



Tyone Store – Official Opening

On Friday 10th February 2017 @ 11 am by the victorious Tipperary Senior Hurling Manager Michael Ryan and the current Miss Ireland Niamh Kennedy.



- Extended range of Agri products.
- New Paint Department – Interior and Exterior.
- New Husqvarna Lawnmowers, Chainsaws, Cultivators and Strimmers.



- Wide range of garden accessories and plant.
- Extended range of clothing & footwear.

**Special Offers on Friday 10th
& Saturday 11th February 2017**

Bord Bia SDAS Bonus

From January 1st this bonus will only be paid to suppliers who have passed their audit. At this time we have close to 80% of farms certified, it is our hope that this number will rise quickly and that all farms are certified and hence are eligible for the bonus. To encourage 100% of farms to be certified it is likely that this bonus which is currently 1 cent will be increased further in the next few months. For a typical farm this bonus is worth €3000 per year at the current rate, for a small effort you can achieve this, many of our suppliers have now completed 2 or more audits, if you are not yet certified talk to a neighbour who has been through the process, talk with our advisors and your fears will be removed.

While it is satisfying to have such a high number of farms certified, when we are asked by customers they focus on the number of farms yet to be approved and as it is not practical to collect and process two different streams of milk we need all farms certified. The aim of the scheme is to demonstrate on the world market the excellent quality of Irish milk and the efforts made by Irish dairy farmers to ensure that the highest possible standards are in operation.

I would urge you to see the audit as your opportunity to show to everyone that you are operating to the highest standard, you believe you are doing, we believe that you are, so now you have the facility with this scheme to have that independently verified.

Winter Milk Quality –

Recommencement of

Milk Collection after the dry period

The importance of the quality of raw milk is paramount to ensuring safe and high quality finished products all year around. For Quality and economic reasons the minimum collection volume in the winter period will be 400 litres per collection with at least two collections per week. Before recommencing of Milk Collection after the dry period a current animal health certificate must have been submitted.

Suppliers must give at minimum five days notice to the Co-Op during normal working hours (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm at 067-41800) of their intention to resume milk after the dry period. The Co-op will monitor and reserve the right to visit the farms and take samples if deemed appropriate.

Milk containing colostrums/biestings and stale milk will be rejected. The first milk after the winter break should be tested at Arrabawn to ensure that the milk is free of inhibitors and residues and suitable for collection. Under no circumstances should any of the milk at first collection be more than four days old.

Arrabawn Online Services

Arrabawn have launched new online Supplier/Customer Self Service. The Supplier/Customer Self Service is a powerful web based application which enables users to securely access their milk and trading information online. Milk suppliers can view details of collections, test results, payments and milk statements. Trading customers can view details of invoices, payments, purchase history on a month and year to date basis.

An information sheet detailing how to get set up is being distributed with the milk statements in January. If you require an information sheet or have any queries regarding this new service please contact Arrabawn Head Office 067 41800.

Health Cert Reminder

A valid health certificate is a requirement for your milk to be collected and a new certificate is required each year. A certificate signed by your vet in 2016 enables milk collection in 2017.

Have you obtained and submitted your certificate to enable your milk to be collected this year? If not please attend to this immediately – All drivers have received instructions to collect milk only from farms with a current health cert.

Please contact your Vet immediately and arrange for this certificate to be completed and returned to us so that your milk is not rejected.

Preparing Cows for Calving

This is the crucial period for the use of pre-calver mineral. It is important to use a suitable pre-calver mineral in the final 4 – 6 weeks before calving. Think back over the last few years – if you had problems relating to calving, calf vitality or fertility – the Arrabawn **Trace Pak Pre Calver** may be able to help.

In some cases where pre calver minerals have been fed there may still be problems. These problems will become apparent in the early part of the calving season and may present themselves as slow calving, retained afterbirth or milk fever. This may be related to the silage being fed up to calving and can be easily rectified by feeding a product called **Trace Pak Transition Cow** in the 4-5 days precalving or by feeding **Eazy Calver** ration from **Dan O'Connor Feeds** for 4-5 weeks before calving. If you are concerned, contact Tom Starr at Arrabawn Co-op (087 6697010) for more information.

Dairy Feed – which one?

Cows will be calving in the next few weeks, so it might be timely to plan ahead on what ration you are going to feed. Many farmers just order what they have always used and get away with it! But there are many things within your farm which are different every year :-

- Silage protein can vary from 8% to 14%
- Cow condition score

Silage protein is often overlooked in the feeding of cows and weanlings. Protein has a major role in milk yield in cows and body size in young weanlings. Choose a ration which will compliment your silage protein. In some cases this might mean choosing a 20 – 25% dairy nut instead of the more traditional 16 – 18% dairy nut. With weanlings, if dietary protein is low, growth will be stunted and heifers will not be able to meet their targets for either weight or height. We should aim for 16 – 18% protein in the overall diet.

Cow condition score will have a huge influence on the cow's ability to last the pace in the next lactation both in milk yield and quality. Condition score will also affect the cow's fertility performance. The silage DMD may not be able to sustain the body condition of the cow and so may need to be supplemented with a suitable, high energy, concentrate – even before calving. Condition score is the real benchmark for cow performance both in milk and fertility.

Silage analysis takes about 7 working days and can be arranged through your Arrabawn / Dan O'Connor rep.

Talk to your Arrabawn / Dan O'Connor sales rep before ordering your dairy nuts or ring Noel Kennedy (061 414988) at Dan O'Connor Feeds or Tom Starr (087 6697010) at Arrabawn Co-op.

Seasonal Products

– With a busy calving season just around the corner, it is a good idea to plan ahead and get stocked up on some useful products :

- **Farmcal** cubicle lime – effective against infection on the floor of the cubicle by creating a dry hostile environment for mastitis causing bacteria.
- **Dairy Hygiene** – stock up on soap, teat dip and detergents. Avoid chlorine based product if possible. Check out solutions for SCC and TBC problems.
- **Calf scour remedy** – stock up on electrolytes – check out the new 'Arralyte+' syringe from Arrabawn – easy to apply, no mixing.
- **Milk Acidifier** – if feeding whole milk to calves a milk acidifier such as 'Milkshake' will help stabilise the fresh milk thus reducing the risk of calf scour and sick calves, very useful during the busy calving period.
- **Tapes and markers** – for identifying medicated cows
- **Stomach tubes and calving aids**

All, and much more, available from your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op!

Soil Analysis

When did you have some of your farm soil tested last? Most farmers just order the same fertilizer each year. A soil analysis will put you in the picture as to which fertilizer is most suitable for your farm.

Over the next few weeks you should take soil samples so that you will have the results in time for the springtime.

Contact your Teagasc advisor or any branch of Arrabawn Co-op.

Arrabawn

ArraLyte+

CALF ELECTROLYTE



No Mixing | Fast | Convenient

ArraLyte is a dietetic feedingstuff which may be used in cases of risk, during periods of, or recovery from digestive disturbance (diarrhoea / nutritional scour).

Calf Scour Remedy

Calf scour can be a real inconvenience at a busy time of year - isolating the calf, mixing the electrolyte solution, dosing the calf and then repeating the process!

Arrabawn Co-op in conjunction with **Inform Nutrition** have developed a quick-fix to controlling calf scour -

Ask about **Arralyte+** at your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op or contact Tom Starr - (087 669 7010)



Arrabawn

FERTILISER

BULK SPREADING

- TOP OF THE RANGE FERTILISER
- TWO SPREADERS

- SPREADER (SULKY)
- 7 TONNE

- Fully GPS controlled
- 10 TONNE

- Minimum overlapping

- From 1 bag/acre upwards



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF ARRABAWN CO-OP FOR DETAILS

Management of Calf-hygiene

The knee Test! Is the calf bed dry? Ensure calf pens are cleaned and disinfected regularly, using hot water and disinfectant. Have a separate sick bay for sick calves. Feed sick calves last to avoid spread. Wear easy-clean clothing.

Colostrum – calf is almost entirely dependent on maternal antibodies from colostrum. Only the first milking is true colostrum – there is a 50% reduction in quality between the 1st and 2nd milking. Quality of 'April' colostrum tends to be poorer than earlier or later colostrum. So, 1,2,3, - 1st feed, 3 litres within 2 hours(max absorption within 2 hours) then feed milk replacer(26%) if Johnes risk. Use or coolstore fresh and clean – fridge for 2 days, freezer for 1 year – bacteria destroy antibodies. Colostrum contains factors that impact pre and post weaning feed efficiency, e.g. steroids.

Insufficient colostrum – delays time to first calving – decreased average daily gain – decreased milk and fat production in first lactation. Feeding 26% protein milk replacer helped calves reach weaning weight one week earlier.

Johne's Disease & Colostrum

- Colostrum from neighbouring farms should be avoided to reduce the spread of disease
 - Be very careful when selecting colostrum especially with regards to Johnes
 - Proper management of colostrum is critical in order to prevent the spread of Johnes's disease within a herd.
 - Feeding colostrum from an infected cow is the single greatest risk factor in spreading the disease.
 - Do not pool colostrum. Pooling colostrum allows infection to be spread from one cow to a number of calves.
 - Feed single source colostrum from the calf's own dam. In the absence of their own dam's colostrum, or if the dam has been identified as Johnes's positive – feed colostrum from only a single animal that is Johnes's negative.
- Do not leave calf with cow to feed itself. Bottle and teat better, but slower, than stomach tube for antibody absorption.

Cryptosporidium and Coccidiosis

At the moment there are just 2 products registered with the Department of Agriculture as disinfectants for the control of **Cryptosporidium** and **Coccidiosis**.

KenoCox from Forte Animal Health is one of those products and available through all Arrabawn branches. Mix 1 Lt Kenocox with 25lts water to cover 62.5 sq metres for coccidiosis control and 135 sq metres for Cryptosporidium control - applied to a clean dry surface. Also as an aid in the recovery from an attack of Cryptosporidium, **Crypto Ease** from Arrabawn is very effective in helping the calf deal with the effects of Cryptosporidium - dose all calves with **Crypto Ease**, 60 ml/hd/day each day between 2 and 9 days old, at a cost of € 1 /calf/ day. Very effective and economical.

Contact Tom Starr at Arrabawn Co-op (087 6697010) for more information.

CellCheck - Tip of the Month

Good housing means happy, healthy cows! Mastitis occurs because bacteria get into the udder through the teat end. When cows are housed, their exposure to the environmental bacteria that cause mastitis will be higher.

- **Start Milk Recording early** – huge benefits for you, your cows, your heifers and mastitis control. Over 6,500 Irish herds are now milk recording, generating invaluable data for almost 600,000 cows. Don't delay - sign up today! Contact Arrabawn Co-op today.

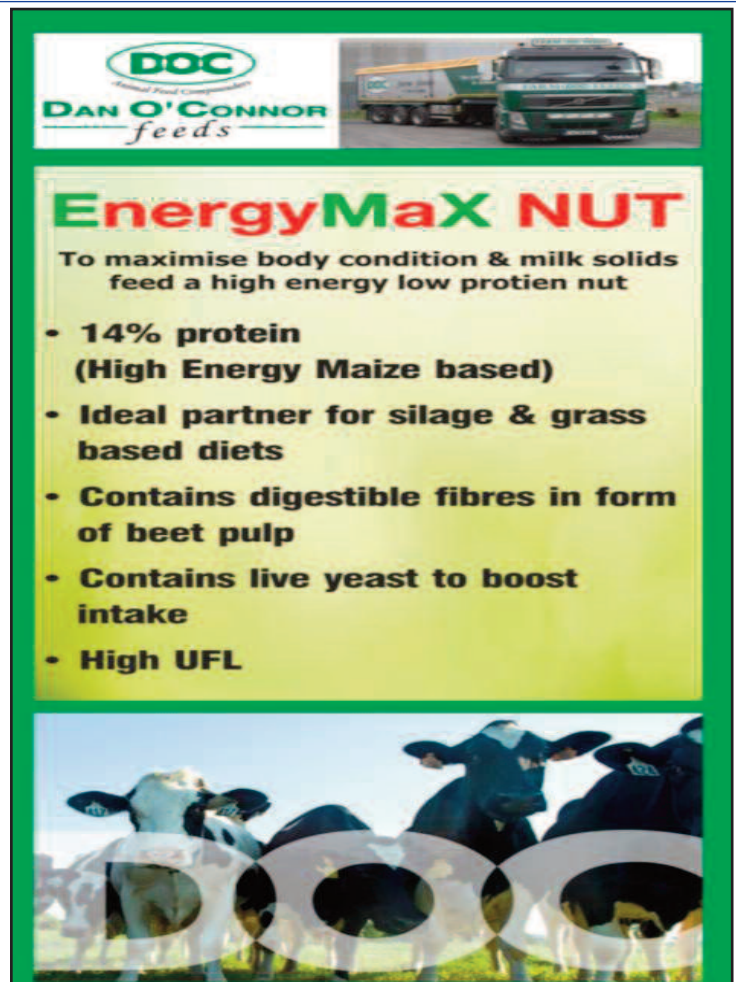
Further information on milk recording is available in Guideline 23 of the *CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control*.

2017 – Silage Quality

This year silage analysis results are very variable with some extremely low (c. 4.8%) proteins and DMD (42 %) results. Supplementation will be necessary to avoid problems relating to calf vitality and cow performance, both in milk production and fertility. If silage protein is low, then it is advisable to feed 2 Kg EazyCalver for 4 -5 weeks pre calving. This will boost the cows protein and energy reserves as well as supplying her with a full complement of minerals and vitamins.

ACTION PLAN

- Build up lighter cows and heifers before calving , aim for condition score 3.5
 - Include straw in the diet of heavier cows to reduce the fat load
 - Correct any lameness before calving
 - Introduce the Arrabawn Co-op pre-calving mineral 5-6 weeks before calving, 2-3 times per day
 - Monitor early calving cows for calving difficulties which may be silage related and can be corrected with a simple feed supplement (Transition Cow).
- For further information on any of these topics, please contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op or Tom Starr (087 6697010).



DCC
DAN O'CONNOR feeds

EnergyMaX NUT

To maximise body condition & milk solids
feed a high energy low protein nut

- **14% protein (High Energy Maize based)**
- **Ideal partner for silage & grass based diets**
- **Contains digestible fibres in form of beet pulp**
- **Contains live yeast to boost intake**
- **High UFL**

Bird Flu

As you may be aware, Bird or Avian Flu has been detected in some wild birds in Ireland and as a result the Department of Agriculture has requested that all domestic fowl should be kept separate from all wild fowl. This is very serious and steps need to be taken to limit the spread of this potentially fatal virus. Your local branch of Arrabawn can supply all you need to make you fowl area/ chicken run secure:

- Fencing posts
- Bird proof fencing wire
- Overhead netting
- Drinkers
- Feeders
- Bedding
- Footbaths
- Disinfectants

Contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op for details or ring 087 6697010



TEAGASC CORNER

Silage Results - 2016

Results are in for silage 2016! The table below (Table 1) outlines the mean values (plus the range) for all Arrabawn silage samples received. The value we are most familiar with for assessing silage quality is Dry Matter Digestibility (DMD %). This value is a measure of the energy an animal can get from the silage consumed. The higher the value the better the quality. Milking cows require silage with a DMD >74% while dry cows require silage with a DMD of 68%. Higher DMD silage is required for dry cows that need to put on condition over the winter. Where DMD% is poor supplementation is required to maintain/gain cow condition over the winter.

The pH and ammonia level of silage indicates how well the silage was preserved. For silage with a dry matter between 25 and 30% the pH should be between 4.2 and 4.4. When ammonia levels in silage exceed 10% sub optimal fermentation has occurred. Ammonia levels should be less than 10% and less than 5% indicates excellent fermentation. The mean values for pH and ammonia % in the table below indicate adequate preservation.

The crude protein of silage is a traditional measure of protein based on nitrogen content of the silage. Young, leafy grass tends to give higher proteins than older, stemmy grass. Typical values for crude protein range from 9-15%. The PDI value is a better measure of the true feed protein value of silage and is based on the available energy (PDIE) and nitrogen (PDIN) content of the silage. The PDI value of any feed is the lower of the PDIN and PDIE. Typically PDIN values are 3-5 units greater than PDIE values. From the table below the mean PDI value of all samples is 66.36. In most cases there is adequate protein in the silage for the dry cow diet. However if PDI values fall below 60 supplementation of protein is required.

The UFL value is a measure of the energy content of silage. Top quality silage can achieve 0.9 UFL but values around 0.7 are more common. High UFL silage should be prioritised for milking cows and dry cows in poor condition.

The NDF measure the total fibre in the silage. The lower the value the better as it allows for greater intake and performance. Typical values range between 50-55% while high quality silage will have an NDF <44%. The ash content is a reflection of the mineral content of the silage, values greater than 10% indicate soil contamination and may affect trace mineral absorption.

	DMD	pH	DM%	Crude Protein	Ash	Ammonia	UFL	PDIE	PDIN
Arrabawn samples	67 (42-79)	4.33 (3-6)	30 (13-91)	12 (5-19)	8 (3-15)	6 (0.1-26)	0.74 (0.4-0.9)	66 (26-105)	72 (28-115)

Table 1: Average quality of all Arrabawn silage samples submitted for winter 2016. In the brackets is the range for each measurement.

It is likely that the first cows calved this spring will be housed indoors for the first couple of weeks and so prioritising high quality silage (minimum 70% DMD) is a must for these cows. Supplementation of between 4-8kg of concentrate will be necessary depending on daily milk yield and silage quality. Where cows are fed grass and silage supplementation guidelines are described below (Table 2). For example cows milking 20L off grass and silage require between 4 and 5kg of concentrate per day depending on the silage DMD to meet their energy demand.

Silage	Grass	MILK YIELD				
		18L	20L	22L	24L	26L
6kg 64% DMD	6kg	4.0	4.9	5.9	6.9	7.9
6kg 70% DMD	6kg	3.5	4.4	5.4	6.4	7.4
6kg 74% DMD	6kg	3.2	4.1	5.1	6.1	7.1

Table 2: Recommended supplementary concentrate (kg/day) allowance for early lactation cows with differing milk yield

REMINDER CALFCARE OPEN DAY

On Friday 20th January 2017 @ 11am
At John, Brian & Barry Powell Farm,
Ballycrinnode, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

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

DAIRY CLEARANCE SALE

of the herd of the late Francis Tuohy
At Athenry Mart

On 2nd February 2017 @ 12.30pm
13 Incalf Cows • 11 Incalf Heifers
8 Maiden Heifers

Topstart Calf Milk Replacer



- Co-op Source product
- Hi-spec formulation
- Suitable for Bucket, Bottle and Automatic
- Contains Neotec4 to aid digestion
- Trials show improved ADG and FCR
- From all Arrabawn branches