



## Arrabawn withdraws from Milk Price Review in call for transparency

### Exclusion of liquid milk premiums undermines the review's fairness

Arrabawn has withdrawn from the annual Milk Price Review because of the refusal to include the liquid milk premium when other winter premiums are being paid.

The Co-Op made the request over many years and in a meeting with the authors of the report to review the programme in January, made it clear that it would not be participating this year unless all winter premiums were included. We reiterated this position again in July, but our requests have been rejected. Considering Arrabawn pay each year for this review we find it unacceptable that our requests have been rejected. For clarity Arrabawn will continue to provide the data for the monthly price leagues.

In a letter sent to our suppliers last month, Chairman Edward Carr set out our position, stressing that the decision was unanimously endorsed by the board of Arrabawn because of the continued exclusion of liquid milk premium.

The Chairman explained that the review discriminates against Arrabawn and its suppliers as it fails to reflect both the true price paid by Arrabawn and the long hours and hard work of those suppliers it ignores.

"It is all the more inequitable when set against the fact that other winter premiums/bonuses are included," he said. Mr Carr added that international best practice for such reviews is to include such premiums.



**Edward Carr, chairman  
Arrabawn Co-op**

The co-op, he said, had no issue whatsoever with KPMG, which conducts the review, but the system set for it. And he said that Arrabawn would look forward to reengaging with the programme once the criteria deliver fairness and transparency.

Arrabawn, he said, had raised concerns about

the review before and the review's credibility has also been undermined by growing discontent from other organisations over recent years.

"Given all those issues and the very fact that the review process has remained the same for a decade and a half, we believe that the programme needs to be revisited and put right. Being fully inclusive of all price paid is the only way to restore full confidence in the programme.

"In short, our proposal is that the calculation is a simple and fully transparent process; divide the total amount paid to farmers in a year by the litres supplied. To do otherwise discriminates against liquid milk.

We have processing plants in Kilconnell and Nenagh and do not see any justification for suppliers and the price paid to them to be treated differently. The criteria, therefore, must be changed," he said.

Mr Carr added: "Record investment has been put in place over the past three years by way of a €50m programme that was completed this year with the finalisation of a new casein and effluent plant. This has been delivered on budget and on schedule so that you, our suppliers, get the return you deserve. That return should not be excluded in the annual milk price review."

## Arrabawn Co-Op Annual General Meeting

**The Annual General Meeting for 2019 is set to go ahead on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at the Abbey Court Hotel in Nenagh. It is taking place later than usual due to safety concerns arising from the Covid - 19 pandemic**

**The meeting will follow all Government advice at the time in relation to capacity and safety protocols and we will provide further information on this in the coming weeks.**

### CHLORINE FREE

## Chlorine / Chlorate Free Milk - 4 months to go !!

All farmers are aware of their test messages informing them of the TCM value in their milk. This TCM value is an indication of the **residues** of their chlorine-based teat care and dairy hygiene products in their milk. Over the past few years, there has been a drive to reduce the level of chlorine products being used on farm. 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.

To this end, Arrabawn Co-op is encouraging suppliers to use 'chlorine free' hygiene products on their farms. Many farmers are already using chlorine product when cleaning their bulk tanks. It is hoped that once farmers are comfortable with **chlorine free** products being used on their bulk tanks, they will now move on to using chlorine free products on their milking machine.

Work carried out at Teagasc, Moorepark has shown

that Chlorine based products can be replaced with highly effective chlorine free products, some of which will have cleaning, disinfecting and descaling properties, **all in one, such as Divosan OSA-N. A working group comprising DAFM, Teagasc and Ornuia has set a target of removing chlorine from bulk tanks by end 2020 and removing chlorine from all dairy hygiene products by end 2021. Many co-ops have already adopted a chlorine free policy. Caution - farmers should avoid 'special deals' at this time of the year when salesmen are selling off older 'chlorine based' products at a good price! The intention should be to purchase only 'Chlorine Free' dairy hygiene products.**

**If you have any queries about 'Chlorine Free' dairy hygiene products please don't hesitate in contacting your Arrabawn Milk advisor or call to your local Arrabawn Branch. So, - Think Chlorine Free!!**

## **Milk Quality Advisor:** **Management tips for August-September**

- Maintenance of farm buildings and infrastructure should be completed in the coming weeks.
- It's time to start extending your rotation length and build grass covers to help extend the grazing season.
- Your last application of nitrogen should be applied now.
- As thinks are beginning to slow down it is time to take a few days off for yourself.
- If you believe you cannot take a few days off you should think about reducing your workload by-
  - moving to a 16-8 hour milking interval it will show no loss of milk and it will shorten your day
  - think about milking 13 times a week and taking Sunday evenings off
  - or get the farm relief to milk one or two evenings a week to help free up some time.

### **Individual SCC testing of your cows.**

It is vital to measure as much as we can on farms as when we can measure something, we will be able to manage it, improve it and in turn increase the on-farm profit. If you are not part of a milk recording scheme it may be a good idea to test your cows individually.

#### **Why**

- You can identify cows for selective dry cow treatment.
- You can identify high cows for culling or treatment.
- Cows with a lower SCC are less frequently culled so they will spend a longer time in the herd means these cows are more profitable.

#### **How**

1. Have clean gloves on.
2. Draw the cow 2/3 times from each quarter (onto the ground)
3. Draw the cow 5/6 times from each quarter into small jug.
4. Pour jug into sample bottle.
5. Write the cows number of lids of sample bottle.
6. Rinse jug and move on to next cow and repeat the sequence.

**Note: ensure sample bottle is full and try get an even sample from all four quarters.**

#### **What to do with the results?**

Results will be available within 48 hours of the co-op receiving samples. High cows should be identified and tested again. (5 to 10 days later)

High Cows should be looked at on a case by case basis. Older cows and cows that have had multiple clinical mastitis out breaks should be considered for culling during the dry period.

Younger cows should have each quarter tested to identify the problem quarter and treated. In some cases, a long dry period could be warranted.

Low SCC levels will increase milk production and also increase your milk price as shown below. We are also available to talk you through your results and help you to interpret your results and set targets and goals to follow to help you to improve your herd.

The payment structure for SCC are as follows

<250,000	+0.2c/litre
251-400,000	Basic Price
401-500,000	-1c/litre
501-600,000	-2c/litre
>601,000	-4c/litre

If you require a more information please contact your milk advisor.

**Ronan Moran**-Farm Relations Advisor: 087 1469651  
**Padraig Brennan**-Milk Quality Advisor: 087 9152835

## **Athenry Store**

**Now in stock**

- Bulk Sand and Gravel , by weight or in 1 tonne bags
- Decorative Stone, 25 kg or 1 tonne bags

**Pet Care - come along and view the full range of products for pampering your pet during Lockdown**

- **Pet food**
- **Beds and accessories**
- **Grooming / shampoos**
- **Wormers**



## SPECIAL OFFERS

### 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 issues after calving. Feed 100 -150 grms/per head per day. **Now with extra Magnesium.**

**Special offer - Buy 30 bags Trace Pak Pre Calver** ordered before end August 2019 and you will receive a **Free Softshell Arrabawn/Doc Jacket.**

**- Buy 50 bags Trace Pak Pre Calver** ordered before 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and you will receive **2 Free Softshell Arrabawn/Doc Jackets** or a Free 20kg bag of **Trace Pak Pre Calver.**

**Orders taken up until August 28<sup>th</sup> and delivered November 2020**



### Topstart PEP3 Milk Replacer From Arrabawn Autumn calves - Milk Replacer

**Special Offer**  
**Buy 1 pallet (50 bags) @ 41 / bag**  
**Give your calves the best start with TopStart**

## Top Tips For Reseeding

- \* Get your soil tested: Nutrients are essential for optimal performance of the new sward and a soil test is the only way to know the sward's exact nutrient requirements. Get soil samples analysed for pH, P and K and adjust your lime and fertiliser application accordingly. Soil testing should be carried out in January or February for most accurate results.
- \* Spraying off: Spray off the old sward with glyphosate to reduce competition from weeds. Allow the old sward to die and break down before cultivating. If ploughing or direct drilling this can be done within a week but if minimal cultivation methods are being used (Harrow/Disc) leave longer to allow the root structure to break down.
- \* Apply seedbed fertiliser: The amount of fertiliser required will be dictated by your soil test results. Apply lime to achieve a pH of 6.5 and Index 3 for P and K. Too much nitrogen at this stage will only encourage weed growth. Apply a small amount at sowing and again 4 - 6 weeks after sowing.
- \* Fine, firm seedbed: Regardless of cultivation method - plough, one-pass or disc - a fine, firm seedbed is critical to successful establishment. Use a slow forward gear when cultivating and roll the seedbed before sowing.
- \* Soil to seed contact: Roll the seedbed again after sowing to ensure soil to seed contact. Soil to seed contact is another critical aspect of reseeded.
- \* Weed control: The application of a post-emergence spray is usually required around 3-6 weeks after sowing to control weeds. In autumn, weed species are less prolific and it should therefore be easier to control weeds in an autumn reseed than a spring reseed.
- \* Grazing: Reseeded ground should be grazed regularly and quickly to aid tillering and the development of a dense sward. Sheep or young stock are ideal for this job as they are less likely to damage the developing sward.
- \* Choose the **Arrabawn Grazing /Silage** mixture for best results

"Grazed grass is the cheapest feed available to Irish farmers and during the main grazing season animal performance is achieved almost entirely from grazed grass"

**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.

## Sample - Analyse - Interpret - Plan

As we enter the last quarter of the year it's time to take stock of the ingredients that will influence how your farm will perform next year. While milk prices have improved it's still important to pay attention to detail and to measure what you have and maximise the return by making decisions based on solid facts.

### Soil

The single biggest element of your farm is the top 4 inches of soil growing your grass. How often do you check it out for the major elements, Lime, Phosphate and Potash. By taking a soil sample now you will have time plan your fertiliser programme for next year. You can check out the wide range of fertilisers available and select the most suitable fertiliser for your farm. Using the wrong fertiliser could be costing you a lot of money.

**Silage Feed Analysis** - on most farms, silage is the mainstay of the winter feeding programme, yet its true feed value is taken for granted. Often protein values are less than ideal for cows in the dry period not to mention the effect of low protein on freshly calving cows. Low dietary protein in the dry period can lead to smaller calves and poor quality colostrum at calving. Low protein in the diet of the milking cow can lead to depressed appetite and lower milk yield.

**Silage Mineral Analysis** - wouldn't it be useful if you knew there was a problem - such as milk fever, retained afterbirth or even a dead calf due to slow calving - coming down the line in a few months time. You could make plans to deal with the problem! A silage mineral analysis can establish the mineral status of your silage and indicate any deficiencies which may cause problems at calving.

**Slurry** - what's it worth? The slurry from the dry cow pen will be different from the slurry from the cattle or milking cow pen! If you get a sample tested you can make a better job of balancing with bought in chemical fertiliser.

**Milk** - a simple milk sample can give a lot of useful information. Sensitivity testing can show which bacteria might be the cause of mastitis in the herd. It might also indicate if dairy hygiene could be better. A milk test can also indicate the presence of Liver fluke and worms in your herd.

Talk to your Arrabawn / Dan O'Connors Feed rep or contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op to arrange the sampling of your farm or silage.

## Dairy Start Up Course 2020

This dairy start-up course has been designed for farmers who have decided that they want to change enterprise and go dairy farming. This course will help you to make the most of your farm and ensure that you start your new enterprise in an efficient and sustainable manner. This course is practical and interesting, mixing both practical skills and up to date research.

### Course Benefits

On successful completion of this course, participants will have gained valuable knowledge and skills to assist with the establishment of a successful dairy farm. This course is a must for all farmers who are considering converting to dairy farming and existing farmers who want to up skill themselves on how to improve farm profitability and lifestyle.

### Course Days & Fees

There will be 4 training days in 2020, 3 training days in 2021 and 10 discussion group meetings in 2021. Cost is €750 per participants (€600 for Teagasc clients). Deadline to express interest is the 10th September 2020. [www.teagasc.ie/dairystartup](http://www.teagasc.ie/dairystartup)

### Course Content

- Cost of conversion
- Expected costs and returns
- Farmyard design
- Grazing infrastructure
- Reseeding
- Animal breeding
- Animal health & biosecurity
- Milking machine design & wash routine
- Milking routine

## Milk Culture and Sensitivity

As we head into the autumn, it is time to start focusing on getting cows ready for drying and choosing which tube will work best for your herd. It may seem like a long time away yet, but October/November won't be long creeping in. You have heard about antibiotic resistance recently and big changes coming in 2022, so make small simple changes now to help ease into the new regulations down the line. Dry Cow strategies are changing and we must go with it. This Autumn (2020) and next year (2021) are the final years without restrictions regarding purchasing and administering dry cow tubes. A culture and sensitivity will become mandatory and is a very useful tool. It will help you choose the best tube to give the highest cure rate in regards SCC. It is a relatively simple process.

1. A milk sample is collected in a clean manner
  - A pooled sample or individual samples of cows with constantly high SCC or repeat offenders of clinical mastitis should be selected for testing.
2. Lab will spread the milk along a growth media that will support bacterial growth.
3. The bacteria are isolated and put on a new plate to further grow.
4. Discs containing antibiotic are carefully placed on the bacteria
5. Growth of the bacteria is monitored versus the antibiotic



Using this method, the antibiotic which has the greatest kill rate against the bacteria in your herd can be chosen. It also informs you against antibiotics that are no longer removing bacteria at a desired rate (resistant). Over using some tubes can lead to them becoming less effective and not removing all bacteria causing mastitis. Resistance is when a normal dose of antibiotics doesn't kill all disease-causing bacteria present. Drying off can be expensive so make sure you get the most from the tube you choose.

Benefits of getting a culture and sensitivity done are :-

- it will help cure chronic/subclinical mastitis over the winter,

### Lameness

The cost of dairy cow lameness could be up to €300 per case, not to mention reduced animal welfare and the hassle factor of lame cows. Recent research by Teagasc Moorepark has shown a lameness rate of 4% in spring, and over 7% in autumn across a group of dairy herds. Feed intake will be reduced along with restricted mobility due to the pain. The end result for farmers is a decreased milk yield solid, dumped milk, veterinary bills, labour, reduced fertility and net margins. Wet conditions underfoot currently can weaken the hoof and increase the likelihood of lameness.

The main lameness causes were mechanical/injuries (bruising, white line

disease, ulcers, overgrown digits), as opposed to infectious (Mortellaro, foul in the foot) in nature. The priorities for grazing herds are therefore related to surfaces and managing cow flow around milking times. Now is a good time to address issues on the farm before we move into the high-risk time of year. Some things to implement are as follows.

- **Problem spots:** seemingly small problem areas like standing water, poorly drained corners, broken surfaces, shading by overgrown tree branches, etc., can cause major lameness problems; identify and fix these as a first step.
- **Road surfaces:** are they good enough? Small pebbles and grit are the main cause of white line disease. If this is being seen at hoof trimming then there is an issue to be fixed. Surfaces should be smooth and finished with a well compacted surface material.
- **Interface area:** the step from roadway to concrete can often be a cause of lameness due to pebbles being dragged onto the hard surface. Laying 8-10m of material like AstroTurf at yard or tunnel entrances/exits has worked very well for many farms.
- **Road verges:** a common problem is build-up of grass/sods along the road over time, which impedes drainage. Remove these or at least break regular openings to provide drainage.
- **Cow flow in and out of the parlour:** are there simple modifications that could be made? For example, removing sharp turns and providing matting on narrow parlour exits. Check the size of your collecting yard - providing more than 1.5m<sup>2</sup> per cow reduces stress on cows' feet.
- **Hoof trimming:** lameness is a repeat-offender problem. All cows that were treated during spring or have previous history should be drafted for selective trimming before mid August. Check all cows for rear hoof condition at milking. Trim overgrown digits before clinical lameness emerges.
- **Foot bath:** for infectious disease control (where identified) and prevention; follow a clear protocol for product use and schedule of treatment. A foot bath should be 6-8 inches deep and 8-10 feet long. Never let the volume drop below 5 inches. Ensure product chosen works well in organic matter and dirty water. Such as Provita Hoofsore Endurance. In general solutions need to be changed every 200 walk-throughs. Once a week is plenty enough for a non-affected herd as a prevention.
- identify the underlying cause (staph, strep, E. Coli etc.)
- hit the bacteria with the best suited antibiotic,
- identify if any drugs are resistant on your farm and
- improve bulk tank SCC.

Milk samples can be collected in sterile tube (no red tablet) with your name and cow number. Notify your milk lorry driver to collect the sample and it will be prepared for the lab. Samples should be submitted Monday-Wednesday to avoid weekend delays and milk stays fresh as possible. A prescription for dry cow tubes can be organised through your local branch to get the tubes that best suit your farm through Arrabawn's Mastitis Control Programme.

## 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 compliment 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. Increasing 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.

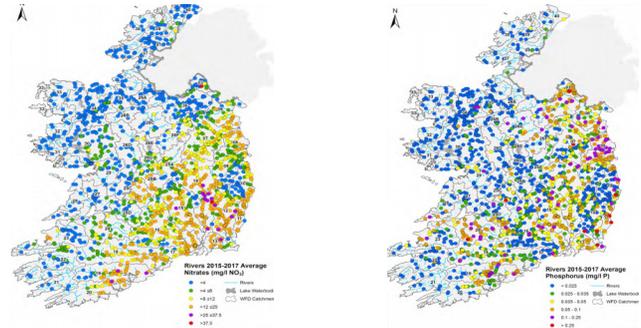
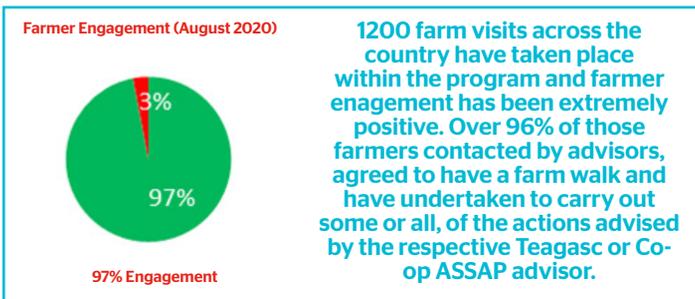


Your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op can supply you with a suitable ration for your stock.

## ASSAP - Agricultural Sustainability Support & Advisory Programme

We are now eighteenth months into the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) and good progress has taken place across the country. To-date within the Arrabawn region, a public meeting and a later riverside farmers meeting has taken place in the Raford (Kiltullagh), St Clerans (Loughrea), Castlegar (Mountbellew), Nenagh, Lorrha, Silver Kilcormac, Inch Bilboa (Kilcommon), and Clareen (Coolderry/Clareen) Priority Areas for Action (PAAS). The Catchment Assessment Team (Local Authority Waters Programme) has also, at this stage, commenced assessment of these PAAs and in some cases, now completed

Below are two maps which outline the Nitrogen and Phosphate concentrations as measured in Irish Rivers between 2015-2017 by the EPA. (Note: blue and green dots signify high and good quality while yellow, orange, purple and red dots signify moderate to poor quality respectively). Nitrogen on the right, Phosphorus on the left.



their assessment.

One of the main aspects discussed on most farm visits is how pollutants move from farms into rivers. While every farm is different, some general processes in nutrient movement through soils remain constant and if understood, can help you to identify the best method to use to prevent nutrient loss from your farm.

### PHOSPHOROUS:

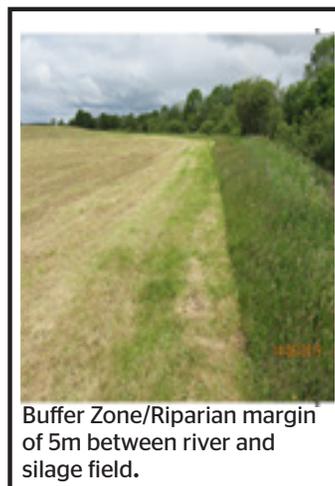
Phosphorous readily binds to soil. Usually it enters water through one of two main ways:

1. Chemical or organic sources of phosphorous (slurry or farm-yard manure) are simply washed off the land through overland flow and into waterways before it gets a chance to be absorbed into soil or
2. Phosphorous binds to soil and the soil (sediment) is washed into the waterway where it is then broken-down and extracted from the soil by plants and organisms in the river

Phosphorous losses are more likely to occur in regions where soils are heavier and wetter, as absorption is slower to occur.

### To avoid losing Phosphorous from your soil:

- Only apply your chemical or organic fertilizers to soils in dry conditions.
- Check weather forecasts and avoid spreading before heavy rain - apply little and often to heavy soil areas.
- Always avoid applying fertilizer onto land sloped towards drains or rivers.
- Within hold the buffer zones when spreading slurry and chemical fertiliser.
- Soil sample and only apply P to soils index 3 or less



### SEDIMENT:

Sediment is the fine particles of soil that can travel for miles along a river when soil gets washed in. This is a serious pollutant in Irish rivers. Again, there are two main ways in which sediment is destructive to an aquatic ecosystem:

1. Sediment physically covers the clean gravelly floor of rivers which is needed as spawning areas for many species including salmonids.
2. As explained above, soil and particularly top-soil, carries P with it - the most limiting nutrient to most plants, including aquatic plants and algae's. An excess of this usually very limited nutrient, can cause unnatural spurts of growth in this environment. Aquatic plants photosynthesise by day and respire by night, extracting oxygen by night from the water and releasing it by day. When unnatural spurts of growth occur, oxygen levels vary drastically, causing all other species dependent on extracting oxygen from the water to struggle to survive.

### To prevent loss of sediment into waterways

- Do not disturb the banks. Don't allow cattle to access the rivers and drains on the farm if possible. Where this is not possible, limit their access to minimise disturbances.
- Avoid cleaning drains if possible. If unavoidable, clean during the summer when vegetation will grow back along the bank quickly. Install a sediment trap before cleaning.
- Fencing-off buffer areas adjacent to rivers and drains will help to prevent sediment and nutrient losses.
- Avoid poaching plots close to rivers. Don't locate water troughs within 20 m of any watercourse and always leave a un ploughed strip when reseeding plots alongside a water-course.
- Direct run-off from any farm road-ways into fields to filter out the sediment rather than directing straight into drains

### NITROGEN:

While phosphorous is often the most limiting nutrient for aquatic plants, nitrogen is the second most limiting and a common cause of water pollution. Nitrogen is rapidly absorbed and transported by water. It will be quickly washed into soils but unfortunately, if it is not taken up by plants, it can also be quickly washed through soils and into drains, rivers and ground-water. Nitrogen pollution in rivers is most frequently seen in areas where soils are free-draining for this reason.

A Teagasc study of the uptake of nitrogen across the Irish season, carried out in 2013 concluded that 'the amount of apparent recovery of fertilizer N after eight weeks varied from low in February (21%) and March (46%) to high from April to August (69-98%)'. In the early season, regardless of land trafficability, if soil temperatures are low, the majority of N applied in either chemical or organic form will be lost and will eventually find its way into the river catchment.

### To prevent N loss from soils

- It is important to always match application rate with plant requirement and growth rate. Check soil temperatures in the spring and do not apply unless soil temperature is at least greater than 7 °C consistently.
- Nitrogen leached from soil will be greater when pH is not optimum, therefore soil sample and add lime as necessary.
- Use protected urea, particularly if applying nitrogen early in the year

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## On Farm sustainability Farm visits

As part of the Agricultural Sustainability Support & Advisory programme (ASSAP) all milk suppliers can avail of a farm visit from our Sustainability advisors to address issues regarding water quality, soil fertility, GHGs etc.

### What happens on a farm visit?

- The farmer and advisor will agree on where to focus improvements or actions on the farm:
- Improved nutrient management with more targeted use of fertiliser and slurry.
- New approaches to land management to reduce nutrient losses in critical source areas.
- Better farmyard management practices.

The practical advice will be designed to 'break the pathway' and prevent nutrients from entering watercourses. Examples of such measures include riparian margins along streams, fencing to stop cattle access to stream, more suitable siting of troughs and feeders, improved use of fertiliser and slurry, better farmyard management etc.

If you want to arrange a farm visit or just want more information contact **Paddy Purcell on 087 0963869** or 067 41800.

## Chlorine Free Do's and Don't



### Do

- **Do** follow all instructions accompanying product
- **Do** use 15L/unit to rinse milking machine prior to cleaning
- **Do** use 10L/unit of water to wash with detergents
- **Do** adjust all automatic systems to new products (viscosity varies)
- **Do** flush old products from system to clean out pipes, avoid cyrtallation
- **Do** purchase new wash trough to ensure enough litres of fresh water available for rinsing and washing
- **Do** ensure enough hot water available 10L per unit and 2% of bulk tank capacity (may be needed on same day)
- Measure wash through size

### Don't

- **Don't** skimp on product, use exact amounts required
- **Don't** leave hot rinse longer than 8 minutes
- **Don't** allow temperature to drop below 55°C at dumping
- **Don't** reuse products as they may lose efficacy - NB Liquids
- **Don't** bulk buy, purchase as required to avoid breakdown of ingredients.
- **Don't** store in direct sunlight
- **Don't** store on concrete, place barrels on pallets off the ground
- **Don't** wait until the last minute to change, start now. **Need to be CF by the end of 2020**

For further advice contact Ronan Moran (087 1469651) or Pdraig Brennan (087 9152835)

### 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** and **@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**