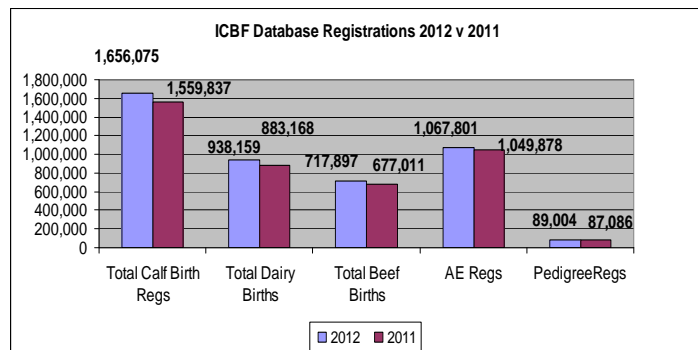
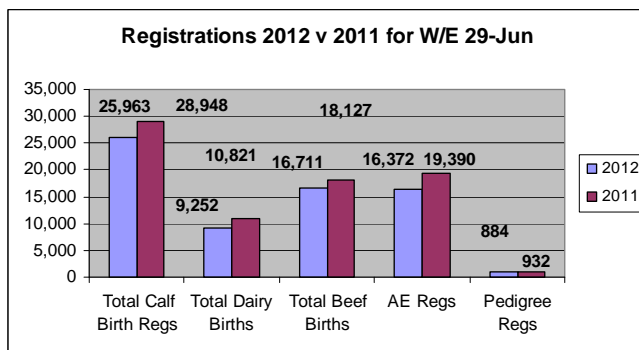


ICBF Weekly Update 29th June 2012

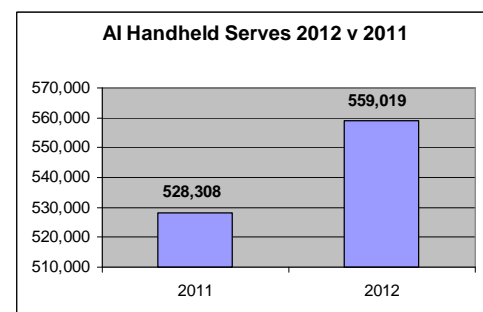
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30th June, Athenry.
- ✚ **Breeding Consultation Meeting** - Wednesday 25th July, 10:00 to 17:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 13th September, 10:30 to 14:00, ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 20th September, 11:00 – 14:00, ICBF, Highfield House, Bandon.

2 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2011 born calves with meal introduced is 629,773 with the number of animals weaned at 564,398.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 571,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 406,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.60% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ Work on the changes in how the Beef Eurostars are presented on ICBF outputs (Bull search, reports, web outputs, catalogues, etc.) have begun on the back of two meetings of the Eurostar implementation group.
- ✚ 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.



3 GROW[®]

- ✚ 541 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in May (up by 119 from May 2011).
- ✚ 181 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in May (down by 202 from May 2011).
- ✚ A referencing session for Linear Scorers is being held on Wednesday 4th July.

4 Sheep Ireland

Last Saturday Sheep Ireland attended an open day on the farm of Suffolk breeder Jim, Mary and Shaun Gahan. There was a good attendance of pedigree breeders and commercial farmers on the day with some great LambPlus recorded sheep on show (see picture).



The shop window of all that is good about the Irish sheep industry takes place in Athenry, Co. Galway, tomorrow the 30th June. Sheep 2012 will gather all involved in the sector and this will be a major opportunity for Sheep Ireland to continue educating pedigree and commercial farmers as to the potential of genetic improvement in this country. There will be a huge number of exhibits on show, including the national shows of all prominent sheep breeds. There will be a number of seminars throughout the day discussing important issues, with practical demonstration workshops being run hourly from 10am. To find out more on the event - go to www.Teagasc.ie and don't forget to visit the Sheep Ireland stand.

5 InterBeef

Work continues in validating the pedigree of Irish animals used outside Ireland (UK, Denmark, Sweden). This process will strengthen genetic links between member countries.

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