



Great day at Arrabawn Open Day in Gurteen College.

Arrabawn Co-Op would like to thank everyone who came to support us on the 24th of June. The soft rain that day didn't keep the crowd away and spirits remained high throughout the day. All exhibitors put on a great display and showcased their products/services to the highest standard. We hope that all who attended went home with plenty of food for thought and some new contacts to make

improvements on their farm in the future. The rain did not dampen the spirits of our exhibitors as they made connections with plenty of new customers. To our guest speakers on the day, they provided us with a huge amount of knowledge also. They covered topics such as input costs- the rise in recent times and how it came about, the future of dairying in Ireland, how to become more sustainable and

efficient in the future, milk price outlooks and finally how nitrates restriction will influence the way we farm in the future. It was a great opportunity for farmers to get first hand information from some of the big players in Ireland's farming community. The funds raised in our Draw for Ukraine are greatly appreciated and will help make a difference for the people of Ukraine still fighting a battle. Your

generosity was really appreciated on the day. Our prizes were quickly snapped up by the end the day, which included: JFC Milk Kart, 1 Tonne Fertilizer and 1 Pallet of Feed. Lastly, a big thank you to Gurteen College for their co-operation and helpfulness throughout the whole process. They facilitated anything we asked for and had the grounds of the college looking great on the day.



Bulk Milk Tank FOR SALE

Milk tank for sale is 1350-gallon (6100 ltr) Mueller tank with HiPerForm cooling unit.
Call Cathal on 0872556670 for further details.

Mid-Summer Nutrition to keep yields high.

Cows are passed producing peak yields and will slowly decline in the coming months however there are some actions we can take to help control this.

Milk Volume:

Volume should not decrease more than 2%/week or 10%/month. If the decline in volume is greater than this the cows are showing signs of low energy intake. As grass volume and quality varies throughout the summer due to changing weather, additional concentrates must be given to balance the energy requirements.

Milk Protein:

Protein %'s naturally start to increase at the back end of the year as milk volumes start to decrease. However we tend to see a plateau or flatten off of milk proteins in July. This also indicates poor energy in the diet.

How to manage grass throughout the summer:

There is a fine balance between supplying the cows with fresh grass daily to meet energy requirements and cleaning out the paddock sufficiently.

1. Walk your grass weekly
2. Create a grass wedge, this will help predict grass growth over the coming weeks.
3. Graze paddocks with the correct cover down to 4cm. This will ensure grass re-growth is efficient and prevent stemmy paddocks.
4. Topping paddocks will help get grass to 4cm, especially

with high yielding cows as they will struggle with energy regulation on tight grass.

Is there a benefit to feeding concentrates after peak yield?

Yes, but it is not one answer fits all. You must assess the quality of your grass and the yield of your cows. There is no point in over feeding concentrates when grass is freely available. However, we must not under feed on the other hand.

	Milk Yield supported by grass only	Concentrates required for 28kg Milk	Concentrates required for 32kgs milk
On Target Pre-Grazing Cover	25	1.5kg	3.5kg
Excessive Pre-Grazing Cover	21	3.5kg	5.5kg

Feeding rates will be altered by the type of cows on your herd and EBI. Do not try to copy your neighbour as one doesn't fit all. You must take time to adjust and find what works best for your herd and land. There are plenty of supports available to help you find the best feeding plan for your cows.



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For further information please contact
Dan O Connor Feeds, Limerick on 061-414988



ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND
Contributing to a profitable and sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health

PARASITE CONTROL TASAH CONSULT

A newly developed Parasite Control Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) has now been launched for 2022. This new service is part of the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020, co-funded by the Irish government and the EU. The purpose of the Parasite Control TASAH is to facilitate discussions and planning between farmers and their veterinary practitioners on the best practices around parasite control and trying to minimise the further development of anthelmintic resistance. Resistance is a growing concern and is considered present when wormers no longer kill the target parasites and have become less effective. Parasite resistance and control is a complex problem and requires planning tailored to specific farms. A 'one size fits all' approach is not effective for parasite control. For this reason, AHI encourages a parasite control plan that considers parasite factors, weather, testing, grazing and farm management for an individual farm.

The Parasite Control TASAH can assist farmers by funding a veterinary farm visit and two faecal egg counts and is open to all cattle and sheep farms in Ireland. More information on the programme and how to register is available on the AHI website.



Register at
AnimalHealthIreland.ie
or through your local
veterinary practitioner
or scan the QR code below.





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OFFERS END 15TH AUGUST

Parasite Control TASA: a funded activity for planning for parasite control in the grazing season

As animals go to grass they are exposed to parasitic worms and risk developing clinical signs such as coughing or scouring. Parasitic worms can also affect production with reduced growth rates, reduced fertility and decreased milk yields. Affected animals can be treated, but a comprehensive parasite control plan can help prevent production losses before obvious clinical signs are seen. Anthelmintic (wormer) resistance is also becoming an increasing problem in Ireland, particularly for sheep worms. Resistance is present when wormers don't kill their target worms as intended. This can be a gradual process on farm with treatments becoming less effective over time. A drench test can help indicate if there might be a problem with resistance to certain wormers. Your veterinary practitioner can give advice on this. A newly developed Parasite Control Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASA) has now been launched for 2022. The purpose of the Parasite Control TASA is to facilitate discussions and planning between farmers and their veterinary



practitioners on the best practices around parasite control and trying to minimise the further development of anthelmintic resistance. Parasite control is a complex problem and requires planning tailored to specific farms and production systems. For this reason, a parasite control plan should consider parasite factors, weather, testing, grazing and farm management for an individual farm. The funded Parasite Control TASA will assist farmers by providing a voluntary veterinary farm visit and two faecal egg counts and is open to all cattle and sheep farms in Ireland. Farmers can register for the activity on the AHI website and they will need to nominate a trained participating veterinary practitioner to conduct the visit. More information on the programme and how to register is available on the AHI

website:

A faecal egg count (FEC) can be a useful tool to better understand the levels of parasite contamination on the pasture and whether wormer treatment is necessary for both cattle and sheep. It tests if there are worm eggs, or larvae, in a dung sample from livestock and can also be used to detect coccidia oocysts. It is advised to do a regular FEC for gut worms in first season grazing calves from two months after turn-out as part of a parasite control plan. First season grazing calves initially have no immunity to parasites and are at high risk of clinical, as well as subclinical gut worm infestations. Suckler calves are at low risk until late in the season at weaning when their grass uptake increases. All animals should be monitored closely for coughing, usually the first sign of lungworm. It is rare for adult cattle to show any clinical signs of gut worm infestation, although lungworm can be a concern if they are exposed to very contaminated pastures or have not developed a good immunity to the lungworm.

Summer Scour Syndrome

“Summer Scour Syndrome” is the latest disease to hit young calves grazing. But what is it and how can it be prevented? Here are some simple tips to understand and prevent this disease in your herd. The disease is becoming more prevalent in Irish Herds in recent years.

When: Usually occurs in calves a month or two at grass after weaning or a sudden change in diet- moving from older/stemmy grass to large volumes of green/lush grass. (flush of grass after drought)

Signs: Ill-thrift, scour (watery-brown), losing weight and going backwards. They may seem very empty, hunched back and dull brown coats. It doesn't seem to be contagious, but a whole group can suffer from scour. Sometimes ulcers can be seen in their mouth from acid production and lack of rumination. However, care must be taken to observe for other clinical diseases such as coccidiosis, worms etc. as the calves will be more susceptible to picking up a secondary disease.

Why: Diet is the main influencing factor. The rumen takes a couple months to develop fully and is a very sensitive to sudden changes in diet. The bacteria in the rumen take about 2 weeks to adjust to a new diet. Spring grass is high in oils (CLA- conjugated linoleic acid), which can be quite difficult to digest and adapt

to. When the bacteria are disrupted a change in stomach pH and fermentation occurs in the rumen, causing gas and further acidosis. Spring and green grass is often low in fibre which is key in supporting good rumen health.

How to Prevent:

1. If feeding a large volume of concentrates, spilt the feed in two. If eating large volume of concentrate at once, a calf will feel very full for a couple hours. Then eat a large volume of grass later in day. If grass is leafy this can create acidosis, causing scour. Ideally spilt large volumes of concentrates in two to encourage an even grass intake throughout the day.
2. Provide roughage- Clean straw, hay/haylage or a field with stemmy/older pastures. Roughage encourages chewing, creating saliva which works as an antacid, also roughage is slowly broken down encourage correct rumen function and development.
3. Stemmy older pastures provide good levels of roughage for calves. Avoid low covers of lush grass for 8-10 weeks.
4. High starch feed should be avoided in affected calves.
5. Provide mineral licks to avoid mineral deficiencies in particular copper.

6. Does a Faecal test for worms to check worm burden or coccidiosis. Ruling out a secondary disease/
7. Buffers such as RumBuff can be added to feed to counteract acid production, can complement fibre in the diet nicely (such as hay/straw).
8. Very badly affected calves should be brought back indoors and feed milk and bland diet of hay and small amount concentrates.
9. Avoid abrupt weaning, allow rumen and digestive tract to adjust to new diet gradually.



Preparation for drying off autumn-calving cows

Preparation for drying off autumn-calving cows has started on many herds across the country.

Cows need a dry period for a number of reasons, including that:

- Build up body condition ahead of calving and early lactation;
- Regenerate mammary tissue in preparation for milking again;
- It optimises the benefits of hormonal changes that occur around calving.
- Cows should be dried off based on their calving date and body condition score (BCS), so it is important that calving dates are monitored. Cows that are in a BCS that is too low should be dried off earlier as this will allow them to build up body condition ahead of breeding.

This year's autumn-calving herds will be the first to deal with the new antibiotic regulations at drying off. This will mean that selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) will likely

have to be used on these farms and for many, it may be their first experience with SDCT. And with SDCT now being used on farms, hygiene at drying off has become increasingly more important. Antibiotics have acted as a safety net for bad practice at drying off in the past, but this is no longer a fallback. Research has indicated that 50% of all clinical mastitis cases that occur in the first 100 days of the next lactation, can be attributed to the drying off process. So with that in mind, farmers must be diligent to dry-cows to a high standard.

Procedure

Have the necessary equipment ready, including: A clean apron; disposable gloves; teat wipes/cotton wool; methylated spirits; marker; head torch; and intermammary tubes;

It is important not to dry-off cows when you are tired, hungry, or stressed. Only dry off 20 cows at

any one time and have additional help available to assist. Have a system in place for cleaning, sterilising teats and tubing, and repeat for each cow; Ensure teats are disinfected post-tubing and clean the parlour between batches to maintain a clean environment. To avoid any errors, good identification of cows and accurate record-keeping are essential; Following dry-off, keep the cows standing for a minimum of 30 minutes in a clean yard before putting in a dry field or clean cubicles.

Parasite control

Drying off is also good time to treat cows for parasites such as stomach worms or liver fluke. Before treating cows for parasites it is important to firstly determine that a treatment is required for the cows. Treating cows that do not have a parasite issue is not recommended. Dung samples should be taken to determine if there is an issue within the herd.

Budget Time - Fodder Edition

Now is the time to have a look at your fodder requirements for next winter. Have you enough silage? Difficult growing conditions, in May, in many parts of the country has resulted in lower than-expected yields for June-cut silage. Many herds also have been grazing second-cut crops to hold grass on the farm. This could have implications for feed supply next winter. While there is plenty of time to catch up on building feed reserves, it is good practice to gauge the

situation by completing a provisional winter feed budget in July. This can be done in three simple steps:

1. Measure silage pits (length x width x average height in metres) plus count bale stock;
2. Make an estimate of potential second cut area and yield; and,
3. Estimate likely stock numbers for the coming winter.

There are simple templates available to complete calculations on PastureBase (www.pbi.ie) and also

on the Teagasc website. Your advisor is available to help with calculations and to assess options.

Having the numbers done early will result in better decisions made around feed purchases. 1. Measure silage pits and count bale stock. 2. Estimate second-cut area and potential yield. 3. Estimate likely stock numbers for next winter.

Contact your local Arrabawn / Dan O'Connor Feeds representative to discuss options.

The importance of changing your milk liners

Milk liners are made from complex rubber or silicone material and have a limited useful life. The majority of rubber liners are expected to last for 2,000 milkings or six months, whichever comes first. Milk liners lose elasticity over time and this change makes them less effective at fully milking out the cow, resulting in lower milk yield and leaving the cow more vulnerable to infection. Our recommendation is that liners should be changed when they have completed 2,000 milkings.

Key reasons to change liners:

- The milk liner is the only part of the milking machine that comes in direct contact with the cow so their condition is critical for mastitis control and an efficient milking process.
- Over time liners lose tension, absorb fat and hold bacteria.
- Rubber naturally deteriorates over time and exposure to the cleaning products used for machine disinfection accelerates this.
- Speed and completeness of milking decreases.

- Teat end damage and the spread of mastitis bacteria are increased.
- The interior of the liner can also become rough, making it more difficult to clean and disinfect allowing it to harbour bacteria

Herds that have increased in size, with parlour size staying the same, sometimes forget that each cluster is milking more cows now than it might have a few years ago meaning that liners may need to be changed every 3 or 4 months.

To work out exactly when you should change your liners, simply complete the following calculation or use the Teagasc website to use an online calculator.

<https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/farm-management/farm-machinery/machinery-calibration/milking-machine-liner-change/>

$$\text{Number of days in between liner changes} = \frac{2000 \times \text{Number of milking units}}{\text{Herd size} \times \text{Number of milkings per day}}$$

Site Upgrade and Entrance Project



The project has been divided into three phases, phase one which was completed in 2021 saw the demolition of Fogarty's Yard and Railway Bar allowing the construction of a section of the new carpark. Phase 2 commenced at the start of May with the removal of the old carpark facilities storage area and site clearance works. Phase 2 will see the construction of the new weighbridges, Lorry CIP facility, security building and internal road infrastructure and is scheduled for completion in January 2023. Once the internal works are complete in phase two the new roundabout on Kenyon Street can be constructed and the site entrance will switch over from Stafford street.



Phase 2 Works Area



Phase 1 Completed in 2021

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 9482791 Email: farmsupport@arrabawn.ie • Check out our Website: www.arrabawn.ie