



Arrabawn Dairies - Health & Wellbeing Event

At the beginning of October we hosted a very successful Health & Wellbeing evening with the National Dairy Council in the Lough Rea Hotel & Spa. On the night there was in excess of €5000 raised for the well-deserved charity 'Cancer Care West' and we were delighted to contribute to such a great cause. Over 400 attended the evening where they enjoyed a great line up of guest speakers along with a cookery demonstration. Leading dietician Paula Mee started off the night with practical diet and nutrition advice. Psychologist

Shane Martin followed by sharing some great tips on how to achieve a better quality of life. Jess Murphy owner of Kai Galway gave a delicious cookery demonstration using all fresh and locally produced products. We couldn't forget the great entertainment we all had with the wonderful MC Ollie Turner. This was a great evening enjoyed by all and we took great pleasure in the organising of it. We want to thank everyone who was involved along with those who came to support this great event. **#Togetherwegrow.**



Pictured at John Finn's farm, Oranmore, for the launch of the Arrabawn & NDC Health & Well Being Event are Michael Bermingham Arrabawn, John Donnelly, Director Cancer Care West and Gabriel Lardner Arrabawn Dairies.

Changes to SDAS, Bord Bia Quality Assurance Scheme

Effective from Nov 4th last there are some additional requirements under the SDAS scheme in relation to calf welfare as follows.

- **The on-farm slaughter of healthy calves is prohibited. (Critical)**
- Calves must be offered free access to clean water from 5 days of age or younger if they are being offered solid feed in addition to receiving milk or milk substitute.
- The calf's navel must be appropriately treated with a suitable disinfectant as soon as possible after birth to avoid infection.
- Well ventilated, draught free housing must be provided for calves. Dry comfortable bedding must be provided at all times.
- Calves must be looked after so that they are maintained in a healthy condition.
- Sick or injured calves must be treated appropriately without delay and where calves are not responding to the stockpersons care then veterinary advice must be sought.

Going forward there will be questions on the checklist to ascertain what happens in regard to the above points. This section has been included because of increasing concern on how calves are managed on dairy farms.

Arrabawn Instore Talks

The Arrabawn Instore Talk programme continues - over the next few weeks there will be more interesting talks at Arrabawn Tyone Store Nenagh or Arrabawn Store Athenry. The talks are planned to provide relevant seasonal information while also giving customers a chance to take a little time out over a cuppa and meet up with others for a chat. It is planned to continue with the programme through the busy winter and spring period - hopefully customers will avail of the chance to come relax for an hour or so.

Upcoming talks:

Subject	Tyone Store, Nenagh, 2pm	Athenry Store, 11am
Pest Control	Thurs. Nov. 21st	Wed. Nov 27th
Farm Sustainability	Thurs. Nov 28th	Wed. Dec 4th
Feeding the Pregnant Cow/Ewe	Thurs. Dec 5th	Wed. Dec 11th

So come along for a break and a chat

Liquid Milk Workshop

John Finn's, Bushfield, Oranmore, Co Galway.

Wednesday 27th November @ 11am

H91K5AK

Topics: Calving pattern, Nutrition and bull selection
Speakers: Joe Patton Dairy Specialist - winter milk systems
 Brian Garry Ruminant Livestock Nutritionist

Milk Quality Advisor:

Dairy Health Certificate 2019 -

Reminder Please hand in your Dairy Health Cert - Milk will not be collected in 2020 otherwise.

Selective Dry Cow Therapy Guidelines 2019

Blanket dry cow therapy (BDCT) has been a standard method for both treatment and prevention in the dry period. This method uses antibiotics in all quarters of all cows in the herd at drying off. During the dry period, higher doses can be used than when the cow is in milk and the flow of milk at milking will not flush the antibiotic out. However, by blanket treating the herd with antibiotic dry cow therapy there will be many cows in the herd that are treated with antibiotics when they don't need it. This is considered prophylactic use of antibiotics and as a practice should be discouraged. Antimicrobial resistance is a real problem in human and veterinary medicine and we are running out of options. Therefore, the whole of the agricultural sector needs to do its best to reduce the use of antibiotics as much as possible, without impacting animal health and welfare. Furthermore, the industry needs to start planning what will be done in place of BDCT and at present selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) and use of teat sealants is considered a sensible alternative. An added financial incentive should also be realized by reduced expenditure on unnecessary antibiotic treatments.

Suitable Herds for SDCT must have the following

- Herd average SCC at a minimum under 150,000 in 2019.
- Be milk recording for the least 2 years.
- Have done a milk sensitivity test.
- Culture negative for Strep and Agalactia (*results of Sensitivity test*)
- Must have 1 cubicle space per cow.
- Cubicles and housing maintained clean, dry and limed at least twice per day.
- Good clean and dry calving facilities that are disinfected at least once a week during the calving period.
- A final milk recording done within 30 days of drying off.
- Less than 10% new infection rate in the last two dry cow periods.
- Less than 15% new infection rate in last year's Heifers

Suitable Cows must fulfil all the following.

- Cows less than 100,000 SCC in last recording.
- Cows that had no reading over 150,000 for 2019,
- CMT test all cows as you dry off to insure no new infection.
- Cows that had no case of clinical mastitis recorded in 2019.
- Cows that have no visible teat damage and are not extremely free.

Tips

- Dry after morning milking.
- Dry in small groups 10 to 20
- Do it yourself so you only have yourself to blame.
- This procedure requires concentration and focus.
- This job requires time and cannot be rushed.
- Ensure you have eaten your breakfast
(No Rushing No Excuses)
- Head torch (to ensure cleanliness and clear view of teat).

Thermotolerant bacteria

Thermotolerant bacteria are heat resistant organisms that survive pasteurisation. Such bacteria carryover from raw-milk into finished dairy products negatively impacting upon quality and shelf-life. Silage, faeces, animal bedding and soil contain large numbers of thermotolerant bacteria and are the most important primary sources of these organisms in raw-milk. Poorly cleaned and sanitised milking equipment is a critical secondary source of contamination as milk residues provide an ideal medium for thermotolerant bacterial growth. The following recommendations should be observed to achieve low thermotolerant bacteria counts:

Clean Cows

Bedding areas, farm roadways and holding-yards must be kept clean at all times to avoid udder contamination. Pre-foam or wash cows' udders and teats prior to milking with potable water to remove faeces, soil, traces of bedding and dust. Ensure that the udder and teats are thoroughly dried with a disposable towel prior to attaching the machine.

Clean Milking-Equipment

Check rubber-ware for cracking and perishing on a monthly basis and replace all rubber-ware on an annual basis. Liners should be replaced every six months. Check the milking-plant for pitted, cracked, scratched or damaged stainless steel surfaces on a monthly basis and replace any damaged components. Service the milking-plant annually and ensure that the milk-line flow dynamics are effective for proper washing.

Rinse the milking-plant prior to and after the main wash cycle with adequate amounts of potable rinse water (14 litres per unit). Use an approved detergent/detergent-steriliser (<3.5 chlorine content) as per manufacturers' instructions. Ensure that the milking-plant is hot-washed once a week at a minimum. Rinse the milking-plant thoroughly with potable water immediately following chlorine (Sodium Hypochlorite) use.

- Descale the milking-plant weekly at a minimum and more often in hard-water areas to prevent milkstone formation with an approved milkstone descaler. Observe manufacturers' instructions as regards hot-water temperatures and concentration rates.

SEASONAL CHECK LIST

Cows

- Vaccinations for Calf scour, Rota-Corona or Salmonella Vaccines.
- Dry cow tubes, order sufficient tubes for number of cows in your herd
- Purchase Dry Cow Minerals suitable for your herds requirements
- Make list of drying off cows, consider SCC, BSC, calving dates.

Sheds

- Cubicle lime and Stalosan powder for cleanliness and disinfection
- Water troughs in sheds not leaking and filling correctly
- Adjust feed railing for smaller weanlings coming into shed
- Unblock/clean slats that may have dry dirt blocking holes
- Top up automatic scrapers with oil, and check rubber on scraper

Weanlings

- Plan Pre-Housing Dosing strategy, cover all parasites
- Reduce stress at housing by avoiding worming/ weaning etc at housing
- Feed Easy Weaner to boost Immune system, reduce stress and encourage appetite throughout transition from outdoors to housing

Feed

- Winter Feed diets and budgets, calculating requirements and supplements required.
- Predict feed shortages and gather extra silage now, budget for concentrates purchases

Calves

- Order ear tags for calves next Spring



Arrabawn

WIN ME!



ASK INSTORE FOR DETAILS

Alternative Leptospirosis Vaccination Routine

Leptospirosis Vaccines were in high demand throughout Spring 2018 and 2019 due to a shortage of product available. As a result, some animals may have missed an annual booster shot, putting them out of sync with your annual vaccination routine. However, there is an alternative vaccination protocol which will ensure your animals are covered for the 2020 breeding season if a yearly booster was missed.

Zeotis's Spirovac Vaccine has a flexible vaccination programme, with a yearly booster at the time of your choice. It has a proven 12-month efficiency which is very unique to this product. Its use is not restricted to the Spring time, a couple weeks before the breeding season starts. Zoetis suggests vaccinating the cows in the late Autumn/Winter as many cows have missed their annual vaccines so they will need two doses, 4-6 weeks apart, to regain full immunity.

- If Spring 2019 booster was missed move it forward to **Oct/Nov 2019** (primary dose), then give a second booster in **Dec 2019/Jan 2020**, moving back Spring 2020 booster.
- The cow is still getting two shots of lepto and will be covered until January **2021**
- Still fully covered for breeding season in 2020 with this new timing protocol
- Annual vaccine every January from there on.

2019		2020	
January		January	Spirovac2 nd
February		February	Annual Vaccine
March	Annual Vaccine	March	Annual Vaccine
April		April	
May		May	
June		June	
July		July	
August		August	
September		September	
October		October	
November	Spirovac 1 st	November	
December		December	
		January 2021	Spirovac annual

Benefits of vaccinating in Winter:

✓ *Cows are less stressed. No stress from changing diets (dry-milking cow), not producing milk, in better body condition, good feed indoors, lower disease risk (milk fever, LDA, held cleanings, mastitis, Negative energy balance etc.)*

✓ *All these factors contribute to a healthier immune system and improved efficiency of the vaccine*

✓ *Quieter time of the year vs Spring, easier make time for vaccinations. Better management and less chance of missed doses. Reducing the workload in the busiest time of the year.*

Any questions please contact your local Sales Advisor or Siobhan Killeen on (067) 41800.

Fertilizer and Soil Analysis and Derogation

The recent provisional report on Climate Change and the Nitrates directive suggests major changes to the way we farm and apply nutrients.

Over the next year or so there will be a big push to collect 'Data'. This data will come from a few areas around the farm

- **Soil analysis for more targeted fertilizer usage leading to more efficient use of fertilizer and correcting the lime status of a particular field.**
- **Silage feed analysis to ascertain the correct concentrate which should be fed to lactating cows, optimizing milk yield and reducing methane emissions. There may be restrictions on the level of protein in purchased concentrate in order to reduce the level urea in milk - a high milk urea reading would suggest too much protein/ nitrogen in the diet.**
- **Milk recording to identify the lower yielding cows or cows with a high cell count.**
- **Sensitivity testing of milk with a view to using the most suitable antibiotic for the control of mastitis / high SCC.**
- **Silage mineral analysis to identify any mineral deficiencies which may affect fertility performance and predict issues around calving.**
- **Grass growth measurements and reseeding - inclusion of clover in all new reseeds. This clover will increase the digestibility of the sward and will also release nitrogen into the soil.**

With fluctuating fertilizer prices, it was never more important to have a plan for the purchase of fertilizer. Many farmers are neglecting to include the phosphate content of feed concentrate in their overall fertilizer 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 fertilizer or feed use contact Tom Starr at Arrabawn Co-op or call to your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op.



Conor Corcoran
Agri Services

087 416 8793

- Freeze Branding,
- Dehorning/Calf Disbudding
- Tail/Brand Clipping
- Udder Hair Removal
- Relief Milking
- Milk Recording Assistance
- Assisting with Drying Off
- Herd Testing Assistance
- Vaccination/Dosing
- Weighing Service
- Castration
- General Duties

Fully Insured



For Sale:

670 Bales Top Quality Silage

Borrisokane Area - **Contact 086-3818818**

TRACE PACK® EasyWeaner

Respiratory support for weanlings

- Aids in prevention of respiratory infection
- Stimulates immunity
- Improved appetite and reduced stress
- Easier breathing, better thrive



Arrabawn

Tel: 087 669 7010
email: info@arrabawn.ie
www.arrabawn.ie



EasyWeaner

- Trace Pack EasyWeaner has been formulated for **Respiratory support** for Weanlings and Calves at a time of stress. Trace Pack EasyWeaner contains a unique Herbal blend which supports the Immune system in the Lung. Trace Pack EasyWeaner stimulates Immunity, improves appetite and reduces stress. The benefits of Trace Pack EasyWeaner are improved Animal Health, easier breathing and improved animal performance.
- Weaning and or housing is a particularly stressful time for calves - research indicates that you can get a significant reduction in the antioxidant capacity of the weanling, causing stress which make the young animal more susceptible to respiratory illness.
- EasyWeaner is designed to support the weanling's immune system during the housing / weaning period, by stimulating appetite and easing the stress associated with weaning.
- Trace Pack EasyWeaner contains a unique herbal blend to specifically support the immune system in the lung. EasyWeaner's herbal blend supports the animal's ability to fight respiratory infection by helping the efficient function of naturally occurring immunoglobulin in the lung. This helps maintain the integrity of the epithelial tissue, the integrity of lung tissue lining is an essential component of the animal's defence against infectious pathogens and their toxins.
- Just add Trace Pack EasyWeaner to the feed for 7 - 10 days before and after weaning or housing. Feed at 30 grms/day - it's an ideal tonic for weanlings.

For further information contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op or ring 087 6697010.



Garda Message

Message for All Firearm Certificate Holders

Each current holder of a firearm certificate (with the exception of a Firearm Training Certificate) should receive a **PRE-POPULATED** version of the new Firearms Renewal Form (FCR) in the post approximately three months prior to the expiry of their current certificate. All details relevant to the current firearm certificate, including the firearm, referees, G.P, land etc. will be detailed on the renewal form. Corresponding boxes will be included to facilitate any changes for example a change of referee, doctor etc. The firearm owner can fill in the changes on the renewal form, if any, and when the form is signed it shall then be returned to the local Station for consideration by the relevant Superintendent (or Chief Superintendent if a restricted firearm application). If there are no changes, the applicant simply signs the renewal form and brings the FCR form to his/her Garda Station for processing by An Garda Síochána.

When a decision is made to grant the renewal by the Superintendent (or Chief Superintendent), the applicant will receive a **Grant Notice Letter** in the post (as is currently the case with a new application) and when paid will then receive his/her new three-year certificate by post. The current fee structure has **not** changed with each class of firearm certificate costing €80 with the exceptions of a Firearm Training Certificate and a Non-Resident Firearm Certificate, both costing €40.

Please note that **only** the PRE-POPULATED FCR form will be acceptable to An Garda Síochána when renewing a firearm certificate and each application for renewal must be accurately completed **prior** to returning the FCR to the Garda Station. Finally, the Firearms Renewal Form (FCR) is only used for **renewals** of firearm certificates.

Any **new application** or **substitution** for a firearm certificate shall continue to be made on the **FCA1** application form.

If a situation arises where a firearm certificate holder does not receive a pre populated Firearms Renewal Form (FCR) **prior to the expiry of their current certificate**, please immediately contact your local Garda Station. Failure to do so may result in an individual being in possession of an unlicensed firearm. The co-operation of all firearm certificate holders is essential in ensuring that firearm certificate renewals are properly managed and processed. An Garda Síochána wishes to thank all firearm owners for their continued co-operation in this area.

All information regarding the requirements/information on exporting a firearm can be obtained on the Department of Justice and Equality website www.justice.ie

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. Research at U.C.D. indicates the main area of attention regarding infertility in dairy cows was the **body condition score at drying off**, it was 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.

Improving EBI reduces GHG emissions and increases profitability

With all the talk about climate change we will look at what agriculture can do to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the area of genetic improvement through increased EBI.

The Irish Economic Breeding Index (EBI) system, which is a single figure profit index, allows Irish dairy farmers to breed more profitable replacement animals that are best suited to the Irish pasture-based, milk solids-based payment system

- The EBI is currently made up of seven sub-indexes, namely (1) Production, (2) Fertility, (3) Calving, (4) Beef, (5) Maintenance, (6) Management and (7) Health

- The financial gains from increased herd EBI have been well documented and many of these gains have directly contributed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- Therefore, the EBI breeding system is delivering a more sustainable and efficient cow that is less harmful to the environment, yet produces more milk solids over the lifetime of the cow.

•Increasing EBI will reduce emissions by:

- Improving fertility, reducing calving interval and replacement rates, therefore reducing methane emissions per kg of dairy produce
- Earlier, more compact calving leads to an increase in the proportion of grazed grass in the diet, reduces culling and the number of replacement stock on the farm
- Increasing milk yield and improving milk composition increases the efficiency of production, which lessens the emissions per kg of dairy

produce

- Improved survival and animal health reduces disease, leading to higher production levels and lower replacement rate.
- Cost negative mitigation strategies, such as improving herd EBI, will increase farm profits and reduce emissions and are therefore a win-win for farmers and the environment.

Simple steps to increase your herd's EBI

Genetic gain is cumulative and permanent, so any EBI gain achieved will continue to add up and last over time in the herd. Herd owners should be targeting to increase their herd EBI by at least €10 each year. This can be achieved through a combination of the following:

- Identify the key traits that need to improve in the herd (those with a low score currently), focusing

especially on fertility & milk production as required.

- Choose a team of high EBI bulls that complement your herd - for many herds, fertility is the main weakness that needs to be improved.

- Select your team from the ICBF 'Active Bull List'.

- Use a sufficient number of straws, e.g. 55 straws per 10 heifer replacements required.

- Focus on your heifers - breeding heifers to carefully selected high EBI bulls is the fastest way to improve the herd EBI and profitability

- Remember, breeding for fertility will bring milk solids - due to an earlier calving, longer lactation & improved grass utilisation

Proposed Nitrates Derogation Rules 2020 - 2021

Approx. 7,500 farmers receive a derogation in 2019. However, 12,000 farmers have a SR > 170kg/ha with 5000 exporting slurry. A brief summary of the new rules applying to either Derogation only, or Derogation farms + those with a SR > 170 kg/ha Org N are as follows, however these are currently only provisional:

- 1. Improved implementation of nutrient management planning** (aimed to improve nutrient use efficiency, targeting of organic manures and reduce fertiliser inputs when possible).
- 2. Liming programme** - Mandatory to apply lime where soil analysis show sub-optimal pH - Applies to all farms > 170 kg/ha Org N i.e. derogation and those who don't apply for derogation.
- 3. Mandatory environmental training** - Applies to farmers in receipt of a Nitrates Derogation - Course modules covering Water Quality, Gaseous Emissions and Biodiversity (aimed to improve farmers understanding).
- 4. Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS)** - Applies to all farms > 170 kg/ha Org N - Staged implementation for slurry spreading using LESS after 15th

April 2020 (farmers will be asked to submit quantities of slurry spread using Less in 2020) and from 1st Jan 2021 all slurry must be spread using LESS (aimed to reduce gaseous N emissions and to improve N efficiency).

- 5. Export of Slurry** - All farms exporting slurry must submit forms "record 3" to DAFM by 31st October - aimed to reduce movement of slurry in closed period.
- 6. Grassland management** - Options: A) measure and record grass using PBI etc. (currently < 2000 active farmers using PBI) or Option B) attend a grassland management course (courses

currently offered by Teagasc). Specifications for both option A & B to be decided!

- 7. Clover in newly reseeded swards** - grass seed mixes must contain clover on derogation farms (aimed to have clover present in swards for future).
- 8. Land eligibility** - commonage / rough grazing will be ineligible on Farms receiving a Nitrates derogation and also for the derogation chemical N & P allowances (aimed to stop SR dilution with extensive land). Definition for rough grazing to be decided.
- 9. Crude Protein in Concentrate**

feed - All farms > 170 kg/ha Org N must adopt low CP concentrate feed while herd is at grassland (aimed at reducing N excretion rates - each 1% reduction in CP = approx. 1 kg N reduction in excretion). This will be important given that the N excretion rates/cow (i.e. 85 kg Org N) will be revised in 2021 upwards in line with increasing milk yield. Specifications, and proportion of total concentrate feed, to be decided.

10. Biodiversity - Measures around management of hedgerows and habitats from the all-Ireland pollinator plan (aimed to improve habitat provision and biodiversity on intensive farms).



Picture from the AHI Cellcheck Event held on Kevin Muldoon & Mella Briscoe Farm on Friday November 1st.