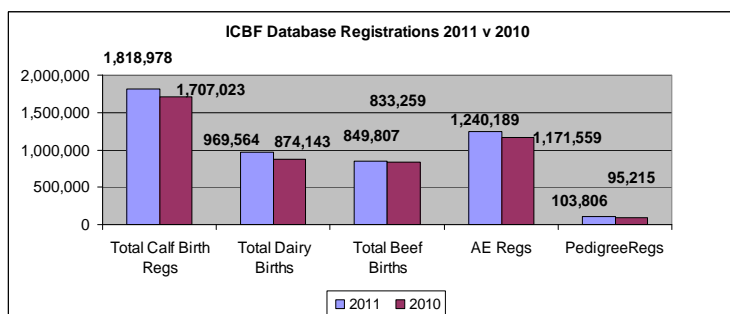
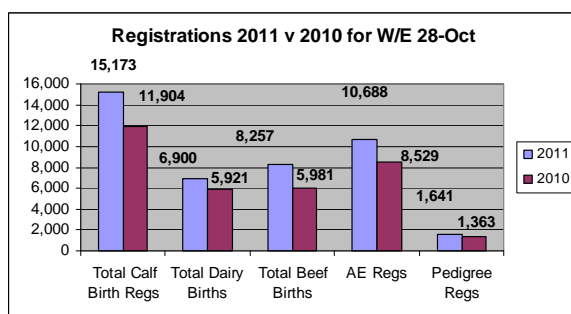


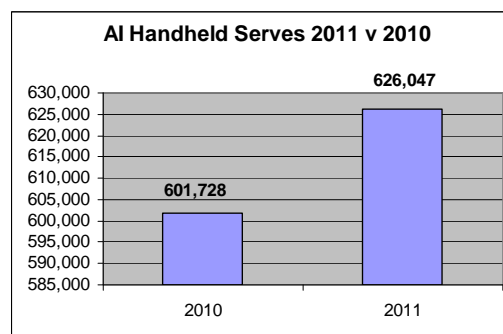
## 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Herdbook Technical Breeding Consultation Meeting** - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 10:30 to 13:00 – Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Industry Meetings** - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 11:00 to 17:00 – Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 10:00 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.

## 2 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFF AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 415,665 with the number of animals weaned at 161,347.
- ✚ Around 3,600 herds have already completed their Dairy Efficiency Programme (DEP) health recording requirements for 2011. There are around 6,500 herds in the DEP.
- ✚ Testing continues on the prototype of a new cattle weighing scales with blue-tooth integration to ICBF handheld software. A few teething problems arose this week out on farm, and we are dealing with the issues as they arise.
- ✚ The development in relation to the farmer upload and download of data to existing scales out on farms (e.g. Tru-test scales) will be live next week.
- ✚ Work is on-going in building the systems that will support the up-coming national BVD eradication programme.
- ✚ The loading of the high density beef genotype files to the ICBF database is on-going.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2011 compared with 2010.



## 3 GENEIRELAND®

### Beef

- ✚ Sign ups for the autumn program are going well.

- ✚ 145 herds have signed up so far.
- ✚ More details on the bulls are available in the GENÉIRÉLAND section of the website.
- ✚ To order straws phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ Approx total straws sent out per bull currently available are in the table below.

BREED	BB	BB	CH	HE	LM	PT	SI	SI
CODE	BZP	RWS	DZP	GCT	MXF	CBQ	SXD	APZ
# STRAWS	410	360	300	240	700	390	400	380

### Dairy

- ✚ There are 61 herds signed up to the programme so far taking a total of 2,060 straws.
- ✚ An additional bull GGZ has been added to the list. A revised catalogue is available on the ICBF website.
- ✚ Further letters were sent this week targeting additional Autumn herds.

## 4 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ This week Sheep Ireland representatives in association with Teagasc held a meeting in Westport Co. Mayo. The meeting was very positive and highlighted the positive mood that exists within the industry at present. There were two main agendas on the night, to inform non-recording pedigree breeders about the merits of LambPlus and the Euro-Star evaluations, and to advance the establishment of a pedigree Mayo/Connemara Mountain Blackface Sheep Society.
- ✚ There was a good attendance on the night and the main issue raised was the current threat posed to the Mayo/Connemara Mountain Blackface breed by inbreeding and cross breeding with various other strains of the Blackface breed. It was agreed that in order to protect and promote the breed going forward, that a pedigree society was essential. Breeders are now in the early stages of assembling a committee to establish a formal structure to the society. Sheep Ireland will provide the database and facility for each pedigree breeder to record birth details etc. We will also provide the society with the capability to produce pedigree certificates and sale catalogues.
- ✚ Also in attendance on the night were some non-recording pedigree breeders, we were delighted that these breeders committed to record for the coming season. We would especially like to welcome the Blue Faced Leicester breeders that signed up on the night. These will be the first pedigree Blue Faced Leicester animals to be recorded on LambPlus and we will hope to engage with other breeders in the country to promote and develop the breed further.
- ✚ Our MALP weighings continued this week. Mature ewe weights were recorded on the farms located in the West. Mating is underway on most of these farms at this point. We will hope to use this valuable weight information to strengthen our Maternal Index. Currently we are predicting ewe mature weights based on weaning weights taken from ewe lambs. There is a high correlation between this weight and later mature weight. Recording the actual mature weights will hopefully verify this correlation.
- ✚ On Tuesday night we also met with our MALP farmers carrying out Single Sire Mating (SSM) on their flocks this mating season. The aim of this intuitive is to reduce the expense of assigning accurate parentage to each lamb born in the MALP scheme. This is currently being done by DNA. The SSM protocol involves mating groups of ewes to a single ram for the first breeding cycle (14-17 days), lambs are then tagged at birth allowing us to definitively identify parentage of each lamb born. Lambs conceived outside of the first breeding cycle will be identified by DNA as normally done so on our MALP farms.

## 5 Genetic Evaluations

- The monthly beef evaluation for linear scored animals has commenced. New proofs will be uploaded to the database next week and GROW reports sent out to breeders later in the week.
- New test runs for maternal weaning weight have been completed and will be circulated to the industry for feedback.
- Genomic proofs based on the new fertility proofs are almost complete and will be made available next week.

## 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 28/10/11						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 28/10/11	No. EDIY Herds YTD 28/10/11	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 28/10/11	No. EDIY Cows YTD 28/10/11	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,671	1,041	28%	303,071	95,276	31%
Progressive	2,387	913	38%	217,306	82,842	38%
Tipperary	144	64	44%	13,117	6,314	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,202</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>533,494</b>	<b>184,432</b>	<b>35%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/10 - 28/10/10	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 28/10/11	2011 vs. 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	276,999	303,071	8.6%
Progressive	194,300	217,306	10.6%
Tipperary	11,940	13,117	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>483,239</b>	<b>533,494</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 18/10/11 to 28/10/11								
Provincial	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
Munster	1018	73,740	72	15.9	4.45	3.79	1.31	277
Leinster	326	22,682	70	17.8	4.24	3.65	1.40	312
Connacht	62	3,732	60	17.4	4.20	3.57	1.36	326
Ulster	55	3,352	61	16.4	4.24	3.55	1.28	280

National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 18/10/11 to 28/10/11

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
CARLOW	21	1,465	70	16.7	4.61	3.70	1.39	285
CAVAN	24	1,345	56	17.2	4.25	3.50	1.33	281
CLARE	28	1,684	60	14.2	4.44	3.77	1.17	292
CORK STH	266	17,708	67	16.9	4.41	3.70	1.37	267
CORK NTH	305	22,065	72	17.5	4.42	3.76	1.43	251
DONEGAL	8	869	109	13.7	4.50	3.69	1.12	289
DUBLIN	3	160	53	23.4	3.64	3.59	1.69	438
GALWAY	21	1,435	68	15.7	4.60	3.68	1.30	368
KERRY	145	9,092	63	15.7	4.36	3.66	1.26	349
KILDARE	21	1,467	70	19.3	4.14	3.50	1.47	313
KILKENNY	45	3,425	76	14.3	4.57	3.83	1.20	263
LAOIS	34	2,187	64	15.8	4.39	3.89	1.31	297
LEITRIM	3	139	46	16.6	4.01	3.41	1.23	441
LIMERICK	130	9,231	71	15.3	4.42	3.81	1.26	277
LONGFORD	9	549	61	15.8	4.47	3.63	1.28	339
LOUTH	15	1,052	70	18.6	4.02	3.50	1.40	339
MAYO	22	1,287	59	17.5	4.08	3.60	1.34	299
MEATH	39	3,216	82	17.6	4.32	3.59	1.39	261
MONAGHAN	23	1,138	49	18.3	3.96	3.47	1.36	269
OFFALY	37	2,341	63	15.5	4.48	3.70	1.27	301
ROSCOMMON	5	381	76	17.7	4.11	3.57	1.36	153
SLIGO	11	490	45	19.7	4.21	3.60	1.54	367
TIPPERARY NTH	54	3,768	70	14.1	4.58	3.92	1.20	369
TIPPERARY STH	66	5,018	76	15.1	4.61	3.96	1.29	277
WATERFORD	62	5,174	83	16.0	4.59	3.90	1.36	245
WESTMEATH	16	1,118	70	16.7	4.35	3.72	1.35	261
WEXFORD	62	4,130	67	16.1	4.28	3.80	1.30	300
WICKLOW E	17	1,174	69	18.1	4.08	3.53	1.38	279
WICKLOW W	7	398	57	23.1	4.03	3.43	1.72	380
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Average Herd Size	Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F + P kg	Average SCC
<b>National</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>103,506</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>4.31</b>	<b>3.67</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>305</b>

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