



ARRABAWN-OPEN DAY

Thursday August 22ND 2019.

Gurteen Agricultural College 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Essential Farming!



Date for your diary! Don't miss this year's Arrabawn Open Day on 22ND August. Catch up on all the latest technology and research with the excellent range of companies and presenters attending on the day.

Highlights include:

Come along and see the new developments at Gurteen Agricultural College

- New DeLaval Milking Parlour
- New 100 space Cubicle House
- New Feed bin complete with sensors for Temp, Humidity and Volume

LABOUR MANAGEMENT – Everything you need to know about managing your time better to improve efficiency and quality of life on the farm.

- Farm Finance - MilkFlex (Finance Ireland)

NUTRITION AND FEEDING – speak to a range of companies with all the latest info on getting the most out of your herd.

- Feed budgeting
- Feed selection
- Feed formulation

GRASSLAND – Demos on reseeding, weed control soil profiling and soil fertility.

- Machinery
- Slurry application
- Wrapping
- Sowing
- Fertiliser spreading

ANIMAL HEALTH - All the latest on fertility and breeding, including a demo on Lameness management.

- Parasite detection and control
- Mastitis / SCC control
- Mineral / Vit supplements

FARM SAFETY - Teagasc will demonstrate the importance of health and safety awareness on the farm – a must for every farmer.

- New technology – see the new Gurteen Milking Parlour, Feed Bin sensor and Cubicle house.
- Farm cameras, security and calving
- Remote monitoring – crop nutrition, soil conditions

*We have over
50 stands
attending
covering a
wide range of
Agricultural /
Dairy activities*

Arrabawn Loyalty Bonus Scheme

Arrabawn has introduced a Loyalty Bonus Scheme in order to reward milk supplier customers for their continued loyalty in purchasing farm inputs from Arrabawn.

The scheme will operate from December 1st to November 30th annually and will be based on purchases made relative to expected total farm input purchases per litre of milk sold to Arrabawn.

In order to qualify for a loyalty bonus, the milk supplier will be expected to purchase goods to a value equivalent to 4 cents, 7 cents or greater than 10 cents per litre of milk supplied. In return the bonus will be 0.02 cent, 0.03 cent or 0.04 cents, respectively, per litre milk supplied and will be issued in the form of a Gift Voucher which can be traded in any Arrabawn store.

This scheme will be in addition to the current Feed Bonus Share Scheme where shareholders receive bonus shares based on the value of any feed purchased.

These schemes are designed to encourage milk supplier/shareholders to be active purchasers through the co-operative. This support will enable the co-operative to deliver a stronger, more competitive service to the co-op members.

CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't ignore a summer SCC rise!

Is your bulk tank somatic cell count (SCC) starting to creep up slightly? If so, don't ignore it! It is likely to be because the number of infected quarters in your herd is starting to increase a little, which in turn can lead to more infected quarters, and so on. High herd SCC in late lactation is generally because of spread of infection during the summer, not 'just late lactation'. Don't assume that small bulk tank SCC increases during the summer will 'settle down' - act now, and set your herd up for late lactation, with minimal mastitis infections and maximum milk production. Despite an annual improvement in the average SCC of herds over the last few years, we still consistently see herd SCCs starting to rise from early summer. It then usually continues to creep up for the rest of the year. The financial impact of a 'creeping' SCC should not be underestimated. For example, at a milk price of 30c/L, if the average bulk tank SCC of a 100-cow herd increases from 150,000 cells/mL to 250,000 cells/mL, it reduces the overall farm profit by approx. €8,200. An additional €4,000 of extra profit is lost if the bulk tank SCC increases from 250,000 cells/mL to 350,000 cells/mL.

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

1. These high SCC cows should be marked and milked last to **minimise disease spread**.
2. **Discuss a treatment plan with your veterinary practitioner** - 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.

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 Feeds '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 complement 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. Increase 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.



ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND
Contributing to a profitable and sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health

NATIONAL MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAMME

FREE DRY COW CONSULT

- ✓ Are you milk recording?
- ✓ Is your bulk tank SCC consistently below 200,000 cells/mL?
- ✓ Are you ready to reduce antibiotic use at drying off?

If so, then your herd may be suitable for a selective dry cow therapy strategy this winter. With the right hygiene, management and support, many herds are successfully reducing their antibiotic use at drying off, by developing selective dry cow strategies in consultation with their veterinary practitioners. A free Dry Cow Consult is available again this year for eligible herds, delivered through the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health, funded by the Rural Development Programme and coordinated by Animal Health Ireland.

This 3-hour consultation is carried out with your selected trained veterinary practitioner and is an opportunity to assess the current drying off process and dry period performance and identify additional gains that can be made. Milk recording results and farm records will also be analysed to identify individual animals that may be suitable for a 'non-antibiotic' dry off, and the best way of implementing this.

It is important to remember that a selective dry cow strategy is not without risk and is not something to embark on without seeking professional support and advice.

INFORMATION/APPLICATION

For more information, and to submit an application for a Dry Cow Consult, see



www.animalhealthireland.ie



AHI office on 071 9671928

NATIONAL MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAMME
Animal Health Ireland, 4-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 WN27



**ARE YOUR COWS
AS HAPPY AS
THIS?**



SPEAK TO US ABOUT TRACE PAK PRE CALVER

**Arrabawn
Trace Pak Range – 2019
SPECIAL OFFER! Ploughing Ticket Promotion
*2019 PRE CALVER MINERAL OFFER***

**ORDER IN AUGUST –
DELIVERED TO FARM IN NOVEMBER.**

OFFER 1

30 BAG PALLET WITH FREE PLOUGHING TICKET.

OFFER 2

50 BAG PALLET WITH FREE PLOUGHING TICKET + FREE BAG

OFFER STRICTLY ENDS AUGUST 31ST



ARRABAWN MACHINERY, DUBLIN ROAD, ATHENRY. Telephone: **091 844086** Web: **www.arrabawn.ie**



Arrabawn staff at the Tullamore Show

Arrabawn Trace Pak Range – 2019

Trace Pak Pre Calver –

- Calving
- Calf vitality
- Fertility
- Durable hooves
- Immunity

This mineral supplement for cows, 6 – 8 weeks before calving, is generally accepted to be the best pre calver mineral on the market. It has been developed over the past 20 years to meet the requirements of the Arrabawn co-op catchment area – especially with regard to high Molybdenum and low Copper, Zinc and Selenium availability – including Albion Chelates for maximum effect. It has benefits in cow health at calving, fertility, lameness and possible cell count after calving. Feed 100 -150 grms/per head per day. Now with extra Magnesium.

Further enquiries – contact your local Arrabawn representative or call to your local Arrabawn branch

Grassland

management - as you build up a bank of grass for autumn / winter use it is important to control weeds in new pastures. Pick a mild day during the autumn / early winter and spray for weed such as young docks, chickweed, thistle and charlock. While these weeds look harmless enough in the seedling stage, they can create spaces in the pasture for bigger docks and weed grasses. Keeping a good matt of grass from the beginning will help slow down the invasion of weeds into your new pasture.

Winter Feed

planning - Planning for the winter feed season. With the winter period just around the corner, farmers should be planning on how much forage is available and on what ration they plan on feeding. Arrabawn Co-op has the facility to match your animal numbers to your forage stock and match up with a suitable concentrate to optimize animal performance.

Contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op for more details.

Arrabawn Co-op 2019 Grass Seed Mixtures

Easy to manage high production pastures

'Every little helps, as the saying goes and it all adds up! Farmers have become very efficient in recent years, tweaking everything from SCC to bull selection. Pasture reseeding will return more than any other procedure on your farm. Spring reseeding will have paid for itself by year end! Dry matter production from old pasture is reckoned to be about 7–8tonnes per hectare, while choosing to reseed with the Arrabawn Grazing Silage mixture, outlined below, will return 14–15 tonnes per hectare.

- All Top varieties, suitable for grazing or silage
- Early spring growth, maximum overall yield
- 43 % Tetraploid
- High performance, easy to manage late heading varieties
- Compact heading date – reduced topping!
- Good ground cover - long life, weed free
- **Over 14.5 ton DM /Ha vs c. 7- 8 ton/ Ha for old pasture**

Arrabawn Grazing / Silage 2019 Mixture

Variety	Heading	Total yld 14.8 t/ha	Cover 6.78	Spring 1	Autumn 3.1	DMD 82.1		PPI %
Drumbo	June 7 th	102	6.9	94.8	96.5	99.6	81.7	108
Aberchoise	June 9 th	102	7.1	92	107	102	83.6	173
Abergain (T)	June 6 th	107	6.3	125	110	102.6	84.1	199
Average		104%	6.15	102.7%	106.6	101.16	82.98	177

Clover added - (small leaf, persistent, high nitrogen fixing)

While this is the preferred Grazing Silage mixture for Arrabawn customers there are other mixtures available, for different situations. For further information, please contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op or call 0876697010

Smart Farming
Improving farm returns.
Enhancing the environment.

Your invitation

Farm Talk & BBQ

Wednesday 28th August, 2019
Time: 1.45pm to 5.30pm
Location: Eamon Sheehan's Farm, Bawnlusk, Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny
Eircode: R95 XFK1

1.45pm	Welcome & opening talk	
	Richard Bruton, T.D., Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment Joe Healy, IFA President	
2.15pm	Improving farm returns - sustainably	Field demos
	Mary McEvoy, Germinal - Introducing white clover into pasture Mark Plunkett, Teagasc - Spreading manures to maximise returns David Wall, Teagasc - Protected urea. Does it work?	
	Cathal Somers, ASSAP - Using GrassVESS to determine good soil structure Tom Fallon, Teagasc - Constructing farm roadways for animal & water health	
	Paul Moore, BRIDE Project - Biodiversity & lowland intensive farming Carol McCarthy, Local Authority Water Programme - What's in the waters?	
4.20pm	CAP, Climate and the Consumer - where to next?	Discussion
	Bill Callanan, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Gerry Gunning, IFA Phillip O'Brien, Environmental Protection Agency Padraig Brennan, Bord Bia Eamon Sheehan, Smart Farming host farmer	

Exhibitors include:

Attendance is FREE

Please confirm your attendance: 01 426 0343 or smartfarming@ifa.ie

HYUNDAI and MITSUBISHI MOTORS electric and hybrid vehicles will be available for test drives.

Fertiliser use and Soil Analysis

With fluctuating fertiliser prices and pressure from Reps and the Nitrates Directive 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 fertiliser phosphate, and by cutting back you will have the choice of using the optimum level of feed concentrates.

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.



Arrabawn staff at the Tullamore Show



Smarter Milking Farm Walk

Numerous Arrabawn suppliers attended the FRS Smarter Milking event that took place last month on Tom & Anne Hogan's farm in Cloughjordan County Tipperary.

Information stations on the day included;

- Getting the cows in and out
- Saving energy and money
- Doing the job right
- Producing high quality milk
- Saving time on milking

There was a very positive response from all who attended the event, with the host farm, its location and all the speakers receiving great praise.

Milk Quality

The milk quality station detailed Chlorine-free options for farmers going forward, as well as thermodynamic problems and antibiotic issues.

Thermodynamic Issues

Thermodynamic bacteria have the capability of surviving pasteurisation. Thus, close monitoring of these thermodynamic bacteria is crucial to maintain consumer confidence in the quality of milk produced and is of increasing interest to milk purchasers and processors. Silage, faeces, animal bedding and soil contain large numbers of thermodynamic bacteria. It is impossible to exclude them completely from milk, but the challenge is to contain numbers entering

raw milk to a minimum.

Tips to maintain lower thermodynamic levels in milk

- Present clean cows for milking
- Change rubber ware at least yearly
- Use cleaning products as recommended for machine and bulk tank
- Use correct water quantity for wash and rinse
- Use hot water (75-80°C), check temperature regularly
- Descale plant weekly if hard water (water softener) or at least, at two week intervals
- Avoid storage of warm water (plate cooler) for machine cleaning
- Get vacuum line washed out when your milking machine is being serviced and more regularly if foam is an issue in the collection jar

If you are considering upgrading your parlour then make sure you get bigger wash troughs as this can lead to quality issues due to lack of rinse water

Antibiotic Issues

Milk is screened for antibiotic residues on a routine basis. Dairy products must be totally free of antibiotic residues in order to meet milk quality standards at home and abroad. It has been estimated that over 70% of such residues result from the use of lactating and dry cow intra-mammary antibiotic formulations. Failure to discard the milk from treated cows for the recommended period is the principle cause of antibiotic residues in milk. Contamination of milking equipment after milking a treated cow will also cause antibiotic residues in milk.

Chlorine-free detergent

When changing to chlorine-free detergent make sure to rinse out detergent pipes on the milk tank before changing products, if not this can lead to crystallisation and no detergent going into the tank. When choosing a chlorine-free option, only use products on the Teagasc recommended list as they are trialled on the farm

Management methods to avoid antibiotic residues in milk

- Discard milk for the recommended period
- Record antibiotic treatments on parlour notice board - this record should include cow number, date of first antibiotic treatment application (tube), number of treatments and the interval at which they are to be administered together with the expected date of milk entry to the bulk tank
- Clearly identify treated cows, using a double marking system if possible, e.g. leg band and udder spray paint
- Use antibiotics from reputable manufacturers
- Where possible, draft out antibiotic treated cows and milk them last in the herd
- If it is not possible to milk antibiotic treated cows last, then flush the milking cluster with water after milking a treated cow to prevent transfer of antibiotic residues in milk. Alternatively, back-flushers may be used to sanitize and remove residue from the liners and claw before attachment to the next cow.
- When the veterinarian injects a cow, advice should be given on the milk withholding time – this information must be made available on the parlour notice board
- Dry cow product should be appropriate to the length of the dry period

We would like to thank Tom & Anne for hosting the smarter milking event and we would like to wish them all the best for the future.



Autumn grassland Management

Increasing the number of days at grass and boosting animal performance are both key in autumn grazing management on farm.

Farmers should be planning to start building grass now for autumn. The idea of building grass is to have a bank of grass on the farm in the autumn to be able to extend the grazing season (each extra day at grass in autumn is worth €1.80/cow/day), while closing off the farm in preparation for next spring.

- Rotation length should be extended from 10th August to reach 30 days by Sept 1st
- Make all land on the milking platform available for grazing to extend the rotation
- Remove surplus livestock from the grazing platform to reduce demand
- Increase supplementation by 1-2 kg to reduce demand
- Surplus paddocks should be removed in August. Removing paddocks

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	180	650	20 Days
Mid - August	200	900	25 Days
1 st September	300	750	30 Days
Mid-September	400-450	1,000-1,100	35 Days
1 st October	400	1,000	40 Days
1 st November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed	600		
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1 st August	180	540	20 Days
Mid - August	250	750	25 Days
1 st September	330	990	30 Days
Mid-September	370	1100	35 Days
1 st October	380	1150	40 Days
1 st November	65% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed	650-700		
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	190-200	650-700	20 Days
Mid - August	220	770	25 Days
1 st September	280	880	30 Days
Mid-September	340	1200	35 Days
1 st October	335	1175	40 Days
1 st November	75% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed	700-750		

after the first week of September should be avoided if possible

- If farm cover is below target at any stage (soil moisture deficit area may be relevant), take quick action to bring it back on course
- It is important to achieve residuals of 4 cm to stimulate growth throughout the winter and avoid the carryover of dead material over the winter and into the following spring

Summer Dairy Farm Walk

On the 10th of July 2019 we held our final farm walk of the Milk for Profit programme on Charlie Whiriskey's farm outside Kiltullagh in County Galway. The weather conditions took a turn for the worst with heavy rain but that didn't stop the great crowd attending the 'farming for the future' farm walk.

Charlie Whiriskey is currently milking 96 cows on a 52ha milking platform. The soil type varies across the farm from mineral to peat soils which can make farming difficult during periods of poor weather conditions. In total Charlie farms 61ha. Last year the farm performed remarkably well considering the difficult weather conditions with the late spring and the drought of the summer. The cows produced 470kg MS/cow at 3.36% Protein, 4.05% Fat and over 6000 litres. The cows were fed over 1600kg of meal last year however Charlie is adamant to keep this figure close 800kg per cow this year.

Charlie previously held a farm walk at the beginning of the Milk for Profit programme in 2017. The milk for profit programme set a number of goals for the farm to achieve over the course over the 3 year programme. The goals were to improve soil fertility, aim to grow 13t of grass, get fertiliser out early and consistently in spring, achieve an 85% 6 week calving rate and build a new milking parlour by September 2018. In terms of progress on the farm – soil fertility is improving with soil samples to be taken at the end of 2019 which will tell us more about the current status of the soil on the farm. Grass measuring was not consistently recorded on farm but we calculated that the farm grew up to 10t of grass in 2018. Charlie is also making better decisions regarding fertiliser application in spring. Urea is applied as soon as conditions allow while slurry is applied to the low index paddocks as priority. The 6 week calving rate has shown major improvement over the course of the programme. The 6 week calving rate in 2016 was 42% while it currently stands at 74%. Although there has been steady progress on farm, the challenge has been posed to Charlie to stay improving on farm development and efficiencies. The milking parlour is still under discussion with planning on going. Pat Gowing spoke at the farm walk outlining 3 options for Charlie regarding the parlour. These options included renovating the existing parlour (7 unit parlour currently), continuing as he is and reducing cow numbers or a new greenfield site which is the preferred option.

The farm walk covered topics on current farm performance, Agricultural Sustainability Support & Advisory Programme (ASSAP), labour efficiencies, farm development and the facilities on the farm. Martina Gormley (Teagasc Dairy Specialist), Pat Gowing (Dairy expansion), Ivan Kelly (Teagasc ASSAP) and Tom Murphy (Local Teagasc advisor) presented to the group of farmers on the day.

We would like to thank Charlie for partaking in the Milk for Profit and we would like to wish him well in the future. Charlie is also part of the new sustainability programme for water quality.

