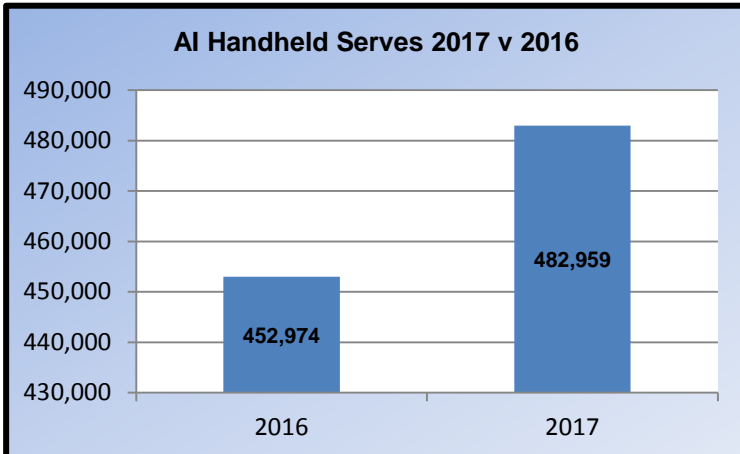
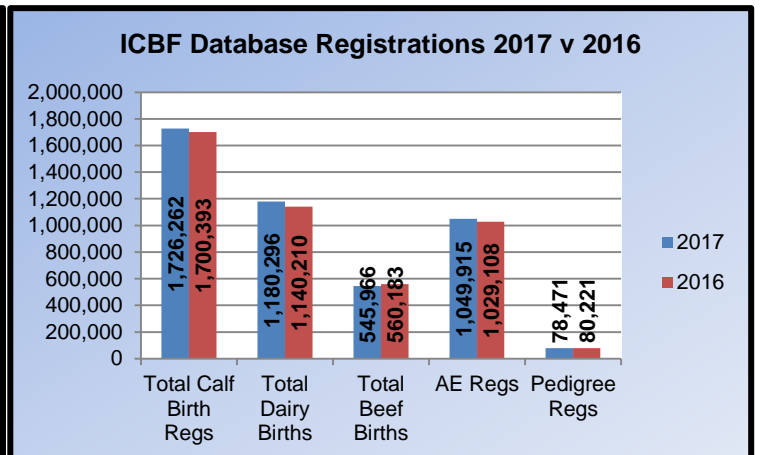
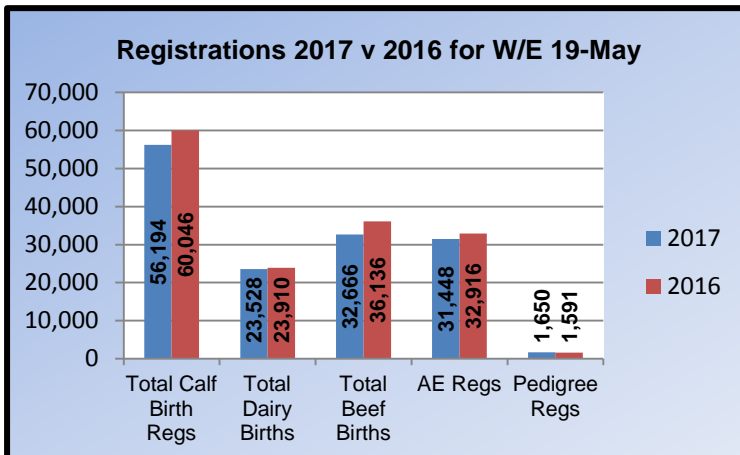


ICBF Weekly Update 19th May 2017

1 Important Dates

- Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 22nd June 2017 at 10:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 22nd June 2017 at 10:30, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 22nd June 2017 at 14:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 Database



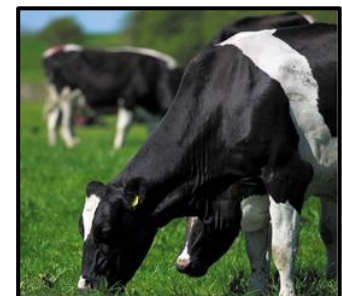
- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,749,938 results received since January 1st, of which 65,179 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 11,280,180 results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2017 compared with 2016.

3 Herd Plus®

- The latest HerdPlus Beef Output Reports have been generated and are now available online. The HerdPlus team has just completed the process of posting reports to customers. [Click here](#) for more details.



- Latest work by Teagasc has indicated that each €1 gain in herd EBI is worth €1.96 in terms of additional net profit per cow per year. [Click here](#) for more details.



- Minister Creed announced on Tuesday this week that the original 31st May deadline



for completion of meetings and Farm Improvement Plan in Knowledge Transfer Groups will be extended until 31st July 2017. Click [here](#) for further details.

- Straws from the Beef Gene Ireland Spring 2017 Bulls are now available for purchase (€5 per straw) by calling **023-8820452**.

Click [here](#) for more details.



- The first calves from the Spring 2016 Gene Ireland beef bulls are currently being born on farms. If you have any photos of Gene Ireland progeny that you would like to share with us, please email them to query@icbf.com
- The latest HerdPlus EBI reports have been generated and are now available online. They will be dispatched by post to postal customers within the coming week. Click [here](#) for more details.



4 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 19/05/17						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 19/05/17	No. EDIY Herds YTD 19/05/17	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 19/05/17	No. EDIY Cows YTD 19/05/17	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3739	1214	32%	346863	122047	35%
Progressive	2138	865	40%	222740	90357	41%
Tipperary	103	43	42%	9710	4012	41%
Total	5,980	2,122	35%	579,313	216,416	37%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2016 Cows Recorded 01/01/16 - 19/05/16	YTD 2017 Cows Recorded 01/01/17 - 19/05/17	2017 vs 2016 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	310302	346863	11.8%
Progressive	204009	222740	9.2%
Tipperary	9225	9710	5.3%
Total	523,536	579,313	10.7%

5 Sheep Ireland

Ultrasound Scanning (Muscle and BackFat) 2017

- To book a place for Ultrasound Scanning, it is necessary to text the word 'Scanning' to **089- 4577665** before our deadline of Monday 22nd May. Sheep Ireland technicians are already out scanning flocks and we intend to get flocks scanned as quickly as possible, well in advance of the upcoming ram sale season. There are two major benefits to this;

- Ensuring that the breeders investment in scanning is being maximised and reflected in the Euro-Star evaluations in time for the ram sales, but more importantly
- The information being provided to the ram buyer is the best possible information available on the day of the ram sale.

When is the Ideal Time to Scan My Lambs?

- This is a question that we get asked quite often and many breeders are of the opinion, that the later in life that lambs are scanned the better. This is not true. An older animal, of course will likely weigh heavier and scan a higher muscle score than a younger animal. However the genetic evaluation will adjust all measurements for the age of the animal. The desired age range to scan lambs is between 120 and 180 days of age, with 150 being the ideal age. All flocks will have a range of ages depending on their lambing spread, but breeders should be aware of the fact that there is no benefit to delaying scanning.

What is a Good Ultrasound Muscle Scan for a Lamb?

- This is another question which we get asked regularly. All flocks differ in management. The ultrasound scans recorded by a ram breeder who focuses on producing rams from grass, cannot be directly compared to a ram breeder who heavily feeds their lambs with concentrates. The highest Ultrasound scan on these breeder's flocks will be very different figures, i.e. the grass reared lambs will scan much lower on average. This does not mean that they are genetically inferior and this is precisely why genetic evaluations are required to fairly compare the performance of these two flocks.
- We have often been asked to display the raw Ultrasound muscle scores of individual animals on the Euro-Star catalogues. This is something we will never do, as this raw figure is not adjusted for the age of the animal at scanning, sex, breed, rearing type (single/twin/trip/quad/pet), management system, etc., etc. Only the genetic evaluation can allow for all of these variables.



Sheep Ireland Ultrasound scanning technicians in action

OVIGEN – Next Phase of Sheep Genomics

- We would like to remind all LambPlus breeders that it is now possible to order genotypes for purebred sheep via the Sheep Ireland online web screens. As has been detailed in previous weekly updates, this genotyping is being made available in 2017 at a highly subsidised rate, which will hopefully entice breeders to continue genotyping their breeding animals, thus maintaining a full flock of genotyped ewes and breeding rams. Click [here](#) for more information on what's involved.
- We are receiving a high level of genotype orders from breeders at the moment through our new online screens. The first DNA sampling tags hit farms this week, so it will be full steam ahead from this point forward. Breeders who order genotypes and DNA tags are encouraged to return them as soon as possible. Quick return of samples will allow for quick turnaround of results. Our next batch of DNA samples will be sent for genotyping in the next two weeks, so by ensuring that samples are returned in advance of this, breeders will give themselves the greatest chance of receiving results back in advance of the 2017 ram sale season.



DNA tag packs like this are currently being sent to OVIGEN breeders ordering genotypes

Sean Coughlan Chief Executive, ICBF & Sheep Ireland, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon Co. Cork., Phone: +353 238 820 222, Email info@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 CLG 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, 10-MAY-2017 To 19-MAY-2017

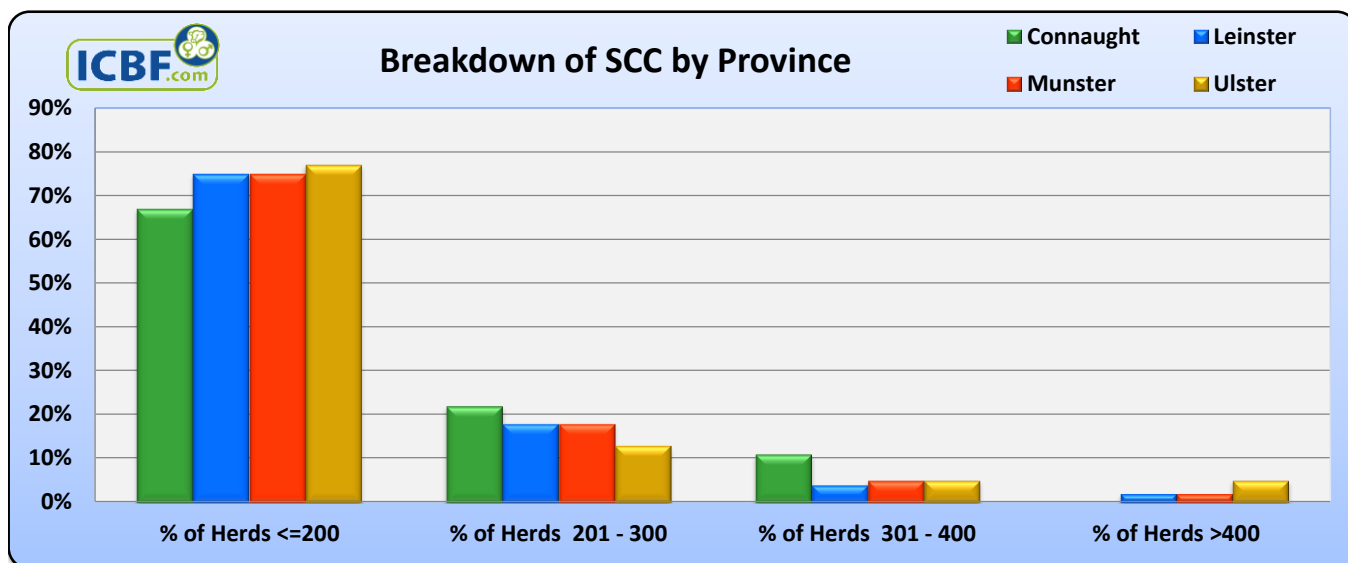
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	9	561	62	28.4	3.70	3.36	2.00	132
Leinster	137	15,147	111	27.4	3.72	3.46	1.96	135
Munster	546	49,993	92	28.7	3.70	3.43	2.04	136
Ulster	39	2,722	70	28.8	3.58	3.36	2.00	125
National Statistics	732	68,548	94	28.5	3.70	3.43	2.02	135

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 10-MAY-2017 To 19-MAY-2017

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	9	561	62	67%	22%	11%	0%	132
Leinster	137	15,147	111	75%	18%	4%	2%	135
Munster	546	49,993	92	75%	18%	5%	2%	136
Ulster	39	2,722	70	77%	13%	5%	5%	125
National Statistics	732	68,548	94	75%	18%	5%	2%	135

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 10-MAY-2017 To 19-MAY-2017

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	9	561	62	86	145	160	186	232
Leinster	137	15,147	111	80	125	144	160	226
Munster	546	49,993	92	84	119	138	158	219
Ulster	39	2,722	70	64	118	132	150	215
National Statistics	732	68,548	94	83	119	138	159	221

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

