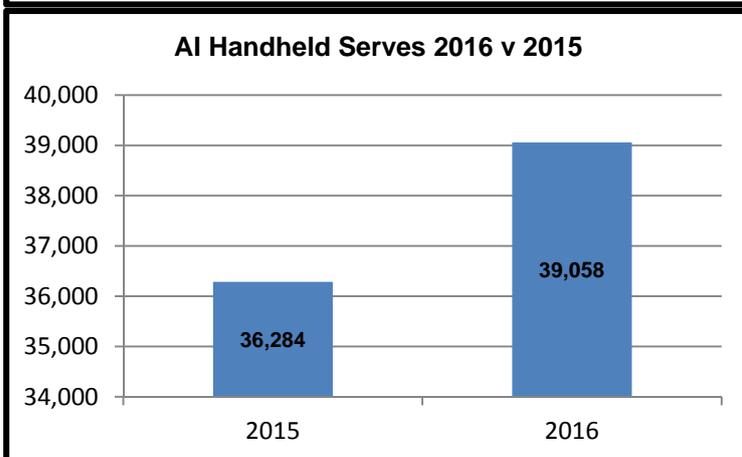
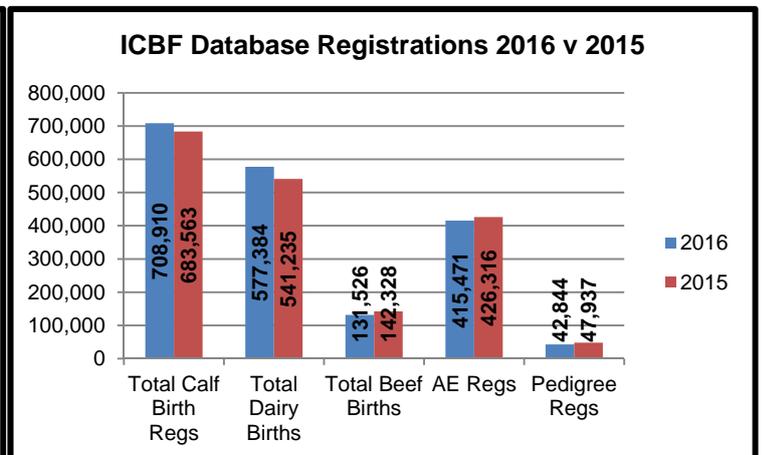
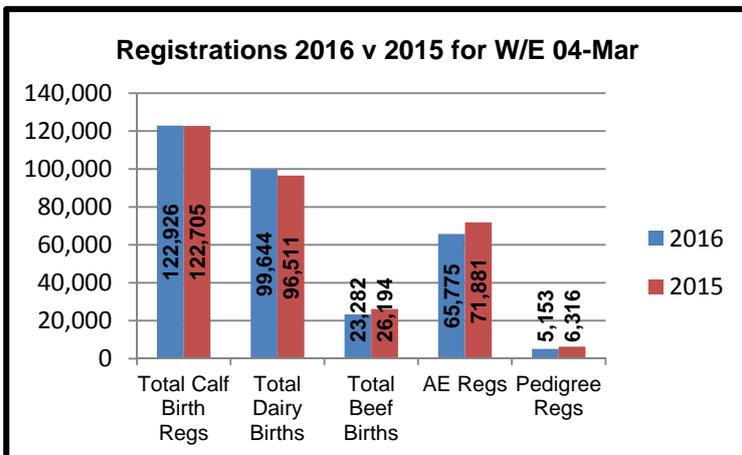


ICBF Weekly Update 4th March 2016

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 10th March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 10th March 2016 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 31st March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 31st March 2016, at 14:00, 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 711,015 results received since January 1st, of which 130,525 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 8.04 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

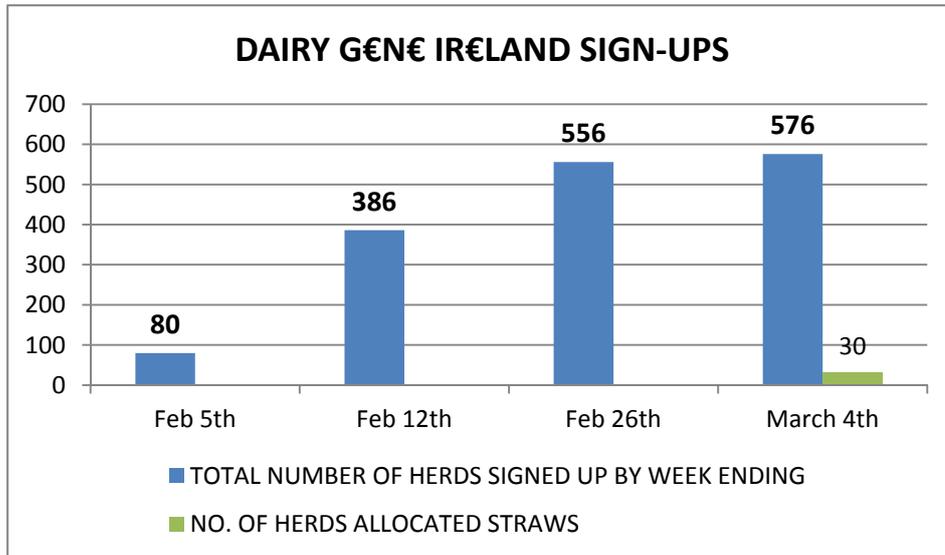
3 GENRELAND[®] Dairy

BREED PACKS AND AVERAGE EBI'S

- **Holstein-Friesian:** €374
- **Pure Friesian :** €269
- **Multi Breed:** €290

- ✚ The **Multi Breed** pack includes Jersey (and Jersey Cross bulls), together with Holstein-Friesian bulls for comparative purposes.
- ✚ 576 herds are signed up to date, taking a total of 23,400 straws.
- ✚ Allocations have commenced and will be ongoing for the next number of weeks dependent on semen availability.

- Participants will receive inbreeding reports and details of bulls allocated.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.



4 Herd Plus®

- With calving season in full swing, please remember to record sire details and calving ease scores.
- ICBF Spring 2016 Dairy Breeding brochure is now available to view – Click link to view https://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/spring_dairy_active_bull_list_2016
- ICBF will be publishing the 'Top 20' replacement index cows. This will be a 13 part listing. Each day we will add another 'Top 20' for the 12 most popular pedigree breeds. We will also be publishing a 'Top 20' listing of commercial beef cows to complete this listing. In order to make the list animals must have been in a HerdPlus herd at time of data extraction. A new breed listing will be added at random everyday over the next fortnight. Make sure to stay tuned to see if your cows have made these listings.
- Breeds currently Published include:

- Angus
- Aubrac
- Belgian Blue
- Blonde D'Aquitane
- Charolais
- Hereford
- Piedmontese
- Simmental



Lionel Mackey, Ballinclea House, Donard, Co Wicklow – Owner of Top Replacement Index Aubrac Cow

5 GENEIRELAND® Beef

- Sign Ups are continuing for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- 251 herds taking a total of 3385 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 13 straws per herd.
- CH2159, LM2117 and LM2151 all reached the 500 straws target this week.

- The catalogue is available to view at the link below
https://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/2016_spring_brochure
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are detailed in graph to the right.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
AA2063	Mogeely Evitas	AA	265
CH2154	Polar Joe 2	CH	160
CH2221	Jarret	CH	190
HE2148	Ballyville Hamlet	HE	410
LM2242	Edakya	LM	180
LM2214	Idalgo PP	LM	400
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	420
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	135
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	300
SH2181	Coolvin Dominator	SH	80
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	475
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	395

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 04/03/16						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 04/03/16	No. EDIY Herds YTD 04/03/16	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 04/03/16	No. EDIY Cows YTD 04/03/16	% Cows EDIY
Munster	918	51	6%	57,031	4,415	8%
Progressive	907	172	19%	63,934	11,663	18%
Tipperary	11	1	9%	471	29	6%
Total	1,836	224	12%	121,436	16,107	13%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15- 04/03/15	YTD 2016 Cows Recorded 01/01/16- 04/03/16	2016 vs 2015 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	50,504	57,031	12.9%
Progressive	61,467	63,934	4.0%
Tipperary	582	471	-19.1%
Total	112,553	121,436	7.9%

7 Sheep Ireland

CPT Lambing 2016

- The first CPT lambs are beginning to hit the ground now. We are still in the very early stages of lambing with just 40 ewes lambed as of today Friday 4th. Over the next two weeks 2,000 ewes will give birth to progeny from our CPT rams.
- The weather conditions are far from suitable to release lambs to the field, but with just 40 ewes lambed at this time there are more than enough individual lambing pens on farms to hold these sheep. On average each CPT farm will have in excess of 100 individual lambing pens. Ewes will soon need to move out of these individual pens. At this point ewes and lambs will have bonded sufficiently, lambs will be EID tagged, DNA sampled, weighed and scored for lamb vigour. Ewes will be scored for lambing difficulty, mothering ability and milkiness. All fostered, pet and dead lambed will be carefully tracked within the flock. All dead

lambs are DNA sampled also and scored at birth. A reason for death is also recorded. Any incidences of prolapse, lameness, mastitis and anything else out of the ordinary is recorded at this time also.

- Lambs are not tagged until they are dry and/or strong enough. This usually happens 12 hours after birth. However this means that data on each lambing event must be recorded at the point of birth in some way before it enters our data recording handheld 12 hours later. We have trialed many different ways to mark ewes and lambs at birth to ensure it is not lost before entering the handheld. By far the best method we have found for this is using small whiteboards on the front of each individual lambing pen. We use whiteboard markers on these pen boards which mean they can be re-used multiple times. When it comes to lamb tagging time 12/24 hours after birth it means all the required birth data is available for the person keying the data into the recording handheld.
- See below some images from the different flocks involved in the programme this year.



An example of the pen boards in use across the CPT flocks to record crucial information at birth.



A line of individual lambing pens from John Larges farm today (Friday). These ewes lambed yesterday and lambs have been tagged today. All required birth information has been recorded on the whiteboards on the front of each pen which makes next day tagging and data recording very easy.



A freshly lambed set of triplets on the farm of John Large on Thursday 3rd March. The ewe lambed completely unassisted and showed a very strong mothering instinct. All three lambs were very vigorous at birth also.



Another freshly lambed ewe on the farm of John Large. This ewe had triplets but lost one lamb soon after birth. His birth weight was just 2.2kgs and was very weak at birth.



Some of the CPT ewes on the UCD research farm in Lyons estate. The expected lambing start date for UCD is next Wednesday 16th March. Today (Friday 4th) all ewes were looking content and in excellent body condition for lambing.

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Email info@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-FEB-2016 To 04-MAR-2016

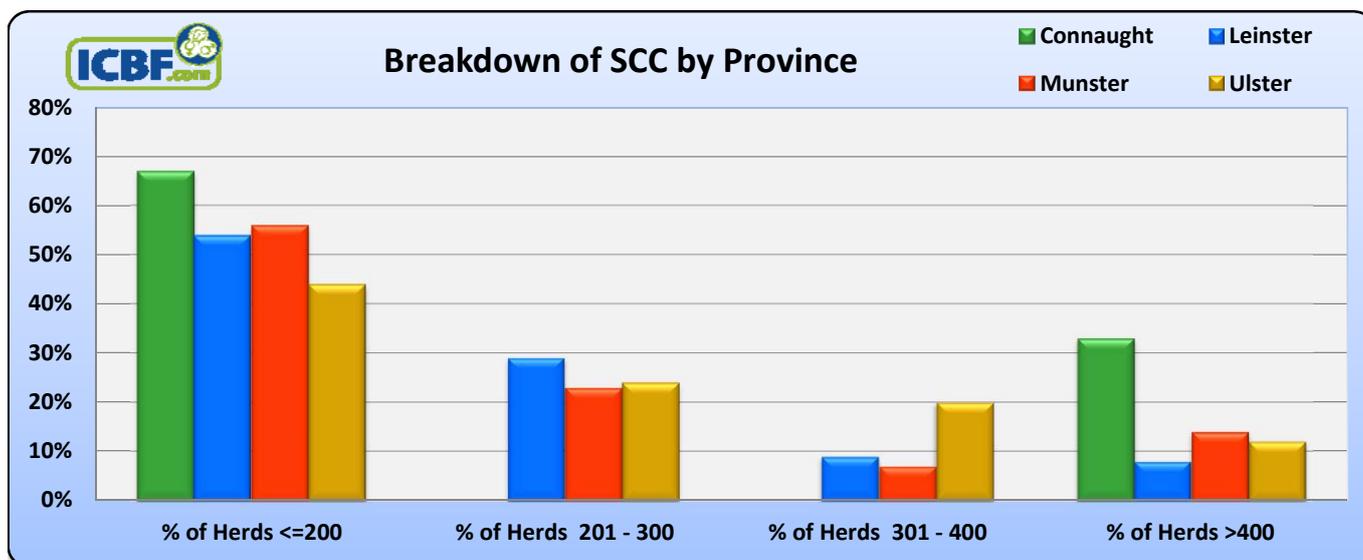
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	3	76	25	25.8	4.23	3.24	1.91	114
Leinster	97	8,022	83	23.5	4.18	3.34	1.76	186
Munster	312	19,060	61	24.5	4.31	3.27	1.86	187
Ulster	25	1,352	54	25.2	3.95	3.18	1.79	184
National Statistics	437	28,510	65	24.3	4.26	3.28	1.83	186

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 24-FEB-2016 To 04-MAR-2016

	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	3	76	25	67%	0%	0%	33%	114
Leinster	97	8,022	83	54%	29%	9%	8%	186
Munster	312	19,060	61	56%	23%	7%	14%	187
Ulster	25	1,352	54	44%	24%	20%	12%	184
National Statistics	437	28,510	65	55%	24%	8%	13%	186

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 24-FEB-2016 To 04-MAR-2016								
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	3	76	25	58	73	81	150	289
Leinster	97	8,022	83	113	169	195	219	292
Munster	312	19,060	61	109	159	183	218	319
Ulster	25	1,352	54	117	150	216	250	320
National Statistics	437	28,510	65	110	162	187	221	316

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

