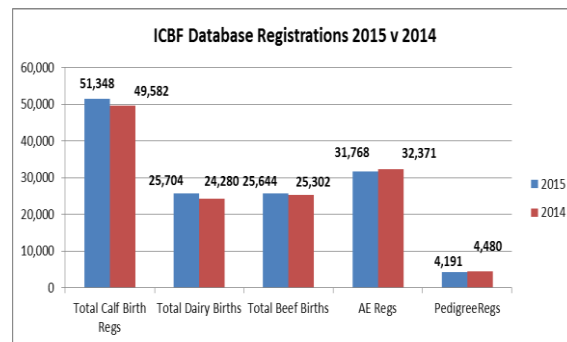
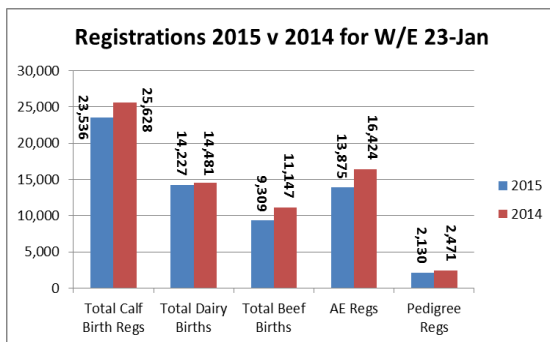


## ICBF Weekly Update 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015

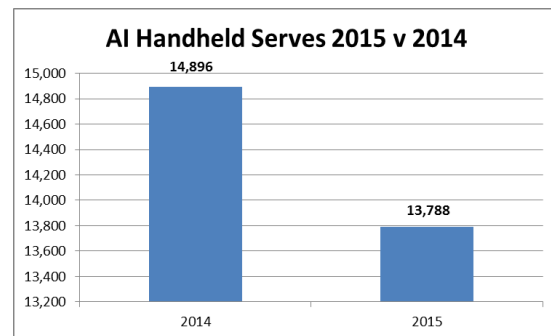
### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 10:30 to 13:00, Horse & Jockey Hotel.

### 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 72,000 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 27,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 5.01 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



### 3 Herd Plus®

- ✚ All dairy pocket notebooks have now been posted to HerdPlus customers. The notebooks are a very useful means of recording information during the calving season before registering calves.
- ✚ EBI reports are now available online. Dairy Cow Reports will be generated in the coming weeks. These reports will also be posted to all dairy HerdPlus customers.
- ✚ Stock data is now fully up to date for beef and dairy farmers looking to complete their 2014 profit monitor. All co-op data will be available in dairy profit monitors next week.
- ✚ Dairy HerdPlus customers that wish to run sire advice for the 2015 breeding season can now do so as all December evaluations are up to date.
- ✚ Co-Op performance reports are currently being printed and will be posted next week. Discussion group reports can also be generated with this data. Group reports can be very useful to advisors at discussion group meetings.
- ✚ Farmers need to ensure that dry off dates are recorded so that milk recording records will be accurate. Annual reports also require that dry off dates are recorded. This can be done through the dry off sheets which were posted out by the milk recording organisations or online through ICBF or a farm software package.

- ✦ 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 in 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 & Food website or contacting your farm software provider.
- ✦ As part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeder Programme, ICBF along with programme partners, are now offering for sale Gene Ireland bulls that have fulfilled their semen requirements in stud. These are high index elite bulls that will no doubt make excellent stock sires. Details of the bulls can be found by clicking [here](#).

## 4 Genetic Evaluations

- ✦ Thierry Pabiou from ICBF gave a presentation on his work with the INTERBEEF weaning weight project at the British Cattle Breeders Club on Tuesday last. His talk was very well received and was seen as an exciting aid to breeders in all participating countries when looking to source new genetics.
- ✦ Work is on-going on development of beef genomics in conjunction with Donagh Berry from Teagasc.

## 5 Sheep Ireland

### CPT Update - Pregnancy scanning

- ✦ This week the final CPT flocks were pregnancy scanned. This is always a nervous time as we wait to calculate the ewe conception rate to AI. Over the years the conception rate to AI across our CPT flocks has been reasonably good. This year across the five flocks we have recorded mixed results, from a conception rate to AI of 66% for one flock, up to over 80% for another.
- ✦ Why this variation? This is something we will be investigating. Our ewe preparation procedures are identical across all flocks, as is our AI procedure. Perhaps ewe weight at mating is something we need to look at. As ewes need to be synchronised in advance of AI, perhaps we need to tailor hormone administration according to ewe weight. As all CPT ewes are weighed and condition scored regularly, we can assess if weight is a factor in ewes that fail to hold to first service. We also need to investigate if particular rams used in the programme have contributed to the variation in conception rates. While each semen sample is visually assessed immediately in advance of AI, this does not rule out the fact that certain rams will undoubtedly deliver higher conception rates than others.

### Teagasc Hill Sheep Conference

- ✦ Just a reminder that this major sheep event is taking place next Wednesday night (28<sup>th</sup> January) in the Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo. The event kicks off at 6.00pm and will include a host of very interesting speakers, including a performance recording Blackface Mountain breeder from Northern Ireland named Sam Wharry. Sam has engaged with Sheep Ireland since our beginning in 2009 and farmers should find his approach to performance recording extremely interesting.

Please see below some pictures from the recent CPT and MALP recording events including pregnancy scanning results which were recorded 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](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, 14-JAN-2015 To 23-JAN-2015

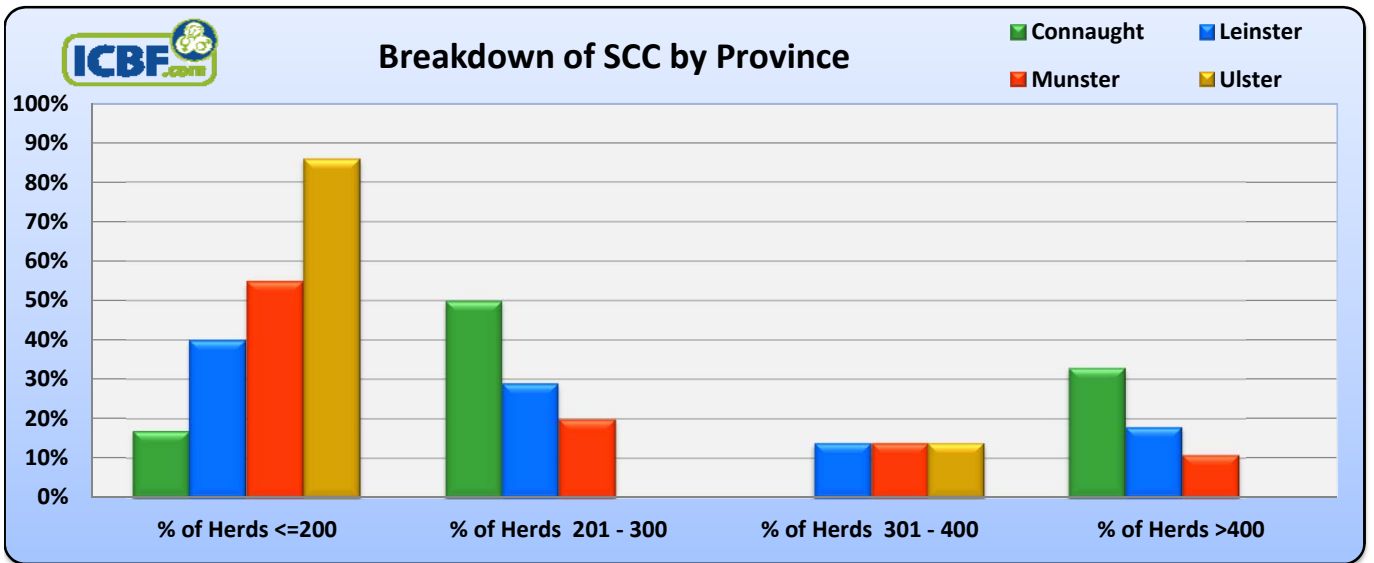
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	6	307	51	18.4	4.22	3.19	1.37	281
Leinster	73	4,734	65	21.5	4.18	3.33	1.61	218
Munster	96	5,427	57	22.1	4.19	3.32	1.66	187
Ulster	7	346	49	22.2	4.32	3.29	1.69	174
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>10,814</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>4.19</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>201</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 14-JAN-2015 To 23-JAN-2015

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	6	307	51	17%	50%	0%	33%	281
Leinster	73	4,734	65	40%	29%	14%	18%	218
Munster	96	5,427	57	55%	20%	14%	11%	187
Ulster	7	346	49	86%	0%	14%	0%	174
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>10,814</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>201</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



## % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 14-JAN-2015 To 23-JAN-2015

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	6	307	51	231	268	269	269	444
Leinster	73	4,734	65	132	199	227	252	385
Munster	96	5,427	57	114	154	182	208	339
Ulster	7	346	49	139	171	175	179	194
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>10,814</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>353</b>

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

