



Arrabawn NEWSLETTER

Together we grow

DECEMBER 2021 - Issue 12



Following a recommendation by the Board, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Gerry Boyle as an Independent Director of Arrabawn Co-Operative Society Ltd. Professor Boyle served as a Director with Teagasc for a 14 year period up until his retirement in April of this year and brings a wealth of valuable experience and knowledge. Professor Boyle will take up his new role at the Board meeting in December and we wish him every success - *Edward Carr*



Gerry Boyle

Arrabawn Stores Christmas Trading Hours

CHRISTMAS EVE Friday 24th DECEMBER	9am-1pm
CHRISTMAS DAY Saturday 25th DECEMBER	CLOSED
ST. STEPHENS DAY Sunday 26th DECEMBER	CLOSED
Monday 27th DECEMBER	CLOSED
Tuesday 28th DECEMBER	CLOSED
Wednesday 29th DECEMBER	NORMAL TRADING
Thursday 30th DECEMBER	NORMAL TRADING
Friday 31st DECEMBER	9am-1pm
NEW YEARS DAY Saturday 1st JANUARY	CLOSED
Sunday 2nd JANUARY	CLOSED
Monday 3rd JANUARY	CLOSED
Tuesday 4th JANUARY	NORMAL TRADING

We wish all our milk suppliers, customers and staff a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2022

AHI CellCheck Winner 2020

Kieran Kelly along with his two sons Paul and Ger have been announced as the Arrabawn AHI CellCheck winners for 2020. Paul and Ger milk 45 cows just outside Banagher while also balancing jobs off the farm. Although their dad Kieran is still considered the boss on the farm. The herd has a history of very good mastitis control along with low SCC down through the years. In 2020 the lowest monthly average for the bulk tank was 15,000 SCC and the average for the year was 51,000 SCC. Paul says there is no magic bullet to control SCC or mastitis. There are two things he swears by, do the simple things right and if you look after your animals, the animals will look after you. Fancy equipment or state of the art milking parlours won't cover up for any basics which are overlooked. The Kelly's are proof of their milking parlour was installed 12 years ago, and never had any issues since.

The basics the Kelly's pride themselves on are:

- Hygiene – Good hygiene in the parlour, laneways, sheds are key.
- Low stress- cows are allowed to move at their pace, never rushed. Less stress means happier and healthier cows.
- Remaining calm at all times, weather it be in the parlour, sheds or in the field.
- Nutrition- The cows are out on grass all year round and offered buffer feeding. Grass is zero-grazed in the evening, brought to the shed and cows are allowed to go in and fill up on grass for 1-2 hours then head back to the paddock. The zero-grazing helps to stretch the grass available around the parlour, while Paul also believes it boosts the milk solids. Grass is only ever cut in the evening as the sugar is at its highest. This increased sugar in the grass helps improve the solids.
- Taking care of the animals to the highest standard. If you put the effort into your cows they will reward this effort in terms of milk production and overall health.

The herd is made up of more traditional shaped cows. The cows have a good square frame while carrying some condition. Paul believe these British Friesian crosses are a good hardy cow which can look after themselves. When selecting bulls for breeding the Kelly's look for good yields and solids.

The cows on the Kelly's farm are extremely well looked after, Paul says "they are better feed and looked after than myself some days". Each cow is known individually and very content. To summarise, there is no quick fix or secret to controlling SCC, get the basic hygiene right, stress free environments and looking after animals the best you can.

Here at Arrabawn we want to say a huge congratulations to Kieran, Paul and Ger Kelly. The hard work they have put in down through the years has paid off greatly.



Left to Right, Paddy Purcell- Arrabawn Co-Op Milk Quality Manager, Paul Kelly- CellCheck Winner and Grainne Dwyer- Animal Health Ireland.

Congratulations!

37 Arrabawn suppliers have achieved a place among the Cell Check Top 500 Quality Milk Suppliers in the country for 2020. These awards are running for a number of years now and the quality of milk supplied is increasing year on year. To have achieved a place in the Cell Check Top 500 Quality Milk Suppliers is an

Patrick O'Shea	Co. Cork
Joseph Fallon	Co. Galway
Paddy Reilly	Co. Galway
Patrick Hanrahan	Co. Galway
Michael Burns	Co. Galway
Vincent/Conor O'Brien	Co. Galway
Noel Harney	Co. Galway
Pat Culkeen	Co. Galway
Martin Coffey	Co. Galway
Thomas Cahill	Co. Galway
John Fox	Co. Galway
John Murphy	Co. Galway
James Hennessy	Co. Galway
Tim Larkin	Co. Galway
Kieran Kelly	Co. Galway
John & Trevor Kelly	Co. Galway
Patrick Blake	Co. Galway
JJ Lawler	Co. Kildare
Martin Murphy	Co. Kildare
Patrick O'Brien	Co. Offaly
Matt & Shane Corrigan	Co. Offaly
Francis Oakley	Co. Offaly
Kevin Egan	Co. Offaly
Bernard Kelly	Co. Roscommon
Seamus Grealley	Co. Tipperary
John & Eoin Toohey	Co. Tipperary
John Ryan	Co. Tipperary
Thomas Hough	Co. Tipperary
PJ Teehan	Co. Tipperary
John & Alan Mulcahy	Co. Tipperary
Michael & Robert Quinn	Co. Tipperary
Cornelius O'Meara	Co. Tipperary
Thomas Casey	Co. Tipperary
John Armitage	Co. Tipperary
William Gerard Moran	Co. Westmeath
Joseph Moran	Co. Westmeath
John & Patrick Fleming	Co. Wexford



Some shots from the Super Sunday at Arrabawn Tyone Store in November

Trace Pak Pre Calver from Arrabawn

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, iodine and Selenium availability – including **Chelated Copper and Zinc** for maximum effect. It has benefits in cow health at calving, fertility, lameness and possible cell count after calving. Feed 100 -150 gms/per head per day.

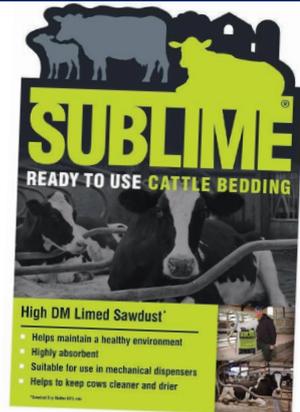
Now with extra Magnesium.

For more information contact your Arrabawn representative or call 087 669 7010

SPECIAL OFFERS



Arrabawn Vouchers available in store



Sublime ready to use cattle bedding now available at Arrabawn



€99.95

Flexothane two tone jacket



ONLY €7.50

Kerbel heat bulb 250w

NOW IN STOCK
CLIPSTER
CORDLESS DIRTY CATTLE CLIPPER

PRODUCT CODE: SHP01698



INCLUDES
2 Batteries & 1 Extra Free Blade Set

- Ideal for dirty cattle backs & tails
- Each 14.4 V battery can clip for up to 90 minutes.
- 2 batteries included to ensure continuous clipping.

ONLY €295.95

Clipster cordless clipper with extra battery and 1 extra blade set



€9

Super bright COB LED head light

GREAT SAVINGS ON FUEL DEALS SEE IN STORES FOR MORE DETAILS

LIMITED TIME OFFERS

www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie



Getting The Milking Machine Ready For 2022

The milking machine is the dairy farmer's best friend. A milking machine is used twice a day for in excess of 300 days of the year, it is one of the most important assets on the farm, so it is important to get it serviced at least once a year to ensure it remains operational and functioning throughout the year. The dry period is great time to do this as the milking season comes to a close.

Things to check include:

- The vacuum should be 47-48kPa depending on the size and brand of machine and the oil level in the vacuum pump should be checked.
- Pulsators should be in sync and pulsator airline filters kept clean.
- The liners should be changed regularly with the liner markers matching up. Rubber naturally deteriorates over time causing liners to lose tension, absorb fat and hold bacteria, this deterioration is intensified with exposure to cleaning chemicals.

The number of days between liner changes can be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{(2000 \times \text{number of milking units})}{\div (\text{Herd size} \times \text{no. of milking's per day})}$$

- Short pulse tubes and long milk tubes, rubber bends and any hoses off the main milk line should be checked for cracks and replaced every 2 years.

- The claw bowl seals and shut off valve seals are often overlooked but should be checked and replaced if necessary.
- The claw bowl should be checked for cracks or chips also and the admission hole for air should not be blocked as a blockage can result in slower milk removal leading to a fluctuation in vacuum or liner slip.
- The bulk tank should also be examined and operating correctly, cooling to under 4°C, ensure detergent volumes are calibrated correctly and detergent suck up tubes should be checked for cracks and replaced if necessary.

Washing the vacuum line when carrying out the service is also recommended to remove any debris that may have entered from cracked liners or milk jar overflow during the previous months. This can be done by your milking machine technician or by sucking up hot water at the end of the vacuum line. Finally, since moving to chlorine free cleaning routines it has become more challenging to clean the milking machine effectively when fat and protein is high i.e. at the end of the year. Farmers should open their claw pieces and check for a build-up of scum, if present, this indicates the wash routine may not be effective enough and a change will need to be made before shutting the machine off for the dry period to remove this build up.

For more information contact your Arrabawn Dairy Advisor

GPS Soil Sampling

- ✓ ONLINE DIGITAL MAP-BASED RESULTS
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL GRADE AUTOMATIC SOIL SAMPLERS
- ✓ INAB ACCREDITED LAB TESTING
- ✓ IMPROVE YOUR SOIL HEALTH & PRODUCTIVITY
- ✓ SAVE VALUABLE TIME AND MONEY Contact 0851824277 Mark

GPS soil sampling is the next evolution in soil management providing greater insight and making it easier to monitor and manage your soil health. Combining GPS tracking, satellite farm mapping and cloud technology the service provides soil test results in an intuitive and easy to understand map based format available and accessible from your PC, tablet, or smartphone.

Some of the benefits include:

- GPS Tracking – Samples locations are georeferenced to provide a record of where they were taken and full traceability
- Satellite Mapping – Easily define your sampling areas using satellite imagery to ensure samples are taken exactly where you want. Merge and split fields or target specific areas for sampling
- Easy and Intuitive Results – Test results are reported in an easy to understand map based format allowing you to understand results at a glance
- Field History – Digital records allow you to view and monitor soil status and progress over time
- Improved Fertiliser Recommendations – Using satellite mapping to calculate field areas provides the ability to accurately calculate fertiliser requirements on a field by field basis
- Web Portal – Results, maps and reports available online via PC, Tablet, and Smartphone
- Irish Laboratory – All samples tested in an accredited Irish laboratory

For further information contact your Arrabawn / Dan O'Connor Feeds rep OR phone 087 6697010

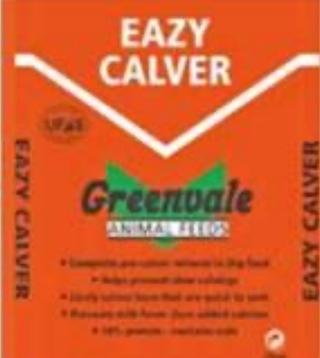


DO YOU WANT A TROUBLE FREE CALVING SEASON??

If so, feed 2kg of

GREENVALE EAZY CALVER

for one month prior to calving and you will:



- ✓ Provide cows total mineral requirements
- ✓ Reduces silage usage
- ✓ Helps cows calf quickly
- ✓ Helps reduce placenta retention
- ✓ Prepares cow for a successful breeding season

Greenvale Eazy Calver is a feed designed for feeding pre calving to cows. It contains a specially designed pre calving mineral and vitamin package which is delivered in a 2kg daily feeding rate. Eazy Calver is based on oats and soya, and formulated at 18% protein. The ingredient/ mineral balance is also geared to help the cow calve quickly and pass the foetal membranes quickly and cleanly after calving, while also reducing the risk of milk fever.

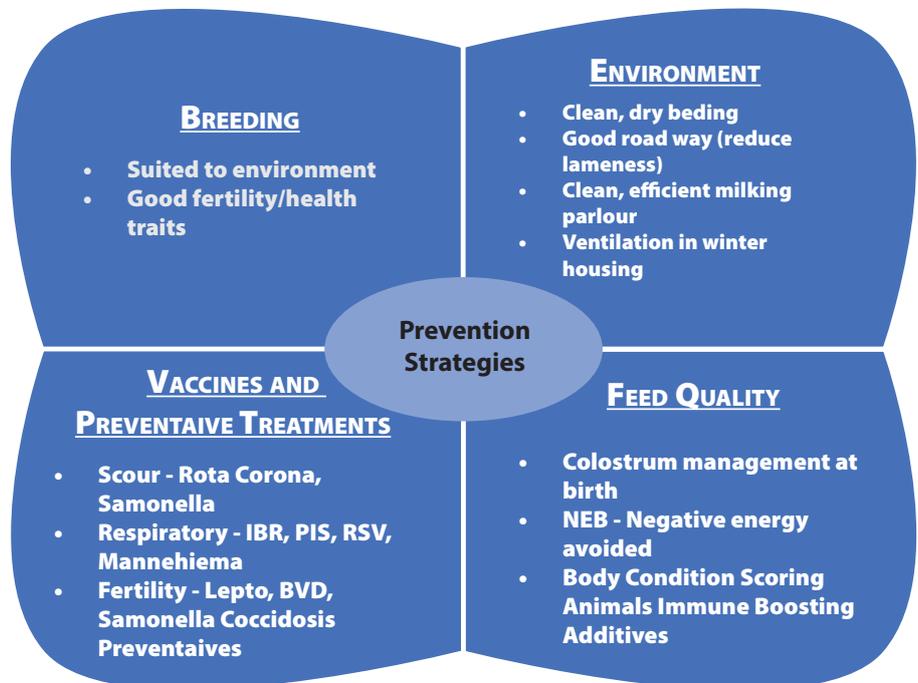
Some Things To Think About Going Into 2022

As you may have heard, there will be some new changes coming down the line to make Irish agriculture more sustainable. These changes may seem daunting at the start however there are many supports available to help make the transition as smooth as possible. Irish Farmers will need to be open minded, willing to accept help and adapt to the new guidelines.

These changes should not be seen as negative, but as a chance to evaluate your current situation and make changes for the better. Antibiotics will not be as readily available as before but it shouldn't be an excuse to affect profitability of your farm. The animal's welfare will not be affected. All sick animals will still be treated with the care that is required; more prevention strategies will be needed to reduce the number of sick animals.

January 28th 2022 EU laws regarding antibiotic usage will be implemented. The aim is to reduce the volume of antibiotics used throughout the farm. One particular area which will be focused on is drying off. Selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) will be implemented on farms will meet the criteria of Bulk Tank SCC under 200 and cows with an SCC of 50-100 with no cases of clinical mastitis. Milk Recording will be a major player in SDCT, as individual cow data is required. In order to get an antibiotic tube for a cow at drying off, it must be backed up with data to prove the antibiotic tube is needed. This change may cause worry about the SCC reading next spring, but the addition of Milk Recording will benefit the herd in the long run. You can identify the most profitable cows for breeding replacement heifers, remove potential cull cows, and reduce the cost at drying off.

If problems are regularly occurring on the farm, now is the time to look ahead, plan, prepare and prevent these issues occurring again in 2022. Is there an outbreak of scour with new born calves every year? Review the housing conditions, was there a draft? Enough dry bedding? Colostrum management? Vaccines used? Some small changes could make a big difference in reducing issues. Coughing weanlings in the autumn, there are many respiratory vaccines available on the market to prevent coughing in calves. When the vaccines are administered alongside good worming protocols weanlings will remain healthy and thriving.



CALFCARE ON-FARM EVENTS
SUPPORTED BY VOLAC

CALF REARING
for tomorrow's herd

CALF HOUSING | The impact of housing design on calf health is significant. Three important aspects of calf housing will be discussed: Stocking density, drainage and cold stress.

COLOSTRUM QUALITY | The 1,2,3 of colostrum feeding is well known but hygienic collection and storage can significantly impact the quality of colostrum. Improved colostrum management for better calf health will be discussed.

BLOAT IN CALVES | Bloat can occur in calves fed either whole milk or milk powder. We will present the latest information on minimising the problem in young calves.

PAIN MANAGEMENT | High standards of calf welfare are essential for our industry. Pain management is an important aspect of calf welfare. Our events will present the latest guidelines on pain management and best use of anaesthesia and analgesia in routine calf management practices.

In the interest of public health and protecting each other, the wearing of masks at these events is compulsory.

TUE 18 JAN

Olivia Harding
Tombricane, Borrisokane, Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary E45 PW84

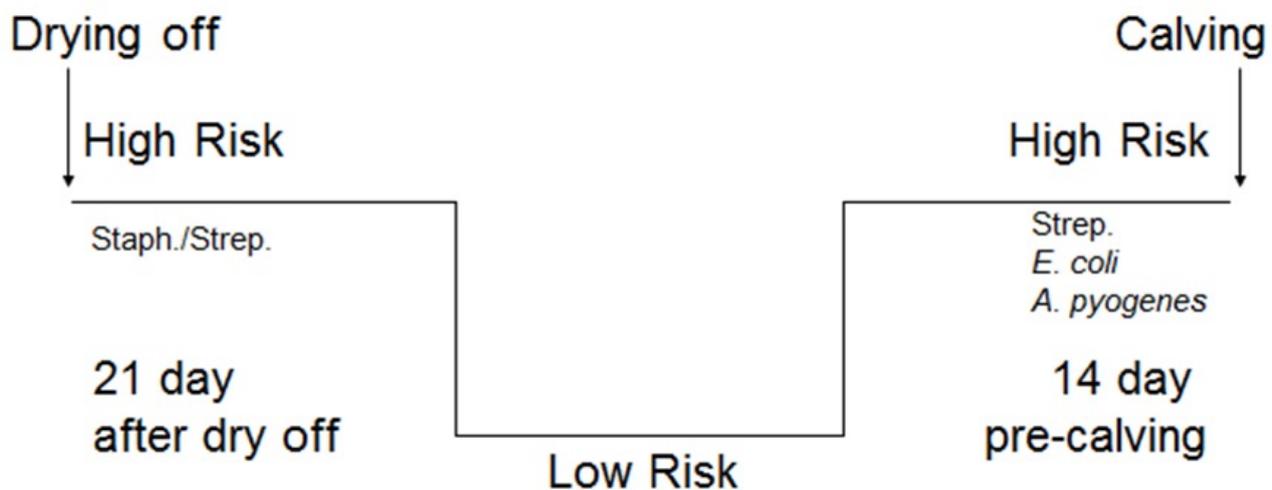
START TIME: 11.00 AM

Logos: ahi, CALFCARE, eogasc, Arrabawn

Dry Cow Management

As most farms are fully dried off at this stage the cows are now in a high-risk period for bacteria getting into the udder. The first 21 days after dry off are critical to maintain a low SCC in the next lactation.

Mastitis risk during the dry period



We can help minimise the risk to the cows in many ways, most of which are simple and very effective. At this stage cows' tails should be clipped and I would recommend to singe the hair off of the udder before you attempt to dry off your cows. Reducing the cows' milk yield to bring them below 10 litres before drying them off is vital to having a successful dry off. Cows that are leaking milk after dry off will need to be resealed as soon as possible.

Cleanliness of the cubicle beds plays a huge part in keeping bacteria out of the udder. The key to keeping cubicles clean is the frequency of running the scrapers. The more times a day they run the cleaner the cow's feet will be which will lead to less dirt getting onto the cubicle bed in the first place. It is recommended to run scrapers 6 times a day in these risk periods and while milking.

There has been a lot of talk recently about what to use to dry and disinfect cubicle beds. As bacteria like to grow in neutral conditions, we need to change the pH on the cubicle bed, this is why most farmers choose lime as it is very basic it will increase the pH of the beds making the environment unfavourable for the bacteria to grow. This needs to be done twice daily to keep cubicles clean and dry for the cows and it will also keep the pH high.

Similarly, there are spray on products which tend to be acidic and increase the pH on the cubicle bed making the conditions on the bed unfavourable for bacterial growth. It is important to note that you should not use both products together everyday as they will cancel each other out and create ideal conditions for bacterial growth on the cubicle beds.

The key to either of these products working effectively is to keep the cubicle beds clean and free from faeces by scraping the cubicle bed itself twice daily. This accompanied with clean passageways will help to decrease the risk of bacteria getting into the udder in these high-risk periods after dry off and 14 days before calving.

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 087 669 7010 Email farmsupport@arrabawn.ie Check out our Website www.arrabawn.ie