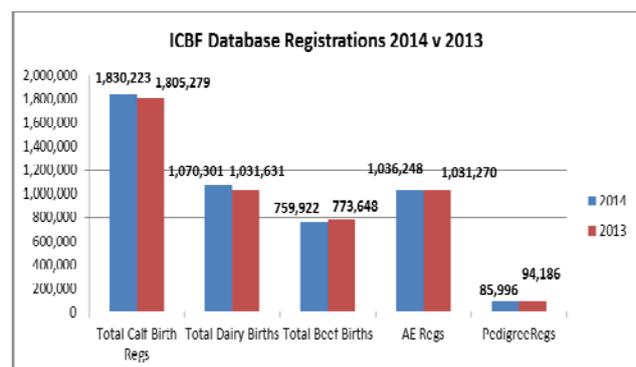
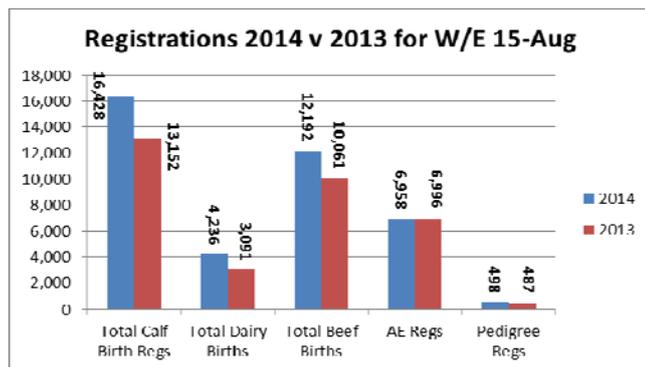


ICBF Weekly Update 15th August 2014

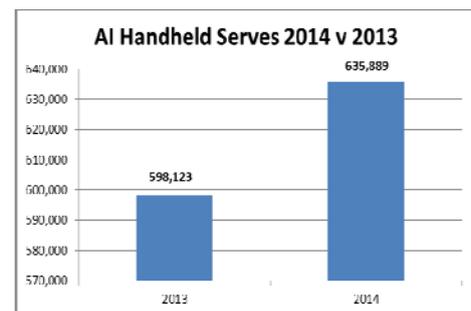
1 Important Dates

-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th September 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Highfield House, Bandon.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th September 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Highfield House, Bandon.
-  **Sheep Ireland EuroStar Ram Sale** - Saturday 23rd August 2014, 12:30, Tullamore

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 1,949,000 results received since January 1st, of which 19,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 4.61 million results have now been received.
-  The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.



3 Herd Plus®

-  Beef Calving Reports will be generated in the coming weeks. Some changes have been made to this report such as the addition of some extra key performance indicators.
-  Farmers pregnancy scanning cows are reminded to record the results online. Dairy farmers should run their Final Fertility Report once this is complete.

4 Genetic Evaluations

-  Work is continuing on loading current official evaluations to database. Domestic evaluations are complete, genomic evaluations are now in process. It is anticipated to have bull files available Tuesday 19th August.
-  A number of ICBF teams are presenting updates on current Irish research at World Congress Genetics Applied to Animal Production in Vancouver next week.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 15/08/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 15/08/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 15/08/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 15/08/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 15/08/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,834	1,143	30%	326,185	103,243	32%
Progressive	2,499	1,082	43%	236,540	103,095	44%
Tipperary	115	44	38%	9,947	3,844	39%
Total	6,448	2,269	35%	572,672	210,182	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 15/08/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 15/08/14	2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	307,967	326,185	5.6%
Progressive	227,669	236,540	3.8%
Tipperary	9,816	9,947	1.3%
Total	545,452	572,672	4.8%

6 Sheep Ireland

Texel Premier Sale 2014

Last Saturday 9th August we attended the Irish Texel Sheep Societies Premier sale in Blessington, Co. Wicklow. This was a very large sale boasting over 350 entries. Overall the sale had an excellent clearance rate. 100% clearance of the Shearling Ewes, 50% for ewe lambs and an 83% clearance average across the shearling and ram lamb sections. For a more detailed summary of the sale, visit www.irishtexel.com.

€uroStar demand

Demand for stars was evident on the day, with high starred animals attracting more bids and easier sales throughout the day. The accuracy% attached to many of the evaluations was another noticeable aspect of the sale. It is clear the accuracies being achieved across the Texel breed are improving year on year. The average accuracy for ram lambs across the sale are higher than that in any other breed at present, helped by the large number of breeders involved in the LambPlus programme. Hopefully this growth in accuracy will continue, for the benefit of commercial farmers using Texel rams. *See below for some images from the sale.*

CPT Update

This week we carried out Ultrasound scanning on a large number of commercial lambs across our CPT flocks. A liveweight is also collected at this point. This data is invaluable to our Indices. While collecting this data, we also recorded a visual score for each lamb scanned. Each lamb was scored from 1-5 based on their visual appearance and condition. This type of visual scoring is employed by the ICBF in the beef genetic indexes and they have proven to be extremely beneficial. There are major benefits from a practical point of view also, as they are very easy measurements to collect on farm. We will analyse the data that has been collected and see if this type of measurement would have a role to play across our pedigree recording flocks. The more new traits that we can include in our evaluation, the more progress we can make in terms of accuracy and ultimately genetic progress.

Sheep Ireland EuroStar ram sale - SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST

The 2014 Multibreed EuroStar ram sale takes place next week in Tullamore. The sale kicks off at 12.30. Myles Lambert will be the auctioneer on the day. We have over 220 entries. The sale order is as follows:

1. Charollais - 72 rams
2. Texel - 86 rams
3. Beltex - 3 rams
4. Belclare - 9 rams
5. Vendeen - 3 rams
6. Suffolk - 50 rams

The sales catalogue is available on www.sheep.ie. Look under 'Publications' and then under 'Sales'.



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, 06-AUG-2014 To 15-AUG-2014

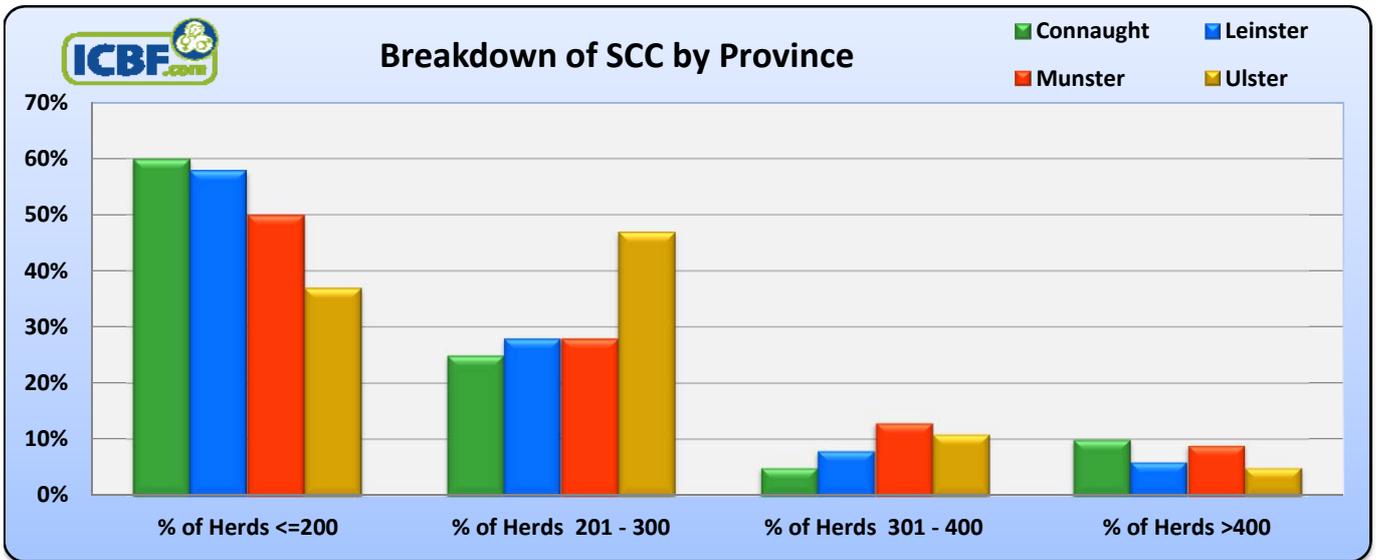
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	40	2,209	55	22.2	3.75	3.40	1.58	196
Leinster	145	11,800	81	20.5	3.89	3.43	1.49	174
Munster	566	42,926	76	20.7	3.88	3.46	1.52	199
Ulster	19	1,417	75	21.4	3.77	3.31	1.50	216
National Statistics	770	58,352	76	20.8	3.87	3.45	1.52	194

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 06-AUG-2014 To 15-AUG-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	40	2,209	55	60%	25%	5%	10%	196
Leinster	145	11,800	81	58%	28%	8%	6%	174
Munster	566	42,926	76	50%	28%	13%	9%	199
Ulster	19	1,417	75	37%	47%	11%	5%	216
National Statistics	770	58,352	76	52%	29%	11%	9%	194

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 06-AUG-2014 To 15-AUG-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	40	2,209	55	145	164	174	208	248
Leinster	145	11,800	81	113	161	181	204	275
Munster	566	42,926	76	127	177	202	227	311
Ulster	19	1,417	75	154	245	264	271	292
National Statistics	770	58,352	76	127	173	197	224	300

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

