

ICBF Weekly Update 17th May 2013

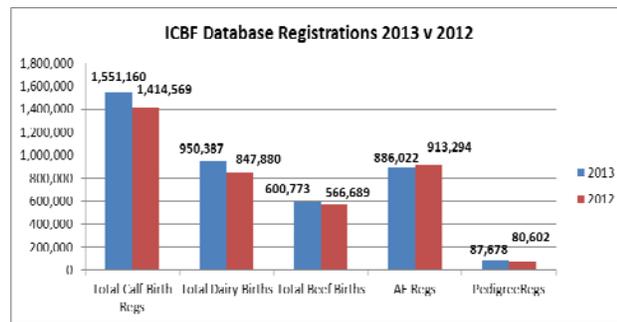
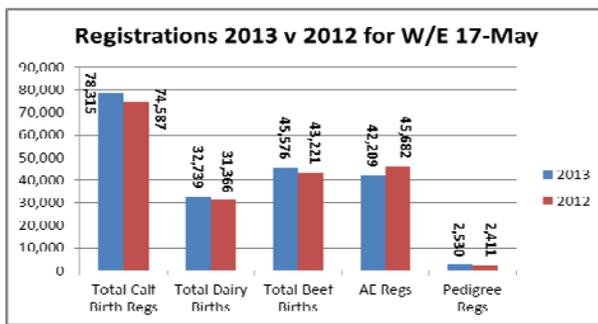
1 Important Dates

-  **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 10:00 - 10:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 14:00 to 16:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

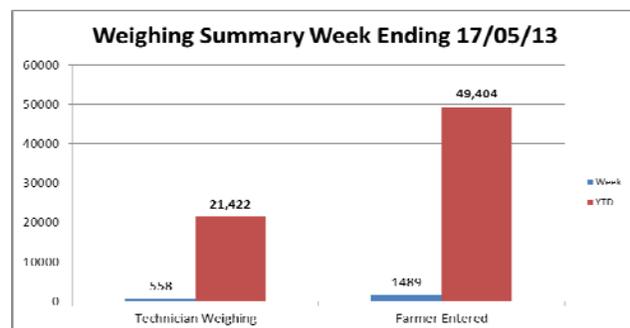
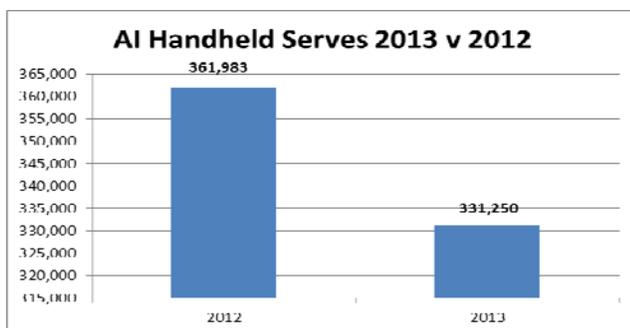
2 Sexed Semen Trial

The Sexed Semen trial enters a new phase after today, with the last dispatches of ‘Fresh Sexed Dairy Semen’ leaving Moorepark this evening. It has been a remarkable effort in a very difficult season to complete this phase of the trial. All partners in the trial, including the farmers, have gone above and beyond what could be reasonably expected, in order to achieve the project goals. For that we are very grateful. We look forward with interest as the initial view of results become available in the coming weeks, and more complete indications of results become available later in the year. Of course the final results will not be known until the cows calve down next Spring.

3 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 629,338 with the number of animals weaned at 555,729.
-  BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,550,000 results received since January 1st, of which 74,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 2.04 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
-  This week there were 558 weights received through the technician service and 1,489 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



4 HerdPlus®

- ✚ Dairy farmers should now record inseminations and run the weekly fertility report.
- ✚ A new lameness screen is now available under health events in the record events screen.
- ✚ Farmers can record any instances of lameness, the causes and the treatment administered in this screen.
- ✚ Suckler cow reports are currently being generated.
- ✚ These should be packed and posted along with the HerdPlus® journal and the animal events recording notebook in the next few weeks.
- ✚ Plans are in place to run a sexed semen project for suckler cows in the near future.
- ✚ More information should become available over the next few weeks.

5 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ This week was a very busy week in terms of 2013 lamb performance data flowing into the database. From a LambPlus point of view, breeders are continuing to submit lambing and weight data in large volumes. As we have a large number of new breeders signed up for the first time this year, there is a little bit of extra work involved in helping these breeders to familiarise themselves with using our website and data recording sheets – for some it is a steep learning curve, but the rewards will hopefully be well worth the effort.
- ✚ Regular reminders will be sent to all breeders from this point forward – texts were sent out this week. It is of critical importance that breeders prioritise sending their information into our office in the coming days. Ultrasound scanning has commenced and we will be unable to scan any flock if the 2013 lamb details have not been recorded on our database.

Sheep Ireland AGM

- ✚ On Thursday (16th) our new Sheep Ireland Board travelled to our Bandon office for the AGM. This was a great opportunity to show our new board members where the action happens every day. At every board meeting, those present are given an in depth summary of activities since the last meeting. Board members highlight topics that have been brought to their attention by breeders (LambPlus & non-LambPlus) and commercial farmers alike.

Discussions on Thursday mainly centred around the following:

- Sheep Ireland ram search – Final testing of this facility is underway and we will be launching within the coming days. It was agreed by all that this will be a fantastic facility for the entire industry.
- Flock Data Quality Index – A major focus for Sheep Ireland moving forward will be to increase the emphasis on the quality of data being recorded by each breeder involved with LambPlus. We will assess each breeders performance in terms of timeliness of data recording, completeness of data, flock linkage etc. The hope is to reflect this performance in an Index which will be published in association with an animal's genetic evaluation.
- Progressing our plans to incorporate factory slaughter data into our evaluations. The role of EID tagging and processing systems within individual abattoirs was discussed at length. The necessity for a webscreen to allow breeders record slaughter data was deemed to be a priority and this will be progressed as soon as possible.
- An update on our genetic evaluations was delivered by our sheep geneticist Thierry Pabiou. The main points raised was the important of accuracy% and understanding what we can realistically achieve in terms of accuracy for our recorded ram lambs at present. The clear message is that extremely high accuracies are not possible at the present time with the amount of data currently being recorded. At present we can only

National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 08-MAY-2013 To 17-MAY-2013

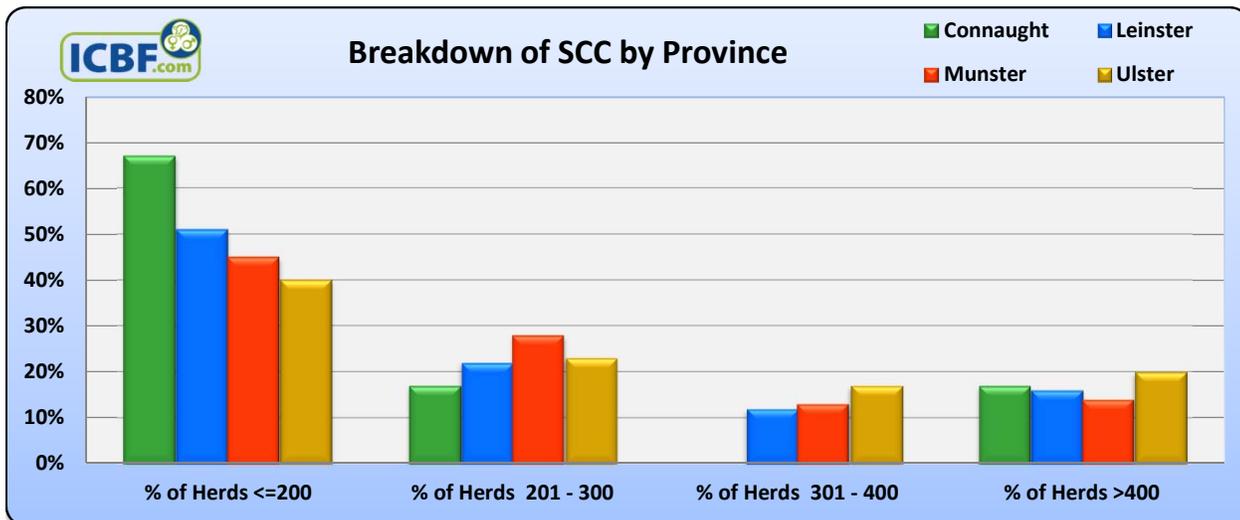
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	12	587	49	26.6	3.83	3.27	1.89	183
Leinster	93	8,296	89	26.9	3.55	3.30	1.84	203
Munster	472	37,926	80	27.3	3.62	3.37	1.90	211
Ulster	30	2,253	75	26.8	3.62	3.18	1.82	235
National Statistics	607	49,062	81	27.2	3.61	3.35	1.89	210

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 08-MAY-2013 To 17-MAY-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	12	587	49	67%	17%	0%	17%	183
Leinster	93	8,296	89	51%	22%	12%	16%	203
Munster	472	37,926	80	45%	28%	13%	14%	211
Ulster	30	2,253	75	40%	23%	17%	20%	235
National Statistics	607	49,062	81	46%	27%	13%	14%	210

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 08-MAY-2013 To 17-MAY-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	12	587	49	100	142	161	186	236
Leinster	93	8,296	89	131	161	199	240	327
Munster	472	37,926	80	126	181	214	243	351
Ulster	30	2,253	75	147	195	228	285	366
National Statistics	607	49,062	81	129	179	213	242	351

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

