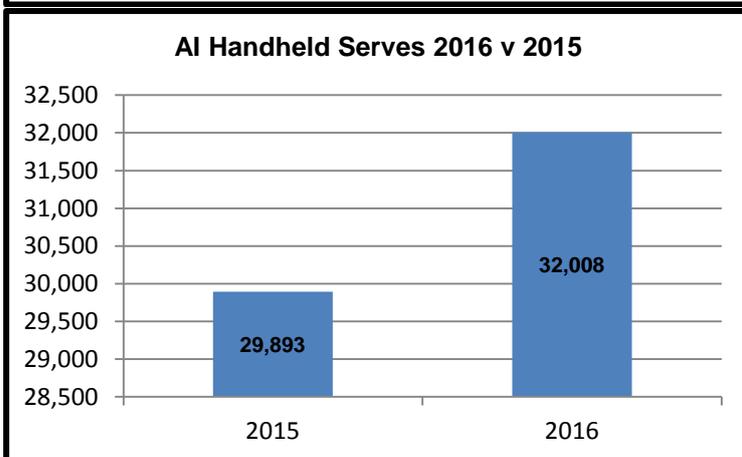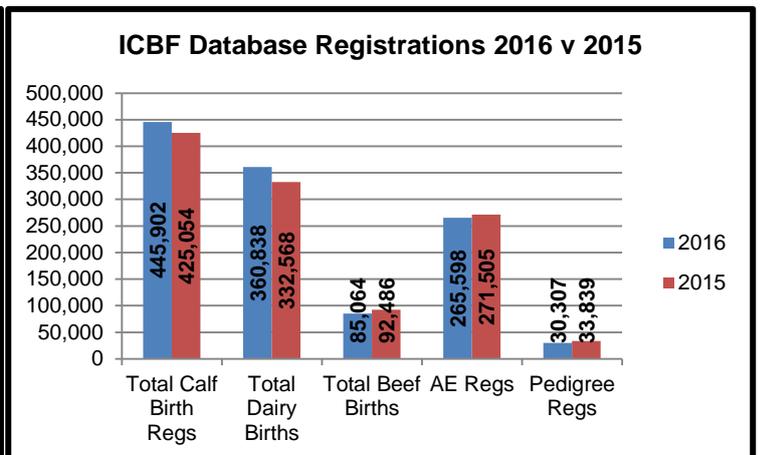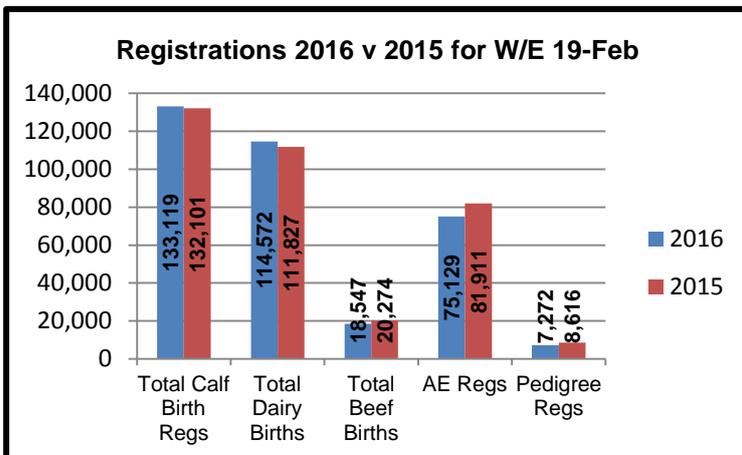# ICBF Weekly Update 19th February 2016

1   Important Dates

- **ICBF Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 10th March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portalaoise.
- **Sheep Ireland Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 10th March 2016 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portalaoise.
- **ICBF Board Meeting** –Thursday 31st March 2016 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 31st March 2016, at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2   Database

Registrations 2016 v 2015 for W/E 19-Feb

	2016	2015
Total Calf Birth Regs	133,119	132,101
Total Dairy Births	114,572	111,827
Total Beef Births	18,547	20,274
AE Regs	75,129	81,911
Pedigree Regs	7,272	8,616

ICBF Database Registrations 2016 v 2015

	2016	2015
Total Calf Birth Regs	445,902	425,054
Total Dairy Births	360,838	332,568
Total Beef Births	85,064	92,486
AE Regs	265,598	271,505
Pedigree Regs	30,307	33,839

AI Handheld Serves 2016 v 2015

2015	2016
29,893	32,008

- 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 444,221 results received since January 1st, of which 137,484 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.77 million results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

3   GROW®

- 681 Pedigree animals were scored in January. This is down by 140 animals from January 2015.
- 967 Pedigrees were weighed in January. This is down by 483 animals from January 2015.
- These totals do not include animals scored as part of the initial Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

4   G€N€ IR€LAND® BEEF

- Sign-ups have started for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- 8000 catalogues were posted to AI users last week.

- 66 herds taking a total of 800 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 12 straws per herd.
- The catalogue is available to view at the link below.

  https://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/2016_spring_brochure
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900.**
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed below.

List of Bulls Currently On-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
AA2063	Mogeely Evitas	AA	35
AU2155	Slaneymill Jack	AU	380
CH2159	Bondi Jacob	CH	245
CH2154	Polar Joe 2	CH	85
CH2221	Jarret	CH	25
CH2222	Indiscret P	CH	50
HE2148	Ballyaville Hamlet	HE	260
LM2117	Tomschoice Imperial	LM	110
LM2151	Ballygarvan Stud Ike	LM	260
LM2242	Edakkya	LM	25
LM2214	Idalgo PP	LM	90
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	375
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	115
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	245
SH2181	Coolvin Dominator	SH	50
SI2158	Seepa Fionn	SI	430
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	275

5   G€N€ IR€LAND® DAIRY

- Postal and telephones sign-ups are on-going. Great interest in the programme to date.
- Panel consists of 54 Holstein Friesians, 3 Pure Friesians, 6 Jerseys and 8 Crossbreds.
- 514 herds are signed up to date.

6   Herd Plus®

- With calving season in full swing, please remember to record sire details and calving ease scores.
- Please ensure that you have all dry-off dates recorded in order to receive your Milk Recording Annual report.

Visit to SRUC in Edinburgh

- This week Sheep Ireland travelled with Teagasc geneticists to the Roslyn Institute in Edinburgh, for a meeting with SRUC and other stakeholders involved in sheep breed improvement in the UK. This was a scientific meeting with updates on genetic and genomic evaluations in sheep in both countries. There are very close genetic links between Irish and UK pedigree sheep breeds so it makes huge sense for both countries to keep up to speed with projects in each respective country.

Teagasc Hill Sheep Conference

- A large crowd attended the Teagasc hill conference in Ballybofey, Co. Donegal this week and Sheep Ireland was in attendance. Performance recording in hill sheep breeds is lagging far behind that in existence in our lowland sheep. There are many reasons for this including practical difficulties of recording outdoors, lower financial returns from hill farming in general and an absence of any flockbook structure within each of hill sheep breeds/strains.

- Establishing flockbooks for these hill sheep breeds must be a priority for the industry. Improvement of these sheep populations and measuring progress will be impossible in the absence of some form of record keeping. Ancestry recording is the critical first step to implementing any form of breed improvement programme. Sheep Ireland is working with a number of different hill sheep groups around Ireland and we are encouraging more breeders to get involved in the process.

- For many hill sheep breeders performance recording is a daunting concept, however performance recording will come in time. For now ancestry recording can deliver many benefits including tracking certain bloodlines, controlling inbreeding etc. Some hill breeders fear that the accuracy of ancestry recording in hill environments is questionable, however, with some DNA parentage verification each year, this can be monitored and improved on.

Mayo-Connemara Hill Sheep Performance Recording

- Breeders of Mayo-Connemara sheep are entering another year of ancestry and performance recording. This group has been making great progress in recent years. Breeders have access to their own personal Mayo-Connemara flock account on the Sheep Ireland database and most breeders are entering their annual lambing data directly into the website. A growing number of breeders are recording ancestry data at this stage but the ideal situation would be for all MC breeders to record their purebred sheep onto the Sheep Ireland database. This would allow the group to easily produce pedigree certs and sales catalogues for the benefit of all breeders and buyers of MC sheep.

- The image shows from left to right – John Noonan (Teagasc Westport), MC performance recording breeder, Steven Lally and Jonathon Conway ram buyer. The picture was taken at the Mayo-Connemara ram sale last year where Steven sold this high Index MC ram on the day.

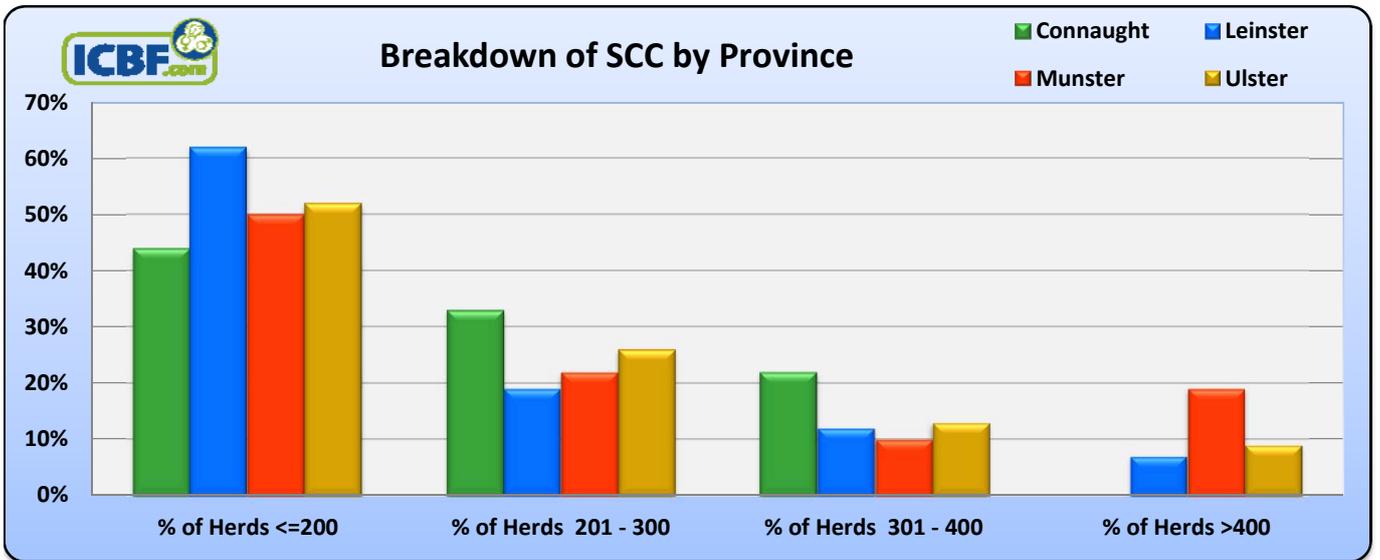## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 10-FEB-2016 To 19-FEB-2016

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	9	439	49	23.7	4.43	3.29	1.82	171
Leinster	81	5,858	72	22.5	4.27	3.34	1.71	170
Munster	143	8,538	60	24.1	4.29	3.33	1.84	212
Ulster	23	1,036	45	24.9	4.13	3.27	1.83	175
National Statistics	256	15,871	62	23.7	4.27	3.33	1.80	193

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 10-FEB-2016 To 19-FEB-2016

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	9	439	49	44%	33%	22%	0%	171
Leinster	81	5,858	72	62%	19%	12%	7%	170
Munster	143	8,538	60	50%	22%	10%	19%	212
Ulster	23	1,036	45	52%	26%	13%	9%	175
National Statistics	256	15,871	62	54%	21%	11%	14%	193

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

Breakdown of SCC by Province

% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 10-FEB-2016 To 19-FEB-2016

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	9	439	49	77	183	230	260	305
Leinster	81	5,858	72	108	153	181	196	281
Munster	143	8,538	60	126	166	202	238	387
Ulster	23	1,036	45	101	136	200	214	290
National Statistics	256	15,871	62	114	158	192	229	336

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

Breakdown of Average SCC by Herd Ranking