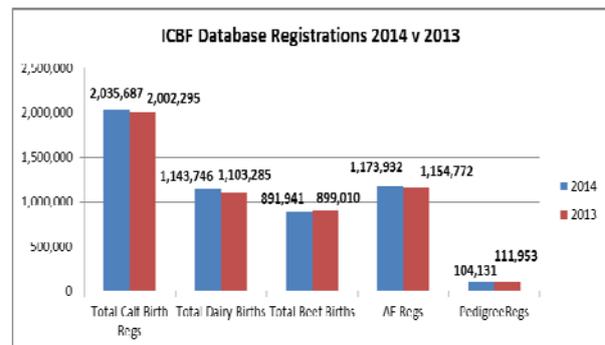
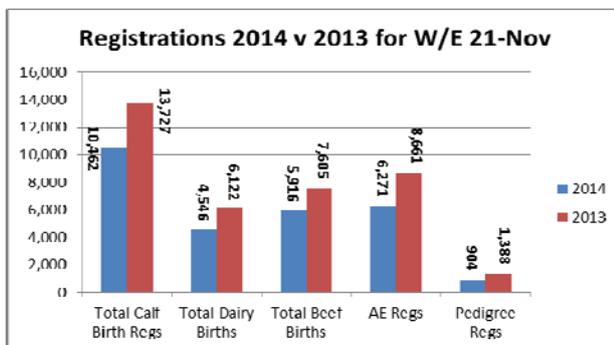


ICBF Weekly Update 21st November 2014

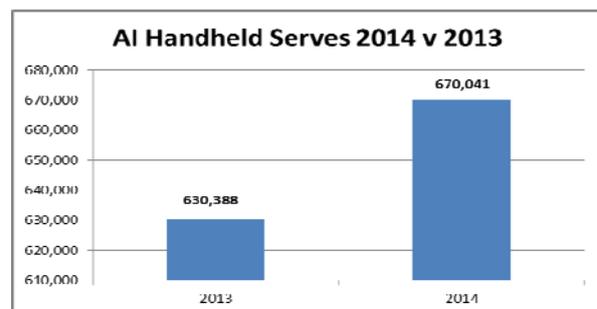
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICAR/Interbeef Genomics Workshop** - 25th & 26th November 2014 - Roganstown House Hotel, Swords, Dublin.
- ✚ **ICBF, Teagasc & Irish Farmers Journal Animal Genomics User Conference** – Wednesday 26th November 2014, 14:00 to 17:00, Roganstown House Hotel, Swords, Dublin.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 4th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 18th December 2014, 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 2,190,000 results received since January 1st, of which 21,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.85 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.



3 GROW[®]

- ✚ 766 Pedigree animals were scored in October.
- ✚ This is down by 26 animals from October 2013.
- ✚ 1134 Pedigrees were weighed in October.
- ✚ This is down by 85 animals from October 2013.
- ✚ These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

4 GENÉIRELAND® - Beef

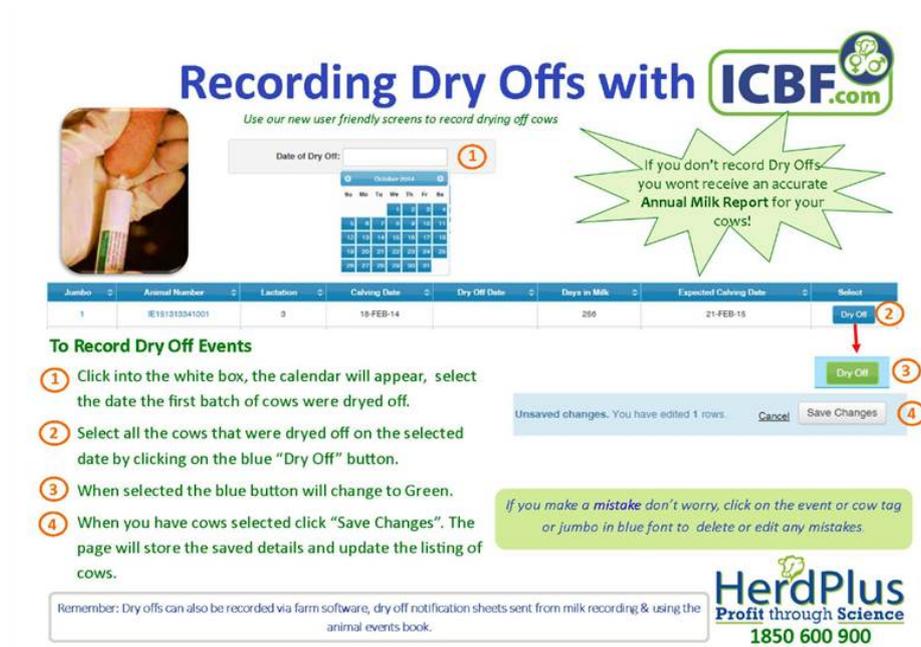
- 251 herds taking a total of 3800 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 15 straws.
- The CH bull YCM reached the 500 straws target this week.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in table 1.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	190
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	300
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	285
AGY	Rosemount Giga ET	BB	355
RFF	Ringfort Goulu	BB	80
GEZ	Gedeon	CH	260
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	165
XGL	Glorieux	LM	260
AYH	Lisnagranchy Hulio	PT	330
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	255
KTM	Knottown Michael	SA	285
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	100
EMS	Doon Erasmus (P)	SH	110

5 Herd Plus®

- Any dairy farmers that are currently drying off cows need to make sure that the dry off dates are recorded in the ICBF database. These dates are important in order to make sure that milk recording data is as accurate as possible and to ensure that farmers will receive an Annual Report.



Recording Dry Offs with ICBF.com

Use our new user friendly screens to record drying off cows

Date of Dry Off: 1

Calendar: October 2014

If you don't record Dry Offs you won't receive an accurate Annual Milk Report for your cows!

Jumbo	Animal Number	Lactation	Calving Date	Dry Off Date	Days in Milk	Expected Calving Date	Select
1	IE191913341001	3	18-FEB-14		256	21-FEB-15	Dry Off 2

To Record Dry Off Events

- Click into the white box, the calendar will appear, select the date the first batch of cows were dried off.
- Select all the cows that were dried off on the selected date by clicking on the blue "Dry Off" button.
- When selected the blue button will change to Green.
- When you have cows selected click "Save Changes". The page will store the saved details and update the listing of cows.

Unsaved changes. You have edited 1 rows. 4

If you make a mistake don't worry, click on the event or cow tag or jumbo in blue font to delete or edit any mistakes.

Remember: Dry offs can also be recorded via farm software, dry off notification sheets sent from milk recording & using the animal events book.

HerdPlus
Profit through Science
1850 600 900

- All serve and scan information should also be recorded so that expected calving dates for the Dairy Pocket Notebooks are up to date.
- Autumn is a popular time of year for beef replacement heifer sales. It is important for farmers to ask for the Euro-Star index of a heifer before purchasing. Visually assessing a heifer is very important, but buying heifers based on appearance alone, for a commercial suckler herd can lead to issues with milk and fertility, particularly if the heifer is coming from a very terminal, "beefy" type ancestry. Some mart sales are now using the ICBF Euro-Star catalogue at sales which is a very positive development as a potential buyer has access to more information before making a purchase.

6 Genetic Evaluations

- Work on the December routine evaluation update for dairy and beef proofs is on-going. All domestic evaluations are completed at this stage and we are awaiting INTERBULL proofs.
- Preparation for next week's genomics conference in Dublin is also underway.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 21/11/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 21/11/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 21/11/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 21/11/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 21/11/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,907	1,173	30%	336,240	106,953	32%
Progressive	2,522	1,102	44%	245,065	106,746	44%
Tipperary	117	46	39%	10,393	4,133	40%
Total	6,546	2,321	35%	591,698	217,832	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 21/11/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 21/11/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	313,012	336,240	6.9%
Progressive	237,521	245,065	3.1%
Tipperary	10,149	10,393	2.3%
Total	560,682	591,698	5.2%

8 Sheep Ireland

College Visits

- Today (Friday 21st November) Sheep Ireland are presenting to agricultural students in UCD, Co. Dublin to update them on developments in our sheep breed improvement programme. Opportunities such as these to visit agricultural colleges are critical to the future progress of sheep genetics in Ireland. These students are the farmers of tomorrow and will be the ones most likely to adopt and implement the latest technologies on their home farms.

LambPlus Update

- We once again remind all pedigree ram breeders that the deadline for signing up to LambPlus for the 2015 season is Monday December 1st. Reminder texts have been circulated to all breeders that recorded data with Sheep Ireland last year. To successfully sign-up to LambPlus for 2015, breeders must do two things;

- complete and return the LambPlus sign-up form
- and in association with this each breeder must update their online flock inventory which includes adding the NSIS (department tag number) for each and every sheep within their LambPlus inventory.

- Currently some breeders have identified their sheep on the Sheep Ireland database by their pedigree identity only. This is no longer acceptable. While we will continue to facilitate the use of a breed society pedigree identity, this will be considered a secondary ID, with the NSIS being the priority ID. The reason for this is simple - across different breed societies there are some pedigree IDs which are identical - The NSIS is the only truly unique sheep identification that we have for pedigree sheep in Ireland, so that is why we are

insisting on being provided with this ID for all sheep. In association with this commercial farmers are not familiar with the many different breed society methods of sheep identification and these farmers simply use the NSIS to identify all sheep - with this in mind Sheep Ireland need to prioritise this industry accepted method of identification.

- Where breeders do not supply this NSIS information in advance of December 1st, their flock will not be accepted into the programme for 2015.

Regional LambPlus Meetings

- On Monday evening in Kilkenny we concluded our latest round of LambPlus regional meetings. The Kilkenny meeting was very well attended by both existing and new breeders interested in signing up for the first time. The level of discussion was very good with some very valid points raised around our Ultrasound scanning service. The main issue being raised about the service was the fact that we are currently not insisting that all breeders carry out scanning. Some breeders see this as unfair in light of the fact that this service comes at a cost, which needs to be carried by each individual breeder.
- We have made a number of attempts to make scanning more attractive to breeders over the years. The first was to train our own Sheep Ireland scanners to provide the service, which lead to a decreased cost for each breeder. The second was limiting our annual Sheep Ireland ram sale to ultrasound scanned flocks only. There are other means of promoting these ultrasound scanned flocks further in 2015 which include better identification of such animals in ram sale catalogues and on the Sheep Ireland online ram search.
- Outside of the incentives above, we will invest more effort in educating commercial farmers about the benefits of purchasing EuroStar rams from ultrasound scanned flocks which include; better quality genetic evaluations due to higher accuracy and the fact that the data is collected from the breeder independently by Sheep Ireland.

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, 12-NOV-2014 To 21-NOV-2014

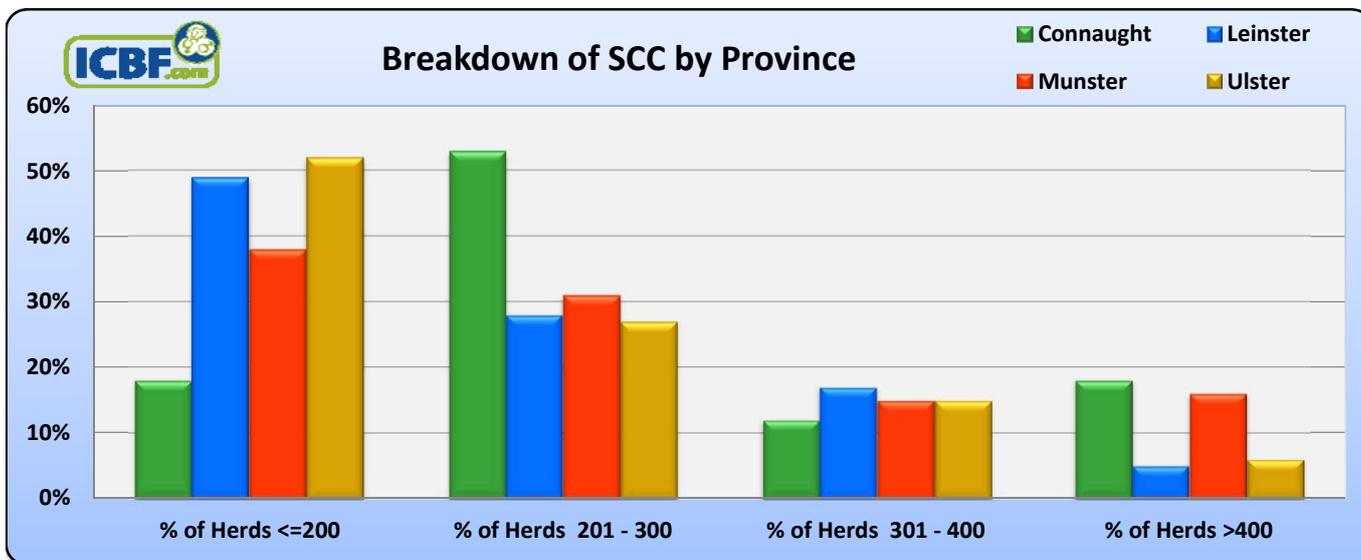
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	17	954	56	17.2	4.44	3.63	1.36	273
Leinster	93	7,612	82	17.1	4.43	3.60	1.35	198
Munster	375	24,183	64	14.0	4.63	3.84	1.17	241
Ulster	33	1,644	50	16.7	4.30	3.54	1.30	199
National Statistics	518	34,393	66	14.8	4.57	3.77	1.22	231

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 12-NOV-2014 To 21-NOV-2014

ICBF	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	17	954	56	18%	53%	12%	18%	273
Leinster	93	7,612	82	49%	28%	17%	5%	198
Munster	375	24,183	64	38%	31%	15%	16%	241
Ulster	33	1,644	50	52%	27%	15%	6%	199
National Statistics	518	34,393	66	40%	31%	15%	14%	231

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 12-NOV-2014 To 21-NOV-2014								
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	17	954	56	206	263	275	286	379
Leinster	93	7,612	82	130	174	203	226	316
Munster	375	24,183	64	158	204	228	262	364
Ulster	33	1,644	50	140	179	189	213	317
National Statistics	518	34,393	66	150	199	223	256	349

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

