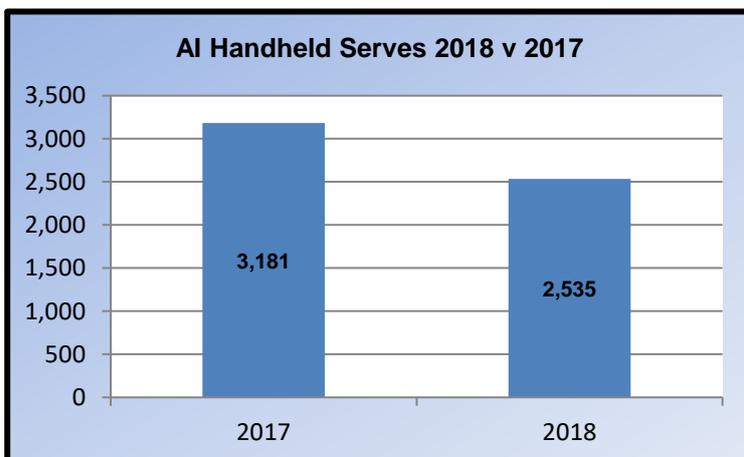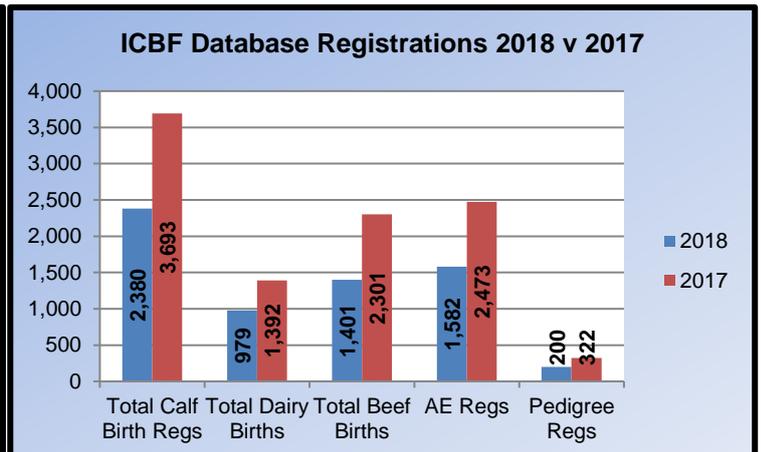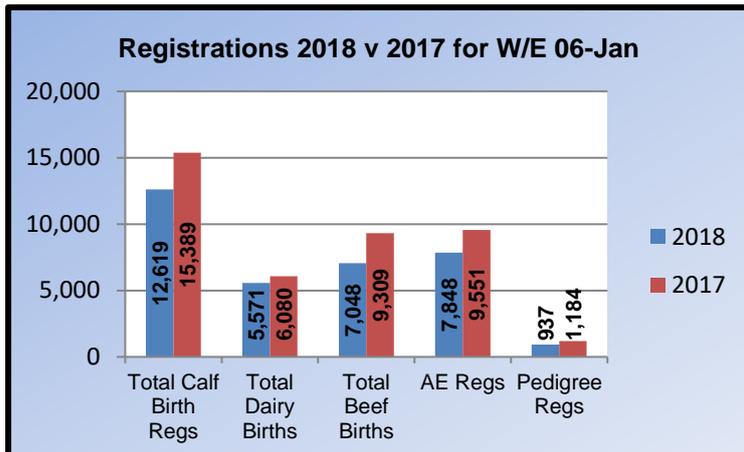# ICBF Weekly Update 5th January 2018

1 Important Dates

- **ICBF Board Meeting** – Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **Sheep Board Meeting** – Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Database

Registrations 2018 v 2017 for W/E 06-Jan

Category	2018	2017
Total Calf Birth Regs	12,619	15,389
Total Dairy Births	5,571	6,080
Total Beef Births	7,048	9,309
AE Regs	7,848	9,551
Pedigree Regs	937	1,184

ICBF Database Registrations 2018 v 2017

Category	2018	2017
Total Calf Birth Regs	2,380	3,693
Total Dairy Births	979	1,392
Total Beef Births	1,401	2,301
AE Regs	1,582	2,473
Pedigree Regs	200	322

AI Handheld Serves 2018 v 2017

Year	Serves
2017	3,181
2018	2,535

- 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 9,097 results received since January 1st, of which 9,537 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 11,930,618 results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2018 compared with 2017.

3 2018 Begins

- Happy New Year to all our readers. As we start into 2018, it is clear that we have another very exciting year ahead of us, and a correspondingly huge amount of work to get through. This year, there will be continued focus on completing and stabilizing some of the recent projects along with ensuring that our routine operations are running smoothly.

- A subset includes:-

  - The on-going rollout of the Beef Genomics Scheme and streamlining the wider genomics processes.
  - Continued upgrading of the Dairy Genomics process to incorporate on-going improvements
  - Incorporate new traits/updates in the EBI (e.g health etc)
  - Implement the new Sire Advice application
  - Complete the work on the Dairy Beef Index

- Ensure our national breeding programme on dairy and beef are maximising the use of the latest technologies, and that they are sustainable in the long-term.
- Continue to build a collaborative approach to maximising farmer engagement in the benefits of cattle breeding services, working closely with our service providers, milk and meat processors, and with Teagasc.
- Expanding the data collection and breeding information distribution infrastructure through HerdPlus and Service Provider Apps, and also work with third party providers of apps through API's to the ICBF database.
- Assisting AHI in the continued rollout of its national disease control programs.

Our sheep priorities are very much focused on driving the use of the LambPlus and helping sheep farmers to make better use of the new €uro-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 remain focused on our mission – farm profitability through improved breeding – and will continue the evolution from systems and structures developed in a different technological environment.

We again have a very ambitious program for 2018. 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 2018.

4 Herd Plus®

The ICBF animal search facility has had over 3.7 million individual hits for the year 2017. This is an impressive statistic and shows just how much dairy and beef farmers, including people from the breeding industry value the animal search. Click here for more details.

Heteropaternal twins refers to twins with different sires. A new study by ICBF reveals how many twin calves have different sires. Click here for more details.

Fact – Genomics delivers 34kgs more solids. The data is clearly showing that progeny from genomic sires are performing some 3 days better in calving interval, 5% better in survival and 34kg more milk solids when compared to proven sires. Click here for further details.

5 G€N€ IR€LAND® Beef

Sign-ups are continuing for the GI Beef Programme.

282 herds taking a total of 4175 straws have joined so far.

The average order is 15 straws per herd.

Details on the bulls available can be viewed on the ICBF website.

To learn more or to order straws please telephone **023 8820452**.

Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed in table below.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Replacement Index	Across Breed Stars	Total Straws Ordered
AU4214	Johnstown Keith	AU	169	5	495
SA2366	Carrentubber Pinocchio	SA	153	5	430
SI4322	Kickhams Handsome	SI	145	5	190
AA4089	Intelagri Matteo ET	AA	109	5	460
SH4209	Stoneyroyd Halcyon Matrix P	SH	104	5	360
CH4218	Woodhead Meldrew	CH	99	5	165
BA2357	Terelton Isaac	BA	99	5	400
PT4215	Leacan King	PT	95	4	130
CH4213	Blanchefield Lester	CH	94	4	85
CH4320	Liseron	CH	86	4	155
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	82	4	375
HE4292	Allowdale Rory 594	HE	79	4	120

6   Sheep Ireland

2018 Lambing Season has Commenced

➕ Within the last few weeks many flocks have begun to lamb down, we encourage breeders to record this information in their Flock Notebook and to try and enter their information online within a few weeks of lambing. The Data Quality Index (DQI) is a measure of the quality and quantity of data recorded by a breeder throughout the year. Timeliness plays a major role within this index and so it is very important to record lambing information promptly.

Career Opportunity within Sheep Ireland for a Technical Support Role

➕ We have a vacancy in our team for a Technical Support position. This would be a fantastic opportunity for someone to improve upon and broaden their range of skills and be part of an ambitious, hard-working team.

➕ Closing Date is Thursday 18th January. For more information regarding the job description and requirements please click here.

Flock Notebooks

➕ Flock notebooks were circulated to breeders prior to Christmas and by now all breeders should have received one. With the lambing season in full swing for some breeders we encourage you to look through this notebook as there has been many new additions. Previously the main purpose of this notebook was for recording data at lambing time. Hopefully it will be of greater use to breeders throughout the year as you can now record health and mating data along with pregnancy records. By recording lambing information into this booklet, it should make the process of entering lambing information online easier. Having a back-up of your lambing information can prove extremely useful if you need to query a lambing event in the case of a dam mismatch etc.

➕ Below is an example of recording lambing information in the booklet and circled is the new traits we are collecting data on (lamb vigour, ewe milk ability & ewe mothering ability).

Dam ID (F)/Foster Dam ID (S)/Surrogate Dam ID	Sire ID	Date of Birth	Lambing Difficulty	Lamb Status	Lamb NSIS ID (Tag No.)	Lamb Ped ID/Management No.	Sex of Lamb	Birth Weight (kg)	Lamb Rearing Code	Group	Lamb Vigour	Mothering-Ability	Ewe Milk
NSIS (Dept Tag) 01234A	NSIS (Dept Tag) 0124A	2/1	2	A	0457B	001	M	4.7	N	1	4	4	3
Ped ID ABC12001	Ped ID Rossi			D		002	F	5.5	N	1			
F/S													
NSIS (Dept Tag) 09876C	NSIS (Dept Tag) 02315B	2/1	3	A	0458D	003	F	5.0	F	2	2	3	1
Ped ID XYZ13012	Ped ID Topper			A	0459F	004	F	5.5	B		4		
F/S ABC11014													
NSIS (Dept Tag)	NSIS (Dept Tag)												
Ped ID	Ped ID												
F/S													

NSIS (Dept Tag)	NSIS (Dept Tag)												
Ped ID	Ped ID												
F/S													
NSIS (Dept Tag)	NSIS (Dept Tag)												
Ped ID	Ped ID												
F/S													
NSIS (Dept Tag)	NSIS (Dept Tag)												
Ped ID	Ped ID												
F/S													

Notes:
Refer to the front of notebook for Rearing codes and Group information
Lamb Sex Codes: M = Male, F = Female   Lamb Status codes: A = Alive, D = Dead,
Lambing Difficulty: 1= Unassisted, 2= Voluntary Assistance, 3= Slight Assistance, 4= Significant Assitance

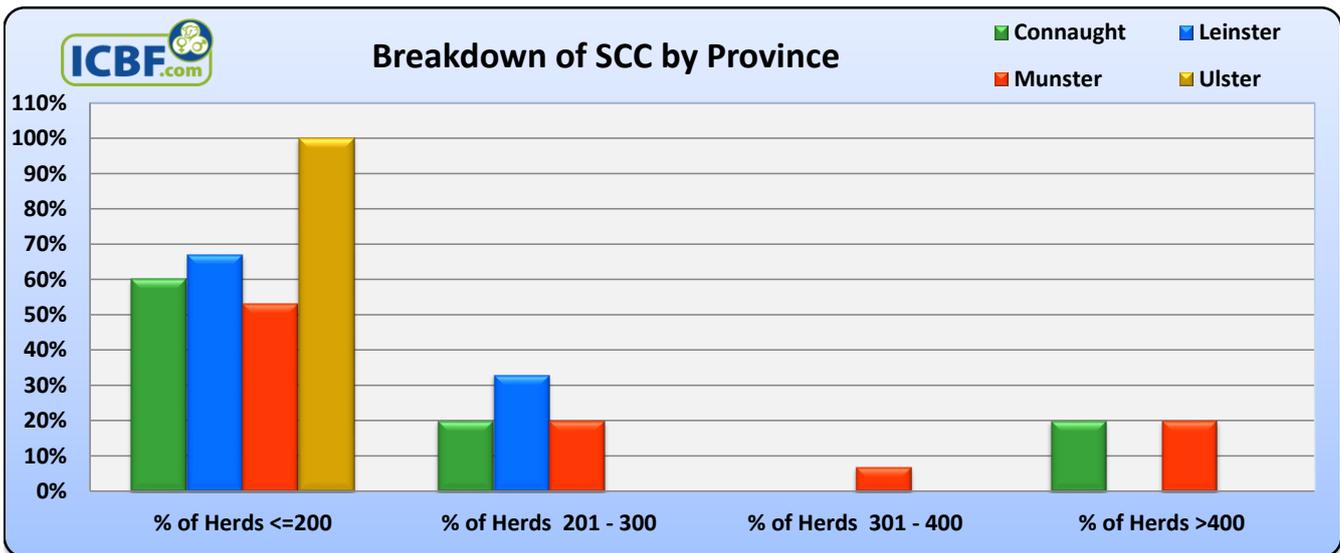## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 27-DEC-2017 To 05-JAN-2018

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	5	295	59	24.3	3.96	3.17	1.72	211
Leinster	3	271	90	29.6	4.59	3.49	2.39	135
Munster	15	783	52	18.4	4.21	3.41	1.40	205
Ulster	1	52	52	18.7	3.89	3.63	1.41	161
National Statistics	24	1,401	58	21.0	4.20	3.38	1.59	194

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 27-DEC-2017 To 05-JAN-2018

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	5	295	59	60%	20%	0%	20%	211
Leinster	3	271	90	67%	33%	0%	0%	135
Munster	15	783	52	53%	20%	7%	20%	205
Ulster	1	52	52	100%	0%	0%	0%	161
National Statistics	24	1,401	58	58%	21%	4%	17%	194

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

Breakdown of SCC by Province

% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 27-DEC-2017 To 05-JAN-2018

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	5	295	59	134	162	176	217	332
Leinster	3	271	90	89	110	120	156	227
Munster	15	783	52	107	195	198	216	390
Ulster	1	52	52	161	161	161	161	161
National Statistics	24	1,401	58	111	166	195	202	333

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

Breakdown of Average SCC by Herd Ranking