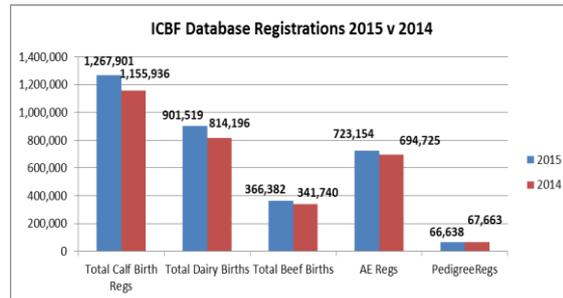
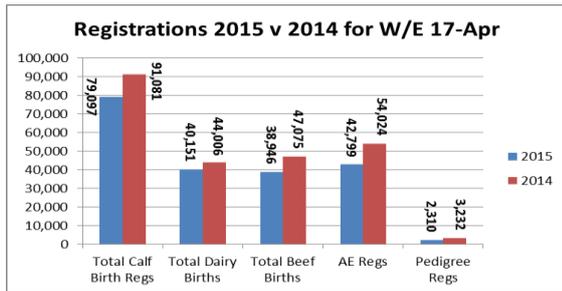


ICBF Weekly Update 17th April 2015

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 7th May 2015, 10:30 to 12:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF AGM** – Thursday 7th May 2015, 12:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 7th May 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

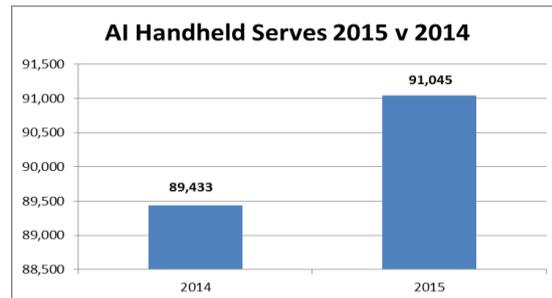
2 Database



- ✚ 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 1.3 million results received since January 1st, of which 116,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.26 million results have now been received.

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



3 Herd Plus®

Registering Calves

- ✚ As peak Spring calving has now passed on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is important that farmers do not lose sight of the importance of recording important breeding data. 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.
- ✚ 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 or via farm software. 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 Department of Agriculture & Food website (www.agfood.ie) or by contacting your farm software provider.

Dairy Breeding Charts

- Dairy breeding charts have now been posted to approximately 7,000 dairy HerdPlus customers. Sire advice was included where farmers ran the programme before the deadline. Sire Advice also saves to AI technicians handhelds. As the Spring AI season commences we remind farmers to ensure that serves are recorded and reach the ICBF website. See help document on recording below.

Recording Heats & Serves on ICBF.com

Use our new user friendly screens to record heats and serves

Jumbo	Animal Number	Last	Calving Date	Last Served	Last Bull	Main Service	Date	Bull Used	Treatment	Sire Check
1105	IE181310031105	1	23-FEB-14	27-APR-14	ZTG	1			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!

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



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

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



HerdPlus
Profit through Science

Beef Data Programme 2014

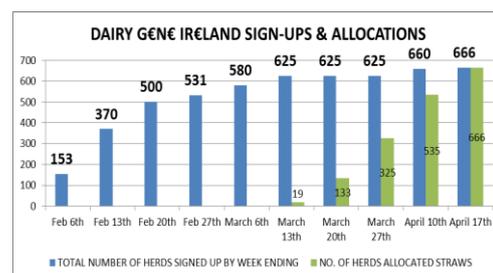
- Farmers are reminded to input any missing data that is required for the 2014 BDP scheme. This data can be recorded through the ICBF website, farm software packages or on paper forms. The deadline for recording information for calves born before November is the 30th April. The deadline for calves born in November and December is when the calf reaches 6 months of age.

EBI & Euro-Star Updates

- The April evaluation has just been completed and the indexes for beef and dairy AI bulls have been published. Herd profiles and reports will be updated in the next few weeks.

4 GENE IRELAND[®] Dairy

- Allocations for all current orders are complete.
- There were 23,389 straws dispatched to 666 herds.
- The focus now switches to using the straws in the current season and recording the insemination details.
- See attached details of bulls dispatched.*



5 GROW[®]

- 745 Pedigree animals were scored in March. This is up by 122 animals from March 2014
- 1403 Pedigrees were weighed in March. This is down by 18 animals from March 2014.
- These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

6 GENE IRELAND® Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- ✚ 342 herds taking a total of 5330 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 16 straws per herd.
- ✚ The Hereford bull YKM and Limousin bull KAC reached the 500 straws target this week.
- ✚ The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in *Table 1*.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	400
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	410
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	470
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	400
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	170
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	200
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	300
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	155
HHJ	Heracles	CH	255
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	220
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	175
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	305
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	420
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	190
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	190
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	280
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	320
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	300
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	165
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	250

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 17/04/15

Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 17/04/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 17/04/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 17/04/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 17/04/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	2,740	639	23%	198,058	52,798	27%
Progressive	1,664	513	31%	134,274	42,322	32%
Tipperary	60	16	27%	4,534	1,262	28%
Total	4,464	1,168	26%	336,866	96,382	29%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 17/04/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 17/04/15	2015 vs. 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	174,451	198,058	11.9%
Progressive	137,985	134,274	-2.8%
Tipperary	3,816	4,534	15.8%
Total	316,252	336,866	6.1%

8 Genetic valuations

- ✚ Genetic Evaluations for dairy and beef AI bulls were published during the week. Currently genomics for all other dairy animals is underway. Once finished these will be uploaded and the bull search, active bull lists and profiles will be updated. This is expected to be 27th April.

9 Sheep Ireland

CIOC 2015 - Carrefour International Ovin/Caprin (International forum on sheep and goats)

✚ This event took place in Toulouse, France last week on April 8th & 9th. Sheep Ireland was represented at this conference by our geneticist Thierry Pabiou. EU sheep regulations, genomics and international exchange of genetic evaluation data were among the main topics of discussion from a Sheep Ireland point of view.



✚ Thierry presented the Irish sheep breed improvement programme to delegates as did speakers from France, Morocco, Italy and Hungary. The role that genomics is now playing in the French sheep industry mainly centred on dairy, which is currently not hugely relevant to the Irish industry. The Ovigen research project impressed those in attendance. Exchange of sheep genetic evaluations was discussed with our counterparts from the Institut de l'Elevage and these discussions will hopefully lay the foundations for future collaboration. Irish breed societies interested in exchanging data with French breeders have a major role to play here also in terms of establishing links with French breed organisations. To view the full conference proceedings visit www.cioc.fr.

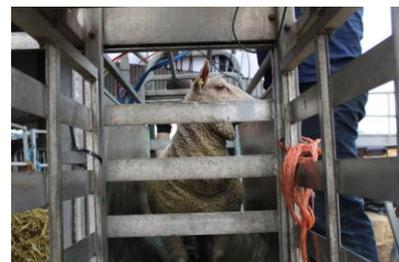
Ovigen progress

✚ Our flock visits continued during the week. The data being collected will be invaluable to the Euro-Stars for 2015 as will the DNA samples which will be a huge resource for all involved in the sheep industry here. On Wednesday we visited the flock of Jim and Frampton Jeffery near Midleton, Co. Cork – this was one of our most straight forward and efficient DNA collections to date thanks to the efforts of both Jim and Frampton to prepare for and accommodate the visit.

✚ In advance of each visit it is very important that flock owners ensure their sheep inventory on the Sheep Ireland system is up to date, meaning all lambs, ewes and rams are present on the database. It is also critical that all sold/dead sheep are recorded in a timely fashion. Our Sheep Ireland technicians will seek to record data for each and every sheep within a flock. This process can be delayed significantly if a breeder's inventory is not up to date. *See below for some images from our farm visit on Wednesday.*

Lambing data deadline

✚ We are another week closer to the deadline of April 30th for lambing data entry. Breeders continue to receive regular reminders by text to get all lambing information entered onto www.sheep.ie. We again encourage any breeder experiencing issues entering this data to contact us on **1850 601 901** or by email query@sheep.ie.





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, 08-APR-2015 To 17-APR-2015

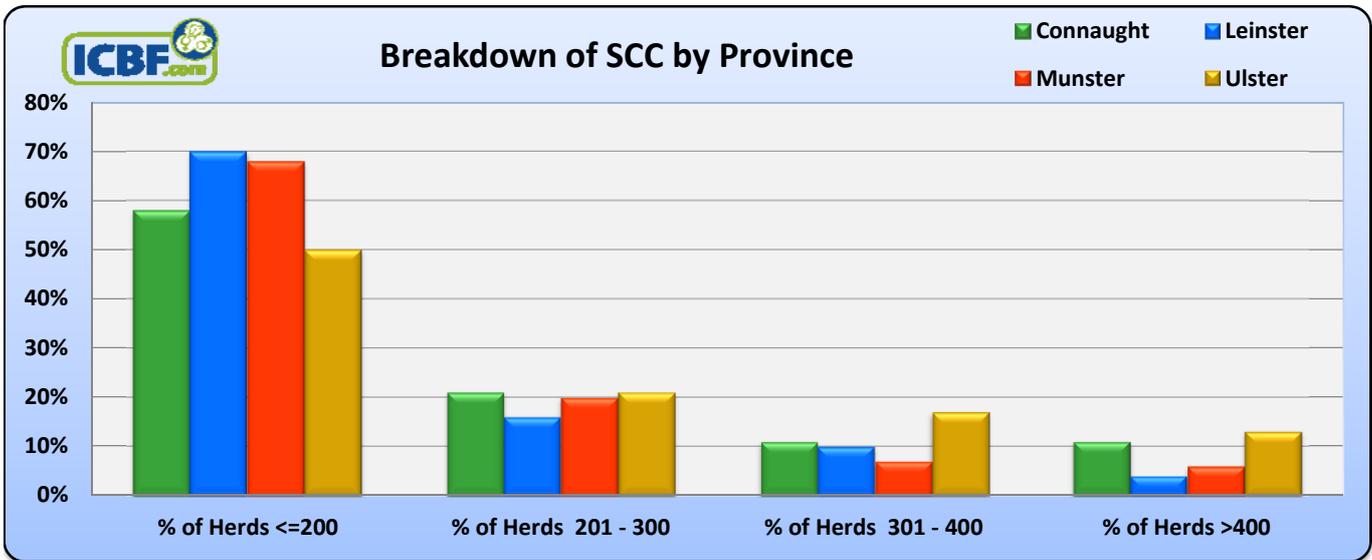
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	19	1,144	60	28.2	3.71	3.24	1.96	173
Leinster	135	11,435	85	27.0	3.85	3.34	1.94	152
Munster	486	40,642	84	28.2	3.84	3.37	2.03	155
Ulster	24	1,352	56	27.4	3.69	3.22	1.90	192
National Statistics	664	54,573	82	27.9	3.83	3.35	2.00	156

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 08-APR-2015 To 17-APR-2015

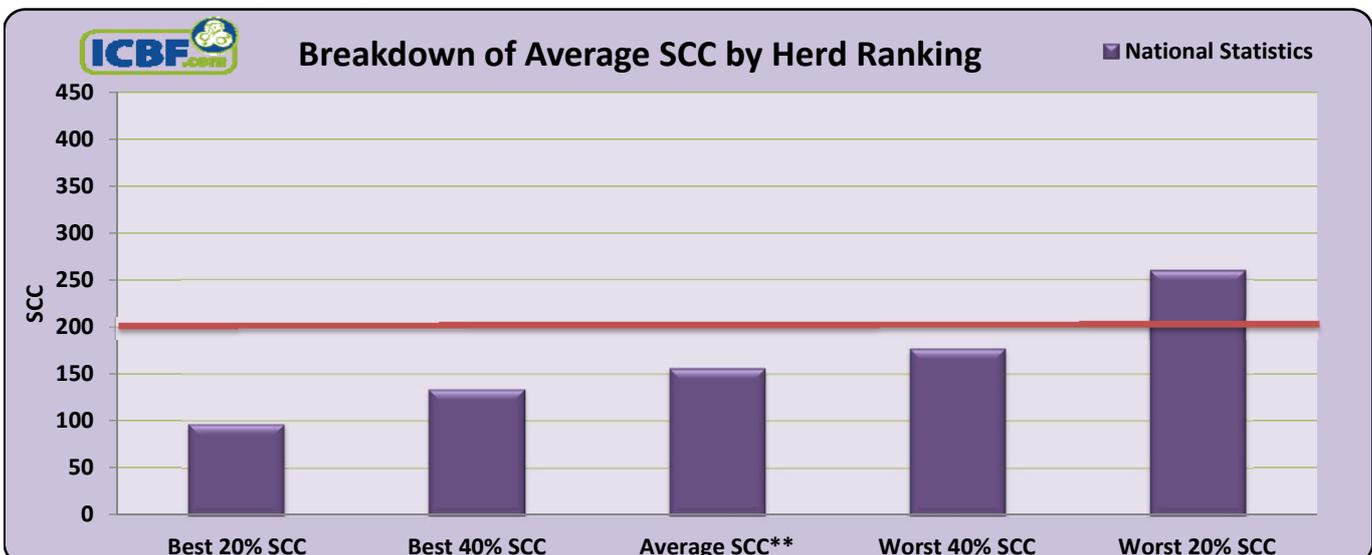
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	19	1,144	60	58%	21%	11%	11%	173
Leinster	135	11,435	85	70%	16%	10%	4%	152
Munster	486	40,642	84	68%	20%	7%	6%	155
Ulster	24	1,352	56	50%	21%	17%	13%	192
National Statistics	664	54,573	82	67%	19%	8%	6%	156

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 08-APR-2015 To 17-APR-2015								
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	19	1,144	60	120	142	145	195	262
Leinster	135	11,435	85	98	128	152	175	242
Munster	486	40,642	84	96	135	156	177	259
Ulster	24	1,352	56	99	170	190	248	351
National Statistics	664	54,573	82	97	134	156	177	260

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



GI BULLS DISPATCHED FOR SPRING 2015

BULL	TOTAL STRAWS	BREED
FOE	549	FRIESIAN
FR2030	556	FRIESIAN
XLR	414	FRIESIAN
ZSC	449	FRIESIAN
AKC	494	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
AWO	499	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2003	504	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2004	518	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2005	519	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2006	527	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2007	518	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2008	493	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2012	507	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2018	294	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2023	521	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2024	514	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2031	533	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2032	504	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2034	426	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2035	491	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2036	507	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2044	504	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2048	498	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2049	483	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2051	330	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2053	408	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2056	407	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2062	488	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2074	409	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2079	512	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FR2101	420	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FWE	497	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FYM	493	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
FYO	497	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
KJO	519	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
LWR	504	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
OBR	486	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
OMG	504	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
TFZ	494	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
THM	493	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
XTG	485	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
YAB	404	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
YFM	509	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
ZRL	491	HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN
JE2017	424	JERSEY

JE2019	419	JERSEY
JE2048	417	JERSEY
OGM	451	JERSEY CROSSBRED
TJH	437	JERSEY CROSSBRED