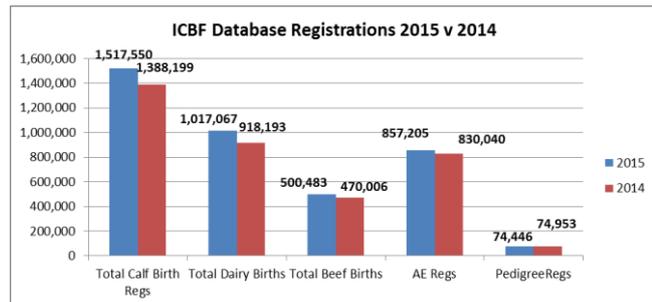
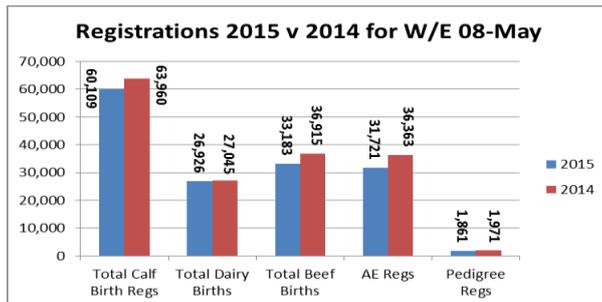


ICBF Weekly Update 8th May 2015

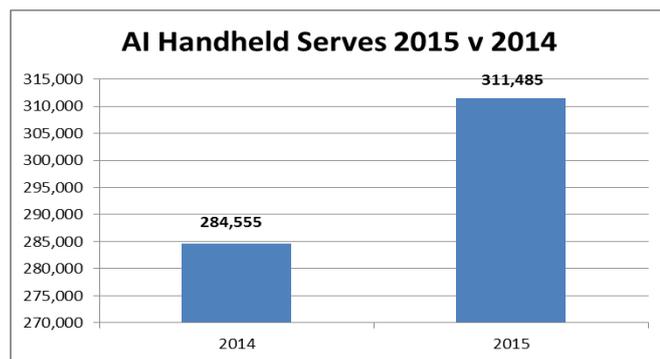
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – 28th May 2015, 10:00 to 11:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th May 2015, 11:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM** – Thursday 28th May 2015, 14:00, 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 1.55 million results received since January 1st, of which 63,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.5 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



3 Herd Plus®

Registering Calves

- ✚ As peak spring calving has now passed on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is important that farmers do not lose sight of the importance of recording important breeding data. ICBF acknowledges that spring can be a busy and stressful time for farmers with an endless list of tasks to be done. However, ensuring that data (namely sires and calving ease) is recorded comprehensively and accurately is vital, not only to the work that ICBF does, but also to the development of our Agri-food industry going forward. Better data recording leads to more accurate genetic indexes. This will in turn lead to more informed breeding decisions which will leave more profitable stock on farms and increase output at both farm and processor levels. For this reason, people across the industry that find themselves in regular contact with farmers e.g. agri advisors, breed society representatives, AI company reps & technicians etc. need to constantly stress the importance of recording basic breeding information when registering calves.
- ✚ Any farmers that still register calves on the white cards which come with the tags, should be encouraged to switch to an animal events book or, where possible, to register calves online through www.agfood.ie or via farm software. The animal events book and online methods allow for much more comprehensive data recording at calf registration. Animal events books can be ordered by calling **1850 625 626**. Online registration can be set up by going to the Department of Agriculture & Food website (www.agfood.ie) or by contacting your farm software provider.

Breeding Season

- As the Spring AI season commences we remind farmers to ensure that serves are recorded and reach the ICBF database. Heats not served and stock bull serves can also be recorded.

Beef Data Programme 2014

- Farmers are reminded to input any missing data that is required for the 2014 BDP scheme. This data can be recorded through the ICBF website, farm software packages or on paper forms. The deadline for recording information for calves born before November has passed. The deadline for calves born in November and December is when the calf reaches 6 months of age. Calves born in December will be hitting 5 months of age during the month of May and will be old enough to record quality, docility and any scour or pneumonia events. It is important that farmers do not forget any of these calves.

EBI & Euro-Star Updates

- All herd profiles have now been updated with the April evaluations. EBI Reports are available online and will be posted to postal herds next week.

Fertility Reports

- Dairy farmers can run their weekly fertility reports to monitor submission rates during the breeding season.

Contract Rearing Herds

- A facility is now in place for contract reared animals to be made available to the owners herd profiles and reports. The person whose herd the animals are being contract reared in must login to their HerdPlus profile and give the owner access to the animals. The facility is available under the admin dropdown of the HerdPlus login screen.

4 GENETIC IRELAND® Beef

- Sign Ups are continuing for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- 377 herds taking a total of 5775 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 15 straws per herd.
- The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in *Table 1*.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	420
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	450
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	475
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	415
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	175
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	215
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	325
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	200
HHJ	Heracles	CH	280
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	270
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	190
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	345
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	425
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	210
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	200
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	300
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	340
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	325
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	190
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	250

5 Genetic evaluations

- Results of the last beef mini run for animals linear scored between February and April have been processed and loaded to the database.
- Sheep evaluations test runs are now running ahead of the first official run next week.

6 Milk Recording

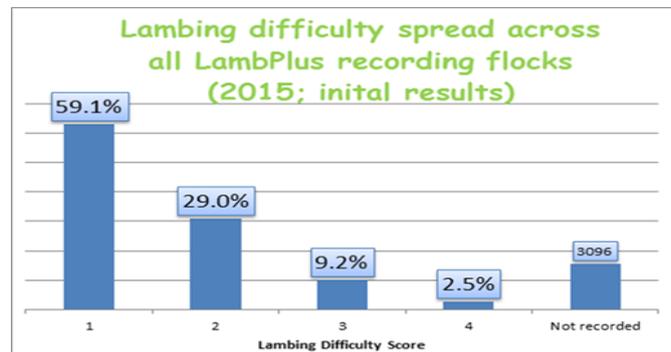
National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 08/05/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 08/05/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 08/05/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 08/05/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 08/05/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,612	1,093	30%	289,194	94,500	33%
Progressive	2,141	822	38%	188,781	72,823	39%
Tipperary	102	34	33%	8,329	2,917	35%
Total	5,855	1,949	33%	486,304	170,240	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 -08/05/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 -08/05/15	2015 vs. 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	256,574	289,194	11.3%
Progressive	180,719	188,781	4.3%
Tipperary	7,813	8,329	6.2%
Total	445,106	486,304	8.5%

7 Sheep Ireland

Initial LambPlus Results for 2015

As the deadline for entering lambs before the April 30th deadline in order to be in with a chance of receiving Euro-Stars for lambs in 2015 passed last week we have started to look over the 2015 lambing records. The graph shows the initial results for the spread in lambing difficulty across all breeds with 11.7% lambing difficulty, once the animals with no lambing difficulty have been excluded.



Lambing Difficulty is recorded on a scale of 1 – 4 with the explanations below.

Lambing Score	Explanation
1 – Unassisted	Ewe lambed down without any shepherd intervention
2 – Voluntary Assistance	Lamb was presenting correctly and would have without doubt lambed down successfully without increasing the chance of lamb mortality.
3 – Slight Assistance	Ewe required slight assistance at lambing as there was an increased probability of a dead lamb(s) if no assistance was given. Example: head back, leg(s) back, breech.
4 – Significant Assist	Ewe required significant assistant at lambing as there was a very high probability of a dead lamb(s). Example: C-Section, head back, leg (s) back, breech

Removing “Unusable” data from the Euro-Stars

- ✦ Before each genetic evaluation (generating stars) is ran, all the performance data must fulfil certain criteria, and if those criteria are not met then the data is “edited” out of the evaluation as it is deemed not to be useful or is incorrect data and can only add bias to the evaluations.
- ✦ Edits are used in every genetic evaluation around the world, and are vitally important at removing unusable or incorrect data.

What is “Unusable” data?

- ✦ The entire basis of genetic evaluations hinge around being able to compare animals from several bloodlines in a fair manner regardless on the animal’s environment (gender, feed, health, climate, farm management...). In other words, in a given year, if the lambs from a farm are recorded identical for a trait: same weights or same lambing scores; those records won’t be of any use in genetic comparisons and are discarded. Therefore, in order to compare animals for particular traits (e.g., Lambing Difficulty), a variation of scores must be recorded. If a flock records no lambing difficulty (i.e., All either Unassisted and/or Voluntary assist) then the genetic evaluation can’t compare these animals lambing difficulty performance as they all performed the exact same. The same applies for Lamb Mortality and all the other performance traits.

Un-Biologically Possible

- ✦ In some cases where some data may have been entered incorrectly (e.g., putting in a wrong date) resulting in a lambs average daily gain being so high it is deemed to be un-biologically possible ; this record is then removed from the evaluation. Other examples are twins born from the same parents but at slightly different dates, number of lambs reared too high, along with many more.

Flocks waiting for Ovigen visits

- ✦ Sheep Ireland is continuing to organise flocks for their Ovigen flock visits, however a flock cannot be visited until the flock inventory has been tidied up (i.e., removing animals that are no longer in the flock) and the lambing data has been fully recorded. If your flock is fully recorded, you have a tidy flock inventory and you are ready to have your Ovigen flock visit then give us a call on **1850 601 901**.

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, 29-APR-2015 To 08-MAY-2015

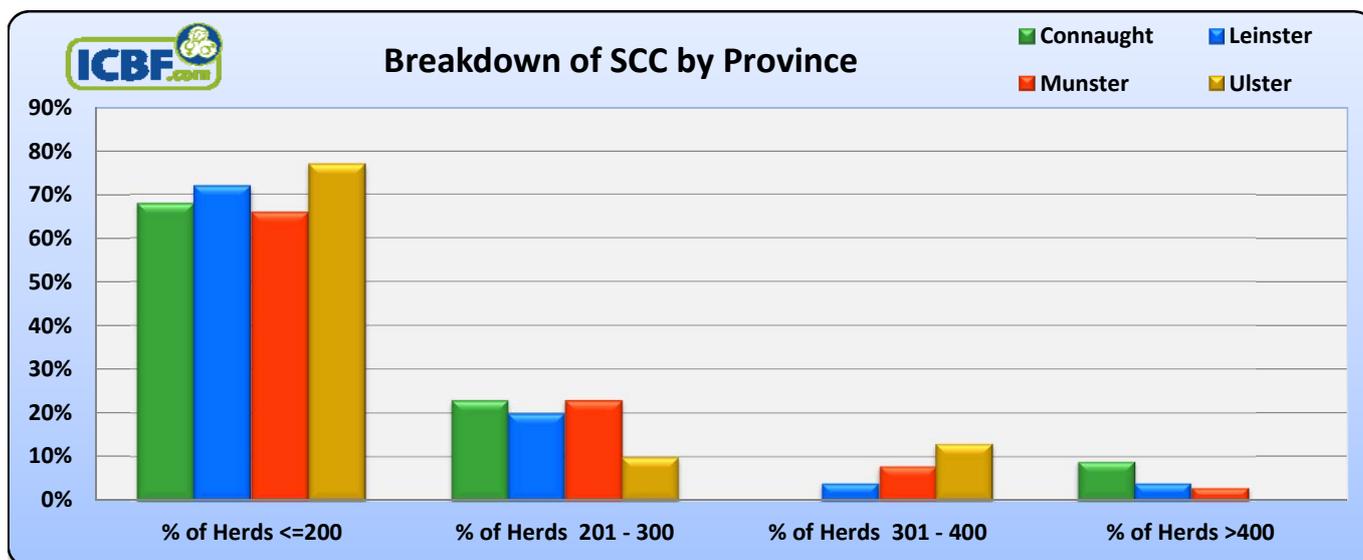
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	22	1,668	76	29.0	3.76	3.41	2.08	163
Leinster	137	12,658	92	27.9	3.68	3.46	1.99	145
Munster	403	33,234	82	28.3	3.71	3.47	2.02	160
Ulster	31	2,034	66	29.0	3.60	3.39	2.02	144
National Statistics	593	49,594	84	28.2	3.70	3.46	2.02	156

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 29-APR-2015 To 08-MAY-2015

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	22	1,668	76	68%	23%	0%	9%	163
Leinster	137	12,658	92	72%	20%	4%	4%	145
Munster	403	33,234	82	66%	23%	8%	3%	160
Ulster	31	2,034	66	77%	10%	13%	0%	144
National Statistics	593	49,594	84	68%	21%	7%	4%	156

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 29-APR-2015 To 08-MAY-2015

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	22	1,668	76	101	138	150	176	258
Leinster	137	12,658	92	97	132	149	167	222
Munster	403	33,234	82	99	135	161	188	261
Ulster	31	2,034	66	108	123	134	148	259
National Statistics	593	49,594	84	99	133	154	176	252

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

