12 | €23 | €1 | -€7 | 185 | 16.6 | 12.8 | 0.18 | 0.12 | -7.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | -1.02 | 0.02 | High | No | €20 | NCBC |
| 59 | IRP | MILLANDS PRINCE | BWZ | HO | PED | 72 | €256 | 87% | DP-IRL | €87 | €132 | €30 | -€13 | €13 | €7 | €0 | 159 | 14 | 13 | 0.15 | 0.14 | -6.8 | 4 | 2.6 | 6.18 | 0.25 | Medium | No | €19 | NCBC |
| 60 | DYM | LOUGHREE DANDY | BZR | HO | PED | 78 | €255 | 52% | GS | €85 | €106 | €41 | €5 | €14 | €5 | -€1 | 170 | 14.7 | 12.9 | 0.15 | 0.14 | -5.2 | 3.5 | 2.4 | -0.78 | 0.14 | High | No | €17 | Dovea |
| 61 | IGG | (IG) ENAGLOU XB GOLD | SYX | HO | SRM | 94 | €255 | 56% | GS | €45 | €153 | €45 | -€16 | €24 | €5 | -€2 | -19 | 15.7 | 4.1 | 0.31 | 0.09 | -10 | 2.4 | 2.4 | -11.58 | 0.06 | High | No | €16 | NCBC |
| 62 | RXW | (IG) ROSE XB WESTER | KNW | HO | SRM | 63 | €255 | 55% | GS | €59 | €168 | €42 | -€1 | €0 | -€1 | -€11 | -24 | 15.7 | 6.1 | 0.32 | 0.14 | -9.2 | 4.5 | 2.5 | 3.1 | -0.02 | High | No | €16 | NCBC |
| 63 | ZKS | ZINKS GB FURNACE S2F | GWZ | FR | SRM | 47 | €255 | 46% | GS | €82 | €128 | €34 | -€23 | €32 | €2 | -€1 | 258 | 15.4 | 13.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | -6.2 | 4.2 | 1.3 | -5.04 | 0.03 | High | No | €18 | Eurogene/LIC |
| 64 | OPH | (IG) OLCASTLETOWN PHANTOM | BQB | HO | PED | 78 | €255 | 56% | GS | €76 | €132 | €40 | €2 | -€4 | €7 | €1 | 85 | 16.6 | 10 | 0.25 | 0.14 | -7.3 | 3.4 | 3 | -13.91 | 0.09 | High | No | €19 | NCBC |
| 65 | RPZ | (IG) MARYBORO RASCAL | WGM | HO | SRM | 63 | €254 | 52% | GS | €87 | €141 | €24 | -€21 | €23 | €5 | -€6 | 89 | 16.3 | 11.8 | 0.24 | 0.17 | -7.6 | 3.9 | 3 | -5.13 | 0.11 | High | No | €18 | NCBC |
| 66 | KDX | (IG) BLACKNEY DIRECTOR | HFL | HO | PED | 66 | €254 | 58% | GS | €37 | €190 | €22 | -€5 | €15 | -€3 | -€2 | -155 | 9.9 | 1.9 | 0.31 | 0.14 | -11.4 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 12.7 | 0.01 | High | No | €16 | NCBC |
| 67 | ZCA | (IG) CURNAMULT SEANAD | LLK | HO | PED | 91 | €253 | 54% | GS | €66 | €133 | €46 | €2 | -€2 | €2 | €6 | 87 | 18.5 | 8.3 | 0.28 | 0.11 | -7.3 | 3.6 | 1.6 | -7.37 | -0.01 | High | No | €18 | NCBC |
| 68 | FHS | (IG) FAHA SUNSHINE 12 | HZS | HO | SRM | 69 | €253 | 56% | GS | €72 | €143 | €38 | -€7 | €12 | €3 | -€9 | 81 | 14.2 | 9.7 | 0.21 | 0.14 | -7 | 4.7 | 2 | -8.36 | 0.02 | High | No | €18 | NCBC |
| 69 | QCP | (IG) CARRIGAUN GLEN | HMV | HO | PED | 84 | €252 | 52% | GS | €72 | €121 | €51 | -€5 | €9 | €7 | -€2 | 182 | 24 | 9.5 | 0.31 | 0.07 | -6 | 3.9 | 0.9 | -5.14 | 0.17 | High | Yes | €17* | NCBC |
| 70 | MXR | MOOREPARK HOGGY | UYC | FR | PED | 47 | €252 | 81% | DP-IRL | €48 | €178 | €20 | -€19 | €26 | €0 | -€1 | 302 | 11.5 | 9.5 | 0 | -0.01 | -9.6 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 6.72 | 0.06 | Low | No | €16 | NCBC |
| 71 | AZG | DEANS GROVE ARGENT | HZS | HO | SRM | 72 | €252 | 57% | GS | €88 | €119 | €42 | -€9 | €12 | €8 | -€8 | -2 | 13.1 | 11.2 | 0.25 | 0.22 | -6.2 | 3.5 | 1.4 | -10.94 | 0.16 | High | No | €17 | Dovea |
| 72 | KXL | (IG) KNOCKROUR ALIX | KOZ | HO | PED | 88 | €252 | 58% | GS | €61 | €150 | €35 | -€5 | €4 | €1 | €6 | 25 | 10.2 | 7.9 | 0.17 | 0.14 | -8.1 | 4.1 | 1.8 | 11.37 | 0.1 | Medium | Yes | €18 | NCBC |
| 73 | TKG | GLEESON TRINKET | SOK | HO | PED | 78 | €252 | 56% | GS | €64 | €140 | €43 | €0 | -€3 | €4 | €3 | 231 | 10.2 | 11.2 | 0.02 | 0.07 | -7.6 | 3.8 | 1.4 | -17.01 | -0.01 | High | No | €17 | Dovea |
| 74 | GYR | (IG) GLENROSE HARRY | DEU | FR | PED | 47 | €251 | 81% | DP-IRL | €48 | €169 | €23 | €0 | €0 | €4 | €7 | -191 | 10.5 | 3 | 0.37 | 0.19 | -9.4 | 4.3 | 4.2 | -9.49 | 0.06 | High | No | €17 | NCBC |
| 75 | YBK | (IG) MEENASCORTHY BLACKIE | SOK | HO | PED | 56 | €249 | 52% | GS | €43 | €179 | €24 | -€3 | -€3 | €6 | €2 | -12 | 2.4 | 5.9 | 0.05 | 0.13 | -10.7 | 3.8 | 6 | -14.1 | 0.07 | High | No | €19 | NCBC |

Key to Table: Ho% = Holstein Genes, PED = Pedigree Registered, SRM = Supplementary Registered, Proof = The status of the bull proof (DP-IRL = Daughter Proven based on milk recorded daughters in Ireland, DP-INT = Daughter Proven, based on milk recorded daughters outside of Ireland (International), GS = Genomically Selected), CI = Calving Interval Days, SU% = % Survival from lactation to lactation, CD% = % Calving Difficulty, M.Time = Milking Time, M.Temp = Milking Temperament, Avail = Availability (H=>6,000 doses, M= 4-6,000 doses, L=2-4,000 doses). Semen Availability information is given by each AI Organization. An Asterisk(*) indicates a higher cost for sexed straws. **Farmers are strongly urged to use a minimum of 5 AI bulls from the list.** For more information on the ICBF Active Bull List, please call 1850 600 900 or log onto www.icbf.com. Copyright ICBF 2014.

ICBF Active Dairy Bull List – Spring 2014

Pat Donnellan

ICBF

Guide to reading the Table.

- **Bull Details;** Rank, AI Code, Name, Sire, Breed, Status in Herdbook & Holstein %.
Ped; Full Pedigree Registered animal. SRM; Supplementary registered male in the IHFA Herdbook. Male progeny of these bulls will also be supplementary registered 'SRM'. Female progeny will be given the 'ASR' registration status. An 'XSR' or blank status field indicates that the bull has no pedigree registration status.
- **EBI Details;** EBI, Economic Breeding Index (€); Indicates the profit/lactation expected for a bull's progeny compared to an average animal. **Rel%**; Reliability of EBI proof. This indicates the level of confidence that someone can have in the proof. The higher this value, the more reliable the proof. **Proof;** The status of the Bull proof. **DP-IRL;** Daughter Proven based on milk recorded daughters in Ireland. **DP-INT;** Daughter Proven, based on foreign milk recorded daughters. **GS;** Genomically Selected – which are bulls that have their own calving difficulty proof but have no milking daughters in their production proof yet.
- **EBI Sub Indices; Milk, Fertility, Calving, Beef, Maintenance, Management & Health;** Sub Indices of the overall EBI. Added together these give the overall EBI figure.
- **Key Profit Traits; M Kg** Predicted Difference (PD) for milk yield. If the average 'Milk Kgs' of the team of Bulls being used is greater than the average 'Milk Kgs' of the cows they are being mated to, then the average milk yield of the herd will increase. Positive values for **F Kg** (Fat Kg), **P Kg** (Protein Kg), **F %** (Fat %), **P %** (Protein %) will also increase each of the constituent traits in the same manner. **CI** = Calving Interval (Days). Bulls with negative values for CI will reduce calving interval. **SU** = Survival %. Bulls with positive values will increase survival (longevity/herdlife).
- **Calving; CD%;** Calving Difficulty. Increasing % CD indicates increased incidence of difficult calvings e.g. % CD of 5% means that 5% of a Bull's calves will result in difficult calvings.
- **Milking Time;** This gives an indication as whether daughters of a Bull are slow or quick milkers. Negative values are desired – indicating that daughters take less time to be milked. Milking time is measured in seconds per milking. It is important to note that milking time has been adjusted for milk yield, so its not penalizing bulls with high volumes of milk. E.g. if a bull's daughters take on average 10 seconds longer per milking, that translates into an extra 1hr and 40 mins per daughter spent in the parlour over a 305 day lactation.
- **Milking Temperament** – This indicates whether daughters of a bull are easy or difficult to handle in the milking parlour. Positive values are desired – indicating cows with good temperament in the milking parlour.
- **Semen Details;** Price, availability and supplier details of each bull are also included. **L** = 2000-4000 straws available. **M** = 4000 – 6,000, **H** = >6,000 straws available. All AI Organisations have provided semen inventory details for all of their bulls. That said, it will be difficult to obtain large quantities of high ranking Bulls with 'Low' availability. Bulls that have sexed semen available are indicated on the list with an asterisk beside their straw price.

Active Bull List - Spring 2014

Introduction

The EBI details of the 75 bulls on the list is based on the December 2013 genetic evaluations computed by ICBF. Semen from all of the Bulls has been indicated as being available by the various AI Companies, hence the term 'Active' Bull List.

The criteria for making the list are as follows:

- EBI's with reliabilities greater than or equal to 35%.

and also have;

- Calving difficulty evaluations with reliabilities greater than or equal to 50%. (For a Bull to be included on the Active Bull list his calving evaluation must be based on actual calving survey data either in Ireland or in the country of origin of the bull, and not just genomic information.)

2014 List sets a new record!

The 75 Bulls have breeding values for EBI and the 7 Sub Indices together with trait information on 10 Key Profit Traits. None of the Bulls on the list are carriers of genetic defects e.g CVM or BLAD.

2014 is the 14th year that ICBF has published the Spring Active Bull List. In 2001 there were just 2 Bulls on the list bred here in Ireland. Holland, France, New Zealand & America have generally been where most of the Bulls on the list have come from. This trend started to change around 2009 when the first of the Gene Ireland Irish bred and progeny tested bulls started to come through. This year there are now 49 Irish bred Bulls on the list. This is a new record as it is the highest number of bulls from any one country that have ever made the top bull list at the same time (Table 1). The remaining 26 bulls are all from New Zealand.

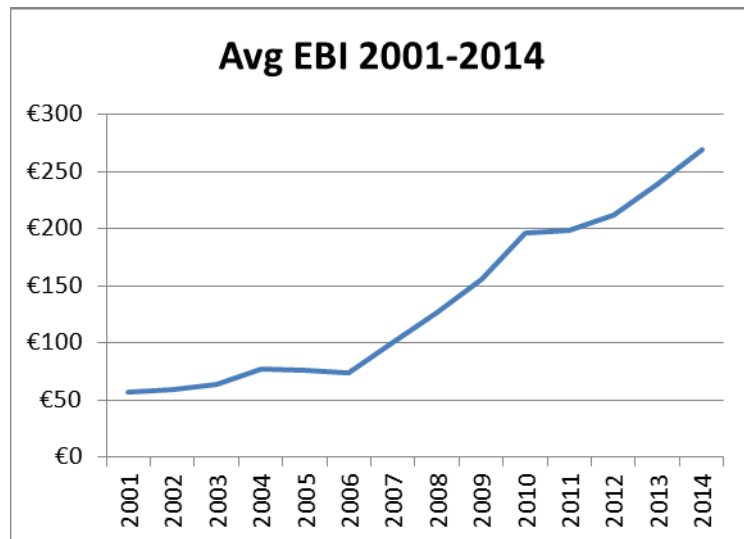
The following table shows the trends in the countries of origins for Bulls in the top Bull Lists over the past 14 years.

| AI Sire Country of Origin Trend 2001 - 2014 | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | IRE | USA | NZL | NLD | GBR | NOR |
| 2001 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 27 | - | - |
| 2002 | 2 | 11 | 16 | 24 | - | - |
| 2003 | 1 | 6 | 26 | 16 | - | - |
| 2004 | 1 | 3 | 39 | 19 | - | - |
| 2005 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 35 | - | - |
| 2006 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 36 | - | - |
| 2007 | 1 | 7 | 22 | 22 | - | - |
| 2008 | 10 | 11 | 22 | 14 | - | - |
| 2009 | 33 | 10 | 17 | 3 | - | - |
| 2010 | 27 | 20 | 11 | 6 | - | - |
| 2011 | 27 | 17 | 24 | 3 | - | - |
| 2012 | 29 | 3 | 37 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 2013 | 35 | 1 | 36 | 1 | - | 1 |
| 2014 | 49 | - | 26 | - | - | - |

Table 1: Main Bull Countries of Origin Trends 2001 - 2014

EBI Trends

| EBI Trend 2001 - 2014 | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Year | Avg EBI |
| 2001 | €57 |
| 2002 | €59 |
| 2003 | €64 |
| 2004 | €77 |
| 2005 | €76 |
| 2006 | €74 |
| 2007 | €101 |
| 2008 | €127 |
| 2009 | €156 |
| 2010 | €196 |
| 2011 | €198 |
| 2012 | €212 |
| 2013 | €239 |
| 2014 | €269 |



Graph 1: EBI Trendline (2001-2014)

| | Average of Proofs for Top 75 Active Bulls (2011 - 2014) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|------|---------------------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|---------------|--------|
| | EBI | | EBI & Proof Details | | | | | | | Key Profit Traits | | | | | | | | | |
| | EBI | Rel% | Milk | Fert | Calv | Beef | Maint | Mgmt | Hlth | M kg | F kg | P kg | F % | P % | CI | SU% | CD% | M.Time (secs) | M.Temp |
| Spring 2011 | €198 | 57% | €77 | €103 | €27 | -€19 | €8 | - | €2 | 232 | 15.6 | 13.1 | 0.13 | 0.10 | -5.2 | 3.4 | 2.0 | - | - |
| Spring 2012 | €212 | 55% | €71 | €123 | €23 | -€26 | €20 | - | €0 | 94 | 15.1 | 10.2 | 0.22 | 0.14 | -7.0 | 3.4 | 2.1 | - | - |
| Spring 2013 | €239 | 56% | €68 | €127 | €37 | -€20 | €23 | €3 | €1 | 47 | 14.2 | 9.3 | 0.24 | 0.15 | -7.1 | 3.6 | 1.8 | -5.3 | 0.04 |
| Spring 2014 | €269 | 56% | €77 | €148 | €36 | -€14 | €20 | €4 | -€1 | 88 | 15.1 | 10.4 | 0.22 | 0.15 | -8 | 4.0 | 1.9 | -2.67 | 0.09 |

Table 2: Comparison of average of proofs for top 75 Active Dairy Bulls 2011-2014.

The 75 Bulls on the list have an average EBI of €269, ahead of last year's average by €30. The Bulls EBI's on the list range from €222 down to €249. Nearly 70% of the Bulls on the list are Genomic Bulls with the remainder being Daughter Proven either here in Ireland (16%) or from abroad (14%) (See Table 3).

| Bull Proof Types 2012 - 2014 | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|----|
| | DP-IRL | DP-INT | GS |
| Spring 2012 | 14 | 28 | 33 |
| Spring 2013 | 18 | 22 | 35 |
| Spring 2014 | 12 | 11 | 52 |

Table 3: Numbers of Bulls in the various categories of proof types in the 2012, '13 & '14 Active Bull Lists.

| Type | Name | Definition |
|--------|-------------------------------|--|
| GS | Genomically Selected | Bull with his own calving ease proof but has no daughters milking here yet. |
| DP-Irl | Daughter Proven Ireland | Bull with his own calving ease proof and his production proof is mainly based on his daughters that are milking in herds here in Ireland. |
| DP-Int | Daughter Proven International | Bull with his own calving ease proof and his production proof is mainly based on his daughters that are milking in herds in other countries. |

Table 4: Descriptions of the various types of Dairy Bull proofs.

The Bulls which are ranked highest for each type of proof on the list are listed in table 5 below:

| Official ICBF 'Number 1' List - Spring 2014 | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------------------|--------------|------|------|--------|
| Category | Code | Name | Owner | EBI | Rel% | Proof |
| Number 1 Genomically Selected 'Active' Dairy AI Sire | WLY | IMLEACH LUCKY WHISTLER | Eurogene/LIC | €322 | 51% | GS |
| Number 1 Irish Daughter Proven 'Active' Dairy AI Sire | LHZ | (IG) LAURAGH EVERT | NCBC | €282 | 72% | DP-IRL |
| Number 1 International Daughter Proven 'Active' Dairy AI Sire | MSF | MORRIS TF LAMONT S'F | Eurogene/LIC | €283 | 50% | DP-INT |

Table 5: Highest ranked Bulls for each proof category.

Sexed Semen Bulls

A new development in the Active Bull list this year is an indication in the 'Semen Details' section of the list as to whether sexed semen of a bull is available. An asterisk is also included after the straw price as sexed semen is more expensive than conventional semen.

There are 12 bulls on this Spring's Active Bull List that have sexed semen available. However there are a lot of other Dairy AI Sires from a number of breeds that also have sexed semen available.

| EBI Range of Sexed Dairy AI Sires - Spring 2014 | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Breed | <€100 | €100-€250 | > €250 (Active Bull List Standard) | Total |
| Holstein | 26 | 45 | 24 | 95 |
| Friesian | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Jersey | | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Montbeliarde | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Swedish Red | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total | 29 | 50 | 34 | 113 |

Table 6: Summary of EBI details of Sexed Dairy AI bulls available Spring 2014

There is actually 113 Dairy AI Sires from 5 different breeds for which sexed semen is available this Spring. 34 of these bulls have EBI's good enough to make the Active Bull list (Reliability % criteria is what currently prevents them from being on the list but their semen is available). 50 bulls have EBI's in between €100 - €250 with the remaining 29 bulls having EBI's less than €100.

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of sexed semen is from Holstein bulls (95 bulls) but some sexed semen is also available from 4 other dairy breeds: Friesian (7 bulls), Jersey (7 bulls), Montbeliarde (3), Swedish Red (1).

Important Advice

It is important to note the source of a Bull's proof when choosing sires from the list. A Bull may have received his proof based on data recorded on his own daughters performance (Milk Records, Calving Fertility & Health data). Or he may be a 'Genomically Selected' Bull. 'Genomically Selected' means that the Bull's DNA profile has been analysed and the figures that you see are based on those findings. Farmers should pay particular attention to the 'Reliability' of a Bull's proof. In order to be able to balance the risk of using a Bull with low reliability together with the tremendous genetic gains that could be achieved by using such a Bull: **Farmers are strongly urged to use a minimum of 5 AI bulls from the list.**

Bulls with 'Low' availability are not included in the ICBF Sire Advice Programme as large quantities of straws cannot be guaranteed. Farmers should note that AI Companies have a limited amount of straws available for these Bulls and should order straws early so as to avoid disappointment.

What Bulls should I pick from the List?

There are many answers to this question but 4 simple tips that will help you pick the right Sires for your herd are the following;

1. Identify which EBI Sub-Indices your herd is low in. This Herd Sub-Index information is available on the Herdplus EBI report that ICBF generates for every herd that is signed up to Herdplus (1850 600 900).
2. Pick an initial panel of Bulls that are strong in the Sub-Indices that your herd is weak in.
3. Refine your list of Bulls taking other factors into account e.g. ; Calving Ease, Inbreeding, Price, Availability.
4. Finalise your team of Bulls by picking at least 5 Bulls to use in equal amounts across your herd. The **ICBF Sire Advice program (1850 600 900)** can complete this step for you and also allocate the chosen Bulls to your cows in such a way that inbreeding is avoided.

Availability of List

The 2014 Active Bull List is available on the ICBF Website (www.icbf.com). This list shows the top 75 Active AI Sires. The total list of Active AI Sires together with their Supplier, Availability & Price details is also available at the above website.