

ICBF Weekly Update 3rd January 2014

1 Important Dates

ICBF Board Meeting – Thursday 23rd January 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Portlaoise.

ICBF Sheep Board Meeting – Thursday 23rd January 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.

2 2014 Begins

As we start into 2014, it is clear that we have a huge amount of work to get through.

A subset of these includes:

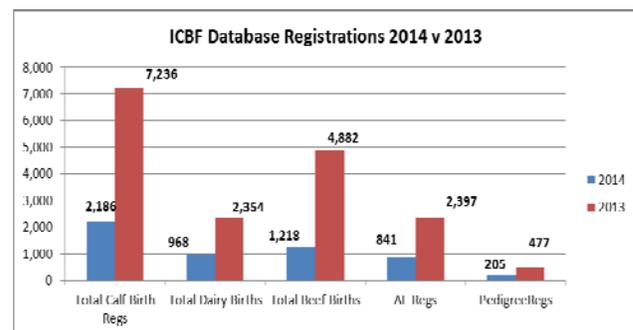
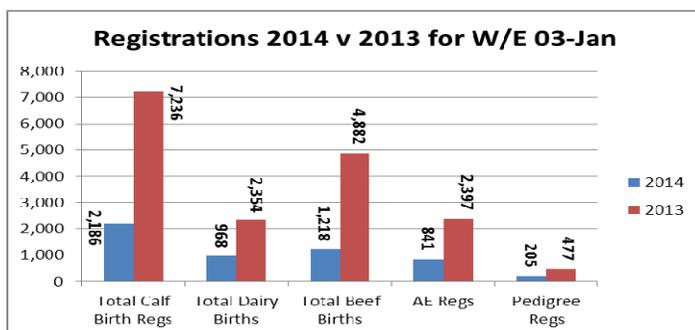
- The rollout of the Beef Genomics Scheme.
- The completion of the Sexed Semen research trial and follow on activities.
- Continued roll-out of the new Gene Ireland Beef Program.
- Building a collaborative approach to maximising farmer engagement in the benefits of cattle breeding services.
- Developing the research around the genetics of health and disease in Irish cattle and building the data capture systems to support this research.
- Assisting AHI in the continued rollout of its national disease control programs.
- Expanding the role of genomics in the Gene Ireland Dairy program and the support of the various AI companies in that regard.
- Expanding the data collection and breeding information distribution infrastructure through HerdPlus.

Our sheep priorities are very much moving towards growing the use of the LambPlus and helping sheep farmers to make better use of the new Euro-Star genetic evaluations for sheep.

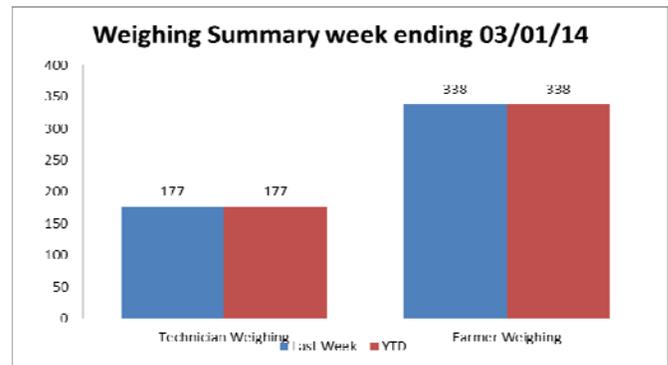
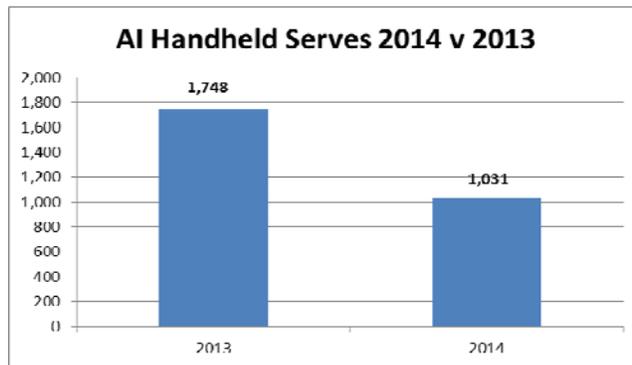
For both ICBF and Sheep Ireland, our priorities reflect the excellent opportunities that are created by the rapidly developing technologies in computing, genetics and statistics. We remained focused on our mission – farm profitability through improved breeding – and be prepared to change from systems and structures developed in a different technological environment.

We again have a very ambitious program for 2014. It builds on the breeding systems and extensive database built up over the years. We look forward to working with the wider industry and Irish farmers and delivering increased value through our services and to overcoming the unexpected challenges that will inevitably arise in 2014.

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 2,161,000 results received since January 1st, of which 14,500 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.65 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- ✚ This week there were 177 weights received through the technician service and 338 weights recorded by farmers.
- ✚ The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



4 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ We hope all our LambPlus breeders had an enjoyable Christmas. For many breeders the Christmas break is an extremely busy time with the first pedigree lambs of the year being born. From a performance recording point of view it is the most critical time of the year. Recording accurate lambing data lays the foundations for the Euro-Star evaluations. All breeders must ensure that the following is recorded with maximum accuracy:
 - Parentage of each lamb – extra care is necessary when using embryo transfers, fostering lambs and/or rearing lambs artificially.
 - Dates of birth – must be recorded at point of lambing to ensure accuracy.
 - Lambing difficulty – needs to be recorded by breeders at the point of lambing to ensure accuracy.
 - Lamb birth weights – should be recorded promptly after birth.
- ✚ All LambPlus breeders should have received the LambPlus Userguide before Christmas. This document goes into more detail about the records that are required at lambing time and all breeders should read this carefully. If breeders have any queries in relation to lambing records, we urge them to contact us immediately. Waiting until lambing is finished may result in valuable data being lost.

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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.