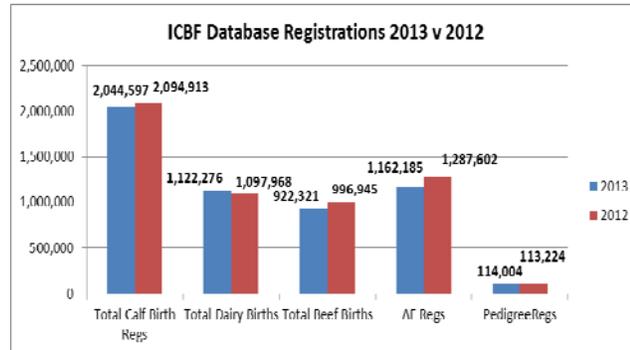
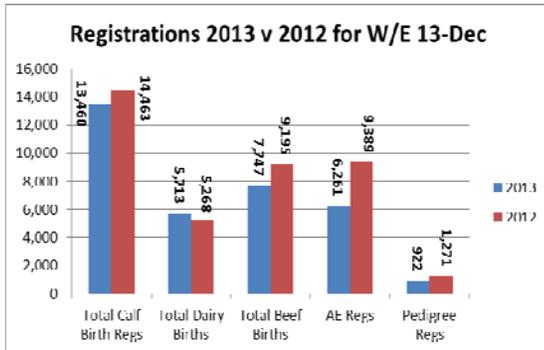


ICBF Weekly Update 13th December 2013

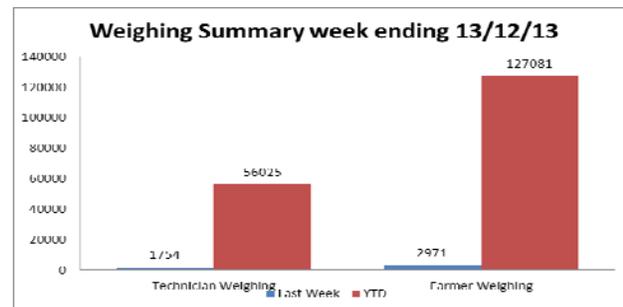
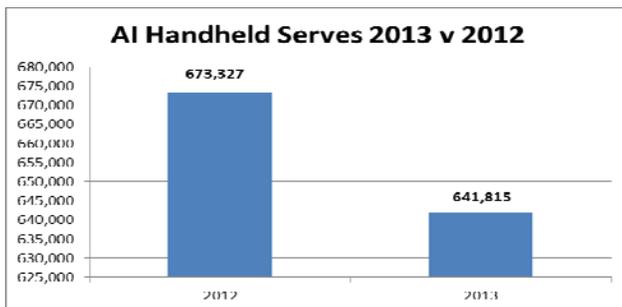
1 Important Dates

-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 23rd January 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 23rd January 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Portlaoise.

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 669,399 with the number of animals weaned at 629,717.
-  BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 2,147,000 results received since January 1st, of which 13,900 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.64 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
-  This week there were 1754 weights received through the technician service and 2971 weights recorded by farmers.
-  The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Genetic Evaluations

-  The results of the December evaluation proof run were released on Tuesday 10th December for AI sires while the bull search for all bulls went live on Wednesday 11th December. Active bull lists and herd profiles will be updated next week.

4 Herd Plus®

- The pocket notebooks continue to be posted out to all HerdPlus dairy farmers. The remaining batches will be posted over the coming weeks. This mailing will also include the expected calving report as well as the 12 week calving pattern.
- Dry-off sheets are also being posted out with milk recording results. Farmers can use these sheets, or alternatively record dry-offs online through HerdPlus® or a farm software package. It is **vitaly** important that farmers record dry-off dates so that milk recording data will be accurate.
- The December evaluation results for beef and dairy were published this week. Bulls are available through the bull search and females should be updated over the next week or so.
- A change has been made to the beef Euro-Star index. The “Maternal” index has been renamed the “Replacement” index. This was done to better reflect the traits that are included in the index. A breakdown has also been included which shows how much of the replacement value is coming from the cow traits (milk, fertility, feed intake etc. of daughters of the bull) and from progeny traits (carcass weight, conformation, feed intake etc. of the progeny of these daughters).
- This addition gives a brief synopsis of where a bull’s strengths lay. However, if a farmer is looking to improve a certain trait, then they should pick a bull that is strong on those specific trait/traits as well as on the overall index. If a farmer is looking to improve milk, then picking a bull that is strong on the replacement index will not necessarily guarantee a bull that has a high milk index. It is therefore important that the whole index is used when selecting a bull. Of course, the reliability figures should always be taken into account. See below for an example of the index change.

Bull with a high Replacement Index

Star Rating (within Simmental breed)	Economic Indexes	€uro value per progeny	Index reliability	Star Rating (across all beef breeds)
★★★★★	Replacement	€263	72% (High)	★★★★★
	Maternal Cow Traits	€53	58%	
	Maternal Progeny Traits	€210	85%	
★★★★★	Terminal	€134	84% (V High)	★★★★★
☆☆☆☆☆	Dairy Beef	€	% (N/A)	☆☆☆☆☆

Most of this value, however, is coming from progeny traits (quality of the progeny of daughters of this bull).

Actual maternal traits of this bull (below) are quite poor on closer inspection.

Expected daughter breeding performance				
	Daughter calving difficulty (% 3 & 4) Breed ave: 4.99%, All breeds ave: 5.28%	2.5%	39% (Low)	
☆☆☆☆☆	Daughter milk (kg) Breed ave: 8.90kg, All breeds ave: 0.34kg	5.94kg	53% (Average)	★★★★☆
★★☆☆☆	Daughter calving interval (days) Breed ave: -0.48 days, All breeds ave: -0.59 days	.32days	58% (Average)	★★☆☆☆

- If you have any questions on the above index changes or any other aspect of the HerdPlus service, do not hesitate to contact us on **1850 600 900**.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 13/12/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 13/12/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 13/12/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 13/12/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 13/12/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,686	1,069	29%	314,200	98,591	31%
Progressive	2,458	1,013	41%	239,610	100,063	42%
Tipperary	114	41	36%	10,176	3,883	38%
Total	6,258	2,123	34%	563,986	202,537	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 13/12/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 13/12/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	309,135	314,200	1.6%
Progressive	231,486	239,610	3.4%
Tipperary	10,323	10,176	-1.4%
Total	550,944	563,986	2.3%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

6 Sheep Ireland

- The 15th of December is the closing date for joining the LambPlus scheme for the 2014 season. There has been a significant increase in interest, understanding and breeder numbers once again with a large amount of LambPlus sign ups coming into the office each day this week. We will do our best to get through all the flocks as quickly as possible to allow breeders to record lambing information in January, as well as to get final numbers for the number of recording breeders in the LambPlus scheme for 2014.
- Next week most LambPlus breeders will receive their LambPlus lambing notebooks and a new LambPlus Userguide that has been put together in the past number of weeks. The lambing notebook is a critical management tool for all recording breeders to capture all the required data for genetic evaluations. Our new Userguide will detail exactly what is required of each breeder in order to guarantee the best possible genetic evaluations for lambs in 2014.
- Many Vendeen breeders will be starting lambing in the coming days – we wish them the very best of luck. No doubt they have all used high Euro-Star rams on the Lambing Index, so there should be minimal problems.

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, 04-DEC-2013 To 13-DEC-2013

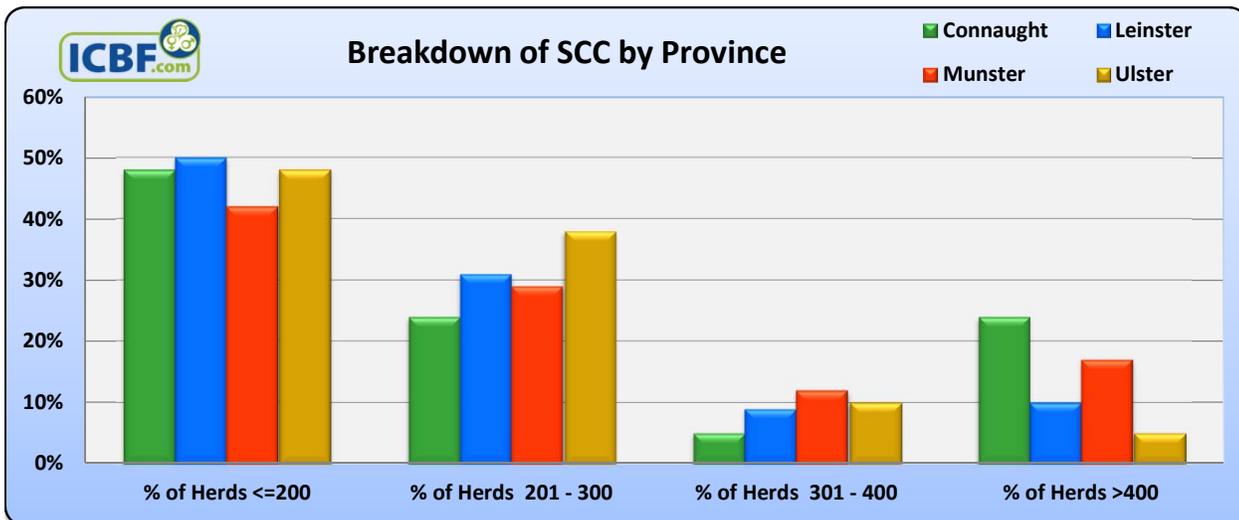
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	21	1,128	54	17.2	4.26	3.41	1.32	248
Leinster	111	7,868	71	19.7	4.19	3.47	1.49	190
Munster	273	14,272	52	17.1	4.36	3.63	1.36	226
Ulster	21	831	40	18.2	4.30	3.45	1.40	183
National Statistics	426	24,099	57	17.9	4.31	3.57	1.39	215

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 04-DEC-2013 To 13-DEC-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	21	1,128	54	48%	24%	5%	24%	248
Leinster	111	7,868	71	50%	31%	9%	10%	190
Munster	273	14,272	52	42%	29%	12%	17%	226
Ulster	21	831	40	48%	38%	10%	5%	183
National Statistics	426	24,099	57	45%	30%	11%	15%	215

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 04-DEC-2013 To 13-DEC-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	21	1,128	54	145	185	242	257	518
Leinster	111	7,868	71	111	156	200	221	272
Munster	273	14,272	52	138	194	225	256	381
Ulster	21	831	40	113	162	201	237	289
National Statistics	426	24,099	57	130	188	216	244	346

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

