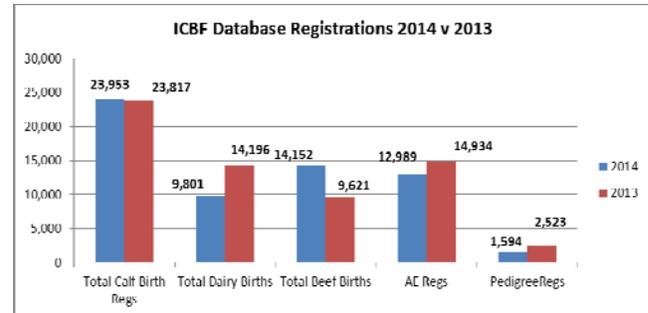
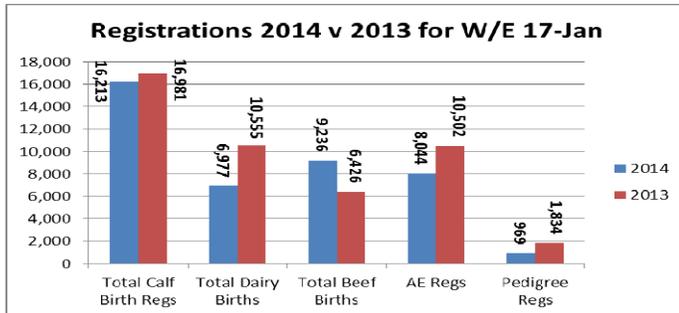


ICBF Weekly Update 17th January 2014

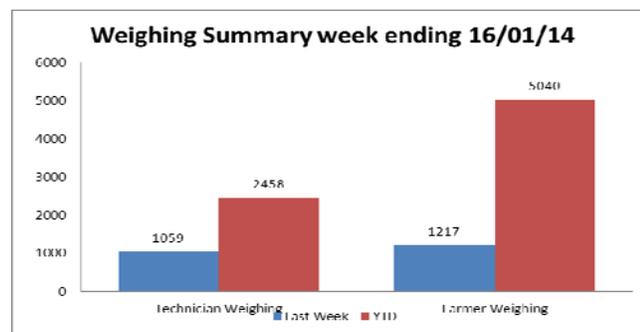
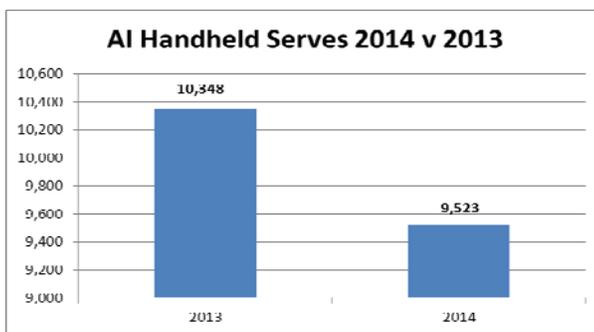
1 Important Dates

-  **ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 23rd January 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 30th January 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, 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 41,000 results received since January 1st, of which 23,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.7 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
-  This week there were 1059 weights received through the technician service and 1217 weights recorded by farmers.
-  The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

-  Annual Reports for 2013 are currently being generated. Farmers will begin to receive them via post next week. To receive a report herds must have 90% or more of their herd dried off. This can be recorded on Dry Off Notification sheets, online or via farm software. Once generated the annual report will also be available on the farmer's Herdplus page. Report rules; Herd - must have at least 3 tests. Animal - A valid lactation is one that was: (i) completed on the farm during the 12 month period (ii) has a valid lactation end reason (i.e. either dried off or completed 305 days) and (iii) has a minimum lactation length of 150 days.

- ✚ As the 2014 calving season is now underway, ICBF reminds farmers of the importance of recording vital breeding data when registering calves (sires and calving ease). This data can be recorded when registering through the animal events book (white book) or online through agfood.ie or through a farm software package.
- ✚ ICBF acknowledges that farmers are extremely busy at calving time, but by contributing this data you will help to improve the reliabilities on genetic indexes which will identify the most profitable animals to breed from. For more information on this, call the HerdPlus office on **1850 600 900**.

4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Files were sent to INTERBULL for the January test run for fertility and calving (Red Breeds) and for Production test day model (Holstein, Montbeliarde, Red Breeds and Jersey).

5 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ A number of LambPlus breeders have entered their lambing information into the Sheep Ireland database over the past few days. It is very important that breeders record information as close to the event as possible in order to eliminate the risk of data being lost or misplaced. All LambPlus breeders would have received a lambing notebook which can be used as a very useful aid for recording data in the field that can later be transferred to the Sheep Ireland website or recording sheets depending on your method of recording.
- ✚ It's important that any breeders that have not furnished Sheep Ireland with NSIS Tag numbers for their ewes that they use lambing time as an opportunity to collect this information. Breeders should also look over the LambPlus user guide to update themselves on the information that is required.
- ✚ We would also like to offer our apologies to the Irish Vendeen Sheep Society and its members for not including them in the list (last week's update) of societies that have supplied Sheep Ireland with ancestry information. This marks another step forward for Sheep Ireland and the Irish Vendeen Sheep Society as this will help to increase the average accuracy percentage of the LambPlus Vendeen breeder's flocks therefore allowing the farmers and breeders to make better informed decisions when it comes to selecting their next ram.

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