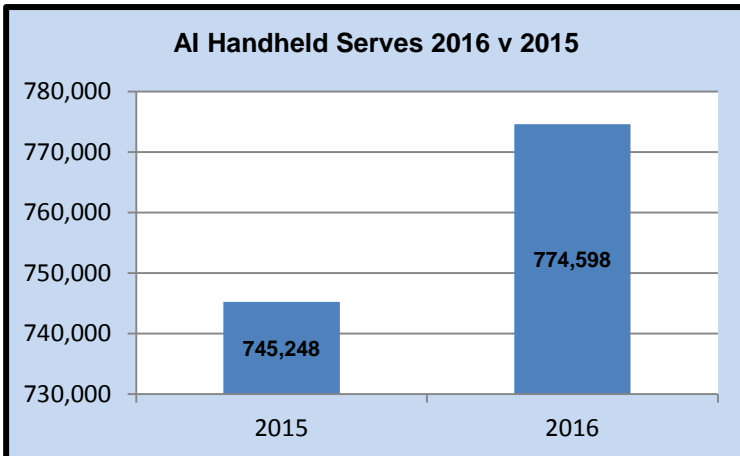
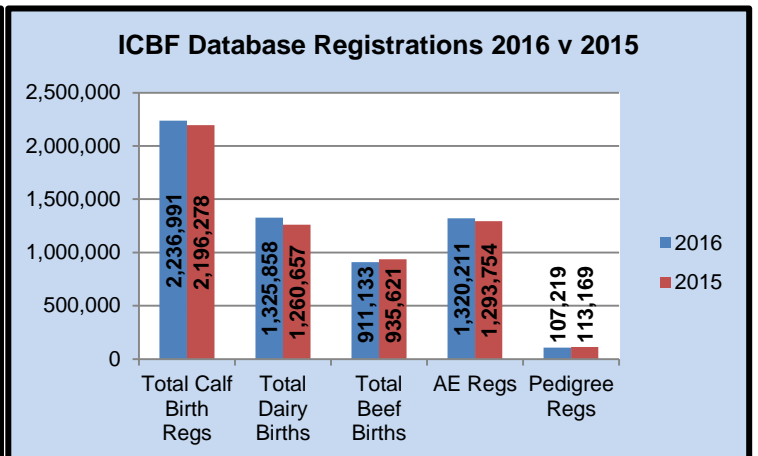
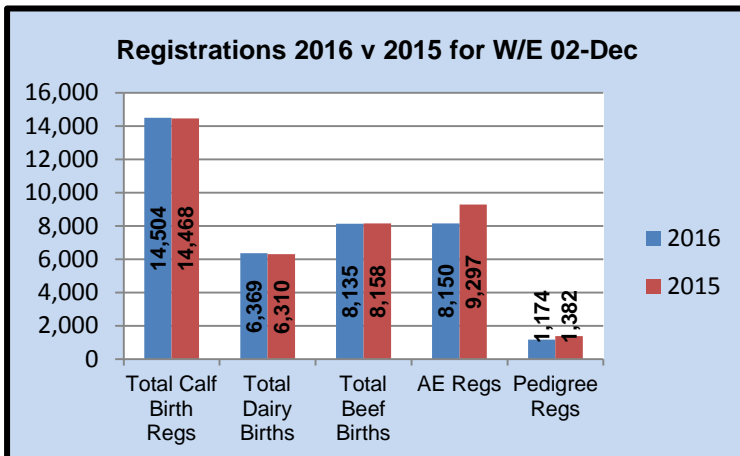


## ICBF Weekly Update 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

### 1 Important Dates

- Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 at 09:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 at 11:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 14:00, 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 2,323,758 results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 14,300 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 9,484,362 results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2016 compared with 2015.

### 3 Beef Data and Genomics Program

- Survey Data:** Survey data should be recorded online ([www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com), [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) or via farm software) or on paper survey forms posted to participants. Remember additional data (docility, quality, scour and pneumonia) must be recorded for calves when they reach 5 months of age.
- DNA Samples:** Participants must return DNA samples (tissue tag or hair card) for 60% of their reference number. For replacement of DNA samples for animals sold or dead please contact **1850 625 626**.

### 4 Herd Plus®

- HerdPlus Dairy Pocket Notebooks are currently being generated and will be arriving on farms over the coming weeks.

- ✚ The ICBF animal search is now available in app format on apple's app store. You can download this app by searching for 'ICBF Animal Search'.
- ✚ The Tully Progeny Test Centre is to feature in RTE's "10 Things to Know About..." airing on next Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December on RTE One at 8.30pm. This program will cover all there is to know about "Steak". This will give a good insight into the work ICBF is doing at Tully in relation to meat eating quality for consumers.
- ✚ 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 they 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'

## 5 GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> Beef

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Gene Ireland Beef programme.
- ✚ 168 herds taking a total of 2435 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 14 straws per herd.
- ✚ A new Charolais bull CH4082 has been added to the panel this week
- ✚ Details on the available bulls can be viewed [here](#)
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **023 8820452**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed in the graph.

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Replacement Index	Straws
AU2365	Calverstown Koala	AU	€151	450
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	€128	495
HE2359	Arlinstown Special 13th	HE	€123	210
SH2360	Doon Giorgio	SH	€123	335
SA2366	Carrentubber Pinocchio	SA	€120	180
AA4086	Marianhill L Papa	AA	€107	20
CH4082	Firoda Jason	CH	€106	0
BA2357	Terelton Isaac	BA	€102	230
PT2356	Macgowan Herd Juno	PT	€98	240
CH4068	Glenville Jasper	CH	€93	450
SI2367	Barnattin George 2	SI	€92	240
CH2363	Dolland Jefferson	CH	€83	365

## 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 02/12/16						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 02/12/16	No. EDIY Herds YTD 02/12/16	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 02/12/16	No. EDIY Cows YTD 02/12/16	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,741	1,156	31%	367,508	124,042	34%
Progressive	2,339	956	41%	259,000	105,569	41%
Tipperary	118	54	46%	11,588	5,088	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,198</b>	<b>2,166</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>638,096</b>	<b>234,699</b>	<b>37%</b>

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15-02/12/15	YTD 2016 Cows Recorded 01/01/16-02/12/16	2016 vs 2015 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	369,096	367,508	-0.4%
Progressive	263,065	259,000	-1.5%
Tipperary	11,909	11,588	-2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>644,070</b>	<b>638,096</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>

## 7 Sheep Ireland

### LambPlus Sign-Ups 2017

- The LambPlus sign-up deadline passed yesterday (Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December). The number of breeders that have signed up for the 2017 season looks to be on a par with last year's figures which is encouraging. Final figures are not yet available as we are still processing a large number of forms. A full summary will be included in next week's update.

### Breed society AGMs

- Sheep Ireland have presented at a number of AGMs so far this year and we would like to express our willingness to attend any breed societies meetings in the coming weeks and months. One area which we know many breed societies could benefit is from using the flockbook management system/web screens which we have developed over the past number of years. This system provides Irish sheep breed societies with a state of art system which allows society administrators and members to operate society tasks extremely efficiently. For a summary of what this system has to offer and the costs associated with it, just click [here](#).

### Are the Euro-Stars working for pedigree ram breeders?

- Each year Sheep Ireland publishes validation data which has consistently illustrated significant differences between the performance of high and low index sheep. This validation data is updated annually to include the latest year's performance data. Up to now our validation has been based on data coming from commercial sheep flocks, with the objective of connecting with other Irish commercial sheep farmers.
- In recent days we have been engaging with some of the pedigree ram breeders participating in the LambPlus programme to assess what impact the Euro-Stars are having within their own flocks. We hope to put together a number of case studies throughout the year looking at topics that are relevant to the particular time. Our first one looks at pregnancy scanning results.

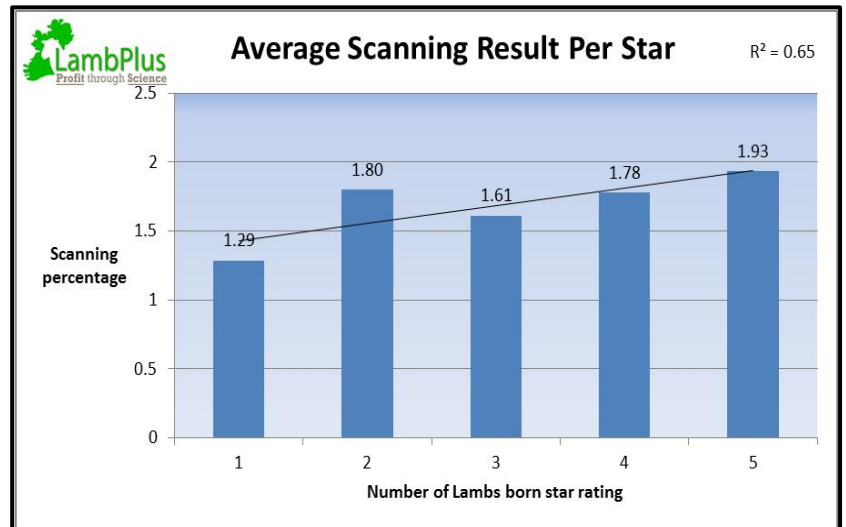
### Case Study: Jim and Frampton Jeffery, Midleton, Co. Cork - Bawnard Flock

- Jim and Frampton Jeffery run a flock of pedigree Charollais, Suffolk and Texel ewes. The flock has been performance recording with Sheep Ireland since 2014 and since then has started to build up a bank of information on the bloodlines within the flock. This data has been recorded by both Jim and Frampton as well as during flock visits by Sheep Ireland.

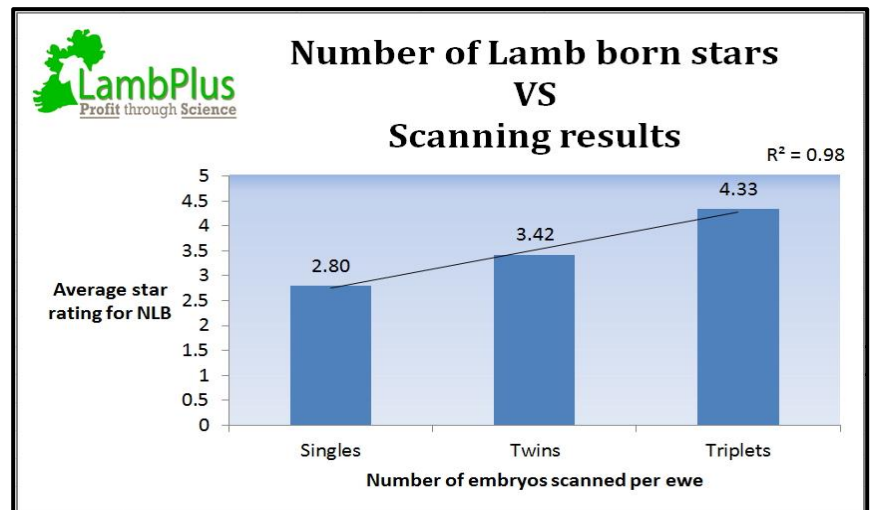


*OVIGEN flock visit by Sheep Ireland on the Jeffery farm 2015*

For the purpose of this case study we are going to look at the pregnancy scanning results for the January lambing Charollais flock which comprises of 61 breeding ewes. In this chart we have divided the ewes by their Euro-Star rating for number of lambs born (This is displayed on all Sheep Ireland sales catalogues) and then found the average scanning result for each of the groups. The difference in the ewes rated in the bottom 20% (1 Star) and the ewes rated as being in the top 20% (5 Star) of the breed for number of lambs born was 0.64 lambs per ewe. That's an extra half a lamb per ewe!!



In this chart the same data except this time we found the average star rating of each ewe for number of lambs born and then split them into groups based on their pregnancy scan result. Again the results are quite remarkable. The average star rating of ewes that scanned with one lamb was only 2.8 compared to 3.42 and 4.33 for twins and triplets respectively.



Breeder comment; “The results are quite interesting in that the higher rated ewes are also our better performing ewes within the pedigree flock. Keeping females from these ewes should improve our flock prolificacy”. From a Sheep Ireland point of view its very encouraging that the Euro-Star indexes can help breeders to identify these higher performing genetics within their individual flock.

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 23-NOV-2016 To 02-DEC-2016

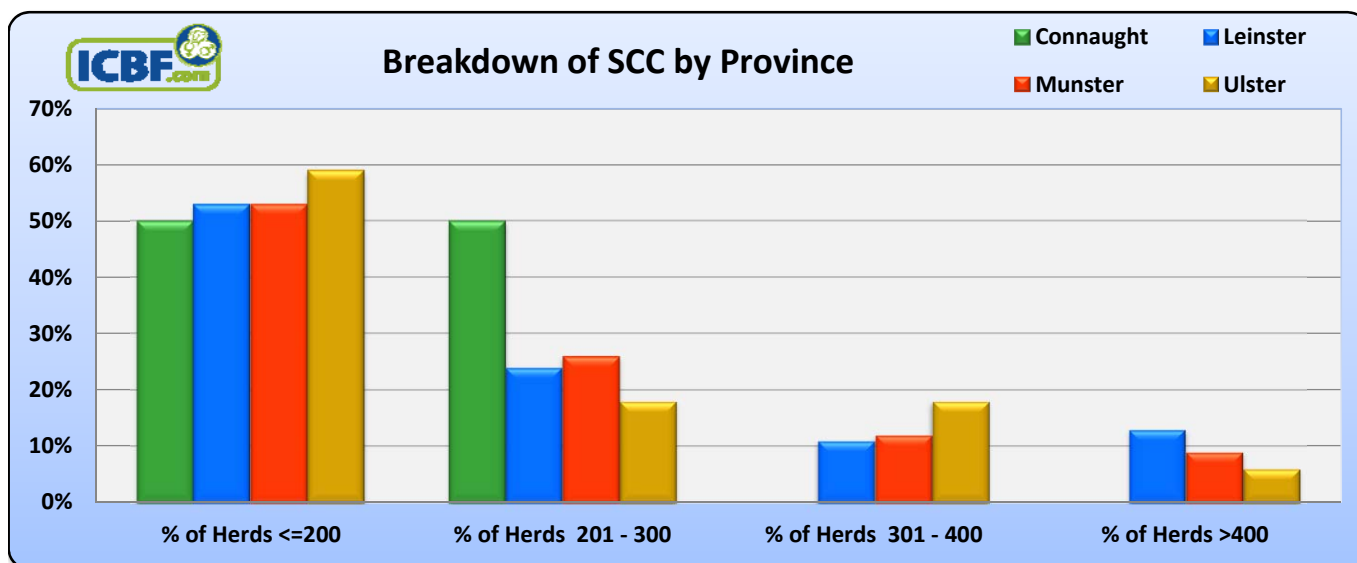
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	6	424	71	11.6	4.96	3.83	1.00	163
Leinster	72	6,459	90	17.4	4.53	3.62	1.40	204
Munster	225	16,554	74	14.5	4.72	3.83	1.23	200
Ulster	17	1,065	63	18.7	4.29	3.45	1.43	176
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>24,502</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>4.66</b>	<b>3.77</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>199</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 23-NOV-2016 To 02-DEC-2016

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	424	71	50%	50%	0%	0%	163
Leinster	72	6,459	90	53%	24%	11%	13%	204
Munster	225	16,554	74	53%	26%	12%	9%	200
Ulster	17	1,065	63	59%	18%	18%	6%	176
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>24,502</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>199</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



## % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 23-NOV-2016 To 02-DEC-2016

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	424	71	82	190	213	236	270
Leinster	72	6,459	90	131	169	193	229	324
Munster	225	16,554	74	128	170	188	223	310
Ulster	17	1,065	63	103	141	161	209	339
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>24,502</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>310</b>

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

