

Guest Attendee on Representative Committee

Invitations are invited from young farmers (under 35 years of age) for a position on the Representative Committee. This position is for 2 years and is open to everyone who is currently farming either on their own or in association with someone else who has an interest in how the Co-Op operates and who would like to gain experience of co-op structure.

To apply for the position please write a short letter explaining your interest

and the reasons you feel would make you a suitable candidate also outlining your qualifications and farming experience.

A short list of applicants will be prepared, and selection will be following interview.

Please address your application to the Secretary, Arrabawn Co-Operative Society Ltd., Nenagh, Co. Tipperary or by email to info@arrabawn.ie. Closing date for applications is September 30th 2021.



JOHNES TESTING

Do you have:
Whole Herd
Testing
complete?

VRAMP
complete?

If **NO** its time to get moving! The deadline to get both complete is fast approaching (Dec 2021). In order to be eligible for funding both tasks need to be completed!

Don't leave it until the last minute, aim to get it complete as soon as possible!

Understanding new milk recording reports

Last week Munster Bovine held a online zoom session in which they explained the new "LifeTime Summary Reports". The main aim of the reports is to identify the most profitable cows within the herd and make smart, data-driven decisions to generate the max profit from the herd.

Cows are grouped into good, average and not so good. It compares all there lactations, milk yields and solids giving an average margins per day. You will know how much per day each cow is making you or costing you!

The top 20% of cows in the herd are marked in green while the bottom 20% are in red. The middle section are white. Munster Bovine actively encouraged farmers to:

Use green cows for breeding, ideally would like all the replacement heifers from these cows. However, this is not possible without using sexed-semen. The cows in higher end of the average group should also be used for breeding replacement heifers in the future

Cull all the cows in the Red. They are not producing enough milk/solids to cover their costs (feed, grass, fertilizer etc)! Actually, losing you money. These culled cows should be replaced with new replacement heifers with better EBI's.

SCC values and Selective Dry Cow Therapy.

This will greatly benefit the farmer when trying to select cows for Selective Dry Cow Therapy-SDCT as all the hard work is done for you!

The new life time report will divide the cows into groups-based weather SDCT is suitable or not. Cows are spilt into 4 groups again- Blue, Green, Amber, Red.

Green- These cows have tested less than 200,000 SCC throughout the entire year. Some or all of these cows are suitable for SDCT. They should still receive a sealer even without antibiotics given, with extreme care and highest hygiene standards.

Blue – These cows are recently cured. Meaning at the last recording they tested below 200,000 SCC however at the previous recording these cows had a value higher then 200,000.

Amber – This mean these cows have been recently infected with Mastitis. They were continuously under 200,000 and now testing above this mark. Mastitis may be clinical (show signs of clotty milk, swelling etc.) or sub-clinical (no shows, look normal). These cows should be tested for SCC in each quarter using a California Milk Test or submit 4 samples to the Co-Op for testing. When you identify the problem quarter it can be treated quickly resulting in a better outcome. Aim to have less than 7% of herd in this group.

Red – Persistently infected cows are those who has a SCC greater then 200,000 SCC at the

latest and previous recording. The report gives an estimate of the contribution these individual cows are making to the overall bulk tank value. In some cases 1-2 cows can account for 20% of the SCC value. Advice for these cows is cluster dip after use, pre and post teat dipping, milking last to help prevent the spread. Give them a longer dry period with a long acting antibiotic to help increase the chances of curing the infected quarter. If the SCC is very high <500,000 this cow should be culled.

Protection is key when it comes to controlling SCC and mastitis within a herd. Prevention is always better than a cure. It is time to start thinking about which of your cows fall into each category and their fate on the farm. Recently infected cows which have had a good history with SCC should be considered for a longer dry period of 3 months with a long-acting Antibiotic. This will give them the best chance to recover and fight the infection present. However the cows placed into the red categories, don't respond to treatments, didn't get cured in the previous dry period should be moved out of the herd. It can be a hard decision to remove cow from the herd but it is in the best interest of the entire herd.

These reports offer invaluable information and will not let you down. It is never too late to start milk recording. There is still time to start and get one recording done before dry off 2021.

Contact today and reap the rewards! One short phonecall and you will be registered and ready to go!

Munster Bovine: (022) 43228

Progressive Genetics: (046) 954 1230

Controlling SCC coming into the Autumn Months

Towards the end of lactation a small rise week on week can be seen in SCC levels. However here are some small steps which can be taken to help combat this spike

1. Pre-Milking Teat Disinfection:

As roadways, fields, collecting yards become wet and mucky so do the cows udders. Cleaning off the dirt with a suitable disinfectant is key. Many cases of mastitis originate from bacteria found in the environment (such as Strep Uberis and E. Coli)

During milking the teat end is open and these bacteria can easily enter the teat canal causing problems. If all the dirt is removed, probability of bacteria entering is lowered.

2. Post Milking Teat Disinfection:

Similarly, again, after milking it takes at least 20 minutes for the teat end to seal. During this minute's

cows are walking or standing along dirty passage ways or flicking dirt up. A good teat disinfection will create a barrier prevent the entry of bacteria.

3. Cleaning Roadways:

A quick scrap down of the roadways and holding yard can make a big difference. As cow walk or heavy rain falls the dirt and bacteria can be slapped onto the cow's udder. Not only does it help udder health it will benefit their feet too.

4. Cluster Dipping:

Cluster dipping will prevent one cows passing mastitis causing bacteria being passed from one cow to another. A cow with a high SCC who doesn't show any signs of being sick can still shed large amounts of bacteria. This can be passed to the next 6 cows using the same cluster.

5. Clean Gloves:

All year round gloves are key, but extra care is needed coming into these Autumn months. Gloves can get wet and dirty easily, carrying dirt and bacteria. Changing or washing the gloves may be needed mid-milking.

6. Dry Udders:

Bacteria require water to survive, so a dry udder will harbour less. If cows are very wet a quick wipe down of blue paper towel may be needed. This includes hand and gloves too!

SCC is important to control, as the litre of milk start to drop off and SCC slightly rise you want to be avoiding any penalties to get the most out of your milk cheque. Every few cents count and SCC is something which can be controlled. A few easy steps taken above can avoid the losses!

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Web: www.msd-animal-health.ie

MSD Animal Health

IE-CPL-210600003 June 2021

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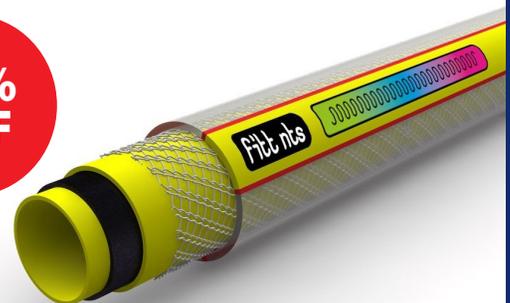
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Nitrates Action Programme Public Consultation

A public consultation on the draft Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) was launched on 9 August 2021 by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie McConalogue, and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien.

Ireland's NAP gives effect to the requirements of the EU Nitrates directive and the objective of the public consultation is to invite industry stakeholders to feed into the finalisation of proposed measures for Ireland's fifth NAP.

The draft released contains a whole host of measures aimed at reducing pollution associated with agriculture in Ireland. The main issues proposed which could affect the dairy industry in Ireland are around slurry and soiled water storage and management, chemical fertiliser and livestock excretion rates.

Slurry

According to the Department Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), only 4 out of every 10 farms have sufficient slurry storage capacity currently.

The following measures are proposed:

- From January 1, 2022, it shall be a requirement that all slurry must be applied by:
 - September 30, for 2022, for Zones A, B and C;
 - September 15, for 2023, and subsequent years for Zones A, B and C;
- From January 1, 2023, farmers stocked at >170 kg nitrogen organic N/ha must demonstrate clear separation of slurry and clean water management in the farmyard;
- From January 1, 2022, all newly constructed

external slurry stores must be covered;

- All existing external slurry stores should be covered as soon as practically possible, but no later than December 31, 2027.
- The compulsory usage of low emissions slurry spreading will be introduced for all farmers operating above 100 kg livestock N/ha from 2023 and for all pig farmers from 2023 onwards.

Soiled Water

- It is proposed that soiled water must be collected and kept separate to slurry on all holdings.
- From 1 Jan 2022 spreading of soiled water will be prohibited between 15th November and 15th January.
- 4 weeks soiled water storage capacity must be in place by 31st December 2021.

Chemical Fertiliser

- The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine has already commenced the process of developing legislation that will provide for the adoption by the Minister of a register of chemical fertiliser sales across the country. The purpose of the register is to provide for accurate tracking of fertiliser sales and provide a more realistic picture of where fertiliser is being applied to land.
- Grassland N allowances will be reduced by 10% nationally and potentially up to 15% in some areas.
- Fertiliser application periods are also under review in all 3 zones.

Livestock Excretion Rates

Livestock excretion rates have been under review in Ireland in recent months with dairy cows moving from 85kg/ha organic N to 89kg/ha organic N. However, the European Commission having raised concern over the single figure output approach. DAFM has undertaken some preliminary analysis and provisionally estimate that if banded against annual milk yield, dairy cows would produce an organic output per cow as follows:

- Band 1 <4,500kg – 80 kg Organic N/ha;
- Band 2 4,501 and 6,500k, – 92 kg Organic N/ha;
- Band 3 >6,500kg – 106 kg Organic N/ha.

With these proposed excretion rates to be phased in commencing the 1 January 2022.

Also, in terms of stocking rate it is proposed that only land within 30km of the farm be eligible for short term grazing agreements and that all commonage and rough grazing will no longer be permitted to be included in the whole farm stocking rate calculation.

Have your say

The Department is inviting any interested parties to make submissions to help inform the legislative process.

To get involved, please email your observations or comments to wau@housing.gov.ie by **20 September 2021**.

A copy of the full detailed draft of the proposed fifth Nitrates Actions Programme can be found on the DAFM website.

Nitrates Directive and Stocking Rates

The DAFM has proposed a three-band organic nitrogen livestock excretion system for dairy cows based on kg of milk yield supplied. The effect of the current proposals is to reduce the number of livestock units in Band 3 (>6,500 kg of milk) by up to 19.1%. Cows in Band 3 are 13% and 39% more efficient than cows in Band 2 and 1, respectively, in terms of milk kg per kg of dry matter intake. Therefore, the current proposals are penalizing the more efficient, higher yielding cows and decreasing the overall efficiency of the national dairy herd. This measure would lead to a reduction in efficiency, production levels and increased GHG (CO₂) per kg of milk.

Bands	MILK YIELD	Livestock Excretion Rate	Total Solids/cow	Milk kg / kg DMI	Cows to deliver 2020 national volume
Band 1	<4500 Kg Milk (<4370 lts)	80 kg Organic N /ha	278	0.88	2.298 m
Band 2	>4500 kg - 6500 kg milk (4370 lt -6313 lts milk)	92 kg Organic N /ha	411	1.08	1.573 m
Band 3	>6500 kg Milk (>6313 lt Milk)	106 kg Organic N / ha	533	1.22	1.193 m

The livestock excretion rate is currently set at 89 kg of organic N/ha. The proposed method is to base livestock excretion rates on milk yield. See Table 1 for banding rates.

Milk Efficiency • Higher yielding cows in Band 3 currently produce 1.23 kg of FPCM/kg DMI while cows in Band 1 currently produce 0.89 kg of FPCM/kg DMI and cows in Band 2 produced 1.10 kg of FPCM/kg DMI. • Cows in Band 3 are 38% and 12% more efficient than cows in Bands 1 and 2 respectively.

In 2020 there was 8,538.1 million kg of milk produced nationally. If all cows were in Band 1 we would need 2.3 million cows, if all cows were in Band 2 we would need 1.57 million cows and if all the cows were in Band 3 we would need 1.2 million cows to produce the same volume of milk.

More high yielding cows in the national herd would decrease GHG emissions. For example if all cows in the national herd were in Band 3 we would reduce the dairy cow national contribution to GHG by 31.1% compared to in Band 1 and 24.2% if all the cows were in Band 2.

Implications The Irish dairy industry supports approximately 60,000 jobs and had €5.2 billion worth of export in 2020 (IBEC, <https://www.ibec.ie/connect-and-learn/media/2021/01/13/dairy-industry-continues-to-underpinirish-economic-performance>). Expenditure by the dairy industry in the Irish economy was €3.8 billion in 2018, and for every €1 worth of dairy industry products exported 90 cent was spent in the Irish economy. This is significant as for comparison for every €1 exported by the multinational sector in Ireland, only 10 cent was spent in the Irish economy (Teagasc, Dairy in the Irish Economy!). This is particularly important to the rural economy as the rural economy has few opportunities to replace this expenditure. The proposed banding and associated livestock excretion rates will have a major impact on the rural economy and will disproportionately affect parts of the country that have smaller, fragmented farms, disadvantaged areas and/or higher output milk producers. The impact on the beef industry has to be quantified as little is known about the quality of calves from the three proposed nitrates excretion bands. While it is important that nitrate outputs are reduced, it is critical that all avenues are explored and not just a livestock cull of higher yielding cows, especially when these cows have the lowest carbon footprint in relation to milk production. The current DAFM NAP has not addressed the use of technologies in relation to genetic improvement and nutrition technologies to reduce nitrates excretion, even though millions of euros of exchequer funding have been spent on research and development in these areas in Ireland. The overall economic impact of these proposed changes on the country needs to be defined by an Agriculture Economics expert. I urge you to take these points into consideration and make submissions to the DAFM on your own behalf.

Autumn Grass

Autumn Grass has been quite high in water averaging 11-12% DM the last number of weeks given large rainfall so it's important to consider adding extra fibre to maintain rumen fill and keep dung consistency right. Recent issues such as a drop-in milk yield is very common across the Arrabawn catchment given recent storms too. It has been stressful for the cow in general thus drop in yield, coughing and acidosis have been seen on farm.

Grass growth has steadied recently and average farm covers overall are generous. The issue now is weather persisting is to access these covers without causing damage. The addition of 1-2kg DM of Silage or 0.5-1kg of Straw will help in adding extra fibre to the diet. Each farm works differently so whatever is practical. Other farms have made alterations in the parlour increasing feeding rates to 3-4kg +. In the case of grass silage being fed as a buffer a 16% Dairy nut will be needed along with grazed grass. It is advised to contact your rep and test any silage to see where quality is. Going forward its best to see where overall winter fodder is for housing for the dry cow diet anyway. Regards silage, every farm should have an idea on length of supply coming into the winter. Fibre is a 3rd of the diet so it's vital, all farms should have a budget carried out at this stage if supplies are questionable as a result of the early season drought in some parts of Arrabawn's catchment. Currently Silage testing is being done and quality is coming back good but yield on silage slabs is back so contact your rep and a budget can be looked at and diets for housing.

Again, grass DM is very low and will be between now and close out date combined with shortening day length the diet will contain a higher than normal level of concentrates 3.5kg

+ in most cases. Moving from Summer Grazing Dairy options in the parlour Arrabawn have a number of products such as Supreme Dairy 16% and a number of 18's specifically formulated for late lactation and both work in a variety of diets. In late lactation its vital to have average crude protein of the diet in 16-17% range and grass CP will gradually drop approaching backend. Regards ingredients the makeup of both Supreme Dairy 16% & Milkifeed 18 (in cases of 2-3Kg DM Grass Silage in diet) contain high levels of maize and wheat giving high levels of energy to meet requirements of Milk & Maintenance. Backed up with high levels of starch is MEGALAC as highlighted before in many of DOC cubes, is raw energy high in oil again giving every chance for the cow to build

body condition towards the winter. Its hugely important to monitor the rumen in the line of pH through consistency in dung so both Beet Pulp & Yeast are included which indirectly avoid NEB & Ketosis. Lameness also can be helped with such products. This time of year, with large amounts of grass through the rumen and in herds where milk yield is still very good there can be a draw on the cow and lameness can arise which is seen in a number of herds lately.

DOC have a number of different feeding rates for each which is quite important at this stage of the year so for more info on this, and other nutritional matters, consult your local Dan O'Connor Feeds representative or any branch of Arrabawn Co-op.

Omnigen

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For more information contact your Dan O'Connor Feeds / Arrabawn representative



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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 called 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.

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

Portumna Co-op Mart

Weanling Sale every Monday @ 6pm,
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- ❖ Help Control SCC



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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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