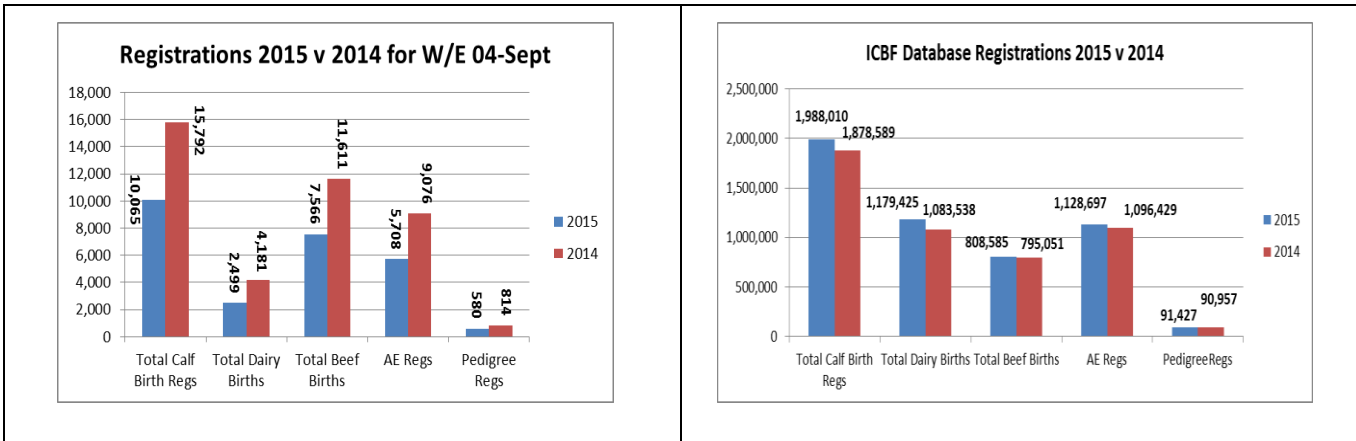


ICBF Weekly Update 4th September 2015

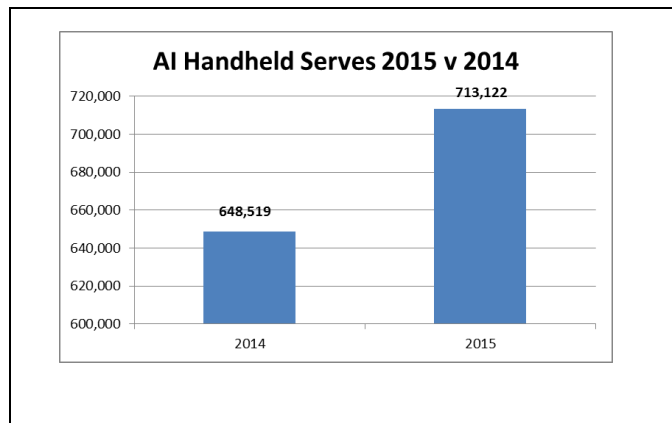
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 17th September 2015 at 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise. (*Please note change of date and venue*).
- ✚ **Audit & Finance Sub Committee Meeting** – Friday 11th September 2015 at 10:30, Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Friday 18th September 2015 at 10:30, 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 2.09 million results received since January 1st, of which 14900 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.04 million results have now been received.
- ✚ The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.



3 Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

- ✚ This week we began an 18 week BDGP series in the Irish Farmers Journal. This week's page is at the end of this update.
- ✚ The page will run for the next 18 weeks and will be dedicated to helping farmers participate in the new Beef Data and Genomics Program (BDGP) as it rolls out over the next number of months. Each week we will cover:
 - Key aspect of the new programme.
 - Profile of a participating BDGP farmer.
 - Q&A section.
 - Key dates for your diary.
- ✚ This week's article is on understanding the new BDGP report. Future articles will cover areas such as Euro-Star Indexes, replacement strategy on farms, and recording and reporting data. Each article will be available on the Irish Farmers Journal and the ICBF websites for your future reference.

- Web screens are now available on www.icbf.com to record data for calves born in 2015 as part of the BDGP scheme.
- Paper forms will be arriving on farm from next week onward.

4 Herd Plus®

Euro-Stars shine brightly at Limerick Show!

- A 'Replacement Index' class, sponsored by Munster AI, was held at Limerick show, on Sunday the 23rd August, it was the first show in Ireland to have such a class and with €1,000 prize fund it was a huge attraction. The aim of the class was to demonstrate to people that high index cattle can look exceptionally well and also have exceptional performance figures. For a full report on the class please view the news section of our website <http://www.icbf.com/?p=3838>.



The first and second prize winners being led off by John Paul McNulty and Tom Staunton

Dairy Calving Reports

- Dairy Calving Reports are now available online for all dairy HerdPlus members under the reports section of the website. Postal members received their report via post earlier this week.

Bull Search and EBI herd profiles now updated

- The August 2015 dairy evaluations are now live on the Bull Search and EBI herd profiles. HerdPlus members can view their EBI profiles by logging onto online services on www.icbf.com

YKG remains in poll position!

- The latest Dairy AI Bull evaluations are now available in our Genetic Evaluations section of our web site. This evaluation run has seen no change to the top of the list with YKG "IMLEACH LUCKY GLOSS" remaining in the poll position with an EBI of €352 (€92 for milk and €229 for fertility). GZY "GADDAGH CUDDY REEKS" remains in second position on the list with an EBI of €346 (€110 for milk and €215 for fertility). Third on the list is WLY "IMLEACH LUCKY WHISTLER" who has jumped from sixth position in the previous available bull list evaluation (April 15th).

Top 10 List of Dairy AI bulls with a progeny based calving proof (Aug, 2015)				
Rank	Code	Bull Name	EBI	Supplier
1	YKG	IMLEACH LUCKY GLOSS	€352	EUROGENE/LIC
2	GZY	GADDAGH CUDDY REEKS	€346	DOVEA
3	WLY	IMLEACH LUCKY WHISTLER	€344	EUROGENE/LIC
4	HZB	(IG) BALLYDEHOB PAT 1356	€332	NCBC
5	YKZ	BALLYMADDOCK LHZ TIMOTHY	€323	DOVEA
6	SEW	SEAROAD AWS PAMELA 1	€321	DOVEA
7	ZOL	MR NUMERO UNO ST-LOUIS-ET	€321	WORLDWIDE SIRES
8	PCZ	(IG) CONNIBAR PRINCE	€320	NCBC
9	YKA	(IG) ARDKYLE MOUNT EVERET	€319	NCBC
10	PHC	(IG) CURRIHEVERN RUDOLPH	€318	NCBC

5 Genetic Evaluations

- Official proofs for all animals were released during the week.
- Files were submitted to the Interbull test run based on the test day model method of evaluation for production traits. Results of the test run will be made available in 4 to 6 weeks at which point changes can be assessed.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 04/09/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 04/09/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 04/09/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 04/09/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 04/09/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,980	1,273	32%	363,071	125,097	34%
Progressive	2,485	1,061	43%	252,742	109,639	43%
Tipperary	125	53	42%	11,729	5,225	45%
Total	6,590	2,387	36%	627,542	239,961	38%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 04/09/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 04/09/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	327,726	363,071	10.8%
Progressive	238,487	252,742	6.0%
Tipperary	9,970	11,729	17.6%
Total	576,183	627,542	8.9%

7 Sheep Ireland

Ram Report

- A ram report has been launched for all LambPlus members. This report displays all the rams used in the flock for the previous 6 years. For these rams the following figures are provided:
 - The number of lambs assigned to the ram in your flock each year
 - The total number of lambs assigned to that sire on the database
 - The average birth weight
 - The average adjusted* 40 day weight (40 days)
 - The average adjusted* weaning weight (100 days)
 - The average adjusted* scanning weight (150 days)
 - The ADG from birth to scanning.

*weights are adjusted to 40, 100 and 150 days of age based on the closest recorded weight from that period. These adjusted weights are still based on raw data and do not take into consideration litter size, management groups etc. and therefore are only for breeders own interest.

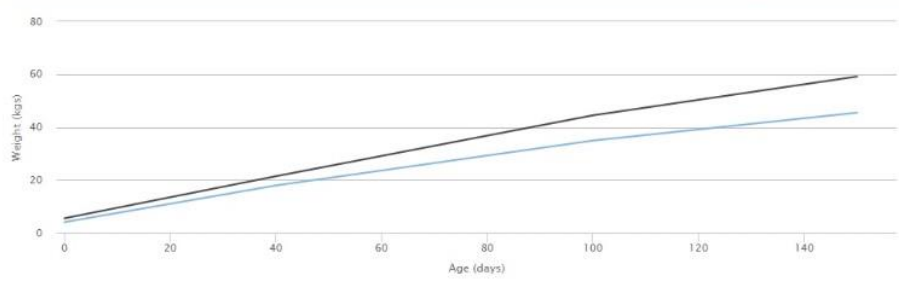
- LambPlus members can find there Ram Reports under the Reports menu at the top of the page. The first image below is an example of what the ram report looks like, and the second image is an example of the advanced look at an animal's performance across his lifetime. For more information LambPlus members can click on the Help button located on the top right of the screen.

Sheep Ireland Home Inventory Management Reports

Ram Report 2015 (Generated: 4th September 2015)

Change Year Help

This report illustrates the average weights of offspring by Ram in this flock, adjusted for age



Ram	Breed	Lambs	Avg Birth Wt	Avg 40d Wt	Avg Wean Wt	Avg Scan Wt	ADG
00601A	Charollais (100%)	16	4.06	17.93	34.91	45.48	0.28
02105C	Charollais (100%)	13	5.5	21.42	44.47	59.16	0.36
0769J	Charollais (100%)	7	4.99	19.71	37.6	51.82	0.31

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For Support: Email query@sheep.ie or telephone 1850 601 901 during business hours

Sheep Ireland Home Inventory Management Reports

Back Animal Identification Breed Weighing Ancestry History Category Ownership Pedigree **Progeny** EuroStars

02105C, Charollais (100%), 01-APR-2010, R2 (45%) T5 (45%), Male, Single

Year	Total Offspring	Dead at Birth	Avg. Lambing Diff	Avg. Birth Weight	Adj. Avg. 40 day Weight	Adj. Avg. 100 day Weight	Adj. Repl. Stars	Adj. Term. Stars
2012	5	0					2.80	4.60
2013	4	0					3.25	4.00
2014	13	2	2.92	4.69	16.89	30.66	2.62	3.85
2015	13	1	1.46	5.50	21.42	44.47	2.62	4.62
ALL	35	3	2.19	5.10	19.26	37.86	2.71	4.26

All offspring are included in the summary, only those born in your flock are included in the list of lambs.

Download

Sourcing CPT Rams

We have started calling breeders this week in order to establish a first draft list of the possible candidates to enter the CPT this year. In order for a ram to be eligible to enter the CPT he must have at least 5 Stars on the Replacement index with a good accuracy and be from a flock with a good DQI along with several other criteria. We are aiming to have a panel of 32 rams selected in the following weeks. These rams will be mated with 2,500 commercial ewes using artificial insemination over the period of 8 days, this means that all lambs are lambing down under the same conditions and it makes it easier to compare the performance of all the sires. This will result in a substantial increase in the ram's accuracy and that of his progeny also, resulting in more stable evaluations for your flock and breed.

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, 26-AUG-2015 To 04-SEP-2015

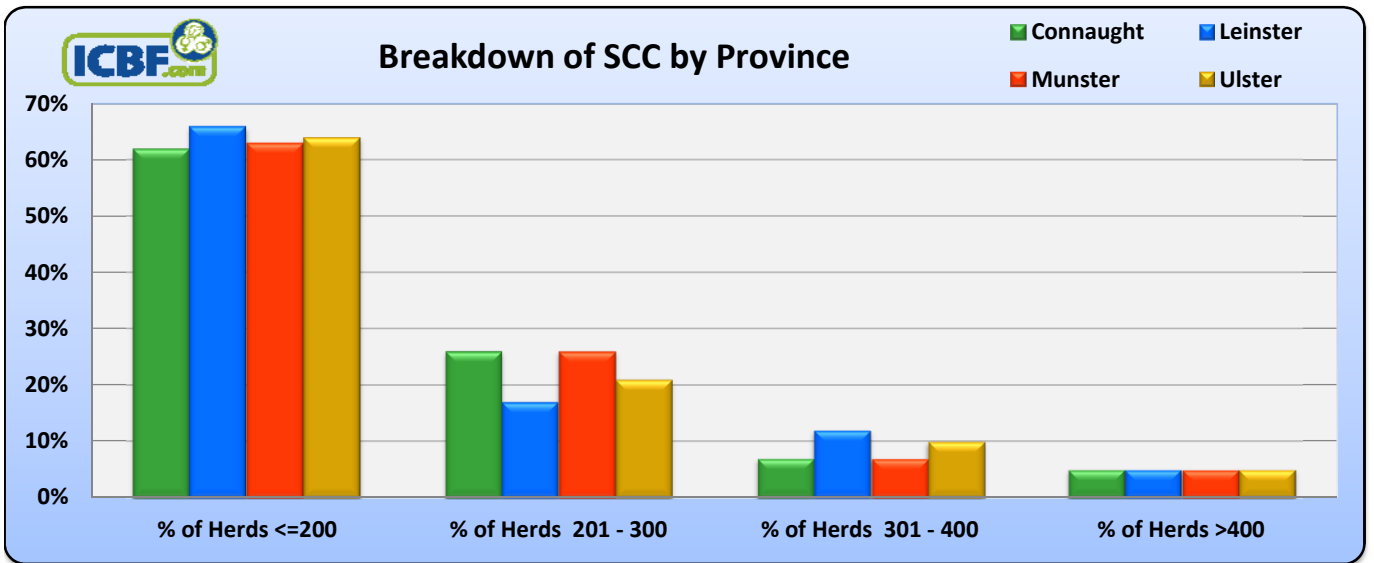
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	42	2,912	69	20.6	4.06	3.58	1.57	167
Leinster	155	14,520	94	20.2	4.11	3.63	1.56	161
Munster	733	63,212	86	20.4	4.12	3.62	1.57	174
Ulster	39	3,061	78	20.8	4.00	3.50	1.55	177
National Statistics	969	83,705	86	20.4	4.11	3.62	1.57	172

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 26-AUG-2015 To 04-SEP-2015

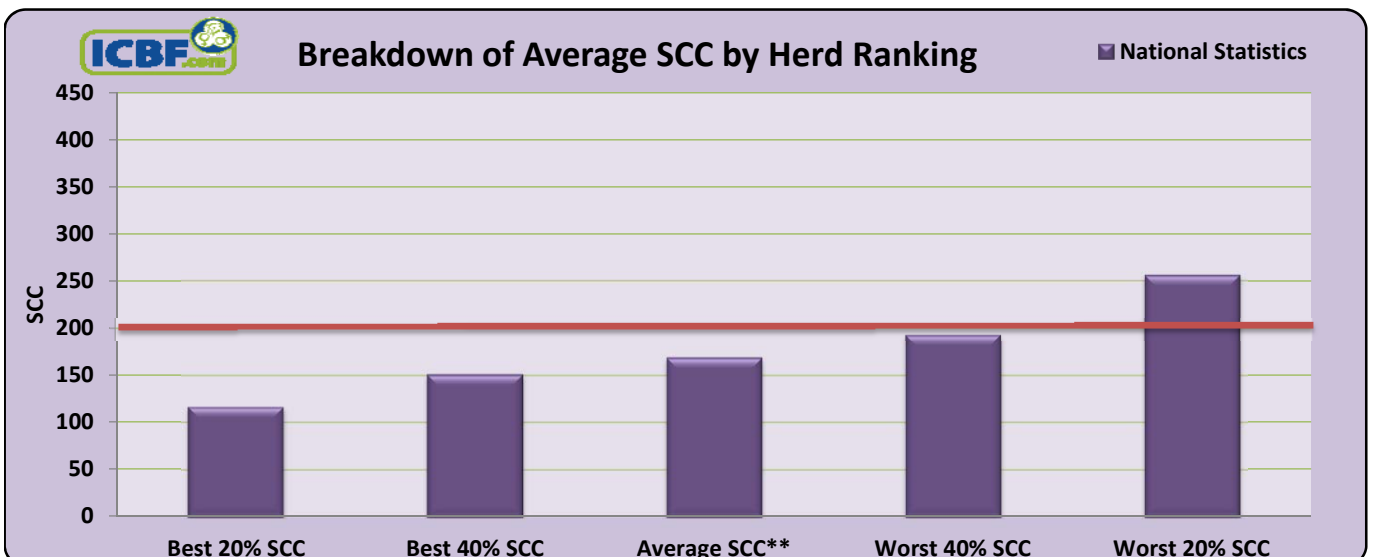
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	42	2,912	69	62%	26%	7%	5%	167
Leinster	155	14,520	94	66%	17%	12%	5%	161
Munster	733	63,212	86	63%	26%	7%	5%	174
Ulster	39	3,061	78	64%	21%	10%	5%	177
National Statistics	969	83,705	86	63%	24%	8%	5%	172

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 26-AUG-2015 To 04-SEP-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	42	2,912	69	105	153	172	190	239
Leinster	155	14,520	94	103	135	152	180	286
Munster	733	63,212	86	121	153	171	195	250
Ulster	39	3,061	78	129	153	177	192	242
National Statistics	969	83,705	86	117	151	169	193	256

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



Welcome to the new BDGP page from ICBF

New 18-week series to help farmers with BDGP

This page will run for the next 18 weeks and will be dedicated to helping farmers participate in the new Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) as it rolls out over the next number of months.

- Each week we will cover:
- A key aspect of the new programme.
 - A profile of a participating BDGP farmer.
 - A Q&A section.
 - Key dates for your diary.

This week's article is on understanding the new BDGP report. Future articles will cover areas such as Euro-Star Indexes, replacement strategy on farms, and recording and reporting data.

Each article will be available on the *Irish Farmers Journal* and the ICBF websites for your future reference. We trust you enjoy the page and that it helps you have a positive experience regarding all aspects of the BDGP.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BDGP REPORT

New BDGP reports are currently being sent to all participating farmers within the BDGP.

So, what is the objective of the report, and how can farmers use the report to start making decisions regarding future replacement strategy on their farms?

The objective of the report is simple: to give farmers a clear understanding regarding the Euro-Star status of their herd. The scheme requirement

is that 20% of females (cows and heifers > 16 months) on farms should be: (i) genotyped; and (ii) be 4 or 5 stars on the ICBF Replacement Index on 31 October 2018, with this figure increasing to 50% for 2020.

Over the next one to two years, we will be genotyping 4 and 5 star animals as a matter of priority so that farmers can quickly attain full eligibility status for their herds.

All breeding females and any breeding males are then listed on the report, so that farmers can quickly assess the Replacement Index of individual animals on their farm.

In addition to data on individual animals, the report also provides farmers with information on their number of reference cows (from DAFM), the number of 4 and 5 star animals that are required to meet replacement strategy requirements, and a breakdown of the animals on farm in relation to the age and Replacement Index status.

Having all of this information will then allow farmers make a more informed decision regarding their future replacement strategy. Is their existing strategy sufficient, or do they need to buy a new 4 or 5 star Replacement Index bull, or use some AI, or buy in more 4 and 5 star Replacement Index females?

All of these are questions which we will endeavour to answer over the coming weeks as we look to enhance your understanding of the BDGP.



Q&A

How can I find out the Euro-Star Indexes of my stock? All herds participating in the BDGP are currently receiving a report from ICBF detailing the Euro-Star Indexes of all of their stock. All participating herds will have received a report by next week. These reports are also available online by logging on to www.icbf.com.

How is a Euro-Star Index generated for an animal? When a calf is born, provided its ancestry is recorded, it receives a Euro-Star Index based on those of its parents (parent average). As data is recorded on an animal throughout its life (weights, docility, etc), its Index will start to change to reflect its own performance. The Euro-Star Indexes will be explained in more detail in the coming weeks.

Why do some of my animals not have a Euro-Star Index? The most common reason for this is a missing sire. Missing sires, where known, can be entered online at www.icbf.com.

FARMER FOCUS: BILLY & NIALL NICHOLSON

'We're making more informed decisions'

Name: Billy & Niall Nicholson, Crosshaven, Co Cork.
Farming system: Suckler to beef.
BDGP cow reference No: 94
4 or 5 star females: 79 cows; 76 heifers
Stock bull or AI: All stock bulls: Two Charolais; two Limousin and one Simmental.
Replacement strategy: Breeding own replacements.

Why did you join the scheme? Obviously the financial support is significant for a herd of this size, but aside from the money, we feel that genomics will help to better equip us to make more informed breeding decisions and identify our best stock.
Do you feel it will deliver for the national suckler herd? The Indexes are based around key profit traits for commercial farming and what we're looking for here is a cow that will deliver these traits. Our cows must have milk, be fertile, have good calving ability and be docile. So yes, I feel the BDGP will deliver.
How did you find the BDGP Euro-Star report? We found it very straightforward and easy



One of Billy and Niall's best cows. Born in February 2008, this Simmental cross cow has a Replacement Index of €142 (5 stars). She calved for the first time at 23 months and has had six calves with an average calving interval of 369 days. Her current calf is achieving an ADG of 1.48kg.

to understand. The layout is very good.
What replacement strategy do you plan to implement in light of the scheme? We have been keeping replacements from high Replacement Index Simmental bulls and plan to continue this practice. Some of our best cows are sired by a Simmental stock bull called Lisnacran Sergeant. Sired by Hurtig and from a Hillcrest Champion cow, he has a Replacement Index of €124 (5

stars). We plan to sell surplus heifers as replacements.
When sourcing stock bulls do you take the Euro-Star Indexes into account? Big time. We try to get the catalogues for sales beforehand and mark out some potential bulls based on their Indexes. On the day of the sale we assess the bulls and narrow the selection even further. Some bulls may go outside of our budget, but we always get a bull that we are happy with.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Tuesday 1 September:** Screens available on www.icbf.com to record BDGP data.
- Wednesday 2 September:** Dispatch of forms for recording farmer survey data.
- Friday 4 September:** All BDGP Euro-Star reports posted.
- Monday 7 September:** Dispatch of the first batch of genotyping tags.
- Thursday 10 September @ 2pm:** Teagasc/ICBF, BDGP & Euro-Stars Information Open Day, Billy & Niall Nicholson's farm, Crosshaven, Co Cork.