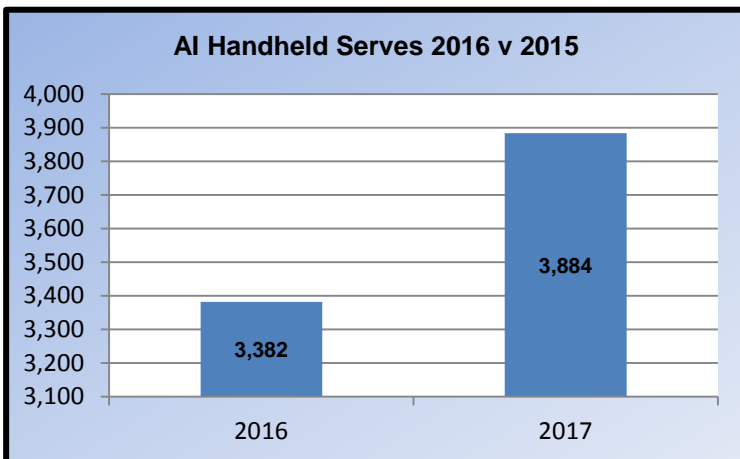
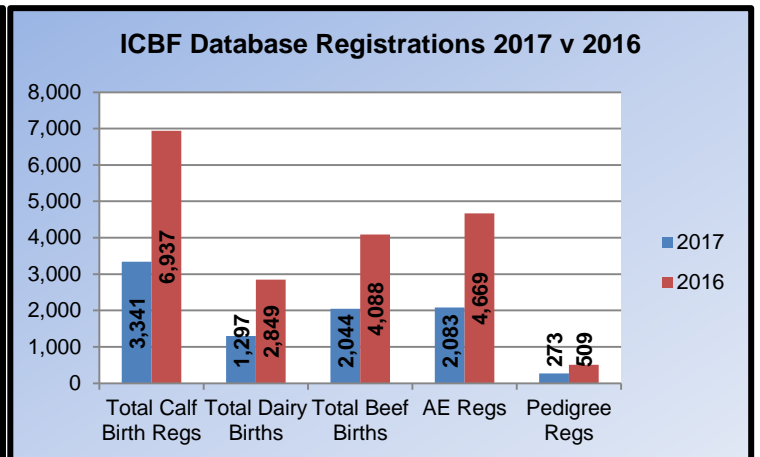
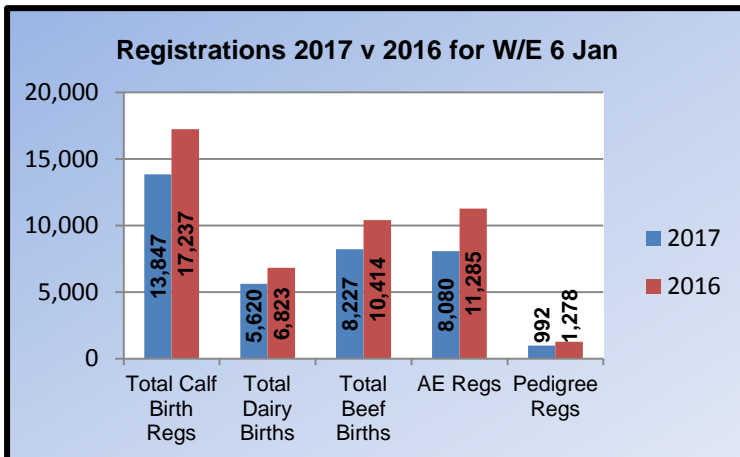


ICBF Weekly Update 6th January 2017

1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 19th January 2017 at 10:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 19th January 2017 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Dairy Research Workshop** – Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 14.00 – 17.00 Teagasc Moorepark.
(To give an update/background on the dairy breeding research that is being worked on at present.)

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 40,555 results received since January 1st, and 52,332 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012- 11,196,956 results have now been received.
- ✚ The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2017 compared with 2016.

3 2017 Begins

- ✚ Happy New Year to all our readers. As we start into 2017, it is clear that we have another very exciting year ahead of us, and a correspondingly huge amount of work to get through. This year, there will be continued focus on completing and stabilizing some of the recent projects along with ensuring that our routine operations are running smoothly.

✚ A subset includes:-

- The on-going rollout of the Beef Genomics Scheme and streamlining the wider genomics processes.
- Upgrading the Dairy Genomics process to incorporate improvements learned from the beef experience.
- Incorporate new traits in the EBI (e.g health etc)
- Roll out a new set of Major Genes/Genetic Disease reporting
- Implement the new Cow/Culling Index

- Continue to build a collaborative approach to maximising farmer engagement in the benefits of cattle breeding services, working closely with our service providers, milk and meat processors, and with Teagasc.
 - Expanding the data collection and breeding information distribution infrastructure through HerdPlus and Service Provider Apps, and also work with third party providers of apps through API's to the ICBF database.
 - Assisting AHI in the continued rollout of its national disease control programs.
- ✚ Our sheep priorities are very much moving towards growing the use of the LambPlus and helping sheep farmers to make better use of the new Euro-Star genetic evaluations for sheep.
- ✚ For both ICBF and Sheep Ireland, our priorities reflect the excellent opportunities that are created by the rapidly developing technologies in computing, genetics and statistics. We remain focused on our mission – farm profitability through improved breeding – and will continue the evolution from systems and structures developed in a different technological environment.
- ✚ We again have a very ambitious program for 2017. It builds on the breeding systems and extensive database built up over the years. We look forward to working with the wider industry and Irish farmers and delivering increased value through our services and to overcoming the unexpected challenges that will inevitably arise in 2017.

4 Genetics Evaluations

- ✚ Processing of routine genetic evaluations are almost complete.
- ✚ Proofs for all animals will be available next Tuesday 10th January.

5 Herd Plus®

- ✚ The latest bull proofs are now available to view in excel format in the 'genetic evaluations section' of our website. The 'Active Bull List', 'Animal Search' and 'Sire Advice' are still working off the August 2016 evaluations. These will be updated 10th January 2017.
- ✚ Please ensure that you record dry off dates when you have dried off your cows. Here at ICBF we don't know the difference between a Dry Cow and a cow that you plan to milk through the winter! That's why you need to tell us. Farmers that don't record dry offs do not receive an accurate Annual Report for their herd or valid lactations for their animals that have paid for.
- ✚ Herd-owners can now genotype all their female calves which will allow them to make a more informed decision around breeding and culling potential replacements. This service could cost herd-owners as little as €22/head. Please contact HerdPlus on **1850 600 900** or **023 8820452** for further details. Alternatively when logged into HerdPlus, herd-owners can make orders online by selecting:-
 - 'Services' > 'Genomic Services' > 'Place Order'
- ✚ The HerdPlus End of Season Fertility Reports are now available to view online on herd-owners HerdPlus accounts.

6 Sheep Ireland

Happy New Year

- ✚ Happy new year to all readers of this weekly update. We look forward to the coming year and will aim to continue the development of the Euro-Star evaluations in association with our LambPlus breeders and other industry partners for the benefit of all sheep farmers.

Lambing Season 2016

- ✚ Most LambPlus breeders are currently in the middle of lambing. We would encourage all breeders to get their lambing data loaded onto the website as quickly as possible to guarantee maximum data recording accuracy and in doing so, maximise their DQI. Prompt recording of lambing ensures any data issues

such as misread ewe/lamb tags can be resolved very easily given that it is still only shortly after the event. Once ewes and lambs hit the fields in large groups, resolving data issues become much more difficult.

- ✚ All breeders should have received their lambing notebooks by now and these will be extremely useful at this busy time. It is critical that all LambPlus breeders know what information needs to be recorded at each lambing. This information can be found in the front of the lambing notebook, on our website or in the Sheep Ireland guide and breeder directory which was posted to all LambPlus breeders and can also be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

- ✚ The most common traits that breeders forget to record are:-

- Dead lambs & their weights
- Fostering information
- Pet lambs / Bottle reared
- Ewes that aborted or Barren
- Variation in Lambing Difficulty



National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 28-DEC-2016 To 06-JAN-2017

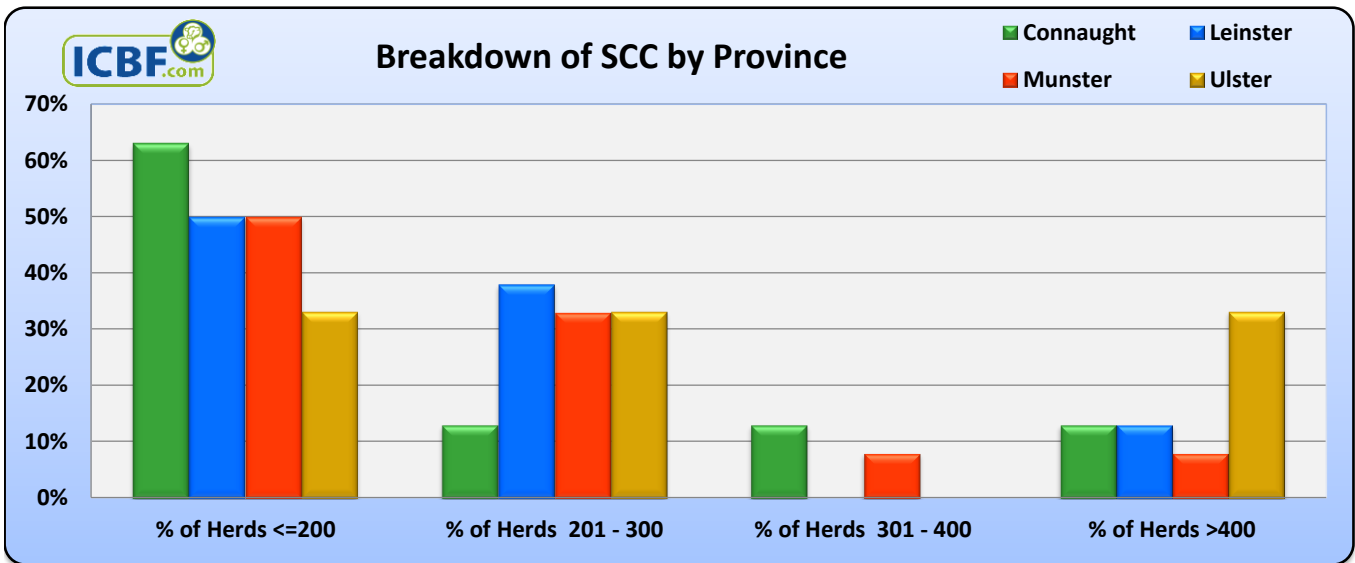
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	8	422	53	23.7	4.25	3.20	1.76	182
Leinster	8	637	80	21.9	4.37	3.46	1.69	154
Munster	12	580	48	18.9	4.42	3.34	1.44	169
Ulster	3	182	61	18.4	4.59	3.55	1.48	237
National Statistics	31	1,821	59	20.9	4.38	3.36	1.59	174

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 28-DEC-2016 To 06-JAN-2017

ICBF.com	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	8	422	53	63%	13%	13%	13%	182
Leinster	8	637	80	50%	38%	0%	13%	154
Munster	12	580	48	50%	33%	8%	8%	169
Ulster	3	182	61	33%	33%	0%	33%	237
National Statistics	31	1,821	59	52%	29%	6%	13%	174

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 28-DEC-2016 To 06-JAN-2017								
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	8	422	53	120	146	151	178	302
Leinster	8	637	80	83	147	183	210	237
Munster	12	580	48	105	151	202	210	253
Ulster	3	182	61	153	194	214	282	419
National Statistics	31	1,821	59	105	148	194	210	272

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

