

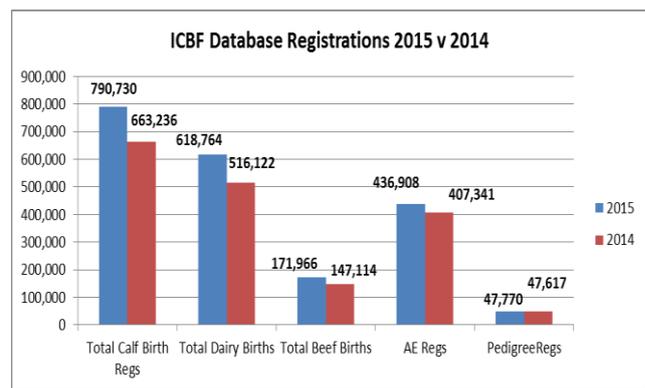
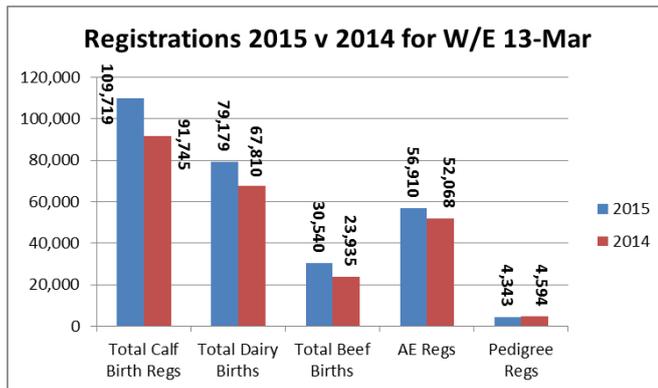
## ICBF Weekly Update 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### 1 Important Dates

✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

### 2 Database

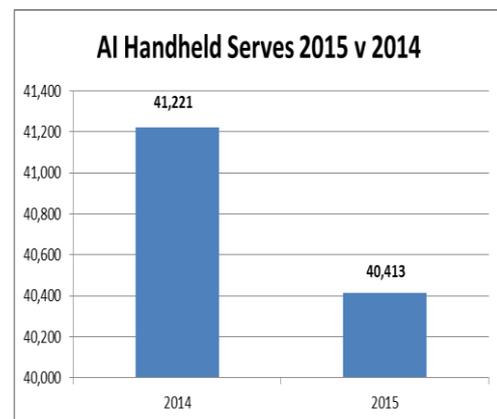


✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.

✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 796,000 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 120,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 5.74 million results have now been received.

✚ As was emphasised again at the most recent BVD Implementation Group meeting, the removal of PI animals is critical to the success of the BVD Eradication Scheme. The Minister for Agriculture recently [announced](#) further supports to aid with this for 2015. It is a requirement that all PI animals born in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are disposed of prior to **1 March 2015** in order to avail of any 2015 supports. The removal of PI animals will also be a stipulation of the proposed Beef Data Genomics Programme and successor programmes.

✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



### 3 Herd Plus®

✚ Sire advice for the 2015 breeding season can now be run online by HerdPlus dairy customers. It is important to ensure that the red button is clicked to save the selected bulls to technician handhelds and breeding charts. Postal dairy customers received bull selection forms along with an active bull list with the top 75 bulls currently available and explanation document. See explanation document [here](#). Breeding charts will be generated in early April so it is important that farmers submit their sire advice before then.

✚ Beef Euro-Star reports are now available online to all beef HerdPlus customers. The report has been recently updated and is now more comprehensive. It gives a detailed overview of the genetic merit of a farmers suckler herd.

✚ As Spring calving has commenced on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is an appropriate time to remind farmers of the importance of data recording. 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. Click [here](#) for a link to an article on best practice in on farm data recording.
- ✚ 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](http://www.agfood.ie) or through a farm software package. 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 agfood website or contacting your farm software provider.

#### 4 GENE IRELAND® Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- ✚ 220 herds taking a total of 3500 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 16 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**.
- ✚ Approximately total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in the table.

*Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test*

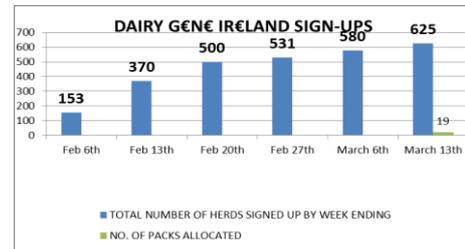
Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	150
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	280
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	430
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	360
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	75
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	110
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	165
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	100
HHJ	Heracles	CH	170
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	170
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	330
YOB	Barryroe ICE	LM	440
KAC	Keltic Isaac	LM	270
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	120
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	210
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	400
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	120
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	155
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	240
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	250
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	240
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	150
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	170

#### 5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Files are currently being uploaded to Interbull for upcoming full genetic evaluation
- ✚ Domestic genetic evaluations are ongoing internally
- ✚ Publication of new proofs (for AI sires) is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> April
- ✚ Work continues on a number of projects around animal health

## 6 GENE IRELAND® Dairy

- Orders are now complete for the Holstein Friesian & Friesian packs.
- Orders can be taken for the Crossbred/Jersey pack.
- Allocations have commenced and will increase significantly over the coming weeks.



## 7 Milk Recording

### National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 13/03/15

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 13/03/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 13/03/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 13/03/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 13/03/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	1,219	109	9%	70,779	8,244	12%
Progressive	1,061	229	22%	69,330	15,130	22%
Tipperary	13	2	15%	803	99	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>140,912</b>	<b>23,473</b>	<b>17%</b>

### Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 1/01/14 -13/03/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 1/01/15 -13/03/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	69,838	70,779	1.3%
Progressive	77,655	69,330	-12.0%
Tipperary	749	803	6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,242</b>	<b>140,912</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>

## 8 Sheep Ireland

### New Sheep Ireland data recording screens

In recent weeks the number of breeders entering data onto the new Sheep Ireland website has increased significantly. The number of breeders recording their flock data by paper is at its lowest level ever, with just 26 breeders choosing to do so. The remainder of our 600 breeders are recording their data via our recently upgraded website. Many breeders are making a big transition from paper recording to recording online and we would encourage these breeders especially, to give us a call to get them started. We are getting lots of queries in relation to the new screens and we should remind breeders to have a look at the 'Help' section which can be found on the 'Lambing Management' page. We welcome any queries that breeders have and acknowledge that the new screens will take a bit of getting used to over the coming months. Throughout the year there will also be a range of additional screens and reports being made available to breeders.

### CPT lambing 2015

Our CPT lambing continues to progress very well. Some of the flocks have now finished lambing with the other flocks in the home straight. Our focus will now be on collating this data to provide feedback to each of the flocks involved in the programme and also to the breeders that submitted rams to the CPT last autumn. Each year we extract some extremely interesting data from these flocks and we expect this year will be no different. The stand-out message from previous years data is that the variation within individual breeds is greater than that between different breeds – emphasising the need for a strong performance recording programme to help identify the top performing bloodlines.

*Some happily tagged new born CPT lambs from UCD this week.*



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## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 04-MAR-2015 To 13-MAR-2015

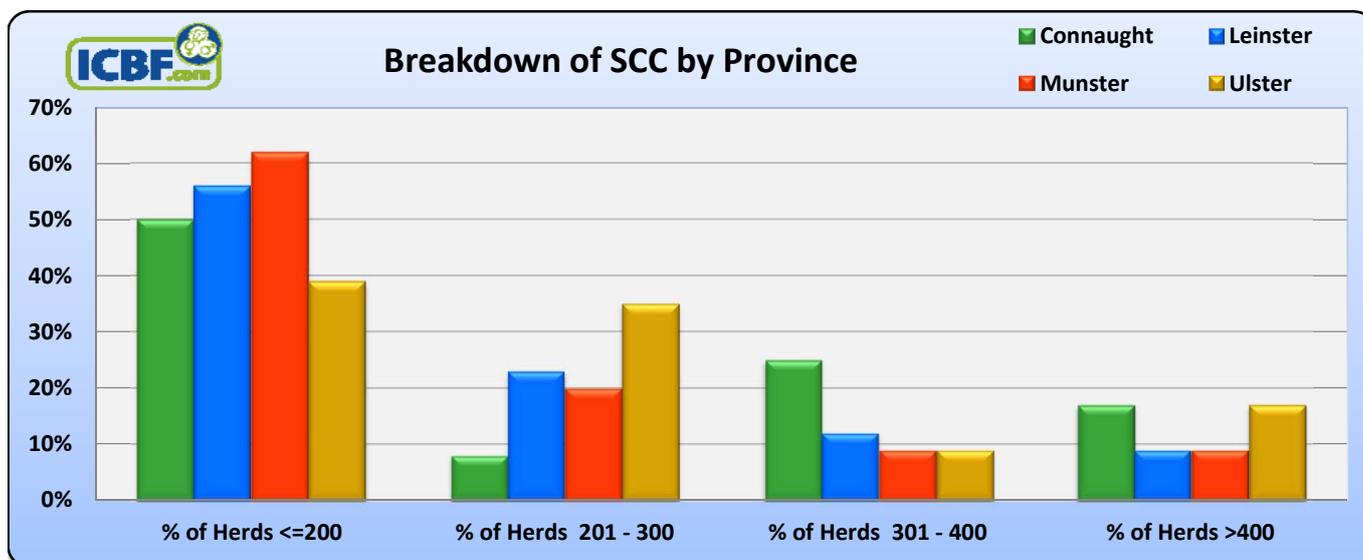
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
<b>Connaught</b>	12	533	44	24.5	4.05	3.18	178
<b>Leinster</b>	112	7,701	69	23.6	4.10	3.24	189
<b>Munster</b>	268	16,500	62	24.1	4.13	3.21	171
<b>Ulster</b>	23	1,061	46	23.6	3.85	3.11	221
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>25,795</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>3.21</b>	<b>178</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 04-MAR-2015 To 13-MAR-2015

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*
<b>Connaught</b>	12	533	44	50%	8%	25%	178
<b>Leinster</b>	112	7,701	69	56%	23%	12%	189
<b>Munster</b>	268	16,500	62	62%	20%	9%	171
<b>Ulster</b>	23	1,061	46	39%	35%	9%	221
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>25,795</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>178</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 04-MAR-2015 To 13-MAR-2015								
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC	
<b>Connaught</b>	12	533	44	78	135	221	308	379
<b>Leinster</b>	112	7,701	69	127	168	188	205	302
<b>Munster</b>	268	16,500	62	100	144	167	195	290
<b>Ulster</b>	23	1,061	46	151	200	208	228	378
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>25,795</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>302</b>

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

