



Portfolio of Arrabawn Ingredients

In our Food Ingredients plant in Nenagh we produce around 40-50,000 metric tons of products annually. This product is sold throughout the world and ends up in some of the world's best known brands. Our products are used for their different functions and qualities. This is what we do with your milk.

When milk enters the production facility in Nenagh it is skimmed. Cream is removed from the milk and sent to our butter plant. Arrabawn produces award winning butter the majority of which is produced on behalf of Ornua. Lactic butter produced in Nenagh is exported and packed into Kerrygold butter consumed in Germany Kerrygold's largest butter market and the number 1 butter in Germany. As well as producing butter, we also supply some of the country's biggest cream liquor companies with cream. These cream liquors are supplied to supermarket shelves throughout Ireland, the US, Canada, South Africa, Europe and even further.

With the Skim milk we then have the ability to make 2 products Casein and Skim Milk Powder.

Casein is one of two proteins naturally occurring in milk. We use a process in our casein plant to extract the casein protein from skim milk. This casein

can then be sold as casein or further processed into Sodium Caseinate or Calcium Caseinate. Due to the high protein levels of these products they are highly valuable products and are exported all over the world. They can end up in Sports Nutrition, Clinical Nutrition, as well as a variety of other applications including cheese production, meat industry, processed meals, sauces and coffee creamers. After casein has been taken away from the skim milk what is left is mainly lactose and whey protein. This is dried and sold predominantly to bakery and confectionary companies. Because of the high lactose levels in the product they are quite sweet and are a favourite with Biscuit manufacturers.

Skim Milk Powder can easily be over supplied to the market. To try and combat this we produce added value Skim Milk Powder with some of our production. We produce a High Heat Stable product. This is used in UHT and condensed milk drinks. These drinks are very popular in South America, West Africa and South East Asia.

Overall ingredients produced in Nenagh are exported to over 150 countries in different finished products.

MILK QUALITY - START RIGHT

High SCC

Calving cows are highly vulnerable to disease and action to improve teat hygiene right at the very start of lactation is crucial. Start using Teatfoam for pre and post milking on every cow, at first milking and from then on throughout her lactation.

70% of problems happen in the first two weeks after calving. Care is needed as clusters can spread infection to the next 6 or 8 cows. Wearing gloves is a must as gloves do not have the cracks and crevices which occur naturally on our hands – gloves are easy to clean and disinfect during milking.

Each farm should have a stock of effective / recommended hygiene products available. Do not purchase hygiene products too far in advance as they may have a limited shelf-life.

Arrabawn recommends chlorhexidine products such as **Deosan Teatfoam** or **Arrabawn Udderguard**. Chlorhexidine will kill bacteria, including Staph aureus and Strep uberis within 30 seconds.

Wipe cows if dirty. If you strip the cows, wash milk away before milking. Teatfoam or spray 6-8 cows at a time and wipe each cow with a paper towel before applying the cluster. During the milking process, get into the habit of spraying your gloves with teatfoam to reduce the risk of transmitting bacteria from one cow to another.

After milking dip the clusters in a peracetic acid (e.g. **Deosan Activ**) solution (30 ml/10 lts clean water).

While this might seem a little basic it does have a significant effect in reducing the transfer of bacteria from one cow to another.

After milking, spray each cow with teatfoam to give full coverage of the teat and to protect the teat canal, which may remain open for up to 40 minutes after milking. Allow cows to stand for a period before allowing them back to the paddocks or cubicles.

High TBC

Hot wash at least twice per week – use **D90** hot wash in the morning.

Descale twice per week, same day as using the D90 – use **Acidbrite** cold at night same day

SPECIAL OFFER!

Water Heaters -150 lts Earth Ridge €439

-100 lts Earth Ridge €389

Enquire at your local branch of Arrabawn Co-Op




Breeding 2017

Workshop 29th March 11 - 1 pm

John Armitage's Farm, Cloughjordan

- Sire Advice
- Pre-breeding mgt.
- Breeding Calendar
- Synchronisation
- Heifer Mgt.
- Body Condition

NEWS

Winner of the Merial Ivomec Scales promotion was Timothy Costello, Glenmore, Athenry, Co. Galway.



John Heaphy, Associated Trading Co-ops, Joe Broderick Merial, Tomas Dunleavy Manager Arrabawn Co-Op Store Athenry, Timothy Costello Winner of the Scales, Mark Eagle Arrabawn Co-Op, Michelle Martyn Arrabawn Co-Op and Tommy Devane Arrabawn Co-Op.

Pasture Renewal

Fields are cut up after the recent wet conditions. Even pastures with good cover have been destroyed by brown unpalatable grass with low feed value. There is great emphasis on the importance of having early fresh grass for cows as they calve. Even getting cows out to grass for a few hours in early lactation will have massive benefits for the cow's health, milk protein and farm profit. In recent times, the practice of grazing down to a grass height of 3.5 cm in a 19 – 20 day rotation is being encouraged. The idea is that the next grazing will be of really fresh, high quality grass with little or no 'thrash' at the base of the pasture.

This is all very well in theory but key to the success of this system is the make-up of your pasture! It depends on having 100% perennial ryegrass (PRG) swards! 100%PRG swards have the potential to supply enough grass for this tight grazing system. Many pastures have much lower levels of PRG, even pastures reseeded in the last 7 – 10 years. Hence the importance of sticking to a re-seeding regime where your entire farm is reseeded over a 6 – 8 year period. The benefits are massive as you reap the progress in breeding varieties for early spring growth, high sugar, late autumn growth and substantially higher dry matter yields than older varieties or invasive weed grasses.

In the Arrabawn 2017 grazing/silage mixture you will find the top two late diploids (Aberchoice and Drumbo) and the top two late tetraploids (Kintyre and Abergain). All are heading out between the 6th and the 9th of June making it easy to manage from a silage quality perspective. With regard to quality, for every 1% increase in DMD there is a 5% increase in animal production, equal to an extra 2lts milk per day! For every 5% drop in DMD, it will take an extra 285kg concentrate to finish a beef animal.

Each year **Arrabawn Co-op**, in association with Teagasc, assembles the most suitable varieties for its catchment area, choosing high performing, easy to manage late heading varieties.

Over the years **Arrabawn co-op** has developed a system which will deliver a reseeded pasture which is weed free and highly productive, ensuring significantly more dry matter production and utilisation and ultimately more profit from your cows.

For further information, contact your local **Arrabawn Co-Op** Branch or call Tom Starr on 087 6697010.

Spring Cereal Seed

Arrabawn Co-Op requires large quantities of quality feeding barley. The Co-Op wants to procure this barley from its own catchment area. Anyone wishing to grow barley for the Co-Op should contact their local branch. This year, the range of barley varieties include:-

* **MICKLE** * **IRINA** * **PROPINO** * **PLANET**

Arrabawn Co-op also supplies maize, wheat, oat and fodder-beet seed. The full range of support products, herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and technical support are available.

For further information contact your local branch of **Arrabawn Co-Op**.



EasyWeaner can now be given to young calves, especially if they are in close stuffy housing conditions which make them prone to chesty conditions such as pneumonia and cold-like symptoms.

Just add **EasyWeaner** to the milk or feed – 15grms/day.

EasyWeaner softens and loosens the mucus, which builds up in the airways of the young calf, allowing the calf to clear its head and lungs, thus reducing the stress.

Ask for **EasyWeaner** at your local Arrabawn Branch.

Arrabawn

FERTILISER

BULK SPREADING

- TOP OF THE RANGE FERTILISER SPREADER (SULKY)
- Fully GPS controlled
- Minimum overlapping
- From 1 bag/acre upwards
- TWO SPREADERS
- 7 TONNE
- 10 TONNE



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF ARRABAWN CO-OP FOR DETAILS

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 has developed a quick-fix to controlling calf scour- **Arralyte+**

- Compact electrolyte preparation
- Convenient syringe, inserted into the mouth / back of tongue
- One syringe per dose, repeat if necessary
- No mixing - but milk or water should be available to the calf.
- Fast - no messing can be carried in your pocket!

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

Greenvale Eazy Calver

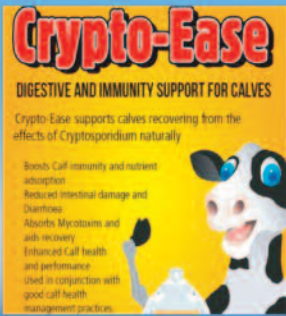
Greenvale Eazy Calver is a feed designed for feeding pre calving to cows. It contains a specially designed pre calving mineral and vitamin package which is delivered in a 2kg daily feeding rate. Eazy Calver is based on oats and soya, and formulated at 18% protein.

This winter silage quality is variable and in some cases is poorer than required. In the early months of last year, large amounts of slurry were applied to silage ground as ground conditions were suitable for spreading. This will have led to high levels of K (potash) in the silage that was harvested. High potash silage will pre dispose cows to sub clinical milk fever cases and can lead to retained placentas after calving. **Greenvale Eazy Calver** is formulated with this problem in mind and will minimize this problem and give the cow her best chance of returning to a good reproductive state in as short a time as possible. While giving 2kg of a concentrate for the last month pre calving, the cows rumen is getting conditioned for higher levels of concentrates after calving and will also minimize other metabolic upsets like displaced abomasums giving the cow the best kick start to the lactation that you can.

- Do you have calves born that are not quick to get up and suck?
- Do you have cows that are excessively fat or very thin?
- Have you incidences of milk fever post calving?
- Do you have incidences of retained afterbirths?
- Do your cows have inadequate amounts of colostrum?
- Do you want a trouble free calving season that doesn't have any of the above problems?

If you answered yes to any or all of the above questions, then Greenvale Eazy Calver is what you need.

Cryptosporidium



- From 3 days for 6 days

Prevention :

- Treat cleaned pens
 - OxyFoam
 - Cyclex
 - Kenocox

Grassland Weed Control

Ragwort ---- spray 2, 4-D (D-50) + MCPA (M50) between November and April, before the plant starts to get bigger. This spray will also control dandelions and daisies, as well as some control of thistles and seedling docks.

Docks -----where clover is not important

Doxstar Pro-----contains brushwood killer to kill roots. Will kill clover; spray 4 weeks before silage or 1 week before grazing.

DockBox ----- contains 3 proven dock Killers, CMPP, Dicamba and Fluroxpyr in one box. Each box will treat 1 ha. it will damage clover. spray 4 weeks before silage or 1 week before grazing.

----- where clover is important

Prospect ----- spray one week pre-cut or pre-graze. Will only kill broadleaved docks. Must be grazed or cut after 7 days.

Eagle-----spray one week pre-graze or three weeks pre-cut. Will control both broadleaf and curled dock. Will require respraying at 1/2 rate about 6 months later to catch resprouts.

Nettles and Briars and Furze Bushes

Grazon 90 -----this contains high levels of brushwood killer and the **Grazon 90** has the advantage of being able to kill thistles also-----this can be an advantage when spraying under electric fences, where briars and thistles can be a problem.

NETTLE BAN, SCRUBKILLER AND BANDOCK-----These are well known and convenient but expensive for big areas.

Thistles and Rushes ----- **50% MCPA + D50**----- spray when the thistles have a flower bud and the rushes are about 24cm high and growing. Will also control creeping buttercup (crowfoot). Very cheap.

Spray 1 lts of each per acre in 120 litres water per acre.

Adding **Presto** @ 1 l / 10 acres will help wet the leaves to improve uptake. For further information contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op

THE DOCKBOX



A simple solution to a difficult problem

Provides excellent control of:

Docks

Major grassland weeds

e.g., nettles, chickweed, thistles, buttercup, dandelions etc....

Pack treats 1 hectare

For short term control or where weeds are not well established, pack can treat 2 hectares

Contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op for details



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

For further information contact:

Dan O'Connor Feeds

061 - 414988

FEEDING WHOLE MILK TO CALVES

Feeding whole milk to calves can cause stomach upsets leading to scours and sick calves. This is hassle to the farmer. Add a milk acidifier, such as **'Milkshake'** to the whole milk before feeding. This has the effect of conditioning /stabilizing the milk, making it less likely to upset the calf's stomach. **'Milkshake'** is available from your local branch of

Arrabawn Co-Op.



TEAGASC CORNER

March notes

Feeding enough

Between February and May a spring grazing cow is expected to calve down with a healthy calf, transition to a grass based diet, increase milk yield daily to a peak of 25-30L and go back in calf within 2.5 months of calving – all without any issues or problems. What we are asking the cow to do is metabolically very demanding! It is important to feed the cow enough energy to meet her demand to prevent BCS loss and poor metabolic status in early lactation. Remember if a cow loses too much condition (more than 0.5 BCS) during early lactation she will have difficulty going back in calf (Table 1). Cows need to have a BCS of 3.0 at breeding. Diets should be balanced to supply 100% of UFL requirements where possible to ensure that BCS loss is minimised and that negative energy balance is not a major factor in reduced fertility performance. For a typical 600kg grazing cow, 6 UFL are required for maintenance and approximately 0.42-0.45UFL per kg of milk produced. Some example diets are described below (Table 2).

Table 1: Effect of BCS at breeding on fertility

| BCS at breeding | <2.75 - Thin | 2.75-3.00 - OK | >3.00 - Good |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 3 week submission rate | 76% | 84% | 83% |
| 6 week in-calf rate | 50% | 57% | 63% |

Table 2: Energy and expected milk yields of typical spring diets

| Diet | UFL | Expected milk yield |
|---|------|---------------------|
| 5kg Dairy 18% concentrate 10kg 66% DMD silage | 12.2 | 16L |
| 6kg Dairy 16% concentrate 10kg 66% DMD silage | 13.0 | 17L |
| 6kg Dairy 16% concentrate 5kg 66% DMD silage 5kg spring grass | 14.7 | 21L |
| 14 kg grass 3 kg Dairy 16% concentrate | 17 | 24L |

To assess if enough energy is being fed to cows check the bulk tank results. Protein should be above 3.05% and the butterfat:protein ratio should be less than 1.4:1. If this is not the case energy intake must be increased either through – increased grass DMI and/or increased concentrate (to correct poor silage quality or low grass DMI).

Behind target on Spring grazing?

Safe to say the last few weeks have been challenging regards grazing. At this stage we should have 60-70% of ground grazed on the milking platform and should be aiming to meet the final target of 90% by the end of the month so we can finish the first rotation the first days of April. Falling behind target is not an option due to increased feed costs and poor milk solids when cows are indoors. Remember that the first cows calved are beginning to peak. Feeding low DMD silage to these cows now is detrimental to their annual yield potential. So how do we get back on track?

- Graze grazing ground before silage ground – more time to recover and must be back in action with a cover of 1000-1200kg DM/ha for the second rotation.
- Target paddocks with lower covers of grass – to catch up on area grazed. Lower covers of grass also recover quicker than heavy covers.
- Let out the replacements.
- On/off grazing day AND night, cows must go out hungry – milk at 3pm in evening and let cows out from 5-7pm.
- Multiple paddock entrances, back fences, cows tracks etc.

| Farm | J. Dowd | C. Whiskey | Kennedys | Coles | Molamphys |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Area grazed (9 th March) | 10% | 7% | 19% | 19% | 15% |
| Slurry | 20% of MP | 15% of MP | 33% MP and silage ground | applied on grazed ground | 33% MP and on grazed ground |
| Fertiliser | Half bag Urea on rest of MP | 7% of MP | 25 units Urea on all MP | 0.5 bag urea on all MP | Half bag Urea on rest of MP |

Paddocks need to have covers of 1,100-1,200kg DM/ha for the start of the second round. This won't happen without slurry and fertiliser spread. The key target is to have 70 units of N spread by April 1st. Blanket spreading is recommended to save time and has no impact on paddock performance.

On low index soils apply compound on next round (18:6:12 or 10:10:20). Avoid compounds with low units for P and K (27:2.5:5) if soil is low in P and K. Every 1000 gallons of slurry has 6 units of N (6:5:38), prioritise slurry for silage ground. Ground is tender so use umbilical system where possible.

Replacement heifers

At this stage replacement heifers should weigh about 300kg. Heifers should be on their third heat and between 320-350kg at bulling. Letting out replacements now will give them the best chance at achieving these weights. Underweight heifers (<250kg) need grass and 1-2kg of meal to catch up on weights.

Getting ready for breeding

At national level herd fertility has steadily improved since 2010 to 2016. Calving interval has reduced by 13 days; the 6 week calving rate has increased by 6% and the percent of cows calved in Jan, Feb and Mar has increased from 64% to 70%. Compact calving is essential to be profitable and though we're still busy calving cows we must focus on breeding for 2018. Thin cows (BCS<2.75) won't go in calf and need to be put on OAD to gain condition. Tail paint cows from mid-April onwards to detect which ones are cycling and non-cycling. The sooner problem cows are treated the quicker they will go back in calf. Use sire advice to pick bulls and order straws (5.5 per heifer on the ground). Review milk recording analysis to pick which cows to breed replacements from. If not already done, arrange for milk recording to be done now. There is no point waiting until the entire herd is calved down. The sooner you start to milk record, the sooner you will identify high SCC cows. Dealing promptly with new infections will give you the best chance of curing them, and protecting the rest of the herd.

Performance table

Performance figures are based on milk collected on the 6th March. Given the high rainfall experienced the week before cows across all farms were in for several days. Consequently the protein % dropped substantially. At co-op level the average protein fell from 3.31% in mid-February to 3.17% in early March – a clear indication of the poor weather conditions experienced on all farms across the country. The plan on the development farms over the next few weeks is to catch up on area grazed and get out with a second round of fertiliser.

| Farm | J. Dowd | C. Whiskey | Kennedys | Coles | Molamphys |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|
| Fat % | 4.16 | 4.49 | 4.50 | 4.41 | 4.42 |
| Protein % | 3.11 | 3.17 | 3.13 | 3.10 | 3.12 |
| Litres/cow/day | 26 | 22.5 | 24.5 | 18 | 23 |
| MS/cow/day | 1.95 | 1.77 | 1.93 | 1.4 | 1.78 |
| Meal kg | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| Avg farm cover | 650 | 594 | 713 | | 711 |
| % calved by 9 th March | 72 | 70 | 80 | 78 | 76 |

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

FOR SALE... FRIESIAN HEIFER CALVES

Born in February to top AI Bulls - YAD LVWR FR2001 FR2048

Contact: Ger Rigney, Belmont, Co. Offaly.

Tel: **086 8075703**