



Arrabawn Ingredients Butter wins top spot at 10th Annual Blás na hEireann Awards

Glenstal Foods Irish Creamery butter has taken the top prize at the 10th Blás na hEireann Irish Food Awards in Dingle, Co Kerry. With over 2,500 entries, it was judged Supreme champion. Glenstal Irish Creamery Salted Butter is made in Arrabawn Ingredients plant in Nenagh in partnership with Glenstal Foods, Murroe, Co. Limerick. The butter won the Gold award in its category and then went on to beat all the Munster entrants before being crowned with the top 'Supreme' award topping all the 2,500 entrants.

"What are we famous for? Our dairy," said Blas na hEireann Chairperson, Artie Clifford.

"I know this product because I buy it. The quality is supreme. It reminds me of the butter I knew as a child."

Dan McMahon, Commercial Manager,



On Presentation Day of the 'Supreme award' to Glenstal Foods, Chairman of Blás na hEireann Artie Clifford visits Arrabawn supplier Tom Ryan, Newport. From Left: Dan McMahon, Commercial Manager Arrabawn Ingredients, Tom Ryan Arrabawn Supplier, Richard Walsh, Owner Glenstal Foods, Gareth Coleman, Commercial Director Glenstal Foods and Artie Clifford, Chairman Blás na hEireann

Arrabawn Ingredients said "this award is a testament to the great work of our farmer suppliers and our butter making staff who take great pride in their craft, producing this special product from

high quality grass-fed summer milk'.

Glenstal Foods award winning butter is available countrywide.

Check Your Phone

How often do you ask yourself questions like are my solids better than this time last year?

Is my SCC better than last year? What price did I get for my milk this month last year?

To get the answer you need to dig through old milk statements, get pen and paper and probably a calculator out and this is not very appealing so most farmers just guess that last year's SCC or whatever was a certain value.

This hassle has all been removed as now you can check all these details and more via an App on your phone call Milkedin.

The service is free, just set up the online self-service on your computer and then download the Milkedin App to your phone. Each night that a new test result is available your phone will beep telling you new data has arrived and at any time you can check your phone for the most recent or historic data and comparisons.

If you need help setting up the Self Service systems contact our office. If you are already using the Self Service follow the following steps to connect your phone – note you need either an Android smart phone or an iPhone for this service:-

Download the App from Play store, it is called **Milkedin**. You will then be required to connect your phone -

Server - selfservice.arrabawn.ie

Port - leave it blank

Member Code - this is your Supplier Number (7 digit) the

first digit is zero so if you are a supplier to Nenagh Branch your number will be 001xxxx

If you are a supplier to Athlone Branch your supplier number will be 033xxx

Password - this is the password you have for the Self Service system. When your phone is connected you will not have to go through this step anymore.

If you have any difficulty we will help you, if when you have used it for a period you have any questions or suggestions we would like to hear from you.

Farm Safety

It is frightening to learn that there have been 18 deaths so far this year on farms and even more frightening to learn that 1 in 72 farmers will suffer a serious life changing accident.

We all need to take more care in everything we do, it's not good enough to be careful on high risk tasks, everything you do on the farm has an element of danger associated with it and for your own sake and that of your family safe work practices must be in place. A safe environment is a prerequisite to safe farming – look at your yard objectively, if on a neighbours farm and you see anything that concerns you discuss it with your neighbour – you are not criticising him a discussion on such a matter will be good for both of you.

Bord Bia SDAS

With your co-operation we are progressing well towards having every farm certified by the end of the year. You might be questioning why you should bother but the fact that it is necessary in the market place is the only answer. More and more customers want to know where their food came from, how it was produced, how the animals are treated. It is not sufficient to say it is Irish, that we like our cows and treat them well we have to demonstrate and prove it. This scheme is the only national quality assurance scheme in the world. It eliminates the need for customers to implement their own standards on Irish farms. In other countries different companies all have some sort of a similar scheme but this scheme operated by An Bord Bia is independently accredited. We have had customers visit farms to see the scheme in operation and they are satisfied with what they see. We need everyone certified, just imagine the difficulty of trying to collect milk and process it separately from certified and uncertified farms. To have even one uncertified farm supplying milk will prevent us from claiming that all our milk is from certified farms. If you have still to apply for audit please do so now before the year ends so that you can be inspected while there is still milking taking place and so that we can claim 100% compliance from Jan 1st 2018.

List of prize winners following the 'Open Day' held in Gurteen College on August 31st last.

1. **Husqvarna Safety Kit** - Danny Sheehan, Killeen, Kilcorney, Rathcoole, Mallow.
2. **Hygeia 1x20lt DB Plus** - Mary Hogan, Carrarea, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe.
3. **Hygeia 1x20lt DB Plus** - Patrick Hogan, Carrarea, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe.
4. **I * 3 L Pastor Trio** - John Mooeny, Congor, Borrisokane
5. **I * 2 L Doxstar Pro** - Philip O'Brien, Acha, Kiltoom, Athlone.
6. **Storm Rodent Control** - Una Murray, Derrinsallow, Birr.
7. **Storm Rodent Control** - Anne Hogan, Clooneen Upper, Cloughjordan.
8. **Storm Rodent Control** - Rachel Corcoran, Tullamoylan, Dolla, Nenagh.
9. **Storm Rodent Control** - Noel Corcoran, Grange, Clareen, Birr.
10. **I * 2 L Doxstar Pro** - Emmet Keane Tuam c/o Athenry Branch.
11. **I * 1L Grazon Pro** - Martin Callanan, Moyvilla West, Oranmore.
12. **I * 1L Grazon Pro** - Michael Gleeson, Ballyvaughan, Portroe, Nenagh.
13. **I * 1L Grazon Pro** - Ollie Flanagan, FrenchFort, Oranmore.
14. **I * 1L Grazon Pro** - Joe Hayes, Kiltormer, Ballinasloe.
15. **Sulky Fleece Jacket** - Des Maloney, Cree, Fortal, Birr.
16. **Sulky Fleece Jacket** - Paddy Cooney, Garraunmore, Newtown, Nenagh.

Rats and Mice about the Farm

Now is the time to control the level of rodents about the farm. Rats and mice cause a lot of damage about the farm and can spread disease among farm stock.

Arrabawn Co-op branches stock the full range of

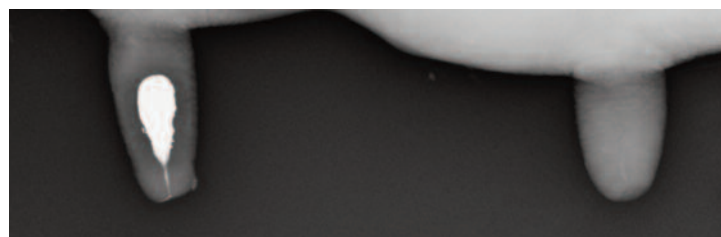
- STORM
- NEOSOREXA
- PIED PIPER

In order to avoid a build-up of resistance to a particular rodenticide, it might be good practice to alternate the rodenticides used on the farm
Call to your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op .

Teat Seal at Drying off

Boviseal is a fantastic aid in preventing mastitis when used in the correct manner at the start of the dry cow period. Boviseal is an antibiotic free teat seal which simply forms a plug or seal in the teat canal which prevents dirt and bacteria from entering the udder and causing mastitis. It is proven to prevent mastitis in the dry cow period and to reduce the incidence of mastitis in the following lactation. **Boviseal** can be used on its own in carefully selected proven mastitis free cows but is more usually used with an antibiotic dry cow tube.

However for **Boviseal** to be used successfully it must be placed carefully into where it is needed, that is the teat canal of the cow. This can be done easily with planning and good technique.



X-RAY OF CORRECTLY PLACED BOVISEAL IN THE TEAT CANAL

IN ADVANCE OF DRYING OFF

- Stop milking abruptly and do not milk cows once a day before dry off
 - Dry off your cows in small batches after milking and allow yourself time to do this important job carefully
 - Ensure you have adequate supplies of: **Boviseal**, clean gloves, appropriate dry cow antibiotics as necessary, teat wipes and a clean parlour to work in.
- For further information contact your dairy advisor at Arrabawn Co-op



MEP Mairead McGuinness pictured with Naomi McDonnell Tyone Mill on a recent visit to the new Arrabawn Store, Nenagh.

Minerals

Get the balance right.

Dry cow minerals are an essential ingredient in the winter feeding of dairy cows. Minerals should be fed at least once a day and if possible twice. Selenium and Vitamin E can help in the reduction of Mastitis and high cell counts. Zinc will help improve skin and hoof quality. Copper has been associated with fertility and iodine is essential for calf vitality at calving and heat detection.

The **Arrabawn Trace Pak Pre-calver** has been designed with the Arrabawn Co-op area in mind.

Focus on Fertility - Drying Off

Cows are milking well at the moment and many farmers have been feeding cows well into the autumn. It is now time to plan for next year's calving and breeding season.

The main area of attention regarding infertility in dairy cows, the body condition score at drying off, is highlighted as the main contributor to fertility/infertility in the following breeding season.

Body condition score, on a scale from 1 – 5, should be in the region of 3.25 to 3.5 at drying off. Cows are more efficient at putting on condition in the later stages of lactation. Dry matter intake is stimulated by milk yield and dry matter intake will decline to about 10-11 Kg/day during the dry period approaching calving, in heifers, dry matter intake will drop to about 7 kg / day.

This is normal enough but it is crucial that cows are in good condition going into the dry period. When a cow calves she will immediately start losing body condition. The biggest loss in body condition will occur in the first week after calving. A high yielding cow with a body condition score of 3 at calving could arrive at a body condition score of 1 by week 12 of her lactation. A cow with a body condition score of 1 has only a 17% chance of going in calf at the first service. An average cow might only drop to a body condition score of 2-3 at 12 weeks - so high yielders are most vulnerable if they are dried off in poor condition.

At the other end of the scale, fat cows will have dry matter intake problems as they are likely to eat less as a % of their body weight and are therefore prone to disorders such as ketosis, mastitis etc.

Body condition at drying off has implications for weight loss after calving, heat detection, interval to 1st service, milk protein %, milk yield and ultimately culling rate.

Plan of action – aim to have cows drying off in reasonable to good condition, with a body condition score of 3.25 - 3.5. It is recommended to feed while the cows are still milking for the most efficient weight gain. Feeding a high energy ration with medium to low protein is best. Fat cows may need to be restricted in their energy intake, possibly by the inclusion of extra straw in their diet in late lactation and the dry period. The consequences of a high body condition score in fat cows is a low dry matter intake pre-calving, which will result in a much higher % weight loss in the 3 weeks after calving.

Farm Hazardous Waste

COLLECTION CENTRES & LOCATIONS OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2017



Low cost disposal of your hazardous waste is in the following counties...

For further information...

LoCall: 1890 33 55 99
www.epa.ie

Mayo/Sligo
Mayo/Sligo Co-Op, Ballina
Friday, 17th November

Galway
Athenry Mart
Friday, 24th November

North Tipperary
Nenagh Mart
Wednesday, 25th October

South Tipperary
Cahir Mart
Tuesday, 14th November

Kerry
North Kerry - Listowel Mart
Saturday, 4th November

Cork
Bandon Recycling Centre
Wednesday, 18th October

Meath
Kells Recycling Centre
Tuesday, 28th November

Offaly
Tullamore Mart
Tuesday, 21st November

Kilkenny
Kilkenny Mart, Cillin Hill
Wednesday, 8th November

Wexford
WFC Enniscorthy Mart
Friday, 27th October

Hardware

That time of year again! Time to get set up for animal housing - your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op has the full range of :

- Circular feeders
- Cattle feed troughs
- Calf troughs
- Hay racks
- Creep feeders
- Gates
- Water troughs and fittings
- So check out the value at your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op

Beef Rations

Arrabawn/Dan O'Connor Feeds has the complete range of cattle feed for you this winter:-

U-Grade beef nut 16%

Premium Bull Nut /Coarse with High Performance Pack Intensive Beef Finisher

Finisher Max, coarse and nut

For the weanlings choose from

Weanling Ration

Wean & Grow, pellets or coarse

Stock Mix - Coarse

H E Beef Nuts 16%

SucklerMate

Contact your local Arrabawn representative or call to your local Arrabawn Branch for more details.

**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**

Autumn Grazing Management:

The last few weeks have seen grazing conditions deteriorate rapidly, with many farmers on heavier soils forced to house cattle for periods. Even on the drier farms, achieving good cleanouts and avoiding poaching damage is proving to be a challenge.

Severe poaching should be avoided, particularly on ground reseeded in the last couple of years as this will have long term damage on the new sward as well as the soil structure. 12 hour breaks when grazing are essential at this stage to ensure damage is limited. Where cows are housed, try and use the best quality silage available (surplus bales from earlier in the summer are normally a good option here if farmers are reluctant to open a pit at this early stage). On-off grazing, where cows are allowed out for 3 hours post milking in the morning, is another way of keeping grass in the diet on wet farms. Research has shown cows will eat 90% of their feed intake between milking's during this timeframe, after which they can be brought back in on silage for a few hours before evening milking. In practically all cases, milk protein and milk yield will decline in herds where silage is the only forage component of the diet and no grass is fed.

Achieving a good cleanout on paddocks is essential at this time of year. Grass eaten in February and early March is grown over the next few weeks. Growth rates between November and early February are negligible on Irish farms, less than 2.5 kg/ha per day. This is very important to remember, and is the reason why any paddocks grazed after 10th October should be locked up. On wet farms with heavy soils, this date moves forward to late September. Don't be tempted to go back into these paddocks in November! You will need to have an average farm cover of about 550kg/ha (on a farm with a SR of 2.5 LU/ha) when cows are housed, in order to have grass available at turnout next spring. For higher SR farms, this AFC should be greater at closing. A good rule of thumb is that 60% of the farm should be grazed out and closed for the winter, by 31st October on heavy farms and 7th November on drier farms.

Low DM grass:

Currently there is a lot of wet grass which is much lower in DM than spring/summer. It is the internal water content of the grass which is lower, so even on a dry day in October, grass might visually look the exact same as it does in May or June, but may only be 13-14% DM, compared to 20% DM in summer. If we take this example a step further, a cow needing to eat 16 kg DM of grazed grass in May, at 20% DM, will need to consume 80 kg of fresh grass. For that same cow to eat 16 kg DM of grass in October, at 13% DM, she will need to consume 123 kg of fresh grass. The extra work grazing the larger amount of fresh grass results in a greater energy demand on the cow. There are also physiological limitations on what a dairy cow can eat in terms of rumen fill, and this means in practice that cows grazing low DM pasture will have reduced DM intake. Research suggests that for every percentage point below 18% DM, cows will consume 0.34 kg DM less grazed pasture. Therefore, it is no harm to supplement cows grazing these pastures with an extra kg or two of high energy concentrate, such as Supreme Dairy 16% of Milkified 16% from the Dan O'Connor range, especially in a year like 2017 when milk and feed prices are favourable.

Other seasonal tips:

- Keep an eye on milk Lactose % in spring calving cows. When milk lactose drops, it is a sign that the cow is coming close to drying off. The Co-op will penalise any supplier whose bulk tank milk lactose % falls below 4.25%. Selecting a few cows for drying off with the lowest milk yields for early dry off will usually correct this issue.
- There is a fair few dock weeds present on farms presently. All new reseeds sown in August and September should be sprayed for post emergence weeds now if not already done. Skipping this important step will result in a field infested with weeds next year. For established pastures, Eagle is a good option to kill docks present in the sward (available from your local Arrabawn store). Ensure you spray when the plant is vegetative and there is good leaf area to absorb the weedkiller.
- Silage testing: now is the perfect time to test your silage so that the correct feeding management can be adopted for winter, and the right mineral supplements are used. Arrabawn are currently providing a service where a technician will come and collect soil and silage samples on your farm, to be tested for a competitive price by FBA Laboratories. Contact Paddy Purcell for more information on 085 161 6476.
- Scanning: many farms have been busy fertility scanning their herds over the last few weeks. This is a highly recommended management practice that will provide an accurate empty rate and six-week In-calf rate. This information is very valuable to make the correct management decisions around culling and drying off.
- Farms that are tight on silage for winter due to having used more silage than expected during the recent wet weather should consider selling empty cows now to reduce silage requirements over winter, depending on prices. Friesian cull cow prices currently range from €1.00 to €1.70 per kg. Alternatively, there is likely to be a number of farms on drier land with extra surplus bales for sale this winter due to the excellent pasture growth rates in 2017.

Fertiliser and Soil Analysis

With fluctuating fertiliser prices, it was never more important to have a plan for the purchase of fertiliser. Many farmers are neglecting to include the phosphate content of feed concentrate in their overall fertiliser phosphate calculations. This can have implications in the event of an 'audit'. It may be a good idea to take a soil sample to determine your Phosphate requirements. You may be using too much fertilizer phosphate, and by cutting back you will have the choice of using the optimum level of feed concentrate.

If you have any queries on fertiliser or feed use contact Tom Starr at Arrabawn Co-op or call to your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op.

FOR SALE

In-calf replacement heifers in Killtullagh, Atherny.
Contact: Charlie Whiskey on 087 631 2291

Performance update from the Milk for Profit Development Farms

Oct-17 Location	Kennedys Ballingarry	Coles Aghancon	Molamphys Portroe	Dowds Kilconly	Whiriskeys Kiltullagh
Litres/cow	17.9	14.9	15.6	20.7	14.8
Milk fat %	4.75	4.67	4.78	4.56	4.50
Milk protein %	4.07	4.08	3.95	3.86	3.47
Milk Lactose %	4.78	4.73	4.66	4.83	4.78
kg MS/cow	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.2
Meal fed/cow	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0
SCC	80	113	151	138	103
Average Farm cover/ha	827	922	885	829	756
Average Farm cover/LU	300	379	275	244	371

Data from 5th-10th October