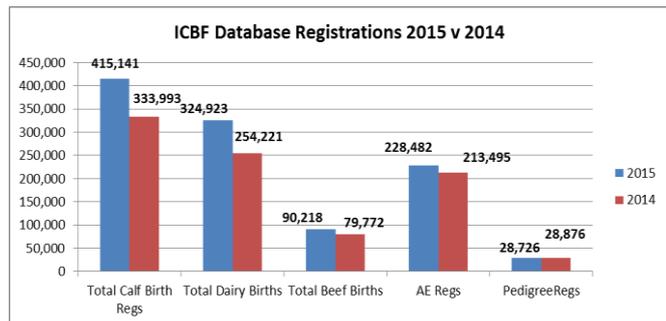
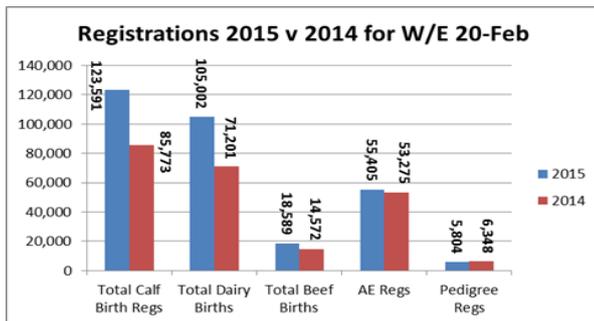


## ICBF Weekly Update 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

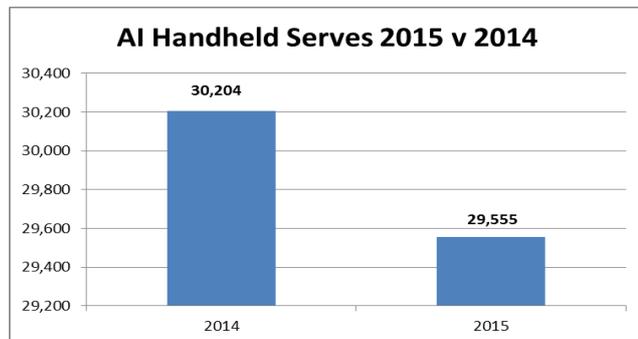
### 2 Database



- ✚ 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 407,600 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 126,200 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 5.35 million results have now been received.

- ✚ As was emphasised again at the most recent BVD Implementation Group meeting, the removal of PI animals is critical to the success of the BVD Eradication Scheme. The Minister for Agriculture recently announced further supports to aid with this for 2015. It is a requirement that all PI animals born in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are disposed of prior to **1 March 2015** in order to avail of any 2015 supports. The removal of PI animals will also be a stipulation of the proposed Beef Data Genomics Programme and successor programmes.

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



### 3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ EBI & Dairy Cow reports are now available online. Dairy Cow Reports are currently being printed and dispatched.
- ✚ Sire advice for the 2015 breeding season can now be run by HerdPlus dairy customers.
- ✚ The new Beef Euro-Star reports are currently being generated and will be printed and posted to HerdPlus beef customers in the next few weeks. The Euro-Star report is now much more comprehensive and detailed giving a farmer an excellent overview of the genetic merit of their suckler herd and replacement stock. A more detailed summary will follow in the coming weeks.
- ✚ As spring calving will have commenced or is about to commence on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is an appropriate time to remind farmers of the importance of data recording. 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. Click [here](#) for a link to an article on best practice on farm data recording.
- ✚ 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](http://www.agfood.ie) or through a farm software package. 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 and Food website or contacting your farm software provider.
- ✚ An advertisement demonstrating the benefits of EBI and genomics appeared in this week's Irish Farmers Journal. It is clear from analysis of the performance of the national herd that high EBI animals are delivering more profit at farm level. Statistics on genomics show that the indexes of daughter proven bulls are lining up quite closely with their initial genomic proofs, testament that genomics is a successful method of identifying top dairy stock. *See advert at the end of the update.*

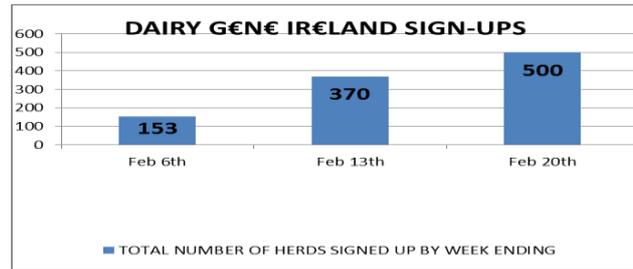
#### 4 GENE IRELAND® Beef

- ✚ The spring 2015 Beef programme has commenced.
- ✚ 8000 catalogues were posted to suckler farmers this week.
- ✚ 17 herds taking a total of 290 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 17 straws per herd.
- ✚ The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website or by clicking [here](#).
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the 24 bulls are in the table.

<i>Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test</i>			
Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	0
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	205
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	350
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	285
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	0
AGY	Rosemount Giga ET	BB	365
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	0
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	0
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	0
HHJ	Heracles	CH	0
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	0
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	185
YOB	Barryroe ICE	LM	0
KAC	Keltic Isaac	LM	0
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	0
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	0
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	285
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	20
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	105
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	150
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	75
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	60
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	20
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	55

## 5 GENE IRELAND® Dairy

- Postal and telephone sign-ups are ongoing. Great interest in programme to date.
- The panel consists of 54 Holstein Friesians, 4 Pure Friesians, 6 Jerseys and 4 Crossbreds.



## 6 GROW®

- 821 Pedigree animals were scored in January.
- This is down by 339 animals from January 2014
- 1450 Pedigrees were weighed in January.
- This is down by 514 animals from January 2014.
- These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

## 7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 20/02/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 20/02/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 20/02/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 20/02/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 20/02/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	469	25	5%	26,141	2,212	8%
Progressive	784	140	18%	47,094	8,886	19%
Tipperary	7	1	14%	469	51	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>73,704</b>	<b>11,149</b>	<b>15%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 20/02/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 20/02/15	2015 vs. 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	29,171	26,141	-11.6%
Progressive	55,812	47,094	-18.5%
Tipperary	454	469	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,437</b>	<b>73,704</b>	<b>-15.9%</b>

## 8 Sheep Ireland

### Sheep Technology Adoption Programme 2015

- ✚ STAP has moved into its third year and the terms and conditions have recently been published on the DAFM website. As has been mentioned many times in this update, STAP has been instrumental in helping to progress the Sheep Ireland breed improvement programme. There are a number of slight changes to the programme for 2015 and all participants should read through the most recent Terms and Conditions document to ensure that they meet all the requirements before the end of the year.
- ✚ For STAP 2015, all participants will be required to carry out 2 tasks from a menu of 10 possibilities. For 2015, the EuroStar ram task (Task 1) will be worth 2 tasks. This will hopefully help to maintain the trend of increasing use of performance recorded rams in Ireland. The number of pedigree breeders performance recording their flocks continues to grow annually and if this growth is to continue, demand from commercial sheep farmers will be critical.
- ✚ The 4,000 STAP participants represent 12% of the total number of sheep farmers in Ireland (34,000 in total). Demand for EuroStar rams outside of STAP is growing annually and Sheep Ireland will be investing a lot of effort in 2015, to promote further growth across the industry. Part of this effort will involve increasing the circulation of the 'LambPlus Guide & Breeder Directory'. For the past 2 years we have produced this directory and it has proved very popular as a 'go to' place for finding ram breeders around the country.

### LambPlus

- ✚ We have started to make calls to LambPlus breeders in order to assure that they are aware of what is required when they are recording their lambing information and to answer any questions that may have arisen over the busy lambing period. We will continue with these for the weeks ahead.

### Nuffield Scholar Visit

- ✚ Yesterday (Thursday) we had a visit from Tim Gubbins who is an Australian Nuffield Scholar. He is investigating different methods used around the world to reduce lamb mortality from the foetus up until weaning, and he was interested to see how Sheep Ireland were tackling this from a genetics point of view in Ireland. We wish him all the best on the rest of his travels.

*(L to R: Kevin McDermott, Sheep Ireland; Tim Gubbins, Nuffield Scholar)*



**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.sheep.ie).

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 11-FEB-2015 To 20-FEB-2015

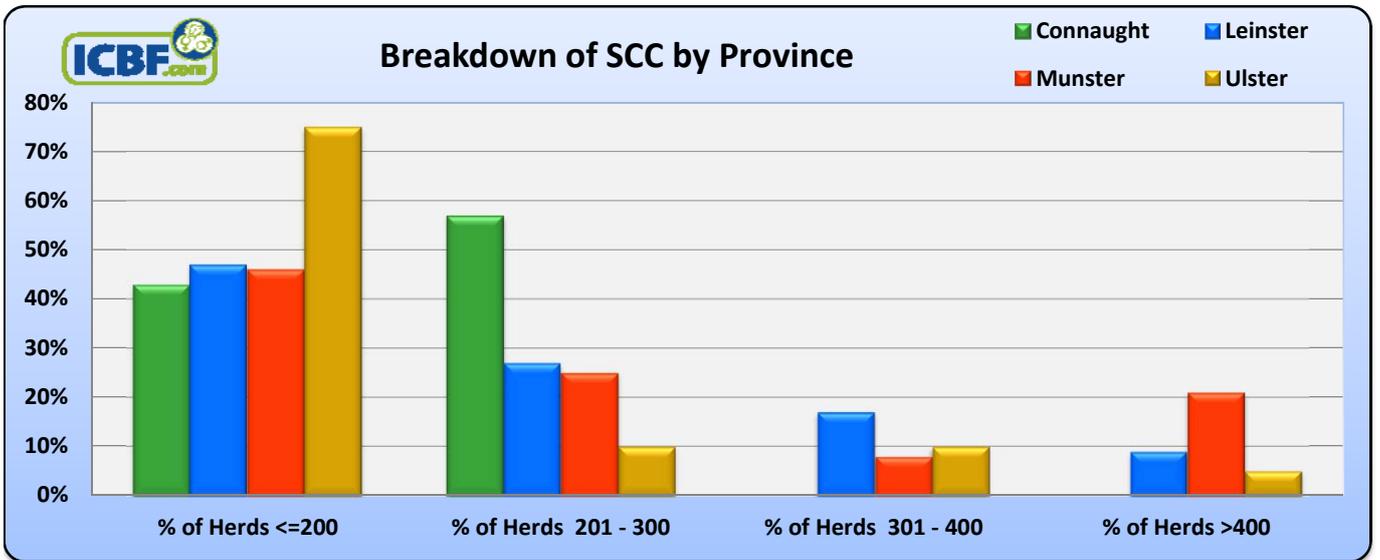
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	7	289	41	21.9	3.97	3.20	1.53	197
Leinster	89	5,462	61	22.5	4.29	3.29	1.71	200
Munster	138	7,214	52	24.2	4.34	3.37	1.87	213
Ulster	20	774	39	24.2	3.87	3.17	1.71	158
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>13,739</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>4.27</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>203</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 11-FEB-2015 To 20-FEB-2015

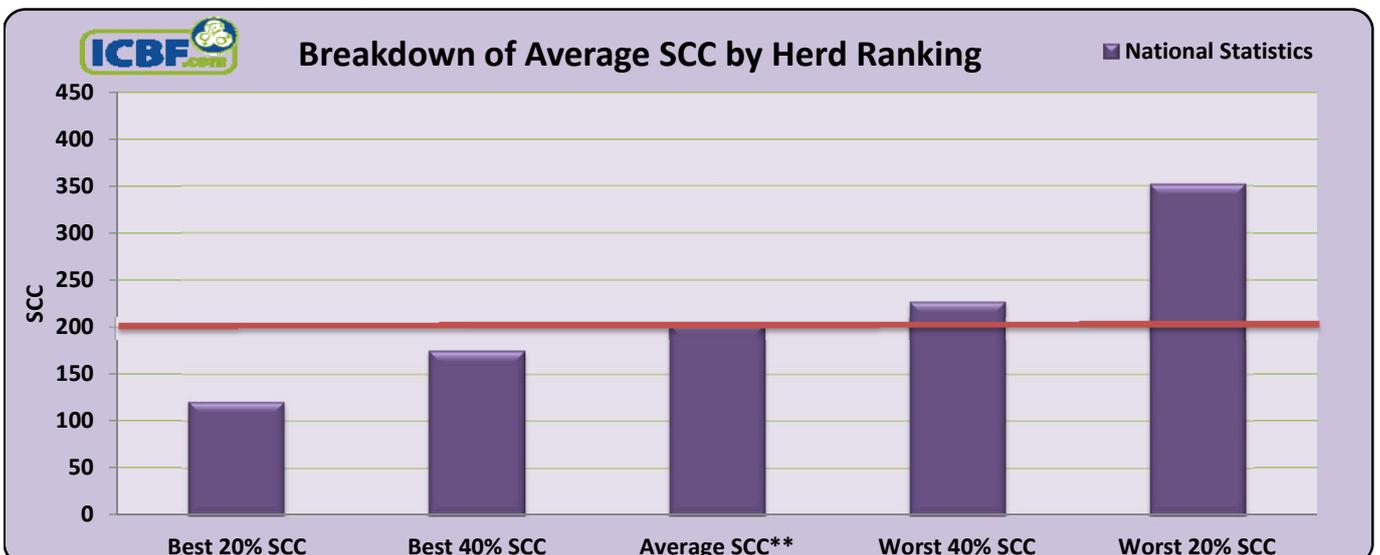
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	7	289	41	43%	57%	0%	0%	197
Leinster	89	5,462	61	47%	27%	17%	9%	200
Munster	138	7,214	52	46%	25%	8%	21%	213
Ulster	20	774	39	75%	10%	10%	5%	158
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>13,739</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>203</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 11-FEB-2015 To 20-FEB-2015								
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	7	289	41	162	182	204	217	227
Leinster	89	5,462	61	123	183	210	230	335
Munster	138	7,214	52	122	177	213	236	417
Ulster	20	774	39	96	132	161	180	272
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>13,739</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>352</b>

\*\* Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



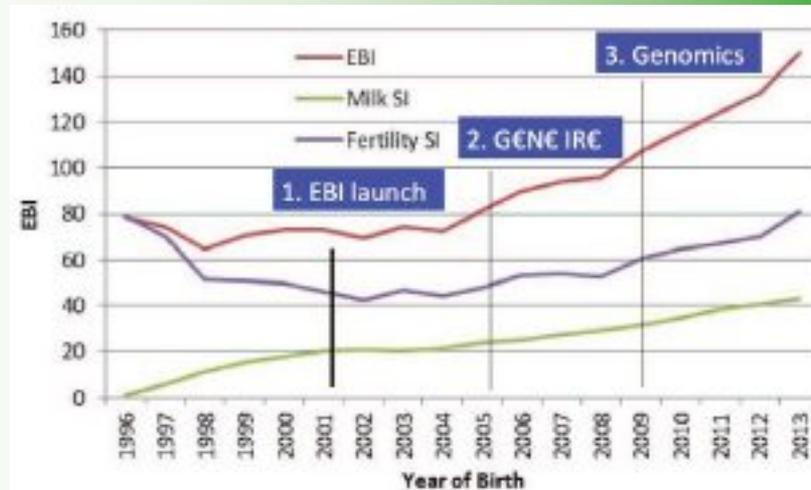
# EBI

## Doing what it sets out to do

- ▶ Breeding a more profitable cow
- ▶ Improving Fertility
- ▶ Higher Milk Solids Output

### Next Generation Herd delivered

- ▶ 22kgs extra Milk solids = €110/1st lact  
(Compared to National average herd & based on mature yields)
- ▶ 17% higher 6 & 12 week incalf rate  
(Compared to National average herd)



Where we are now - the trends in EBI

## Genomics Works

- ▶ Irish genomic Proofs are performing as expected

	Milk	Fat	Prot	CI	Suv
Initial Genomic Proof	108	10.2	7.7	-3.7	1.7
Subsequent Daughter Proof	116	10.4	7.8	-4.5	2.01

(Based on 190 bulls that have received daughter proofs)

- ▶ Ireland are one of the leaders in Genomic Technology

Recommendation

- ▶ Use a panel of bulls  
(Minimum 5)

