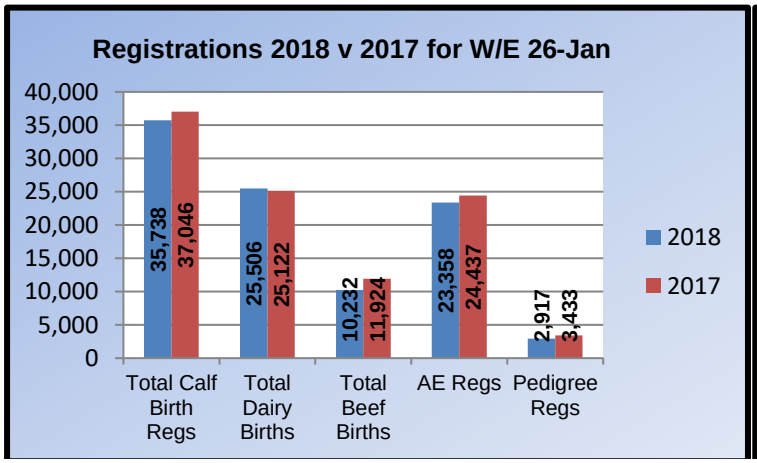
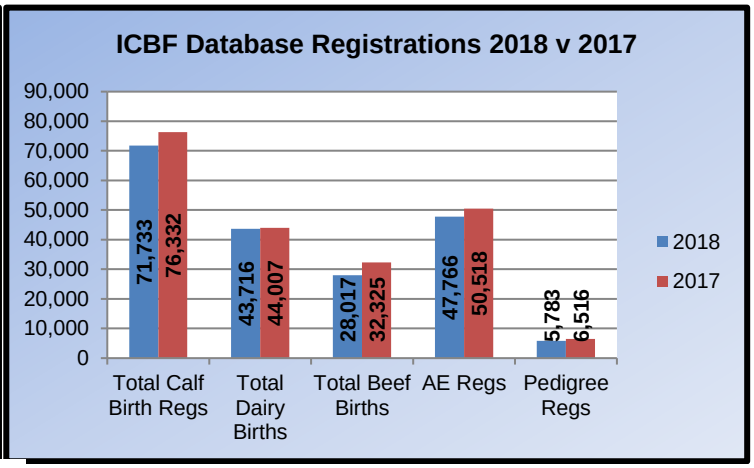
ICBF Weekly Update 26th January 2018

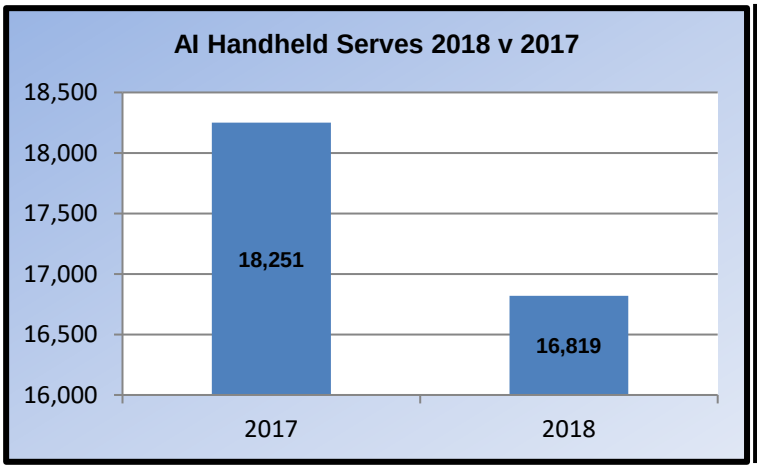
1 Important Dates

- **Audit & Finance Sub-Committee Meeting** – Thursday 29th March at 10:00am, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 5th April at 10:00am, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
- **Sheep Board Meeting** – Thursday 5th April 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 86,221 results received since January 1st, of which 32,928 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 12,007,742 results have now been received.
- The chart shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2018 compared with 2017.

3 Herd Plus®

- Breeding high EBI replacements can be achieved even if your cows do not have a high EBI figure to start with. Click here for more details.

- The Top 10 bulls on the replacement index active bull list include 4 Salers, 2 Simmental, 1 Limousin, 1 Charolais, 1 Shorthorn and 1 Belgian Blue. Click here for more details.

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- ICBF and the programme partners, have recently launched the exciting new Gene Ireland panel of high replacement index beef bulls for Spring 2018. Click here for further details.

- 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 further details.

4 G€N€ IR€LAND® Beef

- The new GI Beef Spring 2018 Panel was launched this week.
- 28 herds taking a total of 225 straws have joined so far.
- The average order is 8 straws per herd.
- Details on the bulls available can be viewed on the ICBF website.
- To learn more or to order straws please telephone **023 8820452.**

Code	Name of Bull	Breed	Replacement Index	Across Breed Stars	Total Straws Ordered
SA2366	Carrentubber Pinocchio	SA	€161	5	435
SH4376	Castlehaven Rocky	SH	€156	5	70
SI4322	Kickhams Handsome	SI	€154	5	210
CH4320	Liseron	CH	€127	5	170
SI4347	Leeherd Harry	SI	€122	5	0
SI4350	Rubyjen Here's Johnny	SI	€122	5	0
AA4375	Carrigroe Nationwide	AA	€118	5	0
LM4356	Coisceim Lex	LM	€113	5	10
LM4360	Aherla K 7 P	LM	€109	5	0
LM4358	Montclare Lopez	LM	€106	5	5
AA4357	Mckeague Noddy	AA	€105	5	0
CH4213	Blanchefield Lester	CH	€91	4	85
PT4215	Leacan King	PT	€90	4	130
CH4218	Woodhead Meldrew	CH	€88	4	165
BA2357	Terelton Isaac	BA	€88	4	400
HE4292	Allowdale Rory 594	HE	€83	4	125

- Approimate total straws ordered to date for the bulls are detailed above.

5 Tully

- The Gene Ireland Progeny Test Centre recently slaughtered 18 heifers at Slaney Foods International, Bunclody, Co. Wexford. The progeny were sired by 10 different AI sires across 6 different breeds. The group consisted of 18 September 2016 born heifers. The average carcass weight for the group was 292 kilos. They average daily gain for the group during their 60 day performance test period was 1.31 kilos per head per day. Average growth rate within the group ranged from 1.02 kilos to 1.83 kilos per head per day. The average kill-out for the group was 53.5%, with kill-out ranging from 48.8% to 56.8%. Overall the animals graded well with 5 of the heifers grading U, 12 of the heifers being of R grade conformation, 1 grading in the O grade class. All of the 18 heifers met the carcass fat specifications of 2+ or higher, this was a great achievement as the majority of the heifers were only 15 months of age. The average dry matter intake (DMI) per day for the group was 10.98 kilos, with heifers consuming from 7.66 to 14.37 kilos per head per day on a DMI basis. The heifers were fed hay and concentrates over their 60 day finishing period. Overall the heifers performed well for their age and were gaining .70 kilos of carcass for each day they were

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on test at Tully. The data demonstrates the large variation in performance between progeny in a heifer finishing system.

- *See below photos of some of the progeny slaughtered.*
- All individual data on animals slaughtered recently can be found under the G€N€ IR€LAND section of the ICBF website (www.icbf.com). You can access the G€N€ IR€LAND section by clicking on the "services" tab which is located at the top of the homepage.

Key Points	
Finishing Period	**60 days**
Number of Heifers	**18**
Number of Sires	**10**
Number of Breeds	**6**
Average DMI	**10.98kgs**
Highest Average Daily Weight Gain	**1.83kgs**
Average Carcase weight	**292kgs**

Tag number IE371072420624

Tag number IE151052541060

Tag IE371072440634

- The Gene Ireland Progeny Test Centre recently slaughtered 33 steers at Slaney Foods International, Bunclody, Co. Wexford. The progeny were sired by 18 different AI sires across 8 different breeds. It consisted of 33 February, March and April 2016 born steers. The average carcass weight for the group was 392 kilos. They average daily gain for the group during their 74 day performance test period was 1.34 kilos per head per day. Average growth rate within the group ranged from 0.89 kilos to 1.92 kilos per head per day. The average kill-out for the group was 55.2%, with kill-out ranging from 52.2% to 58.8%. Overall the animals graded extremely well with 12 of the steers grading U, 19 of the steers being of R grade conformation, 2 grading in the O grade class. All of the 33 steers met the carcass fat specifications of 2+ or higher, this was a great achievement as many of the steers were only 20 months of age. The average dry matter intake (DMI) per day for the group was 13.1 kilos, with steers consuming from 12.2 to 15.5 kilos per head per day on a DMI basis. The steers were fed hay and concentrates over their 74 day finishing period which includes their 30 day acclimatisation period. Overall the steers performed very well for their age and were gaining .74 kilos of carcass for each day they were on test at Tully. The data demonstrates the large variation in performance between progeny in a steer finishing system.

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Key Points	
Finishing Period	**74 days**
Number of Steers	**33**
Number of Sires	**18**
Number of Breeds	**8**
Average DMI	**13.1kgs**
Highest Average Daily Weight Gain	**1.92kgs**
Average. Carcase weight	**392kgs**
No. of steers hitting carcase fat spec.	**100%**

Tag number: IE351322310602
Breed: Simmental
Sire: KJG

Tag numbers: IE291061970772 & IE291061940778
Breed: Charolais
Sire: PDR

6 Sheep Ireland

Central Progeny Test (CPT) Lambing

- We are in the middle of preparing for the lambing season and like many farmers it can be very difficult to find adequate labour at this busy time. Due to this being a very intense period it is essential that we have enough labour to provide our 4 flocks 24-hour cover around the peak of lambing. This can prove a huge challenge for us to organise. We therefore require experienced lambers and students alike for our CPT lambing period which is due to take place from the 4th – 25th March. The CPT lambing proves to be a huge learning experience due to the amount of ewes lambing in a very short space of time. We expect almost 2100 ewes to lamb within this period. On peak days there can be as many as 100 ewes lambing within 24 hours. Experienced lambers or students that wish to gain lambing experience can contact Sheep Ireland on **023 882 0451** or email **query@sheep.ie**.

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Upcoming Events

- Teagasc are hosting their annual Sheep Conferences next week which will prove to be very informative events, which are not to be missed. These are due to take place in two locations, for more information please see here.

Agricultural Colleges

- Each year Sheep Ireland engage with as many agricultural colleges as possible. Spreading the word to students about the potential of sheep genetic improvement is very beneficial as they will be the next generation of farmers/professionals within the Agricultural Industry. Within the next week we will have been in touch with all agricultural colleges and we will be sending out Lambing notebooks to any of their students who would benefit from using them. For several of the colleges we also supply information boards, these prove to be very useful especially around data recording at lambing time.

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National Milk Recording Results for the 10 day period, 17-JAN-2018 To 26-JAN-2018

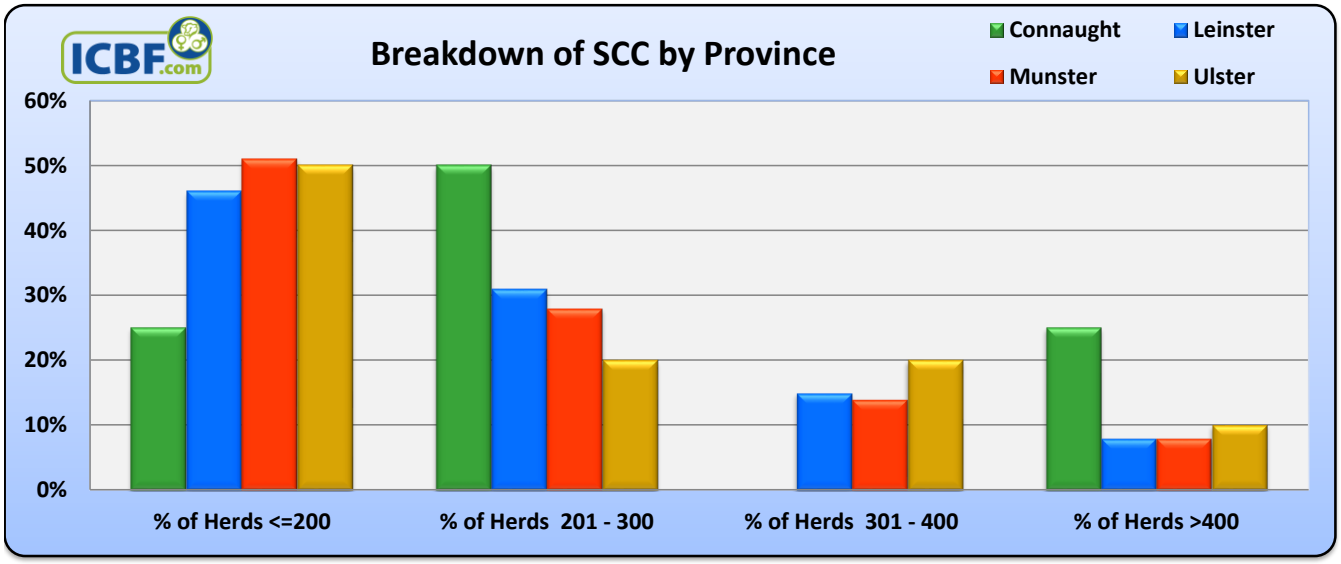
	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	4	336	84	20.9	4.51	3.38	1.64	216
Leinster	61	4,484	74	22.3	4.44	3.44	1.75	204
Munster	79	5,811	74	23.5	4.35	3.43	1.83	172
Ulster	10	464	46	21.5	4.17	3.39	1.62	195
National Statistics	**154**	**11,095**	**72**	**22.8**	**4.38**	**3.43**	**1.78**	**187**

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 17-JAN-2018 To 26-JAN-2018

	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	4	336	84	25%	50%	0%	25%	216
Leinster	61	4,484	74	46%	31%	15%	8%	204
Munster	79	5,811	74	51%	28%	14%	8%	172
Ulster	10	464	46	50%	20%	20%	10%	195
National Statistics	**154**	**11,095**	**72**	**48%**	**29%**	**14%**	**8%**	**187**

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 17-JAN-2018 To 26-JAN-2018

	No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC
Connaught	4	336	84	158	231	250	269	378
Leinster	61	4,484	74	132	189	211	239	318
Munster	79	5,811	74	99	148	196	215	309
Ulster	10	464	46	97	171	203	246	378
National Statistics	**154**	**11,095**	**72**	**107**	**170**	**207**	**230**	**316**

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)