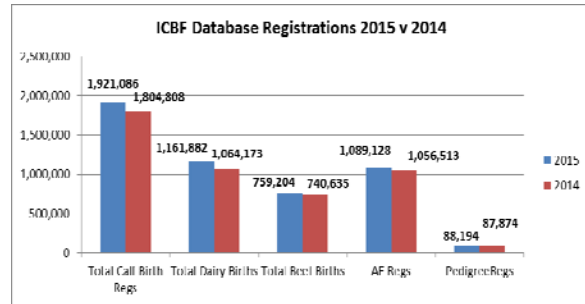
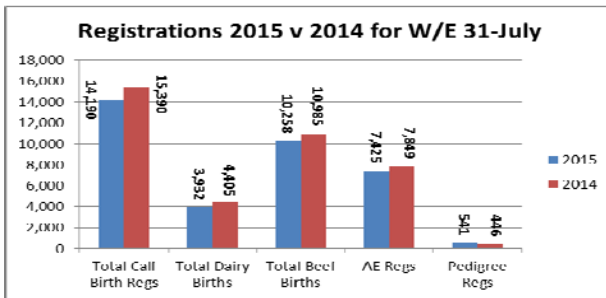


ICBF Weekly Update 31st July 2015

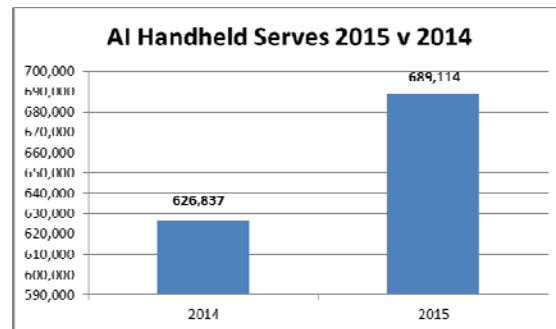
1 Important Dates

- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 10th September 2015 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Friday 11th September 2015 at 10:30, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 18th September 2015 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 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 2.02 million results received since January 1st, of which 17500 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.96 million results have now been received.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



3 GENÉIRELAND[®] Beef

- Sign Ups are still open for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- 403 herds taking a total of 6140 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 15 straws per herd.
- Work has commenced on putting the Autumn panel together.
- The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in Table 1.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	445
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	450
SGA	Scaughmolín G Mail	BA	440
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	180
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	215
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	355
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	215
HHJ	Heracles	CH	325
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	280
LM2014	Ewenvale Ivor	LM	220
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	380
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	430
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	215
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	215
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	305
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	355
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	335
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	195
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	265

4 Genetic Evaluations

- The beef evaluations have been completed. Due to changes to the evaluations and indexes, testing of the proofs has been the focus this week. The expectation is for the new beef proofs to be published next week.
- Genomic evaluations for dairy animals will start next week when results of International evaluations come back from Interbull.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 31/07/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 31/07/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 31/07/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 31/07/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 31/07/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,976	1,269	32%	360,640	124,107	34%
Progressive	2,463	1,043	42%	248,411	106,995	43%
Tipperary	125	53	42%	11,655	5,179	44%
Total	6,564	2,365	36%	620,706	236,281	38%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 31/07/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 31/07/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	325,327	360,640	10.9%
Progressive	234,652	248,411	5.9%
Tipperary	9,936	11,655	17.3%
Total	569,915	620,706	8.9%

6 Sheep Ireland

Weekly evaluations

- We continue to run a weekly evaluation each weekend. This practice ensures that breeders and commercial farmers have the most up to date genetic evaluations available to them at any given time. There are of course some practical disadvantages to updating the genetic evaluations on such a regular basis, the main one being the risk of individual animals Euro-Star evaluations changing from one week to the other. When allocating the Euro-Star rating to an individual animal Sheep Ireland must set thresholds within each Index to determine the number of Euro-Stars an animal should receive. For animals which are very close to these different Euro-Star thresholds it is possible that small amounts of data can move these animals above or below the relevant threshold in any given week – resulting in the Euro-Stars for that animal changing. This can be very frustrating for breeders when the Euro-Star evaluations drop, but similarly it can be pleasing when a rams genetic evaluation improves.

STAP 2015

- The Euro-Star ram task (Task 1) forms one of nine farm tasks within the 2015 STAP. Farmers must complete two tasks from the menu of nine throughout the year in order to qualify for payment at the end of the year. The Euro-Star ram task is the only task within the programme that has a value of two tasks which has made the task a very attractive one for farmers participating in the programme. This should bode well for the many upcoming pedigree ram sales taking place over the coming weeks and months.

Sheep Ireland ram search

- We would like to remind breeders and farmers that the Sheep Ireland ram search is back in operation and can be used to search for Euro-Star rams. The online ram search provides people with quick and easy access

to the Euro-Star evaluations for performance recorded rams. Breeders are reminded to provide their ram customers with an up to date print out of the Euro-Stars for the relevant ram, the ram search is a great place to print this information.

Promotion events

Each week we continue to promote the Euro-Star evaluations around the country. This week we presented to STAP farmers on the farm of John Landers in Killeagh, Co. Cork. We also presented to over 500 farmers at an excellent event organised by STAP facilitator Brian Dolan in Stranorlar Mart, Co. Donegal. Last Friday evening we were invited to Antrim by Campbell Tweed to present to a group of farmers visiting his farm. Campbell is doing a huge amount of performance recording across his very large flock of Easicare ewes and is making significant progress using genetic indices to select breeding stock annually. *See some images from these events below.*



Capwell Tweed Farmwalk - Ballygalley, Co. Antrim



John Landers Killeagh – Teagasc farmwalk



Brian Dolan – STAP National event – Stranorlar Mart, Co. Donegal

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Mobile: +353 872903121, Email scoughlan@icbf.com, **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. **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.

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 22-JUL-2015 To 31-JUL-2015

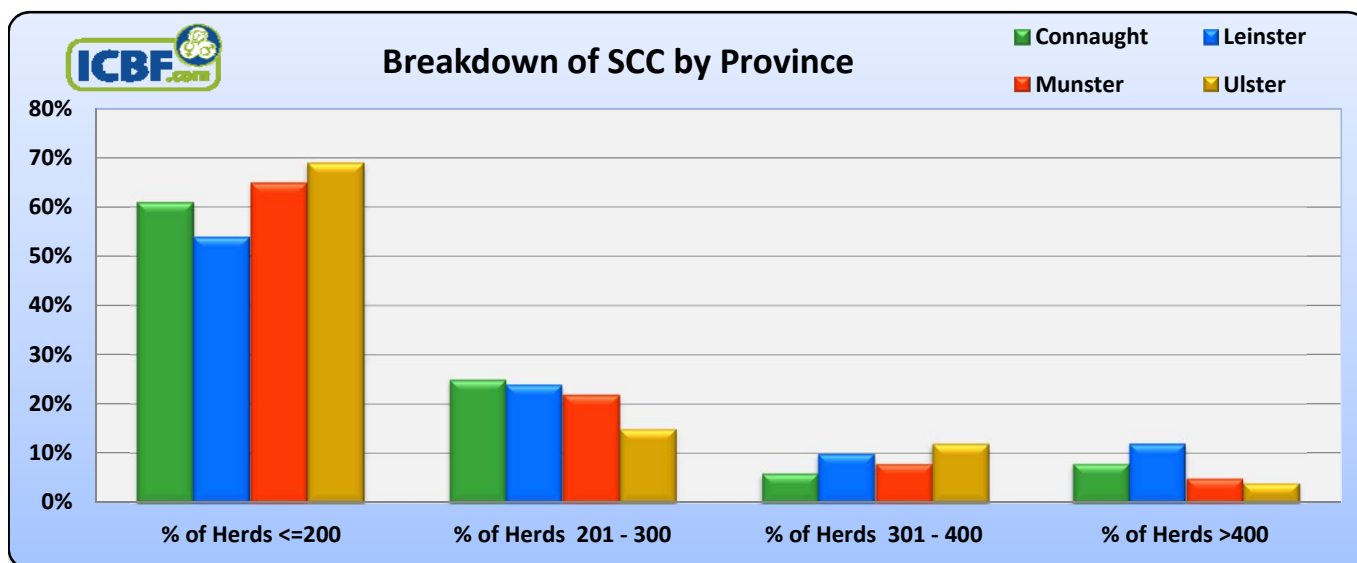
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	36	2,964	82	22.2	3.88	3.46	1.62	177
Leinster	155	14,605	94	21.9	3.86	3.46	1.60	192
Munster	541	46,736	86	22.4	3.93	3.48	1.65	175
Ulster	26	1,558	60	25.0	3.61	3.30	1.73	169
National Statistics	758	65,863	87	22.4	3.90	3.47	1.64	178

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 22-JUL-2015 To 31-JUL-2015

ICBF	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*
Connaught	36	2,964	82	61%	25%	6%	8%	177
Leinster	155	14,605	94	54%	24%	10%	12%	192
Munster	541	46,736	86	65%	22%	8%	5%	175
Ulster	26	1,558	60	69%	15%	12%	4%	169
National Statistics	758	65,863	87	63%	23%	9%	6%	178

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 22-JUL-2015 To 31-JUL-2015

ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	36	2,964	82	124	156	164	193	271
Leinster	155	14,605	94	121	166	187	221	324
Munster	541	46,736	86	118	152	169	191	253
Ulster	26	1,558	60	114	148	163	176	284
National Statistics	758	65,863	87	119	154	173	195	269

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

