

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

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board Meeting** – Deferred until December, date to be confirmed.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

### 2 Optimir

On Tuesday of this week, a very useful update on the Optimir project was held in Moorepark. The Optimir project is looking at ways to increase the amount of valuable information received when milk samples are analysed. The potential new information available from milk samples include:

- Pregnancy status.
- Energy balance status.
- Level of saturated Vs unsaturated fats.
- Fatty acid levels.
- Levels of different levels of proteins.

These have the potential to further increase the value of milk recording to farmers, and therefore increase the levels of uptake across the industry.

### 3 Dairy & Industry Consultation Meetings Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Some items of note arising from this week's meetings included:

#### ✚ **New management traits (Dairy)**

- There was overall consensus that both management traits (milking time (measured in seconds) and temperament) should be included in the EBI.
- They will be included in a new sub-index called 'Management'.
- ICBF will work on the presentation aspects and the updating of the various reports/screens.

#### ✚ **Health traits (Dairy)**

- New evaluations on mastitis and lameness will be included in the Health sub-index of the EBI.
- The source of this data has been the DEP (Dairy discussion group) scheme and demonstrates the value of the output of this scheme.

#### ✚ **Calving evaluations (Dairy and Beef)**

- For the continental breeds, there is now a much better correlation between the calving proofs in the home country (e.g. France) and Ireland.
- ICBF are looking for any feedback before December 7th with a view to incorporating the new evaluations in the December evaluation run.

#### ✚ **Beef performance evaluations (Dairy and Beef)**

- The number of traits being included in the genetic evaluations will increase from 20 to 30.

- The issue around the size of contemporary groups is largely resolved in the approach taken to the new beef evaluations.

#### ✚ Euro-Star Implementation (Beef)

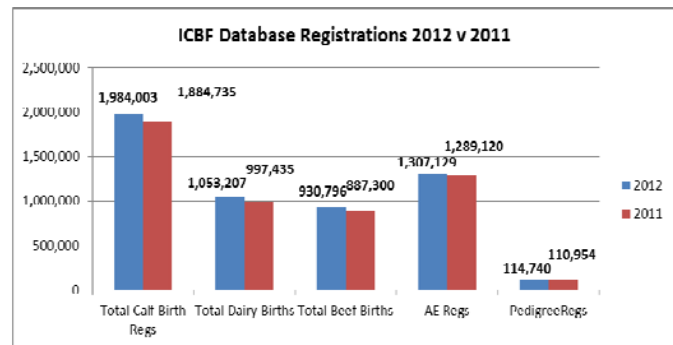
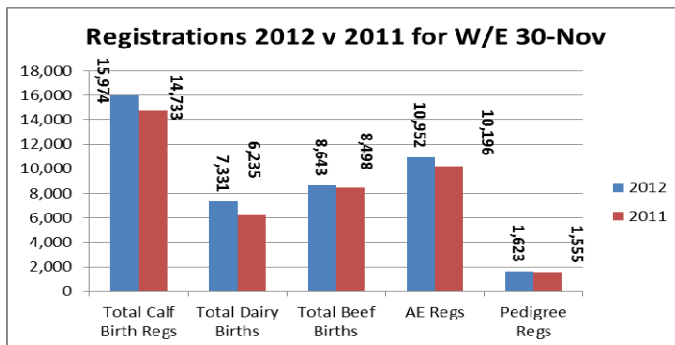
- The economic values have been updated to increase the weighting on milk.
- There was general agreement that the structure/make-up of the maternal index is now correct.
- There is a follow on piece of work to be completed on determining how best to present the new index. Teagasc and their discussion groups will be used to assist in this exercise.

## 4 ICBF Board Meeting

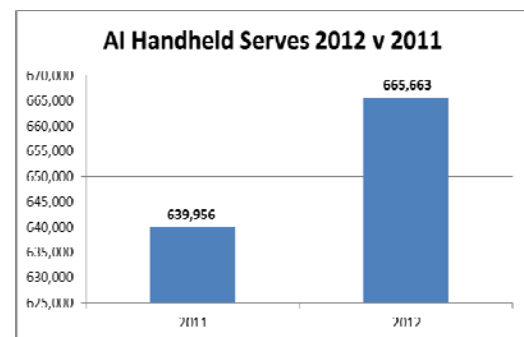
The ICBF Board meeting on Thursday this week included:

- ✚ The adoption of the budget for 2013, having been recommended by the Audit & Finance committee.
- ✚ The adoption of the recommendations coming from the Industry meeting (items covered above).
- ✚ An overview of the internal restructuring of the ICBF team.
- ✚ A presentation from Andrew Cromie on the proposed Teagasc/ICBF coordinated 'Sexed Semen' research project.

## 5 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 486,075 with the number of animals weaned at 344,767.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 471,000 samples have been returned at this stage, with a 0.62% BVD Virus Positive rate.
- ✚ Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new Euro-Star indexes, and the development work on these is continuing.
- ✚ The 2013 Dairy personalised notebooks continue to be generated and printed.



- ✚ Weight recording figures this week were at 1,139 animals, from 461 the previous week. We also had 1842 DIY weights recorded by farmers this week.
- ✚ The graph above shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2012 compared with 2011.

## 6 GENÉIRÉLAND®

### Dairy

- ✚ The panel consists of 10 bull's with an average EBI €20.
- ✚ A total of 3,664 straws have been dispatched to 110 herds.
- ✚ There is still some availability. Call 1850 600 900 to order.

### Beef

- ✚ Sign-ups are continuing for the GENÉIRÉLAND autumn program.
- ✚ 215 herds taking a total of 4620 straws have signed up so far.
- ✚ All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- ✚ Work is beginning on identifying bulls for the 2013 panel.
- ✚ To learn more or to sign up please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.
- ✚ The approximate total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the table below.

Code	GJB	TQL	VMP	RWM	FWO	FSZ	FYB	LZF	GZS	TVR	EFZ	WLZ	KJB	FTH	CJH	FQR
# Straws	135	120	250	140	240	230	340	420	140	500	500	425	500	315	130	145

## 7 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Routine genetic evaluations are currently on-going. There has been a delay with the Interbull Holstein proofs as a result of a re-run currently being done by Interbull.
- ✚ An update on the new genetic evaluations for dairy and beef traits were presented at the industry meeting on Wednesday. Feedback is welcomed on these until next Friday at which point a decision will be made to introduce the changes.
- ✚ Due to the changes coming into effect, in addition to the Interbull delay, the official publication date of 14<sup>th</sup> is being pushed back to the 21<sup>st</sup> December. We will do our utmost to release the proofs before this but feel it is necessary to delay the release until then to ensure all required changes are made and tested thoroughly.

## 8 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ This week we visited the flock of Campbell Tweed in Ballygally, Co. Antrim. Campbell has taken performance recording to the extreme and in 2013 will be gathering data on all the progeny born to his 2800 ewes. Through strict culling over a number of years, the flock has developed easycare traits which minimise labour input from lambing through to weaning. All ewes are single sire mated in groups of approximately 150 ewes. Rams are closely monitored for problems and fertility issues.
- ✚ In attendance at the event were other sheep breeders that are passionate about performance recording, some of whom have been recording for 28 years. The benefits and future potential benefits that recording has delivered for these flocks is plain to see and it was hugely encouraging to witness this as we try to encourage more sheep farmers, this side of the border, to get involved in collecting data on their flocks. We will certainly be using the

experiences of these breeders to help illustrate what is possible for individual flocks to achieve - which in turn will drive our national genetic improvement programme.

- Next week we will be finalising dates and venues for a round of LambPlus meetings - letters will be circulated to all breeders to inform them of our plans.

## 9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 30/11/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 30/11/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 30/11/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 30/11/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 30/11/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,739	1,090	29%	308,287	95,790	31%
Progressive	2,481	1,010	41%	230,466	94,650	41%
Tipperary	122	44	36%	10,323	3,508	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,342</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>549,076</b>	<b>193,948</b>	<b>35%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 30/11/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 30/11/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	304,853	308,287	1.1%
Progressive	220,374	230,466	4.4%
Tipperary	13,151	10,323	-27.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>538,378</b>	<b>549,076</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

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