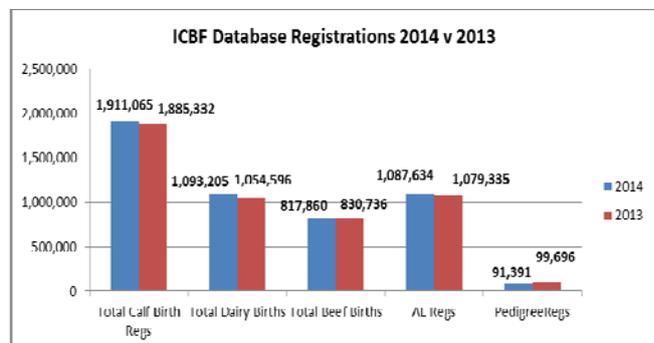
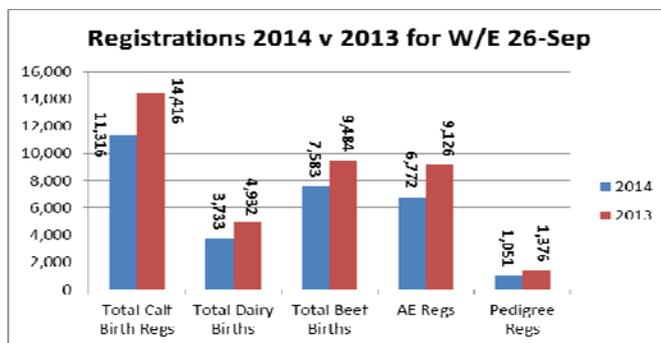


ICBF Weekly Update 26th September 2014

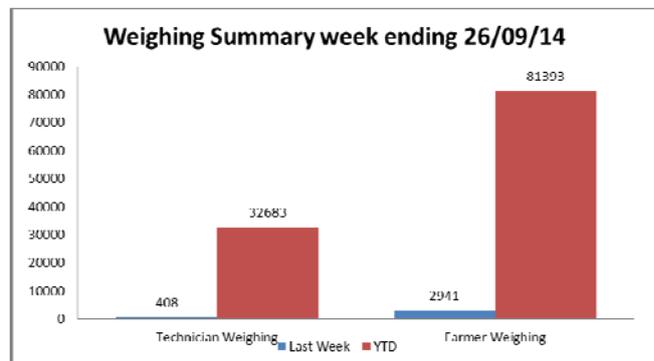
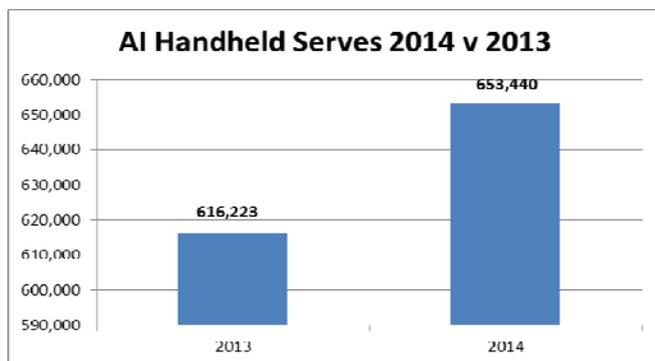
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Dairy & Beef Industry Meetings** – Tuesday 14th October 2014, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Thursday 4th December 2014, 10:30 to 13:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **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 2,036,000 results received since January 1st, of which 15,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 4.69 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- ✚ This week there were 408 weights received through the technician service and 2941 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Genetic Evaluations

The monthly beef evaluation update for animals linear scored was performed this week and new indexes for 1800 animals scored between 15th July and 14th September were loaded to the database on Wednesday.

Work continues on research projects including Calving difficulty, test day models, Interbeef weaning weight, cow milkability scores and health and disease traits.

4 Dairy Genomic Evaluation Deadline

For those AI companies wishing to have genomic evaluations published for foreign bulls for the December run, pedigrees and SNPs need to be received by us for the **5th October** in advance of the cut-off date for the routine genetic evaluations.

5 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 26/09/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 26/09/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 26/09/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 26/09/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 26/09/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,853	1,150	30%	329,885	104,998	32%
Progressive	2,514	1,095	44%	239,983	105,110	44%
Tipperary	115	44	38%	9,982	3,860	39%
Total	6,482	2,289	35%	579,850	213,968	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2010 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 26/09/13	YTD 2011 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 26/09/14	2011 vs 2010 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	309,667	329,885	6.1%
Progressive	231,119	239,983	3.7%
Tipperary	10,041	9,982	-0.6%
Total	550,827	579,850	5.0%

6 National Ploughing Championships 2014

ICBF in conjunction with the Irish Farmers Journal and Bord Bia held a Livestock Demo on Dairy, Beef & Sheep at this year's National ploughing championships. There were 3 talks each day (10am, 12 and 2pm) and each talk was well attended with excellent engagement from the farmers. ICBF highlighted key messages to farmers on Beef, Dairy & Sheep breeding such as:

Beef (key messages):

- ✚ The importance of using the replacement index when selecting or breeding replacement females for your suckler herd. How selecting and using 5 star bulls on the replacement index is the best way to achieve a 365 day calving interval and ensure that you are producing more the 0.90 calves per cow per year.
- ✚ To look at the reliability percentage when making decisions on AI sires and stock bulls for your herd.
- ✚ Use the terminal index to increase profitability for your weanling and animals for slaughter.
- ✚ Don't focus on breed as there is as significant a variation within breed as across breed.

Dairy (key message):

- ✚ The importance of using the EBI to select and breed females that will have increased health, fertility and milk solids which are key drivers of profit in dairy herds.

Sheep (key messages):

- ✚ Replacement index should be used to identify rams that will on average breed more profitable replacement ewe lambs (i.e. increase daughter milk yield, litter size etc).
- ✚ Terminal index should be used to identify rams that will on average breed the most profitable lambs at slaughter by increasing growth rate, survivability etc.

✚ Currently all sheep Euro-Stars are within breed so the merit of each breed should also be taken into account.

Joe Burke (Bord Bia) gave a market review and outlook for the beef sector. He also informed farmers that there is currently a strong export market for top quality weanling. While Darren Carty (IFJ) informed farmers about the markets for Irish lamb and highlighted the importance of knowing the specifications of the market you are producing for. ICBF would like to thank all those who supplied animals for the 3 days. *See pictures of the livestock demo below.*



Niall Kilrane (ICBF) at the joint ICBF, [Irish Farmers Journal](#), Bord Bia stand, speaking about the merits of using 5 star terminal bulls for producing weanlings.



Pat Donnellan (ICBF) at the joint ICBF, Farmers Journal, Bord Bia stand, speaking about the merits of using 5 star bulls when breeding replacements.



Stephen Conroy (ICBF) speaking on selecting the ideal heifer replacement for your herd.



Darren Carty & Jack Kennedy (IFJ) discussing the market options for different types of lambs.



Kevin McDermott (Sheep Ireland) discussing the Euro-stars of two rams in the ring.



Crowds viewing the livestock on the stand.

7 Sheep Ireland

National Ploughing Championships 2014

This week was National Ploughing Championships week and Sheep Ireland had a presence at this huge three day event. We were again very kindly invited to erect a stand in the sheep tunnel by the National Sheep Breeders Association. This year the tunnel was extremely busy with some very high standard sheep stock on display from a wide range of different breeds. As usual the variety of sheep breeds attracted the interest of sheep farmers that attended over the three days. Interest in the EuroStar evaluations among commercial sheep farmers

was very strong with a huge number of queries in relation to the Indices and the Sheep Technology Adoption Programme (STAP).

Feedback from the Ploughing

As the ram sale season begins to wind down somewhat for many breeds, it was very interesting to speak with representatives of the various breed societies and get feedback on how the EuroStars evaluations contributed to ram sales around the country. In general the feedback is extremely positive. The EuroStar element of STAP has helped to engage commercial sheep farmers with the genetic indexes. Speaking to commercial farmers that purchased high EuroStar rams for STAP purposes in 2013, has proved to be extremely positive in the main also. We have been speaking with many farmers that made attempts to track the progeny of these performance recorded rams and all the feedback has been extremely positive.

IFJ Livestock Demonstration

In conjunction with the NSB sheep tunnel, Sheep Ireland also took part in an excellent livestock demonstration event organised by the Irish Farmers Journal in association with Bord Bia and the ICBF. This involved a number of different speakers covering marketing and genetics across dairy, beef and sheep. Each demonstration took place three times daily at 10.00am, 12.00pm & 2.00pm in front of large crowds. The demonstration is a great concept and made for a fantastic event and it was great to have a sheep element to proceedings. It was an excellent forum to promote genetic improvement for the sheep industry and all involved should be complimented for organising such a successful demonstration.



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, 17-SEP-2014 To 26-SEP-2014

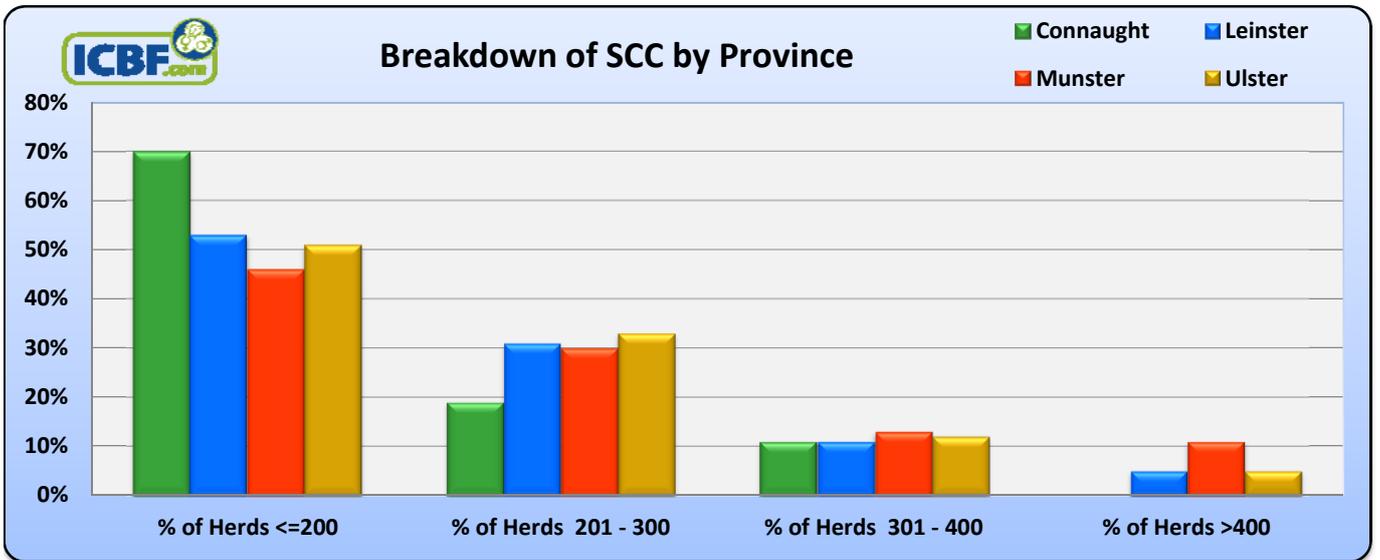
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	27	1,943	72	22.1	3.94	3.67	1.65	162
Leinster	153	12,458	81	19.5	4.08	3.76	1.52	194
Munster	557	43,342	78	18.3	4.17	3.74	1.44	217
Ulster	43	2,477	58	20.6	3.90	3.57	1.53	192
National Statistics	780	60,220	77	18.8	4.13	3.74	1.47	209

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 17-SEP-2014 To 26-SEP-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	27	1,943	72	70%	19%	11%	0%	162
Leinster	153	12,458	81	53%	31%	11%	5%	194
Munster	557	43,342	78	46%	30%	13%	11%	217
Ulster	43	2,477	58	51%	33%	12%	5%	192
National Statistics	780	60,220	77	49%	30%	12%	9%	209

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 17-SEP-2014 To 26-SEP-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	27	1,943	72	117	144	163	188	239
Leinster	153	12,458	81	128	169	195	230	289
Munster	557	43,342	78	146	187	211	237	319
Ulster	43	2,477	58	148	187	197	220	256
National Statistics	780	60,220	77	140	182	204	232	309

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

