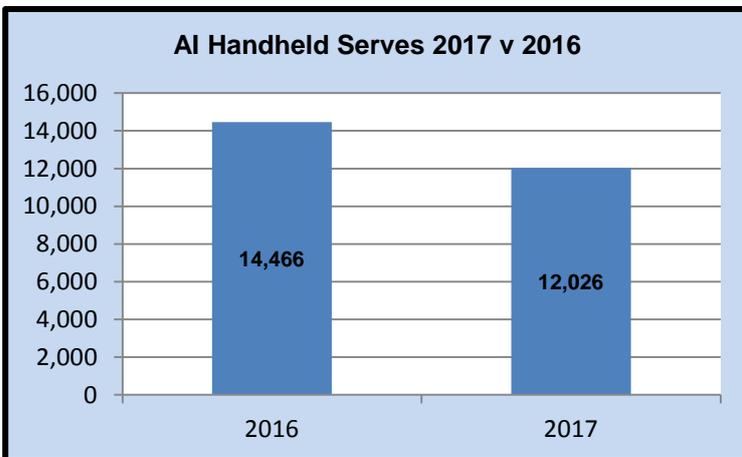
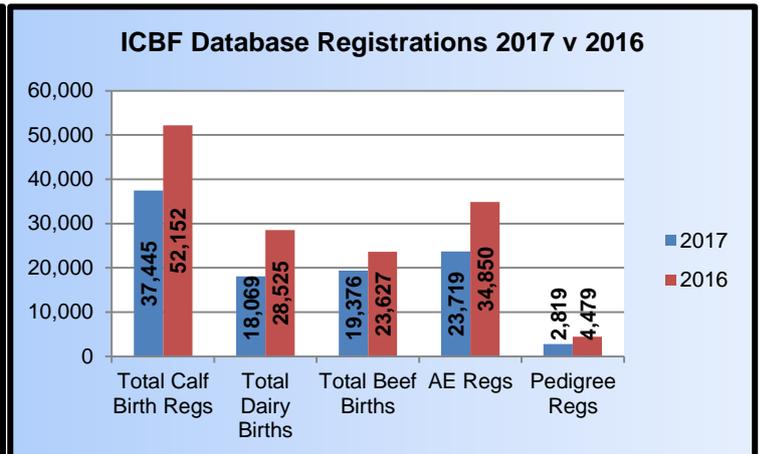
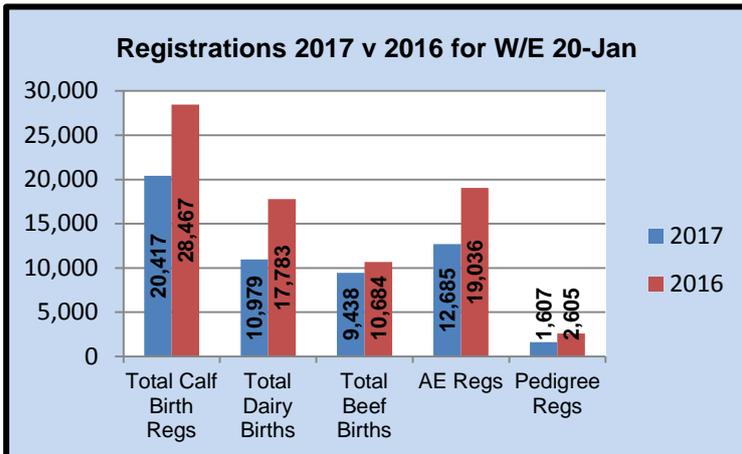


ICBF Weekly Update 20th January 2017

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Meeting** – Friday 27th January 2017 at 09:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 27th January 2017 at 11:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 14:00, 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 58,228 results received since January 1st, of which 25,318 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 9,588,490 results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2017 compared with 2016.

3 Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

- ✚ We are beginning the process of issuing Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) genotype tissue tags, with the aim to have as many tags out on farms during February, March and April before cattle are left out to grass. This will help ensure genomic evaluations are available for these animals in the Autumn. For more information click [here](#)
- ✚ The Latest BDGP Euro-Star reports are currently being generated and will be available for participants to view online next week through their ICBF accounts.

4 Herd Plus®

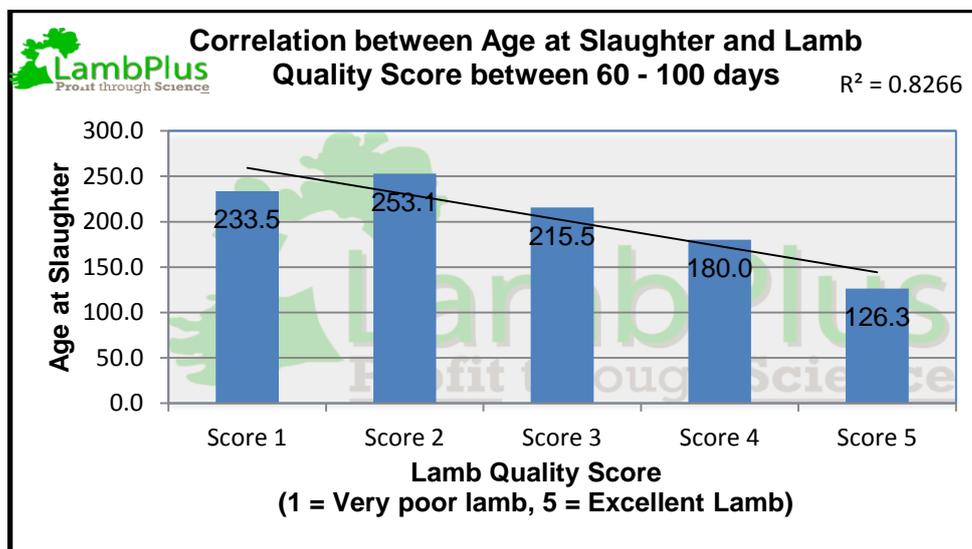
- ✚ The Top 200 herds for EBI have been revealed. The EBI figure of the top herd is now at €182 which is up €9 from the top figure from the September run. For more information click [here](#)

- ✚ We are delighted to introduce our new Animal Search mobile app. This new app will now allow herd-owners quick access to the ICBF Animal Search through this new mobile app. The Animal Search allows ICBF users to search for males and females in HerdPlus/BDGP herds.
- ✚ The latest HerdPlus EBI reports have been generated and are now available online. They have also been dispatched by post to HerdPlus paper customers this week.
- ✚ Herd-owners can now genotype all their female calves which will allow them to make a more informed decision around breeding and culling potential replacements. This service could cost herd-owners as little as €22/head. Please contact HerdPlus on **1850 600 900** or **023 8820452** for further details. Alternatively when logged into HerdPlus, herd-owners can make orders online by selecting ‘Services’ – ‘Genomic Services’ – ‘Place Order’

5 Sheep Ireland

Lamb Quality Score (LQS)

- ✚ In 2016 a lamb quality score (LQS) was collected on over 2000 central progeny test lambs when they were between 60 -100 days of off age. The LQS is a visual appreciation of the overall quality of the lamb (scored 1 = poor quality to 5 = excellent) by the farmer and takes multiple traits into account including weight, size, confirmation, and length of the animal as well as overall lamb carcass quality. Those lambs were then followed through to slaughter and their age at that point was recorded.
- ✚ The graph below presents the average age at slaughter per LQS class. Very few animals were recorded as LQS 1, this is likely to be the reason they out performed the LQS 2 lambs in this case, but with more records this would be expected to rectify. Even after taking this into account there is still a margin of 107.5 days between the average ages of LQS 1 and LQS 5 lambs by the time they were deemed to be fit for slaughter for the farmer, demonstrating that farmers have the ability to accurately differentiate between their top quality and lowest quality carcass lambs.
- ✚ Sheep Ireland will now be investigating the benefits of including such a score in the genetic evaluations and what effect it would have in increasing the accuracy of the evaluations.



Lambing Sheets

- ✚ Lambing sheets have been sent out this week to the remaining LambPlus breeders who are recording using the paper method, these breeders now account for less 3% of all the LambPlus members. This is testament to all the updates been done on the recording screens over the last two years.

Sheep Ireland January Board Meeting

This meeting took place yesterday (January 19th) and a number of important topics were discussed at length including:

- ✚ Carcase data – A detailed summary of all data collected from 2016 born CPT lambs.
- ✚ CPT scanning results – Good results, in line with previous years.
- ✚ LambPlus Sale – This sale will take place in Tullamore on the 4th Saturday of August as usual.
- ✚ LambPlus Update – Breeder sign-up numbers for 2017 was discussed.
- ✚ Index improvement plans for 2017/8.
- ✚ Breeder/Farmer education in 2017.
 - Workshops and meetings will be held throughout 2017.
 - Case studies based on individual flocks will continue to be used.
 - Our website, Facebook page, and twitter account will continue to be maximised.
 - Increasing attendance at our breeder workshops/meetings will be a major focus.

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Email info@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, 11-JAN-2017 To 20-JAN-2017

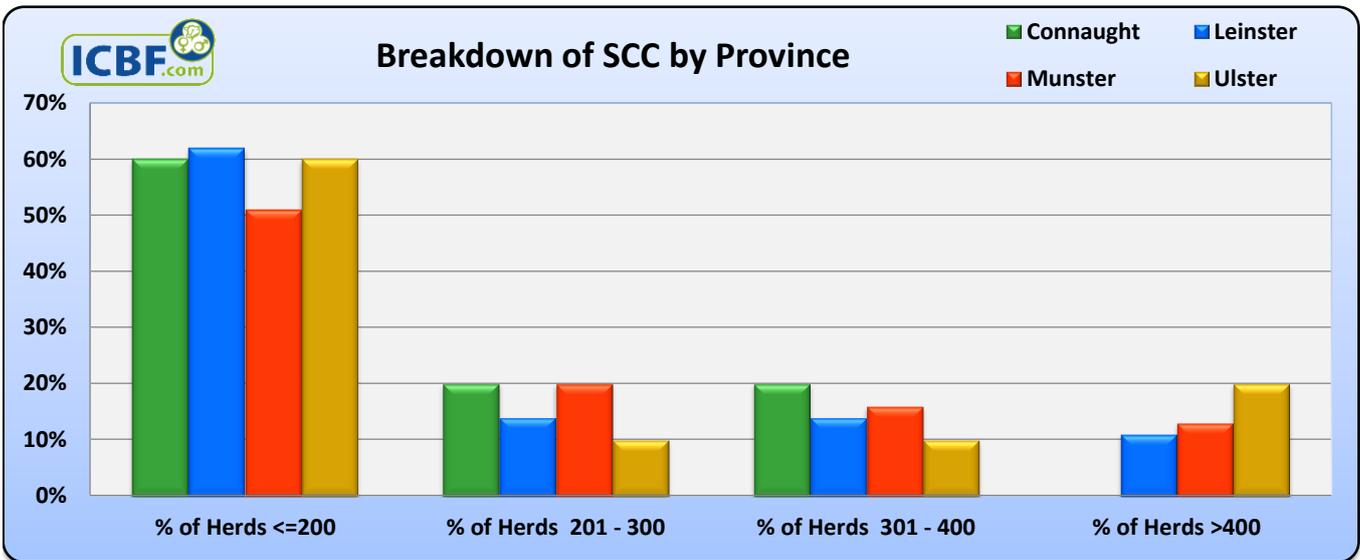
| ICBF.com | No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Avg Herd Size | Avg Milk kg/Cow | Average Fat % | Average Protein % | Average F+P kg | Average SCC* |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Connaught | 5 | 199 | 40 | 20.7 | 4.00 | 3.16 | 1.47 | 153 |
| Leinster | 73 | 5,584 | 76 | 22.4 | 4.28 | 3.36 | 1.72 | 179 |
| Munster | 75 | 4,615 | 62 | 22.4 | 4.27 | 3.35 | 1.70 | 196 |
| Ulster | 10 | 431 | 43 | 25.3 | 3.86 | 3.21 | 1.79 | 186 |
| National Statistics | 163 | 10,829 | 66 | 22.6 | 4.24 | 3.34 | 1.71 | 186 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 11-JAN-2017 To 20-JAN-2017

| 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 | 5 | 199 | 40 | 60% | 20% | 20% | 0% | 153 |
| Leinster | 73 | 5,584 | 76 | 62% | 14% | 14% | 11% | 179 |
| Munster | 75 | 4,615 | 62 | 51% | 20% | 16% | 13% | 196 |
| Ulster | 10 | 431 | 43 | 60% | 10% | 10% | 20% | 186 |
| National Statistics | 163 | 10,829 | 66 | 56% | 17% | 15% | 12% | 186 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 11-JAN-2017 To 20-JAN-2017

| 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 | 5 | 199 | 40 | 69 | 143 | 191 | 215 | 277 |
| Leinster | 73 | 5,584 | 76 | 104 | 151 | 181 | 200 | 343 |
| Munster | 75 | 4,615 | 62 | 102 | 170 | 200 | 233 | 363 |
| Ulster | 10 | 431 | 43 | 115 | 144 | 167 | 191 | 377 |
| National Statistics | 163 | 10,829 | 66 | 102 | 158 | 189 | 211 | 357 |

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

