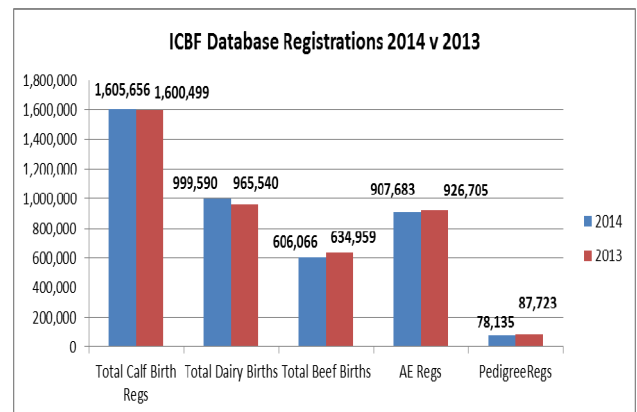
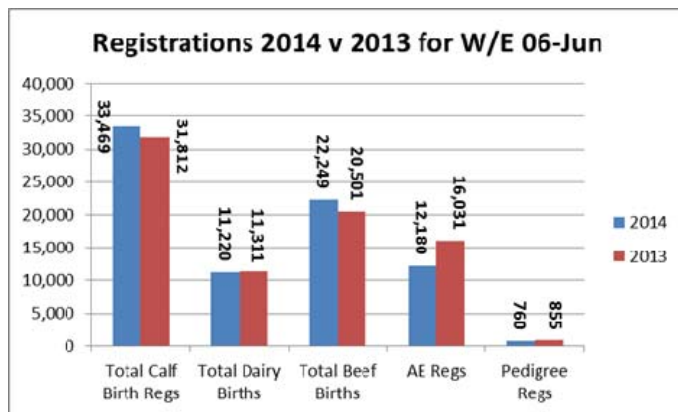


ICBF Weekly Update 6th June 2014

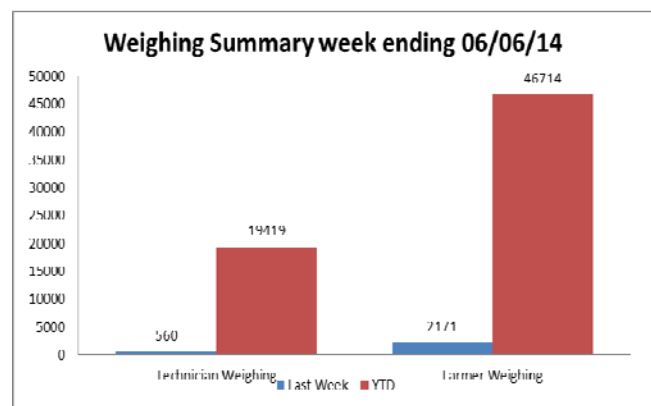
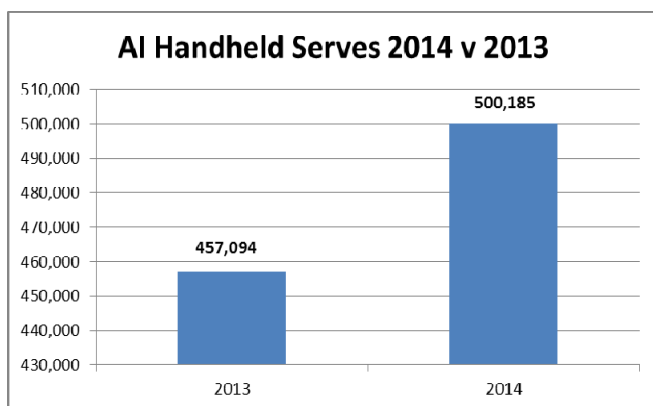
1 Important Dates

- Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 10:00 to 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, 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 1,689,000 results received since January 1st, of which 35,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 4.35 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 560 weights received through the technician service and 2171 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Beef Genomics Scheme

- Over 113,000 ear tags have now been sent to farms. Over 85,000 samples have been returned to Weatherbys to date. Genotyping of the returned samples has commenced. Over 7000 samples have been genotyped to date and the quality of the DNA and genotyping is excellent. Research on including the additional information from the genotypes into the genetic evaluation process will commence in the next couple of weeks.

4 Herd Plus®

- The record heat/serve screen now allows farmers to record heats where the animal was not served. This should prove a useful management tool for farmers who are observing heats in their animals outside of the breeding season. Once the breeding season starts a farmer will have an idea as to when animals should be coming in heat again and therefore lessen the risk of missing the next heat. See graphic below on how to use this new screen.

Recording Heats & Serves on

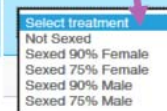
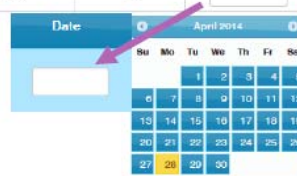


Use our new user friendly screens to record heats and serves

Jumbo	Animal Number	Lot	Calving Date	Last Heat / Serve	Last Bull	Num Serves	Date	Bull Used	Treatment
1	IE151313341001	5	18-FEB-14	01-MAY-14	PSZ	3			Select treatment

To Record a Heat

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click Save. A heat event for the cow has been created!



To Record a Serve

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click in the bull used column. Enter an AI code or tag number (stock bull). The sire check column will confirm the bull code/tag is valid.
- Click in the treatment column. A treatment must be selected.

Note: For stock bull serves and conventional straws (non sexed) the treatment selected will always be Non Sexed.

The majority of sexed straws available will be sexed 90% female. Check with your AI company if you are in doubt.

- Click Save. A serve event for the cow has been created!



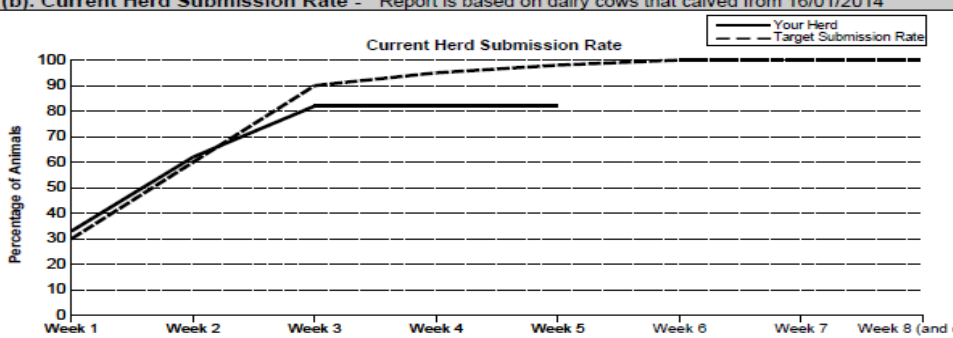
If you make a mistake don't worry, click on the cow tag in blue font to delete any mistakes or to view further details.

Remember: Heats and serves can also be recorded via farm software. If you are on the AI technician service & your AI technician has a handheld, AI inseminations will be sent to ICBF automatically.

HerdPlus
Profit through Science
1850 600 900

- The breeding season is in full swing on many dairy and beef farms at the moment. For farmers doing DIY AI or whose AI technicians are not on the handheld service please ensure that you submit your serves online either through your HerdPlus login or farm software package. This data is of vital importance to genetic evaluations but also to the reports which we provide to farmers throughout the year. The screen also allows for the recording of stock bull serves.

- For farmers that are submitting serves, fertility reports can be generated throughout the breeding season to monitor fertility. The first 3 weeks of breeding have now passed on many dairy farms so now is a good time to generate a report. A report can be generated through the fertility section in your HerdPlus login. Prior to generating a report, ensure that you have marked for culling any animals which you do not intend to breed and that all serves have been recorded. It is important to do this to ensure that your submission rates are accurate. See example of a fertility report below:

Mating Start Date (MSD): 16/04/2014 (Cows) 16/04/2014 (Heifers)																																																	
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Beef farmers participating in the beef data programme are reminded to record any outstanding data on 2013 born calves before 30th June. This data can be recorded on postal forms, on the ICBF website or through your farm software package.

Beef 2014 will take place at Teagasc, Grange, Co. Meath on Weds 18th June. This is an industry wide open day that will focus on all areas of beef farming in Ireland. It will be the biggest beef open day ever organised in Ireland and is not to be missed. ICBF will have a large Gene Ireland themed marquee on the day. This will focus on areas such as the Gene Ireland pedigree and commercial programmes, HerdPlus, genomics and data recording. All participating breeds and AI companies will be represented on the day. There will also be a very interesting meat eating quality exercise taking place. Groups of people will be given a sample of meat from two different animals and will be asked to fill out a quick survey afterwards. It promises to be a very informative and enjoyable day for all. Buses from various parts of the country are being arranged by Teagasc. For more information contact your local Teagasc office.

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Breeding future Profits



5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 06/06/14

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 06/06/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 06/06/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 06/06/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 06/06/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,784	1,116	29%	305,953	96,055	31%
Progressive	2,423	1,015	42%	216,969	90,849	42%
Tipperary	112	41	37%	9,363	3,540	38%
Total	6,319	2,172	34%	532,285	190,444	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 06/06/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 06/06/14	2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	287,605	305,953	6.0%
Progressive	208,378	216,969	4.0%
Tipperary	8,838	9,363	5.6%
Total	495,983	532,285	6.8%

6 Sheep Ireland

- The 40 day weight collection on the MALP flocks is nearly finished with only a couple of late lambing flocks left outstanding and these will be weighed in the next few days. The MALP farmers are satisfied with how the lambing and subsequent weight recording went. The instant feedback on weights and ADG's for each individual animal and their flock on the day of weighing from the new software system is very welcome. The new system has increased the throughput in our mobile scales due to Bluetooth technology which will help to increase the efficiency of weight recording on these flocks. The MALP and CPT farmers will also receive the first Euro-Star report once all the 40 day weights have been collected.
- The Office was busy last week with calls from STAP facilitators and advisors as the deadline for the STAP baseline survey passed on May 30th, and a file was prepared and sent to the Department of Agriculture to process as requested.
- The LambPlus team has started to call all the LambPlus breeders to discuss their lambing records and to resolve any outstanding issues that breeders had while they were recording on-line. This is a very important process as it allows us to look over the lambing records and catch any errors that had not yet been detected, for example; animal id's, missing sires.
- We would also like to remind all our LambPlus breeders to continue collecting weights for their lambs as they enter the appropriate brackets in order to have the most accurate evaluations they can. You can refer to the LambPlus guide or the Sheep Ireland website for more details on when to weigh your lambs.
- Due to the new and improved indexes this year (Replacement and Terminal) we were unable to publish this year's evaluations on-line until the final checks had been done and the new web pages were constructed to handle this new information. The final checks are underway today (Friday) and the new evaluations should be available to all LambPlus breeders from their personal LambPlus account online, enabling breeders to make more informed culling decisions. We would also like to remind breeders to place a heavy emphasis on the accuracy % of each evaluation and for each individual animal, a very low accuracy indicates that a very low level of confidence should be placed on the evaluation. Accuracy % should also continue to increase as the year progresses as more information enters the database (weights & scanning information).

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, 28-MAY-2014 To 06-JUN-2014

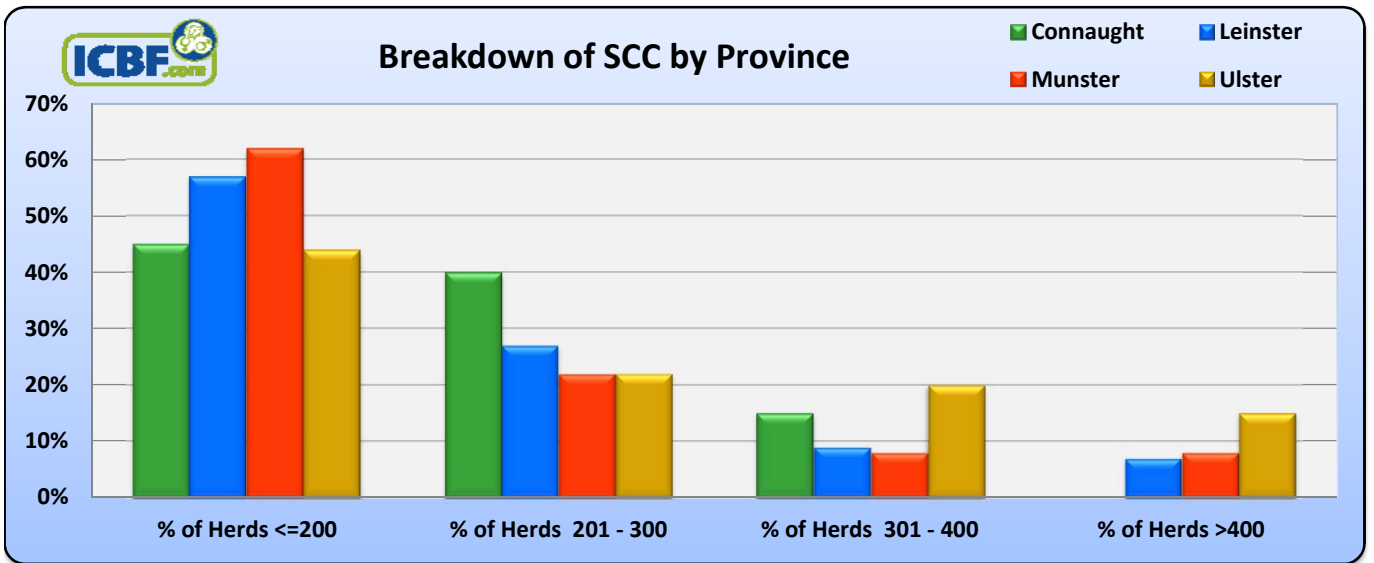
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	20	1,556	78	26.0	3.87	3.36	1.88	187
Leinster	118	10,814	92	25.3	3.71	3.32	1.77	182
Munster	499	39,418	79	26.4	3.68	3.38	1.86	176
Ulster	41	2,476	60	26.4	3.53	3.28	1.79	212
National Statistics	678	54,264	80	26.2	3.68	3.36	1.84	180

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 28-MAY-2014 To 06-JUN-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	20	1,556	78	45%	40%	15%	0%	187
Leinster	118	10,814	92	57%	27%	9%	7%	182
Munster	499	39,418	79	62%	22%	8%	8%	176
Ulster	41	2,476	60	44%	22%	20%	15%	212
National Statistics	678	54,264	80	60%	23%	9%	8%	180

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 28-MAY-2014 To 06-JUN-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	20	1,556	78	111	168	225	261	283
Leinster	118	10,814	92	113	156	177	221	275
Munster	499	39,418	79	108	152	176	196	275
Ulster	41	2,476	60	126	189	221	272	359
National Statistics	678	54,264	80	109	153	178	204	282

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

