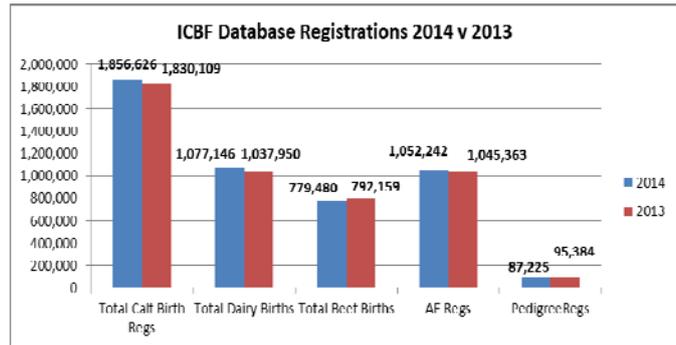
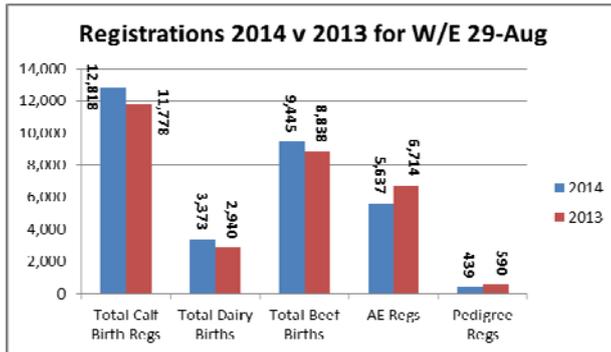


ICBF Weekly Update 29th August 2014

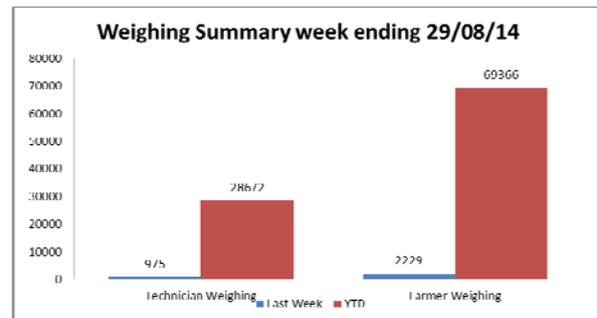
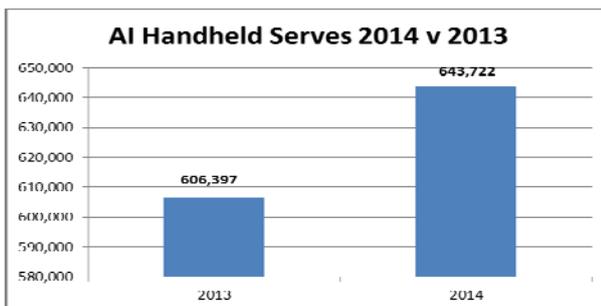
1 Important Dates

-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th September 2014, 10:30am to 13:30pm, Highfield House, Bandon.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th September 2014, 14:00 to 16:30, Highfield House, Bandon.

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 1,964,000 results received since January 1st, of which 14,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 4.62 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
-  This week there were 975 weights received through the technician service and 2229 weights recorded by farmers. The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Migration to new AIM Infrastructure

-  This weekend, the culmination of many months of work by DAFM, SWS and ICBF staff will come to fruition with the go-live of a new set of infrastructure. The infrastructure provides a new mechanism by which the DAFM AIM (calf registration and movement system) will communicate with the ICBF systems. The integration between the AIM and ICBF systems is one of the key cornerstones of our ability to deliver value to the industry, and we appreciate the hard work on all sides to ensure the smooth transition to the new infrastructure. DAFM continue to give us great support in this regard.
-  As with all major infrastructure migrations, it will take a few weeks to settle down, and we will be working with DAFM and with our service users to minimize the impacts of the undoubted niggles that will pop up over the coming weeks.

4 Herd Plus®

Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ EBI & Euro-star profiles have been updated and are now available online.
- ✚ EBI & Eurostar reports will be generated in the coming weeks.

Events

- ✚ ICBF will be speaking at the Teagasc/Irish Farmers Journal BETTER Beef Farm Walks that will be held this September. *See poster attached for more details.*
- ✚ A BTAP approved event for all beef farmers, both suckler and finisher, that are interested in maximising the genetic potential of their herds will be held in Kilmallock Mart on Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm sharp. There will be a selection of speakers from across the industry including ICBF dealing with topics such as:
 - Economics of breeding genetically superior animals.
 - Feed efficiency and feed intake testing.
 - Stock bull functionality.
 - How to use Euro-Stars to pick the breeding stock for your system.
 - Successful use of AI.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The bull search was switched over yesterday evening (Thursday 28th August) to show the new dairy and beef proofs from the August evaluation update.
- ✚ On-going research work currently being undertaken includes the dairy production test day model, calving performance, INTERBEEF weaning weight genetic parameters and enhancements to the maternal weaning weight evaluation.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 29/08/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 29/08/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 29/08/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 29/08/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 29/08/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,835	1,143	30%	326,898	103,493	32%
Progressive	2,504	1,088	43%	237,686	103,985	44%
Tipperary	115	44	38%	9,963	3,854	39%
Total	6,454	2,275	35%	574,547	211,332	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 29/08/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 29/08/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	308,472	326,898	5.6%
Progressive	228,848	237,686	3.7%
Tipperary	9,892	9,963	0.7%
Total	547,212	574,547	4.8%

Sheep Ireland

Sheep Ireland Multibreed EuroStar sale 2014

- ✚ On Saturday 23rd August all roads lead to Tullamore for the Sheep Ireland multi-breed ram sale. Overall we were happy with the sale with 165 lots moving through the sales ring. The number of breeders that did not arrive with stock on the day despite entering them in the catalogue was somewhat disappointing; this can be frustrating for travelling buyers. This is something we will address in the future should we organise future sales. In total 118 rams found a new home – a clearance of 72%.
- ✚ Average price paid for Charollais rams was €525, with a top price of €720 for lot 40, a ram bred by John Grealish, Claregalway, Co. Galway. This ram lamb was in the top 1% for both the Terminal and Replacement Index with good accuracy%. The sire of this lamb was used in the Sheep Ireland central progeny test in 2013 so had a considerable amount of commercial data behind his genetic evaluations, which was attractive to buyers.
- ✚ The average price paid for Texels was €465 with a top price of €880 for lot 119, a very strong ram lamb bred by John, Colm & Michael McHugh of Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. This ram was again a very high Index ram in the top 4% in the Replacement Index and top 5% in the Terminal Index. This ram had the highest accuracy evaluations in the sale, mainly due to the fact his sire PNI11051 has been used extensively in the Sheep Ireland CPT in the past, again this commercial data background proved attractive to buyers.
- ✚ There was 9 Belclare rams entered in the sale and as a result demand was strong with an average price of €545. The top price was €680 for a John Renehan ram lamb (lot 164). This lamb is in the top 1% for the Replacement Index and top 5% for Terminal. The ram also had a very good 'Days to Slaughter' Index of -5.454 days (top 4%).
- ✚ Gordon and Yvonne Johnston of Tyrrellspass, Co. Westmeath entered the only Vendeen rams in the sale. The rams averaged €433 with a top price of €460. All three rams had good levels of accuracy%.
- ✚ The final breed to pass through the ring was Suffolk. Demand was strong which resulted in another good average price of €550. Top Suffolk price and the top overall sale price of €1000 was paid to John Hanly for a ram lamb (lot 182). This was a very strong lamb which is ranked in the top 1% for Replacement and top 2% for Terminal. Eamonn Duffy of Kells, Co. Meath sold three ram lambs to an average of €720. Another noticeable lot in the Suffolk section was lot 211 from Arthur & Patrick O'Keeffe. This lamb was a son of DND09045 (Rookery Classic), a sire used in the Sheep Ireland CPT to sire commercial lambs in 2014. This ram lamb had an excellent 'Days to Slaughter' figure of -9.5 days, ranking him in the top 1% of the Suffolk breed and the highest Days to Slaughter figure in the sale.
- ✚ While there was some good prices paid for exceptional rams on the day, there was also plenty of lower priced, very high index rams available to farmers. The lower priced rams were as follows, Charollais ram sold at €370, Texel at €300, Belclare at €400, Vendeen at €400 and a Suffolk €350. Our message to farmers and breeders is that this is a ram sale aimed at commercial farmers and reasonable prices with high Index rams for all budgets available. It was clear on sale day that where quality rams were presented with good stars, farmers were willing to bid. *See some images from the day below.*

Teagasc STAP event in Carnew mart – Mon 25th August

- ✚ Sheep Ireland was invited to speak at this STAP event organised by Teagasc last Monday. This was a great event, which took place in the excellent facilities of Carnew mart. Feedback from farmers after the event was very positive in relation to the EuroStars and it was evident from the questions being asked that the level of understanding around the Indices continues to make rapid progress.



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, 20-AUG-2014 To 29-AUG-2014

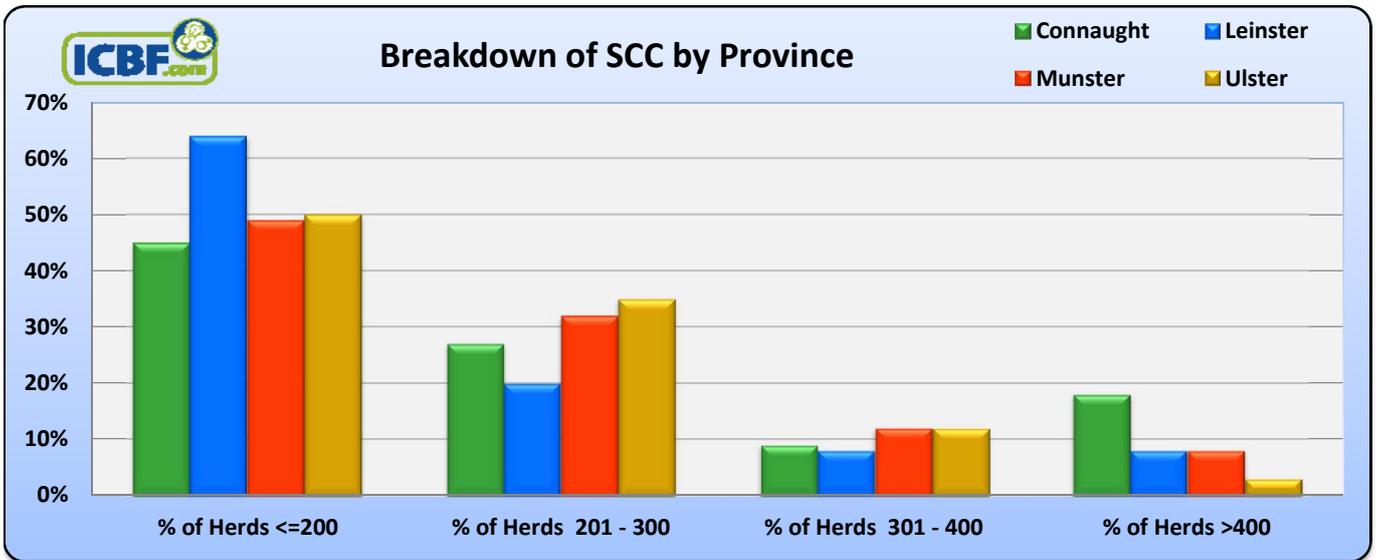
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	22	1,305	59	22.8	3.80	3.53	1.66	223
Leinster	163	13,681	84	20.6	4.04	3.56	1.56	175
Munster	534	44,153	83	20.3	4.02	3.61	1.54	201
Ulster	34	2,223	65	22.8	3.89	3.44	1.66	184
National Statistics	753	61,362	81	20.5	4.01	3.59	1.55	195

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 20-AUG-2014 To 29-AUG-2014

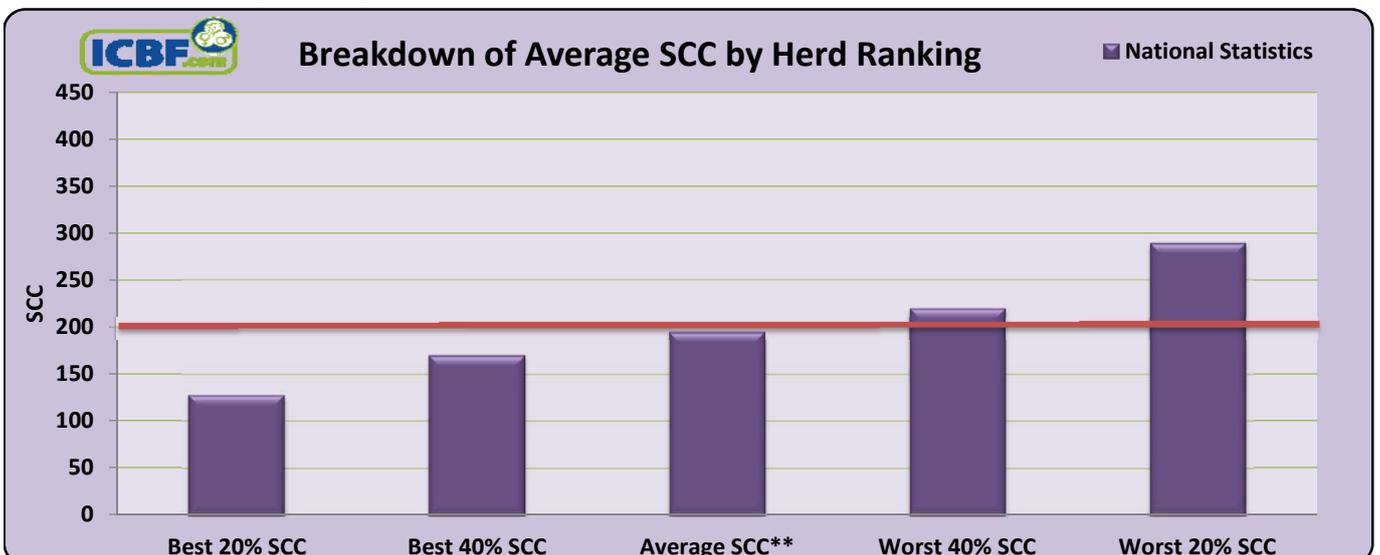
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	22	1,305	59	45%	27%	9%	18%	223
Leinster	163	13,681	84	64%	20%	8%	8%	175
Munster	534	44,153	83	49%	32%	12%	8%	201
Ulster	34	2,223	65	50%	35%	12%	3%	184
National Statistics	753	61,362	81	52%	29%	11%	8%	195

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 20-AUG-2014 To 29-AUG-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	22	1,305	59	146	192	211	243	376
Leinster	163	13,681	84	110	150	169	192	260
Munster	534	44,153	83	131	178	204	226	299
Ulster	34	2,223	65	125	180	201	223	266
National Statistics	753	61,362	81	128	170	195	220	289

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)





Teagasc/Irish Farmers Journal BETTER Farm Beef Walks

Thurs, 4th Sept
James Madigan,
Derrynahinch,
Ballyhale,
Co. Kilkenny

Wed, 10th Sept
Chris McCarthy,
Martinstown,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath

Thurs, 11th Sept
Ger Dineen,
Kilnamartyra,
Macroom,
Co. Cork

Tues, 16th Sept
David Mitchell,
Shantonagh,
Castleblayney,
Co. Monaghan

Teagasc and the Irish Farmers Journal will hold a number of BETTER Farm Beef Walks throughout the month of September.

These farm walks will provide an opportunity to see research results and new practices in operation and the financial impact of adopting of these practices and recommendations will be presented.

Topics to be covered will include:

- Finishing Systems
- Weanling Systems
- Autumn Grassland Management
- Animal Performance
- Breeding & Fertility
- Winter Feed Requirements



Experts from Teagasc, Irish Farmers Journal, Bord Bia, ICBF and other stakeholders will be present for questions.

All events are BTAP approved | Tours at 2pm & 6pm

A Teagasc/Irish Farmers Journal initiative supported by industry sponsors:

