

ICBF Weekly Update 12th September 2014

1 Important Dates

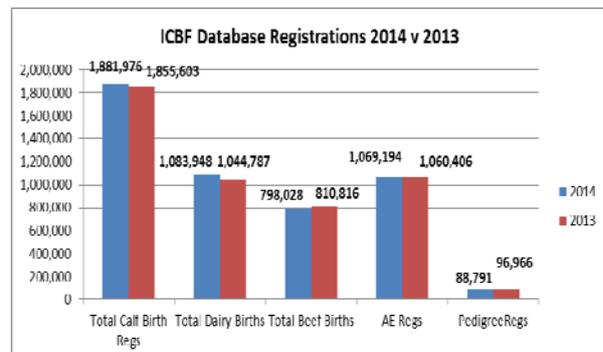
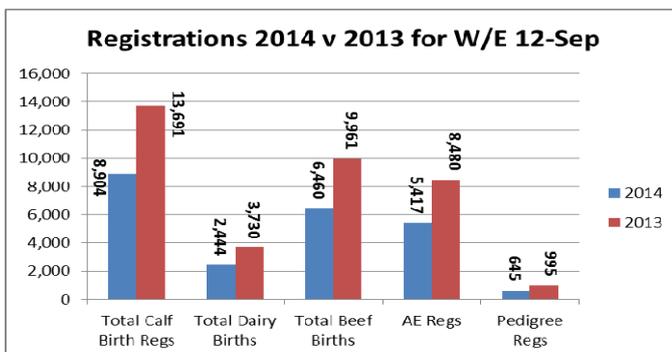
- ✚ **ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry Meetings** –Tuesday 14th October 2014, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th November 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th November 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

2 ICBF Board Meeting

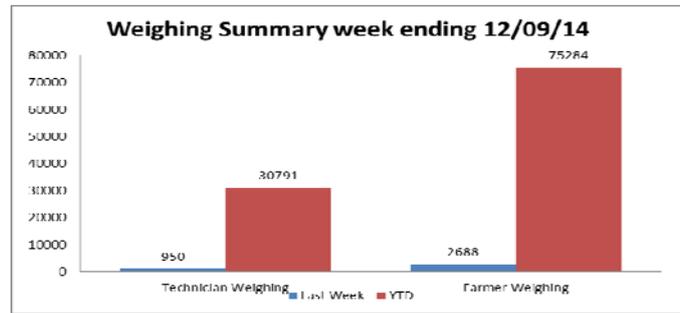
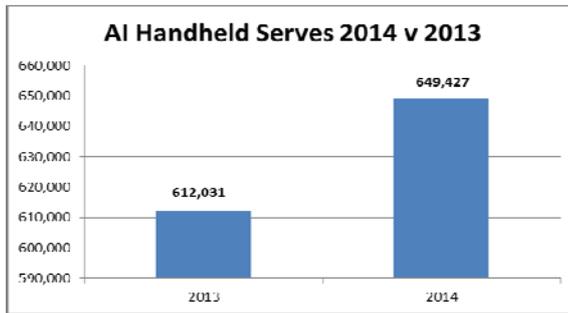
Some of the key topics covered at ICBF's board meeting this week:

- ✚ Beef Genomics Scheme update
 - An update was provided on the progress of the Beef Genomics Scheme. The scheme has run very well at farm level, with the vast majority of samples now returned. We continue to work our way through the genotyping process.
- ✚ Update from Vancouver World Congress of Genetics (WCGALP)
 - Andrew Cromie gave a report on some of the key presentation from the conference. Ireland was very well represented by both ICBF and Teagasc.
- ✚ Beef Gene Ireland
 - Andrew Cromie also provided an update on Beef Gene Ireland. Good progress has been made, but a number of issues need to be resolved in advance of preparing the plans and budget for 2015.

3 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 2,007,000 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, 4.67 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- ✚ This week there were 950 weights received through the technician service and 2688 weights recorded by farmers.
- ✚ The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



4 Genetic Evaluations

- Work continues on various research projects including the Test day Model, calving evaluation, maternal weaning weight, INTERBEEF weaning weight parameters, Liver Fluke, and incorporation of genomic data in the beef carcass evaluation.

5 Herd Plus®

- Beef Calving Reports have been posted to all beef HerdPlus customers this week. This report allows farmers to assess the calving performance of their herd through some Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) such as calving interval and calves per cow per year. The following is an overview of the calving statistics for the national suckler herd over the last number of years:

Beef Calving Statistics (National Averages)					
Key Performance Indicators	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Average Calving Interval (days)	406	407	396	395	412
Dead at Birth (%)	4.8	4.95	5	4.7	4.5
Dead at 28 days (%)	6	5.83	6.12	6.1	5.6
Calves per Cow per Year	0.78	0.79	0.85	0.83	0.79
Heifers calved 22-26 months of age (%)	N/A	12	16	16	17
Females not Calved in period (%)	14.2	13	8	10	13
Cows Culled (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21
Recycled Cows (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26
Avg. No. Calvings per cow	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.4
Births with Known Sire (%)	75	75	72	61	63
Births with Calving Survey Data (%)	79	77	75	61	64
Births with a Difficult Calving (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.9	3.3
AI Bred Calves (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	23

N/A = Stats not generated for these years

- A Teagasc/Irish Farmers Journal Better Farm Event took place on the farm of Ger Dineen Cill na Martra, Co. Cork on Thursday 11th. Ger's herd is the perfect example of how good genetics deliver increased profits at farm level. Ger runs a 50 cow herd and uses 100% AI. All bulls used are maternal type bulls. Ger uses a mix of Simmental, Limousin, Saler and Angus in his breeding. The one recurring thing about all of the bulls which Ger uses is that they are all high Replacement Index bulls. As a result of this, Ger's herd is in the top 1% nationally on Replacement Index. The following table outlines how the higher index cows are outperforming their lower index herdmates, in Ger's herd.



€uro-Stars in Action



Ger's Herd Profile:

- 49 cows
- Average Rep. Index €206 (5 stars, Top 5%)
- Top cow €351 (Top 1%)
- 43/49 cows are 4 stars or better

	No. Cows	Avg. Age (Years)	Avg. Replacement Index €	Avg Calv Int (Days)	ADG Progeny (Kgs)	Avg. Age Slaughter Progeny (Days)	Avg. Slaughter Wgt Progeny (Kgs)
Top 1/2	24	4.75	246	372	1.32	516	404
Bottom 1/2	25	5.1	167	375	1.29	521	389
Difference		-0.35	79	-3	0.03	-5	15

Based on Aug 2014 evaluation run.

Higher Index cows have:

- Better calving intervals.
- Progeny slaughtered younger.
- Better ADG's in progeny.
- With higher carcass weights (+15Kgs)

@ €4 Kg beef price = €60 extra from high index cows



Chris Daly going through the benefits of high Euro-Star breeding stock on Ger Dineen's farm.

ICBF will be present at the National Ploughing Championships this year as part of the Irish Farmers Journal/ICBF/Bord Bia Livestock Demo. The use of €uro-Star Indexes to select stock will be covered on the beef side while the benefits of high EBI cows will be covered on the dairy side. The demos will take place on each of the three days at 10am, 12pm and 2pm.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 12/09/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 12/09/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 12/09/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 12/09/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 12/09/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,838	1,145	30%	328,085	104,185	32%
Progressive	2,511	1,094	44%	239,229	104,833	44%
Tipperary	115	44	38%	9,979	3,859	39%
Total	6,464	2,283	35%	577,293	212,877	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 12/09/13	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 12/09/14	2011 vs 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	309,188	328,085	5.8%
Progressive	230,185	239,229	3.8%
Tipperary	10,029	9,979	-0.5%
Total	549,402	577,293	4.8%

7 Sheep Ireland

✚ This week was a busy one for Sheep Ireland as there were a number of STAP events taking place around the country at which Sheep Ireland presented. We also had one of our regular board meetings on Thursday afternoon.

Teagasc Better farm events

✚ On Tuesday 9th we visited the farm of Colm O'Donnell in Aclare, Co. Sligo for a Teagasc Better farm event. This event was an approved STAP national event and attracted a nice crowd of enthusiastic STAP participants. The topics discussed on the day included:

- Marketing options for hill lambs
- Ewe preparation for mating
- Ram selection – looking at the physical checks and EuroStars
- Liver fluke

✚ A similar programme of topics was used for another Better farm event on the farm of James Lally on Thursday 11th. See some images from the two days below. These were two great events for Sheep Ireland and rounded off a season of excellent Teagasc Better farm events at which our EuroStar evaluations got great exposure. We would like to sincerely thank all Teagasc personnel for including us in these public showcases.



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National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 03-SEP-2014 To 12-SEP-2014

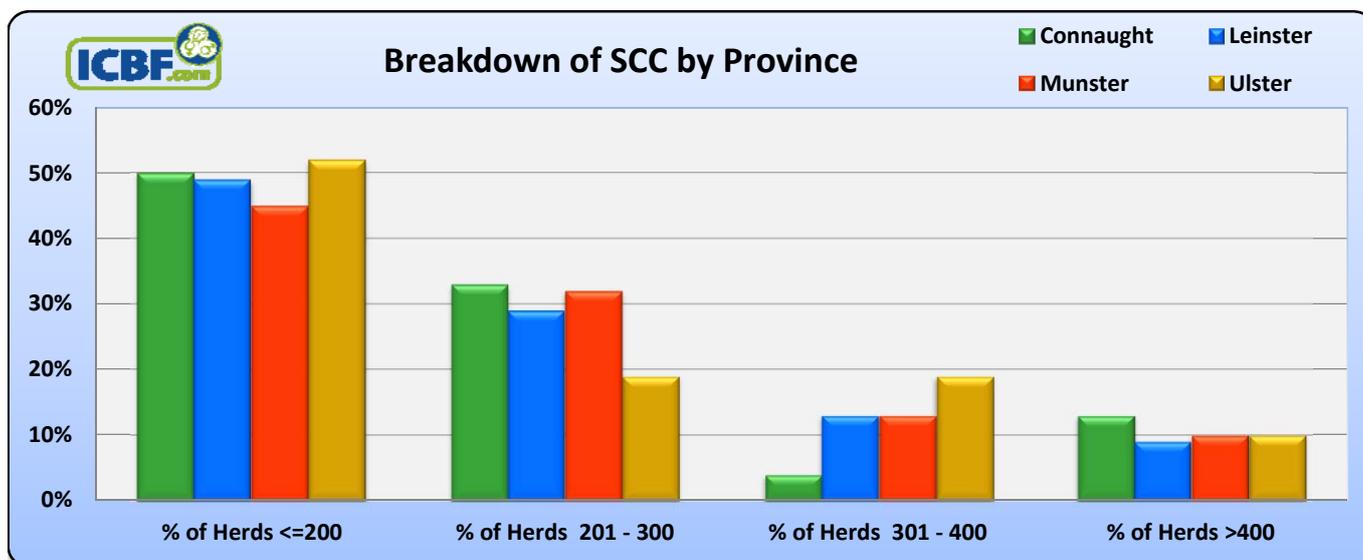
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	24	1,393	58	22.8	3.91	3.46	1.67	197
Leinster	166	12,659	76	19.9	4.07	3.61	1.52	203
Munster	489	38,226	78	19.1	4.08	3.61	1.47	215
Ulster	31	1,753	57	21.3	3.86	3.57	1.56	192
National Statistics	710	54,031	76	19.5	4.06	3.60	1.49	210

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 03-SEP-2014 To 12-SEP-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	24	1,393	58	50%	33%	4%	13%	197
Leinster	166	12,659	76	49%	29%	13%	9%	203
Munster	489	38,226	78	45%	32%	13%	10%	215
Ulster	31	1,753	57	52%	19%	19%	10%	192
National Statistics	710	54,031	76	46%	31%	13%	10%	210

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 03-SEP-2014 To 12-SEP-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	24	1,393	58	131	167	199	222	293
Leinster	166	12,659	76	131	179	208	230	309
Munster	489	38,226	78	144	186	213	235	318
Ulster	31	1,753	57	122	173	194	224	327
National Statistics	710	54,031	76	137	185	211	231	317

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

