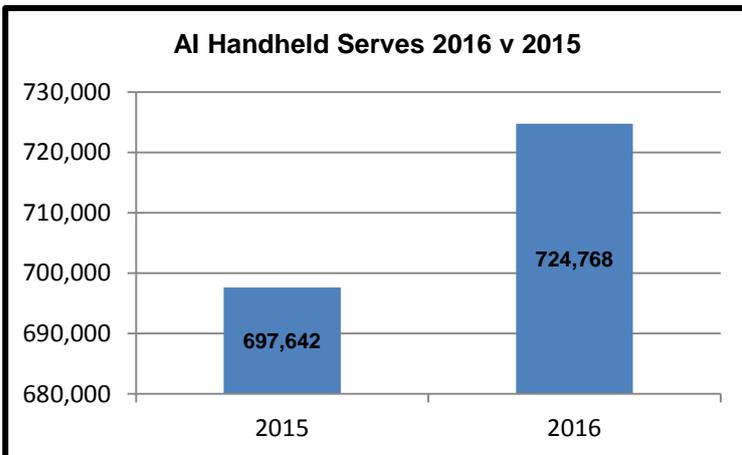
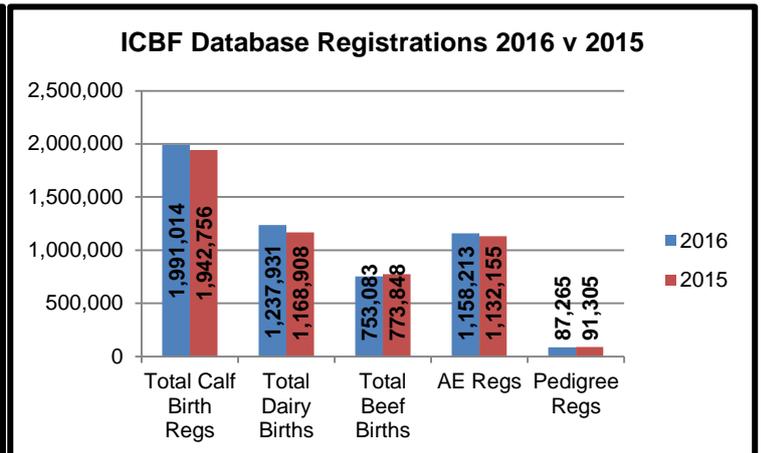
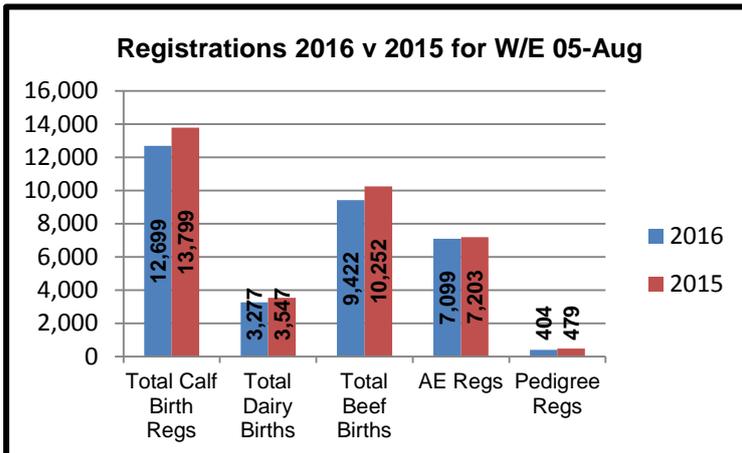


ICBF Weekly Update 5th August 2016

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 8th September at 10:30am in Highfield House.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 8th September at 2:00pm in Highfield House.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 17th November at 10:30am in the 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 2,436,991 results received since January 1st, of which 133,588 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 9,765,431 results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ The latest HerdPlus Co-op Performance reports are now available for viewing online under the reports section and will be arriving on farm in the coming days
- ✚ Farmers can now genotype all their female calves which will allow them to make a more informed decision around breeding and culling potential replacements. This service could cost herd-owners as little as €22/head. Please contact HerdPlus on **1850 600 900** or **023 8820452** for further details. Alternatively when logged into HerdPlus, herd-owners can make orders online by selecting ‘Services’ – ‘Genomic Services’ – ‘Place Order’
- ✚ With breeding season coming to an end, if your AI technician does not have a handheld or you are doing DIY AI please remember to record AI serves on your HerdPlus account. This will be used to generate fertility reports and an expected calving list for the 2017 calving season.
- ✚ *Please see example report at the end of this Update.*

4 GENE IRELAND® Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- ✚ 458 herds taking a total of 5910 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 13 straws per herd.
- ✚ An updated flyer on the available bulls can be viewed [here](#)
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **023 8820452**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are detailed in graph to the right.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
GZJ	Goulding Eamonn	AA	365
AU2365	Calverstown Koala	AU	80
BA2357	Terelton Isaac	BA	25
CH2154	Polar Joe 2	CH	265
CH2221	Jarret	CH	280
CH2363	Dolland Jefferson	CH	45
HE2359	Arlinstown Special 13 th	HE	65
LM2242	Edakya	LM	495
PT2356	Macgowan Herd Jumbo	PT	75
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	490
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	265
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	375
SA2366	Carrentubber Pinocchio	SA	20
SH2181	Coolvin Dominator	SH	105
SH2361	Doon Gladiator	SH	250
SH2360	Doon Giorgio	SH	250
SI2469	Lisnacraan Fifty Cent	SI	235
SI2367	Barnattin George 2	SI	60
SI2362	Dermotstown Gigantosaurus	SI	70
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	450

5 Genetic Evaluations

Dairy Industry Meeting

- ✚ An update was presented on the upcoming base change for EBI. The base cow is moving from a 1995 born cow to a 2005 born cow so that an animal's EBI is compared to a more recent group of animals. The base change is a reflection of the genetic progress that has been made in that period of time. Updating the base animal will result in changes to the EBI of all animals, with each animal changing by the same amount. The overall EBI will see a decrease of approximately €71 in EBI in the next evaluation as a result of the base change. This will be the same for cows and bulls. While EBI for cows and herds will reduce the base change should be viewed as a very positive sign that genetic progress is being made. A base change should not influence a farmer's decision making process when it comes to breeding. As always, this process should be
 - a) know which trait(s) you want to improve
 - b) check your EBI report for the genetic indexes of these trait(s) you wish to improve, and
 - c) select a team of bulls that are on average better than the genetic index for the trait(s) you wish to improve.
- ✚ In addition to the base change, other research areas that were presented included update to genomic evaluations, fertility traits, health traits, genomic inbreeding and an index that ranks cows on own performance (COW). The meeting highlighted the necessity and the challenges to capturing more data on some of the traits.
- ✚ All presentations from the meeting can be viewed online at : http://www.icbf.com/?page_id=22

Beef Industry Meeting

- ✚ There was a very large turnout for the Beef Industry meeting where results from latest set of Beef Genomics proofs were presented at the meeting. This is the culmination of a huge amount of research, with genomic evaluations now being produced for all genotyped animals (approximately 530,000 animals). This is the largest single genomic evaluation for beef cattle in the world. The technical team working on the project

(ICBF, Teagasc, and the Scientific Advisory Committee) have recommended the introduction of the genomic evaluations for beef cattle for the August evaluation.

- An update on whole herd performance recording was presented on the night also.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/08/16						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/08/16	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/08/16	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/08/16	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/08/16	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,636	1,114	31%	351,859	117,780	33%
Progressive	2,285	913	40%	244,254	97,897	40%
Tipperary	115	51	44%	10,840	4,597	42%
Total	6,036	2,078	34%	606,953	220,274	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15- 05/08/15	YTD 2016 Cows Recorded 01/01/16- 05/08/16	2016 vs 2015 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	361,225	351,859	-2.6%
Progressive	249,302	244,254	-2.0%
Tipperary	11,680	10,840	-7.2%
Total	622,207	606,953	-2.5%

7 Sheep Ireland

Premier Ram Sales

- On Saturday 30th July the Charollais premier sale took place in Tullow, Co. Carlow and the presence of high Euro-Star rams was very apparent with 81% of the catalogue having Euro-Star indexes. It was a similar story for the Belclare premier sale in Kilkenny on Tuesday 2nd August where 100% of sale entries had Euro-Star indexes. Demand for very high starred rams which were also physically correct was correspondingly high. Sheep Ireland had a presence at both sales to answer any breeder/commercial farmer queries in relation to the Euro-Stars.

RamPlus Project

- The Sheep Ireland RamPlus project is being run on a pilot basis this year. This project will develop into the future to promote the use of high Index, high accuracy genetics among our LambPlus pedigree ram breeders. The objective of this year's pilot is to operate the project at a small level and identify the potential issues that arise. We have chosen just two breeds to simplify the pilot and the breeds chosen were Belclare and Texel, given that these are two breeds with full ancestry data available to our genetic evaluations thus maximising the accuracy % attached to the breeds Euro-Star evaluations.
- Ram selection concentrated on the descendants of rams used in the Central Progeny test programme. The reason for this was again accuracy %. Rams related to CPT rams will have high accuracy given the amount of commercial farm data behind their genetic evaluations. Another criterion is high indexes, especially on the Replacement index, but also on Terminal index where possible. Of course another critical consideration is physical appearance. Given that all the rams selected were purchased at breed society ram sales and are being used by pedigree sheep breeders, they all meet the breed standards from a physical point of view. We

acknowledge that every individual pedigree ram breeder have their own opinions on the type of ram they like to use, but the selection of rams identified this year certainly tick a lot of boxes.

Structure of RamPlus for 2016

Belclare breeders which have demonstrated an interest in partaking in the RamPlus project have already sponged their ewes to ensure that they are synchronised for the AI date. AI will take place in two locations on the same day and fresh semen will be used to inseminate the ewes. The Texel project will involve a slightly different structure. Given the large number of Texel flocks involved in LambPlus it is unlikely that a fresh semen AI programme would work. The rams that have been selected for the project are all owned by individual breeders and are required to mate with ewes on the farms of each respective breeder. As such it is not possible to take these rams for a long period of time to facilitate a programme of fresh semen AI around the country. For this reason we will take semen from these rams and freeze it. Any Texel LambPlus breeder will then have access to this high index semen at a subsidised rate.

Benefits of RamPlus to Pedigree Breeders and Ram Buyers

The benefits are numerous. The main one being access to high accuracy, high index genetics which will no doubt be in demand from commercial farmers the following year. Using this semen will also give the relevant flock excellent flock linkage to other Belclare/Texel flocks. For unlinked flocks or poorly linked flocks this will greatly improve the accuracy % of the entire flock and help Sheep Ireland deliver better genetic evaluations to these breeders. The major benefit however is the fact that more commercial sheep farmers will have access to high index, high accuracy breeding rams. If we are to make significant genetic progress in Ireland this is critical.

Teagasc Better Farm Sheep Event – John Doyles, Co. Wexford

Yesterday (Thursday 4th August) Sheep Ireland presented at the Better Farm Sheep event which took place on the farm of John Doyles outside Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. John is an excellent sheep farmer who is getting fantastic results from implementing very simple changes around his breeding policy and grassland management. There was a very large crowd in attendance on the day and proved to be another great event for sheep farmers to learn simple valuable take home messages. Data from John's commercial sheep is being used in the Sheep Ireland Euro-Star evaluations. John is single sire mating a large number of ewes in his flock to rams with Euro-Star evaluations annually and recording information on his lambs from birth each year.

Some Images from John's Farm Walk





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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.

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 27-JUL-2016 To 05-AUG-2016

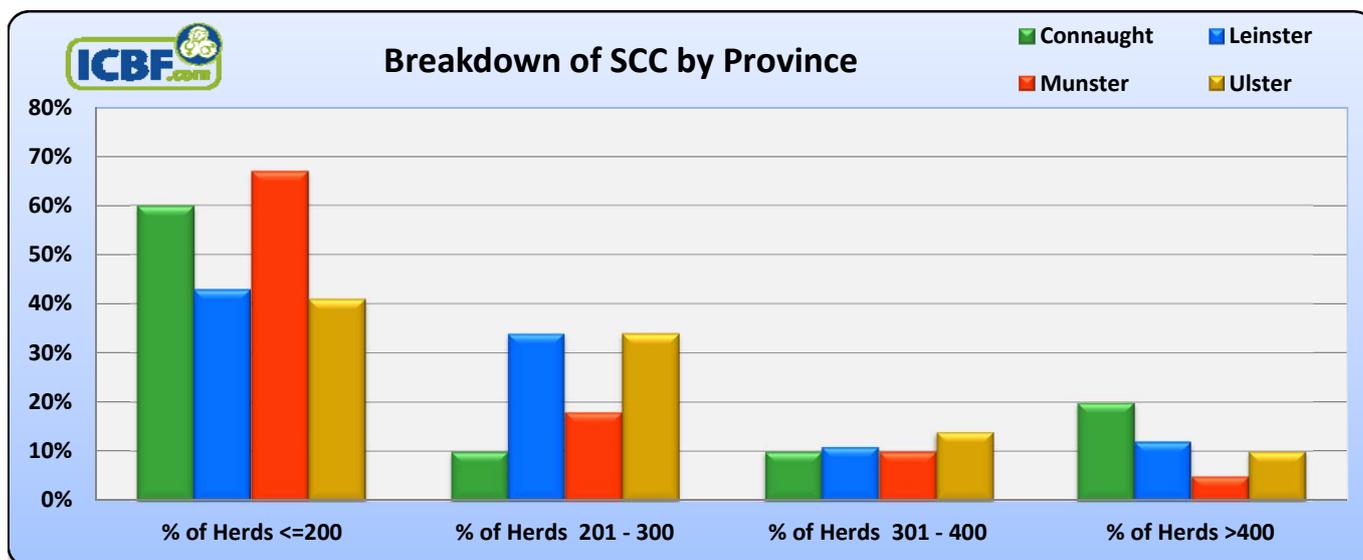
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	10	624	62	23.2	3.86	3.39	1.68	197
Leinster	74	8,072	109	21.5	3.94	3.40	1.57	208
Munster	543	47,436	87	21.3	3.94	3.43	1.57	166
Ulster	29	2,044	70	22.4	3.68	3.26	1.55	210
National Statistics	656	58,176	89	21.4	3.93	3.42	1.57	173

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 27-JUL-2016 To 05-AUG-2016

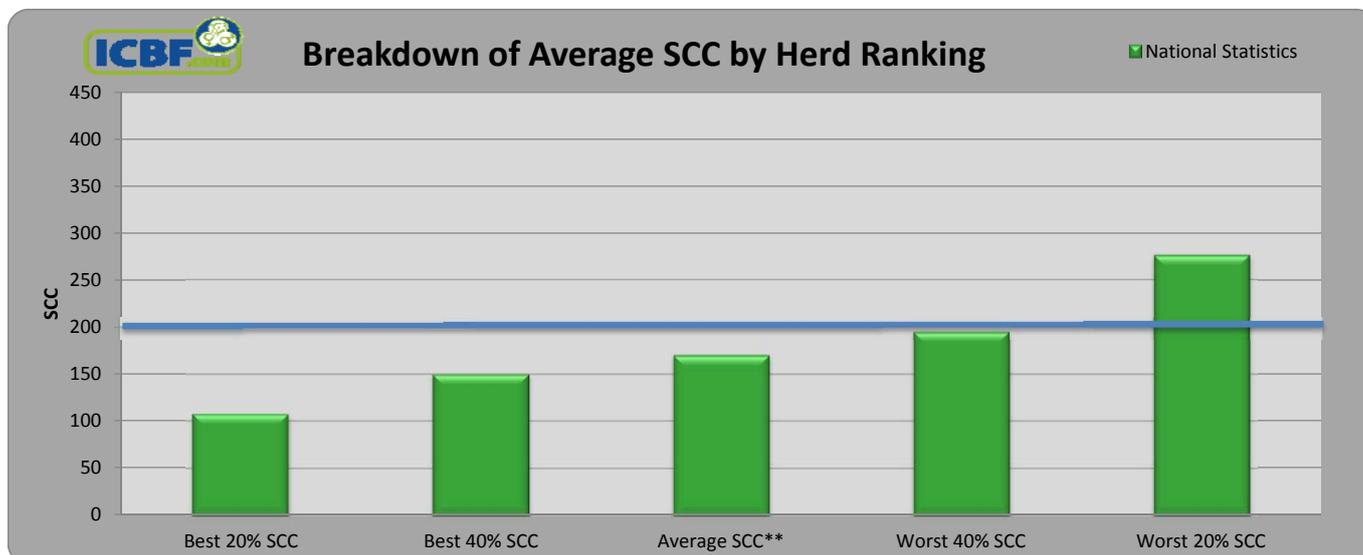
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	10	624	62	60%	10%	10%	20%	197
Leinster	74	8,072	109	43%	34%	11%	12%	208
Munster	543	47,436	87	67%	18%	10%	5%	166
Ulster	29	2,044	70	41%	34%	14%	10%	210
National Statistics	656	58,176	89	63%	21%	10%	6%	173

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 27-JUL-2016 To 05-AUG-2016								
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	10	624	62	122	174	179	207	344
Leinster	74	8,072	109	139	191	208	231	315
Munster	543	47,436	87	104	146	163	185	262
Ulster	29	2,044	70	137	197	237	252	323
National Statistics	656	58,176	89	108	150	170	195	276

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)





Dairy Herd Performance Report

Jan - Jun 2016



LoCall 1850 600 900

Table 3: Bandon/ICBF Performance Score Card

	Your Herd	Bandon Average	Bandon Top 10%	Your Rank out of 100	Your Star Rating ¹
Milk performance for 2016 (Jan - Jun) based on Bandon data					
Fat + Protein (Kg/cow) Average Fat and Protein yield per cow for your herd	155	193	244	18%	*
Litres per Cow per Day Avg litres of Milk per cow from Jan - Jun 2016	11.62	14.17	17.8	21%	**
Fat % to end June 2016 Weighted average Fat % from Jan - Jun 2016	3.84	3.93	4.11	29%	**
Protein % to end June 2016 Weighted average Protein % from Jan - Jun 2016	3.27	3.33	3.48	34%	**
Average Milk Price (cpl) Incl. VAT Average milk price received from Jan - Jun 2016, (Includes Bonuses/Penalties, Excludes Levies)	28.0	27.1	29	76%	****
SCC (,000 cells/ml) The weighted average Somatic Cell Count for Jan - Jun 2016	188	168	89	32%	**
Fertility & Calving data based on HerdPlus 2015 Calving Report					
Calving Interval (days) Average number of days between successive calvings for cows calved during the period	384	392	366	49%	***
Spring 6 Week Calving Rate Number of cows/heifers calved within the first 6 wks (52) as a proportion of all cows calved during the Spring (101)	51%	57%	79%	38%	**
Total Dairy Replacements Dairy Females born in the period (32) as a proportion of eligible cows (100)	32%	23%	40%	76%	****
%AI bred replacements %female calves born in the period from dairy AI (2) as a proportion of eligible cows (100)	2%	12%	30%	41%	***
% of Heifers Calved at 22-26 months No. of heifers calved (17) that were between 22 & 26 months of age (23)	74%	53%	98%	60%	***
EBI Statistics based on the latest HerdPlus EBI report 2016					
Herd EBI (2016) Average EBI for Cows (102) with EBI data	€96	€123	€161	20%	*
EBI of 2016 Inseminations Weighted Average EBI of dairy AI bulls recorded in Spring 2016	€311	€307	€357	40%	**
Table of Terms					
Bandon Average	The average performance of all Bandon Suppliers				
Bandon Top 10%	The top 10% cut off point of all Bandon Suppliers				
Your Rank out of 100	Your performance expressed across all Bandon herds eg. 1% = Bottom Supplier, 50% = Average Supplier 100% = Top Supplier				
Your Star Rating	Your performance is displayed in stars e.g. 1 star is bottom 20% and 5 stars = top 20%				
Eligible Cows	Number of dairy cows in the herd on June 2016				
¹ * = 0 - 20% ** = 21 - 40% *** = 41 - 60% **** = 61 - 80% ***** = 81 - 100%					

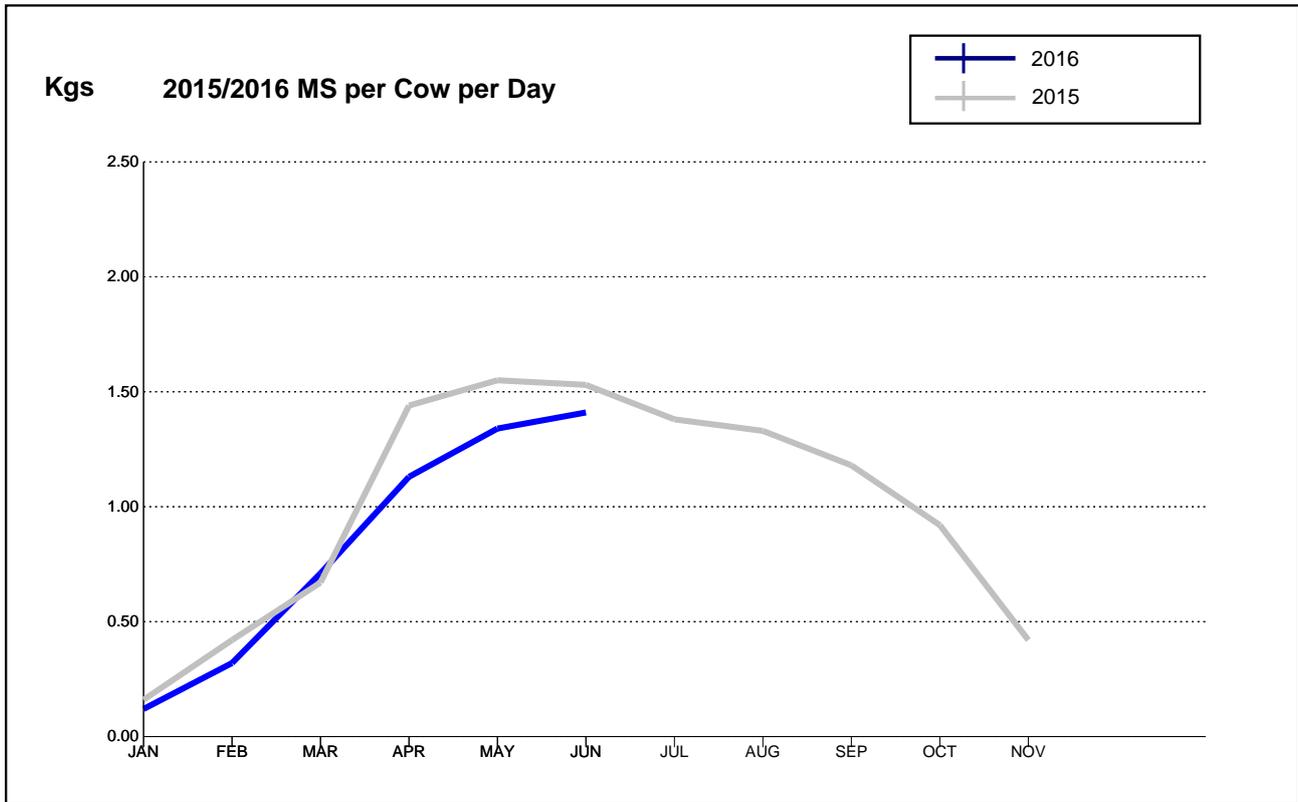


Dairy Herd Performance Report



LoCall 1850 600 900

Milk Solids per Cow per Day 2015-2016



Monthly Somatic Cell Count (SCC) 2015-2016

