



Kilconnell

It has been a challenging couple of months in the Dairies business following a product recall in October. In the aftermath of this challenging situation, product volumes reduced and a full review of processes took place. Thanks to lots of hard work locally and strong engagement with key customers, the operation has recovered well, which culminated in a Department of Agriculture compliance notice being lifted in the lead up to Christmas. This was an essential step in the process of rebuilding and sets us up to compete in 2021. We would like to acknowledge the commitment, flexibility and resilience of the workforce and to all that contributed.

In the event that you see any isolated product shortages we would encourage you to raise this locally.

Antibiotics and Anthelmintics
Note, all suppliers, we would ask you to make sure that you follow all recommended withdrawal periods on antibiotics and doses so as not to cause contamination of milk.

CHLORINE FREE

Chlorate Free Milk 2021

All farms are expected to be Chlorine Free at this stage.

Chlorates are toxic compounds which are formed when residual chlorine reacts with other organic compounds, such as milk. It is imperative that all milk and milk products are free of both chlorine and chlorates.

Grass Fed certification standard

The Grass Fed Standard for Irish dairy was developed as a response to market needs and provides a way for Irish dairy processors to make a verified claim that their product has been sourced from Irish grass-fed cows. In today's market, there are more opportunities to leverage the natural advantage of Ireland's grass-based farming systems. Feedback from Irish dairy companies selling and finding new markets for dairy products suggests that it is no longer acceptable to just declare that a product is grass fed, the market requires evidence to support the claim. From January 2021 **Ornua** require all milk used in the manufacture of **Kerrygold** butter must have grass fed certification, **Arrabawn** will have the systems and certification in place early this year to meet the new requirements. Herds must be certified members of (SDAS) Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme to be considered for assessment against the Grass Fed Standard. Information gathered during the SDAS audits provides confirmation that the farm system meets the grass-fed rules. For a processor to use a Bord Bia verified grass-fed claim on a product, the milk used must average 95% grass-fed on a fresh weight basis. Bord Bia has overall responsibility for the management of the Grass Fed Standard including and inspection and certification of processors wishing to use the Grass Fed logo. The minimum acceptable grass-fed figure for an individual herd to qualify as grass-fed is 90% on a fresh weight basis. It is expected that 99% of Irish dairy farms will meet the grass-fed threshold.

Milk Quality Advisor: Dairy Health Certificate 2021

Each herd that supplies milk must be certified by your vet annually to meet specific animal health requirements as specified by the department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The certificate must be submitted to Arrabawn Co-op each year. The recommended time to certify your herd is at your annual herd test which enables you and your vet to fully complete and sign the form while inspecting the cows.

If you have misplaced your blank health Cert which was sent to you earlier this year by post please contact your milk advisor.

Note: Arrabawn will not be in a position to collect milk from your holding from the 1st of January 2021 unless it has received the fully completed certificate.

1. It is no longer a requirement to submit a list of animal tag numbers with the completed certificates.
2. **On page 1**, Veterinary Certification of Compliance the vet **MUST** complete the number of animals presented to him as milk yielding animals for certification.
3. **On Page 3**, herdowner Declaration of compliance the herd must complete the number of animals presented as milk yielding animals to the vet for certification.
4. Please send a completed health certificate ASAP to
Arrabawn Co-Op
Stafford Street
Nenagh
Co. Tipperary

Milking Machine Cleaning-In-Place (CIP)

From the 1st of January we should now be fully chlorine free. Going forward we need to be able to solve the issues that can arise from the conversion to chlorine free. There is a perception out there that the chemical is the issue when a farm decided to go chlorine free but in most cases the chemical is not the issue.

There are a few things on farm that we need to do when we converted to chlorine free.

1. **Hot water system:** The change over to chlorine free will never work if you don't have sufficient temperature from your hot water or if you do not have enough hot water on the farm. Most farms have a thermometer for mixing milk replacer for 2 or 3 months of the year but they don't use a thermometer to check the temperature of the hot wash when they are milking for 10+ months of the year.

2.

The targets for a hot wash are

Start of cycle	75°C-80°C+
Mid cycle	58°C-65°C
End of cycle	55°C-57°C

Target water usage per unit

Rinse wash	14 litres
Chemical wash	9 litres (10L for 30 units+)
Final rinse	14 litres

3. **Pre and post rinse:** The chemicals we are using were made to work on a machine that has been adequately rinsed with clean water before it is entered into the system. Therefore when rinsing the machine, we must use the advised 14 litres per unit so that milk won't come into contact with the chemicals causing an unwanted reaction which may cause a build up inside the machine. This is a vital step as the phosphoric and nitric based acids can react with milk leaving a chewing gum like substance inside the machine.

4. **Recalibration and chemical usage:** Another vital step that seems to be overlooked on farms is the recalibration of milk tanks and auto

washers or in a manual system the recalibration of the farmer as the usage rates of these new chemicals will be different to your older chemicals. The second reason it is important to recalibrate your machines because these new chemicals will react to older chemicals that may be in the pipes of your system causing blockages in the chemical pumps.

We also need to use registered chemicals as the trials have been done on these products and are proven to work you will be fighting a losing battle against TBC when using unregistered products as they may not have 21-29% caustic in their detergents and similarly the acid products will not be up to standard.

5. **Turbulence:** Another issue that seems to be arising on farm is with larger machines (10 units+) is the effectiveness of the air blast on the machine. This unit is normally on the back of the milk line and tends to be overlooked when trying to diagnose a problem. You need to service and make sure these units are working correctly to get an effective wash. Similarly, if your machine is drawing air in the wash trough there isn't enough water in the system which will then limit the turbulence created in the machine and make the wash cycle less effective.

Other issues we are seeing on farm are the lack of routine especially with acid washes. It is advised to do 3-7 acid washes per week as we are now chlorine free. Similarly, if you get into a routine of adding peracetic acid at a rate of 0.15% to the final rinse it will help to lower thermodurics in the machine. Rubberwear is also a big problem we are seeing on farm. As farmers we think nothing of servicing or changing tyres on a tractor or jeep when they need it but for some reason rubber pipes that are used twice a day everyday in milking machines are left unchanged until they disintegrate. Rubber bends, large rubber tubing, long milk tubes are all serviceable parts and need to be changed regularly as they crack and harbour bacteria which will increase your TBC and THD.

We need to ask ourselves is everything in the milking machine is working correctly? Is the rubberwear in good condition? Do I have enough hot water? Is it the adequate temperature? Am I using the correct amount of chemical in the wash? It is very easy to blame the chemicals but there are many other questions we need to ask ourselves first.



Special Offer

The Arrabawn

'Calf Life Station'

contains all the essentials for a good start to the calving season. From any branch of Arrabawn. €99! Contact your local Arrabawn branch to arrange collection or delivery or ring 0876697010

Calving Checklist - get stocked up !

***Arm Length Gloves *Lubricating Gel *Calving Jack and Ropes* Colostrum* Calf Stomach Tube* Calf Feeding Bottle and Teats* Iodine* Calf Aid Syringe *Thermometer* Electrolytes(Arralyte)* CryptoEase *Infra-Red Lamp * Rechargeable Lamp* Milk Replacer (TopStart PEP) * Calf Warming Jacket * Transition Cow Mineral**
From your local Arrabawn Store

Remember :- ensure the calf gets 3 litres colostrum within the first 2 hours of life

- **TopStart is a high quality whey based milk replacer**
- **Composition of 24% Protein / 18% Fat / 7.5% Ash / 0% Fibre**
- **TopStart includes the PEP+ health pack which is a unique combination of Prebiotics, High Vitamin E and Probiotics, to boost calf immunity and gut health**
 - **Prebiotics act in the large intestines to lower the pH level and have an anti-microbial effect.**
 - **Vitamin E is an antioxidant, which boosts the immune system of the calf.**
 - **Probiotics act in the small intestine that have a positive effect on gut flora. Probiotics help to strengthen the immune system and support the enzyme system**
- **TopStart is formulated with high quality dairy ingredients and elevated levels of balanced amino acids, to deliver high liveweight gain and boost calf health.**
- **TopStart is a highly palatable, easy to mix, milk replacer.**
- **Suitable for bucket and computerised feeding systems**
- **Recommended feeding rate for TopStart milk replacer is 125g/L (moderate growth) 150g/L (elevated growth)**
- **Added flavours for palatability and encourage early calf intake**



Johnes Disease - How to control at calving

What is Johnes disease: Farmers should be extra vigilant in preventing Johnes's disease at calving time. Johnes's disease is a contagious infection caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*). It gradually damages the gut wall, meaning feed isn't converted as efficiently. This leads to weight loss, scour and if left unattended, emaciation and death. It also leaves the animal more prone to other infections.



The disease is irreversible and occurs in three steps. 1) infection, through exposure of contaminated faeces or milk. Calves are at very high risk of picking up disease. 2) Infectious stage, shedding large volume of bacteria, immune response low, moderate gut damage. 3) Affected, showing clinical signs and high volume of shedding. Large amount of gut damage, thin, low thrive, increasing antibody response.

How it is Transferred: It can be passed on if a newborn calf swallows the bacteria in their infected mother's colostrum. It can also be transmitted if they ingest a small amount of manure from an infected animal. The bacteria can live in the manure in dirty bedding or on the skin of the test ends. While colostrum is vital to a calves early development, it is just as important to be vigilant for Johnes's disease

Calves are occasionally infected at birth when the mother is in advanced stage of the disease. If a newborn becomes infected, signs of this aren't likely to surface until two or more years later. Any animal under the age of two are at risk of picking up bacteria.

Johnes is a difficult bacteria to get rid of and can last in the environment (sheds) and slurry for months or even up to a year.

How to prevent the spread:

However, if you apply best practice you can minimise the spread of the infection on your farm at calving time.

- Remove the calf as soon as possible from the calving pen, and into a clean, dry and uncontaminated environment. Calving pens must always be clean and have a thick layer of clean straw.
- Collect the colostrum yourself. This way you can maximise the quality of what the calf is taking on board. When you do this, make sure your hands, the cow's udders and the containers for the colostrum are clean before you collect. Additionally, wash the container between uses.
- Feed the colostrum from test negative cows. Avoid pooling colostrum from cows with an unknown status.
- Avoid group calving scenarios when possible. If numerous cows are in a pen, there are multiple sources of infection for a calf.
- Avoid spreading slurry on land that will be grazed by calves in the summer.

Gain control through Milk Recording

You can have the newest, top of the range milking parlour, shining new shed or the best EBI cows but if you have no control over that power, it is useless. The top spec milking parlour won't compensate for a few millionaire SCC cows in the herd constantly infecting new naive cows. You can't manage what is not measured!

Gain control over your milk quality through Milk Recording. The data gathered from Milk Recording is invaluable. Knowing the volumes of milk, kgs of milk solids, SCC of a cow is crucial. In order to breed the best stock and improve the genetic of the herd you must be able to differentiate between the top and low performers in the herd. The best AI bulls should be put on your best cows while the low performing cows should be slowly culled out of the herd.

You can't guess, that cow is giving X number of litres or she looks healthy with a low SCC. Could be the total opposite. You can only know this info if the cows are tested regularly throughout the year and have the data in writing in front of you! Data generates good decision making.

"2 cows, calved 7th Feb., similar EBI, €500 difference in milk value due to milk solids and yield"

The benefits of milk recorded are often masked by the expense, but it should be seen as a long-term investment in continuing profitability rather than an expense. The money will be returned by milking the most efficient cows while removing the free loaders in the herd. Research has shown that herds who milk record have an 11% increased gross margin, 13.5% increased yields and reduced bulk tanks by 26%. This works out at an increased profit of €120 per cows/ year. The average cost of milk recording per cow is only €12 per cow for 6 milk recordings in a year. That is a 10-fold return!

Nowadays the data gathered is used to generate simple reports which identify the best and worst performing cows, recently infected cows and recently cured cows. The option to obtain an AHI CellCheck report is available. It shows cases

areas which need improvement and the financial benefits or losses associated with the report. The AHI CellCheck online services combine all the data from milk recordings and you can sort the data into options like groups of cow/ age groups, best producers, cows for culling etc. A service which should not be missed out!

Some other benefits of milk recording are adding value to (surplus) heifers sold from the farm and maximise compensation from cows culled due to TB. With new EU laws coming into place regarding antibiotic usage individual cow data is important for purchasing dry cow tubes in autumn 2022. Milk recording offers the perfect opportunity to collect and analyse this data. Currently there are two Milk Recording companies available, both offer a huge range of knowledge, expertise and assistance throughout all stages of the process from setting up the milking parlour to interpreting reports.



Munster AI: (022) 43228 Progressive Genetics: (046) 954 1230
 If you've any questions, contact your milk advisor!

"Power is nothing without control"

Planning is key for Calf Health

Only a week or two left until the madness of calving kicks off for many people. Prepare the best you can now to avoid unnecessary stress when calves start hitting the ground.

Check the Supplies!

1. Look through your supplies and ensure you have enough of the basics such as: gloves, lubrication gel, calving jack ropes, feeding tube, iodine spray etc. Get to the shops now to gather all this equipment and have it ready to go.
2. Check equipment such as the calving jack (working correctly and ropes ok), red lamp working, calf coat clean, calving gate swinging easily, teats on feeder in good condition. Ensure they are all working now, don't want to be in situation where equipment is needed and not usable.
3. Refractometer available to check colostrum quality. Remember, must be above 22% to ensure the calf gets enough antibodies in. Look through your store of colostrum frozen in the freezer, anything over a year old should be thrown out.
4. Colostrum 1,2,3 rule! 1st milk from the cow, within 2 hours of birth and 3L given.

Feeding Rates

The chart below is a quick refresher on how much calves should be feed every day. The transition milk is key to include in the diet. The extra nutrients are key to get the calf off to a good start in life. And In particular if you vaccinate for calf scours, many antibodies are still found in transition milk.

It is law that calves must get 2 feeds until the age of 28 days. As well as being law, it is also highly beneficial for the calf. A large feed once a day (eg morning) is hard to digest in the calves stomach, also by the evening the calves body is being to break down protein and fat stores to generate energy.

An average Friesian calf **MUST GET 6L OF MILK A DAY**. 6L is key to ensure good growth rates and calf immune system. 4L is the bare minimum for a calf, and not enough for growth and high functioning immune system.

Days	Milk Type	Litres per feed	Feeds per day	Concentrates	Roughage hay or straw
1	Colostrum	3L first and 2L after	2 or 3		-
2-5	Transistion mlk (Milking 2-6)	2.5L	2	Access small amount	Access small amount
6-28	Whole mlk or Milk Replacer	3L	2	Ad lib	Ad lib
29-56	Whole mlk or Milk Replacer	3L	1 or 2	Ad lib	Adlib

Cold stress

This can be often over looked in the height of madness during calving. It can be avoided by providing plenty of dry, clean straw, close up drafts at calf level and fix leaking water drinkers. Calf coats are great investment for smaller or weaker calves. All their energy should be used on thriving and generating a strong immune system, not staying warm.



DEOSAN JAN & FEB 2021 PROMOTION

TEATFOAM ADVANCE

- 200L BARRELL X 2 **PLUS** 1 X 20L **FREE** DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM
- 200L BARRELL X 3 EACH **PLUS** 2 X 20L **FREE** DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM
- 950L IBC **PLUS** 2 X 20L **FREE** DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM

Offer ends FEB 27th 2021

Silage Analysis 2020/21 Summary With over 500 samples analysed, there are a few items worth noting :-

- **Phosphorus Copper , Zinc , Selenium and Iodine** tend to be low across the board. These are important elements which will have an effect on growth and fertility in the coming months. Feeding the **Arrabawn Trace Pak** pre calver mineral will help reduce these deficiencies in the month before calving.

- **Consider using a Selenium fortified fertiliser**, at least 1 bag per acre on all grassland, grazing and silage, in the run up to the breeding season.

- **Protein levels appear to be a little better than normal**, possibly due to leafier silage cuts. Most silages require a 20% protein concentrate to balance the silage available. Recommended feeding rates for peak yield are in the range of 7 - 9 kg/day in order to hold body condition in the run up to the breeding season.

- **If you have had silage analysed**, discuss the results with your Arrabawn rep and use these results to decide on mineral, feed and fertiliser choices.

Start the Spring on the right hoof: Never too late to test Silage & know your mineral requirements DOC 18% Range meeting the Cows needs

Over 50% of Arrabawn Suppliers have tested their silage to date and remember it's not too late still for feed analysis. DMD is averaging at 12.5% CP and DMD is 69% which is up on previous years. Summarising this is giving an essential requirement for a high dairy nut in the parlour of 18% on average..... Its hugely important to know certain aspects of your Silage for what is on most farms 70% of the cow diet from housing to turnout. For some early calving is happening, but before it comes into full flow in February its crucial to plan your post calving diet so that both milk & maintenance requirements of the cow are met. You're in the dark not having a feed analysis when it comes to try and solving poor BCS, poor butterfat & protein and poor milk yield.

Here are some things which benefits the cow by getting your forage tested :

- Crude Protein; vital to know when getting your dairy nut and making sure average dietary protein should be 18%, protein imbalance leads to failure to reach peak yield
- Fibre; As the spring moves on the fibre level of the diet is key is avoiding butterfat issues
- Dry Matter; Level of moisture present affects fibre and intake for the cow
- DMD; High DMD will reduce levels of concentrates fed, increase of 5% in DMD will lead to 1.5 litre increase in milk output
- pH & N; gives you level of N and is the silage of acidic nature these figures affect intakes post calving which could cause twisted stomachs or Ketosis
- UFL; energy value of 0.8 UFL + will go well with high energy DOC 18% etc, drop in ULF will melt BCS and cows wont peak to their potential.

At this stage the cow should be getting the Arrabawn Tracepak Precalver. Nonetheless doing a Mineral Analysis now is still worth it if you haven't one. Coming up to calving and even now as its getting late, knowing your

Potassium levels and DCAD figure for example will allow you to be proactive in your approach or if there's a worry of Milk Fever or Retained Cleanings etc. The Transition Cow mineral or the use of Anionic salts can help on these cases so contact your rep for assistance on this.

Another product of DOC's is Eazycalver 18%. This is tailor made for this time of year as it includes a pre calve mineral. It is Oat & Soyabean meal based, giving the cow high energy supply at calving down and sufficient protein for the mammary glands to produce milk & overall heifer growth. Feeding 2kg of Eazycalver is recommended so that the mineral is utilised fully. This product can work well in situations where cow condition has to be improved in the dry cow period. It includes a pre calver mineral and reduces calving difficulty.

In DOC a number of ideally suited products have been formulated known as the 'Max Range' this range took into mind the different seasonal challenges the dairy farmer may incur, whether its meeting the cow's requirements from Calving right out to Post-Breeding Season & beyond. The same goes whatever the system e.g., Liquid Milk or Spring Milk, the 'Max range' is tailored to suit both be it for helping lameness, neg rumen pH or reducing negative energy balance post spring calving e.g., Milk Fever, retained cleanings. The 'Max Range' products CP range of 14% up to 18% gives flexibility when balancing the overall diet whether its grass silage based or at a later stage, the grazing season. **Milk Max 18** is perfectly suited to cows post calving as it included high levels of Maize & Barley giving high levels starch as a result combined with the ideal level of fibre in the form of Beet Pulp to give the cow rumen stability after calving down, avoiding Displaced Stomachs.

For more info on this, and other nutritional matters, consult your local Dan O'Connor Feeds representative or any branch of Arrabawn Co-op.

Planning Nitrogen Application for early season growth

Spring grass is a very valuable source of feed on our farms with high energy and protein contents. The application of early spring N is important to boost grass growth. However, grass growth response to N in early spring is much lower than what we get during the summer so it's vital that we manage this properly. We need to remember to use the **right place, right time, right product** at the **right** rate formula.

Right place

Prioritize early N application to recently reseeded paddocks, paddocks with good perennial ryegrass content, good soil fertility, good grass covers (400 kg DM/ ha) and warmer/drier ground. Nitrogen application should be delayed on other parts of the farm until a little later in the spring when N response improves. Also be aware that you need to maintain a 2m buffer zone (no fertiliser N applied) from any watercourse when spreading N and never apply fertiliser on waterlogged or frozen soils. These buffer zones should be doubled in size for the first two weeks of the opening spreading period and in areas where there is a natural slope to the watercourse.

Right time

To get the best N response in spring soil temperatures need to be at least 6 °C and rising. Check the weather forecast and don't apply fertiliser if a yellow rainfall warning is in place or is forecast within the next 48 hours. Be sure to stay within the department guidelines regarding the open spreading period.

Right product

The best fertiliser N type for early spring is protected or standard urea as they are less prone to losses to water than CAN. Slurry at this time is also a great source of N. Slurry applied with a splash-plate will supply 6 units N/1,000gal. This increases to 9 units N/1,000gal where slurry is spread with a dribble bar or trailing shoe (LESS). These slurry N values are the same type of N as bagged N fertiliser and have the same availability for grass growth and should be used to replace bag fertiliser on a portion of

the farm in early spring.

Right rate

Your rate of fertiliser application in the spring should be linked to your stocking rate and demand for grass. The target for N application on intensive dairy farms is to have 70 units N/acre applied by the 1st April. This is generally broken down into 23 units N/acre in late January/early February followed by 46 units N/acre around the 1st week of March. 23 units N/acre is more than enough N for the levels of grass grown from mid-January to the 1st March. In many cases the 70 units N/acre spread by the 1st April should not be a blanket approach across the whole farm. It's more designed for the 'Right places' on the farm as outlined above, which in some cases will be the entire farm and on other farms it won't. Lower amounts of N will suffice on wetter/colder ground or paddocks with low perennial ryegrass content that take longer in the spring to get going. In many cases they won't get the first 23 units N/acre in that late January/early February period which is fine. The target will then revert to 46 units N/acre by the 1st April. There is no need to try and play catch up by applying 70 units N/acre in March.

Nitrogen from slurry application should be included in the 70 units N/acre target. It's not a case of applying 70 units N/acre bagged fertiliser on top of ground that has also got slurry. For example, if 2,500 gal/acre of slurry is applied with a trailing shoe/dribble bar that will supply 23 units N/acre with the remaining 46 units N/acre applied as bagged fertiliser to reach the 70 units N/acre by 1st April. Slurry application will meet that 23 units N/acre requirement in that late January/early February period. Avoid excessive rates of slurry application per acre (>3,000 gals/acre) in early spring. A better ploy is to spread 2,500 to 3,000 gal/acre across a larger area of the farm to reduce your fertiliser N bill. For example, if slurry is used to replace a half bag urea across 100 acres it will reduce the fertiliser N bill by between €1,000 to €1,200. A trailing shoe or dribble bar will help to reduce grass contamination when doing this.



ROAD SAFETY Is Your Vehicle Winter-Ready?

You should get your vehicle serviced before winter sets in to make sure it is ready for the conditions which will undoubtedly arrive when least expected! There are some things you can do yourself:

- Lights - Make sure all your indicators and headlamps are clean and working
 - Liquids - Make sure the water reservoir is up to the maximum mark and correctly mixed with anti-freeze. You may also need to top up your coolant and screen wash
 - Oil - Check your dipstick and top up the oil if necessary. Look for signs of leaks on the ground under the car
 - Electrics - Check your dashboard before and after starting the engine. Listen for a weak battery and replace if necessary
 - Windscreens wipers - you should clean them regularly and replace them every 12 months
 - Tyres - Check your tyre treads and pressure, including the spare. While the minimum legal limit is 1.6mm, a minimum tread of 3mm is advised for winter driving
 - Safety Assist - Check your vehicle's owner's manual and find out if it has any safety assist technology e.g. ABS
- We would like to advise motorists not to leave their vehicles unattended when defrosting in the morning during cold weather. When defrosting your vehicle, defrost externally by using de-icer or warm water, or if you turn on your car please remain inside your car and take the time to defrost windscreens thoroughly. Never leave your car unattended while it is unlocked or while the engine is running.

Making decisions around early N application

Do's

1. Check weather forecast (www.met.ie) prior to making fertiliser N applications
 - Only apply fertiliser N when soil temperature is greater than 6°C and rising.
2. Target fields for early N that are most likely to respond to an early N application:
 - Perennial ryegrass / recently reseeded fields
 - Drier, free draining fields
 - Fields with a grass cover of greater than 400 kg DM/ha or 6 cm grass
 - Fields with optimum soil fertility, i.e. good P and K status, pH > 6.2
3. Replace chemical N fertiliser on approx. 1/3 of the farm with cattle slurry. Target slurry applications to fields with low P & K levels & low grass covers; 25 m³/ha (2,500 gals/ac) by low emission application will supply -25 kg/ ha (20 units/ac) of available N.
4. Use protected urea (NBPT) for early N applications
5. Apply up to 30 kg N/ha (24 units N/ac) in 1st split in late January or early February and avoid fields that have received an application of cattle slurry.
6. Link your early N application strategy with spring feed budget for the farm.
7. Calibrate and maintain your fertiliser spreader in good condition.

Don't:

1. Don't apply fertiliser N before the end of the prohibited spreading period
2. Never apply fertiliser on waterlogged or frozen soils.
3. Don't apply fertiliser if a yellow rainfall warning is in place or is forecast within the next 48 hours.
4. Never apply fertiliser into buffer margins & know your buffer margins.
5. Delay N on bare fields (<400 kg DM/ha); instead spread on fields with 6 cm (cover of 400 kg DM/ha) grass cover or greater.
6. Don't apply fertiliser N on fields that receive slurry in the first round.
7. Don't apply more than 30 kg N/ha (24 units N/ac) in 1st split in late January/early February.
8. Don't apply more than 90 kg N/ha (Slurry N + Chemical N) in total up to early April

Moocall Winners



Moocall is a tail mounted calving sensor

Branch	Winner
Athlone	Paul Naughton
Athenry	John Gosgrove
Ballywilliam	Tom Mulcahy
Bridgetown	Matt Moroney
Birr	Brendan Mc Garry
Borrisokane	Michael Hogan
Clonberne	Tony Niland
Killimor	Declan Fahy
Mountbellew	Gerard Cunniffe
Newport	Mike O'Brien
Reiska	Pat Carey
Tyone	PJ Flaherty

Portumna Mart wishes to advise that a **calf/weanling** sale will be held every **Monday** evening @ **5pm** commencing **Monday Feb 1st 2021**.

Collection service available if required.

For further details please contact the office on 0909741115.

Usual sales each week - Sheep sale every Tuesday @ 10.30am, Cattle sale every Wednesday @ 11am.

Stay connected with us!!

Check out our **website** for weekly farming updates. Find us at www.arrabawn.ie
Connect with us on social media on Twitter [@arrabawncoop](https://twitter.com/arrabawncoop) and [@milk4profit](https://twitter.com/milk4profit) for regular farming updates and promotional offers.

We are also on Facebook at **Arrabawn Co Op**

For 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