


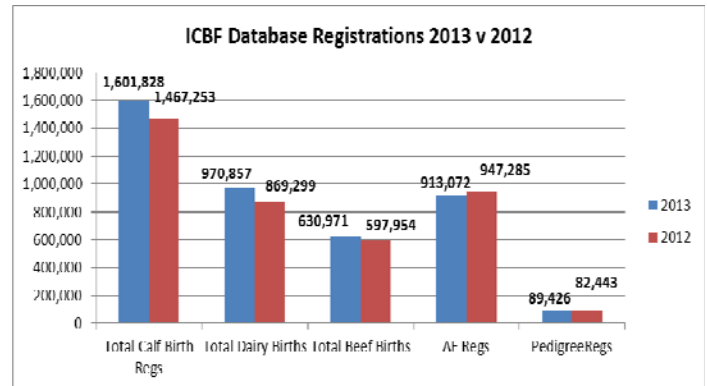
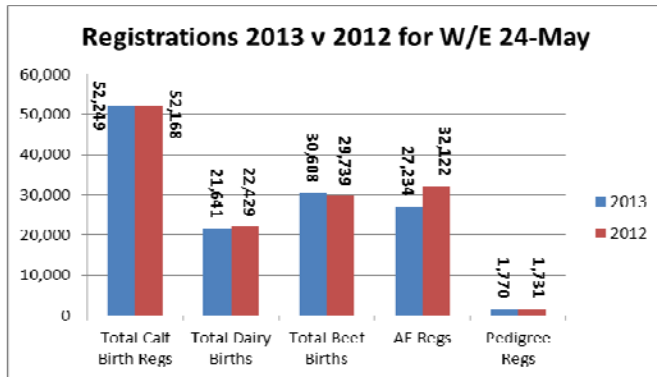






ICBF Weekly Update 24th May 2013

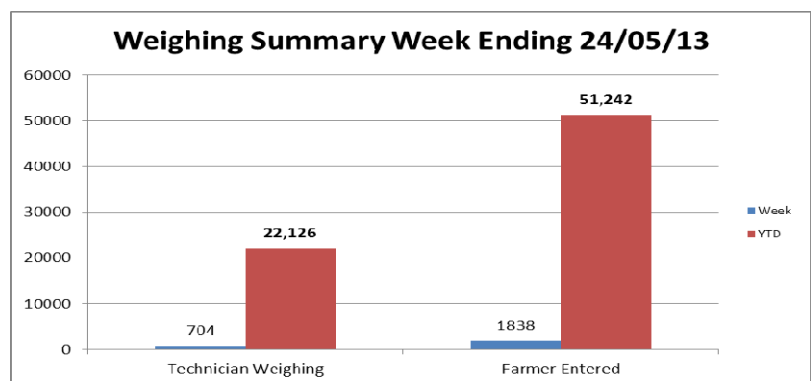
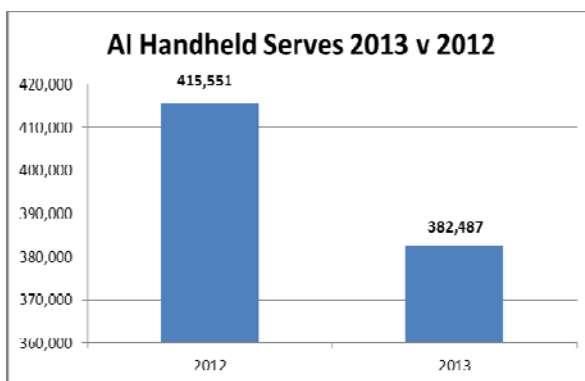
1 Important Dates


-  **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 10:00 - 10:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 11th July, 14:00 to 16:30, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

2 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 631,928 with the number of animals weaned at 559,659.
-  BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,602,000 results received since January 1st, of which 52,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012 2.09 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.



-  This week there were 704 weights received through the technician service and 1,838 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.

3 Sexed Semen Project Update

- ✚ With over 15,000 recorded inseminations, the dairy sexed project has reached well beyond the target number of inseminations.
- ✚ This week the focus has turned to using male sexed Angus within the dairy herd. Over 60 Munster technicians received male sexed fresh Angus semen this week. This project has the opportunity to generate more male Angus calves into the dairy herd. This project is likely to run for 2 weeks.
- ✚ Final preparations for the Suckler Beef Sexed Semen Project are being made. Information packs will be made available to interested farmers early next week.

4 HerdPlus®

- ✚ Members of the ICBF team helped to facilitate Teagasc in-service training this week. Training took place in Athenry, Killarney, Castlerea, Portlaoise and Tinahely.

5 Sheep Ireland

Accuracies

Accuracy is a measure of the level of confidence a breeder can have in the breeding values, i.e. the higher the accuracy, the less likely the breeding value is to fluctuate.

There have been a lot of queries over the past few weeks from both pedigree breeders and commercial farmers about the accuracy % of their rams, and mainly they wanted to know what a good accuracy % for a ram lamb is. Below is a table outlining the different levels of accuracies for the traits measured with LambPlus.

Example: A ram lamb with a production accuracy of over 40% is considered high, and an accuracy less than 25 % for production is considered low.

One of the main factors affecting accuracy is the amount and quality of information that is collected; this includes all lambing information, a minimum of 3 weights, scanning results, and having a flock that is very well genetically linked to other flocks. The other major factor is the heritability of the trait(s); thus, the difference between lambing and production accuracy can reflect the lower heritability of lambing traits compared to production traits.

Level of accuracy expected			
	Lamb rams	Active rams**	Type of accuracy
Production	< 25%	< 30%	Low
	25% to 40%	30% to 55%	Medium
	> 40%	> 55%	High
Lambing	< 15%	< 15%	Low
	15% to 25%	15% to 30%	Medium
	> 25%	> 30%	High
Maternal	< 20%	< 15%	Low
	20% to 30%	15% to 40%	Medium
	> 30%	> 40%	High
Overall Sheep Value	< 15%	< 15%	Low
	15% to 30%	15% to 35%	Medium
	> 30%	> 35%	High

* when all traits are recorded

** rams with progeny in the last 2 years

6 Genetic Evaluations

- Work has begun on streamline the evaluation process. This will start with dairy management evaluations and evolve to consider other evaluations.
- Timo Pitkanen visited us this week. Timo works with MTT in Finland, which are the group who develop the evaluation software we currently use. Timo visited to discuss our requirements on evaluation software, progress in test day evaluation model, and a number of specific technical issues.
- Initial analysis of sexed semen data has begun, focusing on conception rate. Further details of this will be available once more data on return rates is available.

7 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 24/05/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 24/05/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 24/05/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 24/05/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 24/05/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,468	961	28%	268,677	79,582	30%
Progressive	2,256	861	38%	195,989	75,986	39%
Tipperary	99	29	29%	8,169	2,658	33%
Total	5,823	1,851	32%	472,835	158,226	33%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 24/05/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 24/05/13	2013 vs 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	261,725	268,677	2.6%
Progressive	188,277	195,989	3.9%
Tipperary	8,616	8,169	-5.5%
Total	458,618	472,835	3.0%

Please see milk recording 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, 15-MAY-2013 To 24-MAY-2013

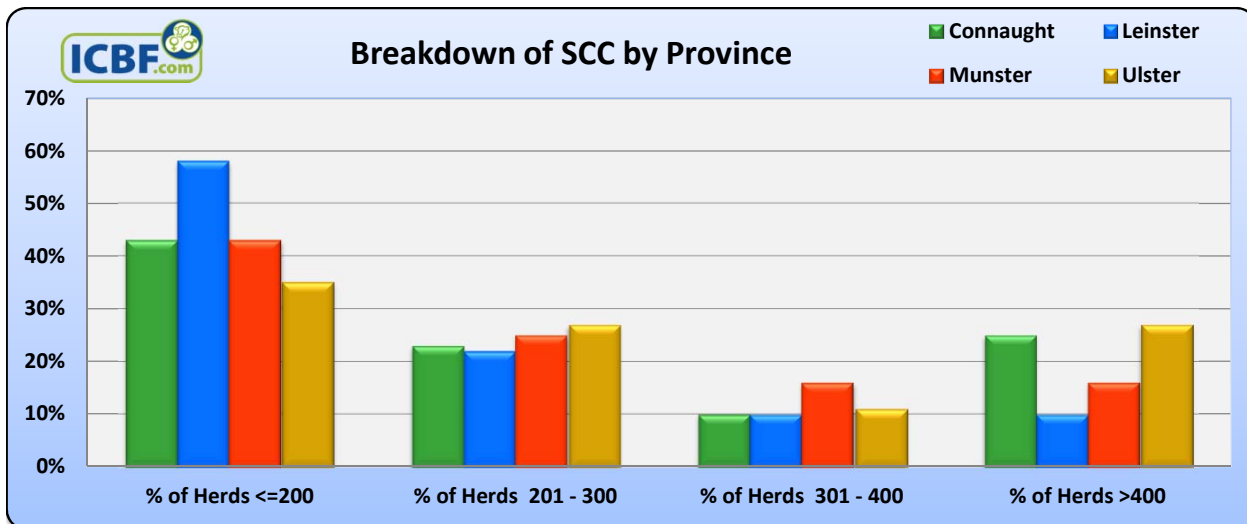
ICBF.com	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	40	2,511	63	26.7	3.69	3.30	1.87	236
Leinster	172	15,553	90	26.6	3.63	3.40	1.87	180
Munster	447	36,017	81	26.9	3.65	3.38	1.89	217
Ulster	37	2,163	58	26.4	3.72	3.21	1.83	237
National Statistics	696	56,244	81	26.8	3.65	3.37	1.88	210

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 15-MAY-2013 To 24-MAY-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	40	2,511	63	43%	23%	10%	25%	236
Leinster	172	15,553	90	58%	22%	10%	10%	180
Munster	447	36,017	81	43%	25%	16%	16%	217
Ulster	37	2,163	58	35%	27%	11%	27%	237
National Statistics	696	56,244	81	46%	24%	14%	16%	210

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 15-MAY-2013 To 24-MAY-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	40	2,511	63	127	184	271	290	419
Leinster	172	15,553	90	102	162	185	205	306
Munster	447	36,017	81	125	195	222	258	361
Ulster	37	2,163	58	132	214	250	288	427
National Statistics	696	56,244	81	118	184	211	252	357

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)

