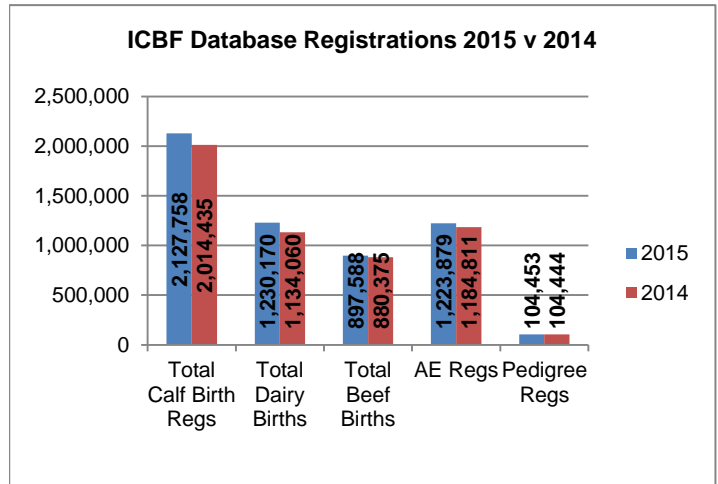
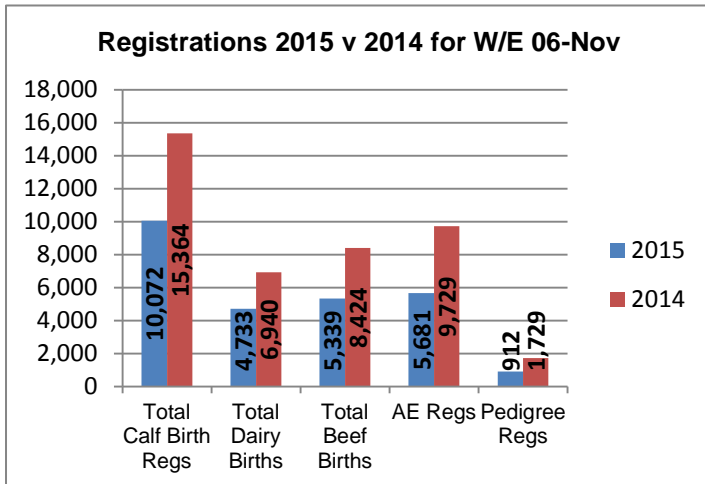


## ICBF Weekly Update 6th November 2015

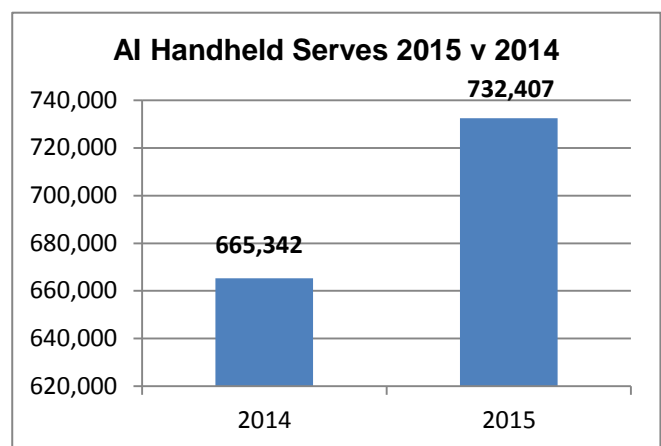
### 1 Important Dates

- Audit & Finance Meeting** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 10:30, Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 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 2.27 million results received since January 1<sup>st</sup>, of which 20,091 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 7.21 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's Irish Farmers Journal page is at the end of this update. The title of this week's article is "A guide to buying in replacements".

### 4 GENE IRELAND<sup>®</sup> Dairy

**Autumn programme is sold out for these 4 bulls.**

FR2114  
FR2130  
FR2060  
THM

- 533 straws of each bull were dispatched amongst 75 herds. Straw allocations are complete and bull details, inbreeding reports and breeding charts have been posted to all herds.

## 5 GENE IRELAND® Beef

### Autumn 2015 Beef programme

- ✚ Sign Ups are continuing for the Autumn 2015 Beef programme.
- ✚ 185 herds taking a total of 3417 straws have joined so far.
- ✚ The average order is 18 straws per herd.
- ✚ The Limousin bull LM2150 reached the 500 straw target this week.
- ✚ The catalogue is available to view at the link below.
- ✚ [http://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/gi\\_beef\\_autumn\\_2015\\_catalogue](http://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/gi_beef_autumn_2015_catalogue)
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- ✚ Approximate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed below.

### List of Bulls Currently On-Test

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Straws Ordered
AA2064	Carrigroe Kian	AA	280
AA2163	Liss Brendan	AA	115
AU2155	Slanemill Jack	AU	230
CH2159	Bondi Jacob	CH	135
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	315
CH2154	Polar Joe 2	CH	55
HE2148	Ballyville Hamlet	HE	160
LM2156	Clonark Jumbo	LM	325
LM2151	Ballygarvan Stud Ike	LM	180
LM2116	Tomschoice Ironstone	LM	170
OEO	Ivoire	LM	80
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	315
PI2157	Kilree Leo	PI	90
SA2153	Highfield Odran	SA	215
SH2181	Coolvin Dominator	SH	10
SI2152	Curaheen Earp	SI	355
SI2158	Seepa Fionn	SI	230
KJG	Knockane Dag	SI	480
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	255

## 6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 06/11/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 06/11/15	No. EDIY Herds YTD 06/11/15	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 06/11/15	No. EDIY Cows YTD 06/11/15	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,989	1,276	32%	367,112	126,217	34%
Progressive	2,507	1,075	43%	259,365	112,108	43%
Tipperary	126	53	42%	11,864	5,277	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>638,341</b>	<b>243,602</b>	<b>38%</b>

### Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison

Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 06/11/14	YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 06/11/15	2015 vs 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	334,721	367,112	9.7%
Progressive	243,457	259,365	6.5%
Tipperary	10,393	11,864	14.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>588,571</b>	<b>638,341</b>	<b>8.5%</b>

## 7 Sheep Ireland

### CPT mating 2015

- Early next week all breeders that submitted rams for use in the 2015 Central Progeny Test will receive reports on how their ram performed during AI - how many farms they were used on, how many ewes were mated using their semen, how they jumped etc. Each year we attempt to freeze 25 doses of semen for each breeder submitting a ram and details of this frozen semen will be included in the letters.

### CPT Ram summary

- The majority of rams that entered the programme were used to AI ewes. Similar to previous CPT AI campaigns there was a number of rams that we were unable to use for different reasons - the main two being a refusal to jump to provide semen and poor semen quality. All rams had successfully mated ewes in 2015 in their respective breeders flocks, but unfortunately this does not guarantee that semen quality will be suitable for fresh semen AI and/or freezing. From the 31 rams that entered the programme this year, just 3 rams could not be used to mate CPT ewes. This was expected in advance of assembling our ram list so extra rams were available as cover for this occurrence.

### CPT ewes at AI

- In total just over 2300 ewes have been AI'd. Each year there are a number of ewes that are not suitable to be AI'd on a particular day for a number of reasons, some of the most common being issues with the ewes ovaries, ewes not in heat (due to sponge loss during the 12 day period between sponge insertion and sponge removal), ewes not in heat due to problems removing the sponge - which happens in a very small number of cases, requiring veterinary assistance to remove the sponge. We also find a small number of cases of mastitis annually, these are very easy to find once ewes are placed into the AI cradles. All the above cases accounted for 14 ewes not being AI'd over the course of the 8 days of AI - 0.6% of ewes all sponged, which is very low.

### CPT Ram usage

- In total 28 rams were used to AI 2300 ewes which means an average ewe to ram ratio of 82. Not all rams mated this number of ewes however. Our aim is to mate each CPT ram with 100 ewes but there are a number of exceptions to this rule. The main one being the need to use 'link rams' from one year to another. These are rams which were involved in the CPT last year. We needed to use a 2014 CPT ram for each breed for this year's programme. These rams do not need to be mated with 100 ewes as a smaller number will provide us with the 'linkage' that we need. We also used two Lleyne rams in this year's programme. Our objective with the Lleyne breed is not the same as other breeds. For the main breeds we are attempting to highlight the very best maternal genetics available within each breed while also maintaining 'linkage' within the breed. The objective of using the two Lleyne rams this year was solely to help linkage only within the Lleyne breed, who as a society have been making steady progress with performance recording in recent years.

## Sheep Ireland CPT Rams 2015

Breed	Year of birth	NSIS	Pedigree ID	Name	Surname	Address
Belclare	2013	IE041064001592B	LB131592	Mary	Kelly	Co. Wicklow
Belclare	2015	IE043805802014B	PS152014	John	Rehehan	Co. Kilkenny
Belclare	2014	IE042821308121B	JR148121	PJ	O'Dea	Co. Galway
Belclare	2015	IE041064001801F	LB151801	Eoghan	Barrett	Co. Galway
Belclare (link ram)	2014	IE045979100061B	MG140061	Declan	Miley	Co. Roscommon
Charollais	2015	IE041357501947D	D8215042	Fergal	Reynolds	Co. Leitrim
Charollais	2013	IE041155601683E	A4613006	Gerald	O'Leary	Co. Clare
Charollais	2014	IE045238500601A	H1714055	Kevin	Brady	Co. Offaly
Charollais (link ram)	2014	IE042851902399E	A2814014	Richard	O'Hara	Co. Kilkenny
Charollais	2014	IE041437804372J	D3214036	Patrick	Whyte	Co. Waterford
Charollais	2014	IE041381200472A	A7814032	Fergal	Reynolds	Co. Leitrim
Charollais	2015	IE042302204132H	B7215027	Padraig	Breen	Co. Wexford
Lleyen	2015	IE045225900356G	21801500356	Nicholas	Sweetman	Co. Wexford
Lleyen	2015	IE043806702122B	1852152122	Helen	McDonald	Co. Offaly
Suffolk (link ram)	2014	IE042921601114E	HSJ1401114	Robert & Alan	Stanley	Co. Laois
Suffolk	2013	IE042117702335A	HOL13040	Paul	Morris	Co. Galway
Suffolk	2013	IE042117702305G	HOL13007	Peter & Terence	Colleran	Co. Galway
Suffolk	2015	IE045680200398C	SFW1500398	Gregory	Rossiter	Co. Wexford
Suffolk	2015	IE043662702194G	C461502194	Niall	Finnigan	Co. Galway
Texel	2014	IE043709301205G	PFI14005	Paul	Coyne	Co. Mayo
Texel	2015	IE044561202494E	PXI15004	Anne	Murphy	Co. Wexford
Texel	2012	IE043880800888B	MCE12022	John Jnr	Higgins	Co. Westmeath
Texel (link ram)	2012	IE043908703401B	JMI12012	Gerard	Delaney	Co. Laois
Texel	2015	IE043749315169B	CII15009	Anne	Murphy	Co. Wexford
Texel	2014	IE045005901701D	TWF14001	Thomas	Whelan	Co. Wexford
Texel	2015	IE044561202502C	PXI15012	Gerard	Delaney	Co. Laois
Vendeen	2014	IE041412802270G	OCQ14030	Shay	Kennedy	Co. Waterford
Vendeen (link ram)	2014	IE043537302540C	FPL14005	Neil & Ann	Ford	Co. Cavan

### Regional meeting reminder

Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Venue	Time of meeting
Wed 11/11/15	Mallow	Hibernian Hotel	07:30
Thur 12/11/15	Kilkenny	New Park Hotel	07:30
Mon 16/11/15	Ballybofey	Jacksons Hotel	07:30
Tue 17/11/15	Navan	Newgrange Hotel	07:30
Wed 18/11/15	Tuam	Ard Ri House Hotel	07:30

**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, 28-OCT-2015 To 06-NOV-2015

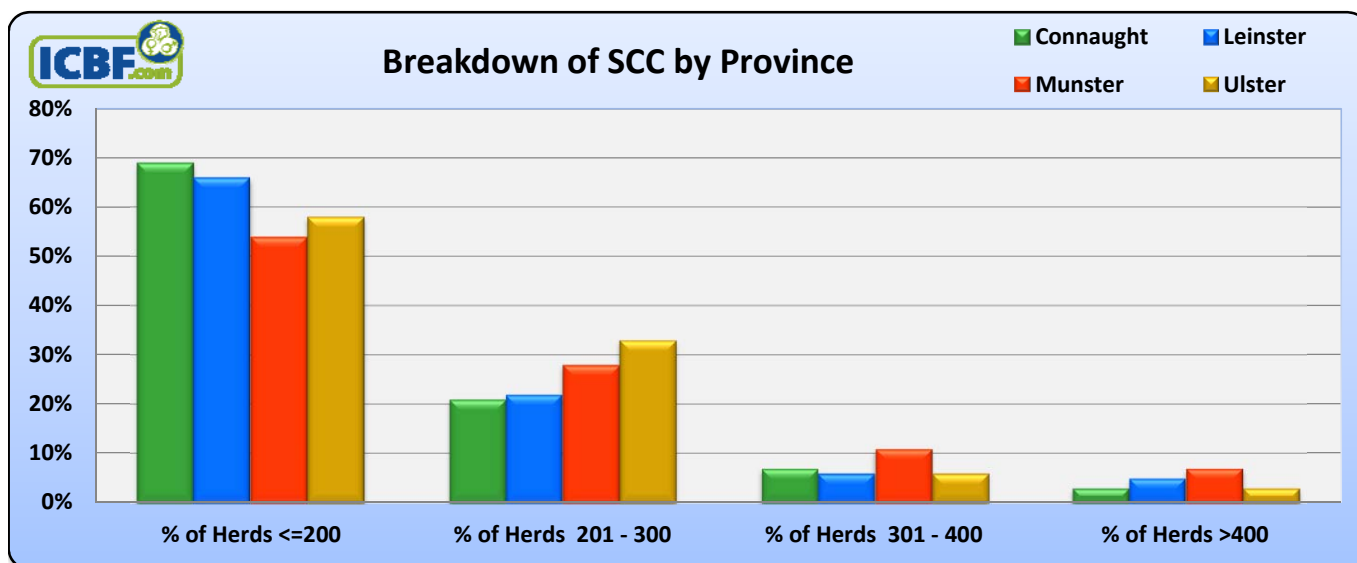
ICBF	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	29	1,615	56	16.2	4.45	3.83	1.33	172
Leinster	140	13,813	99	17.8	4.50	3.87	1.48	166
Munster	370	30,430	82	15.6	4.61	3.97	1.33	203
Ulster	33	2,764	84	17.8	4.28	3.70	1.41	186
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>48,622</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>4.55</b>	<b>3.92</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>191</b>

\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

## SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 28-OCT-2015 To 06-NOV-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	29	1,615	56	69%	21%	7%	3%	172
Leinster	140	13,813	99	66%	22%	6%	5%	166
Munster	370	30,430	82	54%	28%	11%	7%	203
Ulster	33	2,764	84	58%	33%	6%	3%	186
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>48,622</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>191</b>

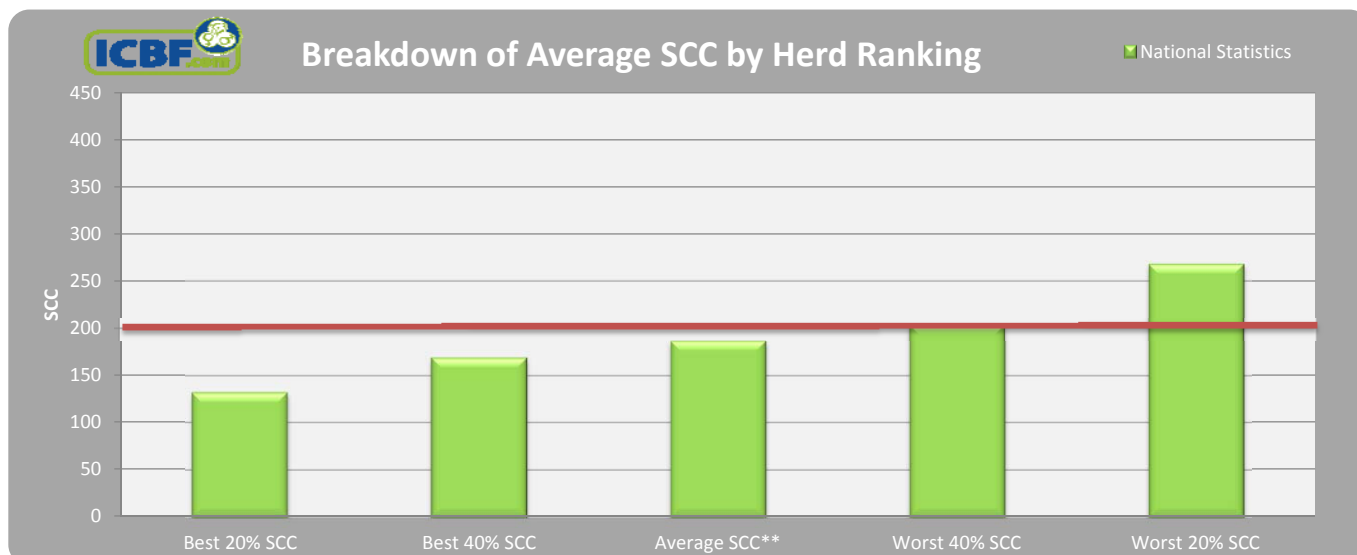
\* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



## % Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 28-OCT-2015 To 06-NOV-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	29	1,615	56	117	153	178	183	228
Leinster	140	13,813	99	114	147	167	184	228
Munster	370	30,430	82	143	177	195	212	288
Ulster	33	2,764	84	137	173	190	211	259
<b>National Statistics</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>48,622</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>268</b>

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



## A guide to buying in replacements

About 40% of the replacements entering herds involved in the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) are bought in. So what are the key considerations when purchasing suckler herd replacements and how can herd owners get access to Euro-Star data (to assist with purchasing decisions) in the future?

**Key considerations.** Given the scheme requirements, (20% four- and five-star replacement females in 2018 and 50% by 2020), the major consideration when purchasing in female replacements must be the Euro-Star replacement index of the animal in question. This is in addition to age, weight, breed and price.

On the issue of Euro-Star replacement index, the advice at this stage is to try and purchase animals that are in excess of €98 on their replacement index (ie, are five stars). The reason for this is that an animal's indexes will change over time, as more data becomes available (including the animal's genotype data). By purchasing animals that are five stars, herd owners are giving themselves some leeway, in the eventuality that the ani-

mal's index drops over time.

Another consideration is looking to purchase females from a range of sires (and preferably from a range of AI sires). By doing this, herd owners are further reducing the risk that the average index for the group of animals purchased will drop below the critical four star index cut-off (currently set at €74), regarding scheme eligibility.

**Access to Euro-Star data.**

In the short-term, the primary means of viewing this data is through the seller's BDGP report. Many herd owners are making these available prior to sale, either at marts or on the farm.

In addition, many marts and breed societies are now offering specialised replacement index sales, where the animal's replacement index is available in a sales catalogue.

Going forward, it is anticipated that this data will be made available on a routine basis through mart display boards, as well as through a dedicated "BDGP Mart Report", which will list all four- and five-star females entered for sale on a given day within the relevant mart. We expect each of these developments to be available over the coming months to herd owners.

### 65% of herds have returned tissue samples and animal surveys

While the level of return of tissue samples and survey data is very positive, DAFM is encouraging remaining herd owners to please return all material as soon as possible so as to ensure payments from December. Herd owners with any queries in relation to their scheme participation are encouraged to contact DAM or ICBF on 1850 625 626.

### Tags issued to remaining herds

Tags were generated this week for about 1,200 herds that were "on-hold" pending some final issues regarding reference numbers, BVD status and/or pedigree queries. We expect these tags to be on participating farms within the next seven to 10 days. This leaves a balance of around 300 herds that DAFM and ICBF will be working through over the next number of weeks, as we look to resolve any outstanding issues.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**12th Oct – 5th Nov:** DAFM, ICBF, Teagasc BDGP Nationwide Information meetings.

**Thur 5th Nov:** Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow



Andrew Palmer, Lifford, Co Donegal, is a new entrant to the suckler-to-beef system.

## Q&A

### Q. How can I check the indices of heifers prior to purchasing them?

If purchasing heifers privately, the seller can provide you with the index details of the animals, provided they are members of HerdPlus and/or participants in the BDGP scheme. If purchasing through the mart, there is currently no way of knowing the index details of heifers unless the seller provides them at the sale. A project is currently under way between ICBF and the marts to get screens set up to display the Euro-Star details of heifers at mart sales.

### Q. Are all beef x heifers coming from the dairy herd automatically 4 or 5 stars?

A. No, this is not the case. While these heifers receive a substantial boost in their index figures due to the milk effect of their dairy dams, it will not necessarily guarantee good fertility and these same dairy dams are also negatively impacting these heifers on their beef traits. It is also important to remember that half of an animal's genetics come from the sire, so a lot will depend on the Euro-Star index figures of the beef bull used on the dairy cow. Each heifer's individual index should be looked at before purchase.

## FARMER FOCUS: ANDREW PALMER

### Indexes in marts will be a positive development

**Name:** Andrew Palmer, Lifford, Co Donegal.  
**Farming System:** New entrant, suckler to beef.  
**BDGP Cow Reference No:** 8.  
**4 and 5 Star Females:** Cows: 4; Heifers: 16  
**Stock Bull or AI:** Stock bull.  
**Replacement Strategy:** Buy in.

#### Why did you join the BDGP?

The targets don't appear to be that difficult to meet and the financial aspect of the programme is pretty good so there was no question of not joining.

#### Do you feel it will deliver for the national suckler herd?

I think it can. There are a lot of cows out there that aren't performing up to scratch and maybe the programme will get people to take a closer look at these cows. Farmers are receiving financial support to improve the genetics in their herds which is hugely positive.

#### How do you source your replacement females?

I will probably keep buying in heifers. My first crop of heifers were drop LM x calves from the dairy herd which I reared myself. I have picked up some heifers in the mart but I had no idea at the time what their indexes were like. I was buying totally on visual appearance which is far from ideal.

**Have you been using the Euro-Star Indexes when purchasing replacement heifers to date?**  
 Not up to now. I suppose I was banking on the fact that because the heifers were out of dairy cows that they would all come up pretty high on the Euro-Star Index. Some of these have good indexes, but some do not. Having the Euro-Star information displayed in the marts will be a very



Andrew Palmer on his farm in Lifford, Donegal.

positive development when it comes. It will give farmers like me an extra tool when purchasing replacements.

#### What type of sires do you plan to use in your herd?

I plan to use a terminal sire on all of my cows and take all progeny to beef. I currently have a Charolais bull with a Terminal Index of €129 (5 stars within and across breed). He has Sesame (SXS) and Hermes (HME) in his back pedigree. I used a high Replacement Index Limousin bull by Ronick Hawk (RKH) on maiden heifers. I may keep some heifer calves as replacements.