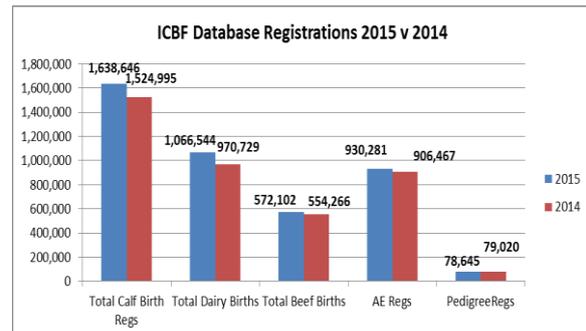
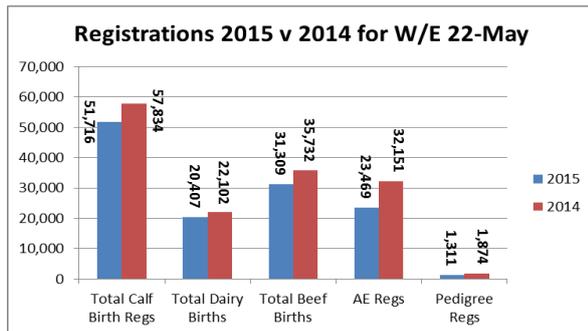


ICBF Weekly Update 22nd May 2015

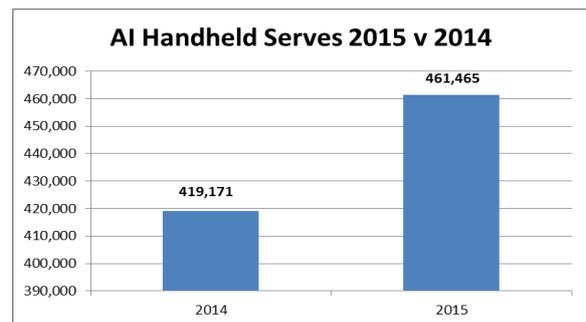
1 Important Dates

- Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – 28th May 2015, 10:00 to 11:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th May 2015, 11:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF AGM** – Thursday 28th May 2015, 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 1.69 million results received since January 1st, of which 60,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.64 million results have now been received.
- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



3 Herd Plus®

Registering Calves

- We continue to remind farmers to ensure that they record the relevant breeding data (sires & calving ease) when registering calves. With the launch of the new Beef Data & Genomics Program (BDGP) this is more important than ever to ensure that as many 4 & 5 star replacement heifers as possible, can be identified.
- 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 or via farm software. 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 & Food website (www.agfood.ie) or by contacting your farm software provider.

Breeding Season

- As the Spring AI season commences we remind farmers to ensure that serves are recorded and reach the ICBF database. Heats not served and stock bull serves can also be recorded. See help document on recording serves below.

Recording Heats & Serves on ICBF.com

Use our new user friendly screens to record heats and serves

| Jumbo | Animal Number | Lact | Calving Date | Last Served | Last Bull | Num Serves | Date | Bull Used | Treatment | Sire Check |
|-------|----------------|------|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| 1165 | IE151313331165 | 1 | 29-FEB-14 | 27-APR-14 | ZTG | 1 | | | Select treatment | |

To Record a Heat

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click Save. A heat event for the cow has been created!



To Record a Serve

- Find the cow you wish to record.
- Click in the date column. The calendar will appear. Select the date the cow was in heat.
- Click in the Treatment column A treatment must be selected.

Note: For stock bull serves and conventional straws (non sexed) the treatment selected will always be Non Sexed.

The majority of sexed straws available will be sexed 90% female. Check with your AI company if you are in doubt.
- Click in the bull used column. Enter an AI code or tag number (stock bull). The sire check column will confirm the bull code/tag is valid.
- Click Save. A serve event for the cow has been created!



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

Remember: Heats and serves can also be recorded via farm software & animal events. If are on the AI technician service & your AI technician has a handheld, AI inseminations will be sent to ICBF automatically.



HerdPlus
Profit through Science

Beef Data Programme 2014

Farmers are reminded to input any missing data that is required for the 2014 BDP scheme. This data can be recorded through the ICBF website, farm software packages or on paper forms. The deadline for calves born in November and December is 30th June 2015. Calves born in December will be hitting 5 months of age during the month of May and will be old enough to record quality, docility and any scour or pneumonia events. It is important that farmers do not forget any of these calves.

Beef Data & Genomics Program (BDGP)

- ICBF has received a lot of queries in the last few weeks in relation to the BDGP. A Questions & Answers document has been put together to answer the most common questions in relation to the breeding requirements of the scheme. Click [here](#) to read the document.
- A discussion on the new scheme between various industry representatives was recorded in the Farmer's Journal offices in Dublin last night. Andrew Cromie was present on behalf of ICBF. This video can be viewed [here](#).

Better Farm Open Day

A Teagasc, Irish Farmer's Journal Better Farm open day took place this week on the farm of Patrick Grennan, Dunganstown, New Ross, Co. Wexford. A large crowd of approximately 500 farmers attended and there were some excellent technical messages delivered. Chris Daly, ICBF and Nathan Tuffy, Farmer's Journal spoke on the topic of breeding. Some simple messages on selecting replacements, selecting bulls and fertility of the cow and bull were delivered. The event also had a historical twist as Patrick lives on the Kennedy Homestead in Dunganstown, New Ross and runs the visitor centre there.

Fertility Reports

Dairy farmers can run their weekly fertility reports to monitor submission rates during the breeding season.

Contract Rearing Herds

A facility is now in place for contract reared animals to be made available to the owners herd profiles and reports. The person whose herd the animals are being contract reared in must login to their HerdPlus profile and give the owner access to the animals. The facility is available under the admin dropdown of the HerdPlus login screen.



A large crowd attended the Teagasc, Farmer's Journal Better Farm open day on Patrick Grennan's farm in New Ross.



Cows and Calves at grass on Patrick Grennan's farm. His herd has an average replacement index of €121, a calving interval of 376 days and is producing 0.94 calves/cow/year.



Historical Significance: Patrick's farm is part of the Kennedy Homestead in Dunganstown, New Ross and Patrick runs the visitor centre.

4 GROW[®]

- + 531 Pedigree animals were scored in April. This is up by 240 animals from April 2014.
- + 1161 Pedigrees were weighed in April. This is up by 169 animals from April 2014.
- + These totals do not include animals scored as part of the GENE IRELAND Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

5 GENE IRELAND[®] Beef

- + Sign Ups are continuing for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- + 384 herds taking a total of 5880 straws have joined so far.
- + The average order is 15 straws per herd.
- + The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- + To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- + 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 |
|--------|----------------------|-------|----------------|
| JJC | Cairnmor John | AA | 430 |
| JBS | Steil Jacob | AA | 450 |
| VEZ | Balinclea Iveco | AU | 475 |
| SGA | Scaughmolin G Mail | BA | 440 |
| LJE | Lislea Hermes | BA | 180 |
| OZR | Rosemount Gar | BB | 215 |
| CH2000 | Coom Indurain | CH | 335 |
| PDR | Dereskit Improver | CH | 210 |
| HHJ | Heracles | CH | 290 |
| DBF | Dereskit Invincible | CH | 270 |
| LM2014 | Ewdenvale Ivor | LM | 190 |
| LM2010 | Raffertys Immanuel | LM | 345 |
| ZYH | Alamira Harry | PT | 435 |
| ZKY | Kyle Herd Ivan | PT | 210 |
| ZBZ | Breffni Muzz | SA | 205 |
| EMS | Doon Erasmus | SH | 300 |
| PPA | Polar Edinson | SI | 355 |
| KJG | Knoackane Dag | SI | 335 |
| ETP | Curaheen Evolution P | SI | 190 |
| AHC | Auroch Deuter PP | SI | 250 |

6 Genetic Evaluations

- + Work continues on supporting the relevant background materials for the BDGP. Test proofs were circulated ahead of the Dairy & Beef industry meeting this Friday.
- + Research continues on incorporating genomic information into the beef genetic evaluation on speeding up the whole process.

7 Milk Recording

| National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 22/05/15 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Milk Recording Organisation | Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/05/15 | No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/05/15 | % Herds EDIY | Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/05/15 | No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/05/15 | % Cows EDIY |
| Munster | 3,865 | 1,222 | 32% | 321,119 | 108,577 | 34% |
| Progressive | 2,288 | 921 | 40% | 210,614 | 85,407 | 41% |
| Tipperary | 117 | 46 | 39% | 9,856 | 3,954 | 40% |
| Total | 6,270 | 2,189 | 35% | 541,589 | 197,938 | 37% |

| Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Milk Recording Organisation | YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 22/05/14 | YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 22/05/15 | 2015 vs. 2014 Year on Year Difference (%) |
| Munster | 287,444 | 321,119 | 10.5% |
| Progressive | 204,068 | 210,614 | 3.1% |
| Tipperary | 9,014 | 9,856 | 8.5% |
| Total | 500,526 | 541,589 | 7.6% |

8 Sheep Ireland

Ultrasound Scanning for Muscle and Backfat 2015

- This scanning data remains a vital yet optional component of the LambPlus performance recording scheme. Ultrasound scanning is being used in our Euro-Star evaluations in the absence of regular feeds of carcass data on the many bloodlines being performance recorded annually.

Capturing lamb carcass data

- The challenge to capture reliable carcass data which can feed back into the evaluations of Pedigree ram bloodlines is not one unique to Ireland. The ICBF have made huge strides to addressing this challenge in the bovine evaluations and can benefit from one of the most advanced and integrated system of bovine data capture in the world. For the Irish sheep industry we are at the starting point of trying to emulate a similar process for the benefit of sheep breed improvement.
- A robust sheep ID system is now in place in Ireland and this will help to lay the foundation for future reliable large scale data capture. There is still an inconsistency in the types of tags being presented to slaughter plants, with both EID and non-EID options available to all Irish farmers, for lambs destined for slaughter under 12 months of age. There is no doubt the EID tags support a more dependable method of capturing valuable data, although there are clearly other issues which must be respected, mainly the increased tag cost. The vast majority of lambs being presented in Irish slaughter plants are not tagged with EID tags. As a result most plants have made the understandable decision to hold off on making any significant investment in EID compatible equipment.

Using lamb carcass data

- ✚ Another reality is that only carcass data from performance recording pedigree and commercial flocks can be used to any effect in the Euro-Star evaluations. In the absence of lamb parentage data, the carcass information is not beneficial to the genetic evaluations. However the number of performance recorded (parentage recorded) lambs is increasing on an annual basis and with this in mind Sheep Ireland will continue to work with industry stakeholders to continue to build links with our meat processors to make full use of this fantastic data source.
- ✚ For now, Ultrasound scanning of Muscle and Backfat remains a critical predictor of carcass traits in our Terminal Index. These carcass traits also play a role in our Replacement Index. In 2013 just over 60% of all the LambPlus flocks carried out Muscle and Backfat scanning in their flocks, with some breeds having a much higher percentage of its lambs recorder than others.



One of Sheep Ireland's experienced technicians scanning a lamb for muscle and fat depth.

Breeders wishing to scan in 2015 - What to do?

- ✚ Sheep Ireland is currently providing a subsidised Ultrasound Scanning service, and to avail of this service LambPlus breeders must contact [Sheep Ireland](http://www.sheep.ie) before **May 31st** by texting the word "Yes" followed by your flock ID to **086 023 7658**. For a complete rundown of what's involved in our Muscle and Backfat scanning, visit www.sheep.ie and click on the Ultrasound Scanning link, which is on our homepage this week.

Sheep 2015 Preparations

- ✚ On Wednesday evening, breed societies came together in Tullamore to discuss plans for this major flagship event for the sheep industry. The event is taking place on Saturday 20th June in the Teagasc research facility in Athenry. This event is completely free to the public and will promote all aspects of the Irish sheep industry. All breed societies will have a presence at the event, some with stands, others with stands and sheep shows.

Commercial sheep classes

- ✚ The events organising committee are keen to promote the fact that there will be commercial sheep classes running on the day along with the Pedigree shows. There will be six commercial classes - 1. Fat lamb, 2. Carcass lamb, 3. Continental ewe lamb, 4. Non-continental ewe lamb, 5. Continental hogget ewe, 6. Non-continental hogget ewe. Entries for these commercial classes will be accepted on the day of the event. An entry fee of €4.00 per entry will apply and there is very attractive prize money available for each class. All farmers are invited to take part in these classes.

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, 13-MAY-2015 To 22-MAY-2015

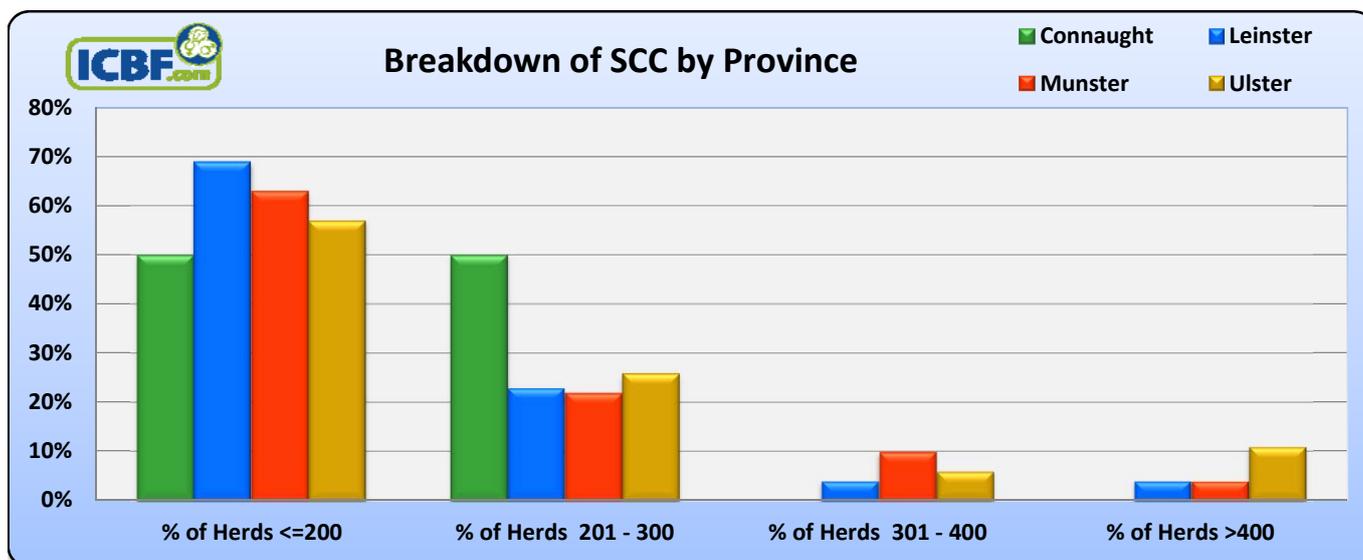
| No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Avg Herd Size | Avg Milk kg/Cow | Average Fat % | Average Protein % | Average F+P kg | Average SCC* |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Connaught | 10 | 681 | 68 | 28.7 | 3.73 | 3.44 | 202 |
| Leinster | 184 | 18,386 | 100 | 26.8 | 3.78 | 3.45 | 153 |
| Munster | 450 | 39,065 | 87 | 28.0 | 3.78 | 3.43 | 169 |
| Ulster | 35 | 2,127 | 61 | 28.3 | 3.65 | 3.33 | 157 |
| National Statistics | 679 | 60,259 | 89 | 27.7 | 3.77 | 3.43 | 164 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 13-MAY-2015 To 22-MAY-2015

| 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 | 10 | 681 | 68 | 50% | 50% | 0% | 0% | 202 |
| Leinster | 184 | 18,386 | 100 | 69% | 23% | 4% | 4% | 153 |
| Munster | 450 | 39,065 | 87 | 63% | 22% | 10% | 4% | 169 |
| Ulster | 35 | 2,127 | 61 | 57% | 26% | 6% | 11% | 157 |
| National Statistics | 679 | 60,259 | 89 | 64% | 23% | 8% | 5% | 164 |

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



| % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 13-MAY-2015 To 22-MAY-2015 | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| No. Herds Recorded | No. Cows Recorded | Avg Herd Size | Best 20% SCC | Best 40% SCC | Average SCC** | Worst 40% SCC | Worst 20% SCC | |
| Connaught | 10 | 681 | 68 | 157 | 192 | 213 | 236 | 260 |
| Leinster | 184 | 18,386 | 100 | 94 | 140 | 159 | 180 | 244 |
| Munster | 450 | 39,065 | 87 | 106 | 144 | 163 | 190 | 260 |
| Ulster | 35 | 2,127 | 61 | 99 | 136 | 174 | 209 | 284 |
| National Statistics | 679 | 60,259 | 89 | 103 | 144 | 162 | 189 | 258 |

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

