

ICBF Weekly Update 22nd February 2013

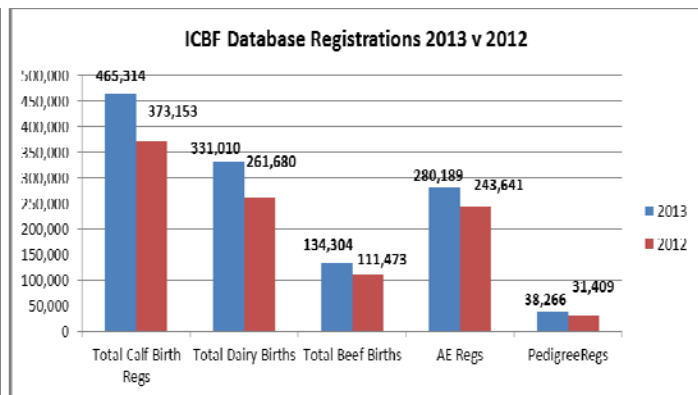
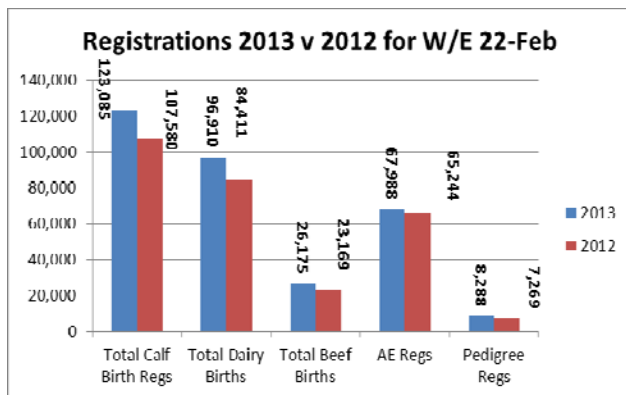
1 Important Dates

- ✚ **ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting** – Thursday 14th March, 10:00 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey.
- ✚ **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th March, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- ✚ **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th March, at 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

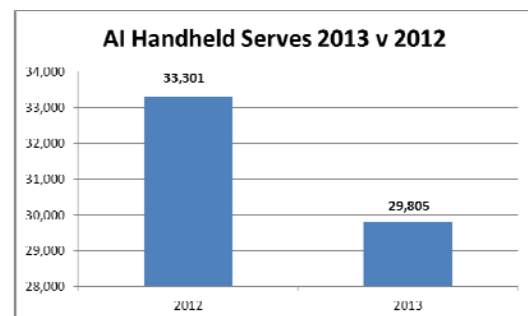
2 IHFA makes key strategic decision in relation to genomic testing of pedigree males

- ✚ Eight years ago, IHFA made a key strategic decision – that it was going to ‘parentage verify’ all pedigree registered males. That proved to be an excellent decision, and it positioned the Holstein Friesian breed very well to take advantage of genomics.
- ✚ This week, the Irish Holstein Friesian Association (IHFA) made another highly significant decision - to move to SNP technology to verify parentage on all pedigree registered males. The move will also allow the calculation of genomic evaluations on all of these bulls, significantly increasing the possibility of finding the exceptional bulls on the various traits. There will be some extra costs associated with providing the new service and ICBF and IHFA are working together in the funding of those costs, with the costs to the breeder remaining unchanged for 2013.

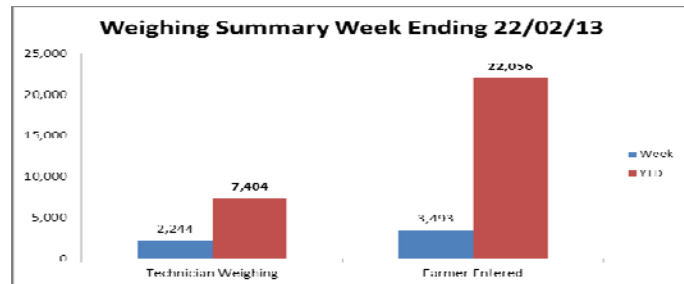
3 Database



- ✚ The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- ✚ In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 584,656 with the number of animals weaned at 506,283.
- ✚ BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 430,000 results received since January 1st, of which 120,000 have come in the last 7 days.
- ✚ The graph Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.



- This week there were 2,244 weights received through the technician service and 3,498 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.



4 Sheep Ireland

- This week we met with some breed society representatives of the main breeds currently participating in LambPlus. The approaching ram sale season is a critically important one for our national sheep breed improvement programme. STAP is now providing a huge opportunity to this programme and pedigree ram breeders alike.
- Many issues were discussed at the meeting. Some can be addressed in the short term by Sheep Ireland, others will need to be worked through in the medium to long term. A brief summary of the main issues raised are as follows:
 - STAP and the need for maximum visibility of EuroStar evaluations at all pedigree sales.
 - Necessity to update information contained on the Sheep Ireland homepage.
 - Catalogue generation access to be made available to all societies. Catalogue format availability to be expanded beyond what is currently available.
 - Data quality and the need for deadlines for data submission need to be addressed immediately.
 - Access to historical flockbook data for some breeds was agreed would be hugely beneficial to the evaluations being provided by Sheep Ireland. It was also acknowledged that there are difficulties associated with this issue, especially in relation to data ownership. Further discussion and explanation on the implications of data transfers to Sheep Ireland was agreed to be a good idea. In the short term some very good suggestions were made in relation to the transfer of individual breeders flock data to Sheep Ireland - these suggestions will be explored as a priority.
 - Finally DNA and the importance of establishing a 'bank' of DNA samples across all our sheep breeds was discussed briefly. Future sheep genomics work will depend on this happening. Significant discussion with all our breed societies needs to take place on this topic.
- We would like to sincerely thank all those that attended this meeting. All issues raised were discussed in a positive manner and it was clear that those present have a willingness to make this breed improvement work. With this attitude we can solve any issues, no matter how large.

5 HerdPlus®



- First batch of EBI and Dairy Cow Reports have been posted.
- The CellCheck report which was developed in conjunction with Animal Health Ireland (AHI) has now been incorporated into all milk recording reports. Please see CellCheck Farmer Summary attached.
- Work is currently being done on discussion group reports.

6 Genetic Evaluations - Interbeef

- Testing is underway on the INTERBEEF pedigree file to ascertain if the current format is adequate to derive the correct heterosis and recombination coefficients necessary for international evaluations.
- Weekly genomic evaluation runs have commenced.

7 GENEIRELAND® - Beef

- ✚ The 2013 GENEIRELAND Beef Catalogue will be posted to 2500 suckler herds next week.
- ✚ A Terminal Section has been added to the panel this year. If you order straws from the Terminal Section you must order at least the same amount of straws from the Maternal Section.
- ✚ The catalogue can be viewed on the ICBF website:
http://www.icbf.com/services/geneireland/beef/files/2013_Beef_Spring_Catalogue.pdf
- ✚ These straws are limited and are dispatched on a first come first served basis.
- ✚ To learn more or to order straws please phone 1850 600 900 or 045 521573.

8 GROW®

- ✚ 402 Pedigree animals were weighed and scored in January.
- ✚ This is 387 fewer animals than January 2012.
- ✚ 48 Commercial animals were weighed and scored in January.
- ✚ This is down by 251 animals from January 2012.

9 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 22/02/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 22/02/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 22/02/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 22/02/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 22/02/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	668	30	4%	36,624	2,057	6%
Progressive	993	187	19%	61,343	12,550	20%
Tipperary	10	1	10%	541	33	6%
Total	1,671	218	13%	98,508	14,640	15%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 22/02/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 22/02/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	34,383	36,624	6.1%
Progressive	58,422	61,343	4.8%
Tipperary	474	541	12.4%
Total	93,279	98,508	5.3%

Please see milk recoding stats attached

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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, 13-FEB-2013 To 22-FEB-2013

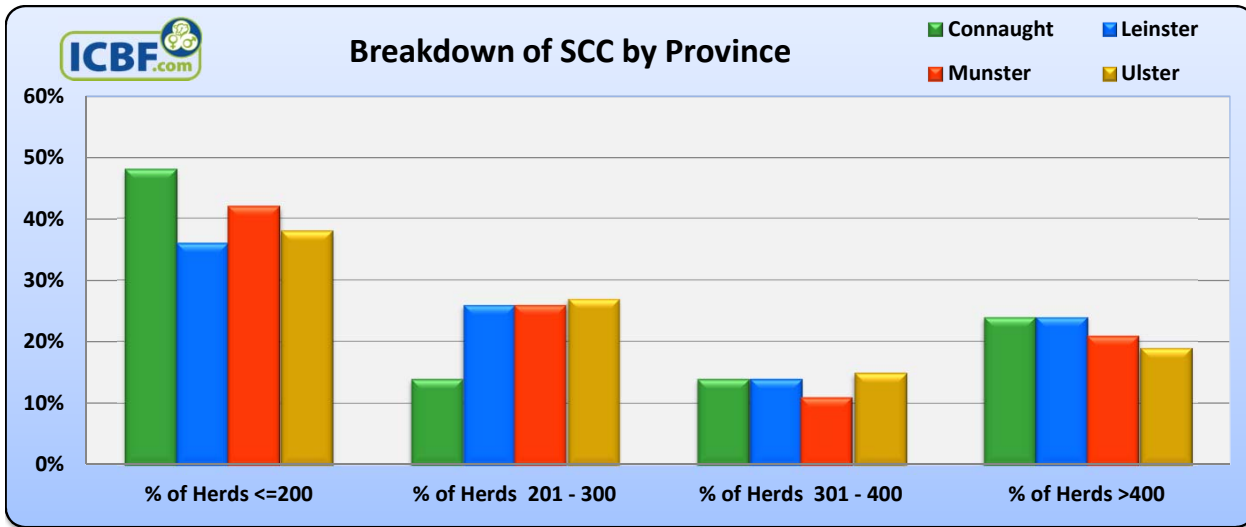
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	21	1,041	50	23.2	3.97	3.22	1.67	237
Leinster	134	8,866	66	22.2	3.99	3.25	1.61	253
Munster	252	12,844	51	23.1	4.12	3.27	1.70	229
Ulster	26	1,042	40	23.2	3.92	3.19	1.65	239
National Statistics	433	23,793	55	22.8	4.06	3.26	1.67	237

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 13-FEB-2013 To 22-FEB-2013

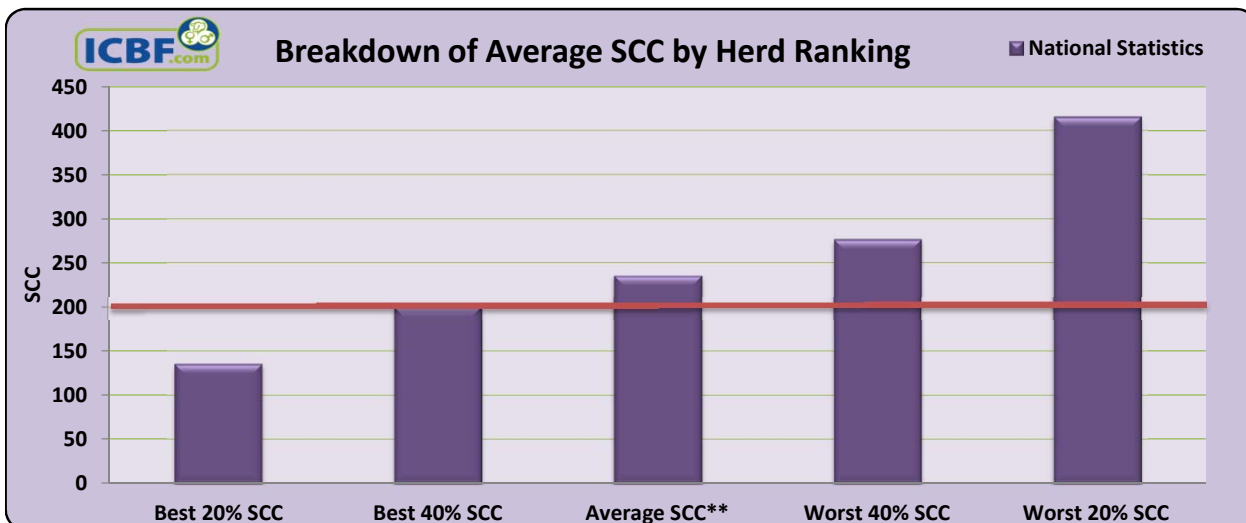
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	21	1,041	50	48%	14%	14%	24%	237
Leinster	134	8,866	66	36%	26%	14%	24%	253
Munster	252	12,844	51	42%	26%	11%	21%	229
Ulster	26	1,042	40	38%	27%	15%	19%	239
National Statistics	433	23,793	55	40%	25%	12%	22%	237

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 13-FEB-2013 To 22-FEB-2013								
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	21	1,041	50	143	194	206	299	433
Leinster	134	8,866	66	155	224	244	289	451
Munster	252	12,844	51	133	195	225	259	413
Ulster	26	1,042	40	133	204	245	285	356
National Statistics	433	23,793	55	136	201	236	277	416

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



SAMPLE HERD
 Herd ID : IE1234567
 Scheme: A4
 Tests in last 12 mths : 12

CellCheck Farm Summary
 Milk Recording Date : 05/07/12

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Herd Summary - Total Cows Recorded: 62

Somatic Cell Count ★★★★★

Mastitis Control During Lactation ★★★★★

Mastitis Control Dry Period/Calving N/A

Clinical Mastitis ★★★★★

Recorded SCC 05-JUL-2012
 284
 Target : Less than 200

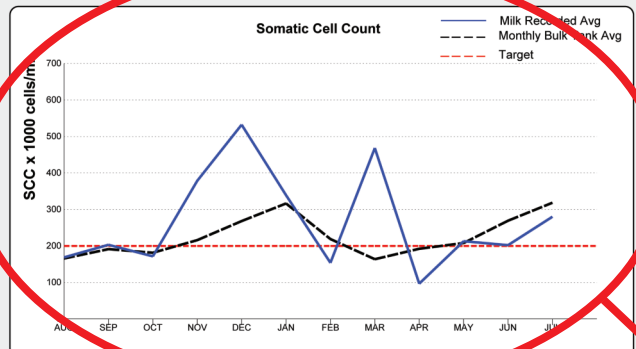
July Bulk Tank SCC
 323
 Target : Less than 200

% of Herd over 200
 24%
 Target : Less than 15%

Available Milk Loss (Ltrs/herd/day)
 52

Somatic Cell Count ★★★★★

National Herd Rank : SCC: 31%

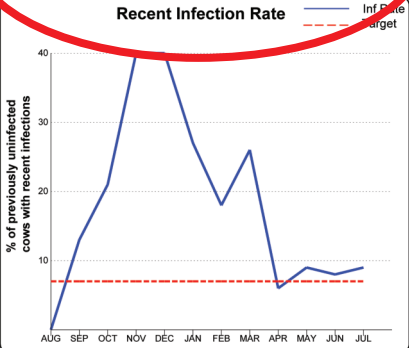


Mastitis Control During Lactation ★★★★★

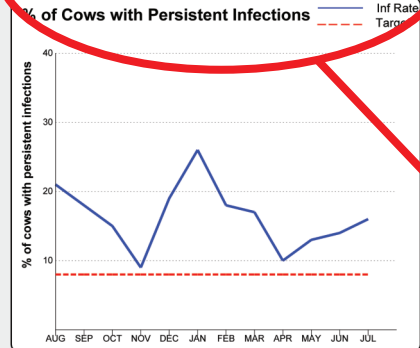
Recent Infection Rate since last recording 9%
 >200 in latest milk recording (4) and <=200 in the previous milk recording (47) in the current lactation
 Target : Less than 7%

% of Cows with Persistent Infections 16%
 >200 in last two milk recordings (10) as a % of all cows recorded for the last two milk recordings (61) in the current lactation
 Target : Less than 8%

Recent Infection Rate



% of Cows with Persistent Infections



Star rating summary: There is a star rating for each of the key areas of mastitis control. It is based on a combination of achieving targets (positive) and hitting intervention or trigger levels (negative). The aim should always be to have at least 4 stars in each area. Having 2-3 stars in a particular area means that there is room for improvement, while 1 star in any area means that you are substantially below target and you should seek advice from a CellCheck Advisor immediately on the best way to tackle the area identified. Leaving these areas unaddressed will result in significant problems in the long-term and will already be resulting in major financial losses.

Stars	What does this mean?
5	All measures on target for ≥ last 2 recordings; you're achieving sustained mastitis control – excellent!
4	All measures on target, good mastitis control
3	≤ half of measures on target but none breaking intervention levels, room for improvement
2	None on target but none breaking intervention levels, substantial room for improvement
1	Any of the measures breaking intervention levels, contact a CellCheck advisor today!

Somatic Cell Count: this is the summary of this milk recording results.

- 1 This displays your current and previous herd SCC (based on milk recording results). It also gives the most recently available bulk milk SCC data (if this is submitted to ICBF by your processor). The lower the SCC level, the better the control of mastitis in your herd.
- 2 Cows with SCCs > 200,000 are very likely to have mastitis. A high % of your herd with SCCs > 200,000 indicates a problem with mastitis. These can potentially act as a source of infection to other cows or impact severely on your herd SCC.
- 3 This calculation is based on the most recent milk recording test. It is a total of the estimated losses in production from the high SCC cows (>200) in your herd.

Mastitis Control during Lactation: This section assesses changes in the individual cow SCC during lactation. It will only include cows that have been recorded in this milk recording, and the previous one.

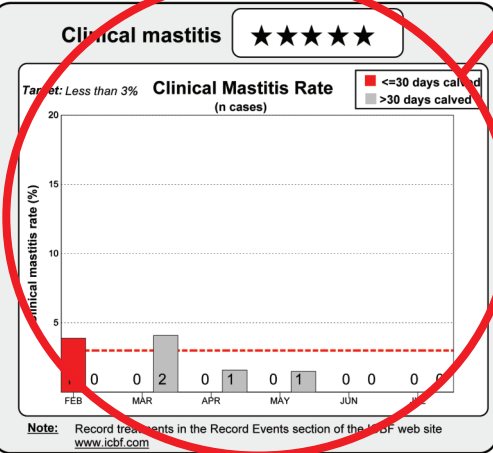
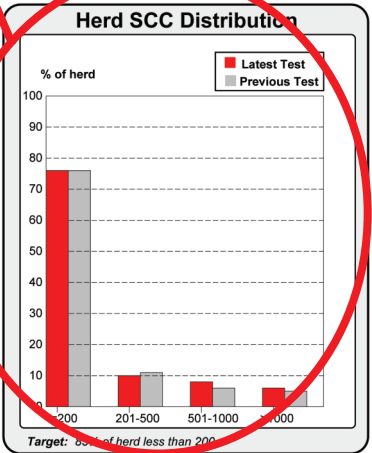
- 4 This is the percentage of cows which had a low SCC (<200) at the last recording, but now have a high SCC (>200). A lower infection rate indicates a lower spread of infection and better mastitis control. In some cases an increase in recent infection rate may be due to cows persistently infected whose SCC fluctuates up and down.
- 5 This is the number of infected cows (>200) on this and last recording, as a % of all cows recorded. High levels of persistent infection means that infected cows are not curing. Having many cows with persistent infections will act as a source of infection on your farm.



SAMPLE HERD
 Herd ID : IE1234567
 Scheme: A4
 Tests in last 12 mths : 12

CellCheck Farm Summary
 Milk Recording Date : 05/07/12

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Mastitis Control: Dry Period/Calving N/A

Note: Cows with first recording >60 days after calving are not included.

	First Test since calving	All calvings in current lactation
New infection rate over the dry period Cows No. of cows calved that had a SCC <=200 in recording prior to calving (0) and >200 in the current recording (0). Target: Less than 10%	N/A	25% 3/12 Target: Less than 10%
Heifers No. of heifers that had a SCC >200 in the current recording (0) as a percentage of all heifers calved (0). Target: Less than 15%	N/A	7% 1/15 Target: Less than 15%
Cure rate over the dry period No. of cows calved that had a SCC >200 in recording prior to calving (0) and <=200 in current recording (0). Target: Greater than 85%	N/A	80% 20/25 Target: Greater than 85%

For information on controlling somatic cell counts and clinical mastitis, check the Cell Check Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control.

Somatic Cell Counts	Farm Guideline No 11-12	Farm Guidelines book is available from your Co-op and local Veterinary Practitioners.
Mastitis Control: During Lactation	5-15 & Management Note M	
Treatments During Lactation	10 & Management Notes B & G	
Mastitis Control: Calving/Dry Period	1-4 & 16-20	

For further advice on controlling somatic cell counts and mastitis, contact your local CellCheck advisor. Further information on the CellCheck Programme is available on www.cellcheck.ie

Herd SCC Distribution: this is the summary of the milk recording results at a herd level.

6 This shows the proportion of your herd in different SCC brackets at the most recent recording. It also compares it to the last recording. It can be used to check if it is a few very high SCC cows causing your problem or if it is more of a generalised problem. The higher the % of cows with SCCs < 200, the better mastitis control within your herd.

Clinical mastitis: This section analyses data on farms that are recording clinical mastitis in ICBF Animal Events. The number of actual mastitis cases is shown at the bottom of each column.

7 The graph tracks the rate of clinical mastitis in your herd. It takes into account all mastitis cases and how long a cow has been in milk. The lower the rate, the less chance your cows had of getting mastitis for that month. There are two columns-one for cows <= 30 days calved and one for > 30 days calved. Problems <= 30 days calved are more likely related to the dry period and calving period, whereas cases > 30 days in milk are more likely to have developed during lactation.

Mastitis Control: Dry Period / Calving: This section tracks how effectively you are controlling mastitis during the dry period and at calving. It is split into cows and heifers so you can see problems in different ages of animals calving. This section will only analyse data from animals that have been milk recorded within 60 days of calving. These analyses are most effective when using monthly milk recording data as the closer to calving that cows are recorded, the more accurate the information will be. The stars are calculated based on the performance for the current recording only.

8 This shows how many animals have picked up a new infection either over the dry period or at calving. This calculation only looks at the cows that were uninfected at the last recording before dry-off (<200) and calculates what percentage are infected (>200) at their first recording post-calving. As heifers have no recording at dry off to compare with, all heifers are assumed to be uninfected before calving.

9 This investigates the percentage of cows cured over the dry period i.e. cows that were infected (>200) on the last recording before drying off, and are now uninfected, or cured (<200). Problems here may indicate poor response to dry cow therapy. An alternative cause of poor performance may be that even though the dry cow therapy has cured the previous infection the cow may then have acquired a new infection over the dry period or around calving. This may be a problem in your herd if the new infection rate over the dry period is also below target.

10 This column looks at the most recently calved cows in your herd. This will give you a short-term picture of mastitis control over the dry period / calving. Problems here provide an early warning and should be investigated even if the long-term performance is within target.

11 This column provides a running total for all the calved cows in your herd at the time of the current milk recording. This will give you a long-term perspective on how good your mastitis control has been over the entire dry period / calving period to date.

