



Arrabawn AGM



Eamonn Cormican receiving his Milk Supplier of the Year award from Arrabawn chairman Edward Carr

Our 20th Annual General Meeting took place on 23rd September. Due to covid-19 restrictions the meeting took place electronically using MS Teams technology. Despite the electronic format, 37 shareholders attended the meeting and all agenda items were covered successfully. Thanks to all for their attendance. We would like to congratulate Eamon Cormican who was announced as the supplier of the year.

CHLORINE FREE

Chlorine / Chlorate Free Milk - 2 months to go!!

It is hoped that everyone has got the message by now - Arrabawn is hoping that no one will be using chlorine based hygiene products in their milking parlours from Dec 31st 2020.

If your farm is not Chlorine Free at this stage, please start now. Under direction from Ornuia, Arrabawn hopes to have all milk supplier farms chlorine free by year end. Many suppliers have already made the move and are happy with the chlorine free procedures.

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.

The recommended products are effective and approved by Teagasc. There have been a few issues relating to water temperature, rinse water, circulating times and routine but none too difficult to overcome.

With only a few months of milking left for this year, it is important that suppliers adopt the chlorine free products and procedures now so that they are ready for the 2021 season.

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!!

Humanitarian aid to Yemen

Thanks to all suppliers who have made donations towards the humanitarian aid project in Yemen. This project is being run in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross. Full details will follow...



MooCall
connecting you to your animals

Be more productive this calving season

Win a MooCall Calving Sensor Unit and 1 Year Free Subscription

What is MooCall and How does it work?

- MooCall is a tail-mounted, on invasive calving sensor
- Adjustable strap allows the sensor to fit any size cow
- Senses tail movement and labour contractions
- Notifies you by text one and two hours before calving starts
- Allows you to be present at every caving
- 30-day battery charge
- Can text and notify two phone numbers. Notification sound is different to normal text sound to ensure good awareness
- Email notifications for up to 3 email
- Greater than 95% accuracy
- Designed to work indoors, outdoors and all-weather types

How to enter

Purchase Selected Antiparasitic products in store
Fill out an entry form in store
Name, Mobile Number, Co-Op Number

1 in 12 chance of winning
Each of our 12 stores will have one MooCall unit to give away

Prize Includes

One MooCall Unit
1-year Free Subscription
Technical Support from MooCall

WORTH €329

Digest-it®

Digest-it® is a microbial inoculant added to slurry that increases nutrient recovery from slurry, reduces ammonia emissions from slurry and grows more, better quality grass, by improving soil health.

Benefits of Digest-it®

Grows more, better quality grass

Increases nutrient recovery from slurry
Reduces agitation time and smell
Reduces ammonia emissions from slurry

What is Digest-it®?

Digest-it® provides a rich food source for microbes as well as dormant aerobic bacteria species that are able to feed on and break down the organic matter in the slurry and use the ammonia gas as a source of nitrogen to grow, thus turning it into microbial nitrogen.

Benefits of Digest-it® in the tank:

Reduces time required to agitate and pump slurry
Less smell from fresh slurry when agitating or spreading

Converts solids into plant-available liquid nutrients
Reduces surface crusting

Clive Reid, Dairy Farmer :-
“Slurry is easier mixed when it is treated with Digest-it®. We definitely see a reduced smell, the worms are surviving in the ground, we are growing more grass and the cows are able to graze in a rotation system.”

Contact Arrabawn / Dan O'Connor feeds for more details

Plan your Worming Strategy now

Outworms:

There are two types of worms need to focus on here mainly. Ostertagia Type 1 and Type 2. Type one are the general brown round worm. This time of the year animals can be seen with dirty backsides. This can be two things: 1. Change of diets. As the grass become soft, fibre levels drop. The gut bacteria need time to adjust to this new diet, this may cause loose dung. 2. Worm burden high. Using the weight scales (DWG) and a faecal egg test will determine the worm burden present and indicate if a worm dose is needed. Any of the three wormers will kill the type 1 Ostertagia. However, with the type 2- inhibited worms, a white or clear dose will be needed to hit them. The levamisole-based wormers will not kill the inhibited larvae. This type of worms will hide in the walls of the intestine for 3-4 months and emerge in spring, cattle will have diarrhoea in the sheds and rapid weight loss. The yellow wormer is great for lungworm but the final dose before housing.

Liver Fluke:

Liver Fluke is very dependent on the type of land around your farm. Some farms are hit much harder with liver fluke than others. However, the wet weather this time of the year can bring about some liver fluke in all farms! Liver Fluke can be treated at the same time as internal worms. Two products can be used together such as EndoFluke and Bimectin. Alternatively a single product like the higher dose rate of Albex or a combination product such as Bimectin Plus can be used. Depending on the type of product used and when (at grass/at housing) a second dose

may be needed. A product like EndoFluke contains Triclabendazole which kills all fluke stages. When given at housing all fluke is killed and since indoors no more will be picked up. Where as Albex only target the adult fluke, any immature fluke consumed at pasture will continue to live inside the animal while housed. All products are equally good, just to adjust treatment plan according to the fluke status of your herd and previous products used.

Lung Worm:

Lungworm is quite different to the other two as the impacts of this worm can be seen much quicker and to a more dramatic effect. If one animal is coughing in a group then all animals should be dosed straight away for lungworm. There's no time to be waiting around as the worm can cause damage fast. Signs of disease will first show as animals coughing after running to meal trough, moving paddocks etc. As the disease progresses to a moderate infection animals will cough just from standing up or gentle walk. Final stage will see animals open mouth breathing with their neck stretched out. Lungworm can be fatal so never delay on treatments! Any possible clues of lungworm seen treat all animals ASAP.

If animals are coughing heavily a Yellow dose/ Levamisole based products should be used. This drug kills the worm slowly, and gently removes the worm from the lung lining. The slow falling off the worm allows them to be coughed up and lung to recover. Other doses such as white (Albendazoles etc) or clear (Ivermectin's) doses kill the lung worm very quick. This quick kill can lead to large amount of the worm falling off and lodging in the lung. If the calf is unable to cough up the dead material may lead to further complications and a very sick animal. Lung worm must be treated prior to housing. Ideally a few weeks before housing to allow the worms to coughed up and lungs to recover in the fresh air outdoors. Coughing in doors, in sheds can lead to more issues and not as healthy environment for recovery. It is normal for calves to cough post treatment, they are removing the dead worms. This may persist for up to 7 days, coughing should be stopped or almost gone by a week.

Housing/Drying Off 2020 – What's the Plan for Parasites?

For animals coming in off grass, our parasites of concern are lungworm, gut & stomach worms, liver fluke, lice and mites. Two things should always be considered when deciding a housing treatment plan:

- 1) Farm liver fluke risk
- 2) What wormers have been used in 2020 so far

Moderate to high fluke risk areas

Moderate to high fluke risk farms (drystock and dairy) can use a triclabendazole 7-10 days post housing/dry off. Farmer that have used pour-ons/

ivermectin injections during lactation can combine this (triclabendazole) with an albendazole product and a deltamethrin topical product for external parasites. Alternating wormer class like this is best practice. Where farmer did not use pour-on/injection during lactation/grazing or wants to simplify treatments at drying off/housing, use an ivermectin pour-on at drying off/housing (60 days milk withdrawal) and a triclabendazole 7-10 days later.

Moderate/high fluke-risk farm	Protocol 1	Protocol 2
Liver fluke	Tribex 10% 7-10 days post housing/dry off	Tribex 10% 7-10 days post housing/dry off
Internal worms (lung/gut/stomach)	Albex 10% at housing/dry off	Animec Pour-On at housing/dry off
External parasites (lice & mites)	Deltamethrin (e.g. Butox/Spot/On) at housing/dry off	

Low fluke risk areas

An albendazole is an excellent option for farmers with a lower liver fluke risk, particularly where pour-ons/ivermectin injections have been used during lactation/grazing already. Give it in combination with a deltamethrin product and take a pooled faecal sample in the weeks before calving/turnout to determine the need for a follow up fluke treatment.

If (drystock only) white or yellow wormers were used during the grazing season, an ivermectin/cloursulon injection is a practical/convenient housing treatment. Monitor animals for lice in the weeks after – depending on external factors, a follow up lice treatment might be required, but not always. As above, take faecal samples in the weeks pre turnout/calving to determine the need for a follow up fluke treatment.

Low fluke-risk farm	Protocol 1	Protocol 2
Liver fluke	Albex 10% at housing/dry off	Animec Super at housing (drystock only)
Internal worms (lung/gut/stomach)		
External parasites (lice & mites)	Deltamethrin (e.g. Butox/Spot/On) at housing/dry off	

TRACE PACK® EasyWeaner

Respiratory support for weanlings

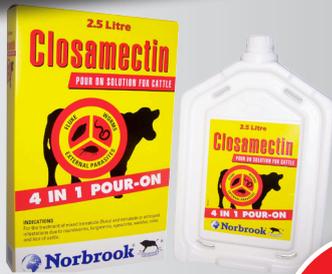
- Aids in prevention of respiratory infection
- Stimulates immunity
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CLOSAMECTIN POUR ON 2.5LT

For the treatment of mixed trematode (flake) and nematode or arthropod infestations due to roundworms, lungworms, eye worms, warbles, mites and lice of cattle

NOW
€290



RUMENIL

Rumenil fluke drench is an orally administered drench for the treatment and control of adult liver fluke and tapeworms in cattle.

WAS €64
NOW
€60



ENDOSPEC 10%

Endospec 10% SC with the addition of cobalt is a broad spectrum anthelmintic for the mature and developing forms of gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke. The product is also ovicidal against fluke eggs. In sheep, it is active against benzimidazole resistance.



ALBEX 6LT

Controls mature and developing immature forms of gastro-intestinal roundworms, lungworms, tapeworms and sheep and cattle. The product is also ovicidal against fluke and roundworm eggs.

WAS €93
NOW
€86



DECTOSPOT 1.25LT

For the control of both sucking and biting lice on all ages of cattle, including lactating dairy cows. Also as an aid in the control of nuisance flies. On sheep: For the control of ticks, lice, keds and established blowfly strike on sheep.

WAS €36
NOW
€33

DECTOSPOT
500ML

WAS €86
NOW
€79
LIMITED STOCK



BIMECTIN PLUS 1250ML

Bimectin Plus Injection is a broad spectrum anthelmintic for the treatment of roundworms, lungworms, adult liver fluke, mites and lice in beef and non lactating dairy cattle.



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NOW
€7.99



BORA RAT BAIT BOX

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NOW
€11.99



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ENDOJECT 10% SC
WORMER

WAS €90
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Contains selenium
Multi-purpose
Developing
Roundworms,
Liver fluke sheep,
Fluke and roundworm eggs.
Triclabendazole-susceptible



ZEROFEN 10%
2.5LT

WAS €58
NOW €52

Oral suspension which controls
mature and developing immature forms
of major species of gastrointestinal
roundworms and lungworms in cattle and sheep.



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5LT+1LT PACK

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For the treatment of adult,
immature and early immature
stages of liver fluke susceptible to
triclabendazole in catt



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Extra Value
NOW €195

Spectrum anti parasitic
t and control of gastro-
er fluke, eyeworms, warbles
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COMPLETE WITH GALVANISED
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CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH

Mastitis control in the dry period

High SCC cows?

Don't turn a blind eye! While maximising production and selling as much milk as possible may be a priority this autumn, turning a blind eye to animals with a high somatic cell count (SCC) could prove to be a very costly exercise. Cows with a high SCC have a subclinical infection- they are not producing milk to their full potential because this infection has damaged some of the mammary tissue. Feeding cows has already been a costly exercise on many farms this year-are you sure that all cows are giving you a return and not just costing you money? To make matters worse, high SCC cows are a constant source of infection in your herd! So how should you deal with them?

1. Know who the culprits are! Milk record the whole herd now- any cow with an SCC>200,000cells/mL is likely to have at least one infected quarter. While milk recording might be seen as an extra cost, it can be more expensive not to! If you are not milk recording, how will you know who the culprits are? You may suspect a few, but you will miss many more. Milk recording will also allow you to identify the most productive cows in terms of fat, protein and milk yields, and who are 'paying their way'.

2. Minimise the spread of infection! After a high SCC cow is milked, the bacteria from the infected quarter can be detected on the liner of that cluster for up to 6 milkings. Thus, high SCC cows should be marked and milked last to minimise disease spread. If it is not possible to run them as a separate herd, hold them back and milk them as the last row. This will prevent them infecting other cows.

Good hygiene during milking (of the cow, the milker and the parlour) and a good milking routine are also essential to prevent the spread of bacteria.

3. Deal with these problem cows now! Don't ignore these high

SCC cows-just because their infections may not be visible to the naked eye, this does not mean they are insignificant. In fact, these infections can have more of an impact on your herd than clinical infections as they can lurk for longer before being detected and dealt with.

- **Should you treat this infection?** While this may be a logical option, treating high SCC cows is not always appropriate or recommended. Remember that cure rates can range from 20-80% depending on various factors such as the bacteria involved, the duration of infection and the cow's lactation number. Discuss a treatment plan for these cases with your vet.
- Remove the source of infection instead Drying off individual quarters will prevent the spread of infection, and the impact that these cows have on your bulk tank SCC. Use a CMT to identify the problem quarter and simply stop milking it, do NOT use a dry cow tube. Alternatively dry the cow off early, particularly if she is a candidate that would benefit from a longer dry period. Discuss an appropriate dry cow treatment with your vet. Finally, sometimes you need to just cut your losses. Consider culling if the cow is a repeat offender i.e. high SCC in two consecutive lactations.
- Sensitivity testing is a good idea – in a short time it will be necessary, possibly with milk recording, to have some justification for choosing a particular antibiotic for the control of high SCC. Sensitivity testing reduces the risk of misusing antibiotics which could in turn lead to a build-up of resistance on farms (and hospitals!)

For more information on controlling mastitis in late lactation and dealing with high SCC cows, see Guidelines 14 and 15, and Management Note M in the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control.

Reminders: Culture and Sensitivity Testing

Don't forget to avail of the free test this Autumn! Apply for the Mastitis Control Programme instore or from your Rep, submit a milk sample for testing and purchase your dry cow tubes in store. Sample should be submitted Sunday-Wednesday (at the latest) to ensure quick turnaround of results (Sample sent late in week will be delayed). Please give enough time from start of process to drying off. Prescription and testing of milk will take at least 7 days to complete. Don't leave yourself under pressure!

Final Grass covers being grazed as housing approaches leads to a requirement for more Protein & Energy"

Milkmax 18, Milkifeed 18 & Super Dairy' the perfect fit across Minerals, Protein & Energy to meet a variety of Diets

With a satisfactory backend to the grass season behind us thankfully housing now approaches. This calls for a recheck on the cow diet whether it's your liquid milk, freshly calved cow, or spring cow. Obviously, silage is now being added in the majority of diets in many cases but grass dry matter has crashed significantly to (10-12%) due to increasing rainfall coupled with varied protein this time of year will be not as high (15-16%) give call for consideration of a step up in CP in the parlour and don't forget Energy. Arrabawn & DOC has a range of high energy 18% cubes in their range such as 'Milkmax, Milkifeed & Super 18'. Ingredients include high levels on Maize, Barley and Wheat combined with high fibre ingredients such as Beet Pulp, this combination aids the cow in terms of maintaining cow condition (BCS) along with reducing scouring and improving dung consistency if still outdoors or even on zero grazed grass where high levels of low DM grass is fed. The latter is directly related to rumen pH in the cow, to deal with that at this time of year, whatever the diet, we include stabilising additives such as Yeast and Acid Buff. In terms of the cow diet on farm, a range exists in the Arrabawn area from Zero Grazing Redstart, Whole crop Silage and Hi-Beet inclusion mixes. It is vitally important that these diets be balanced with minerals along with adequate levels of fibre. For more info on this, and other nutritional matters, consult your local Dan O'Connor Feeds representative or any branch of Arrabawn Co-op.

Any farms using the alternative forage crops like Kale or Redstart for out wintering make sure to:

- Graze in situ
- Restrict as Anaemia can arise in such crops
- Supplement with Iodine & Phosphorus
- Access to a Long fibre source such as hay or silage with achieve balanced rumen fill



Garda Message

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY WEEK – “Smoke Alarms Save Lives”

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm in your home and the homes of your elderly neighbors. Operated through the Local Authorities, the Fire Services give out thousands of smoke alarms for free to the vulnerable every year and install them but there are still homes with no smoke alarms. In the last 5 years, at least 32% of fires that resulted in fatalities had no working smoke alarm.

Farm Update: Eoin Toohey

Eoin Toohey is farming 132 hectares outside the village of Moneygall in County Offaly, and is within 20km of Nenagh and 30km of Birr. The farm entered a Partnership with a beef farmer located beside Eoin's farm in 2019, however as of October 1st 2020 the Partnership has ended. Eoin will continue to rent the neighbors land on a long-term lease. 132 hectares makes up the total land area of the farm, of which 76 hectares is owned and 56 hectares is leased. The milking platform consists of 62 hectares. The farm is currently above the 170kg/ha and is in the Nitrates Derogation.



In 2019 there were 190 cows milked on the farm with 80 heifer replacements reared. The farm sold 515kg of Milk solids to Arrabawn Co Op at 4.43% Fat & 3.72% Protein. The cows were fed 750kg of meal in 2019. This year has seen an increase in cow numbers on the farm, to date 214 cows are currently being milked on the farm. The herd EBI stands at €152. The 6-week calving rate on the farm is 78% with this year's empty rate at 13% with the majority of the empty cows already gone off the farm. It is estimated that 500kg of milk solids will be sold to Arrabawn Co Op for 2020 on 1T of meal per cow. The overall farm stocking rate 2.5LU/ha and the milking platform is stocked at 3.5LU/ha.

To date 14.5T of grass has been grown on the farm plus 300 high quality silage bales made. Eoin has recorded 31 grass measurements to date and states the importance of measuring grass in his decision making around grass covers, reseeding fields etc. 21% of the milking platform has been reseeded in 2020. This is up from 12% in 2019. All reseeds now include clover at a rate of 1.5kg/ha and the grass varieties are chosen from the PPI index which are most suitable for the land type of the farm. 230kg/ha of Nitrogen was spread on the milking platform in 2020. Lime is due to be spread in the next few weeks weather dependent and Potassium (K) build up on the rented land will be begin shortly. Soil fertility is an on-going project on the farm with currently only 35% of the farm in optimal soil fertility (ph. > 6.2, P & K index 3 & 4).

The future goals of the farm are to milk 210 cows in 2021, continue to increase milk solids through selective breeding and growing more grass and improving utilisation. Eoin is very keen on continuing to improve his environmental footprint also. Around 80% slurry on the farm is now spread by trailing shoe which is a low emission system (LESS). Protected Urea has been used throughout the whole grazing season this year. Soil tests are taken on the farm every 2 years and a targeted fertiliser plan is put in place. This year Eoin started to leave 1 metre strips every 200 metres on his internal. From next year, Eoin will move to cutting his hedges on a rolling 3-year rotation to increase biodiversity on the farm.

Both of these actions are recommended as part of the Nitrates Derogation. The farm is also in an area for action for the ASSAP (Agricultural Sustainability Support & Advisory Programme). The area for action is Ballyfinboy Area for Action. Work on this Area for action for water quality will begin in mid-2021. As part of the ASSAP programme, the farm underwent a farm assessment where an advisor identified areas on the farm where nutrients may have been lost to the waterways. Mitigation actions to improve nutrient loss and subsequently water quality were agreed between an advisor and the farmer. Some of the mitigation actions agreed and implemented on farm were the buffer zones for slurry and chemical fertiliser spreading from watercourses. The buffer zones are 5m for slurry application and 2m for chemical fertiliser application from a watercourse. The identification of Critical Sources Areas on the farm was also an important step in the assessment – a critical source area is an area where

the majority of nutrients are lost through either leaching of Nitrogen or overland flow of sediment and Phosphorus. This allows a farmer to implement a mitigation measure in a small area while reducing the cost of the measure and improving the water quality.

The carbon footprint of the farm is 1.04 kg CO₂ / kg FPCM. The carbon footprint is the ratio of total Greenhouse gases emissions (GHG) to total outputs. The average for a farm of similar size is 1.10 kg CO₂ / kg FPCM. The following are some ways Eoin is trying to improve his environmental footprint. Eoin is continuing to improve his EBI, this year's heifers EBI are €181 and the calves are €194. Eoin is also looking to increase days at grass as increasing the proportion of grazed grass in the feed budget and reducing the proportion of grass silage in the diet improves feed digestibility and quality. Improving the digestibility and quality of feed consumed reduces methane emissions because of improvements in animal productivity as well as reductions in the proportion of dietary energy lost as methane. Soil fertility improvements through liming and sowing clover will also reduce the farms reliance on chemical fertiliser and nutrient use efficiency will improve. Eoin aims to reduce the 230kg/ha Nitrogen spread year on year through improvements in soil fertility. The use of Protected Urea and Low emission slurry systems will further help improve the carbon footprint of the farm. Solar panels are also being considered for the farm in the future.



Reducing your Carbon Footprint using the new Farm Sustainability Report.

Once a farm is certified to Bord Bia SDAS (Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme), a farm Sustainability report is generated.

The report outlines how their farm inputs and activities, as reported in the sustainability survey, contribute to greenhouse gas production and will contain advice and feedback, on how to mitigate against these emissions and improve production efficiencies.

The farm Sustainability report will be posted to each supplier in the coming months from Bord Bia. Each supplier will also receive a 'how to read the farm sustainability report' document.

Should you require assistance with the Farm Sustainability Report contact **Paddy Purcell** on **087 0963869**. A follow up visit can be arranged with the option of having a Carbon Navigator completed to coincide with the farm sustainability report.

Farming for the Future

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
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