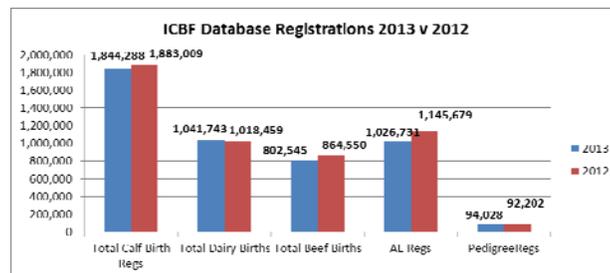
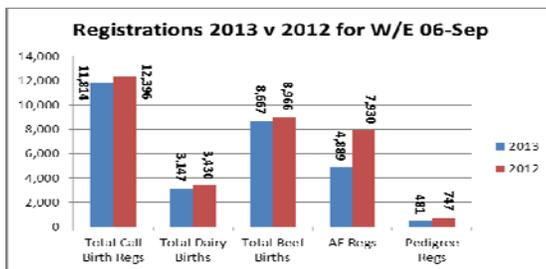


ICBF Weekly Update 6th September 2013

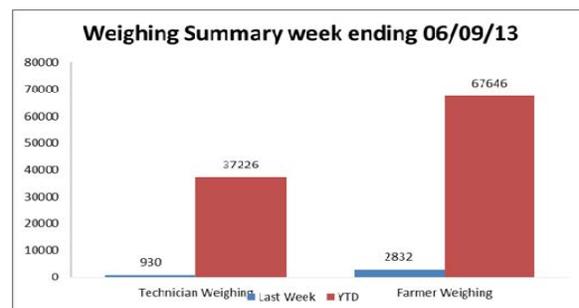
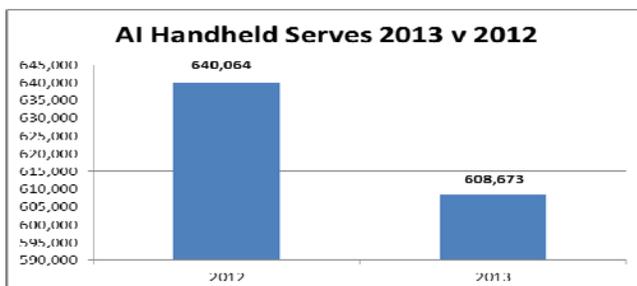
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 12th September, 10:30 to 14:00, Highfield House, Bandon.
- Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 19th September, 14:00 to 16:00, Tullamore Court Hotel.
- ICBF GENRELAND Beef Open Day** – Saturday 12th October, commencing 11:00, Tully Progeny Test Center, Kildare.

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 656,371 with the number of animals weaned at 599,935.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,934,000 results received since January 1st, of which 12,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.42 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- This week there were 930 weights received through the technician service and 2832 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Genetic Evaluations

- Interbeef research work at ICBF has moved to the estimation of weaning weight genetic parameters for the Charolais breed. Countries participating in the research are France, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Czech Republic and Finland.
- Files have been sent to Interbull for the September test run. The test run will investigate the impact of the switchover from the lactation based milk production model to a test day model and also the effect of a base change on the International proofs for both production and fertility.

4 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ There have been a number of important public events taking place around the country this week. On Tuesday we were one of the speakers at the Teagasc Better farm walk on the farm of James Lally in Co. Mayo. This was a very well attended event and it was great to see how much the interest and knowledge about the Sheep Ireland Euro-Stars has grown recently. Yesterday there was another Teagasc Better farm walk in Aclare, Co. Sligo on the farm of Colm O'Donnell. Again this was a very well attended event that hosted a number of great speakers.
- ✚ The Sheep Ireland programme generated plenty of comment and debate over the two events, which is very encouraging. At both events, those present seemed very positive about what Sheep Ireland is trying to achieve. Much of this positivity can probably be attributed to the progress being made by both the Dairy EBI and Beef Euro-Stars and sheep farmers are starting to realise that a strong genetic improvement programme for the sheep industry is something which can benefit them greatly.
- ✚ Yesterday, we also met with the West of Ireland farmers participating in MALP (Maternal Lamb Producers Programme). The objective of this meeting was to assess the 2013 performance recording year. All the flock measurement are now collected from these flocks and included in our genetic evaluations. The 2012 breeding season was the first year that Single Sire mating was attempted across these hill flocks and the results were excellent. The level of parentage identification across all the flocks was extremely high and this is testament to the group's commitment to performance recording. Tagging new born lambs at birth was certainly a major strain on labour, but each farmer made a huge effort to ensure the process was a success.
- ✚ Our objective for the coming year with these MALP flocks is to increase the linkage between these flocks and we are exploring a number of different options to achieve this. Linkage is key to building accuracies and making genetic progress and will be a major emphasis moving forward with MALP in the West of Ireland. This MALP group will also now form a critical part of the recent development of the Mayo-Connemara flockbook as it will provide the template and example to all hill sheep farmers that think about performance recording into the future.



'Some images from Colm O'Donnell's Better farm walk - Aclare, Co. Sligo'

5 HerdPlus®

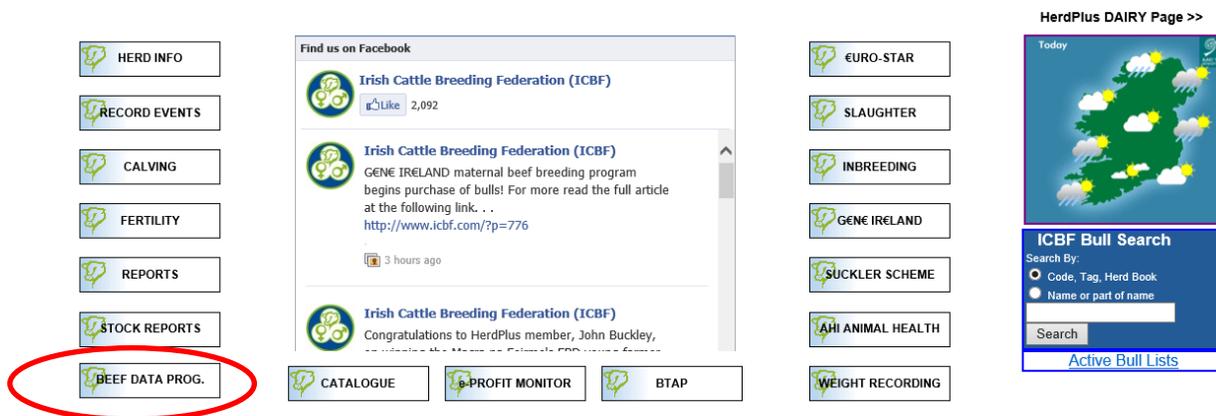
- ✚ Dairy Calving Reports are now available on the website. For any dairy HerdPlus postal customers, the reports were posted out this week.
- ✚ Beef calving reports are currently being generated. This report will be posted to all beef HerdPlus customers.
- ✚ The calving report allows a farmer to gauge the performance of their herd against **A.** the national average and **B.** the top 15% of herds in the country on vital stats such as:
 - Calving Interval
 - Calves per cow per year
 - Births with known sire
- ✚ Work on updating the BTAP screens is almost complete.
- ✚ Farmers and advisors will be able to monitor certain task completion through these screens.

- ✚ The BTAP button is highlighted below:



The screenshot shows the HerdPlus DAIRY Page navigation menu with the following buttons: HERD INFO, RECORD EVENTS, CALVING, FERTILITY, REPORTS, STOCK REPORTS, BEEF DATA PROG., EURO-STAR, SLAUGHTER, INBREEDING, GENE IRELAND, SUCKLER SCHEME, IAH ANIMAL HEALTH, and WEIGHT RECORDING. The 'BTAP' button is circled in red. To the right, there is a 'HerdPlus DAIRY Page >>' link, a 'Today' weather map of Ireland, and an 'ICBF Bull Search' section with search options for Code, Tag, Herd Book, and Name or part of name.

- ✚ Screens are now live on HerdPlus for the Beef Data Programme (BDP, replacement to the Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme)
- ✚ See screens below:



The screenshot shows the HerdPlus DAIRY Page navigation menu with the following buttons: HERD INFO, RECORD EVENTS, CALVING, FERTILITY, REPORTS, STOCK REPORTS, BEEF DATA PROG., EURO-STAR, SLAUGHTER, INBREEDING, GENE IRELAND, SUCKLER SCHEME, IAH ANIMAL HEALTH, and WEIGHT RECORDING. The 'BEEF DATA PROG.' button is circled in red. To the right, there is a 'HerdPlus DAIRY Page >>' link, a 'Today' weather map of Ireland, and an 'ICBF Bull Search' section with search options for Code, Tag, Herd Book, and Name or part of name.

- ✚ Once you click on this option you will see the screen below.

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 28-AUG-2013 To 06-SEP-2013

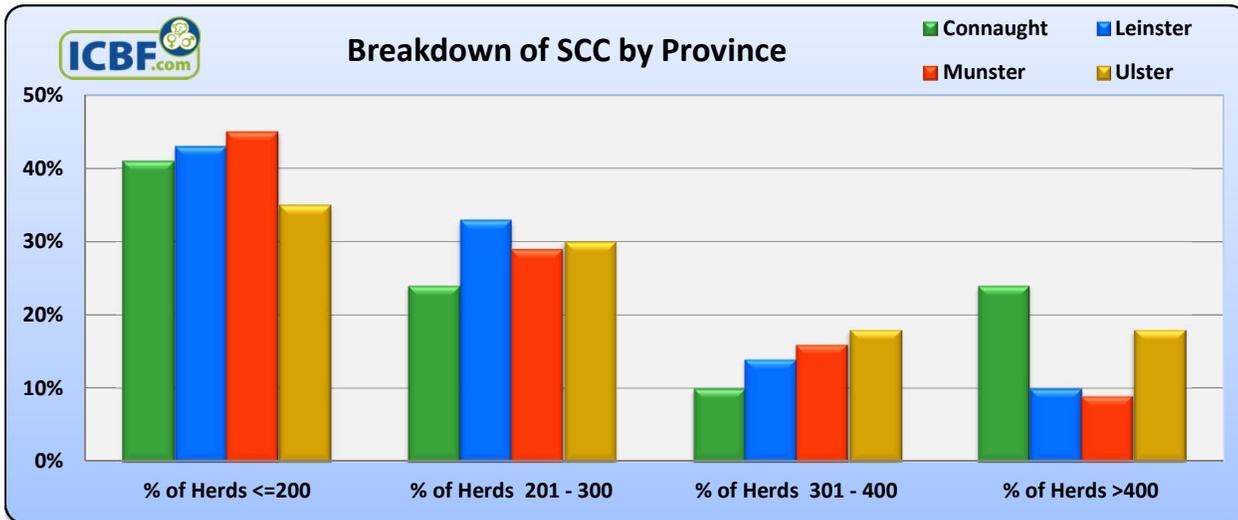
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	29	1,767	61	20.1	3.99	3.45	1.48	277
Leinster	189	16,045	85	19.9	3.95	3.50	1.48	209
Munster	495	38,834	78	19.4	3.97	3.55	1.46	208
Ulster	40	2,390	60	22.1	3.77	3.36	1.57	243
National Statistics	753	59,036	78	19.7	3.96	3.53	1.47	213

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 28-AUG-2013 To 06-SEP-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	29	1,767	61	41%	24%	10%	24%	277
Leinster	189	16,045	85	43%	33%	14%	10%	209
Munster	495	38,834	78	45%	29%	16%	9%	208
Ulster	40	2,390	60	35%	30%	18%	18%	243
National Statistics	753	59,036	78	44%	30%	16%	10%	213

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 28-AUG-2013 To 06-SEP-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	29	1,767	61	157	200	238	271	505
Leinster	189	16,045	85	141	186	216	242	318
Munster	495	38,834	78	134	187	212	245	335
Ulster	40	2,390	60	154	249	273	292	363
National Statistics	753	59,036	78	138	188	215	247	334

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

