



Tyone Mill, Nenagh a division of Arrabawn Co-op, sponsored three categories of style judged at the North Tipperary Agricultural Show.



Pictured from left: Pat Ronan (Arrabawn Co-op) presenting the Best Dressed Lady award to Moneygall's Sorchla Flatherty, Conor Delaney (Show Committee Chairman) presenting Miss Shelia Ryan Toomevara (Show Style Judge and Tipperary Rose) with a bouquet of flowers; Portroe's Helen Mooney receiving the Most Suitably Dressed Lady award from Naomi McDonnell (Arrabawn Co-op) and in front Abigail Murtagh received the Most Suitably Dressed Child award.

Health Certificate

As you are aware a new health certificate is required each year, we have these forms in head office, if you have not received one please contact us. A number of changes come into effect going forward please note the points listed below.

- The Certificates will no longer be year specific. They are valid for 1 year from the date of inspection by the Veterinary Practitioner.
- There will no longer be a requirement to submit a list of animal tag numbers with the completed certificates.
- On Page 1 – Veterinary Certification of compliance – the Veterinary Practitioner must complete the number of animals presented to him as milk yielding animals, and for which is providing certification.
- On Page 3 – Herdowner Declaration of compliance – the herdowner must complete the number of animals presented by him as milk yielding animals to the Veterinary Practitioner for certification.

Please arrange for your certificate to be signed and returned to us as soon as possible to avoid issues with milk collection. The requirement for a current certificate to enable milk collection applies as before.

Arrabawn Open Day at Gurteen

Arrabawn Co-op, in conjunction with the Arrabawn Milking for Quality Awards, will, once again, be hosting an Open Day focussing on **technical efficiency** at Gurteen Agricultural College (between Borrisokane and Birr) on Thursday 31st August, from 11.00 to 3pm. Running under the banner of 'Farming Smarter, Not Harder', the event will be attended by various companies (40+ stands) involved in the supply of products and services associated with best practice about the farm. Also, there will be a reseeding demonstration involving 6 different reseeding procedures and an assessment of last year's reseeding programme. It will be an opportunity to ask questions regarding many issues ranging from dairy hygiene to rodent control to heifer rearing to mastitis control to bulk tanks and milking machines and much more.

Thursday 31st August - Gurteen Agricultural College

**For any further information or advice
on any subjects or products
mentioned in this newsletter
please ring 087 6697010**

Email: farmsupport@arrabawn.ie

Check out our Website: www.arrabawn.ie

Mastitis / SCC – focus on the autumn rise!

Every year there is a spike in SCC during the autumn – weather conditions deteriorate and cows tend to be over milked due to reducing milk yield. So now is the time of year to think about cow performance and milk quality records during the early lactation and what you might do for the later part of the lactation. Think about it – had you many cases of mastitis so far this year? How much has Somatic Cell Count cost you in penalties? Do the antibiotic tubes work? Are some cows repeatedly get mastitis?

What's the big deal about Mastitis/SCC? Mastitis is the result of an udder being infected by bacteria. These bacteria stimulate the cow's body to release white blood cells in defence and these white blood cells are measured as Somatic Cells in the milk - in a way the level of somatic cells in the milk is a measure of the cow's health. Everybody would like to think that they are drinking milk produced by healthy cows! This is particularly important when you consider that 15% of the world's baby food / infant formula is produced from Irish milk. Many of your customers are multinational companies who specialise in the production of baby food and their standards are getting higher every year. These companies are expecting to purchase milk with a SCC value of less than 200,000/ ml. Can you meet this standard? It is not just the baby food business which is affected – cheese, butter and fresh milk products are also depending on the best possible milk in order to meet the higher standards demanded by the consumer. The lower the SCC the better the shelf-life of the end product. Also, a manufacturer has more options with regard to what products can be produced when he is dealing with low SCC milk.

Mastitis is controllable, by applying certain simple procedures to your milking routine – you might be missing out on just one of the 5 or 6 steps in the mastitis prevention programme - 'Mastitis Control is a cumulative effect of adopting best management practices' – every step you take will give some return, but the benefit of adopting all the steps will be massive. Remember, mastitis is caused by bacteria entering the teat canal – stop this happening and SCC is under control. So, keep bacteria away from the teat and keep equipment clean – simple!

For some people it is not so simple and they continue to have problems. Farmers should think about SCC and maybe put a plan in place for the rest of the season. Paying close attention to teat hygiene will pay huge dividends – be extra careful by:

- Use the Californian Milk Test on freshly calved cows.
 - Pre-dip and post-spray with an effective teatcare
 - Know what tubes you are going to use in the event of mastitis
 - Have your milking machine serviced and get the written report
- Remember, SCC is not affected by **Breed**, Milk Yield, **Stage of Lactation**, Nutrition(except for Selenium and Vitamin E) or **Cow Diseases**, But is affected by **Management Practices**, **Milk from Affected Cows** and the **Environment** (dirt, mud and manure) – **farmers who adopt recommended practices(gloves, CMT, ACR) produce better milk.**

Of course there are chronic cases of mastitis on most farms. These will be a constant source of contagious mastitis causing bacteria. The challenge is to identify these cows and deal with them, either by culling or giving them an intense treatment programme. Testing individual cows during the year is a good way of monitoring the situation – either by fore stripping or by lab testing (no fore stripping = no detection!). In this respect, milk recording is invaluable - **if you haven't been doing it, do it this year!** Don't cull a cow based on just one result – give her at least 2 or 3 tests first! Be ruthless when the results are clear – keeping a 'millionaire' will cost you money - loss of milk, poor milk quality and infection spread to other cows! So, what are you to do?

- Become involved in the Arrabawn Mastitis Control programme
- Work with your milk advisors, get them to organise a cell check workshop.
- Identify chronic cases
- Have a team talk - yourself, your advisor, your workmates, your family
- Focus on prevention – write down a plan and stick to it.

Milk record the whole herd now, and identify any high SCC cows i.e. SCC>200,000cells/mL

1. These high SCC cows should be marked and milked last to **minimise**

disease spread.

2. **Discuss a treatment plan with your vet** - while treatment may appear to be the most logical option, remember that cure rates can range from 20-80% depending on various factors, such as the bacteria involved, the duration of infection and the cow's lactation number.

3. **Remove the source of infection** - Dry off individual quarters i.e. simply stop milking it, do NOT use a dry cow tube. Consider culling if the cow is a repeat offender i.e. high SCC in two consecutive lactations.

For full details on dealing with high SCC cows, see Management Note M in the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control.

For more information contact your Arrabawn Milk Advisor

Sample – Analyse – Interpret – Plan

As we enter the last quarter of the year it's time to take stock of the ingredients that will influence how your farm will perform next year. While milk prices have improved it's still important to pay attention to detail and to measure what you have and maximise the return by making decisions based on solid facts.

Soil - The single biggest element of your farm is the top 4 inches of soil growing your grass. How often do you check it out for the major elements, Lime, Phosphate and Potash. By taking a soil sample now you will have time plan your fertiliser programme for next year. You can check out the wide range of fertilisers available and select the most suitable fertiliser for your farm. Using the wrong fertiliser could be costing you a lot of money.

Silage Feed Analysis - on most farms, silage is the mainstay of the winter feeding programme, yet its true feed value is taken for granted. Often protein values are less than ideal for cows in the dry period not to mention the effect of low protein on freshly calving cows. Low dietary protein in the dry period can lead to smaller calves and poor quality colostrum at calving. Low protein in the diet of the milking cow can lead to depressed appetite and lower milk yield.

Silage Mineral Analysis – wouldn't it be useful if you knew there was a problem - such as milk fever, retained afterbirth or even a dead calf due to slow calving - coming down the line in a few months time. You could make plans to deal with the problem! A silage mineral analysis can establish the mineral status of your silage and indicate any deficiencies which may cause problems at calving.

Slurry – what's it worth? The slurry from the dry cow pen will be different from the slurry from the cattle or milking cow pen! If you get a sample tested you can make a better job of balancing with bought in chemical fertiliser.

Milk – a simple milk sample can give a lot of useful information. Sensitivity testing can show which bacteria might be the cause of mastitis in the herd. It might also indicate if dairy hygiene could be better. A milk test can also indicate the presence of Liver fluke and worms in your herd.

Talk to your Arrabawn / Dan O'Connor Feeds Rep or contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-Op to arrange the sampling of your farm or silage.

HOOF TRIMMING SERVICE

Covering 25 mile radius of Portumna.

Dairy cows • Sucklers • Bulls

Contact Justin **087 7425274**

Animal Feeding for the Autumn period

With the days getting shorter and grass growth receding, it is time to think seriously about animal performance. It is no longer acceptable to let animals stand still – they must be growing in order to be available for sale at the earliest opportunity.

- **Weanlings** need to grow good frames to carry a good carcass at 18 – 24 months and replacements need to achieve growth targets in order to survive in the dairy herd. **Sucklermate** is the ideal ration to grow your young animals during this critical period. This cubed ration is made from the finest ingredients and finely balanced and high in protein to get the best out of your growing stock. Frame building should be the aim during the first 12 months. Avoid letting heifers get too fat during this period as it will hinder their performance during the dairy herd.

- **Replacement Heifers** are the future of your herd and need to be treated with care, especially during the first year of life. It is important that they are growing continuously in order to achieve targets for height, weight and condition score at breeding. **Dan O'Connor Feed's 'HeiferMax'** is the most suitable ration for the replacement heifer.

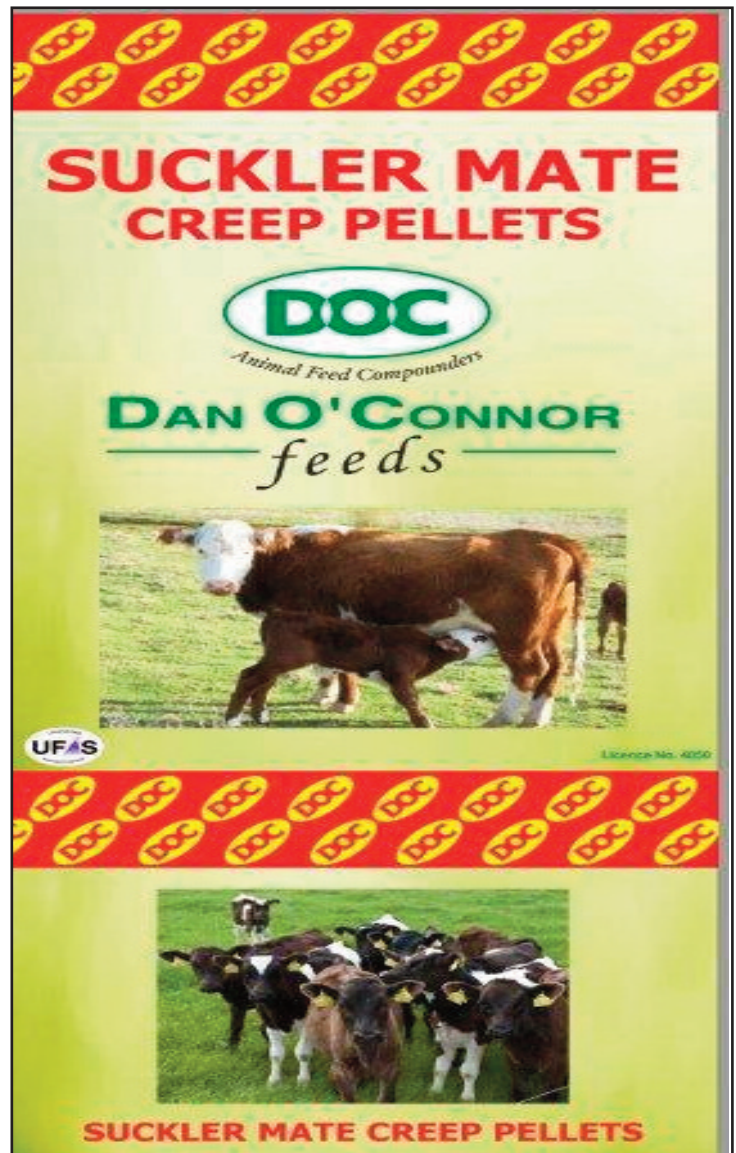
- **Finishing cattle** need high energy, in the right form to put on condition. Too much protein in the overall diet can be a problem, so it is important to choose a ration which will compliment other elements - **INTENSIVE BEEF FINISHER** is formulated to achieve the highest level of performance from a short intensive feeding period.

- **CREEP FEEDING** – Start feeding meal to suckling calves during the month of August. Research has shown gains of up to 1 kg per day and less stress at weaning when weanlings are fed 4 – 8 kg per day. Choose **Sucklermate**, **Greenvale Calf-Rearer**, **Weanling ration** or **HeiferMax** from your local branch of **Arrabawn Co-op**.

- **Dairy cows** are now entering the last quarter of their lactation and both milk yield and quality will start to drop off. Shorter days and declining grass quality tend to make the situation worse. In order to maintain milk quality, the cow needs to maintain her energy intake. This will be difficult if grass dry matter is not very high. Increasing dry matter intake by giving a few kilos of dairy concentrate, **MilkMax**, will help stop the slip in milk yield and maintain milk solids as we head into the autumn. **MilkMax** is the latest in the 'Max' range of products from Dan O'Connor Feeds – it contains high levels of cereals and digestible fibre, suitable for grass based feeding. **MilkMax** is a high performance product containing quality protein sources and rumen enhancers. **MilkMax** will allow you get the best return from your cows right to the season end.

- **Drying off cows!** While the temptation is to put cows on a straw diet farmers should be aware of the need to supplement with extra protein and minerals. The dry cow will require 13% protein in her diet – straw will provide 8 – 9% protein. Low protein in the dry cow diet will lead to poor appetite and dwarfism in new born calves. The dry cow will need to be eating 10 to 11 kg dry matter per head per day.

Your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op can supply you with a suitable ration for your stock.



TCM Chemical Residues in Milk

TCM (Trichloromethane) is a chemical contaminant in milk that has significant commercial implications.

A legal limit exists for TCM in the German market for Dairy products and to comply with this legislation milk must meet the limit of **maximum 0.0015 mg /kg**. Arrabawn supply bulk butter to the Ornuá butter plant in Germany where it is packed into retail butter packs and sold under the Kerrygold brand which commands a significant premium in the German market. The competitor brands on the German market have very low TCM levels in their butter and so any issues with TCM residues will have a serious negative commercial impact on Kerrygold butter sales.

TCM is a chemical residue arising from chlorine containing detergents, if some chlorine containing chemical is left in the milk lines or tanker then it binds to the milk and forms TCM, thus effective rinsing of all equipment after detergent and sanitiser use is critical to ensuring you stay under the 0.0015 mg /kg limit. We have a TCM monitoring programme in place and the results are issued by text message, if you are not achieving 0.0015 or under please take immediate action and contact us if you need some advice or assistance.

The production of TCM can be minimised by ensuring the following:

- Adequate pre-rinsing to remove milk residue before washing and adequate post rinsing after washing to remove all detergent or sanitiser residues.
- Ensure the correct amount of detergent and sanitiser is used.
- Do not add additional chlorine to the final rinse water.
- Detergents and sanitiser solutions should not be re-used more than once.
- Dipping clusters in chlorine should be avoided, peracetic acid can be used instead as this is chlorine free.

Arrabawn UI6 All Ireland Hurling Tournament



Pictured - Conor Ryan CEO Arrabawn presenting sponsorship to Ann McGrath Treasurer Tipperary Coiste Na nOg and John Sheehy Secretary Tipperary Coiste Na nOg.

Autumn grassland management

It's that time of year again when farmers need to start thinking about grazing management for the autumn months. It's important not to slack off on best practice towards the end of the year, as getting it right this autumn will have the double benefit of (a) ensuring grass production and utilisation is maximized for 2017, and (b) ensuring that your farm is well set up for the start of the 2018 grazing season. In reality, a successful start next spring depends on management this autumn. Ultimately the target is to achieve a closing average farm cover of 550 kg DM/ha in November. This will allow an opening farm cover in 2018 of 600-700 kg/ha. So far it's been an excellent year for grass growth, with growth rates across the country currently averaging about 60 kg DM/day. This will vary across farms, with the recent wetter weather leading to reduced growth rates on heavier soils if surface water is present. For the June-August period, an average farm cover/cow should be 150-170 kg DM. From now on, growth rates will slow down, but average farm cover needs to be built to a target peak of 1100 kg DM in mid-September. This will allow us to extend the rotation length to 35 days for the remainder of the autumn. Pastures will still be responsive to nitrogen fertiliser in August and it's recommended to get about 28 units of N (a bag of CAN or $\frac{1}{2}$ bag of urea per acre) on in August and another 25 units in September before the deadline of 15th September. This will help to extend the rotation length for the remainder of the season and achieve the target closing farm cover. Don't compromise on cleaning out paddocks to 4cm post grazing – high residuals will result in poorer quality swards in autumn and reduced milk solids production.

Target farm covers for a spring calving herd stocked at 2.5 LU/ha (Teagasc – "Managing Your Grass")

Date	Grazing platform SR	Growth rate	Target AFC/ha	Target farm cover/cow	Event
Feb 15	2.5	9	661	264	Cows out by day
Mar 15	2.6	38	880	342	Out full time
May 10	4.2	88	800	190	Supply exceeds demand
From June to August, farm cover should be maintained at 150-170kg DM per cow					
Aug 15	2.5	65	775	310	
Sept 1	2.5	51	1100	440	
Sept 15	2.5	37	1125	450	Peak cover
Oct 1	2.5	30	1075	430	
Oct 15	2.5	27	950	380	First paddock closed
Nov 1	2.5	15	700	280	Supplements
Nov 15	2.5	9	600	240	
Nov 22	2.5	2.5	550	220	Housed day & night

Soil fertility and reseeding

The good milk price year should free up some spare cash for capital investments, one of which could be soil fertility and reseeding. Use soil test data to top up paddocks that are index 1 and 2 for P and K. In particular, pay attention to silage ground that has had no slurry or P/K fertiliser since cutting. For example, a silage DM yield of 6 t/ha will directly remove about 120 kg/ha of K from the soil (about 100 units of K/acre). This needs to be replenished at some point, through K fertiliser or a combination of K and slurry. An application of 1000 gallons/acre of slurry contains 38 units of K and 5 units of P. Non-silage ground that has been grazed all year will have much of the K recycled through cow's urine but still needs maintenance applications of P and K.

It's an ideal time to reseed, with time still available to achieve good establishment and one grazing before winter. Leaving it too late will reduce the chances of a grazing before spring and also compromise clover establishment as the weather gets colder. If you want to reseed this autumn, get in and spray paddocks off now so as to get seed sown in early September.

Heifer Rearing Targets

Now is a good time to ensure that replacement heifers are meeting target growth rates. Achieving target weights for breeding is an investment which will pay dividends down the track when these animals start milking. Six month old Holstein heifers should weigh 175kg. We are aiming for an average growth rate of about 0.7 kg/day (or 20 kg/month) from weaning through to first breeding. This will allow HF heifers to reach 330 kg by 13 months of age next spring, the ideal pre-breeding target weight. It's much easier to achieve this during the summer months than in September/October when supply may be tight and grass energy content is lower. If grass is scarce, supplement with meal. Heifers born last spring

should have a DMI of 4.5-5.5 kg/day in November (2.3% of bodyweight). Weighing your replacement weanlings this autumn is the best way to ensure that target weights are being reached. For winter, typical silage of 70 DMD plus 1.5-2 kg of meal will achieve a growth rate of about 0.5 kg/day. If you see a few heifers lagging behind the others in terms of target growth rate, one option is to separate these into a subgroup and offer an extra bit of meal and priority access to pasture. HEIFERMAX from the Dan O'Connor range is an ideal concentrate to use from weaning right through to first calving, specially designed to promote good structural growth and udder development, and also with an excellent mineral profile. It's important to get heifers reared correctly – breeding underweight heifers next spring will lead to poorer conception rates and first lactation calving date drifting too late, which ultimately costs money.

Monitor Farm Performance Table

Aug-17	Kennedys	Coles	Molamphys	Dowds	Whiriskeys
Location	Ballingarry	Aghancon	Portroe	Kilconly	Kiltullagh
Litres/cow	21.8	18.2	20.0	25.6	18.4
Milk fat%	4.31	4.36	4.28	4.08	3.97
Milk protein%	3.65	3.58	3.58	3.54	3.41
kg MS/cow	1.8	1.5	1.6	2.0	1.4
Meal fed/cow	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.0
Average Farm cover/ha	609	549	830	766	664
Average Farm cover/LU	194	233	265	214	278
Growth rate (kg/ha)		54	60	71	46
Demand (kg/ha)	53	40	48	54	40
*Data from 5th-9th August					

Milk Recording

Over 300 Arrabawn Suppliers are milk recording this year. Are you one of them? Suppliers who milk record are in receipt of a huge amount of information relating to cow and farm performance. Never was the statement 'you can't manage what you don't measure' more appropriate. Milk recording allows you to monitor the performance of individual cows right through the year on the important areas of fertility, milk quality and profitability. Imagine finding out the real high performance cows, the high milk solid cows, the quick to go in calf cows, the regular mastitis cows and the cows that make you most money.

Most of the hassle associated with Milk Recording has been removed. Farmers can sign up for various programmes – typically, milk recording cost € 2.10 per cow per recording, a farmer opting for 4 recordings per year will pay € 8.40 per cow.

Monthly milk recording gives best results for mastitis control allowing:

- regular and prompt identification of problem cows,
- reviewing of treatment efficacy,
- monitoring spread of infection within the herd,
- monitoring stage of lactation SCC changes .

Milk recording makes money:

- The lower the milk price the more important to identify 'passenger' cows and get rid of them.

• Monthly milk recording is cheap – approx. € 16 / cow

- A 5000 litre cow generates € 1250 milk at 25cents/lt => even at this price you can afford to milk record

Monthly milk recording allows you to review individual cows for :

- Somatic cell count
- Yield of fat, protein and milk
- Identify cows early which facilitates timely treatment

Monthly milk recording allows you to review cow groups:

- ICBF reports break animals into group by age and stage of lactation e.g. older cows and heifer groups allowing you to address their problems specifically
- ICBF reports allow targeted interrogation during farm investigations

For more information on Milk Recording contact your Arrabawn Milk Advisor