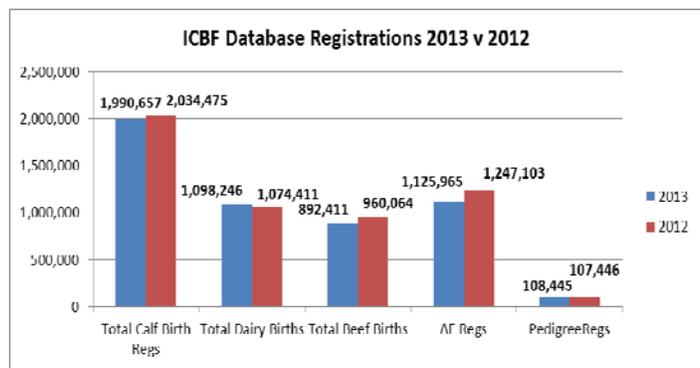
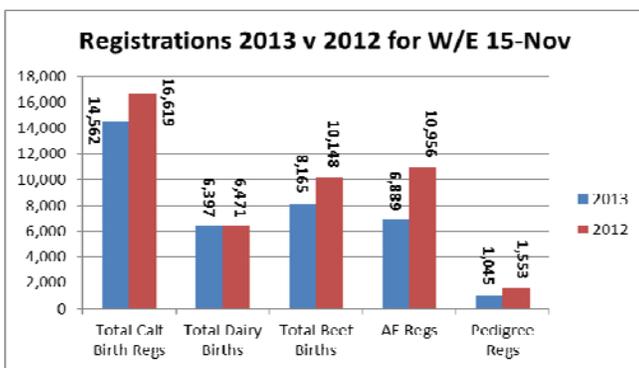


ICBF Weekly Update 15th November 2013

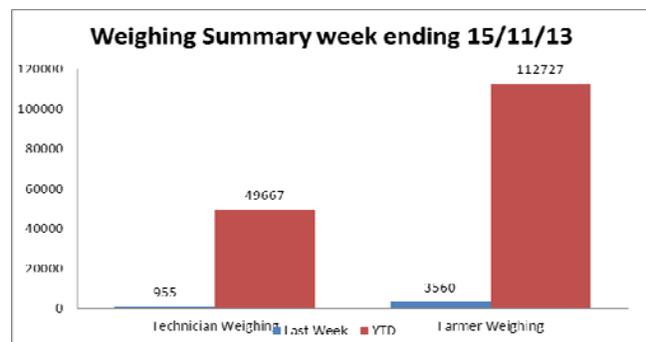
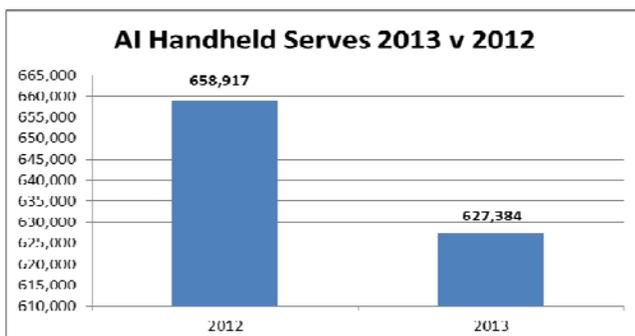
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Regional Meeting being held by Sheep Ireland** – Monday 18th November, at 7:30pm, Jacksons Hotel, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Wednesday 20th November, 14:00 – 16:00, Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 14:30 to 18:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 18:00 to 20:30, Maldron Hotel, 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 667,373 with the number of animals weaned at 623,895.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 2,090,000 results received since January 1st, of which 16,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.58 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
- ✚ This week there were 955 weights received through the technician service and 3560 weights recorded by farmers.
- ✚ The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 GENEIRLAND® Dairy

- ✚ Straws have been dispatched to the 80 herds taking part in the programme.
- ✚ Each herd has received an inbreeding report and breeding chart.
- ✚ 544 straws per bull have been allocated.
- ✚ To learn more or to sign up please phone **1850 600 900**.

4 Tully

Further factory data collected on GENEIRLAND progeny at Tully

- ✚ 99 commercial progeny from the GENEIRLAND progeny test center, Tully, Co. Kildare were slaughtered in the last two weeks. It consisted of two intakes i.e. 46 bulls (born between 1st May & 30th June 2012) and 53 steers (dob. 1st Nov 2011 – 31st Dec 2011). This brings the total number of animals slaughtered through the new progeny test program at Tully to 358.
- ✚ During the 90 day performance test information collected on each animal includes feed efficiency, scanned measurements, scrotal circumference, dry matter intake and average daily gain.
- ✚ The carcass weight for the 46 bulls ranged from 326 kg to 467 kg, with an average carcass weight of 417 kg for the group, while the carcass weight for the 53 steers ranged from 301 kg to 482 kg, with an average carcass weight of 395 kg. The average kill-out rate for the 46 bulls was 60%, with kill-out ranging from 56 to 66.5%. The average kill-out rate for the 53 steers was 56%, with kill-out ranging from 51 to 59%.
- ✚ **Table 1** shows a breakdown of the carcass conformation and fat scores for the 46 bulls. **Table 2** shows a breakdown of the carcass conformation and fat scores for the 53 steers.
- ✚ In order to capture meat yield data, the carcass from each animal was dissected into 19 cuts of meat and the weight of each cut was recorded.

Table 1. Range in conformation and fat scores (15 point scale) for the 46 bulls

	E=	E-	U+	U=	U-	R+	R=
1+							
2-							
2=		2	2				
2+	1	1	1	1	1		
3-	2	4	9				
3=		4	4	2			
3+	1	1	5		1		
4-	1		3				
4=							

Table 2. Range in conformation and fat scores (15 point scale) for the 46 bulls

	E-	U+	U=	U-	R+	R=	R-	O+
1+								
2-								
2=								
2+	1	1						
3-		1	3		2			
3=	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	
3+		5		5	2			
4-			2	3	2	2	3	1
4=			3	2				
4+			1				2	1
5-								1

- ✚ The striploin from the right hand side of each carcass was retained for more in-depth analysis on each of the animals slaughtered. This analysis will include composition (intramuscular fat %, protein % & moisture %), cook loss, shear force and sensory measurements.

- ✚ ICBF would like to thank Slaney Foods, Bunclody, Co. Wexford and Teagasc Ashtown for their help and co-operation in the collection of the carcass and meat eating quality data.

Latest intakes on test

- ✚ 30 bulls (DOB: 1st July 2012 – 31st August 2012) are currently on test and these animals are due to be slaughtered in mid-December 2013.
- ✚ 87 bulls (born between 1st September & 31st October 2012) are also on test and these animals will be slaughtered early in the New Year.

Groups visiting Tully

Recently 80th year UCD Veterinary students visited the GENÉIRÉLAND progeny test center at Tully (see pictures below). Stephen Conroy (ICBF) informed them of the role of Tully in collected information on commercial progeny, the new GENÉIRÉLAND Maternal program along with the benefits of selecting beef animals using Euro-Star indexes.



5 Herd Plus®

- ✚ The Dairy Health and Management Survey was posted to 8,000 dairy herdowners this week. Herd owners are asked to evaluate their milking herd for milking temperament and to record any cows that were treated for mastitis or lameness throughout the year. All dairy herd owners are encouraged to record this information either online (www.icbf.com) or by returning the survey posted to them. This data is used for genetic evaluations for traits such as Health and Management.
- ✚ There was a large attendance at the final Teagasc/ICBF/AHI suckler information events that were held at Ennis and Ballybay Marts. We would like to thank all that attended these very informative events. Those who could not make the event can view the ICBF presentation at <http://www.icbf.com/publications>.
- ✚ Andrew Cromie gave a presentation this week at the Teagasc National Dairy Conference. His presentation was entitled “Strategies for sustainable success: the right cow to drive performance”. Conference proceedings can be found at: <http://www.teagasc.ie/publications>

6 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Routine genetic evaluations for all beef and dairy traits are currently underway. There are no changes to the beef indexes other than the addition of new data, while updated economic values will be introduced for the EBI.

- Next week is the meeting of the InterBeef working group in Prague. The main topics on the agenda will cover the research done on calving traits by our colleagues from the Czech Republic, ICBF proposal for handling and processing crossbred performances in the InterBeef genetic evaluations, UK proposal for evaluating carcass traits, and a discussion lead by Germany on beef fertility traits.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 15/11/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 15/11/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 15/11/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 15/11/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 15/11/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,685	1,069	29%	312,799	98,446	31%
Progressive	2,456	1,010	41%	236,671	99,093	42%
Tipperary	114	41	36%	10,136	3,872	38%
Total	6,255	2,120	34%	559,606	201,411	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 15/11/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 15/11/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	307,725	312,799	1.6%
Progressive	228,299	236,671	3.5%
Tipperary	10,323	10,136	-1.8%
Total	546,347	559,606	2.4%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

8 Sheep Ireland

- The Sheep Ireland regional meetings started this week with meetings taking place in Mallow, Tuam and Navan. The three meetings went very well and it was evident that there is a strong positive feeling towards the breeding programme among breeders at present. All the meetings attracted a large number of new breeders which bodes well for the continued growth of sheep performance recording in this country. The positivity being experienced at the moment is helped greatly by the role currently played by STAP across the country. From a Sheep Ireland point of view STAP has ticked all the boxes in terms of educating commercial farmers and breeders about the merits of using Euro-Star rams. STAP will continue to play a big role throughout 2014 and this is certainly a major encouragement to participating breeders.
- One of the recurring questions being posed by breeders at all the meetings, is how can we expand the education of Irish sheep farmers beyond those involved in STAP. This is something we will continue to do a lot of work on. There will not be any one silver bullet to address this issue. It will take time and it will require major effort, not just from Sheep Ireland but from other stakeholders in the sheep industry to get the message of better genetics out there.
- Another recurring question being put to us is what is going to happen after STAP? This is one question that we don't have an answer for. All we do know is that, so far, the current discussion group programme (STAP) has been extremely successful in spreading the very best technologies that Irish sheep farmers can use to increase

profitability on their farms. If the programme continues to be such a success we can only hope a similar model can be designed for the future – beyond the current STAP.

- ✚ The full presentation used at our regional meetings will be put on our website next week. Our final meeting takes place on Monday night 18th November in Jacksons Hotel, Ballybofey, Co.Donegal. We hope the discussion will be as good as it has been at all the other meetings so far.



A view of the large crowd in attendance at our Tuam regional meeting.

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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-NOV-2013 To 15-NOV-2013

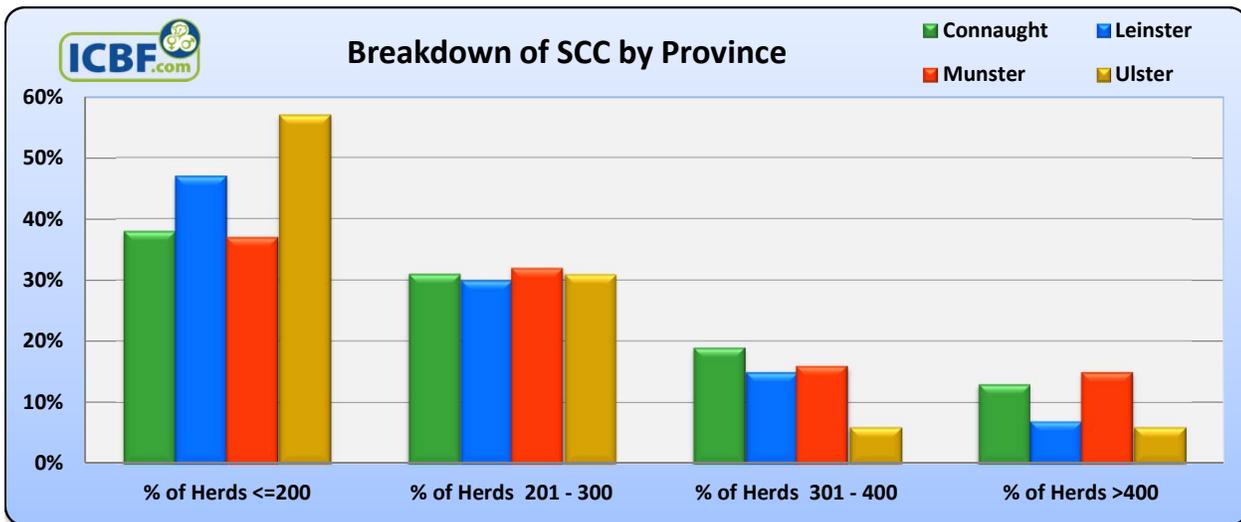
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	16	934	58	17.4	4.31	3.57	1.38	249
Leinster	138	10,487	76	16.9	4.33	3.69	1.34	202
Munster	509	33,954	67	14.3	4.55	3.86	1.19	243
Ulster	35	1,977	56	16.6	4.20	3.59	1.28	180
National Statistics	698	47,352	68	15.0	4.48	3.81	1.23	231

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 06-NOV-2013 To 15-NOV-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	16	934	58	38%	31%	19%	13%	249
Leinster	138	10,487	76	47%	30%	15%	7%	202
Munster	509	33,954	67	37%	32%	16%	15%	243
Ulster	35	1,977	56	57%	31%	6%	6%	180
National Statistics	698	47,352	68	40%	31%	15%	13%	231

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 06-NOV-2013 To 15-NOV-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	16	934	58	166	201	242	273	388
Leinster	138	10,487	76	128	183	205	242	307
Munster	509	33,954	67	159	211	231	260	355
Ulster	35	1,977	56	127	165	190	211	258
National Statistics	698	47,352	68	153	201	227	254	344

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

