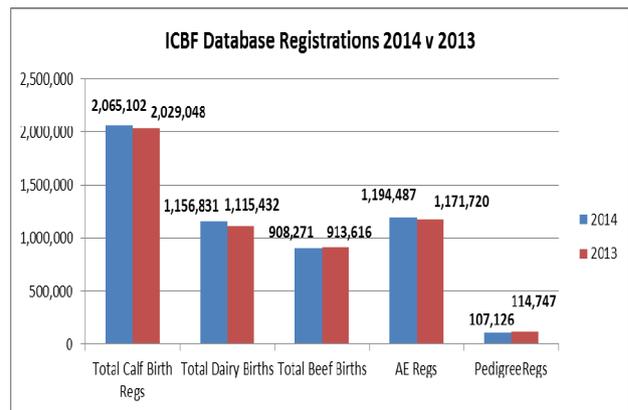
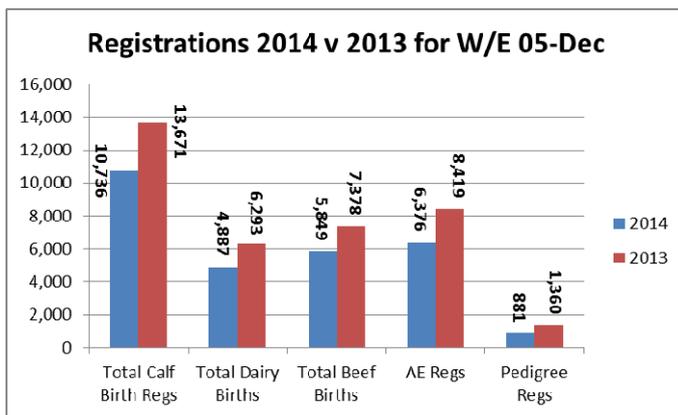


ICBF Weekly Update 5th December 2014

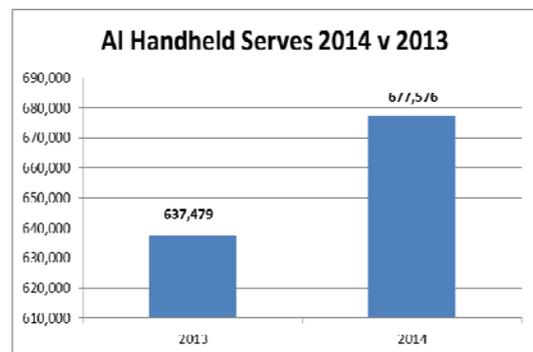
1 Important Dates

- + **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep Ireland Industry Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- + **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. Committee Meeting

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 2,235,000 results received since January 1st, of which 27,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 4.89 million results have now been received.
- + The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.



3 Herd Plus®

- + Any dairy farmers that are currently drying off cows need to make sure that the dry off dates are recorded in the ICBF database. These dates are important in order to make sure that milk recording data is as accurate as possible.
- + All serve and scan information should also be recorded so that expected calving dates in the pocket notebooks are up to date.
- + The Beef HerdPlus 2014-2015 Journal should arrive on farms today to all Beef HerdPlus members. This year's Journal is better than ever with over 80 pages of breeding information, statistics, farmer interviews and advice. It should make excellent reading over the winter months. *(Please see cover attached)*

High Euro-Star Replacement Heifer Sale Report

A high Euro-Star beef replacement heifer sale was held on Tuesday 2nd December at Mayo-Sligo mart Ballina. The sale was organised by the Teagasc Mayo drystock advisors in conjunction with Mayo-Sligo Mart, ICBF and

the Irish Farmer's Journal. 44 heifers which were pre-inspected and were all a minimum of 3 stars on the Replacement Index were offered for sale. The stock on offer was of exceptional quality. 30 of the 44 animals were AI bred with progeny of some top maternal AI sires on offer. There was a large crowd in attendance with buyers coming from far afield. There was a clearance of 80%.



There was a packed ringside for the sale. Details of each heifers Euro-Star Index and ancestry were available to potential buyers which was a very positive development and generated a lot of discussion.

Pre-Sale Prizes

A decision was made by the organisers to give prizes to the best heifers. Two classes, one for 2013 born heifers and one for 2014 born heifers were decided upon. The judging took into account both the index of each heifer as well as their physical traits such as docility, functionality, and suitability to breed. Heifers were given a score out of 10 for both their index and physical traits and the highest scoring heifers were picked out for final judging. A first and second prize was awarded in both classes. Red and blue rosettes were provided by mart manager Billy Loftus which really added a novel effect to proceedings as none of the owners of the heifers had ever received a prize for an animal before. The winners of the classes are as follows:

2013 born

- ✚ 1st Prize went to Lot 6 an October born Limousin x heifer by Ozeus (OZS). She had a Replacement Index of €162 (4.5 stars). She weighed 474 kgs and sold for €1380 (2.91 per kg). She was sold by Edward Gibbons, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.
- ✚ 2nd Prize went to Lot 9 an August born Limousin x heifer again by Ozeus (OZS). She had a Replacement Index of €153 (4 stars). She weighed 442 kgs and sold for €1210 (2.74 per kg). She was sold by Patrick J Keane, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.

2014 born

- ✚ 1st Prize went to Lot 10 a February born Simmental x heifer by Curaheen Vio (CQA). She had a Replacement Index of €167 (4.5 stars). She weighed 420 kgs and sold for €1420 (3.38 per kg). She was sold by Johnny Hopkins, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.
- ✚ 2nd Prize went to Lot 15 an April born Angus x heifer by Goulding Jumbo King (GJB). She had a Replacement Index of €228 (5 stars). She weighed 360 kgs and sold for €980 (2.72 per kg). She was sold by Martin Linnane, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

Teagasc Grange Herd

5 heifers were purchased to enter the suckler herd at Teagasc Grange, Co. Meath. These included:

- ✚ Lot 7 a Dec 2013 born Limousin x heifer by Hauteclair (HCA) out a Simmental x cow by Seepa Tee Jay (IS4). She had a Re-placement index of €206 (5 stars). She weighed 366 kgs and sold for €1170 (3.20 per kg). Sold by Edward Gibbons, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.
- ✚ Lots 9 and 10 (prize winners detailed above).
- ✚ Lot 18 a Jan 2014 born Limousin heifer by Hauteclair (HCA) out of a Limousin x Blue cow by But (FL25). She had a Replacement Index of €200 (5 stars). She weighed 326 kgs and sold for €1000 (3.07 per kg). Sold by Anthony Murphy, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

- Lot 19 a Dec 2014 born Limousin x heifer by Achile (AHZ) out of Blue cross cow by Espoir Du Jardin (EDJ). She had a Replacement Index of €118 (3 stars). She weighed 356 kgs and sold for €1000 (2.81 per kg). She was sold by Thomas Browne, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Top Prices

The top priced heifers of the day were sold by Alan Wood, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

- Lot 35 a Dec 2012 born Charolais x heifer by Crossmolina Euro (CSQ). She had a Replacement Index of €135 (3.5 stars). She weighed 682 kgs and sold for €1690 (2.48 per kg).
- Lot 37 a Feb 2013 born Limousin x heifer by Castlevieview Casino (CWI). She had a Replacement Index of €116 (3 stars). She weighed 674 kgs and sold for €1650 (2.45 per kg).
- Lot 38 an April 2013 born Limousin x heifer again by Castlevieview Casino (CWI). She had a Replacement Index of €160 (4 stars). She weighed 686 kgs and sold for €1650 (2.41 per kg).

Reaction & Feedback

The event was very well received by those in attendance and there has been some great feedback in the days since the sale. The most common question being asked is "When will the next sale be held". Huge credit is due to John Noonan, Teagasc, Westport for driving the sale and making it a huge success. Nathan Tuffy of the Irish Farmer's Journal gave good advice and gave the sale great coverage in his articles in the preceding weeks. Owen Keogh, Teagasc, Ballina did a lot of work collecting tag numbers and also promoting the sale on a local radio slot which he does each week. Hopefully other marts will take note of the success of the sale and they will become more widespread in the coming years.



Lot 10. 1st prize winner in the 2014 class by CQA.



Lot 6. 1st prize winner in the 2013 class by OZS.



Lot 9. 2nd prize winner in the 2013 class by OZS.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- Release of the December proof run for AI sires which was due for this Tuesday 9th December will unfortunately be delayed until Monday 15th December due to a problem identified in the calving evaluations. A new calving run is currently underway. An extra month's data has been included in the new evaluation. We apologise for the inconvenience this delay will cause.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/12/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/12/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/12/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/12/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/12/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,909	1,173	30%	336,966	107,051	32%
Progressive	2,524	1,102	44%	246,409	107,055	43%
Tipperary	117	46	39%	10,411	4,133	40%
Total	6,550	2,321	35%	593,786	218,239	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 05/12/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 05/12/14	2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	311,992	336,966	7.4%
Progressive	235,380	246,409	4.5%
Tipperary	10,125	10,411	2.7%
Total	557,497	593,786	6.1%

6 Cork Conference Ambassadors Award

On Thursday 4th December, Mary McCarthy (ICBF) received a prestigious award on behalf of ICBF from the Cork Convention Bureau. The award was presented to ICBF to acknowledge the work, commitment and effort in bringing the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) Annual Conference to Cork in 2012. The Cork Conference Ambassador Award was presented by Sonia O Sullivan and Evelyn O'Sullivan (Business Development Manager for the Cork Convention Bureau).



Evelyn O Sullivan & Sonia O Sullivan present Mary McCarthy with the Cork Conference Ambassador Award on behalf of ICBF.

Eileen Crowley, Mary McCarthy, Sonia O Sullivan, Lisa Ring, Sheila Walsh receiving the Cork Conference Ambassador Award.



7 Sheep Ireland

Teagasc East Cork Sheep Seminar

Last night (Thurs 04th Dec) Sheep Ireland were invited to speak at a Teagasc sheep seminar in Corrin Mart, Fermoy. These events are a fantastic forum to demonstrate and promote the merits of the Sheep Ireland EuroStars to commercial sheep farmers. We would like to thank the organisers of these events for continuing to help promote sheep genetic improvement by inviting us as speakers.

LambPlus activity

We are continuing to invest a lot of time with breeders to help get flock inventories on the Sheep Ireland database tidied up in advance of the 2015 lambing season. Some animals still exist on our database without their official NSIS (Department tag number) and this will no longer be allowed. As we can monitor the daily activity by breeders on the recording screens, it is clear to see that there is a huge amount of activity on the website at present, this is great to see. Having a database of up to date and accurate flock inventories is an essential criteria for our performance recording programme.

As we endeavour to learn more about the genetics of our sheep industry it is critical that we know when animals are sold from flocks, the reason they were sold, did they die, is there a known reason for death etc. All this data is invaluable when attempting to evaluate hugely important traits such as longevity and survivability.

Reminder about upcoming Ovigen meeting

This meeting takes place on Thursday 18th December in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise at 10.00am. Anyone interested in attending this meeting on the exciting new research project 'Ovigen' should notify Sheep Ireland in advance by emailing ewall@sheep.ie as places will be limited. The meeting will discuss the full contents of the Ovigen project which will be investigating the potential contribution that genomics can make to genetic improvement in the Irish sheep industry.

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, 26-NOV-2014 To 05-DEC-2014

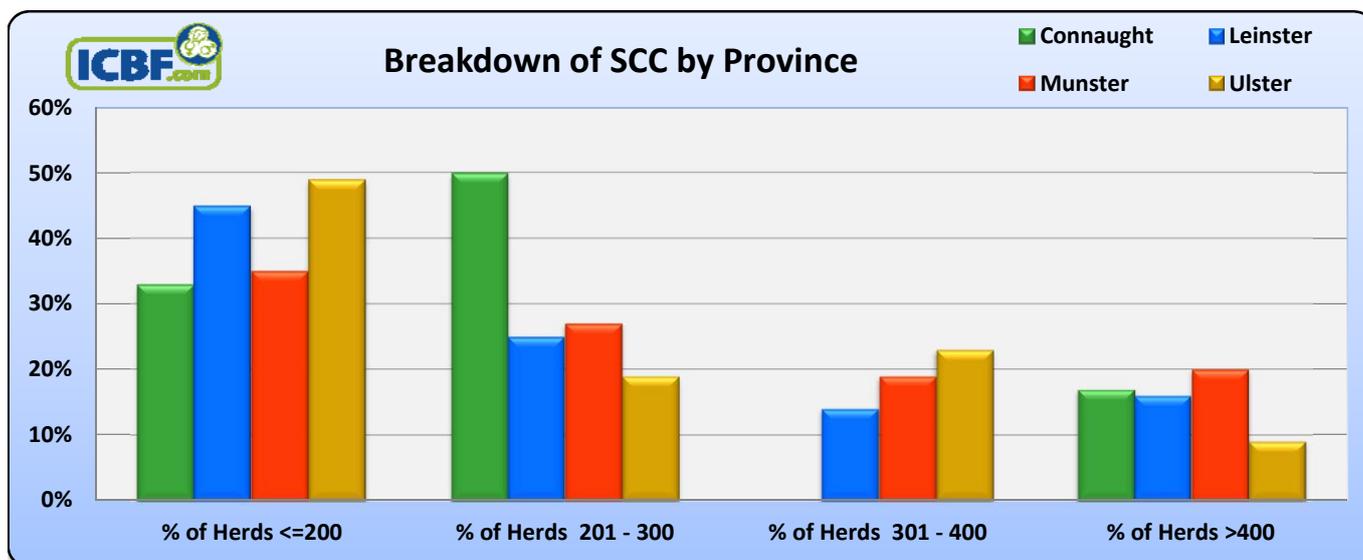
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	6	285	48	19.2	4.18	3.29	1.43	249
Leinster	80	6,336	79	18.2	4.30	3.48	1.40	220
Munster	252	14,149	56	15.0	4.47	3.65	1.21	243
Ulster	43	2,040	47	18.6	4.08	3.38	1.38	205
National Statistics	381	22,810	60	16.2	4.38	3.58	1.27	234

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 26-NOV-2014 To 05-DEC-2014

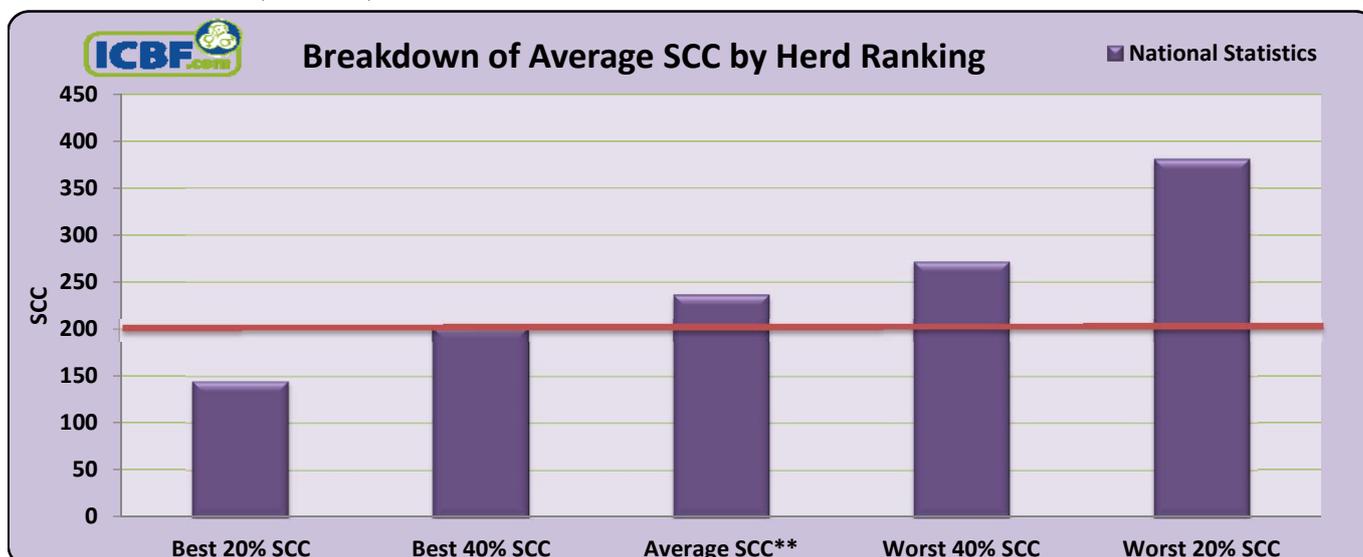
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	6	285	48	33%	50%	0%	17%	249
Leinster	80	6,336	79	45%	25%	14%	16%	220
Munster	252	14,149	56	35%	27%	19%	20%	243
Ulster	43	2,040	47	49%	19%	23%	9%	205
National Statistics	381	22,810	60	38%	26%	18%	18%	234

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 26-NOV-2014 To 05-DEC-2014								
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	6	285	48	174	260	263	265	296
Leinster	80	6,336	79	141	191	221	246	362
Munster	252	14,149	56	146	213	248	294	401
Ulster	43	2,040	47	146	178	219	247	326
National Statistics	381	22,810	60	145	202	237	272	381

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

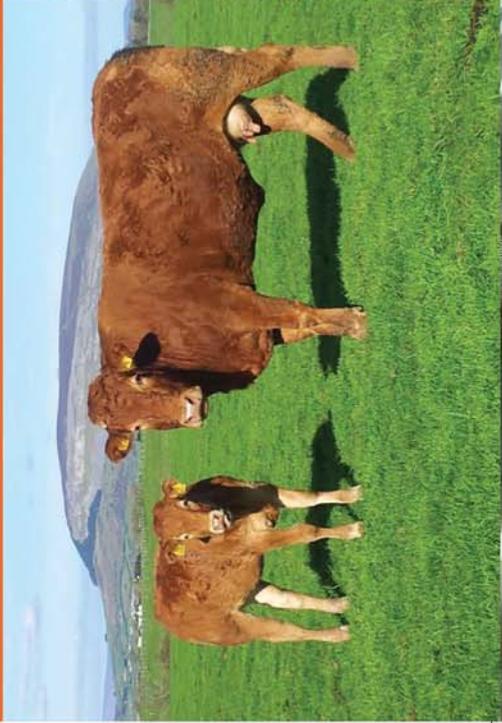


Beef HerdPlus

HerdPlus
Profit through Science

2014 | 2015
JOURNAL

Issue Number 4



In this issue:

- Euro-Stars focus:
 - Explanation as to how Euro-Stars are calculated
 - Using Euro-Stars to select profitable suckler cows
 - The strategy behind breeding top maternal bulls – Gene Ireland

- The performance differences seen in 5 Star v 1 Star cattle
- The importance of Euro-Stars in the sales ring
- Beef Herdplus users guide
- Beef breed population & usage statistics