


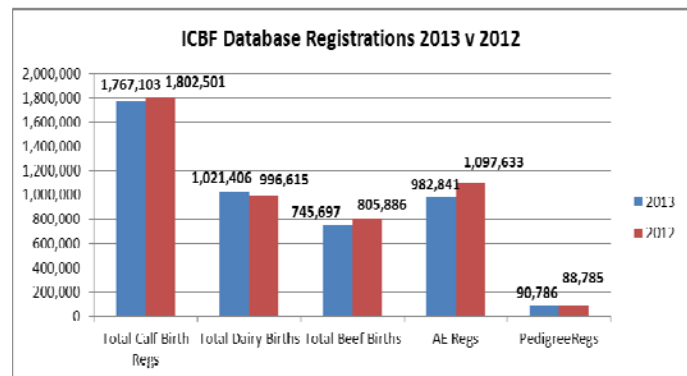
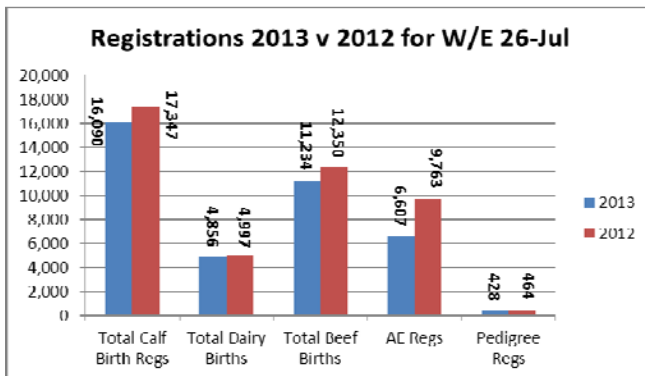








ICBF Weekly Update 26th July 2013

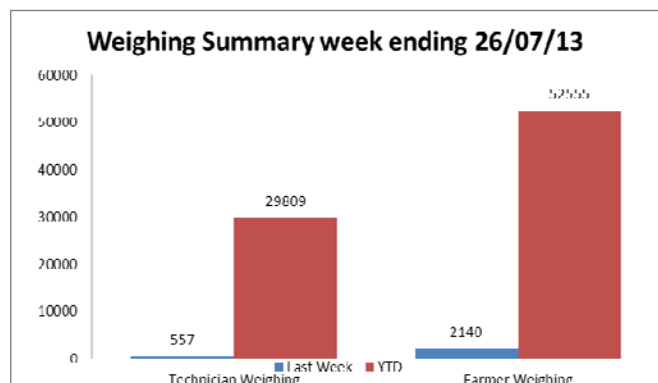
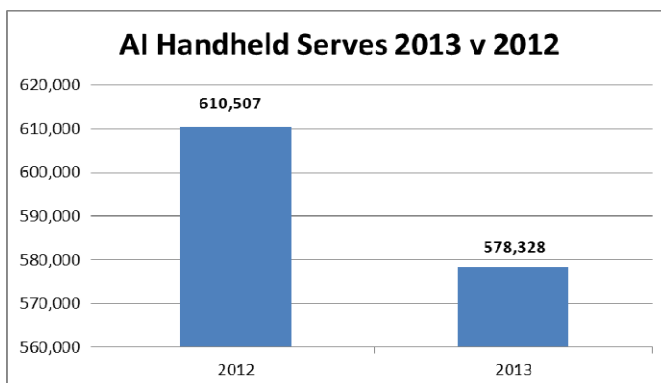
1 Important Dates

-  **ICBF Industry Consultation Meeting** – Thursday 1st August, 10:00 to 16:00, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
-  **ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 12th September, 10:30 to 14:00, Highfield House, Bandon.
-  **Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 12th September, 14:00 to 16:30, Highfield House, Bandon.

2 Database



-  The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems. We have updated the way we report the figures to better reflect what is happening on the ground nationally.
-  In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 646,388 with the number of animals weaned at 582,655.
-  BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. There have been 1,849,000 results received since January 1st, of which 15,000 have come in the last 7 days. Since the beginning of the voluntary phase in 2012, 2.34 million results have now been received.
-  The graph below shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.
-  This week there were 557 weights received through the technician service and 2140 weights recorded by farmers.
-  The graph below shows the week and year to date totals.



3 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ On Wednesday the Teagasc Better Farm/Sheep Ireland farm walk took place in Andrew Maloney's farm in Edenderry. Andrew has been a Sheep Ireland CPT (Central Progeny Test) flock since 2009 and joined the Teagasc Better farm programme in 2012. There was a good attendance, estimated at between 200 & 250 farmers, and the level of engagement was very good. Unfortunately many sheep farmers in Ireland are unaware of the valuable work being carried out on our CPT farms every year and it was clear that those present at the farm walk were impressed by the scale of the programme and the contribution it was making in helping us learn more about our breeding rams.
- ✚ Up to now, the rams being used in the CPT have been sourced, based on their potential contribution to improve the 'linkage' of the pedigree ram flocks that are involved in LambPlus. Linkage is essential to allow Sheep Ireland provide meaningful evaluation to farmers, and allows us to compare the performance of rams from different bloodlines and different parts of the country. The example used at the farm walk, was the isolated family of Suffolks in Donegal and another isolated family of Suffolks in Cork. By taking a Pedigree ram from both isolated families into the CPT, we can instantly 'link' these two families and evaluate their performance in a commercial setting. *Please see all the Sheep Ireland boards from the walk attached.*
- ✚ The level of linkage that we are now achieving across our pedigree flocks is quite good, but this will need to be maintained on an on-going basis, especially with large numbers of new flocks joining the scheme each year. As mentioned above, linkage has been our number one objective within the CPT and this will continue to be a high priority. However we now hope to use more rams with very high genetic merit from our database. The CPT is a great showcase for the Sheep Ireland breed improvement programme and by using high Euro-Star rams in the Central Progeny Test it will hopefully help to promote the benefits of what we are doing to an even wider audience.



'A group of farmers at the lamb performance stand at Andrew Maloney's farm walk'

4 HerdPlus®

- Co-Op Performance Reports for the second quarter are currently being packed and posted to farmers. The final batches should be posted next week.
- Bull Tracker reports will be available for online viewing in the next few weeks. These will also be posted to the relevant farmers.
- The new ICBF website will be going live next week. This new website has a number of excellent features including current news feed and links to social media.

5 Genetic Evaluations

- Conversions of foreign dairy traits in New Zealand Jersey and Norwegian Red cattle are in progress; this routine process allows foreign bulls with no or little information in Ireland yet to have an equivalent EBI. A research collaboration with Wageningen University has started to enhance health traits evaluation.
- Work continues on estimation of parameters for Heterogeneity of variance in milk production test day model.
- Evaluation files were sent to Interbull this week for the upcoming evaluation run.
- Some domestic evaluations are currently running, the remainder will run in the next 2 weeks.

6 Milk Recording

National Milk Recording Statistics - Herds, Cows & EDIY 26/07/13						
Milk Recording Organisation	Total Herds Recorded YTD 26/07/13	No. EDIY Herds YTD 26/07/13	% Herds EDIY	Total No. Cows Recorded YTD 26/07/13	No. EDIY Cows YTD 26/07/13	% Cows EDIY
Munster	3,669	1,054	29%	305,923	94,581	31%
Progressive	2,406	970	40%	225,472	93,653	42%
Tipperary	112	39	35%	9,717	3,538	36%
Total	6,187	2,063	33%	541,112	191,772	35%

Recorded Cows by Milk Recording Organisation - Year on Year Comparison			
Milk Recording Organisation	YTD 2012 Cows Recorded 01/01/12 - 26/07/12	YTD 2013 Cows Recorded 01/01/13 - 26/07/13	2013 vs. 2012 Year on Year Difference (%)
Munster	301,038	305,923	1.6%
Progressive	216,350	225,472	4.0%
Tipperary	9,854	9,717	-1.4%
Total	527,242	541,112	2.6%

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, 17-JUL-2013 To 26-JUL-2013

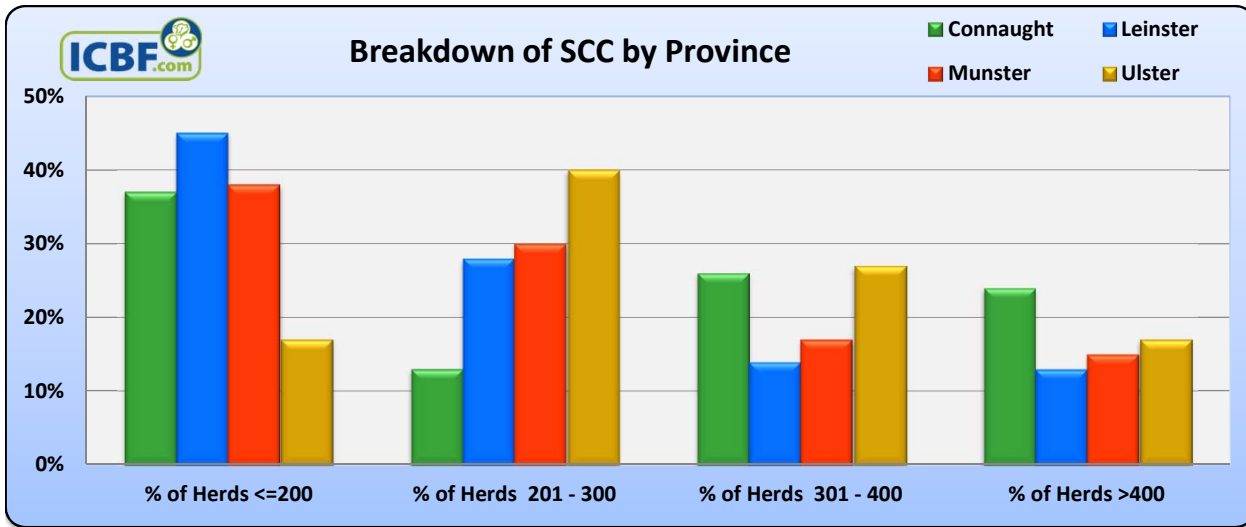
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Avg Milk kg/Cow	Average Fat %	Average Protein %	Average F+P kg	Average SCC*
Connaught	38	2,547	67	23.2	3.56	3.26	255
Leinster	140	12,048	86	22.0	3.68	3.38	221
Munster	545	41,060	75	22.7	3.69	3.35	228
Ulster	30	1,842	61	24.6	3.55	3.27	286
National Statistics	753	57,497	76	22.7	3.67	3.35	230

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC

SCC Distribution for the 10 day period, 17-JUL-2013 To 26-JUL-2013

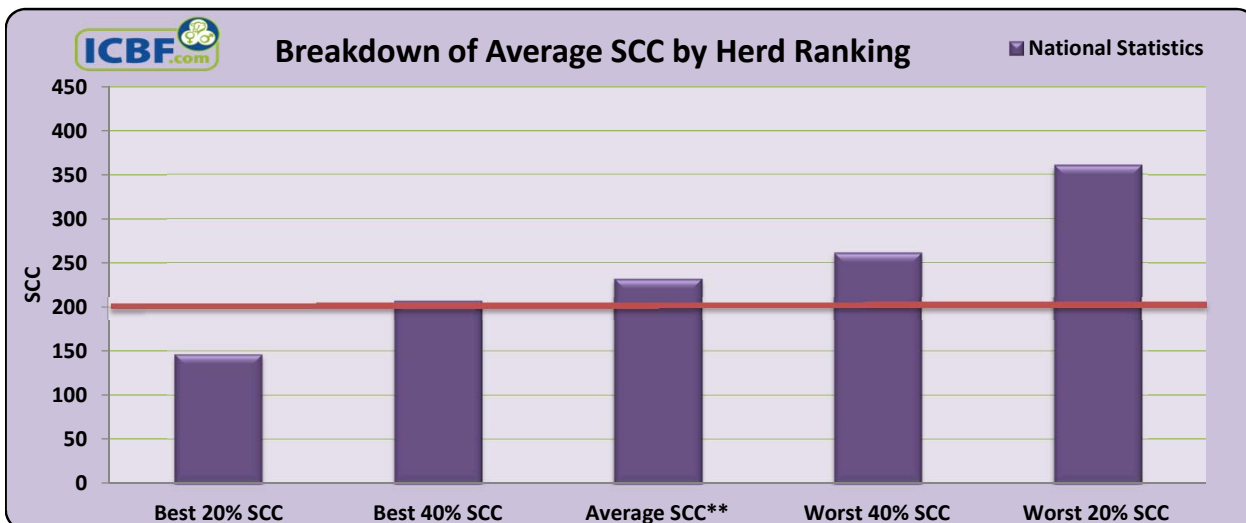
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	% of Herds <=200	% of Herds 201 - 300	% of Herds 301 - 400	% of Herds >400	Average SCC*
Connaught	38	2,547	37%	13%	26%	24%	255
Leinster	140	12,048	45%	28%	14%	13%	221
Munster	545	41,060	38%	30%	17%	15%	228
Ulster	30	1,842	17%	40%	27%	17%	286
National Statistics	753	57,497	39%	29%	17%	15%	230

* Geometric Mean Herd SCC



% Herd Breakdown for the 10 day period, 17-JUL-2013 To 26-JUL-2013								
No. Herds Recorded	No. Cows Recorded	Avg Herd Size	Best 20% SCC	Best 40% SCC	Average SCC**	Worst 40% SCC	Worst 20% SCC	
Connaught	38	2,547	67	156	213	274	327	411
Leinster	140	12,048	86	143	189	218	245	340
Munster	545	41,060	75	146	206	231	262	360
Ulster	30	1,842	61	230	263	287	311	349
National Statistics	753	57,497	76	147	207	232	262	361

** Percentile Herd SCC Rank (Median SCC)



Ram Euro-Star Evaluations

1 Star Production

Animal Details		Ancestry Details		Euro-Star Indexes - 15/07/13				
Official Id		Sire's Sire	Kelso Oj (MBZ08018)	% Rank	Star Rating	Indexes	€ Value	Acc%
Tattoo	OKI11030	Sire's Dam	Cairness Djv 07111(3) (DJV07111)	Top 40%	★★★★★	Overall Sheep Value	€ 0.169	40%
Name	Annakisha Sir Mountalot	Sire	Cairness Perfection (DJV09059)	Top 20%	★★★★★★	Lambing	€ 0.12	40%
Birth date	06-Feb-2011	Dam	Annakisha (OKI08023)	Btm 20%	★	Production	€ -0.729	63%
Breed	Texel			Top 1%	★★★★★★	Maternal	€ 0.778	36%
Sex	Male	Dam's Sire	Ballybrooney New Ram (EWI07036)	Other Key Traits				
Birth type	Triplet	Dam's Dam	Claybury (DHL03017)	Btm 20%	★	Days to Slaughter	5.517 days	79%
Dam rec	1633			Top 40%	★★★★★	Lamb Survival	0.17%	47%
Ultrasound flock	Yes							
Comment:				Copyright, Sheep Ireland				

5 Star Production

Animal Details		Ancestry Details		Euro-Star Indexes - 15/07/13				
Official Id	IE042481512019B	Sire's Sire	Strathbogie Python (JS09289)	% Rank	Star Rating	Indexes	€ Value	Acc%
Tattoo	PNI11051	Sire's Dam	Glenside (FPG07969)	Top 10%	★★★★★★	Overall Sheep Value	€ 0.452	40%
Name	Chessy Spot On	Sire	Glenside Royal Sovereign (FPG10028)	Btm 20%	★	Lambing	€ -0.47	37%
Birth date	04-Mar-2011	Dam	Chessy (PNI09056)	Top 10%	★★★★★★	Production	€ 0.678	64%
Breed	Texel			Top 20%	★★★★★★	Maternal	€ 0.244	37%
Sex	Male	Dam's Sire	Tullagh Neptune (CJT07023)	Other Key Traits				
Birth type	Double	Dam's Dam	Grougfoot (MDG05122)	Top 20%	★★★★★★	Days to Slaughter	-3.236 days	80%
Dam rec	5			Btm 20%	★	Lamb Survival	-1.285%	39%
Ultrasound flock	Yes							
Comment:				Copyright, Sheep Ireland				

Linkage - A critical part of the EuroStar evaluations

Donegal Suffolks



Andrew Moloneys
CPT farm



Cork Suffolks



Allows Sheep Ireland to
evaluate rams from
around the country
fairly in one location

CPT - Central Progeny Test

Essential to the Sheep Ireland programme to gather information on our breeding rams

Key Features:

Mating:

- All ewes Artificially Inseminated (500 ewes)
- Laparoscopic AI used
- 63 individual rams have been used and evaluated

Lambing:

- 3500 lambs born to AI over 4 seasons
- Lambing complete in 4/5 days
- Busiest day - 130 lambs born (14th March)

Weighing:

- Over 8000 individual animal weights collected since 2010

End Result:

All CPT data feeds back into the genetic evaluations being provided to Irish sheep farmers



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Lamb Performance

The aim has been to rear the progeny of each ram being evaluated under similar management conditions

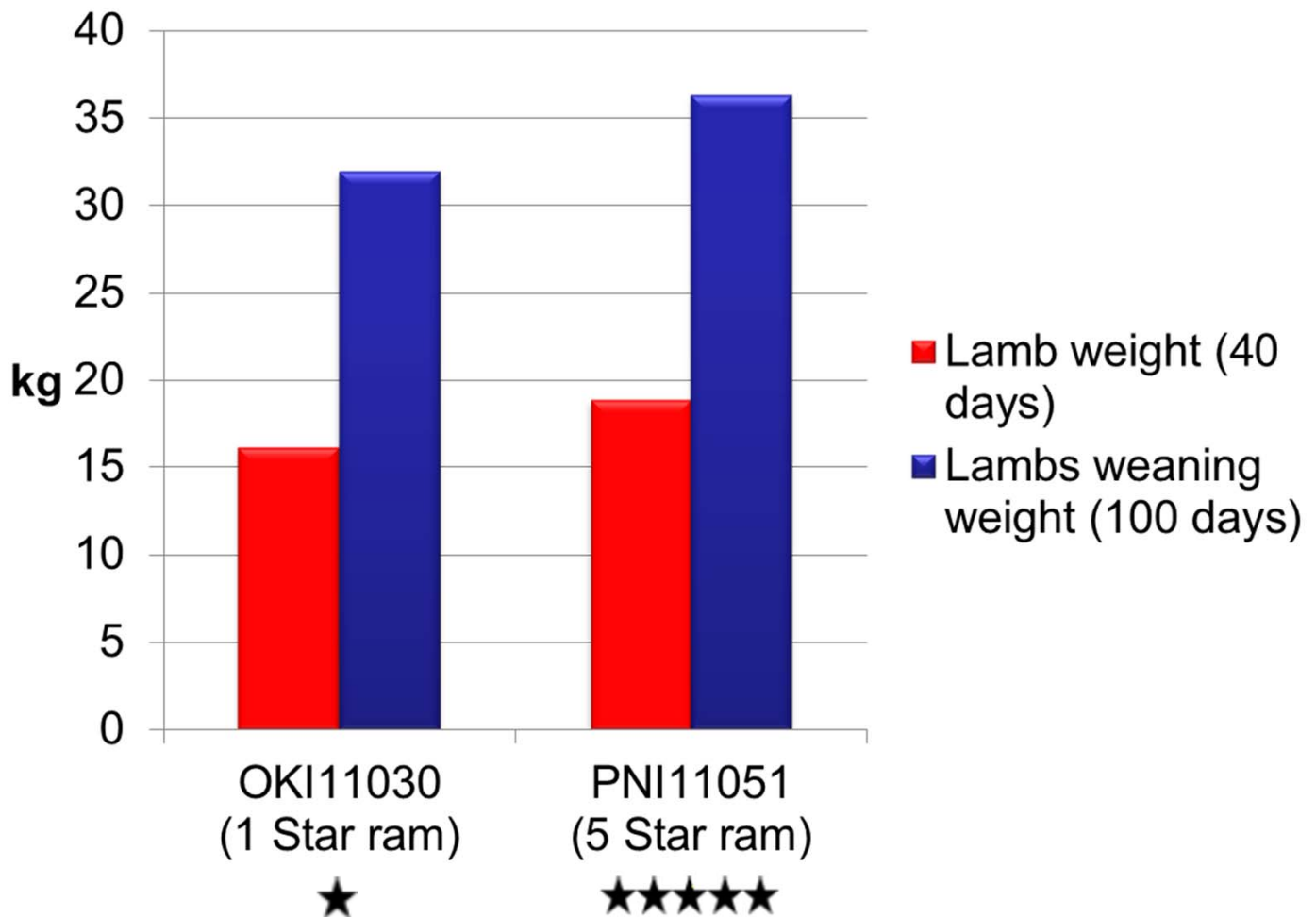
Lamb performance during the past 4 seasons

Weight at:	Season			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Day 40	18.38 (342 g)	21.26 (412 g)	23.16(447 g)	19.47 (356 g)
Weaning (Day 100)	34.47 (268 g)	36.70 (257 g)	36.64 (225g)	35.42 (265 g)

- Focus on producing lambs from a grass based system
 - Good management is essential
- Excellent handling facilities on the farm contributing to high lamb performance
- Rams of varying genetic make-up have been used on the farm up to now for 'Linkage' purposes
- Objective will now change to using top €uroStar rated rams



The potential benefit of using 5 star vs 1 star rams on lamb growth



- Difference at in lamb weight at 40 days and weaning was 2.7 and 4.3 kg respectively
- If each ram sired 60 lambs this would translate into a difference in output of **261kg** (liveweight) at 100 days of age