



## NDC Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards in Moorepark



Ronan Moran (Farm Relations Advisor), Conor, Una, Mary & Vincent O'Brien, Paddy Purcell (Milk Quality Manager) and Kelly Harrington (Olympic Gold Medalist)

Arrabawn Co Op would like to congratulate the O'Brien Family for representing Arrabawn at last month's NDC Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards in Moorepark. The O'Briens were National Finalist in the competition. Kelly Harrington (Olympic Gold Medalist) was on hand to present the award to the O'Brien's.

## THERMODURICS: Top Tips BACTERIA IN BULK TANK MILK

Thermotropic bacteria survive pasteurisation and adversely affect the shelf life of milk. These bacteria are found in soil, bedding and faeces of dairy cows and can get into the milking plant and bulk milk tank. Thermotropic bacteria can be controlled at farm level by making sure that good hygiene practices are in place, especially during milking. The presence of thermotropic bacteria is indicative of ineffective cleaning somewhere in the milk production process (cow hygiene or milking equipment hygiene).

### Cow and milking Hygiene:

- Ensure that teats are clean and dry before milking. If the milk sock is soiled after milking, then teat preparation is inadequate. If you wash teats, they should be dried
- Keep cows in a clean environment – if the udders and teats look dirty, then there is a problem. Keep collecting yards and approach roads regularly scraped
- Keep tails trimmed and clip the udder
- Keep hands/gloves clean throughout milking
- Keep milking clusters clean during milking and if they fall on the floor flush out completely
- Do not wash down clusters while still attached to a cow
- Do not wash down the platform while cows are present

- Cover meal bins in the parlour ( some feed ingredients are high in thermotropic bacteria)

### Milking plant hygiene:

- Sufficient volume of water to ensure all surfaces are in contact with detergent (9 litres/ unit)
- Measure the wash trough to determine how much water/detergent you should be using
- Adequate turbulence (air injection for large plants) and vacuum level maintained during the wash cycle
- Hot water usage is critical (75/80OC)-lower chemical usage with hot water
- Milk stone remover should be used at a minimum once weekly and more often if water hardness is in issue or install a water softener
- After the wash cycle disinfect the milking plant twice daily with Peracetic acid in an additional rinse
- Thermotropic bacteria survive in cracked and perished rubber-ware, replace regularly
- Build-up of debris in plate cooler-use clean filter sock during washing and get milking machine technician to clean plates
- The vacuum line should be washed out at least once yearly and/or if the milk receiver over flowed or if broken milk liners

- Disinfect the bulk milk tank outlet regularly
- Avoid having the milk supply pipe immersed in milk during milk transfer
- Keep the bulk milk let closed at all times, especially during milking
- Insufficient volume of water will result in poor surface contact with detergent and increase the likelihood of chemical residue
- Blocked suck-up detergent tubes will result in insufficient detergent usage, replace these tubes yearly
- Spray balls clogged or spinners not moving freely or missing will impact on the cleaning of stainless steel surfaces
- Cool milk to 3/4 OC within 30 min of the completion of milking with the aid of a plate cooler

### Thermotropic bacteria-things you may not know:

- Higher than normal levels of Thermotropic bacteria can be present in milk during periods of very dry or wet weather
- A high thermotropic count does not mean you will have a high total bacterial count
- Its extremely difficult to eliminate Thermotropic bacteria at the processing site-easier to minimize levels on farm

### Bulk milk tank hygiene:

*Please contact your Milk Quality Advisor should you have any issues with Milk Quality.*

## Teat sealant: A dozen Dos and Don'ts

All bacterial infections that cause mastitis must enter the udder first. The only way into the udder are the 4 teat openings. Boviseal is an internal teat sealant, which provides a non-irritant, antibiotic free, physical barrier between the cow's udder and the environment. All cows will benefit from Boviseal. Discuss with your vet which cows require an antibiotic tube to treat any existing infections acquired during the previous lactation. Correct insertion is essential.

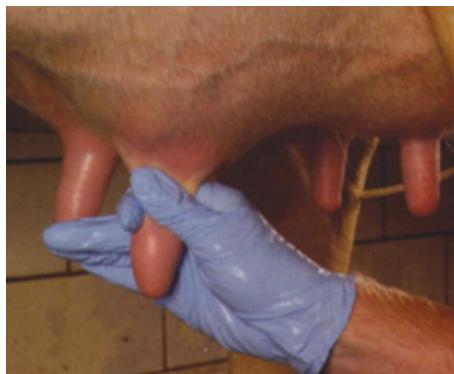
- 1. Do** clip the tails a few days before. Clipped tails are clean tails and it is easier to see what you are doing when it comes to drying off the cows.
- 2. Don't** try to dry off dirty cows. Consider adding straw to the diet for a week before drying off. It will ensure the milk yield drops below 12 litres per day and the dung will be drier and firmer, leading to cleaner cows.
- 3. Do** make sure you have at least one other person to help on the day, to ensure the procedure is spotlessly clean and hygienic.
- 4. Don't** try to dry off too many cows in one session. Absolute maximum 50 cows.
- 5. Do** organise all your tubes, gloves, pre-and post-dip/spray, paper towels, cotton wool swabs and methylated/surgical spirits before you start.

**6. Don't** rush or have a mobile phone in the parlour!! Have a routine and make sure there are no distractions.

**7. Do** take time to ensure the teats and teat ends are surgically clean before any tubes are inserted.

**8. Don't** forget your glasses and a good head torch. It is important that for every tube you "hit" the teat orifice first time, every time and not the skin beside it. There may be dirt and bacteria on this skin that could be picked up on the nozzle end and pushed up into the udder.

**9. Do** pinch the teat at the base of the udder to block the teat when inserting Boviseal teat sealant.

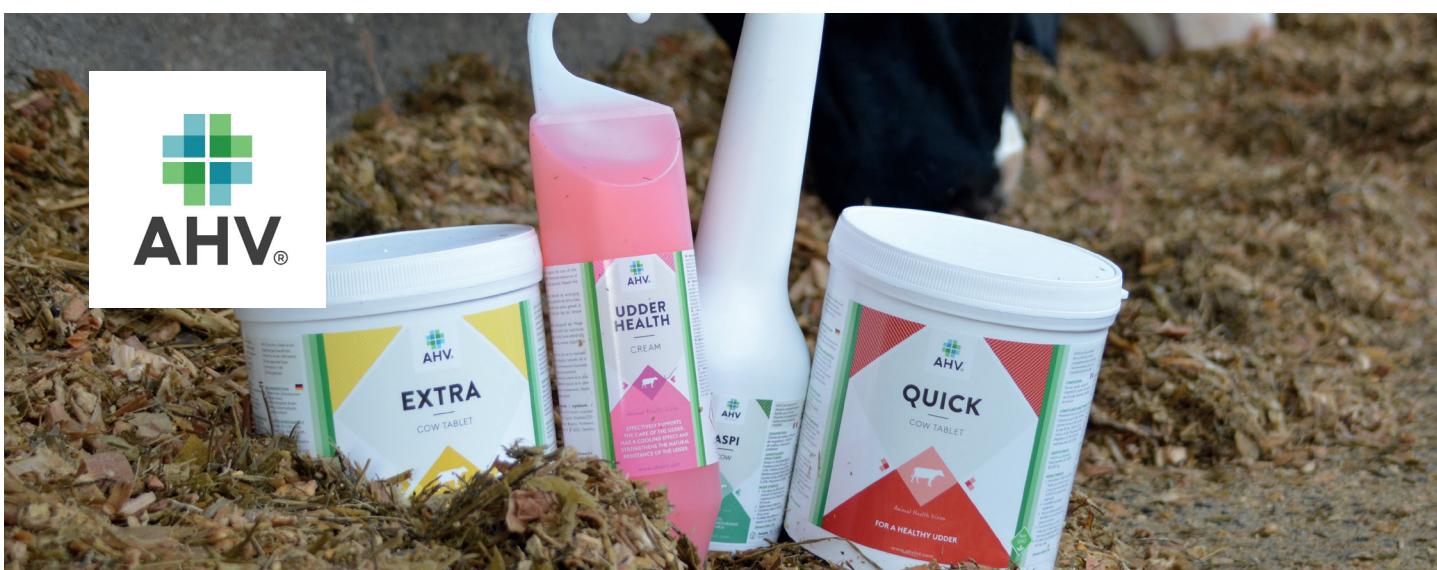


**10. Don't** try to push air out of the tube before insertion. There is air in the tubes, but this will not cause a problem in the udder. The less time the cover is off the nozzle of the tube, the less chance there is of it becoming contaminated with dirt and bacteria.

**11. Do** keep the teat pinched until you have removed the nozzle of the teat sealant. If there is any air or an increase in pressure in the teat, it can then exit down through the teat orifice.



**Don't** massage the teat sealant up into the udder.



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### MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

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## NEWPORT'S NEW LOOK



We greatly appreciate the patience shown by all customers during our renovations. We also are delighted to announce the opening of our new Garden Centre and would like to thank everyone who has supported our garden centre in recent weeks. Come down for a look and see some of the changes for yourself.

LIMITED TIME OFFERS

[www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie](http://www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie)

## Reducing Carbon Footprint on Farms

As farmers, you are being asked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from your farming system to control global warming. But where do you start? Many dairy and beef farmers have a carbon emissions figure available to them but many are not aware of this information.

After each Bord Bia audit, all certified dairy and beef farmers receive a Farmer Feedback Report from Bord Bia with their farm's carbon footprint as well as an assessment of farm productivity, nutrient management, grassland, animal feeding and farm safety.

The carbon footprint refers to how much greenhouse gases (GHG) are emitted from an activity such as the production of milk or meat or driving a car or taking a flight. The emissions of all GHG gases are expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub> Eq). In farming, the production of every kg of milk or meat or grain has a carbon footprint.

### How is the carbon footprint calculated?

There are four sources of data required to complete an accurate calculation of a farms carbon footprint, using the Teagasc model.

1. Animal Identification and Movements Database (AIM) – DAFM – Beef and Dairy
2. Daily Live Weight Gain - Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) – Beef Only
3. Milk Production Data – Dairy Processors - Dairy Only
4. Sustainability Survey – Scheme Members – Beef and Dairy. The sustainability survey is the only data source required for the carbon footprint calculation that is collected directly from the farmer.

### How does the information provided in the Sustainability Survey relate to the carbon footprint?

1. Turnout and housing influences the calculation of manure storage emissions, grazing and digestion related emissions.
2. Manure management calculates the emissions from the application and storage of manure on the farm.
3. Concentrate feeding rates calculates the emissions associated with the production of concentrate feed fed to animals.
4. Fertilizer application data are required to track the emissions from the production of fertilizers and minerals and the emissions related to the application of fertilizer to the land.

It is important to note that inaccuracies in the data provided via the sustainability survey can result in an inaccurate carbon footprint and grass-fed result, and farmer feedback report.

### When do you get the Farmer Feedback Report?

The feedback report is posted to the farmer within one week of certification of the Bord Bia audit. It can also be accessed from the audit portal website, farm.bordbia.ie using your herd number and pin (which you can reset if you have forgotten it).

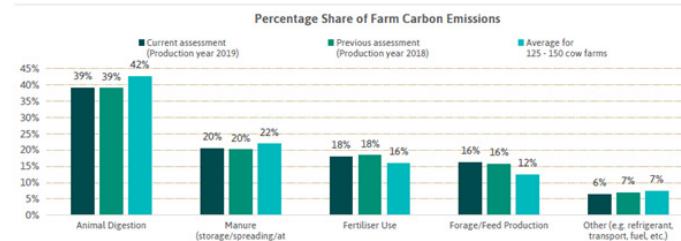
### Where do you find the carbon footprint on the report?

Parameter	Unit	Current assessment (Production year 2019)	% Change from previous (Production year 2018)	Average for 125 - 150 cow farms
Carbon Footprint - Dairy Enterprise	kg CO <sub>2</sub> / kg FPCM	110	-3%	115

The carbon footprint is displayed on the first page of the report. The example above is for a dairy farm – the carbon footprint for this farm is 1.10 kg CO<sub>2</sub> / kg FPCM which is 3% lower than it was in 2018 and compares well to the national average for herds of 125-150 cows which have a carbon footprint of 1.15. The carbon footprint for beef farms is presented in a similar format but expressed as kg CO<sub>2</sub> / kg live weight.

### How do you know what is contributing to your carbon footprint?

On page three, a graph displays the percentage share of carbon emissions on your farm under the following headings and farm activities: animal digestion; manure; fertiliser; forage/feed production; other (e.g. transport, fuel, etc.).



### In the information and advice section, there are green and white-shaded bullet points, what do these colours indicate?

The advice is broken down into two levels of activity. The green leaf is related to actions specifically set out in the Teagasc Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC). These actions are provided to encourage farmers to engage with the Climate Action Plan and make farmers more informed on those types of actions. The white leaf relates to more general information. Please contact Paddy Purcell on 087 0963869 to discuss the carbon footprint for your farm and the actions you might take.

## POWER-WASHING SERVICES

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- Which dose to give cattle before or after housing?
- Do I choose between product A or B?

Worming cattle and preparing them for the winter sheds can be confusing. And we have got a solution for you! **Mike Myers**, will be in our Athenry (26th Oct.) and Tyone (1st Nov.) stores to answer any questions you have. Mike will be available from 9am-6pm.

**Tues 26th Oct - Athenry**

**Mon 1st Nov - Tyone**

**9am – 6pm**

# NEWS

## 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 carcase 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 Feed's '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 early in the autumn. Research has shown gains of up to 1 kg per day and less stress at weanling 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 in 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 go through 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.

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# NEWS

## Monitor Late Lactation Autumn Diet: High Energy & High Dietary Fibre is key

Autumn Grass has been quite high in water, averaging 11-12% DM, in the last number of weeks, due to lush growth and rainfall, so it's important to consider adding extra fibre to maintain rumen fill and keep dung consistency right.

Grass growth has steadied recently and average farm covers overall are generous. The issue now is how 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, it's best to assess overall winter fodder reserves with regard to housing and dry cow diet.

With regard to 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 - supplies may be questionable as a result of the early season drought in some parts of Arrabawn's catchment. Currently Silage testing is being carried out 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 planned for housing.

Again, grass Dry Matter is very low and will be, between now and close out date, combined with shortening day length, the diet should 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 work in a variety of diets. In late lactation, it's vital to have average crude protein of the diet in 16-17% range and grass CP will gradually drop approaching the backend.

Regarding 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. This high level of starch is backed up with MEGALAC - this oil-based energy allows the cow to build body condition towards the winter. Monitor the rumen pH through the consistency of the dung. Beet Pulp is included as a slow release fibre-based energy source. Yeast is included to offset acidosis and indirectly reduce the level of diet-related lameness. This combination of ingredients should help reduce the risk of Negative Energy Balance & Ketosis. This time of year, with large amounts of grass going 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.

## GPS soil Sampling Service

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- 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 0851824277

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Contact

Mark

0851824277

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We are also on Facebook at Arrabawn Co Op.

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