

## ICBF Weekly Update 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### 1 Important Dates

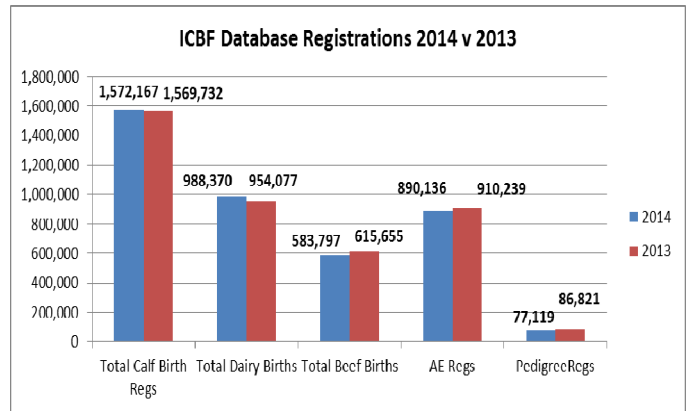
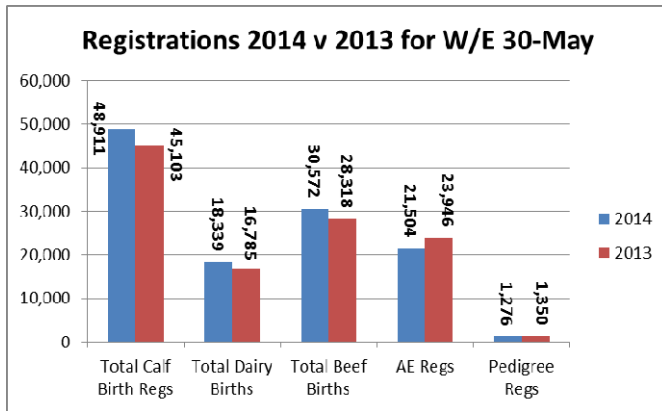
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** –Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 10:00 to 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

### 2 Industry Consultation Meeting

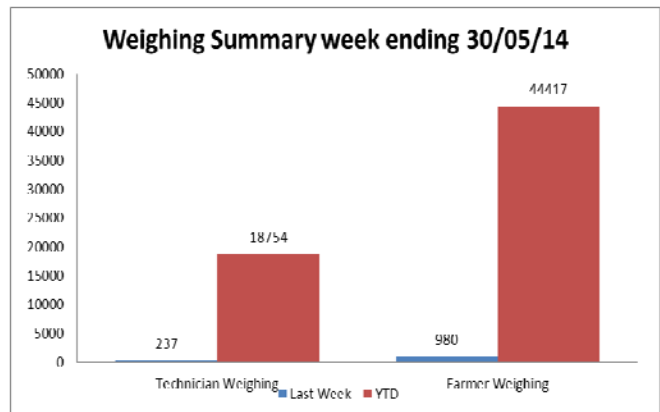
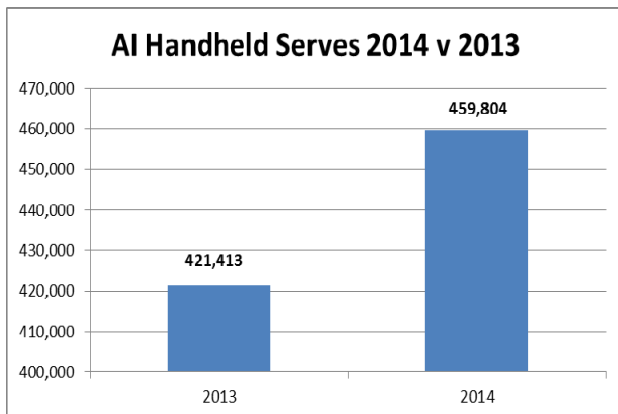
We had a very well attended Industry Consultation meeting this week. Some of the key items discussed included:

- ✚ An update from Andrew Cromie on the Test Day Milk Production Model and the reasons for the revised implementation guidelines.
- ✚ A presentation from Margaret Kelleher (Teagasc) on the excellent work she has done on the ‘Cow Own Worth’ model. A small group will be convened over the summer to come up with some suggestions around implementation.
- ✚ Donagh Berry (Teagasc) and Francis Kearney gave an update on dairy genomics and the on-going work in terms of validation. The genomic evaluations continue to deliver for Irish farmers.
- ✚ Ross Evans provided an update to the research in terms of the Calving Performance evaluations. There are significant challenges in this area, and further consultation is required in order to come up with a workable solution that finds the optimum balance between accuracy for a given purpose, and simplicity at farm level, in relation to the presentation of calving difficulty figures.
- ✚ Noirin McHugh (Teagasc) provided the latest research on the Dairy Beef Index, and the work in this area is continuing.
- ✚ Jen McClure presented the progress in relation to the capture of health and disease data which is on-going in conjunction with AHI and other stakeholders.
- ✚ Karl O’Connell and Matt McClure provided a status on the operation aspect of the genomics parentage verification.
- ✚ Stephen Conroy provided the status of the Gene Ireland Beef Programme, and the excellent work being done by the breed societies, the AI companies, and commercial farmers in ensuring that the Gene Ireland Beef Programme has got off to a very good start and gives us all something very positive to build on.
- ✚ Donagh Berry (Teagasc) and Francis Kearney gave a comprehensive presentation on the Beef Genomics Scheme. Donagh gave a very clear outline on how the animals were selected, and Francis reported on the excellent response at farm level in terms of the timely return of samples. We look forward to the testing getting into full flow in the coming weeks.
- ✚ Brian Meredith presented his Meat Eating Quality research, which is showing up some extremely positive results with lots of genetic variation demonstrated in the samples.
- ✚ Pearse Kelly (Teagasc) provided an overview on Teagasc Beef 2014, which promises to be an event not to be missed (June 18<sup>th</sup>). ICBF and its stakeholders will be heavily involved.

### 3 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 1,643,000 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 54,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.3 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 237 weights received through the technician service and 980 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals



### 4 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 30/05/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 30/05/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 30/05/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 30/05/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 30/05/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,761	1,104	29%	300,418	94,134	31%
Progressive	2,398	992	41%	211,886	87,784	41%
Tipperary	112	41	37%	9,189	3,494	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,271</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>521,493</b>	<b>185,412</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison**

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 30/05/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 30/05/14	2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	279,290	300,418	7.0%
Progressive	202,875	211,886	4.3%
Tipperary	8,282	9,189	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>482,165</b>	<b>521,493</b>	<b>7.5%</b>

## 5 Herd Plus®

- Herdowners are reminded of the recording facility available to record birth events. This allows herdowners to record missing calving difficulties, calf weights, birth size and more on the "Record Birth Events" screen online. Recording of this data accurately for your herd is the key to helping us produce accurate genetic evaluations. See the graphic below for help on recording.

### Recording Birth Events with ICBF.com

Record events related to calving

Animal Details					Record Birth Event Details									
Animal Tag	DOB	Sex	Death	Dam	Calving Survey	Abortion	Still Birth	Malpresentation	Birth Defect	Birth Size	Birth Weight* (kg)	Chest Girth* (cm)	Height at shoulder* (cm)	Calf Vigour
E241484570928	01-JAN-13	F		E241484590649	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal Calving</li> <li>Some Assistance</li> <li>Considerable Difficulty</li> <li>Vet Assistance</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> <li>Backwards</li> <li>Head Down</li> <li>One Leg down</li> <li>Both Legs down</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S</li> <li>M</li> <li>L</li> <li>XL</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very Vigorous</li> <li>Vigorous</li> <li>Lazy</li> <li>Very Lazy/Weak</li> </ul>



#### Calving Survey

Calving Difficulties not previously recorded should be recorded.

- Normal Calving
- Some Assistance
- Considerable Difficulty
- Veterinary Assistance

#### Birth Size

Calf Size is a farmer visual assessment of the size of the calf at birth.

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Extra Large

#### Birth Weight & Measurements

Calves should be weighed with scales (kg) or measured with a measuring tape (cm), within 7 days of birth.

Measuring tapes are available from ICBF.



#### Abortions, Stillbirths & Birth Defects

Tick the appropriate box to record Abortions, still births and birth defects. Where a birth defect occurs the "Congenital Defect Survey" should be used to record further information. This can be found in the record events section.

\*Every Herd Owner has access to online services with their user name and password. If you don't know your password text the word PASS to 089 4577663 or call 1850 600 900



**1850 600 900**

- The breeding season is in full swing on many dairy and beef farms at the moment. For farmers doing DIY AI or whose AI technicians are not on the handheld service please ensure that you submit your serves online either through your HerdPlus login or farm software package. This data is of vital importance to genetic evaluations but also to the reports which we provide to farmers throughout the year.
- For farmers that are submitting serves, weekly fertility reports can be generated throughout the breeding season to monitor fertility performance. Reports can be generated through the fertility section in your HerdPlus login. Prior to generating a report, ensure that you have marked for culling cows you do not intend to breed; this will ensure the accuracy of submission rates within the report.

- Herdowners that are planning to buy a stock bull (dairy & beef) are reminded of the valuable information available to them on the ICBF website. The Bull Search, Inbreeding Checker and EBI/Eurostar reports are invaluable tools available when thinking of purchasing a stock bull. See the graphic below for further information.



## Buying a Stock Bull?

Learn how the ICBF website can help you

### What am I buying?

Search for bulls on the **bull search**

All you need is a tag number!

*Calving Difficulty, Milk, Fertility, Beef traits & more: All on the bull search*

**Use the Bull Search!**



### Will this bull suit my herd?

Use your EBI report (dairy) or Eurostar (beef) report to view your herds strengths and weaknesses. This will allow you to identify traits to improve; look for bulls that are strong where your herd is weak.

To access these reports you will need to become a member of HerdPlus.

**Look at your herd!**



### What about Inbreeding?

1. Log in with your username & password\*
2. Click "Inbreeding"
3. Insert the tag number of the bull(s)
4. The inbreeding checker will let you know if mating's are acceptable or not

**Check Inbreeding online!**

Jumbo	Bull 90603 (AA)	Bull 31413 (HO)
141	OK	OK
149	OK	OK
599	OK	6.45



Profit through Science

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- Beef farmers participating in the Beef Data Programme (BDP) 2013 are reminded to record any outstanding data on 2013 born calves before 30<sup>th</sup> June. This data can be recorded on postal forms, ICBF & DAFM websites or via farm software.

## 6 Sheep Ireland

- Last weekend Sheep Ireland were present at the Golden Shears World Sheep Shearing Championships in Gorey, Co. Wexford. It was a great event which saw huge crowds over the weekend. Interest in Sheep Ireland and the EuroStars was very encouraging and it is clear that more and more commercial sheep farmers are now tuning into the potential gains that can be gained by improving genetics. This commercial farmer education has been helped immensely by STAP.





- Over the weekend in Gorey we had the opportunity to visit the Irish Country Meats sheep processing plant outside Camolin. They gave us a fantastic tour and showed us every part of the supply chain, from animal intake and slaughter, right through to processing and final dispatch of a packaged product. It was evident that major investment is being made in the plant, which we were told will help ICM to gain access to new additional markets, which demand the very highest standards.
- The potential for plants like this to contribute to genetic gain in Ireland is huge. It was evident on the day that the vast majority of lambs entering the plant were tagged using non-EID tags. Each and every individual tag must be manually read and recorded by factory personnel. The speed of throughput makes this manual task a difficult one. All sheep farmers know that despite the highest level of concentration, reading tag numbers from individual animals is a tricky task where errors can be easily made. Doing this at speed for a number of hours on a factory line is a very onerous task. EID tags overcome this problem and greatly simplify data collection. This facilitates the collection of slaughter data from our MALP and CPT flocks.
- Were EID to be used on all slaughter lambs, it would bring major industry benefits, from a traceability point of view, from a data collection point of view and from a farm management point of view. While the cost of these EID tags is an issue for many lamb finishers, the long term gains of a more robust animal traceability system would far outweigh the investment. However the mechanisms to deliver these benefits need to be put in place first and Sheep Ireland will be working with all relevant parties to try and achieve this.
- Also Niall Kilrane, a member of the ICBF team was busy competing in the Tug of War competition taking place at the Sheep Shearing event.



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**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](http://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](http://www.sheep.ie).

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 21-MAY-2014 To 30-MAY-2014

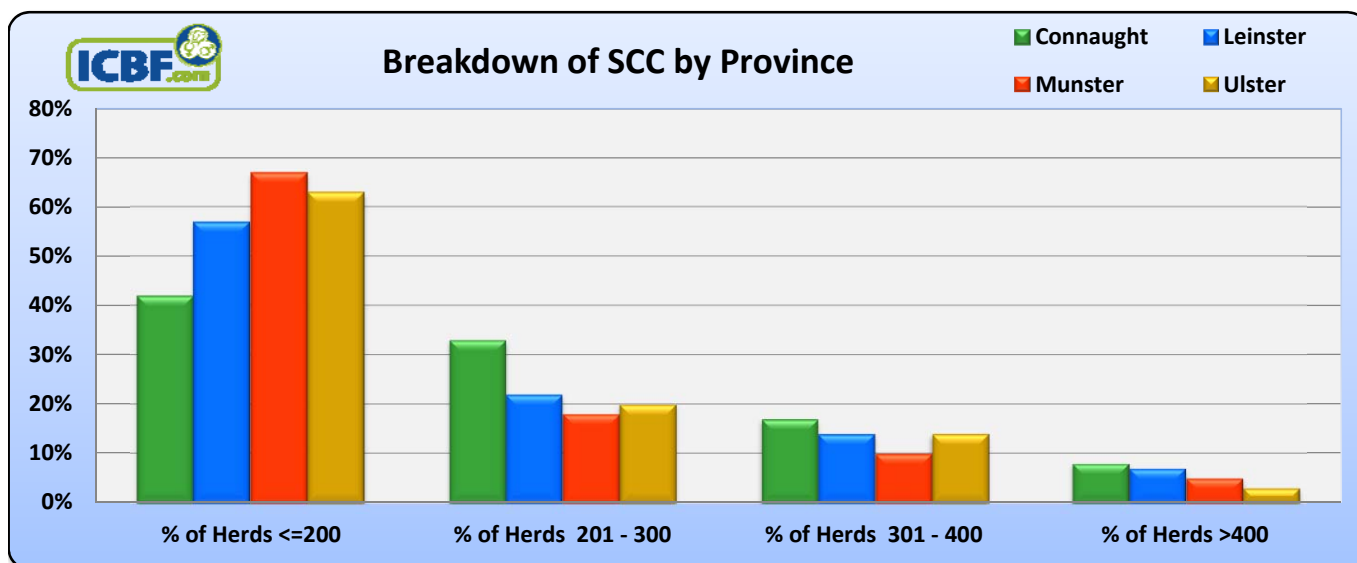
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
<b>Connaught</b>	36	2,362	66	26.7	3.61	3.36	221
<b>Leinster</b>	175	16,219	93	25.7	3.71	3.35	181
<b>Munster</b>	621	51,748	83	26.8	3.71	3.38	159
<b>Ulster</b>	35	2,196	63	29.6	3.60	3.23	162
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>72,525</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>3.70</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>166</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 21-MAY-2014 To 30-MAY-2014

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*
<b>Connaught</b>	36	2,362	42%	33%	17%	8%	221
<b>Leinster</b>	175	16,219	57%	22%	14%	7%	181
<b>Munster</b>	621	51,748	67%	18%	10%	5%	159
<b>Ulster</b>	35	2,196	63%	20%	14%	3%	162
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>72,525</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>166</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 21-MAY-2014 To 30-MAY-2014								
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC	
<b>Connaught</b>	36	2,362	66	152	195	228	269	327
<b>Leinster</b>	175	16,219	93	116	155	177	204	307
<b>Munster</b>	621	51,748	83	97	133	154	177	259
<b>Ulster</b>	35	2,196	63	100	149	177	188	271
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>72,525</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>272</b>

\*\* Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

