

## ICBF Weekly Update 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015

### 1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 10:00 to 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 10:30 to 13:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 14:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

### 2 ICBF Board Meeting

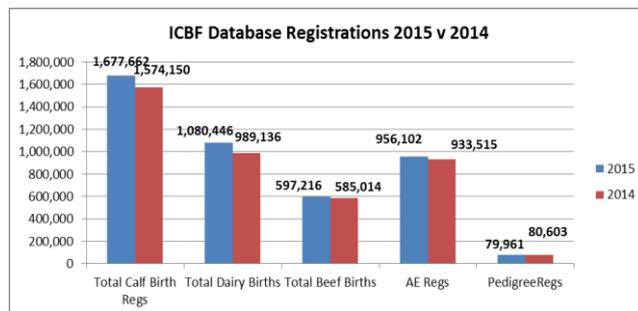
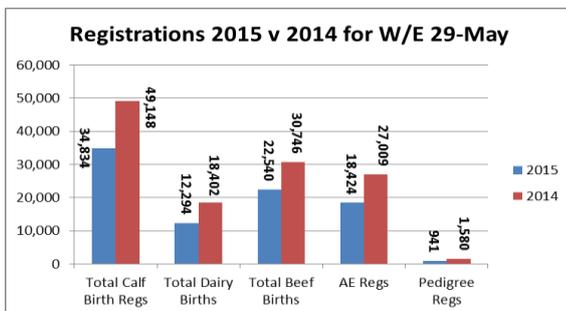
Topics covered at the ICBF Board meeting on Thursday this week included:

- ✚ A discussion around the latest developments in relation to the Beef Genomics and Data Programme.
- ✚ An update on the discussions of the Euro-Star review group.
- ✚ A decision on the beginning of independent on-farm validation of the milk recording service by ICBF, in conjunction with the Milk Recording Service providers.
- ✚ A briefing on the Test Day Model for milk production evaluations. We will be submitting to another test run in September and will make a decision on implementation after that.
- ✚ An update on the strategic priorities for ICBF.

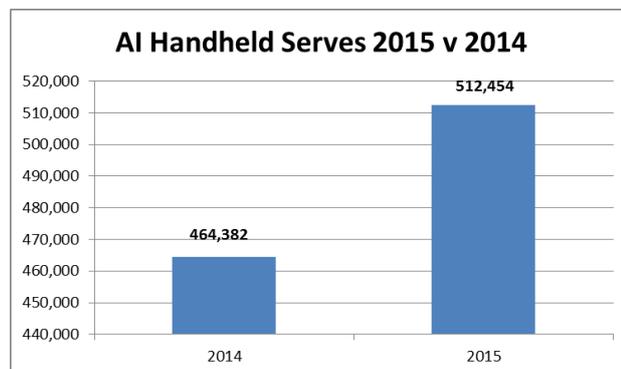
### 3 ICBF AGM – 28<sup>th</sup> May

- ✚ The AGM on Thursday adopted the 2014 audited accounts, and approved the appointment of Ernst and Young as auditors for 2015. A copy of the Annual Report for 2014 is available in the publications section of [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com).

### 4 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 1.75 million results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 54,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.69 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



## 5 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](http://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](http://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
1105	IE161313331105	1	23-FEB-14	27-APR-14	ZIG	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!



*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.*

#### 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.
- 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!

*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.



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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.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 week. Andrew Cromie was present on behalf of ICBF. This video can be viewed [here](#).
- The closing date has been extended to next Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

## 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.

## 6 GENE IRELAND® Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- ✚ 389 herds taking a total of 5980 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	435
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	350
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	215
HHJ	Heracles	CH	300
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	270
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	215
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	365
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	435
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	215
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	205
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	300
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	360
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	335
ETP	Curraheen Evolution P	SI	190
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	250

## 7 Genetic Evaluations

- ✚ The monthly beef mini run has commenced results of which will be updated to the database next week for animals linear scored from April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Routine sheep runs have commenced and will be run on a weekly basis until October. A note on Interbeef research work is being finalised ahead of the Interbeef Technical group meeting in Krakow on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

## 8 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 29/05/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 29/05/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 29/05/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 29/05/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 29/05/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,919	1,243	32%	330,828	112,243	34%
Progressive	2,333	951	41%	219,054	90,736	41%
Tipperary	118	47	40%	10,068	4,045	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>2,241</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>559,950</b>	<b>207,024</b>	<b>37%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 29/05/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 29/05/15	2015 vs. 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	299,274	330,828	9.5%
Progressive	211,886	219,054	3.3%
Tipperary	9,199	10,068	8.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>520,359</b>	<b>559,950</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

## 9 Sheep Ireland

### Flock data reminders

- ✚ For the past number of weeks we have been contacting breeders on an individual basis in relation to their lambing and weight data entered thus far in 2015. Of course we are looking at all aspects of the data recorded by each breeder but the main areas of attention are:
- Unaccounted for ewes – We are insisting that an event is recorded for all ewes in each flock e.g. lambed, sold, died, barren, aborted, not mated (ewe lambs only).
  - NSIS tags – All animals in a flock should have an NSIS recorded. Sheep without an NSIS will not have stars displayed on catalogues, ram search etc. this year.
  - Lamb Mortality – A certain level of lamb mortality is expected in all flocks. Lamb deaths are a critical piece of data for the Sheep Ireland evaluations.
  - Lambing difficulty – Similar to mortality a certain level of lambing difficulty occurs in all flocks regardless of breed or management.
  - Lamb birth weights – A range in lamb birth weights should be visible in all flocks regardless of breed or management.
  - Bottle reared, fostered lambs – another critical piece of information.
  - Lamb weights – 40 day weight, weaning weight etc. A weight is required for all lambs were possible.

### DQI – Date Quality Index

- ✚ The DQI is a mechanism to rate the data recorded by individual breeders involved in LambPlus. At present this DQI will only be made known to each individual flock owner and it will not be publically visible. In 2015 however it will be one of the essential criteria determining whether an individual breeders Euro-Star evaluations get published publically. Should breeders not achieve a certain level of data quality then their respective genetic evaluations will not be published. We believe that this is only fair to the breeders that go to a huge amount of effort that every piece of data is recorded in an accurate and timely fashion on their farm. It is also only fair to the commercial sheep farmer purchasing a Euro-Star ram. The DQI will provide these farmers with confidence in the fact that the ram they are purchasing has originated from a flock where the quality of data recording is at a high standard.



## Sheep 2015 official launch

On Wednesday this week, the Sheep 2015 organisation committee came together to officially launch the event. In attendance on the day was Minister of State, Tom Hayes. Many other industry representatives were present also including all main sponsors. Plans for this free event are progressing rapidly and full details of the event will be heavily promoted in all farming press in the coming weeks. The committees are still inviting exhibitors to take trade stands at the showcase which takes place on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Athenry, Co. Galway and which promises to attract huge crowds.

**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, 20-MAY-2015 To 29-MAY-2015

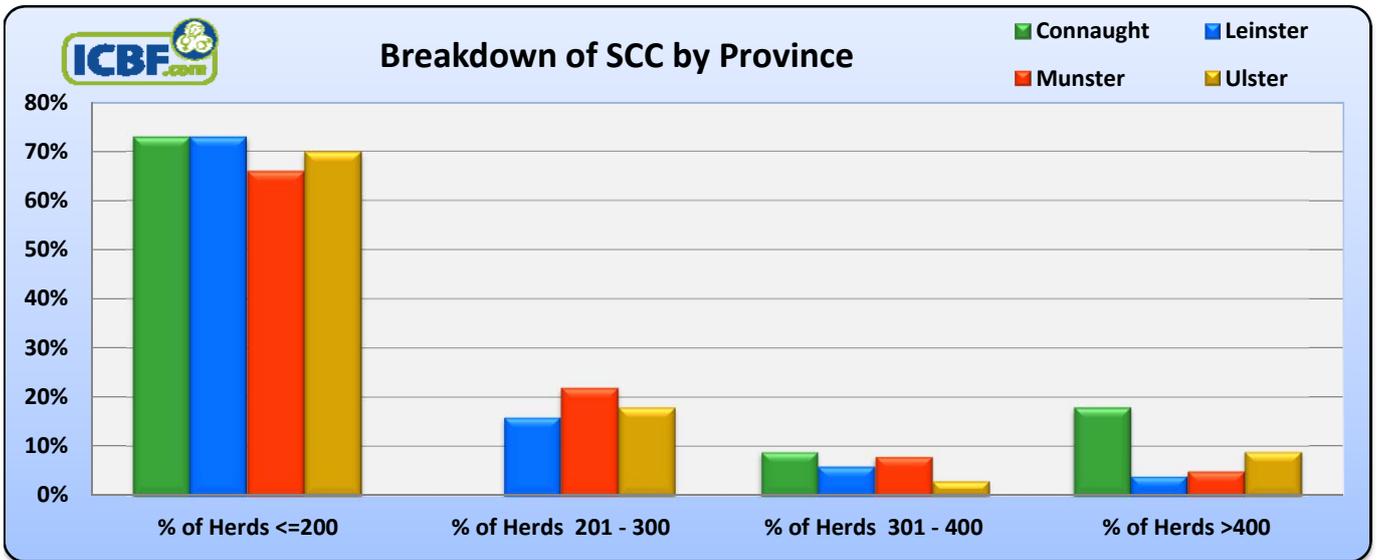
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	11	848	77	27.6	3.86	3.47	2.01	178
Leinster	173	18,052	104	26.8	3.68	3.44	1.90	145
Munster	464	39,746	86	27.8	3.78	3.45	2.01	161
Ulster	33	2,155	65	29.5	3.53	3.37	2.03	150
National Statistics	681	60,801	89	27.6	3.74	3.44	1.98	156

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 20-MAY-2015 To 29-MAY-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	11	848	77	73%	0%	9%	18%	178
Leinster	173	18,052	104	73%	16%	6%	4%	145
Munster	464	39,746	86	66%	22%	8%	5%	161
Ulster	33	2,155	65	70%	18%	3%	9%	150
National Statistics	681	60,801	89	68%	20%	7%	5%	156

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 20-MAY-2015 To 29-MAY-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	11	848	77	94	134	187	188	317
Leinster	173	18,052	104	94	126	138	162	225
Munster	464	39,746	86	100	135	153	182	257
Ulster	33	2,155	65	96	130	135	157	272
National Statistics	681	60,801	89	98	133	149	171	250

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

