

## ICBF Weekly Update 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012

### 1 Important Dates

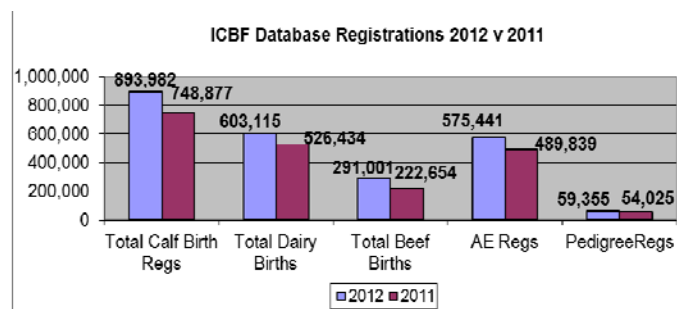
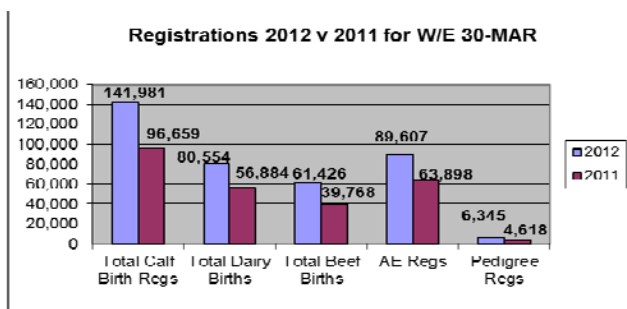
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 10:30 to 14:00, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 10:30 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. Agenda focused on two items: **Euro-Star Review**, and **GENEIRLAND<sup>®</sup> Beef**.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10:30 to 12:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM** - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 12:30 to 13:30, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICAR 2012 Conference** [www.icar2012.ie](http://www.icar2012.ie) – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Cork.
- ✚ **Sheep 2012** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Athenry.

### 2 ICBF Board

At its meeting on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March the Board of ICBF:

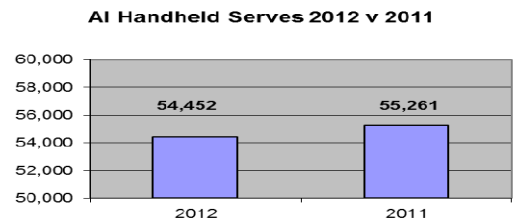
- ✚ Adopted recommendations from the Audit & Finance Sub-Committee to adopt the audited accounts for the 2011 financial year.
- ✚ Was briefed on, and endorsed, the result of consultations relating to a revised **GENEIRLAND<sup>®</sup> Beef** breeding program. Further refinement of the proposal will take place in advance of it being presented at a Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting scheduled for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April (see above) with a decision planned for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the ICBF Board.
- ✚ Agreed to participate fully in ICAR 2012 (see above) and to encourage Board members of stakeholders in cattle and sheep breeding to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity for the Irish breeding and recording industry.

### 3 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 599,777 with the number of animals weaned at 521,892.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 535,800 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 236,000 samples have been returned, with a 0.59% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ The demonstration of the weight recording service to research staff at Moorepark took place on Tuesday and went very well. The final elements of the technical infrastructure are nearing completion.

- Further developments to enhance the loading of genotype information are being implemented.
- The graph shows the inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011



#### 4 HerdPlus®

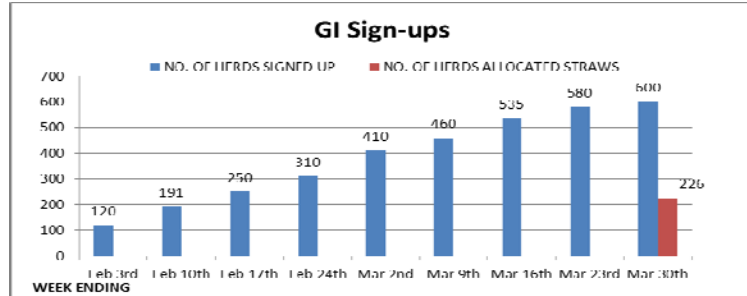
- Beef Herdplus attended Clare Marts Commercial Breeding Heifer Sale in Ennis Mart on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March.
- Over 70 heifers were offered for sale and Beef Herdplus sponsored prize money for the top 3 groups of Heifers based on their Euro-Star figures together with their Beef Herdplus Herd performance figures.
- Pictured at the sale are (L-R) Martin Burke (ICBF), John Marrinan (3<sup>rd</sup> Prize), Philip Gurnett (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize), Martin McMahon (1<sup>st</sup> Prize), and Pat Donnellan (ICBF).



#### 5 GENÉIRELAND®

##### Dairy

- Sign-ups and allocations are on-going.
- Potential bull lists and catalogues are available in the GENÉIRELAND section of the ICBF website.
- Call 1850 600 900 to order.



#### 6 Genetic Evaluations

- Routine evaluations are currently nearing completion. Evaluations that are finished are currently being uploaded to the database. Once these have been finalised a new genomic evaluation will commence.
- Results on over 200 animals with Genomic EBI were processed this week. The number of genotypes being done has reduced substantially in the last week or so as most of the females have now been done with less orders from the AI companies also. There will be no results next week, as they will be done with the new evaluations the week after.

#### 7 Sheep Ireland

- Next week the Sheep Ireland Board meets. There will be some important decisions made at this meeting in relation to our scanning service for 2012, the sales venues and dates for our LambPlus sales for the coming season.

- ✚ We will also be delivering updates on our CPT and MALP programmes that are progressing very nicely. The actual conception rates from the 2012 CPT AI campaign are now known, as lambing is finished. These will be presented to the Sheep Ireland Board on next Thursday. Our trial using chilled semen (as opposed to fresh semen), did not deliver the conception rates we hoped it would on one of the days. This is a great pity as it would have allowed us to use semen from a wider selection of rams on any given farm on any given day. Using fresh semen limits us somewhat in that we can only transport a limited number of rams to any one farm on the day of AI. A worthwhile trial none the less.
- ✚ Lambing information is now flowing into the Sheep Ireland database and our first evaluation is running as we write this update. We hope to have it loaded to our website before close of business this evening. Breeders looking at these first evaluations need to be aware of the fact that they can be liable to considerable changes, as more and more data feeds into our database over the next number of weeks. Some early lambing breeders now have lambs approaching 120 days of age which marks the ideal age at which to record a 'weaning weight'.
- ✚ We will aim to Ultrasound scan lambs at 140 days of age and all breeders will be contacted soon after our Thursday board meeting once we have agreed our procedure. One issue raised by breeders at our LambPlus meetings last autumn, was that retaining lambs on farm until 140 days of age to carry out scanning was very late. If lambs fare badly in the evaluation at this stage, they need to be sold into the factory or mart at lower market prices. Our advice to breeders is to slaughter lambs that they feel are not suitable to be sold as breeding stock (based on physical characteristics etc.) In the absence of an Ultrasound measurement for these animals a slaughter weight (as lambs leave the farm) is very valuable information.
- ✚ A summary of our April board meeting will be included in next week's update.

## 8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 30/03/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 30/03/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 30/03/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 30/03/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 30/03/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	2,162	309	14%	123,608	20,483	17%
Progressive	1,519	397	26%	103,556	26,391	25%
Tipperary	39	4	10%	2,449	288	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>229,613</b>	<b>47,162</b>	<b>21%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 30/03/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 30/03/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	113,931	123,608	7.8%
Progressive	96,744	103,556	6.6%
Tipperary	2,456	2,449	-0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,131</b>	<b>229,613</b>	<b>7.2%</b>

**National Milk Recording Results by County - 10 day Period 20/03/12 to 30/03/12**

	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
CARLOW	12	645	54	28.6	4.08	3.41	2.14	172
CAVAN	34	1,270	37	27.6	3.92	3.25	1.98	176
CLARE	14	654	47	26.1	3.99	3.22	1.88	191
CORK STH	243	14,769	61	26.6	4.11	3.33	1.98	162
CORK NTH	199	12,983	65	27.1	4.08	3.35	2.01	195
DONEGAL	14	1,257	90	25.3	4.33	3.29	1.93	329
DUBLIN	4	207	52	27.5	3.37	3.43	1.87	333
GALWAY	20	994	50	25.7	4.14	3.26	1.90	273
KERRY	106	5,813	55	26.8	3.98	3.25	1.94	234
KILDARE	15	1,284	86	27.9	4.08	3.34	2.07	226
KILKENNY	43	3,050	71	26.2	4.10	3.32	1.94	172
LAOIS	38	2,519	66	26.4	3.98	3.34	1.93	189
LEITRIM	5	262	52	23.3	3.82	3.30	1.66	205
LIMERICK	108	6,970	65	28.1	3.95	3.33	2.05	219
LONGFORD	12	544	45	25.3	4.44	3.37	1.98	151
LOUTH	14	1,459	104	27.5	3.91	3.38	2.00	212
MAYO	28	1,336	48	25.5	3.89	3.32	1.84	323
MEATH	54	4,758	88	26.6	4.16	3.38	2.01	218
MONAGHAN	38	2,011	53	26.7	3.87	3.28	1.91	208
OFFALY	20	1,161	58	25.6	4.03	3.25	1.86	254
ROSCOMMON	2	149	75	26.6	3.98	3.16	1.90	142
SLIGO	4	195	49	24.2	3.58	3.23	1.65	220
TIPPERARY NTH	39	2,390	61	26.8	4.02	3.31	1.96	200
TIPPERARY STH	27	2,039	76	27.1	4.12	3.36	2.03	190
WATERFORD	59	4,689	79	26.3	4.27	3.36	2.01	169
WESTMEATH	13	821	63	25.9	3.62	3.34	1.80	199
WEXFORD	45	3,416	76	27.1	3.84	3.37	1.95	173
WICKLOW E	16	1,114	70	26.0	3.77	3.36	1.85	255
WICKLOW W	13	954	73	28.3	3.62	3.38	1.98	239
	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
National	1,239	79,713	64	26.5	3.97	3.32	1.93	215

**National Milk Recording Averages by Province - 10 day Period 20/03/12 to 30/03/12**

Provincial	<i>No. Herds Recorded</i>	<i>No. Cows Recorded</i>	<i>Average Herd Size</i>	<i>Average 24hr Milk kg/Cow</i>	<i>Average Fat %</i>	<i>Average Protein %</i>	<i>Average F + P kg</i>	<i>Average SCC</i>
Munster	769	50,307	65	26.8	4.02	3.32	1.96	195
Leinster	299	21,932	73	26.8	3.92	3.36	1.95	215
Connacht	59	2,936	50	25.1	3.88	3.25	1.79	233
Ulster	86	4,538	53	26.5	4.04	3.27	1.94	238



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**Brian Wickham** (PhD) Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland , Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 86 826 9911, Email [bwickham@icbf.com](mailto:bwickham@icbf.com).

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