

ICBF Weekly Update 28th September 2012

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Tuesday 9th October. *Deferred – new date will be advised shortly.*
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Awards & Launch of Beef Breeding Event** – Tuesday 2nd October from 11:00 to 13:00 at Tully.
- ✚ **Teagasc & ICBF Suckler Cow Breeding Conference** – Thursday 11th October, 9:15am -5:00pm at Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th October from 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Event at Tully** – Saturday 10th November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.
- ✚ **ICBF & Teagasc Genomics Conference for Beef & Dairy Industries** – Wednesday 14th November, venue to be confirmed.

2 Last One for Me

I will complete my term as Chief Executive next week on Thursday 4th October and Sean Coughlan, Chief Executive Designate, will take over next Friday 5th October.

The first of this series of Weekly Updates was on 18th October 2002 and the purpose was “*to provide information in relation to recent developments at ICBF*”. I initiated the Update in response to the need for stakeholders to be better informed of the developments taking place in ICBF. Since then, the Update has been provided every Friday, with few exceptions, giving a total of 500 “Updates”. The developments reported in the first Update included; the appointment of Sean Coughlan, actions to solve problems in the IHFA pedigree certificates, testing the milk recording service from the database, and taking in the first intake of pedigree bulls at Tully. Since then, the Update has been a diary of the many developments that have taken place in ICBF. Readers are encouraged to go into the archive of Updates on www.icbf.com and to reflect on the progress which has been made by our breeding industry over the last ten years.

Next week, on Tuesday 2nd of October, one of my last official actions will be to launch the Beef Breeding Event which will take place at Tully on 10th November. It is very satisfying to see the beef breeding industry proceeding with the implementation of five major new initiatives:

- *the on-farm weight recording service,*
- *the information quality index,*
- *G€N€ IRELAND bull breeder herds,*
- *G€N€ IRELAND progeny test at Tully and*
- *revised Euro-Star indexes.*

These initiatives are the outcome of the review of beef breeding completed earlier this year. Implementation of all five initiatives is proceeding rapidly thanks to the strong support provided by the wider industry and the intense efforts of the ICBF Team.

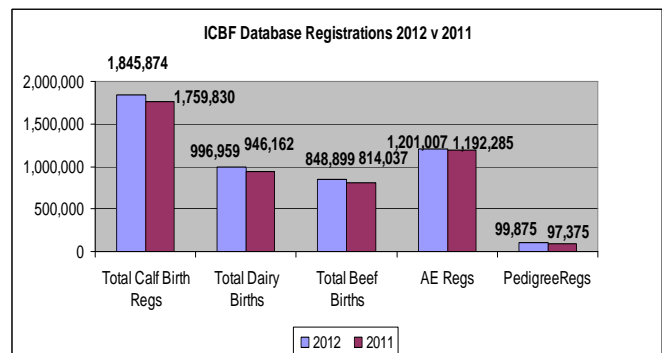
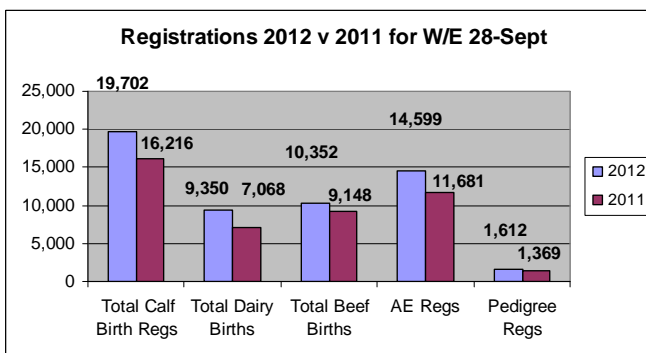
The single most important lesson I have learnt from my term as your Chief Executive is that the process of continuous improvement, like genetic improvement, results in levels of achievement that are not initially thought possible. In other words, achieving what might initially seem impossible is just a matter of establishing the goal and then working relentlessly towards it using the very best scientific knowledge and relevant technologies.

As from the 5th of October, I will be operating an independent international consultancy in animal breeding and will be contactable on my mobile phone (086 826 9911). I will distribute other contact information next week.

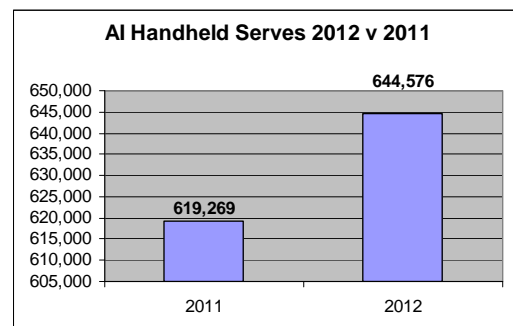
I would like to take this opportunity to express a personal thanks to all those people who have shared in the vision for ICBF and who have contributed in so many ways to bring it to its current level.

Brian Wickham

3 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 279,546, with the number of animals weaned at 52,589.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 583,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 440,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ The new Dairy and Beef bull search on the website continues to get a lot of use following the release of the latest proofs. We are currently working on a mobile friendly version of the bull search.
- ✚ While some of the components have been released, work continues on the modification for other outputs to incorporate proposed changes to the Beef Euro-Star indexes.
- ✚ Work is continuing on the back-end ICBF web infrastructure with a view to making it more standardised and robust.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.



4 GENEIRLAND® BEEF

- ✚ The GENEIRLAND beef panel for autumn 2012 has been finalised.
- ✚ The catalogues are printed and will be sent to herd owners over the next couple of days.
- ✚ Further details on the bulls available can be found on the GENEIRLAND section of our website.
- ✚ To order straws call 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ New genomic Evaluation results were published this week.
- ✚ Work continues on various aspects of genetic evaluations including calving and beef performance.
- ✚ Beef linear evaluations are underway and will be available next week.

6 HerdPlus®



- ✚ Chris Daly, Herdplus, addressing farmers at the Beef demo at the National Ploughing Championships yesterday. Chris outlined the new maternal index which will help suckler farmers identify bulls/cows suitable for breeding replacements. He also outlined the terminal index which should be used by suckler farmers wishing to breed cattle for sale/slaughter.

7 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ This week was ploughing week in New Ross, Co. Wexford and Sheep Ireland had a stand in the National Sheep Breeders Association tunnel. We are very grateful to the NSBA for inviting us into the tunnel again this year as it affords us the opportunity to meet with all those relevant to our genetic improvement programme.
- ✚ Over the course of the three days we spoke with many people with varying levels of involvement in the industry. The Sheep tunnel is a place for our breed societies to advertise their merits to sheep farmers so we met with many breeders (both recording and non-recording). It was clearly evident that breeders can now see potential in what we are trying to achieve. Interest in performance recorded rams has grown significantly across the country this ram sale season and this will hopefully pave the way for more breeders joining the LambPlus scheme next spring.
- ✚ Discussions with recording breeders have moved away from operational issues to debating the wider picture and how Sheep Ireland can now make the biggest impact on the industry as possible. Recent meetings with commercial farmers indicate an appetite for more information at a flock level. Over the coming year Sheep

Ireland will be engaging with these and more commercial farmers that are now seeing the potential benefits of flock performance recording, from both a management and profitability point of view. From speaking to farmers in New Ross this would be seen as a great development for the industry.

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 28/09/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 28/09/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 28/09/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 28/09/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 28/09/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,734	1,088	29%	304,758	95,104	31%
Progressive	2,469	1,002	41%	223,128	92,293	41%
Tipperary	121	43	36%	10,118	3,402	34%
Total	6,324	2,133	34%	538,004	190,799	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 28/09/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 28/09/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	301,541	304,758	1.1%
Progressive	214,172	223,128	4.0%
Tipperary	13,084	10,118	-29.3%
Total	528,797	538,004	1.7%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

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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-SEP-2012 To 28-SEP-2012

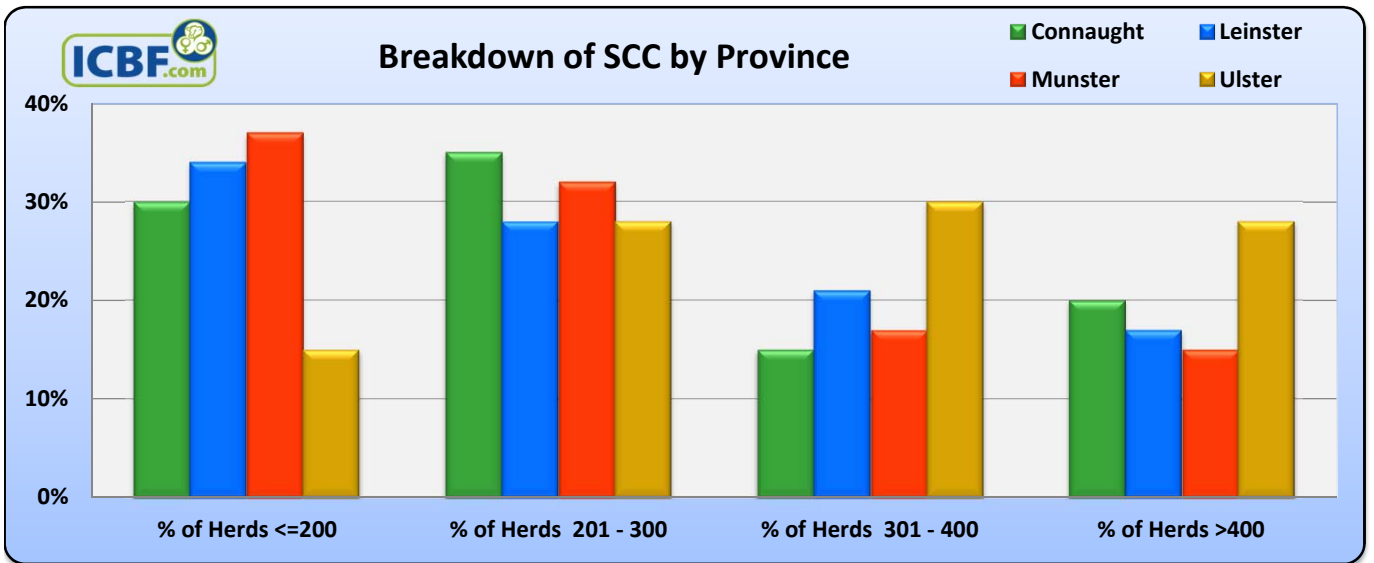
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	20	1,324	66	17.9	4.05	3.66	1.38	237
Leinster	181	14,460	80	17.5	4.12	3.67	1.35	251
Munster	507	35,549	70	16.7	4.23	3.73	1.32	236
Ulster	40	2,615	65	18.2	4.04	3.54	1.37	306
National Statistics	748	53,948	72	17.0	4.19	3.70	1.33	243

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 19-SEP-2012 To 28-SEP-2012

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	20	1,324	66	30%	35%	15%	20%	237
Leinster	181	14,460	80	34%	28%	21%	17%	251
Munster	507	35,549	70	37%	32%	17%	15%	236
Ulster	40	2,615	65	15%	28%	30%	28%	306
National Statistics	748	53,948	72	35%	31%	18%	16%	243

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 19-SEP-2012 To 28-SEP-2012								
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	20	1,324	66	154	222	255	287	389
Leinster	181	14,460	80	173	214	263	294	365
Munster	507	35,549	70	155	209	234	263	361
Ulster	40	2,615	65	223	280	326	346	423
National Statistics	748	53,948	72	159	213	242	276	368

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

