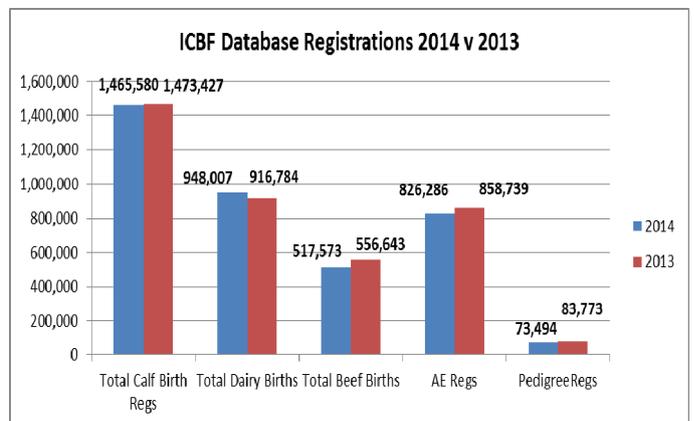
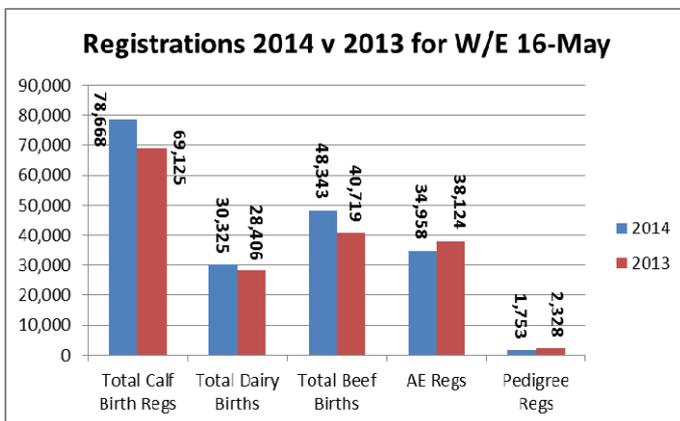


ICBF Weekly Update 16th May 2014

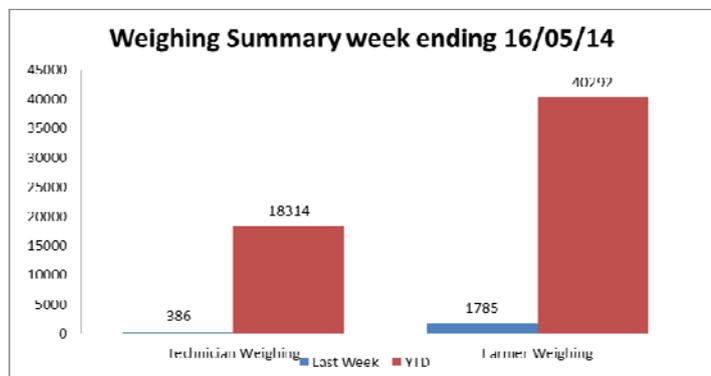
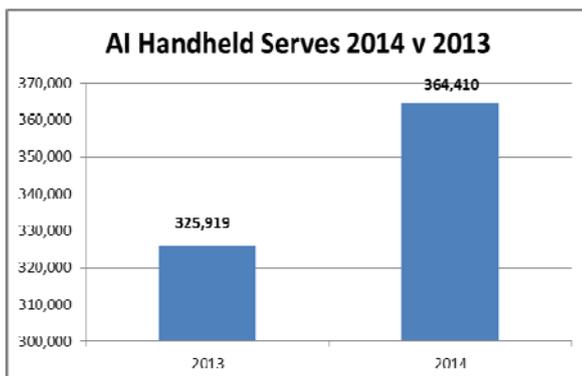
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry Meetings** –Tuesday 27th May 2014, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** –Friday 11th July 2014, 10:00 to 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Friday 11th July 2014, 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 1,541,000 results received since January 1st, of which 77,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.2 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 386 weights received through the technician service and 1785 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

- New screens were launched this week on the ICBF website. ICBF is in the process of giving the website a total makeover. This is being done in a step by step process. To date screens such as the bull search, record calving ease, record heat/serve and record missing slaughter data have been updated.
- The record heat/serve screen now allows farmers to record heats where the animal was not served. This should prove a useful management tool for farmers who are observing heats in their animals outside of the breeding season. Once the breeding season starts a farmer will have an idea as to when animals should be coming in heat again and therefore lessen the risk of missing the heat. See graphic below on how to use this new screen.

Recording Heats & Serves on ICBF.com

Use our new user friendly screens to record heats and serves

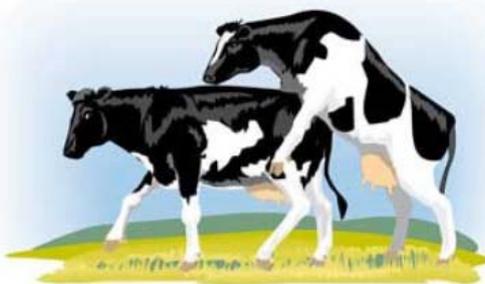
Jumbo	Animal Number	Lact	Calving Date	Last Heat / Serve	Last Bull	Num Serves	Date	Bull Used	Treatment
1	IE161313341001	3	18-FEB-14	01-MAY-14	PSZ	3			Select treatment

To Record a Heat

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click Save. A heat event for the cow has been created!



The screenshot shows the 'Date' column of the table with a calendar for April 2014. A red arrow points to the date '1' (April 1st). Another red arrow points to the 'Bull Used' dropdown menu, which is open and shows the selected bull 'IE16131334128'. A third red arrow points to the 'Treatment' dropdown menu, which is also open and shows options like 'Not Sexed', 'Sexed 90% Female', etc.



If you make a mistake don't worry, click on the cow tag in blue font to delete any mistakes or to view further details.

To Record a Serve

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click in the bull used column. Enter an AI code or tag number (stock bull). The sire check column will confirm the bull code/tag is valid.
- Click in the treatment column. A treatment must be selected.

Note: For stock bull serves and conventional straws (non sexed) the treatment selected will always be Non Sexed.

The majority of sexed straws available will be sexed 90% female. Check with your AI company if you are in doubt.

- Click Save. A serve event for the cow has been created!

Remember: Heats and serves can also be recorded via farm software. If you are on the AI technician service & your AI technician has a handheld, AI inseminations will be sent to ICBF automatically.

HerdPlus
Profit through Science
1850 600 900

- The breeding season is in full swing on many dairy and beef farms at the moment. For farmers doing DIY AI or whose AI technicians are not on the handheld service please ensure that you submit your serves online either through your HerdPlus login or farm software package. This data is of vital importance to genetic evaluations but also to the reports which we provide to farmers throughout the year.
- Beef farmers are reminded of the beef active bull list now available through the ICBF website. The list ranks bulls on the respective indexes. It is an excellent tool for beef farmers to search for the best AI bulls to suit their farming system. To see both the terminal and replacement lists please go to the ICBF Website, *Genetic Evaluations, Active Bull Lists*.

<http://webapp.icbf.com/active-bull-list/beef-terminal>

<http://webapp.icbf.com/active-bull-list/beef-maternal>

4 GENÉIRLAND® - Beef

- ✚ Sign-ups are continuing for the Beef GENÉIRLAND Spring 2014 programme.
- ✚ 418 herds taking a total of 6900 straws have joined up so far.
- ✚ The average order is 17 straws.
- ✚ All orders received have been dispatched
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 11 remaining available bulls are in the table below.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JZJ	Cairnmor Jameson	AA	435
YCM	Clewbay High-Master	CH	310
GGM	Gageboro Morgan	HE	385
OHT	Roundhill Hunter	LM	355
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	PT	170
ZGH	Hurricane Gonzo	PT	215
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	125
KTM	Knottown Michael	SA	155
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	55
LZZ	Lisnacraann Demertios	SI	285
KDZ	Curaheen Dickens	SI	405

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 16/05/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 16/05/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 16/05/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 16/05/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 16/05/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,610	1,009	28%	277,343	82,709	30%
Progressive	2,304	924	40%	196,710	79,000	40%
Tipperary	109	38	35%	8,697	3,171	36%
Total	6,023	1,971	33%	482,750	164,880	34%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 16/05/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 16/05/14	2014 vs 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	256,178	277,343	7.6%
Progressive	186,946	196,710	5.0%
Tipperary	7,655	8,697	12.0%
Total	443,124	482,750	8.2%

6 Sheep Ireland

Ultrasound Scanning of Muscle and Backfat 2014

- Our scanning season kicked off this week with some of our earliest lambing breeders being visited. All breeders can expect a phone call in the coming weeks to arrange suitable times and dates for farm visits. We will also use this call to address any data recording issues that breeders may have encountered this Spring. This process will hopefully help us to ensure that all data issues are ironed out in advance of the busy ram sale season which is approaching very quickly.
- All breeders are reminded that scanning will only be carried out in flocks where lambs are identified with the official NSIS (Department tag number). This NSIS must also be recorded on the Sheep Ireland database in advance of scanning taking place. This is a decision taken by the Sheep Ireland Board and will be rigidly enforced. All pedigree lambs on the farm must be presented on the day of scanning, where breeders do not want to scan their entire crop of lambs, the scanner will randomly select lambs from the overall group. While all lambs do not have to be scanned, we request that all lambs are weighed.

Vendeen flockbook ancestry data

- Yesterday (Thursday) the ancestry for the Irish Vendeen Sheep Society was loaded onto the Sheep Ireland database. This could not have come at a better time as Sheep Ireland put final preparations in place to release the 2014 EuroStar evaluations. The availability of this ancestry information to the Sheep Ireland database delivers major benefits on every level. The major one is from a linkage point of view. All breeders will now benefit from our database being able to identify animal relationships which we did not previously know existed, this is critical to allow our evaluation process to rate sheep across different flocks and disentangle the influence of management, climate etc.
- Identifying these relationships is how we build the accuracy of the EuroStar evaluations. Higher accuracy will deliver a faster rate of genetic improvement for a breed, while also empowering both ram breeders and ram buyers with greater confidence in using the EuroStars when selecting a Vendeen ram for their flock. There are many benefits from a practical point of view also. Sheep Ireland will no longer need to manually key the back ancestry of sheep for new breeders joining LambPlus. The Vendeen society will also have the option to generate sale catalogues using the EuroStar information on the Sheep Ireland database.

2014 EuroStar evaluations

- ✚ The final touches are now being made to the Sheep Ireland website to release the 2014 EuroStar evaluations. This will be the first public exposure of the new Terminal and Replacement EuroStar Indices which will be used going forward. The changeover to these new Indexes has involved a huge amount of work, from an evaluation point of view and from an IT point of view. Changing the way we display our Indices has implications on a number of levels, from our Online ram search to our sales catalogue generator and then individual breeder accounts and this work is now nearing completion. We have been, and continue to provide EuroStar reports to individual breeders upon request.

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, 07-MAY-2014 To 16-MAY-2014

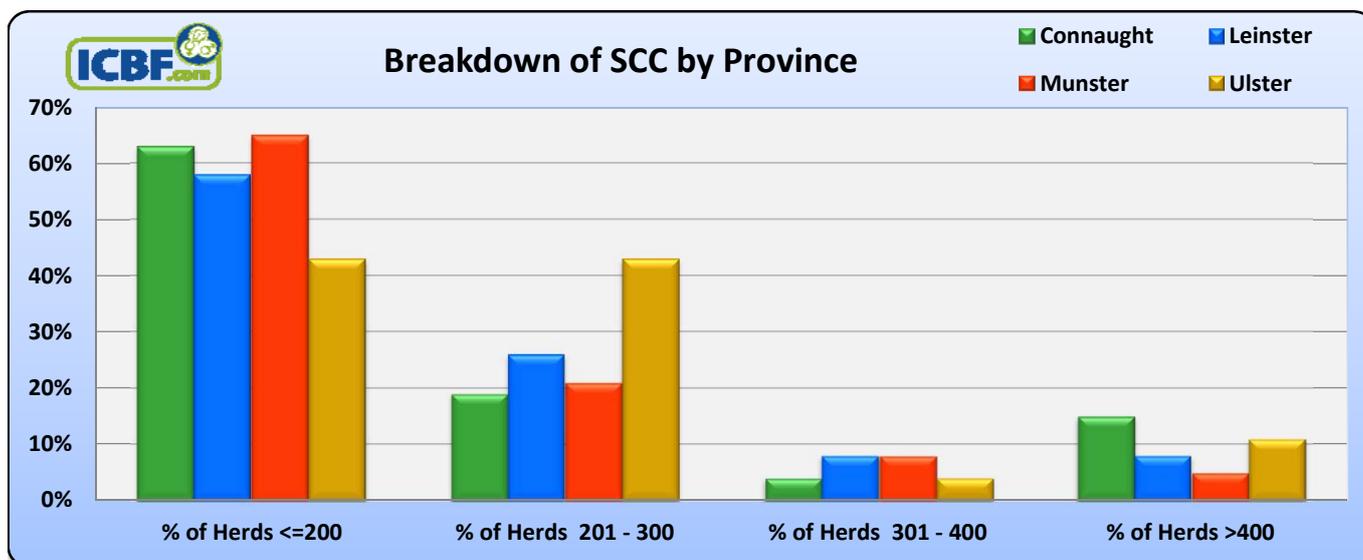
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	27	1,540	57	29.9	3.70	3.37	2.11	188
Leinster	182	17,406	96	27.3	3.79	3.39	1.96	175
Munster	513	39,190	76	27.9	3.74	3.38	1.99	157
Ulster	28	1,758	63	27.7	3.61	3.36	1.93	199
National Statistics	750	59,894	80	27.8	3.74	3.39	1.98	164

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 07-MAY-2014 To 16-MAY-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	27	1,540	57	63%	19%	4%	15%	188
Leinster	182	17,406	96	58%	26%	8%	8%	175
Munster	513	39,190	76	65%	21%	8%	5%	157
Ulster	28	1,758	63	43%	43%	4%	11%	199
National Statistics	750	59,894	80	63%	23%	8%	6%	164

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 07-MAY-2014 To 16-MAY-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	27	1,540	57	121	167	188	196	234
Leinster	182	17,406	96	107	146	173	206	285
Munster	513	39,190	76	97	136	159	185	257
Ulster	28	1,758	63	125	187	202	220	296
National Statistics	750	59,894	80	99	142	165	193	270

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

