

ICBF Weekly Update 31st August 2012

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Irish Grasslands Beef Conference & Farm Walk 2012** www.irishgrassland.com – Tuesday 4th Sept, Horse & Jockey Hotel. (*Sold out, admission is by ticket only on the day*).
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** - Thursday 6th September, 10:30 to 15:30, ICBF, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co. Cork.
- ✚ **Dairy & Beef Industry Consultation Meetings** – Tuesday 9th October, *Please note date change*.
- ✚ **Interim Sheep Board** – Thursday 20th September, 11:00 – 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. *Please note – this date is currently under review*.
- ✚ **Launch of Beef Breeding Day at Tully** – Tuesday 2nd October from 11:00 to 13:00 at Tully.
- ✚ **Beef Breeding Day at Tully** – Saturday 10th November from 10:00 to 14:00 at Tully. Sponsored by FBD.

2 Euro-Star Enhancements

Activities this week included:

- ✚ Training provided to 115 Teagasc B&T over five centres with associated visits and demonstrations on five farms.
- ✚ Ennis Mart Event on Tuesday night was attended by 700 farmers.
- ✚ Participation in the Irish Limousin Council meeting.

Next week's Irish Grassland Assn Event has been sold out. We are looking forward to meeting beef breeders and beef farmers and discussing the new evaluations with them.

3 Semen Sexing

Yesterday, a meeting of EU AI Centre Vets was addressed by the Chief Executive of Sexing Technologies Ltd. I had the pleasure of being in attendance and came away with a few very clear messages:

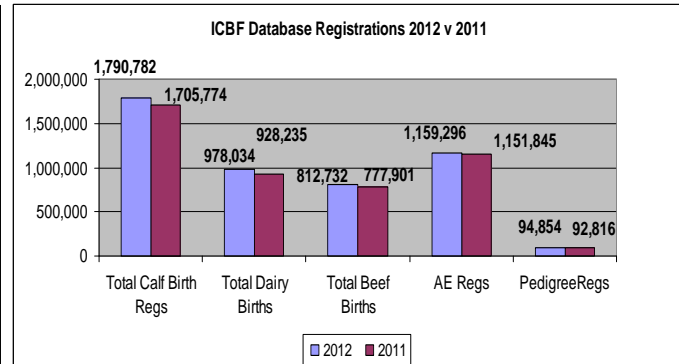
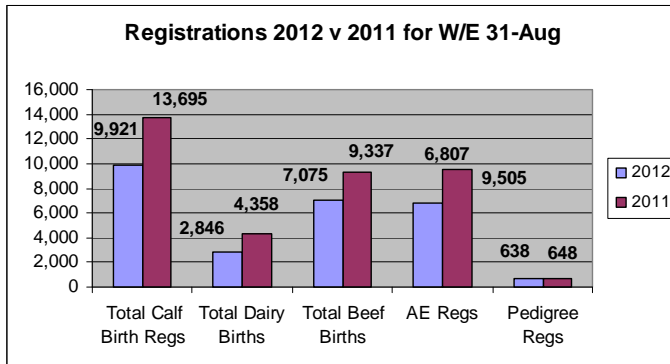
- ✚ This technology is now improving very rapidly. It has been under development for 25 years.
- ✚ There are two new machines in the pipeline which will have a dramatic impact on the availability of sexed semen.
- ✚ Within a year or two we can expect to see sexed semen much more widely available achieving sex ratios of 90 to 95% females (or males, if that is what is desired) and little, if any, drop in conception rates.
- ✚ Watch this space and start thinking about all the implications of the ready availability of sexed semen, albeit at a price, for dairy and beef AI bulls.

4 ICBF Board Meeting

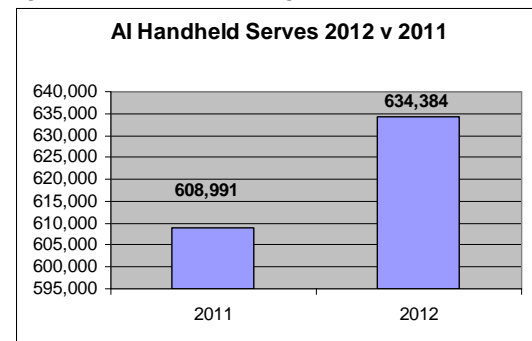
Next week (6th September) the ICBF Board will meet at Highfield House. This will be my last meeting as Chief Executive. I have prepared, for the Board, a short summary of the key lessons from the 14 years and 7 months that I have served as Chief Executive. I plan to provide a copy of this in next week's Update.

The Board report includes the outcome of the recent Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting, a report on plans for rolling-out the new beef Euro-Star indexes, and a discussion paper on genetic and other defects.

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 114,494, with the number of animals weaned at 15,646.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. Around 580,000 tissue tags for BVD testing have been purchased at this stage. Around 427,000 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 has been getting a lot of use following the release of the latest proofs. Over 25,000 individual bull searches have been logged in the past week.
- 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.




6 Genetic Evaluations


- Extra information files for the website are still being processed.
- New genomic proofs were loaded to the database this week.
- Files are being prepared for the Interbull test run.

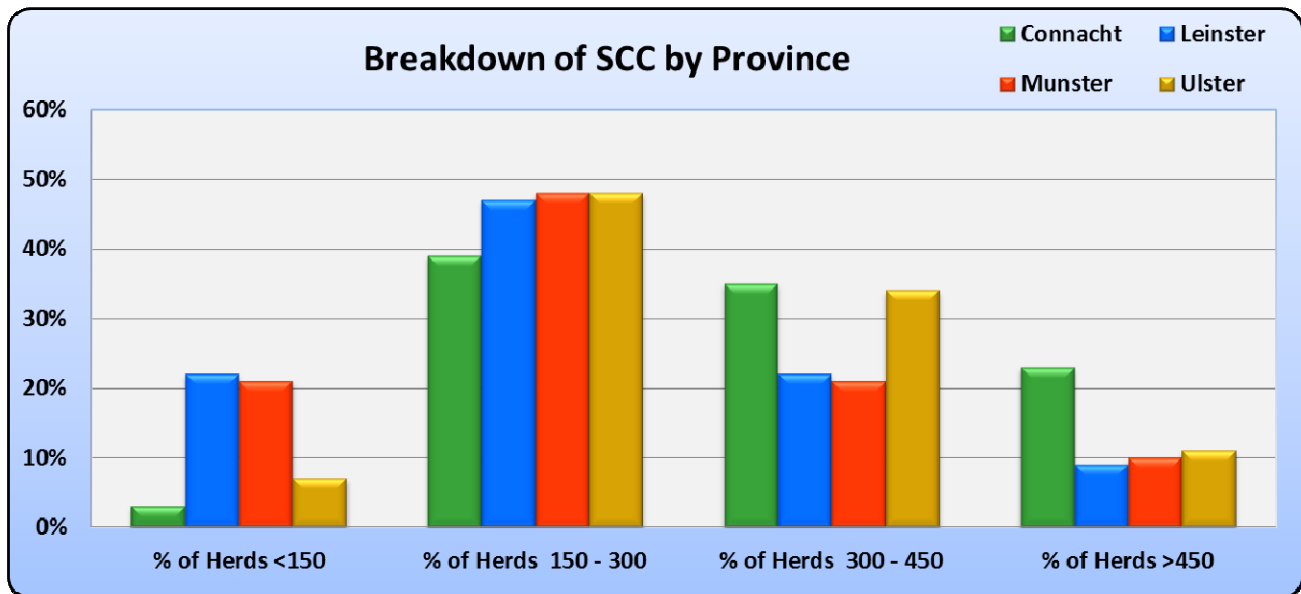
7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 31/08/12						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 31/08/12	No. EDIY Herds YTD 31/08/12	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 31/08/12	No. EDIY Cows YTD 31/08/12	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,733	1,087	29%	303,675	94,763	31%
Progressive	2,454	993	40%	220,658	91,343	41%
Tipperary	119	42	35%	9,959	3,295	33%
Total	6,306	2,122	34%	534,292	189,401	35%

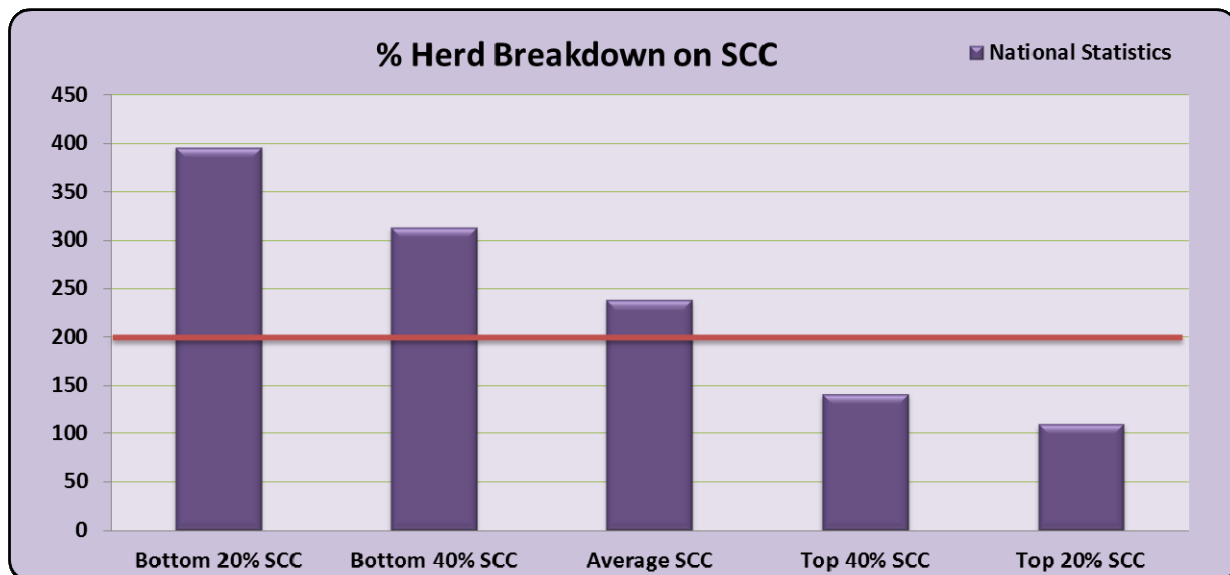
Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/11 - 31/08/11	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 31/08/12	2012 vs. 2011 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	300,357	303,675	1.1%
Progressive	211,818	220,658	4.0%
Tipperary	13,053	9,959	-31.1%
Total	525,228	534,292	1.7%

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 22-AUG-2012 To 31-AUG-2012								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC
Connacht	31	1,653	53	20.0	3.89	3.38	1.45	309
Leinster	167	12,705	76	19.2	3.91	3.44	1.41	228
Munster	572	42,515	74	18.4	3.97	3.44	1.36	235
Ulster	44	2,655	60	21.3	3.74	3.34	1.50	269
National Statistics	814	59,528	73	18.8	3.94	3.44	1.38	238

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 22-AUG-2012 To 31-AUG-2012								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <150	% of Herds 150 - 300	% of Herds 300 - 450	% of Herds >450	Average SCC
Connacht	31	1,653	53	3%	39%	35%	23%	309
Leinster	167	12,705	76	22%	47%	22%	9%	228
Munster	572	42,515	74	21%	48%	21%	10%	235
Ulster	44	2,655	60	7%	48%	34%	11%	269
National Statistics	814	59,528	73	20%	48%	22%	10%	238



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 22-AUG-2012 To 31-AUG-2012								
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Bottom 20% SCC	Bottom 40% SCC	Average SCC	Top 40% SCC	Top 20% SCC
Connacht	31	1,653	53	401	311	309	164	127
Leinster	167	12,705	76	377	314	228	137	107
Munster	572	42,515	74	399	310	235	140	110
Ulster	44	2,655	60	422	337	269	165	123
National Statistics	814	59,528	73	396	313	238	141	110



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