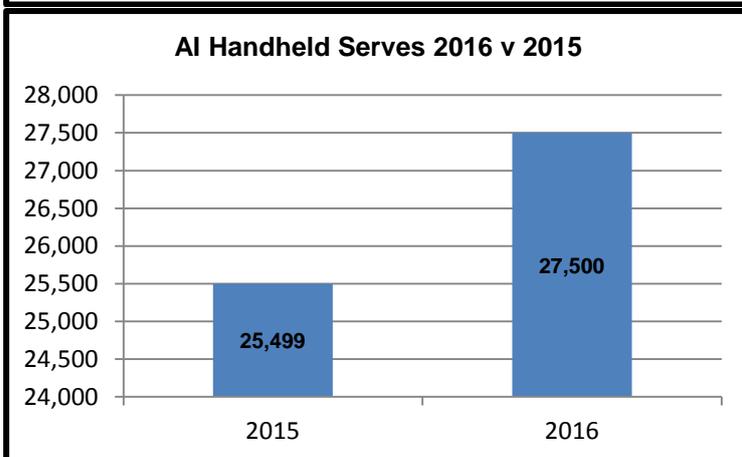
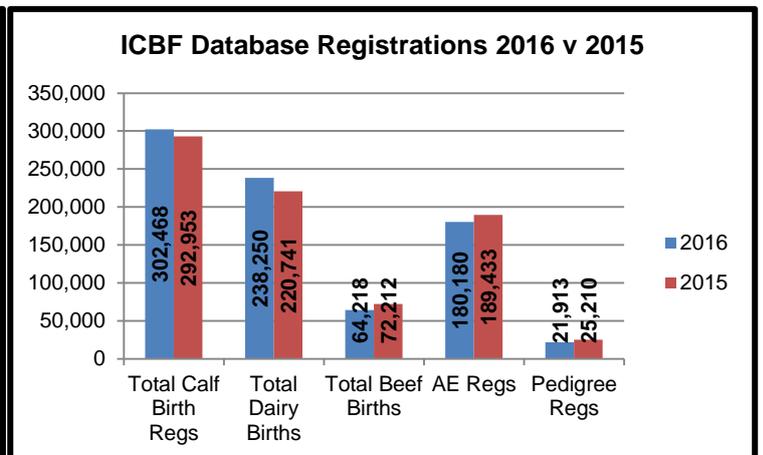
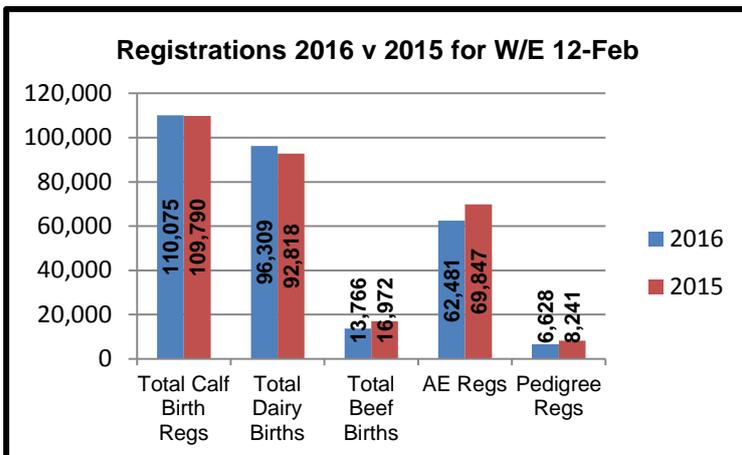


## ICBF Weekly Update 12th February 2016

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, at 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 281,118 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 107,115 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.60 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

### 3 Herd Plus®

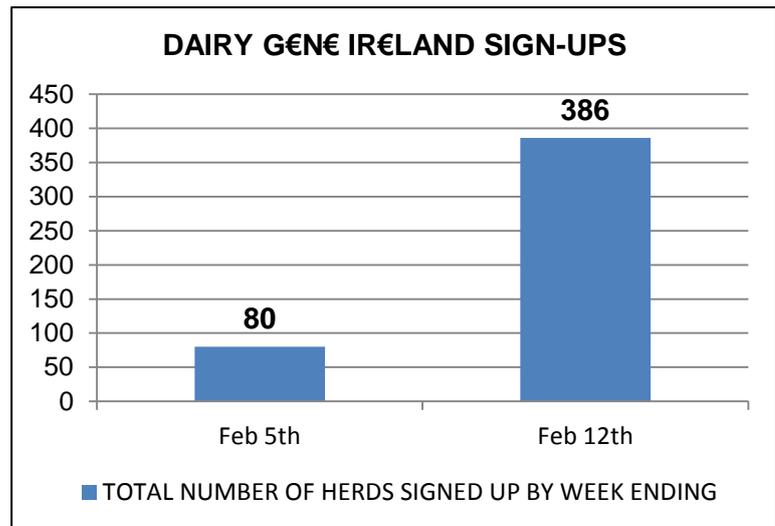
- ✚ The last remaining 'HerdPlus Dairy Cow Reports' have been posted to herd-owners this week and all will have arrived by early next week.
- ✚ HerdPlus have now completed printing the 'HerdPlus Co-op Performance' reports and all have been posted this week.
- ✚ With calving season in full swing, please remember to record sire details and calving ease scores.
- ✚ Please ensure that you have all dry-off dates recorded in order to receive your Milk Recording Annual report.

## 4 GENE IRELAND® Dairy

- ✚ Sign-up packs were posted to another 750 herds this week.
- ✚ Already 386 herds have signed up, taking a total of 14,620 straws.

### BREED PACKS AND AVERAGE EBIS

- **Holstein-Friesian: €374**
  - **Pure Friesian : €269**
  - **Multi Breed: €290**
- ✚ The **Multi Breed** pack includes Jersey (and Jersey Cross bulls), together with Holstein-Friesian bulls for comparative purposes.
  - ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.



## 5 Genetic Evaluations

### BDGP Scientific Advisory Committee

- ✚ A meeting of the BDGP Scientific Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday and Thursday of this week with representatives of ICBF and Teagasc, to discuss the latest developments in both research and implementation of genomic selection and breeding program designs.

### Beef Gene Ireland

- ✚ A meeting of all contributors to the Beef Gene Ireland Program was held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February in Portlaoise. Peter Amer and Fiona Healy from AbacusBio presented some research in relation to some potential future Gene Ireland options and implications for profitability and carbon emissions of those alternative options.
- ✚ Work continues on the Beef Genomic Program research in conjunction with Teagasc.

## 6 Sheep Ireland

### OVIGEN Update

- ✚ This week we circulated letters to any 2015 LambPlus breeders yet to be visited for the purposes of OVIGEN. The opportunity for LambPlus ram breeders to get each adult animal in their flock DNA sampled and genotyped free of charge is unlikely to ever present itself again. We have now reached the budgeted number of DNA samples for the majority of breeds involved in the project. The budget available to carry out this work is now shrinking rapidly and remaining flocks will be included on a first come, first served basis only. Texel, Suffolk, Charollais, Belclare and Vendeen LambPlus breeders that have not yet got involved in OVIGEN should contact Sheep Ireland immediately and arrange a flock visit. Call **1850 601 901** and Shane will organise a suitable date for the visit.

### Inclusion of the Beltex Breed in OVIGEN

- ✚ As predicted the Beltex breed can now be included in OVIGEN based on the breeds extremely close genetic relationship with the Texel breed. Although the Beltex breed in Ireland does not have the adequate level of performance data recorded to benefit from genomics, the breed can 'piggy-back' on the large volume of data recorded by the Texel Sheep Breed over the years. This relationship will be beneficial for both breeds. Useful genomic evaluations can only be generated on the basis of large volumes of good quality performance data. The more breeders and animals performance recorded the more progress that everyone

can make. Beltex breeders that were involved in LambPlus in 2015 have been contacted this week and encouraged to arrange an OVIGEN flock visit as soon as possible.

### Webscreen Improvements

- ✚ Our redesigned Sheep Ireland webscreens are now entering their second year of use. The launch of the new data recording screens was very warmly welcomed by LambPlus breeders last year. The user-friendly nature of the screens is their main attribute. The number of phone calls we receive from breeders looking for direction on how to use these new screens are minimal, which is great for both breeders and Sheep Ireland.
- ✚ We are continually tweaking the screens to improve their performance. Many of these improvements are made on the basis of feedback from breeders and Breed Societies and we always encourage breeders to give us feedback. This week a number of changes were implemented on the 'Lambing Management' screen. Breeders will notice these subtle but important changes as they record their lambing data in the coming weeks. There are a host of other additions coming on stream for our webscreens soon, which breeders will find extremely useful. This Weekly Update will be used to inform breeders of these additions as they are released.

**Sean Coughlan** Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Email [info@icbf.com](mailto:info@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](http://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](http://www.sheep.ie).

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 03-FEB-2016 To 12-FEB-2016

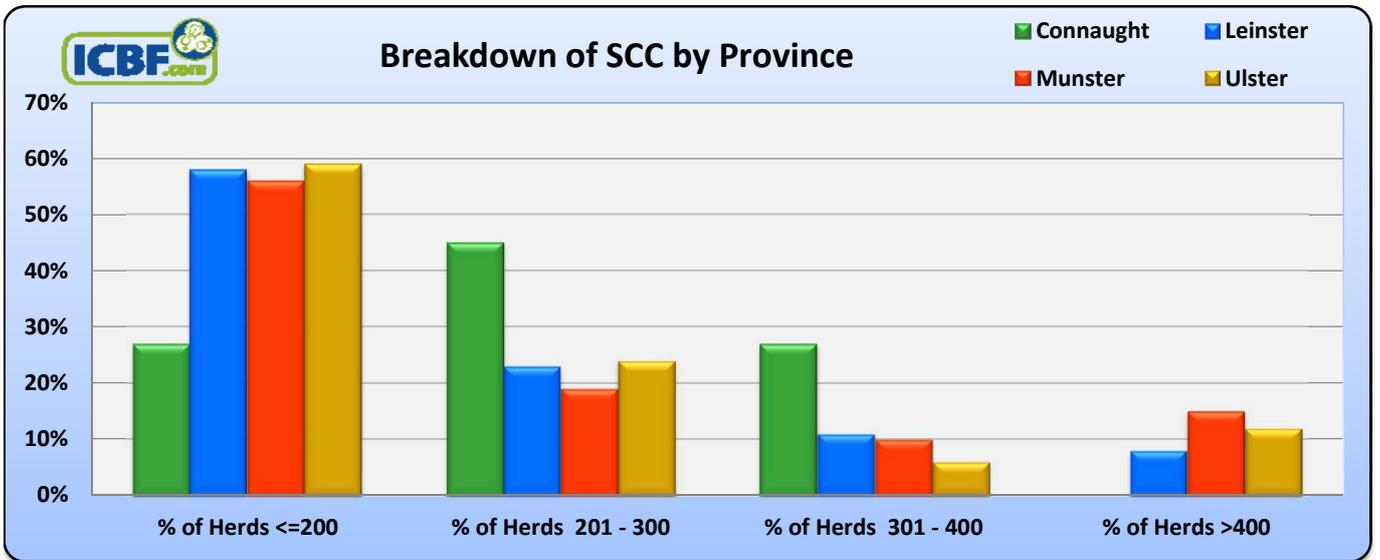
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	11	542	49	25.4	4.27	3.34	1.94	230
Leinster	88	6,207	71	23.0	4.13	3.34	1.71	182
Munster	144	8,362	58	24.0	4.28	3.34	1.83	197
Ulster	17	856	50	24.3	4.12	3.27	1.79	194
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>15,967</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>193</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 03-FEB-2016 To 12-FEB-2016

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	11	542	49	27%	45%	27%	0%	230
Leinster	88	6,207	71	58%	23%	11%	8%	182
Munster	144	8,362	58	56%	19%	10%	15%	197
Ulster	17	856	50	59%	24%	6%	12%	194
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>15,967</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>193</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



### % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 03-FEB-2016 To 12-FEB-2016

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	11	542	49	171	224	234	259	314
Leinster	88	6,207	71	110	169	184	211	299
Munster	144	8,362	58	113	154	176	216	335
Ulster	17	856	50	112	151	182	234	277
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>15,967</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>315</b>

\*\* Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

