

ICBF Weekly Update 3rd May 2013

1 Important Dates

✚ **Sheep Ireland Board / AGM Meeting** – Thursday 16th May, 11:00 to 14:00, Highfield House, Bandon.

2 ICBF Board Meeting 2nd May

Some of the key items from this week's board meeting included:

✚ Update on the finances and the challenging year that farmers are having on the ground, resulting in reduced demand for AI and Milk Recording.

✚ A report on the outcomes of the most recent Beef Breeding Industry Consultation Meeting.

- Changes to the presentation of Calving Indexes.
- Continued efforts in getting International Beef data flowing.
- Great progress by the herdbooks in using SNP's for parentage verification.

✚ The latest statistics on the BVD scheme which ICBF is providing the back-end information systems.

✚ The launch of the Beef Data Programme which is going to be a great asset to ICBF and the cattle breeding industry in ensuring a continued flow of quality data from the Suckler herd.

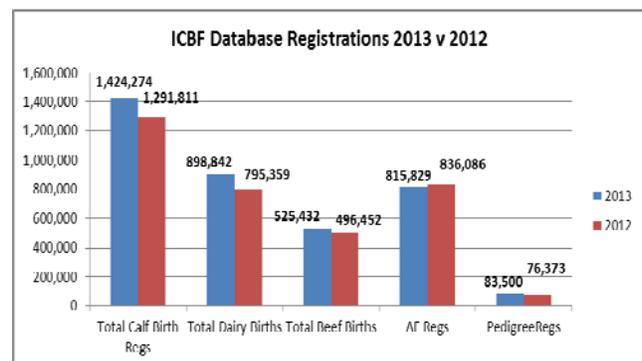
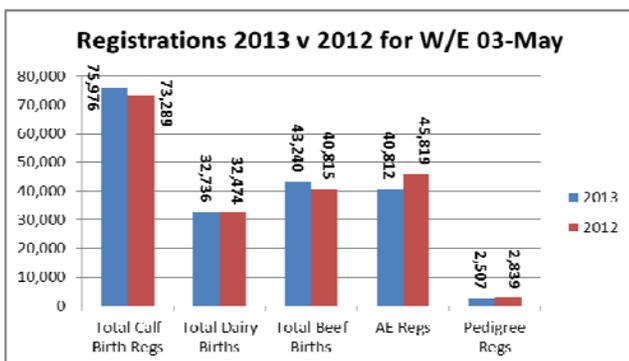
✚ An update on the sexed semen project, which is progressing very well.

✚ A report on the turnaround times for genomic evaluations, and a commitment to reduce the lead times for the 2014 season.

3 ICBF AGM – 2nd May

The AGM on Thursday adopted the 2012 audited accounts, and approved the appointment of Ernst & Young as auditor for 2013. A copy of the Annual Report for 2012 is available in the publications section of www.icbf.com.

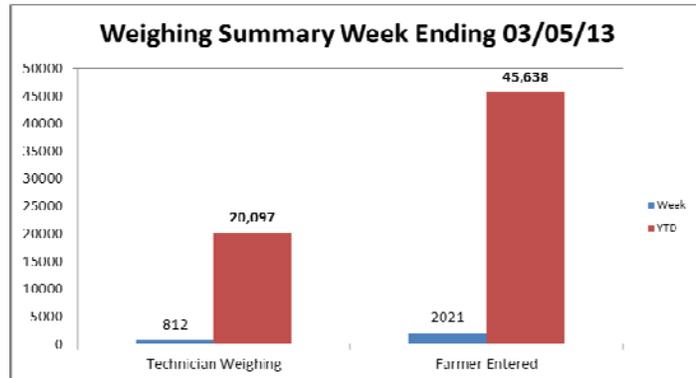
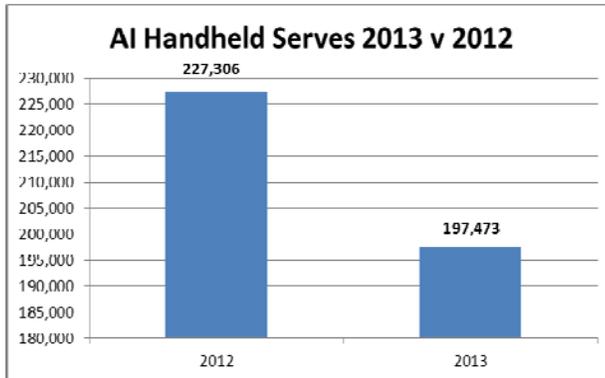
4 Database



✚ 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 621,644 with the number of animals weaned at 545,180.

- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,420,000 results received since January 1st, of which 77,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 1.91 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- This week there were 812 weights received through the technician service and 2,021 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



5 Sheep Ireland

- This week Sheep Ireland Staff were present at a number of different events around the country. On Monday, we travelled to Tullamore to meet with the Belclare Sheep Society. We have recently carried out some inbreeding analysis for the society and we wanted to ensure that breeders were clear on what the results meant. Sinead McPharland of Teagasc (who has published a number of papers on inbreeding in Ireland, mainly dairy & beef studies) and Noirin McHugh (Teagasc geneticist) were in attendance to answer questions from breeders. There was good discussion in relation to the potential problems that can occur when inbreeding is not managed appropriately.



Roscommon Lamb Festival Sale in full flow

- Each Belclare breeder has been provided with information detailing the current level of inbreeding in their flock, this is just an across flock average. Step 1 is assessing if an issue exists. Step 2 will involve looking at ewes on an individual basis in each flock, to combat inbreeding, flock owners will need to carefully manage their breeding rams and ensure closely related females are not mated with them. The breeding population of purebred Belclare ewes is limited, and new bloodlines from other countries will never be available to the breed, as result, it is of major importance that we do all we can to prevent inbreeding issues for the breed, while also maintaining as much genetic progress as possible.

- On Wednesday 1st May we were invited to attend the Roscommon Lamb Festival (www.roscommonlambfestival.com) which was launched in Roscommon mart. On the day there was a lot of activity, there were a number of breed societies promoting their sheep, in association with trade stands, but the main event was the sale of spring lambs which has become the target of many lamb producers in the area. Good

prices were reached on the day and the quality of lambs presented was excellent. The Suffolk Sheep Society presented ram sale vouchers to the producers of the six best pens of lambs. These vouchers will be redeemable at Suffolk Society sales where performance recorded rams are purchased.

6 GENEIRELAND®

Dairy

- ✚ Semen allocation for all herds currently signed up is complete.
- ✚ Further orders can be taken for non-pedigree Holstein Friesian bulls if required.
- ✚ Thanks to all the herd-owners for their participation and to the AI companies for their co-operation.

SPRING DAIRY GI PROGRAMME 2013	
NUMBER OF HERDS	750
TOTAL NUMBER OF STRAWS ALLOCATED	29,845
NUMBER OF BULLS ON TEST BY BREED	
HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN	32
FRIESIAN	3
JERSEY	2
JE/FR CROSSBREDS	4
NORWEGIAN RED	1

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 03/05/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 03/05/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 03/05/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 03/05/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 03/05/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,063	721	24%	221,565	56,919	26%
Progressive	2,015	717	36%	164,622	59,722	36%
Tipperary	84	22	26%	6,561	1,984	30%
Total	5,162	1,460	28%	392,748	118,625	30%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 03/05/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 03/05/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	228,976	221,565	-3.3%
Progressive	165,949	164,622	-0.8%
Tipperary	7,071	6,561	-7.8%
Total	401,996	392,748	-2.4%

Please see milk recording stats attached

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, 24-APR-2013 To 03-MAY-2013

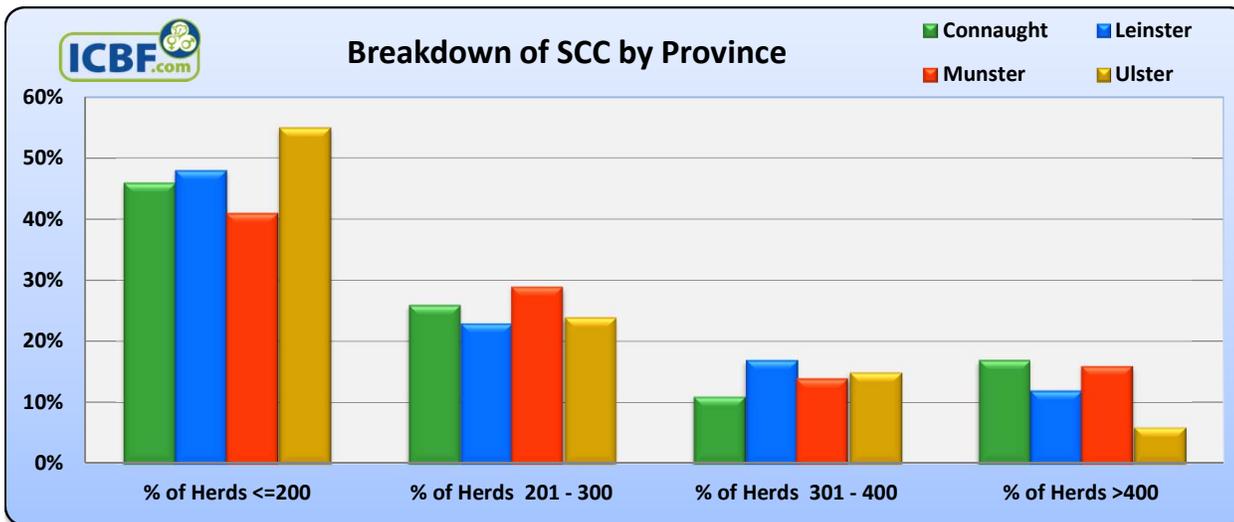
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	46	2,608	57	26.7	3.76	3.19	1.85	236
Leinster	154	13,896	90	25.6	3.64	3.26	1.77	192
Munster	542	40,359	74	26.2	3.72	3.26	1.83	225
Ulster	33	2,168	66	26.2	3.73	3.10	1.79	193
National Statistics	775	59,031	76	26.1	3.71	3.25	1.82	217

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 24-APR-2013 To 03-MAY-2013

ICBF.com	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	46	2,608	57	46%	26%	11%	17%	236
Leinster	154	13,896	90	48%	23%	17%	12%	192
Munster	542	40,359	74	41%	29%	14%	16%	225
Ulster	33	2,168	66	55%	24%	15%	6%	193
National Statistics	775	59,031	76	43%	27%	14%	15%	217

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 24-APR-2013 To 03-MAY-2013

ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	46	2,608	57	143	195	222	261	354
Leinster	154	13,896	90	103	170	209	257	335
Munster	542	40,359	74	145	197	222	250	363
Ulster	33	2,168	66	134	161	178	231	302
National Statistics	775	59,031	76	135	190	218	250	353

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

