

ICBF Weekly Update 18th October 2013

1 Important Dates

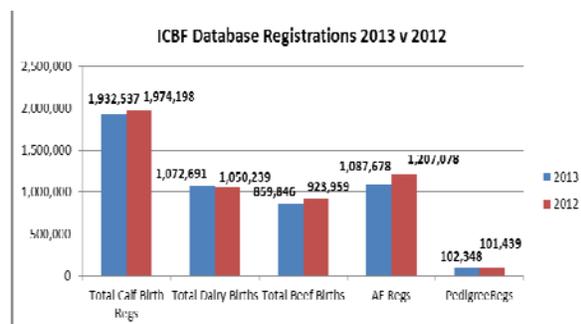
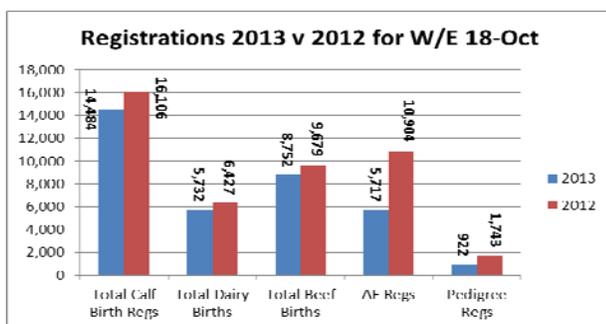
- ✚ **ICBF Dairy Industry Consultation Meeting** – Thursday 24th October, 10:00 to 12:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 14:30 to 18:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th November, 18:00 to 20:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 ICBF Board Meeting

Topics covered at the ICBF Board meeting on Thursday this week included:

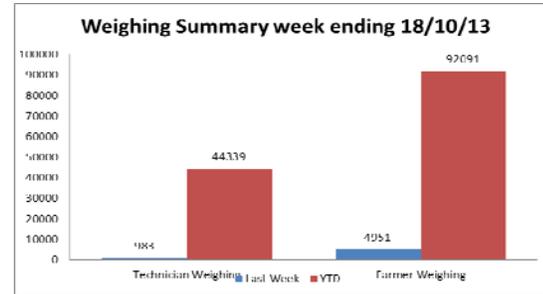
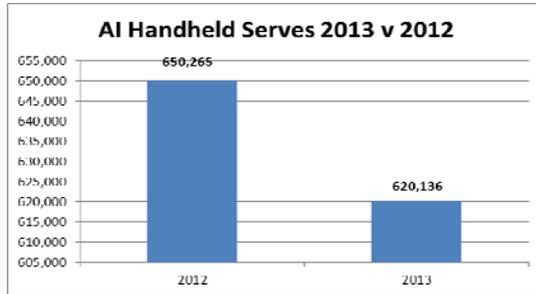
- ✚ The outcomes recent Dairy and Beef Industry Consultation meeting, particularly around proposed changes to the EBI.
- ✚ The Strategic Plan for 2014. Key items for the 2014 Strategic Plan include:
 - The on-going capture of data for genetic evaluations.
 - Evolution of genetic evaluations for Beef and Dairy.
 - GENÉIRÉLAND® (Beef & Dairy).
 - Genomics – (Beef and Dairy).
 - Working with service providers to help drive the uptake of cattle breeding services, and driving genetic gain at farm level.
 - Working with industry stakeholders to maximise on-farm understanding and use of indexes, including the development of new HerdPlus tools.
- ✚ The announcement this week by Minister Coveney of the new Beef Genomics Scheme.

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 664,367 with the number of animals weaned at 618,883.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 2,027,000 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, 2.52 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.

- This week there were 983 weights received through the technician service and 4951 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



4 ICBF Beef Breeding Event at Tully

- Around 400 farmers attended the ICBF Beef Breeding Event at Tully last Saturday, 12th October.
- It featured three main stands covering information on the GENÉIRÉLAND Maternal Breeding program, Profitability using Euro-Star Indexes and the GENÉIRÉLAND progeny test program at Tully. There was also an information area updating farmers on developments in ICBF weight recording service and HerdPlus. As part of the information area farmers could avail of breeding advice from AI companies and Herdbooks. They could also sign up to be involved in the GENÉIRÉLAND maternal and progeny test programs.
- 217 progeny (mainly sired by GENÉIRÉLAND bulls) were on display at the event, made up of 163 bulls and 54 steers. They progeny were in four separate groups which consisted of animals currently on-test (130 progeny) and a new intake of bulls which is due to commence test shortly (87 bulls). These animals had individual performance and parentage information displayed which created a lot of interest and discussion among farmers. Performance information displayed for the bulls currently on-test consisted of average daily gain, dry matter intake, feed efficiency, current live-weight along with scanned muscle and fat depth.
- Overall the event was successful in fulfilling its objective, which was to update farmers on the latest developments in beef breeding that will allow for much greater rates of genetic improvement in Irish beef production and thus increase profitability on farms. We would like to thank all those who contributed (Farmers, Herdbooks, AI companies and ICBF staff) to making the event a success. See photographs of the event attached.

5 HerdPlus®

- The deadline for BTAP task completion is fast approaching (31st October).
- Farmers and advisors need to ensure that all relevant data is recorded on the ICBF system before this date passes. Of course this can also be done by sending the relevant file from your farm software package (IFC or Kingswood).
- Contact ICBF on **1850 600 900** with any queries.
- Dairy farmers now need to ensure that all of their AI serve data and pregnancy scanning data is recorded online so that their pocket notebooks will have expected calving dates included. Again, use your farm software package to send in the data if appropriate.
- Final fertility reports can also be generated by the farmer once this data has been entered.

6 GENÉIRLAND® Beef

- ✚ Sign-ups are continuing for the GENÉIRLAND Autumn program.
- ✚ 80 herds taking a total of 1485 straws have signed up so far.
- ✚ The SI bull QCD has reached the 500 straw target thus becoming the 10th Simmental bull tested through the program.
- ✚ All orders received to date have been packed and dispatched.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ The approximate total straws ordered per bull so far are detailed in the table.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws
FPI	Friarstown Ideal Pete	AA	235
CKH	Carrickbrack Hutch	CH	115
GRF	Gerard	CH	350
GPD	Guepard	CH	255
GPZ	Grousehall Premier	HE	25
OGN	Gino	LM	240
FQR	Ballygarvan Stud Fernando	LM	385
ZLA	Lataster Ivan	SA	170
KEZ	Keeldrum Capone	SI	0

7 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ Test proofs have been received from INTERBEEF for weaning weight trait for Limousin and Charolais breeds. Research is on-going on the optimum method of incorporating these into the Irish national evaluation.
- ✚ Proofs for Irish daughter proven dairy bulls were circulated to the industry this week reflecting 1) the change in base 2) updated economic values and 3) introduction of test day model for milk production. Queries on this list are currently being addressed. The new proofs will be discussed at the dairy industry meeting next week.
- ✚ A presentation on “Profit indexes, phenotypic performance & Genetic trends, Where is the national suckler herd going?” was given at last week’s open day in Tully.

8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 18/10/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 18/10/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 18/10/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 18/10/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 18/10/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,683	1,068	29%	311,217	98,106	32%
Progressive	2,444	1,001	41%	233,051	97,512	42%
Tipperary	114	41	36%	10,099	3,852	38%
Total	6,241	2,110	34%	554,367	199,470	36%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 18/10/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 18/10/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	305,865	311,217	1.7%
Progressive	225,188	233,051	3.4%
Tipperary	10,166	10,099	-0.7%
Total	541,219	554,367	2.4%

Please see milk recording stats attached.

9 Sheep Ireland

- This week Sheep Ireland held another of its regular board meetings. At this meeting the board was presented with a strategy plan for 2014 for each of the main components that will assist Sheep Ireland on the road of improving the genetic merit of the national flock. This presentation will be available on the Sheep Ireland web-site in the coming days.
- It was also agreed at this meeting that the closing date for joining the LambPlus programme for the 2013/14 season will be **December the 15th 2013**.
- Sheep Ireland also plan on holding **5 regional meetings** around the country to update the current and new LambPlus breeders on the current status of Sheep Ireland, answer any questions and take on board any suggestions that breeders would like to make. We hope to have these dates and venues finalised by the end of next week.
- This year's AI on the Central Progeny test (CPT) flocks commenced last Friday. Over 2000 ewes were AI'd over the course of the last week and with the last 200 ewes being AI'd this morning.
- In this picture you can see an overview of the CPT shed in Lyons estate, Newcastle, Co. Dublin. Here the rams are trained to jump in order to provide semen which can then be used for inseminating ewes or producing frozen semen straws. Preliminary results that have shown that the CPT technicians have managed to successfully take good quality semen from 43 of the 47 rams entered into the CPT. The flock owners of the four CPT flocks are said to be very satisfied the quality of the rams used in the CPT this year.
- This picture is one of the ram lambs (*IE042868504030F*) that is being assessed and tested in the CPT this year. Sheep Ireland hope to recruit a larger percentage of ram lambs next year in order to speed up the rate of genetic gain and to try and identify some of the top genetics within each breed.



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, 09-OCT-2013 To 18-OCT-2013

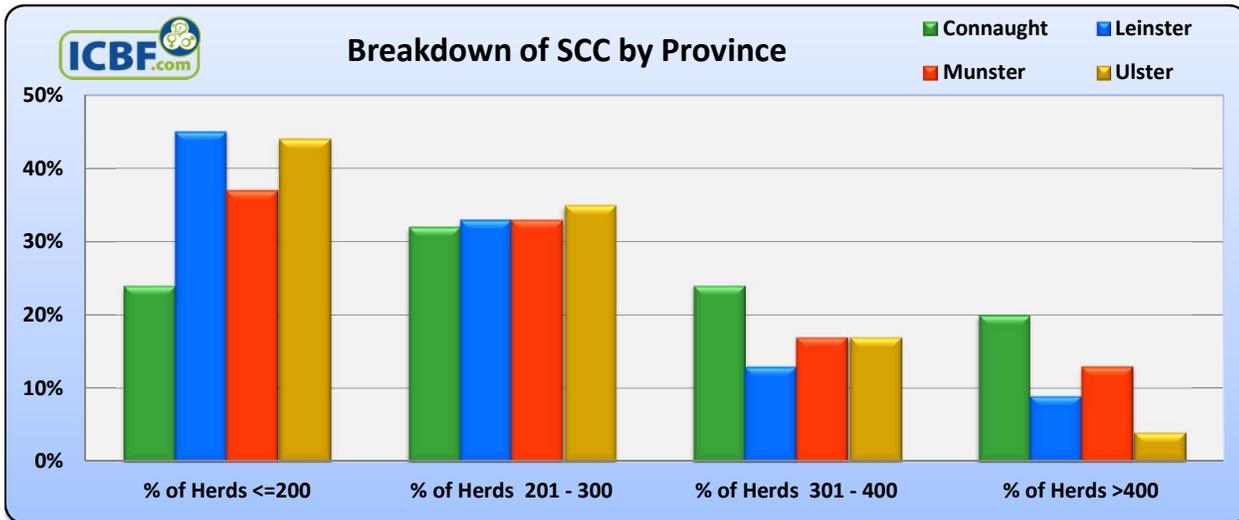
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	25	1,598	64	16.7	4.34	3.76	1.33	263
Leinster	180	14,632	81	15.8	4.46	3.79	1.29	207
Munster	535	40,487	76	15.2	4.46	3.86	1.25	235
Ulster	48	2,676	56	16.1	4.19	3.68	1.25	206
National Statistics	788	59,393	75	15.4	4.44	3.83	1.26	227

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 09-OCT-2013 To 18-OCT-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	25	1,598	64	24%	32%	24%	20%	263
Leinster	180	14,632	81	45%	33%	13%	9%	207
Munster	535	40,487	76	37%	33%	17%	13%	235
Ulster	48	2,676	56	44%	35%	17%	4%	206
National Statistics	788	59,393	75	39%	33%	16%	12%	227

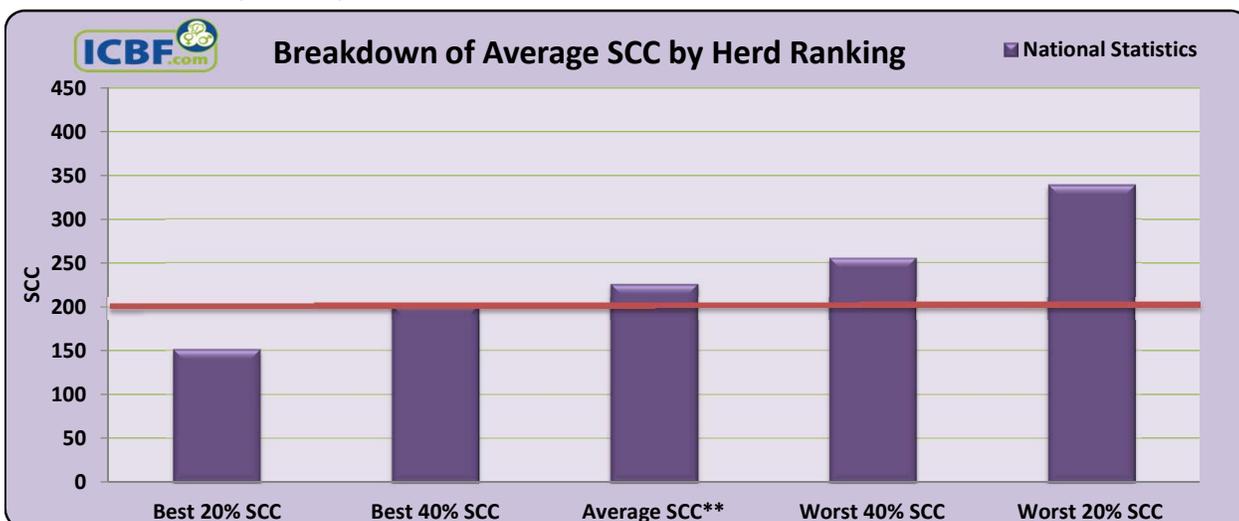
* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 09-OCT-2013 To 18-OCT-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	25	1,598	64	152	251	264	307	368
Leinster	180	14,632	81	130	187	218	243	307
Munster	535	40,487	76	157	207	227	258	351
Ulster	48	2,676	56	149	197	220	228	303
National Statistics	788	59,393	75	152	203	226	256	339

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



Photographs from the ICBF Breeding Event at Tully, 12th October 2013



Sean Coughlan welcoming the crowd



Andrew Cromie addressing the crowd on GENE IRELAND



Stephen Conroy Outlining the Tully Operation



Ross Evans addressing the crowd on Euro Star Indexes



Photographs from the ICBF Breeding Event at Tully, 12th October 2013

