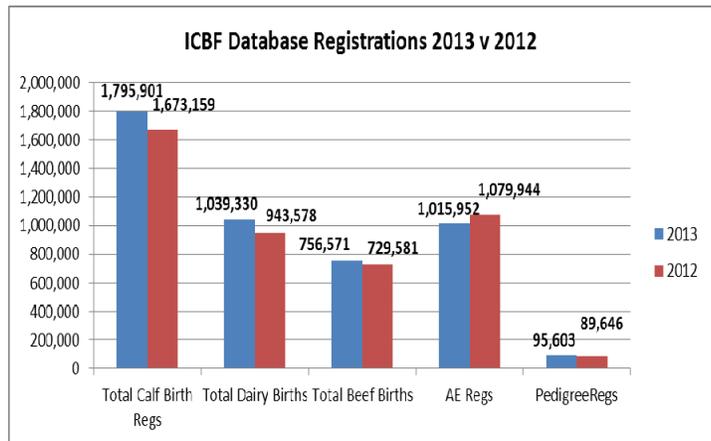
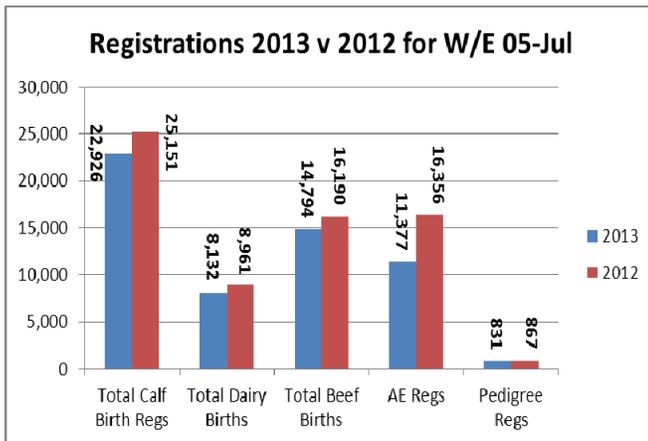


ICBF Weekly Update 5th July 2013

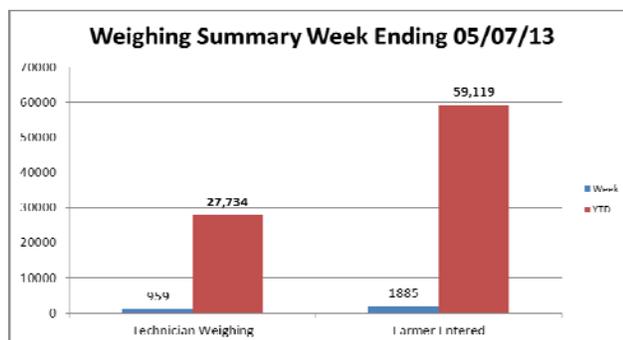
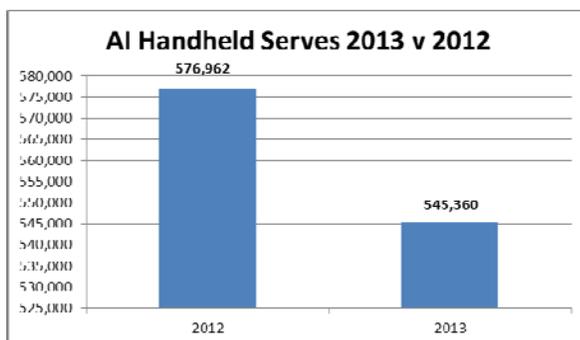
1 Important Dates

-  **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 10:00 - 10:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 14:00 to 16:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Industry Consultation Meeting** – Tuesday 30th July, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 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 641,846 with the number of animals weaned at 576,425.
-  BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,800,000 results received since January 1st, of which 22,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.29 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
-  This week there were 959 weights received through the technician service and 1885 weights recorded by farmers.
-  The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ There have been a number of big events over the course of the week. On Wednesday we visited Lyons Estate in Newcastle, Co. Dublin to deliver a presentation to Teagasc sheep advisors. The main subject of this presentation was to demonstrate a number of new web screens which have been developed by Sheep Ireland. These web screens will be used by sheep discussion group facilitators to fulfil certain criteria of STAP for each farmer involved in the programme. There was plenty of discussion on the Euro-Star indices and it was clear from the queries, that the understanding of the programme among advisors is very good. This will bode well when our message is being spread to commercial sheep farmers.
- ✚ On Thursday (yesterday) we visited the Teagasc Better farm open day on the farm of John Kelly in Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. These events qualify as STAP events and they have proved to be extremely successful – this event was no different. A very strong crowd came to see how John has made major progress with his breeding flock and grassland management over the course of the Better Farm programme. Farmers heard about the benefits associated with using high Index Euro-Star performance recorded rams. Low accuracies for some rams were highlighted as a worry for farmers and this is a very valid issue. This is a situation which is improving and will continue to improve as more breeders participate in the Sheep Ireland programme.
- ✚ A hugely important concept that we need to promote to sheep farmers is the potential to use a ‘Team’ of performance recorded rams. Dairy and Beef farmers using test bulls with low reliability are familiar with this thinking. By using a number of high index breeding sires instead of one single sire, the risks posed by low accuracy genetic evaluations can be spread or diluted.
- ✚ Most sheep farmers need to use a number of rams in any particular year (depending on ewe numbers) – by using a ‘Team’ of low accuracy, high Index rams – the combined accuracy of this team is actually very high. A simple example – three 5 Star Production rams with accuracies of 10%, 20% and 30% - the combined team accuracy is 83%, thus considerably reducing the potential for changes in the genetic evaluations for progeny born to this team. This is a hugely important message that was promoted by Teagasc at the Better Farm open day and one which Sheep Ireland will be promoting widely.



Teagasc Sheep advisors discussing the Euro-Star Indices at the recent In-service training day

4 Sexed Semen Project

- ✚ Scanning continues on the sexed semen herds, with over 1500 animals scanned to date. All farmers are encouraged to record weights, serves, body condition scores and pregnancy scanning diagnosis.
- ✚ For help recording events please call the HerdPlus helpline on **1850 600 900**.

5 HerdPlus®

- The BTAP approved suckler event took place on Tuesday, on the farm of Billy Nicholson, Crosshaven, Co. Cork. Members of the HerdPlus team and the Weight Recording Service were also in attendance.

Picture - *The ICBF Weight Recording Service stand at the Moorepark Open Day 2013.*

- The Moorepark open day was held on Wednesday. The HerdPlus team and the Weight Recording service were in attendance. The event was well attended by farmers from all parts of Ireland.



The HerdPlus Stand at the Moorepark Open Day 2013



Mary Murphy (ICBF) explaining the benefits of HerdPlus to a farmer in attendance at the open day in Moorepark.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- Extraction of data files for the next routine evaluations are currently underway. Evaluations will be done as extracts become available.
- Collaboration is on-going with MTT (Finland) on validation of Interbull test (Mendelian sampling variance test) software. Irish test day milk evaluation and Irish fertility evaluations are being used for this purpose.
- Significant progress has been made on the data extraction processes used to generate inputs to genetic evaluation. This is part of a push to reduce the turn-around time for genetic evaluation.
- Analysis of sexed semen trial data continues.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 05/07/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 05/07/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 05/07/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 05/07/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 05/07/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,649	1,050	29%	301,591	93,246	31%
Progressive	2,385	955	40%	220,391	90,589	41%
Tipperary	112	39	35%	9,643	3,495	36%
Total	6,146	2,044	33%	531,625	187,330	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 05/07/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 05/07/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	297,473	301,591	1.4%
Progressive	212,315	220,391	3.7%
Tipperary	8,782	9,643	8.9%
Total	518,570	531,625	2.5%

Please see milk recording stats attached

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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-JUN-2013 To 05-JUL-2013

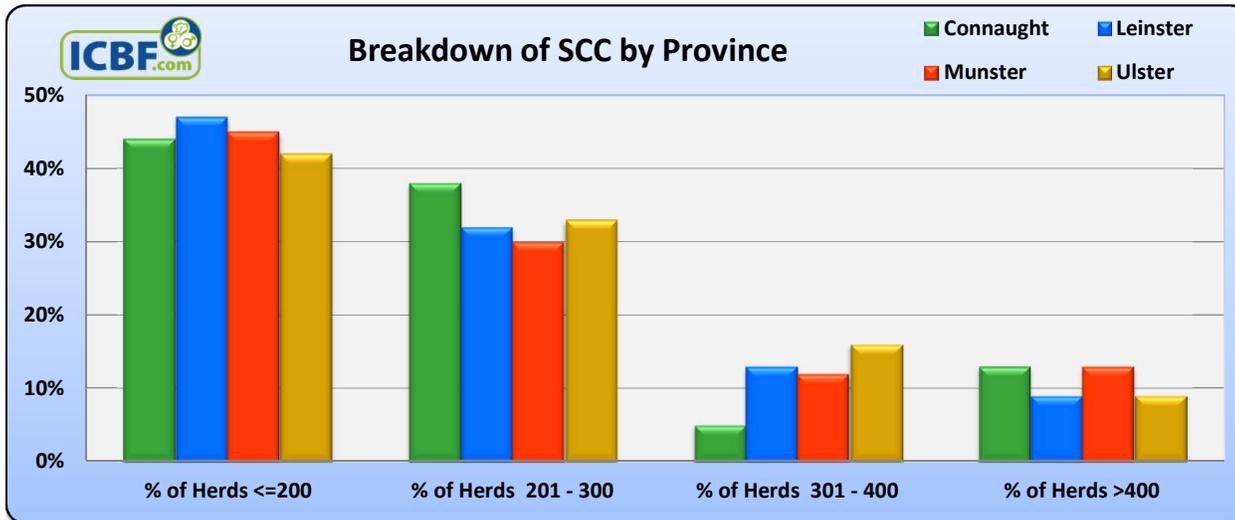
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	39	2,141	55	26.3	3.65	3.27	1.82	209
Leinster	116	10,810	93	23.2	3.69	3.43	1.65	202
Munster	604	48,925	81	24.4	3.75	3.42	1.74	211
Ulster	45	3,435	76	26.1	3.63	3.27	1.79	199
National Statistics	804	65,311	81	24.4	3.73	3.40	1.74	209

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 26-JUN-2013 To 05-JUL-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	39	2,141	55	44%	38%	5%	13%	209
Leinster	116	10,810	93	47%	32%	13%	9%	202
Munster	604	48,925	81	45%	30%	12%	13%	211
Ulster	45	3,435	76	42%	33%	16%	9%	199
National Statistics	804	65,311	81	45%	31%	12%	12%	209

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 26-JUN-2013 To 05-JUL-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	39	2,141	55	133	189	212	245	298
Leinster	116	10,810	93	125	195	208	232	306
Munster	604	48,925	81	135	186	213	238	336
Ulster	45	3,435	76	129	195	208	246	311
National Statistics	804	65,311	81	133	186	211	238	326

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

