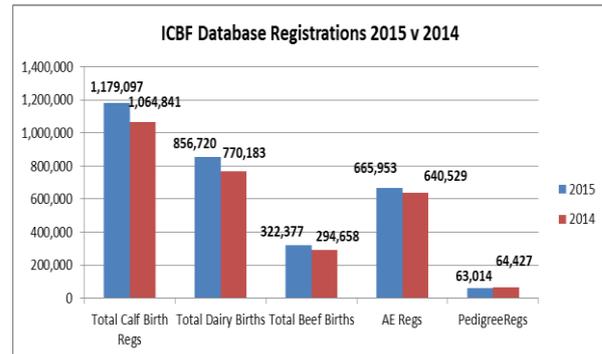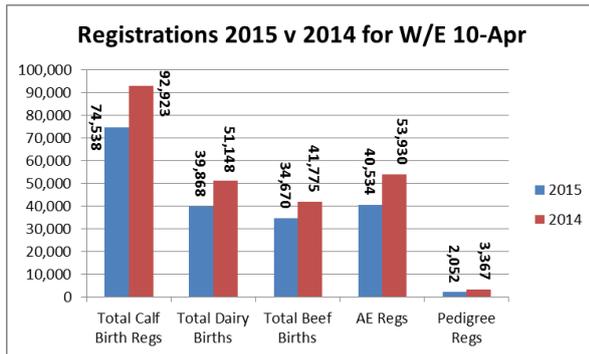# ICBF Weekly Update 10th April 2015

1 Important Dates

- **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 7th May 2015, 10:30 to 12:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

- **ICBF AGM** – Thursday 7th May 2015, 12:30 to 13:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

- **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 7th May 2015, 14:00 to 16:30, 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 1.2 million results received since January 1st, of which 75,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 6.14 million results have now been received.

- The graph shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2014 compared with 2015.
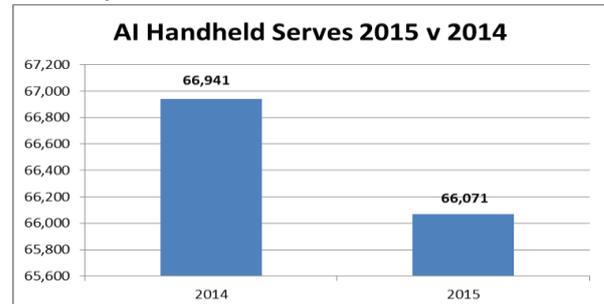
3 GROW®

- 612 Pedigree animals were scored in February.

- This is up by 21 animals from February 2014.

- 1158 Pedigrees were weighed in February.

- This is up by 93 animals from February 2014.

- These totals do not include animals scored as part of the Gene Ireland Maternal Bull Breeding visit.

4 Herd Plus®

Registering Calves

- As peak Spring calving has now passed on many dairy and beef farms around the country, it is important that farmers do not lose sight of the importance of recording important breeding data. ICBF acknowledges that Spring can be a busy and stressful time for farmers with an endless list of tasks to be done. However, ensuring that data (namely sires and calving ease) is recorded comprehensively and accurately is vital, not only to the work that ICBF does, but also to the development of our Agri-food industry going forward.

- Better data recording leads to more accurate genetic indexes. This will in turn lead to more informed breeding decisions which will leave more profitable stock on farms and increase output at both farm and processor levels. For this reason, people across the industry that find themselves in regular contact with farmers e.g. agri advisors, breed society representatives, AI company reps & technicians etc. need to constantly stress the importance of recording basic breeding information when registering calves.

- Any farmers that still register calves on the white cards which come with the tags, should be encouraged to switch to an animal events book or, where possible, to register calves online through www.agfood.ie or via farm software. The animal events book and online methods allow for much more comprehensive data recording at calf registration. Animal events books can be ordered by calling **1850 625 626**. Online registration can be set up by going to the Department of Agriculture & Food website (www.agfood.ie) or by contacting your farm software provider.

Dairy Breeding Charts

- The first batch of HerdPlus Dairy Breeding charts have been posted. Remaining charts will be printed and posted next week. As the Spring AI season commences we remind farmers to ensure that serves are recorded and reach the ICBF website. See help document on recording below.

Beef Data Programme 2014

- Farmers are reminded to input any missing data that is required for the 2014 BDP scheme. This data can be recorded through the ICBF website, farm software packages or on paper forms. The deadline for recording information for calves born before November is the 30th April. The deadline for calves born in November and December is when the calf reaches 6 months of age.

BETTER Beef Farm Walks

- A series of four farm walks took place over the last 2 weeks as part of the Teagasc, Farmer's Journal BETTER Farm Beef Programme. The walks focused on key areas which affect output on beef farms. ICBF was involved in the breeding section of the walks. The breeding stand put particular focus on selecting replacement heifers. Approximate 900 farmers attended the four walks.

Board which was used to go through the selection of replacement beef heifers

Chris Daly, ICBF explaining to farmers how to interpret the Euro-Star index

5   G€N€ IR€LAND® Dairy

- Allocations for all current orders will be complete by Tuesday April 14th.
- Details of bulls dispatched will follow shortly.

DAIRY G€N€ IRELAND SIGN-UPS & ALLOCATIONS

Feb 6th: 153
Feb 13th: 370
Feb 20th: 500
Feb 27th: 531
March 6th: 580
March 13th: 625, 19
March 20th: 625, 133
March 27th: 625, 325
April 10th: 660, 535

■ TOTAL NUMBER OF HERDS SIGNED UP BY WEEK ENDING   ■ NO. OF HERDS ALLOCATED STRAWS
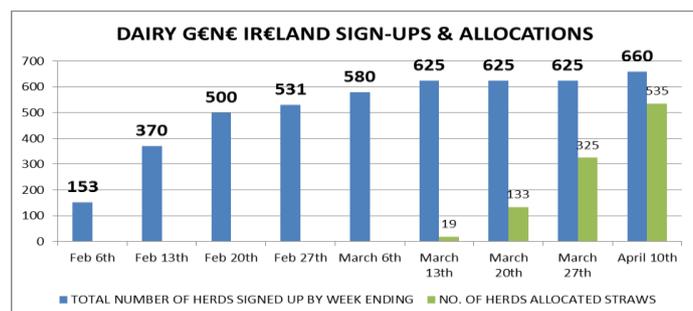
6   G€N€ IR€LAND® Beef

- Sign Ups are continuing for the Spring 2015 Beef programme.
- 325 herds taking a total of 5150 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 16 straws per herd.
- The catalogue is available to view on the ICBF website.
- To learn more or to order straws please phone **1850 600 900**.
- Approximate total straws ordered to date for the remaining bulls are in *Table 1*.

Table 1. List of Bulls currently on-test			
Code	**Name of Bull**	**Breed**	**Straws Ordered**
JJC	Cairnmor John	AA	270
JBS	Steil Jacob	AA	305
VEZ	Balinclea Iveco	AU	455
SGA	Scaughmolin G Mail	BA	395
LJE	Lislea Hermes	BA	170
OZR	Rosemount Gar	BB	200
CH2000	Coom Indurain	CH	290
PDR	Dereskit Improver	CH	140
HHJ	Heracles	CH	235
DBF	Dereskit Invincible	CH	195
YKM	Moyclare Lucky	HE	380
KAC	Keltic Isaac	LM	455
LM2014	Ewdenvale Ivor	LM	170
LM2010	Raffertys Immanuel	LM	300
ZYH	Alamira Harry	PT	405
ZKY	Kyle Herd Ivan	PT	185
ZBZ	Breffni Muzz	SA	190
EMS	Doon Erasmus	SH	270
PPA	Polar Edinson	SI	310
KJG	Knoackane Dag	SI	295
ETP	Curaheen Evolution P	SI	165
AHC	Auroch Deuter PP	SI	245

7   Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 10/04/15						
Milk Recording Organisation	**Total Herds Recorded YTD 10/04/15**	**No. EDIY Herds YTD 10/04/15**	**% Herds EDIY**	**Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 10/04/15**	**No. EDIY Cows YTD 10/04/15**	**% Cows EDIY**
Munster	2,405	492	20%	165,431	39,246	24%
Progressive	1,521	422	28%	118,628	33,894	29%
Tipperary	43	10	23%	2,786	568	20%
Total	**3,969**	**924**	**23%**	**286,845**	**73,708**	**26%**

Milk Recording Organisation	**YTD 2014 Cows Recorded 01/01/14 - 10/04/14**	**YTD 2015 Cows Recorded 01/01/15 - 10/04/15**	**2015 vs. 2014 Year on Year Difference (%)**
Munster	150,399	165,431	9.1%
Progressive	122,285	118,628	-3.1%
Tipperary	3,057	2,786	-9.7%
Total	**275,741**	**286,845**	**3.9%**

8   Sheep Ireland

Ovigen flock visits

➕ The programme of DNA collection for the Ovigen genomics research project has begun. We have visited over 20 flocks to date. Before we can visit each flock it is essential that all of the 2015 born lambs are entered onto the Sheep Ireland database. A visit cannot be planned until this is the case, so this has delayed some visits slightly. We encourage all LambPlus breeders to tidy up their flock inventories in advance of these flock visits by removing all sold/dead sheep. This will help significantly speed up each flock visit as we will not be questioning missing sheep unnecessarily.

Deadline for submission of 2015 lambing data

➕ The last day of April (Thursday 30th) is the deadline for the entry of lambing data onto the Sheep Ireland database. Any lambs entered onto the database after this point will not receive €uroStar evaluations for 2015. Regular reminders will be sent to breeders over the coming weeks to ensure the deadline is not missed.

➕ We acknowledge that imposing deadlines for data entry is a nuisance for many breeders, but in order to deliver timely genetic evaluations to all breeders in advance of the 2015 ram sale season they are a necessary evil. Any breeder experiencing difficulty submitting their 2015 lambing data online, should contact Sheep Ireland as soon as possible.

Lamb weight recording

➕ Many pedigree ram breeders have already submitted their 40 day lamb weights via our new batch weight recording screens. A lot of lambs are now approaching the ideal age for the weaning weight (approximately 100 days). Again breeders are reminded to collect this weight from lambs within the time frame of between 60 and 120 days of age.

## National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 01-APR-2015 To 10-APR-2015

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	11	693	63	24.1	4.14	3.12	1.75	151
Leinster	120	10,264	86	25.9	4.02	3.29	1.89	160
Munster	336	25,222	75	26.9	3.95	3.28	1.94	164
Ulster	18	1,034	57	26.0	3.88	3.20	1.83	138
National Statistics	485	37,213	77	26.5	3.97	3.28	1.92	161

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 01-APR-2015 To 10-APR-2015

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	11	693	63	73%	18%	0%	9%	151
Leinster	120	10,264	86	59%	25%	9%	7%	160
Munster	336	25,222	75	64%	21%	10%	5%	164
Ulster	18	1,034	57	78%	11%	6%	6%	138
National Statistics	485	37,213	77	63%	22%	9%	6%	161

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

Breakdown of SCC by Province
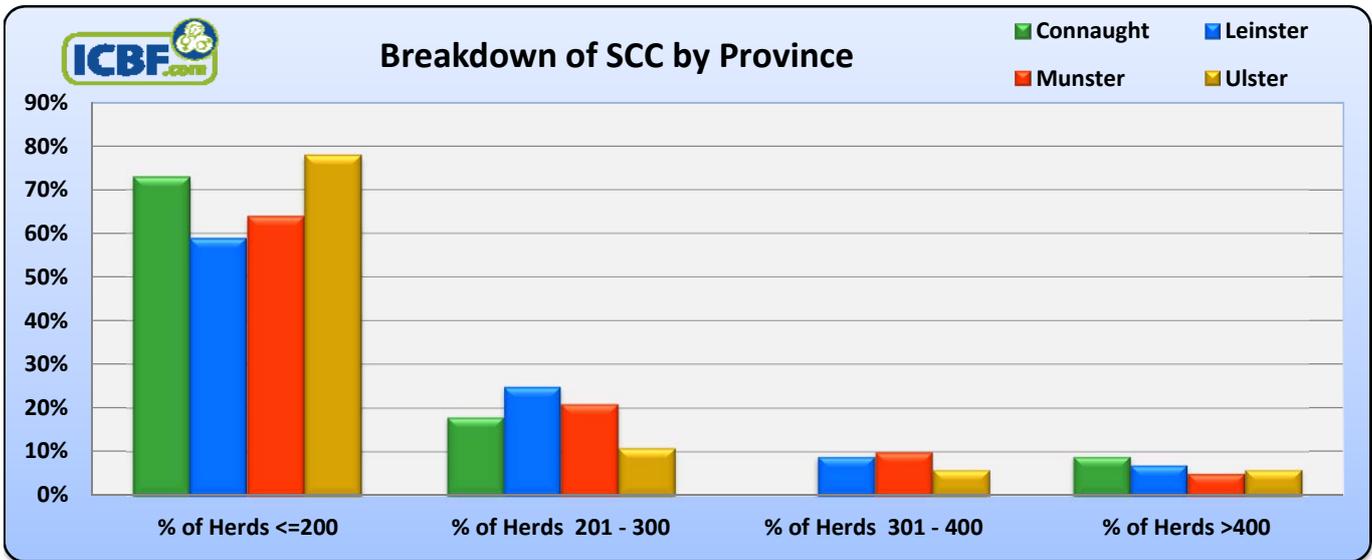
% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 01-APR-2015 To 10-APR-2015

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	11	693	63	127	135	136	179	217
Leinster	120	10,264	86	95	132	168	202	273
Munster	336	25,222	75	100	146	170	189	266
Ulster	18	1,034	57	92	111	137	149	229
National Statistics	485	37,213	77	98	140	169	189	266

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

Breakdown of Average SCC by Herd Ranking