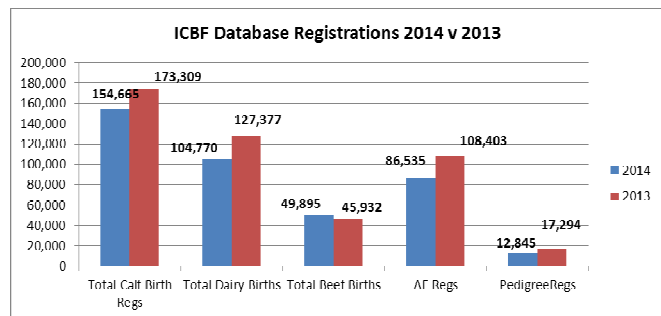
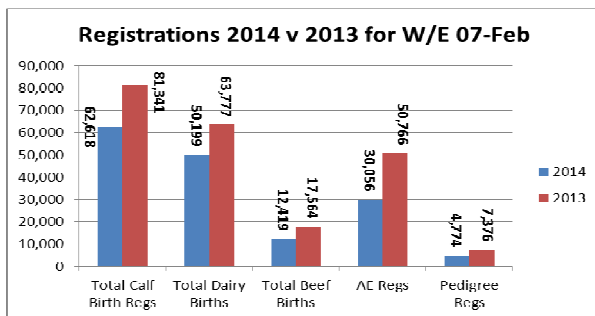


ICBF Weekly Update 7th February 2014

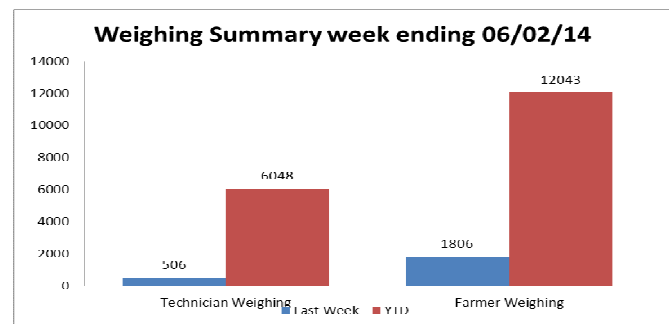
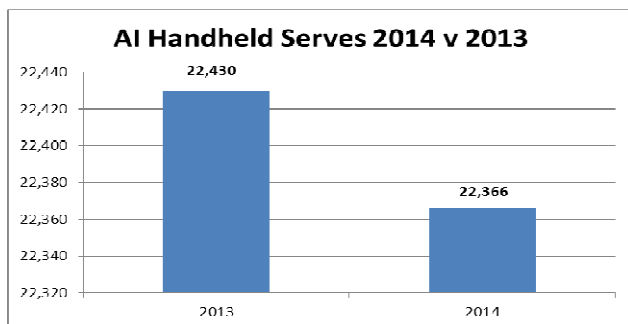
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting** – Thursday 13th March, 10:00 to 13:30, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 10:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 27th March 2014, 14:00 to 17:00, 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 157,000 results received since January 1st, of which 47,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.82 million results have now been received.
- The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2014.
- This week there were 506 weights received through the technician service and 1806 weights recorded by farmers.
- The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Herd Plus®

- EBI and Dairy Cow reports are continuing to be packed and posted to all dairy HerdPlus farmers.
- The Herd Health Recording pilot project survey has received an excellent response by farmers. Farmers to be involved in the project will receive on farm recording packs next week. All Herd-owners will have the facility from March 1st to record animal health and disease events online. Data collected will be used to support ongoing genetic evaluations around health and disease, whilst removing duplication of paperwork at the same time.

Beef Sexed Semen Project

- Information packs will be posted to HerdPlus Suckler farmers next week. Sexed straws will be charged at a special subsidised rate of €15 per insemination (plus call out fee where applicable). While Conventional Straws will be charged at the conventional rate as per AI Company.

Seven beef sires are available (table 1 & 2).

- Maternal bulls will be 75% X-sorted, aimed to produce a target of 75% heifer calves.
- Terminal bulls will be 75% Y-sorted, aimed to produce a target of 75% bull calves.

Table 1. List of Maternal Bulls. Sexed Female Straws

Code	Name	Breed	Replacement	St.W	St.A	CD%	Mat CD	Milk	CI Days
CWI	Castleview Casino	LM	€198	5.0	5.0	6.3%	2.6%	0.75	-3.49
GSQ	Glaslough Esquire	HE	-€7	0.5	0.5	3.8%	5.2%	-6.7	-4.22
APZ	Curaheen Apostle	SI	€157	3	4	5.3%	7.4%	8.46	-1.52

Note GSQ is not BTAP approved

Table 2. List of Terminal Bulls. Sexed Male Straws

Code	Name	Breed	Terminal	St.W	St.A	CD%	Doc	CWt	Conf
LGL	Lisnagree Elite	CH	€131	5	5	10.4%	0.02	44	2.45
STQ	Sultan 580	BB	€142	4	5	10.1%	0.21	30	3.05
ZFL	Lisduff Dandy	AA	€59	4.5	1.5	4.8%	-0.04	18	0.87
MBP	Milbrook Dartangan	LM	€118	3	4	7.4%	-0.08	29	2.35

- Project straws are for use on first inseminations only.
- Project straws should be used before **31st May 2014**.
- Herd-owners are required to take a minimum of 10 straws to be included in the project.
- Project Straws;** 66% of the straws allocated per bull will be sexed and 33% will be conventional (50% male and 50% female), therefore herd owners should be conscious of calving difficulty percentages if they intend to use on heifers.
- Participation in the project will be subject to the AI Company's discretion.
- Inseminations will only be carried out by AI technicians.

- Semen for this project is limited so herds interested are asked to contact HerdPlus on **1850 600 900** for a sign up form.

4 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 07/02/14						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 07/02/14	No. EDIY Herds YTD 07/02/14	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 07/02/14	No. EDIY Cows YTD 07/02/14	% Cows EDIY
Munster	383	12	3%	20,653	1,019	5%
Progressive	707	115	16%	41,984	7,217	17%
Tipperary	6	1	17%	295	36	12%
Total	1,096	128	12%	62,932	8,272	13%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 07/02/13	YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 07/02/14	2014 vs. 2013 Year on Year difference (%)
Munster	20,643	20,653	0.0%
Progressive	46,625	41,984	-11.1%
Tipperary	203	295	31.2%
Total	67,471	62,932	-7.2%

5 Genetic Evaluations

- The beef mini-run was published this week and the extracts for April routine evaluation will start next week. The results for the dairy Interbull test-run are back. Ireland has uploaded the back-pedigree of ~170,000 crossbred Limousine cattle into the InterBeef database with a view to start some research on including crossbred records into the InterBeef weaning weight evaluation.

6 Sheep Ireland

- This week saw the Teagasc National Sheep Conferences take place in Athlone and Letterkenny. The attendance at both of these events was fantastic with huge numbers coming along to hear the views of a range of very interesting speakers. Genetics featured high on the agenda at the conferences with John McEwan speaking on the latest genomic technologies and Noirin McHugh detailing the developments in the Euro-Star Indexes and Sheep Ireland. Across all aspects of sheep production farmers are now realising the role that genetics can play in the future and it was great that this message was being conveyed to such large audiences. A copy of the conference proceedings will be available on the Teagasc website in their 'Sheep' section. We would encourage all readers of this update to read through the many interesting papers.
- In the LambPlus office we are currently finalising some changes to our paper lambing recording sheets. Approximately 20% of all LambPlus breeders record their flock's data via paper sheets. We are making changes to the recording sheets to encourage recording breeders to record an event of some kind beside every ewe in the flock. For example, we will now be requiring breeders to record barren ewes, ewes that aborted their lambs etc. This information will help Sheep Ireland to build a picture of ewe longevity across recording flocks, which is a hugely important trait that we currently do not have any data available for. At the recent Teagasc sheep conference Dr. Tim Keady delivered a hugely informative presentation which detailed among other things, the high cost associated with replacing ewes in any flock. Moving forward Sheep Ireland will be placing a lot of emphasis on capturing this data.
- With pregnancy scanning continuing nicely across our MALP flocks, we are currently putting plans in place for the upcoming lambing season. The CPT and MALP lambing is always an extremely hectic time due to the amount of performance data being collected on top of the normal husbandry practices that take place at this time. Each year we seek out agriculture and veterinary students interested in gaining some experience with sheep to help out on these farms. There is no doubt that the experience on our CPT farms is unlike any other sheep enterprise due to the compact lambing period. Anyone interested in such experience can contact us here in Sheep Ireland on **1850 601 901** or by email: query@sheep.ie.

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.

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