



A suitable cow!

We want to update the photo of a cow on our newsletter front page. The photo we have is fine but she is not really the image we want for modern times. Her recent milk recording report shows that she is lagging behind in :-

- Conformation
- Colour
- Looks,
- Milk yield
- Milk solids and overall
- EBI



So, if you have a photo of your favourite cow or an image of a suitable cow for our newsletter, please send it to info@arrabawn.ie.

Liquid Milk Workshop 2021

On Monday November 1st, we hosted a Liquid Milk Workshop for our liquid suppliers on the farm of Martin & Tom Callanan outside Oranmore County Galway. Topics discussed at the workshop were

- Minimising Thermoduric (THD) at farm level.
- Managing Total Bacteria Count (TBC) over the winter.
- Keeping on top of your SCC.

Arrabawn Co Op would like to thank David Gleeson (Teagasc) & Dennis Howard (Munster Bovine) for participating in the event and outlining very useful information regarding maintaining the highest quality of milk over the winter months.

We would also like to thank our suppliers who attended the workshop and we would like to congratulate and thank Martin & Tom for hosting an informative and successful workshop.

Dairy Health Certificate Reminder 2022

Each herd that supplies milk must be certified by your Vet annually to meet specific animal health requirements as specified by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

These certificates must be submitted to Arrabawn Co-Op each year. The recommended time to certify your herd is at your annual herd test which enables you and your vet to fully complete and sign the form while inspecting the cows.

Please send the completed 2021 Certificate by the 17th of December 2021 to *Arrabawn Co-Op Stafford Street, Nenagh, Co Tipperary*.

If you have misplaced your blank Health Cert which was sent to you earlier this year by post please contact your Milk Advisor.

Note: Arrabawn will not be in a position to collect milk from your holding from the 1st of January 2022 unless it has received the fully completed certificate.

1. On page 1, Veterinary Certification of Compliance, the vet MUST complete the number of animals presented to him as milk yielding animals for certification.
2. On Page 3, Herdowner Declaration of Compliance the herdowner must complete the number of animals presented as milk yielding animals to the vet for certification

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 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 - contact your Arrabawn Rep.

Low lactose in late lactating Cows

What is lactose in milk?

Lactose is a natural sugar that is secreted in the udder of the cow. The presence of lactose in the milk gives milk its sweet taste. When lactose levels fall below a certain threshold (~4.25%) the milk is difficult to process. This is why we impose penalties when lactose levels fall below their minimum threshold

Why does lactose fall in Autumn?

Due to changes in the physiology and metabolism of the mammary gland in late lactation the lactose content in milk declines, coinciding with the decline in milk production. In an autumn calving herd where cows are calving over a 6-month period there are no major declines in milk constituents as it is balanced by cows at both ends of lactation. However, the problem is much more pronounced in a spring calving herd where all of the cows have calved in a 12-week period and they enter into late lactation at the same time.

Management recommendations to help maintain milk lactose levels:

1. Monitor yield of cows, dry off any cows producing less than 8 litres/cows/day.
2. If average herd yield is less than 10 litres/cow/day then dry off the whole herd.
3. Cows with high SCCs produce low lactose milk, at any stage of lactation. Dry off these cows.

Nutritional recommendations to address falling milk lactose levels:

Nutrition also has a role to play. In late lactation there will also be a more marked impact on lactose levels if cows are 'underfed' in terms of dry matter intake and energy intake not being high enough to maintain yield. This year cows still milking 15 litters have low lactose levels, indicating a severe shortage on energy intake.

1. Energy and protein intake in late lactation influence milk yield and milk constituents so it is essential that the cow's diet is sufficient to produce the volume of milk without using her own body reserves.
2. As the grazing rotation is being lengthened to close off paddocks it is important to supplement cows with a high energy dairy nut, protein 16-18%. This year levels will vary 2-6 kgs depending on milk yield, grass supply and grass quality.

Penalties for low Lactose

Over the next few weeks please monitor your lactose results. Lactose levels are tested after every collection and texted out to the farmer. The letter L in the text message stands for Lactose. The following penalties apply for low lactose levels.
Lactose greater than 4.25 = No penalty
Lactose less than 4.25 = 2 cent per litre penalty
Lactose less than 4.00 = 5 cent per litre penalty.

How to Successfully dry off your herd this winter

It is getting to the time of year where some cows may be already dried off and the rest are left to do in the coming weeks. However, it is never too late to learn some new tips and refresh your mind.

1. Prepare in Advance
 - Review the expected calving dates and select cows accordingly. Cows should be dry for 6 weeks minimum, where as some thinner or 1st lactation cows may need up to 12 weeks.
 - Carry out milk recording at least 1 month prior to drying off to monitor the cure rate over the dry period or any new infections. It is never too late to start!
 - Any cows producing more than 12L/day should have their diet reduced a week prior. Decrease their access to grazing pastures and concentrates.
 - Ensure tails are clipped for a cleaner job. Abruptly stop milking, don't skip milkings.
2. On the day of drying off.
 - Drying off is an important job, time needs to be set aside, not done in a rush after milking. A good drying off technique will result in a better outcome next spring.
 - Cows should be dried in batches of 20 cows or less. Make sure you have no distractions, well prepared, not tired or hungry. Full concentration is required as it is a tedious job.
 - Clean gloves, apron, teat wipes/cotton balls and surgical spirits are all required. Have a table or something similar in the parlour available to lay out all equipment.
 - Leave tubes (antibiotic and sealer) in a warm room (Hot press/kitchen etc) for at least 12 hours to ensure tubes are warmed up. When tubes are cold, they are harder to push out, tiring your hands more quickly. DO NOT put tubes directly into water, this will contaminate the tube tips, placing bacteria into the teat canal.
3. Tube insertion
 - Light is critical, ensure you have good lighting. A head torch is always a good option.
 - Teats must be cleaned to remove any large amounts of dirt. Once clean, disinfect with teat wipes or surgical spirits. Keep scrubbing until the wipes comes clean.
 - Keep the same pattern of tubing for all cows to avoid confusion. Clean and disinfect the teat furthest away from you first, and insert tubes into closest teat. This avoids contamination by reaching across.
4. Post Tubing
 - Cows must stand in a clean yard for 30 minutes to allow enough time for the teat canal to seal fully. If cows return to the shed or outdoors dirt and bacteria can enter the teat canal and remain for the duration of the dry period. This increases the risk of mastitis next spring.

Silage Taint in Milk

Silage has been the prevailing type of preserved forage for cattle feeding in many countries. Carry-over of some components from silage to cow's milk has been of concern. Milk can gain a bad smell from a stable atmosphere if silage, particularly of poor quality, is fed.

Deoxynivalenol and zearalenone are the main mycotoxins formed in silage. Their negative traits are reduced by lactic acid bacteria in silage and natural rumen bacteria. The excretion of the mycotoxins in milk is generally low. A pH of 3.8 is desirable to ensure sufficient lactic acid is present. If the pH is around 5.0-5.2 it allows a buildup of butyric acid bacteria* (rancid butter taste!), Listeria and Clostridia.

Silages can be a pool of the undesirable bacteria and produce volatile compounds which become airborne. These volatile gases are absorbed by the milk fat during milking if not through the cow's digestive system.

Milk contamination with these bacteria can be decreased by the prevention of silage deacidification following air access, and by improving the environment, cow hygiene and by good milking hygiene.

*high butyric acid in the silage can be easily converted to ketone bodies which in turn will taint the cow's breath and milk, giving off the smell of 'shoe polish'

It all comes down to making good silage-clean grass, high sugar, low nitrogen, low potash. Well rolled and compacted in the pit or bale to remove all oxygen – a rare occurrence these days!

SPECIAL OFFERS

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€150



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SAVE
10%



All Gallagher Solar fences

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SAVE
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OFF All Mascot Clothing

SAVE
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on All Chester boot Range

10%
OFF



All Arrabawn oils

LIMITED TIME OFFERS

Lice: How to spot and control it!

As all cattle are indoors by this time of the year, the external parasites such as lice begin to wreak havoc on some farms.

How they spread.

Lice spread from one animal to another through direct contact. So animals in a tightly packed shed can easily pass lice from one to another just standing beside one another at the feed rail is a route of transmission. Lice live dormant in areas such as behind the ear for weeks, when conditions become suitable they will emerge and multiply rapidly.

Signs and Symptoms.

- Cattle coats will have patches of hair loss or in poor condition.
- Rubbing against any kind of gate, railing, feed barrier they can find. When the farm yard is quiet you can easily hear them scratching and creating noise.
- Cattle will rub their necks, shoulders and rumps most common.
- Constant licking and tail swishing with hair loss in some severe cases.

Lice can be difficult to see however it can be confirmed by looking very closely at their hair and skin. Eggs can be visibly seen attached to the shaft of hair in white clumps. (As seen in the picture above) Cattle in good condition generally are less affected by lice than cattle in poor condition or with poor diets. Receiving good nutrition to boost the immune system is a key part in controlling lice.



Clumps of Lice eggs on hair shaft

When to treat or not?

Light infestations will not have any major affect on thrive or growth rates, if numerous cattle are affected, then all animals must be treated in that shed (not few days apart). Even if only one pen seems to be affected, all animals should be treated. Lice spread through direct contact, if only some of the animals are treated, the non-treated animals will continue to carry lice and give it back to treated animals after some time.

There are some lice only treatments available, which come in pour on and injectable versions.

GPS soil sampling

- ✓ ONLINE DIGITAL MAP-BASED RESULTS
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL GRADE AUTOMATIC SOIL SAMPLERS
- ✓ INAB ACCREDITED LAB TESTING
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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

TRACE PACK® EasyWeaner

Respiratory support for weanlings

- Aids in prevention of respiratory infection
- Stimulates immunity
- Improved appetite and reduced stress
- Easier breathing, better thrive



Arrabawn

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Focus on Fertility - Drying Off

Cows are milking well at the moment and many farmers have been feeding cows well into the autumn. It is now time to plan for next year's calving and breeding season. Research at U.C.D. indicates the main area of attention regarding infertility in dairy cows was the **body condition score at drying off**, it was highlighted as the main contributor to fertility/infertility in the following breeding season.

Body condition score, on a scale from 1 – 5, should be in the region of 3.25 to 3.5 at drying off. Cows are more efficient at putting on condition in the later stages of lactation. Dry matter intake is stimulated by milk yield and dry matter intake will decline to about 10-11 Kg/day during the dry period approaching calving, in heifers dry matter intake will drop to about 7 kg / day.

This is normal enough but it is crucial that cows are in good condition going into the dry period. When a cow calves she will immediately start losing body condition. The biggest loss in body condition will occur in the first week after calving. A high yielding cow with a body condition score of 3 at calving could arrive at a body condition score of 1 by week 12 of her lactation. A cow with a body condition score of 1 has only a 17% chance of going in calf at the first service. An average cow might only drop to a body condition score of 2-3 at 12 weeks - so high yielders are most vulnerable if they are dried off in poor condition.

At the other end of the scale, fat cows will have dry matter intake problems as they are likely to eat less as a % of their body weight and are therefore prone to disorders such as ketosis, mastitis etc.

Body condition at drying off has implications for weight loss after calving, heat detection, interval to 1st service, milk protein %, milk yield and ultimately culling rate.

Plan of action – aim to have cows drying off in reasonable to good condition, with a body condition score of 3.25 - 3.5. It is recommended to feed while the cows are still milking for the most efficient weight gain. Feeding

a high energy ration with medium to low protein is best. Fat cows may need to be restricted in their energy intake, possibly by the inclusion of extra straw in their diet in late lactation and the dry period. The consequences of a high body condition score in fat cows is a low dry matter intake pre-calving, which will result in a much higher % weight loss in the 3 weeks after calving.

So Why is it so Important to Condition Score Cows? A Stitch in time.

1. Levels of energy reserves of dairy cows change throughout the year and need to be carefully managed.
2. In early lactation cows use their body reserve, as energy requirements are difficult to manage with concentrates and silage unless fed in large amounts. So body reserves must be built up before calving.
3. Target condition score to be 3.0 – 3.5 at calving so body fat can be used to meet energy requirements after calving.

Remember it's too late to put on condition once cows calve down in poor body condition.

Minerals

Get the balance right.

Dry cow minerals are an essential ingredient in the winter feeding of dairy cows. Minerals should be fed at least once a day and if possible, twice. Selenium and Vitamin E can help in the reduction of Mastitis and high cell counts. Zinc will help improve skin and hoof quality. Copper has been associated with fertility and iodine is essential for calf vitality at calving and heat detection.

The **Arrabawn Co-op Pre-calver** + Trace Pak has been designed with the Arrabawn Co-op area in mind. Many Farmers are starting to dry off cows at present and at this stage of the year body condition score is of the up most importance. You should aim for at least 8 weeks dry period. Thin cows and heifers should be dried off as soon as possible to allow them to put on body condition. One body condition score equals 50kgs LWG.

Silage quality and milk quality!!!

Every year there is huge variation in silage quality --- low dry matter, low energy and low protein. The low protein and low protein quality could have serious implications for the calving cow. In late lactation the pregnant cow has a huge requirement for protein, with the almost full-weight calf and also the preparation for colostrum/ milk production.

The cow will normally have a reserve of protein 'floating' around in her body. This protein reserve will be used for the production of colostrum in early lactation and will also contribute to the overall milk protein yield.

If the dietary protein is not enough to maintain this protein 'reserve' then the cow could develop a protein deficiency which could show up as

- Loss of Appetite, reduce feed intake
- Poor quality colostrum
- Low milk protein
- Low milk yield

In order to correct this protein deficiency, cows should be supplemented with a high protein concentrate, such as **Easycalver** from Greenvale/Dan O'Connor Feeds in the weeks pre-calving. The Easy Calver is a high protein (soyabean) concentrate aimed at boosting the cow's protein reserves in the run up to calving. 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.

After calving the cow should receive a medium protein concentrate to avoid forcing excessive milk production causing loss in condition as she approaches peak milk yield and the breeding season.

If you haven't checked your silage quality yet, it might be worth considering. A silage analysis report will indicate if you need to give your cows extra protein before they calve.

Silage Analysis – now is the time !

For further information contact Dan O'Connor Feeds rep or your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op.

Garda Message



Online Shopping Fraud - Europol eCommerce Media Campaign

In the lead up to Christmas and in particular the Black Friday sales promotion period consumers and eCommerce merchants will be particularly active online and An Garda Síochána and Europol advise consumers and online retailers to adhere to the following online shopping fraud prevention tips....

For the online shopper:

The Golden Rules of Online Shopping

- Ø Understand risks involved - do some research - use brands and shops that are familiar to you
- Ø Check to ensure the website is genuine - type the address yourself and check the spelling
- Ø Check the seller's reviews and ratings
- Ø Be careful how you pay - always use the websites recommended payment site - if none, use credit cards when purchasing as most cards have strong customer protection policy
- Ø Save all documents related to online purchases
- Ø If you don't make a purchase, don't leave identity or card details behind
- Ø Never send card details by email, text or other messaging methods
- Ø Don't send money to someone you don't know - check first

#BuySafePaySafe

For the Online Retailer / eCommerce Merchant:

- Ø Know your product -
 - o Some products are riskier than others ie. easily resaleable small items may present a higher fraud risk
- Ø Know your customer -
 - o If you accept card payments for high value goods you would really want to know who you are selling to - wouldn't you?
- Ø Establish a safe means of payment -
 - o Your card processor can advise when choosing a safe means of payment
- Ø Use a reliable delivery service -
 - o Use a delivery service which you can be assured will offer professional handling of your me

Fertilizer and Soil Analysis and Derogation

The recent provisional report on Climate Change and the Nitrates directive suggests major changes to the way we farm and apply nutrients.

Over the next year or so there will be a big push to collect 'Data'. This data will come from a few areas around the farm

- **Soil analysis for more targeted fertilizer usage leading to more efficient use of fertilizer and correcting the lime status of a particular field.**
- **Silage feed analysis to ascertain the correct concentrate which should be fed to the lactating cows, optimizing milk yield and reducing methane emissions. There may be restrictions on the level of protein in purchased concentrate in order to reduce the level urea in milk – a high milk urea reading would suggest too much protein/ nitrogen in the diet.**
- **Milk recording to identify the lower yielding cows or cows with a high cell count.**
- **Sensitivity testing of milk with a view to using the most suitable antibiotic for the control of mastitis / high SCC.**
- **Silage mineral analysis to identify any mineral deficiencies which may affect fertility performance and predict issues around calving.**
- **Grass growth measurements and reseeded – inclusion of clover in all new reseeds. This clover will increase the digestibility of the sward and will also release nitrogen into the soil.**

With the prevailing very high fertilizer prices, it was never more important to have a plan for the purchase of fertilizer. Many farmers are neglecting to include the phosphate content of feed concentrate in their overall fertilizer phosphate calculations. This can have implications in the event of an 'audit'. It may be a good idea to take a soil sample to determine your Phosphate requirements. You may be using too much fertilizer phosphate, and by cutting back you will have the choice of using the optimum level of feed concentrate.

If you have any queries on fertilizer or feed use contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op.

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. **Sucklerrate** 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 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 **Sucklerrate** , **Greenvale Calf-Rearer**, **Weanling ration** or **HeiferMax** from your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op .
- **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.

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