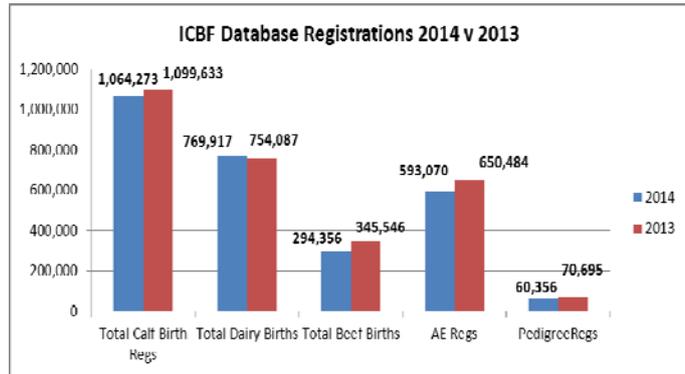
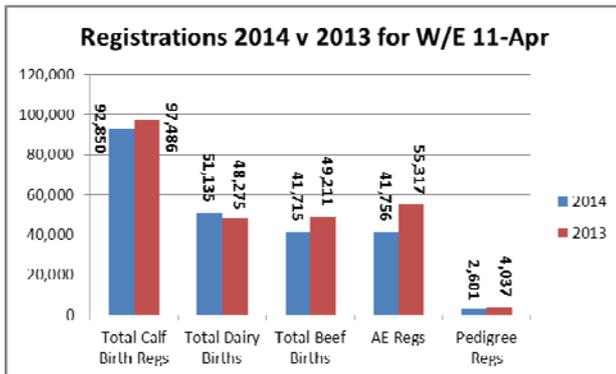


ICBF Weekly Update 11th April 2014

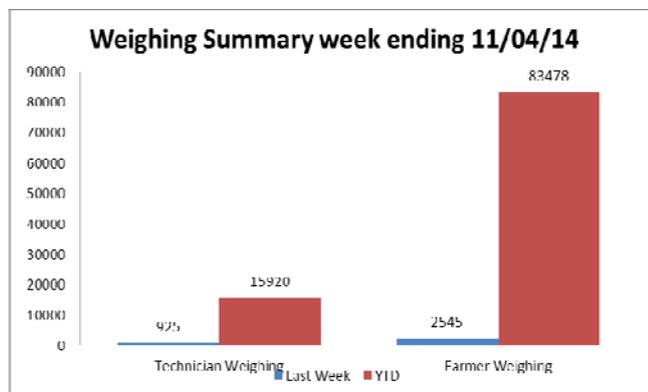
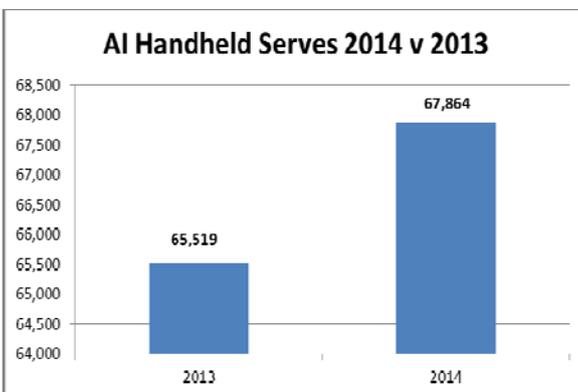
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 1st May 2014, 10:30am to 12:30pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF AGM** – Thursday 1st May 2014, 12:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Ireland Board / AGM Meeting** – Thursday 1st May 2014, 14:00 to 17:00, 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 1,126,000 results received since January 1st, of which 99,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 3.79 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 925 weights received through the technician service and 2545 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

Teagasc Open Days

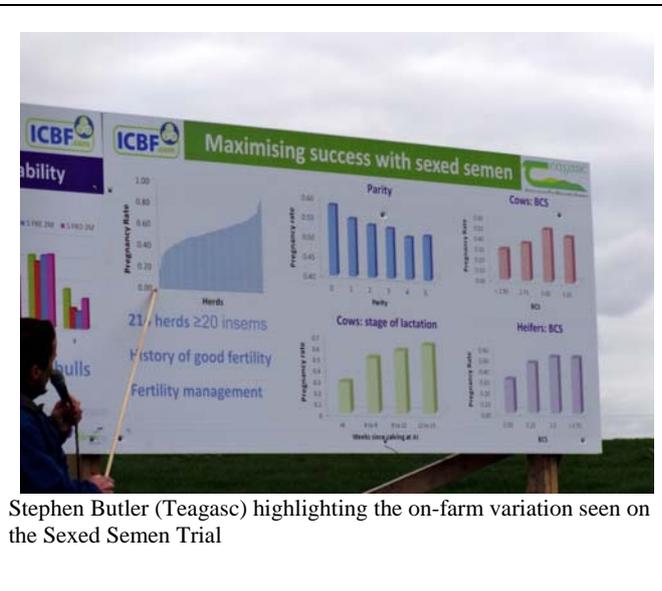
- Members of the HerdPLUS team and Teagasc Advisory were in attendance at Teagasc Open Day at the Moorepark Dairygold Research Farm (Kilworth) on Wednesday 9th April 2014. Together Teagasc and HerdPLUS demonstrated to farmers the Sire Advice Tool that aids farmers when picking AI bulls. There was a great response on the day. Andrew Cromie and Stephen Butler gave an update on the Dairy Sexed Semen Trial. See table 1 for the results presented.
- Details of the event proceedings can be found on:
http://www.teagasc.ie/publications/2014/3146/Dairygold_Research_Farm_Booklet090414.pdf

Table1. Performance of sexed semen by treatment group

Cows		Heifers	
Conventional	43.3%	Conventional	49.5%
Sexed Fresh		Sexed Fresh	
2m	38.0%	2m	43.1%
Sexed Fresh		Sexed Fresh	
1m	34.7%	1m	44.3%
Sexed Frozen	36.4%	Sexed Frozen	44.1%
Total	38.3%	Total	45.3%



Stephen Butler (Teagasc) updating farmers on the latest trial results



Stephen Butler (Teagasc) highlighting the on-farm variation seen on the Sexed Semen Trial

- Teagasc held a very successful Open day at Kildalton Agricultural College on Tuesday the 8th April 2014.
- The focus of the day was beef breeding. There were stands focussed on various breeding issues:
 - 24 Month Calving
 - AI usage and Sire Selection

- Herd Health
- Beef Genomics and the Gene Ireland Maternal Beef Breeding Program.

- + The event was extremely well attended with over 400 farmers going through the talks during the day.
- + Following are some images from the day.



Sire Advice

- + Breeding Charts will be posted next week to all Dairy HerdPlus farmers.

4 GENEIRELAND®

Beef

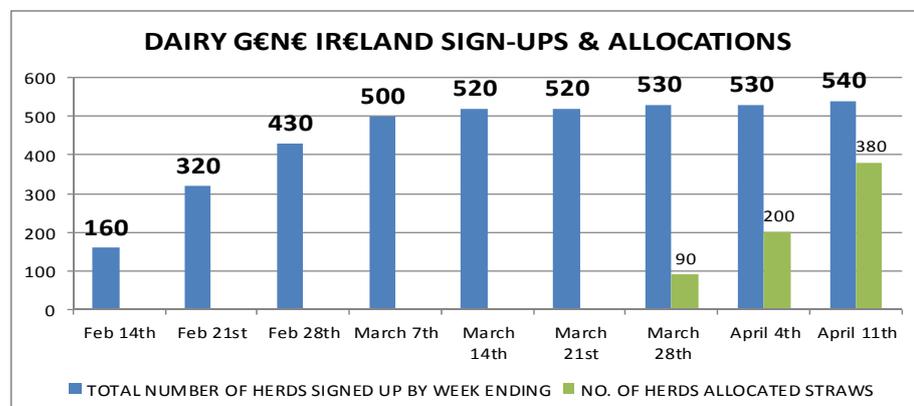
- + Sign-ups have commenced for the Beef GENEIRELAND Spring 2014 programme.
- + 154 herds taking a total of 3540 straws have signed up so far.
- + The average order is 23 straws.
- + To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- + Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 18 bulls available are in the table below.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JZJ	Cairnmor Jameson	AA	30
YBH	Ballym Henri	CH	40
YCM	Clewbay High-Master	CH	15
KCH	Clenagh Hank	CH	200
GKA	Inverlochay Gurkha	CH	100
GGM	Gageboro Morgan	HE	72
KZH	Kilskeagh Hill 16	LM	190
ZAG	Castleview Gazelle	LM	305
YHB	Drombanny Hero	LM	35
OHT	Roundhill Hunter	LM	25
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	PT	135
ZGH	Hurricane Gonzo	PT	75
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	65
KTM	Knottown Michael	SA	65
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	10
XDM	Celtic Diceman	SI	145
LZZ	Lisnacran Demertios	SI	75
KDZ	Curaheen Dickens	SI	90

Dairy

- Straws are being dispatched as semen becomes available.
- Orders can be taken at **1850 600 900.**



5 Genetic Evaluations

- Official Proofs have now been published and the bull search, active bull list and profiles have been updated.

INTERBEEF

- Thierry Pabiou and Ross Evans represented ICBF at the INTERBEEF Technical meeting in Uppsala on Thursday 10th April where they presented ICBF's work on the across country weaning weight genetic parameters for Limousine and Charolais. As a result of this work an official evaluation is now very realistic pending some further testing ahead of the INTERBEEF working group meeting in Berlin in May 2014. Official publication will allow ICBF to integrate the results of these international evaluations back into the ICBF evaluations which will represent a major positive for the breeds involved. ICBF will continue with the research into weaning weight and the next phase includes the incorporation of crossbred data into the genetic parameter estimation.

Work on an INTERBEEF calving evaluation is also progressing well and hopefully test ebvs will be available at the end of 2014. This work is being undertaken by the VUZV research group in the Czech Republic. Initial parameters were presented at the meeting for Charolais and Limousine.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 11/04/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 11/04/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 11/04/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 11/04/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 11/04/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	2,407	396	16%	155,582	30,285	19%
Progressive	1,662	487	29%	125,840	38,524	31%
Tipperary	46	11	24%	3,250	910	28%
Total	4,115	894	22%	284,672	69,719	24%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 11/04/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 11/04/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	159,119	155,582	-2.3%
Progressive	126,171	125,840	-0.3%
Tipperary	2,466	3,250	24.1%
Total	285,290	284,672	-0.2%

7 Sheep Ireland

- With Easter approaching many pedigree breeders choose to avail of the high lamb prices and cull lambs that they feel will not make the grade. With this in mind, during this week Sheep Ireland invited LambPlus breeders that already have their lambing information and 40 day weights recorded on the Sheep Ireland database, to notify us if they wished to receive an early run of evaluations for their 2014 lambs.
- These early evaluations come with a serious health warning. We would not recommend that breeders base their culling decision solely on these early evaluations as there is still a lot of information to be submitted for the 2014 lamb crop. We do accept however that they can act as a useful additional tool at this stage when making the choice whether to cull or keep a particular lamb. As always the accuracy% attached to these evaluations will reflect the amount of influence that they should play in a breeders culling decisions.
- Letters have been sent out today (Friday 11th) to all the LambPlus breeders. These letters cover reminders about the deadline for entering lambing information (April 30th), guidelines on when lambs should be weighed (this information can also be found under the 'News' section on our website), DNA collection and information about the Sheep Ireland Ultrasound Scanning for Muscle and Fat Depth service. Any breeder that wishes to avail of this service should send the word SCANNING and their flock ID to **089 457 7665** before April 30th and Sheep

Ireland will get back in touch with you. Scanning will help to increase the accuracy% of your flock and it is also one of the qualifying criteria for breeders to enter rams in the Sheep Ireland LambPlus sale this August.

- ✚ Only 19 days left to enter lambing information!! Breeders lambing ewes in late April/early May should contact the Sheep Ireland office on **1850 601 901** and notify of this.

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, 02-APR-2014 To 11-APR-2014

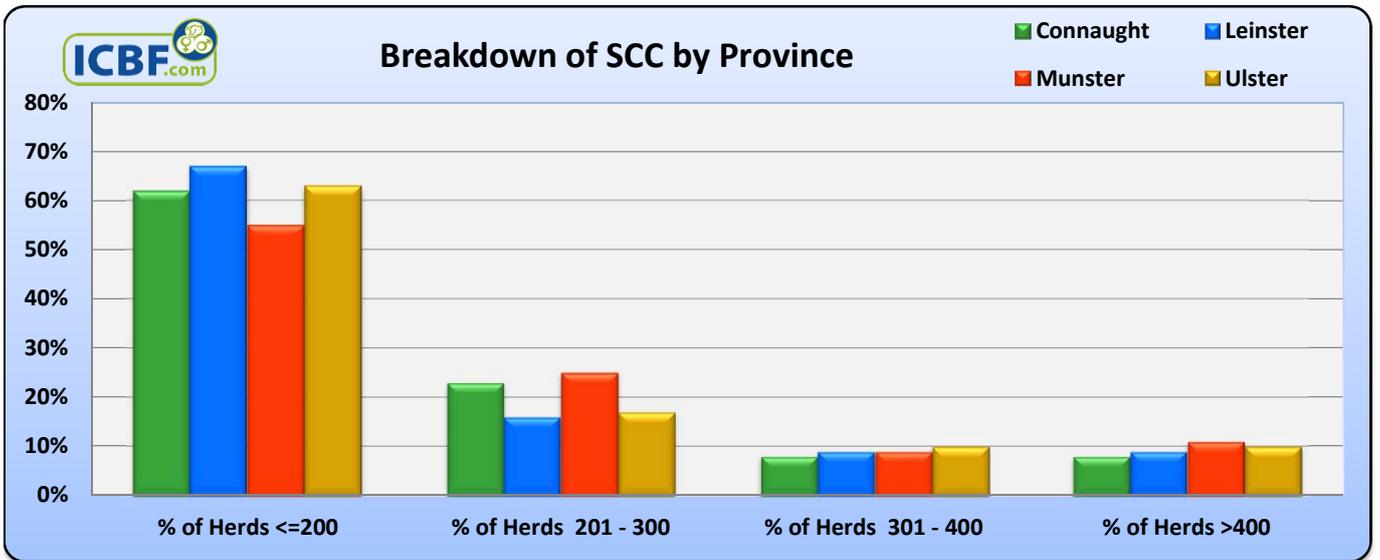
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	26	1,342	52	26.4	3.79	3.25	1.86	159
Leinster	141	11,092	79	26.7	3.97	3.30	1.93	167
Munster	451	31,433	70	26.8	3.88	3.28	1.92	178
Ulster	30	1,949	65	25.8	3.86	3.20	1.81	167
National Statistics	648	45,816	71	26.7	3.90	3.28	1.91	174

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 02-APR-2014 To 11-APR-2014

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	26	1,342	52	62%	23%	8%	8%	159
Leinster	141	11,092	79	67%	16%	9%	9%	167
Munster	451	31,433	70	55%	25%	9%	11%	178
Ulster	30	1,949	65	63%	17%	10%	10%	167
National Statistics	648	45,816	71	59%	23%	9%	10%	174

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 02-APR-2014 To 11-APR-2014								
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	26	1,342	52	110	121	142	160	236
Leinster	141	11,092	79	101	143	168	183	254
Munster	451	31,433	70	99	150	176	214	298
Ulster	30	1,949	65	100	144	152	174	278
National Statistics	648	45,816	71	100	146	171	204	294

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

