



Arrabawn Co-Op Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for 2021 is scheduled to take place on 21st April 2022 at 11.30am. After being held electronically for the past two years due to Covid, the meeting makes a welcome return to the Abbey Court Hotel this year. The AGM will be followed by a Special General Meeting where the Board will recommend the passing of a resolution on the following matters:



- Restructure of the Representative Committee to allow two seats for the East branch and one for the South branch in District 1.
- Introduction of maximum term time for Board
- Introduction of a minimum trading threshold for Board and Representative Committee members

I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Edward Carr Chairman Arraabwn Co-op

Breeding Event 2022

On April 6th, Arrabawn and Teagasc held a Breeding farm walk on the farm on Patrick & Sean Kelly in Ballymagree, Kilruane, County Tipperary. This is was one of our first farm walks since the COVID pandemic began in early 2020. There were over 90 farmers in attendance for what was a very interesting and informative event. Quest speakers on the day were Stuart Childs (Teagasc Dairy Specialist), George Ramsbottom (Teagasc Dairy Specialist), Martin Kavanagh (Munster Bovine Vet), Padraig Costigan & Bernadette Bennett (Teagasc Tipperary advisors). Topics discussed on the day were Dam & Sire selection, Milk Recording, Synchronization & sex semen. Sean gave a very descriptive introduction into the farm and how the Kelly's manage the breeding programme on their farm

Arrabawn would like to thank all the speakers on the day for the excellent presentations given to our milk suppliers. We would also like to congratulate and thank the Kelly family for hosting a very successful farm event.







UKRAINE

A total of €19,490 has been pledged by milk suppliers for the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Donations will be deducted from April milk payment. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

Incorporating Clover Offers a Win Win Solution to Economical and Environmental Sustainability

Incorporating clover in grassland swards has the potential to reduce costs, improve profitability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

How Does It Work

Clover fixes nitrogen. Nitrogen fixation is the process whereby white clover can fix N from the atmosphere and make it available for plant growth. Thereby reducing the requirement for

Benefits of white clover

The benefits of white clover tend to occur from May onwards as sward white clover content increases. The main benefits of white clover inclusion in grass swards are:

- Increased herbage quality compared to grass-only swards in the summer months.
- Increased dry matter (DM) intake in summer and autumn.
- Higher milk production and live weight gain.
- Nitrogen fixation white clover fixes nitrogen (N) from the atmosphere making it available for plant growth.
- Lower requirement for N fertiliser application in summer.

Impact at farm level

On dairy farmers, research has shown that using clover can increase milk solids production 20-48 kg/cow per year and increase net farm profit bv €108-€305/ha. On suckler farms, profitability increased by 14% for the grass/clover system when compared to a 'conventional' pasture system.

How it works to reduce emissions

Nitrous oxide is one of the 3 main greenhouse gases and is given off primarily from slurry stored, slurry spread and chemical nitrogen fertiliser spreading. Incorporating clover into grassland reduces the demand for chemical nitrogen. Therefore, if there is less chemical nitrogen fertiliser spread, there is less nitrous oxide being emitted into the air. Using clover achieves a reduction in nitrous oxide by lowering the chemical N fertiliser use (up to 100 kg N/ha on dairy farms and XXXX on beef farms).

Impact on the environment

Using clover to reduce the use of chemical nitrogen can reduce nitrous oxide emissions by up to 40% on a dairy farm due to reduced chemical N fertiliser application. The reduction is less on drystock farms due to lower

chemical nitrogen use. Clover will help to reduce the carbon footprint of farm and more importantly reduce total emissions on the farm.

Actions farmers need to take

Over a 5-year period aim to have white clover in 100% of your paddocks (at a minimum average annual sward clover content of 20%).

The plan for achieving the target

4-year planTarget: 100% of the farm with 20% clover swards

Use a combination of reseeding and over-sowing

10% reseeding per year

20% over sowing per year Year 1 – Reseed 10% & oversow 20% Year 2 – Reseed 10% & oversow 20%

Year 3 - Reseed 10% & oversow 20%

Year 4 - Remaining 10% & any

ground that clover didn't establish on

Paddocks for a full reseed should be identified as early as possible in the process to avoid over-sowing clover on these

Poor performing, age of sward, weed content etc.

Select paddocks for over sowing to give the best chance of establishment Optimal soil fertility (index 3 or >

- for P & K, soil pH 6.5)
- High perennial ryegrass content Open/low density swards - dense swards prevent light getting to new clover plant, hindering establishment
- Low weed content

Any paddocks that are not suitable for over sowing in the 1st year should have any issues corrected and oversow the following year e.g., improve soil fertility, spray weeds.

Checklist before sowing

- Soil pH 6.2-6.5
- Soil P Index 3+
- Soil K Index 3+
- Infrastructure: Paddock system where each paddock is grazed within 3 days on an 18–21-day rotation?
- Weeds: Whether over sowing or reseeding, have weeds removed before clover is established
- Large leaf varieties silage, Medium leaf varieties - grazing Small leaf varieties - grazing



Feeding the Dairy Cow:

Protein and Energy Balance

If you have noticed low protein on your text messages and cows losing condition lately it may be down to one under lying factor. Not enough energy in the diet and/or low roughage in the diet.



Low Milk Volume Low Crude Protein in the diet

When protein is consumed, the body requires energy to break it down in useable forms and get rid of the by-products such as ammonia. When excessive protein is consumed in the diet, extra energy is required to get rid of the waste products. This energy is taken from the cow's energy stores and "milks off her back" losing weight. Cows can't afford to lose too much condition as it will be needed to start cycling again for the breeding season. The right combination of dairy nut and grass quality must be balanced to ensure energy is available to remove the protein and make milk proteins. Don't be afraid to feed the higher rate of dairy ration to maintain sufficient energy in the diet. Milk production will always be second to ensuring waste is removed from the body. High protein diets must be match with high energy to balance.

Grass Protein %

- Stemmy = 16%
- Leafy = 22-25%
- Average = 20%

Protein Requirments

- Early Lactation = 16-18%
- Mid Lactation = 16-17%
- Late Lactation = 16-18%

While keeping the energy high is key to meet the demands, a buffer can also be offered to help maintain the rumen also. Some dairy concentrates already contain a buffer, however it can be easily introduced without changing feed. A bale of straw (1/2 kg per cow) can be offered. The straw will encourage chewing, saliva and chewing of the cud. The production of saliva is key to maintain and balance the acidity levels in the rumen. The cow will then get maximum efficiency from all feed consumed. Low milk yield is a result of low crude protein in the diet. The cows may need a higher percentage dairy nut, they range from 14-20%. Look at your grass quality and take some samples to analyse quality. Consult your sales rep for more information of the range of feed available from **Dan O'Connors**.

In summary:

- Low protein = low energy, feed extra concentrates to get energy up,
 also include a buffer.
- Low milk yield = low crude protein the diet. Get a higher percentage protein feed.
- Coughing up cud onto ground= acidotic conditions in rumen, give buffer to chew.

Diet and its impact on Fertility

The quality of feeding in the dry period and early lactation is important in achieving good herd fertility. Therefore many issues cannot be solved by

just looking at the diet during the breeding season itself.

It remains important to get some key targets right however, such as body condition score (BCS). The target score for cows during the breeding should be 2.75 plus to improve conception rates.

Nutrition plays a vital role in achieving good herd fertility and that the quality of feeding in the dry period

What can you do if some cows are below target?

It will take a couple of months to fix very thin milking cows by feeding 2-3kg extra meal. Short-term improvements in conception rate will be minimal. If there are thin or non-cycling cows in the herd that are due for breeding, milking once-a-day (OAD) for six weeks can boost fertility. High economic breeding index (EBI) cows have been proven to maintain better BCS across a range of diets, explaining in part why their fertility is better. Following on from this, it is very important to choose high EBI bulls to generate a future generation of high cows. These cows will sustain better BCS across a wider range of diets.

Dietary requirements for fertility

Energy intake drives milk performance, maintains BCS, and improves fertility. Ensure that the herd is grazing the best quality grass possible (1,400kg covers, three leaf stage). For herds that are currently grazing it is recommended that farmers watch residual grass in paddocks after grazing (target 4cm grass left). This ensures make sure cows are cleaning out paddocks efficiently, but not being pinched on intake. The last month has thrown all sorts of weather and supplementation of any deficits of grass must be given in time, no delays.

High quality pasture contains a high level of crude protein (Nitrogen N) which milking cows use with feed energy to make milk protein. Surplus N in the diet may elevate blood and milk urea levels and this may give rise to concerns on fertility. Under good management, bulk milk urea does not explain much difference in fertility between herds. Apply fertiliser N small-and-often during the breeding season; do not overload fertiliser N under drought conditions; and feed high energy 14% crude protein rations at grass to control any risk.

Trace minerals (copper, cobalt, iodine, selenium, manganese and zinc) can affect fertility, if lacking in the diet. There are many boluses on the market which ensure cows get enough of these essential minerals on a daily bolus. They need to be given about a month before breeding to allow the bolus is work most effectively.

The above mentioned is not a quick fix for poor genetics/low EBI cows, poor heat detection methods, thin cows or lack of cow supervision. These steps are key foundation and must be right first. The diets, boluses and energy balancing will compliment and allow for continuous improvement on the basic husbandry needs.



2 kg AberGain • 2 kg AberChoice • 4 kg Gracehill • 3 kg Ballyvoy • 1 kg Pelleted clover Grass Reseeding 2022

Arrabawn Grazing and Silage

At Arrabawn we strive to bring the best grass varieties to our farmers. Over the years we have chosen varieties which deliver high yield s of good quality grass

- Good spring and autumn growth
- · Late heading for ease of management
- · Palatable for good clean out of pasture
- Good ground cover for persistent weed free pastures
- High PPI (Pasture profit Index) one figure to combine all the economic traits
- This years mixture, containing AberGain, AberChoice, Ballyvoy and Gracehill, a new late tetraploid on the DAFM Recommended List. Containing all late heading varieties, our mixture is designed to deliver in terms of spring, summer and autumn DM yield, quality and silage yield. For 2022, the Arrabawn Grazing & Silage Grass seed mix contains Gracehill & AberGain, the leading 2 late tetraploids on the Teagasc PPI. Ballyvoy and AberChoice once again is the

leading late diploid on the Teagasc PPI and has held this position since 2015. A superb quality, high yielding mix containing 54% tetraploid to maximise the palatability and utilisation of the sward while still ensuring the sward will form a good base. Our mixture contains 1 kg coated white clover, which has the potential to reduce fertiliser nitrogen requirements and improve animal performance. This clover content meets the requirements of farmers in derogation when reseeding.

Multi Species Swards; recently there has been a lot of interest in Multi Species swards. These are seed mixtures which, contain grass and clover as normal, also contain other species such as chicory and plantains to compliment the traditional grass/clover mixtures. The 'other' species have a different growth habit and deeper roots resulting in an enhanced nutrient / mineral profile. The concept has been successfully adopted by many farmers who find they are using less Nitrogen fertiliser over the year. For further information check out the DLF website or contact your local branch of Arrabawn Co-op.



SPECIAL OFFERS



















LIMITED TIME OFFERS

www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie

NEWS -

Grassland Weed Control

The recent dry weather has set the scene for a successful weed control programme. Weeds, especially docks, thistles, nettles and dandelions, have grown well and are now in perfect condition for spraying with an effective herbicide. Your local branch of Arrabawn stock the full range of suitable herbicides to clean up your pasture, either silage or grazing. Keep the weeds out of your silage crop.

Doxstar Pro----contains brushwood killer to kill roots. Will kill clover. Spray 4 weeks before silage or 1 week before grazing.

Forefront ----- excellent product for serious weed problems including docks, ragwort, nettles and Japanese knot weed – it will kill clover. Only use on grazing ground. 2.0 lt /ha.

UpRoot - Contains Triclopyr and 2,4D Ester - Very good on nettles, docks, thistles, briars/brambles and soft weed such as Buttercup, Dandelion, willow herb.

Nettles, Briars, Woody weeds and Furze Bushes

Grazon Pro -----this contains high levels of brushwood killer and the Grazon Pro has the advantage of being able to kill thistles also-----this can be an advantage when spraying under electric fences, where briars and thistles can be a problem.

Thistles and Rushes and Ragwort----spray 2,4-D(D-50) 1 lt/ac + MCPA (M50) 1 lt / ac -spray when the thistles have a flower bud and the rushes are about 24cm high and growing. Will also control creeping buttercup(crowfoot).

New sown leys ----- the range of clover friendly herbicides is limited but it is still important to control weeds in your new grass. **Eagle** is clover friendly and should be effective against seedling docks before they start to interfere with the new grass. Where clover is not an issue **Pastor Trio** is the preferred herbicide to remove competition from your young sward.

Newport's Super Sunday sale









Useful Tips for April:

Number of straws: it takes about 5.5 straws to end up with one heifer milking in the parlour in 2021. How many heifers do you want entering your herd in 2021? If you want 25 milking heifers then you must use at least 140 dairy straws across cows and maiden heifers this season.

Labour saving: How many grazing's are you getting from each paddock? Are you using a 12 hour wire throughout the summer? Farmers experience suggests that three grazing's per paddock minimises work with wires and is ideal for grass growth and animal performance.

Grass tetany: Cows require 30gms of Magnesium (Mg) daily to prevent tetany. This is the equivalent to 60mg of Calmag. Sulphur: 30% of Irish soils require sulphur for optimal growth. Soils which most likely show deficiency are sandy free draining soils with low organic matter. When purchasing Nitrogen in bulk, use a sulphur containing product in high-risk areas. Heat detection: Over 70% of cows come into heat between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. On average each heat lasts for 9 hours (range 3-30 hours). This is a very short window of opportunity to identify cows. Also, as the number of cows in heat in the herd decreases, so too does mounting activity. Therefore, after the first three weeks of breeding, it is critical that you continue to use a heat detection aid.

Grass Wedge: Farmers who walk the farm each week and use the grass wedge to make decisions have full control over the nutrition of their herd. They know for the next week or 10 days if there is too much feed (grass getting stemmy) or too little feed on the farm. Neither is good for the cow. Aim for a pre grazing cover of 1300-1400 kg DM/Ha.

Fertiliser N: 100 units/acre of N by May 1st. Aim for 1 unit of N per day of rotation. First cut silage requires 100 units of N, 16-20 units of P and 120 units of K.

April grazing: Grass growth from the 1st to the 10th of April is usually around 30kgDM/day while at the end of the month it is likely to average 70kg-90kgDM/day. This means that we often go from a period of grass shortage to surplus very quickly. At this time of year, it is essential to get out and walk the farm. Estimating the average farm cover will help you make the correct decisions over the next few weeks. From now on, we want to consistently feed cows grass covers of 1200-1400kgDM/ha. These covers have a greater proportion of leaf and thus are better quality than covers of more than 2000kgDM/ha which have a greater stem proportion. Feeding cows appropriate covers ensures they reach their potential at peak milk production.

- 1. Highly stocked farm (3.6 MP SR) where daily grass growth meets daily herd demand. Average farm cover is 450kg DM/ha. No formal first cut silage is planned to be taken from the milking platform, instead weekly surpluses should be taken out as bales. When herd demand matches grass growth it is easier to manage grass and feed adequate covers of 1200-1400kgDM/ha to cows.
- 2. Lowly stocked farm (2.5 MP SR) where daily grass growth exceeds daily herd demand. Average farm cover is 950kg DM/ha. This farm should close 30% of the milking platform for silage. This should reduce average farm cover to the target of 500-600kgDM/ha. Failing to take out these paddocks will result in "an explosion" of grass at the end of the month, rotations will slow down resulting in cows consistently grazing high covers (>2000kgDM/ha) which will impact milk protein and yield.

Milk Recording-It's never too late to start!!

As you are all aware, there are many changes coming in the future regarding antibiotics usage and prescribing, sustainability and productivity of Irish herds. All these changes may seem daunting but there is one tool which can be utilised on farms that is MILK RECORDING.

Milk Recording shouldn't be looked down upon as another cost or additional job, but should be seen as beneficial, data generator. 6 milk recording over the year works out at about €10-12 per cow and can increase you herd profits by up to

€120/cow. That's a 10-fold return! Some benefits include:

- Breed the best cows with the best bulls, select your best cows to produce the best quality calves to drive your herds EBI and productivity.
- Lower your bulk tank SCC. Identifying and removing even 2/3 cows with the highest SCC can reduce your bulk tank SCC by almost half! Your bulk tank average can drop from 300-400 SCC to 200 SCC just by culling 2-3 cows without changing anything else
- Avoid penalties and achieving industry targets (Less than 200,000 SCC average)
- Changing laws and targets regarding antibiotic usage (at drying off NB) or sustainability will be made much easier when milk recording is in place.
- Compensation for reactor cows in TB testing is much greater in herds who milk record vs herds that don't.
- More mature herds, less culling, less cases mastitis,
- Ensure all cows are paying their way in the herd.

How often should I Milk Record? **Spring calving herds:** 6 times (min. 4 times/year) and **Autumn calving herds:** 4 times. Roughly every two months. 60 days post first cows calving and 6 weeks prior drying off.

Milk Recording Organisations available:

Munster Bovine - 022 43228 Progressive Genetics - 046 954 0606

Ring today to get start Milk Recording, it's never too late!

"Why Wait" breeding programme.

So, you've got a plan agreed to treat non-cyclers to ensure they ovulate and are inseminated on the first day of mating.
What's next? There is another step that helps tighten calving spread, with all the associated benefits including more days in milk, better early submission rates next spring and improved cow longevity. The Why Wait programme is designed to help

maximise early in-calf rates,

as part of a proactive mating

management strategy. The principle is simple. A single prostaglandin (PG) injection (e.g., cyclase) can bring cycling cows forward a week, meaning that essentially all cows in the herd ovulate and are inseminated in the first two weeks of mating. For instance, cows cycling during the week before the planned start of mating (PSM) are generally not mated until the third week of mating. By identifying this group, and then a few days later

administering a single injection of PG, the cow's cycle much sooner, during the first two weeks of mating.

Similarly, cows on heat 7 to 14 days prior to PSM can be injected with PG two days prior to PSM, and will also cycle sooner, in the first few days of mating, instead of during the second week of mating. Cows cycling between 14 and 21 days prior to PSM will cycle in the first week of mating anyway, so no PG is required for

this group.

A large New Zealand study last season showed that cows mated to a heat brought forward by PG have slightly higher conception rates than their untreated herdmates, and that a higher PG dose led to significantly higher in-calf rates

It is important to note the success of a Why Wait programme does depends on accurate heat detection, as well as good organisation and planning.

New Veterinary Medicines laws -June 1st 2022

Following on from the new rules introduced in January this year regarding antibiotic prescriptions, worming products are going to fall into the same category also.

1st June 2022

Tighter controls are coming into force on June 1st 2022 for:

- Worming product Injectable, drenches, pour-on
- Lice/Fly treatments
- Coccidiosis/Cryptosporidium treatments
- Fluke products
- Anti-Fungal products

These products will no longer be available without a prescription. Similar to antibiotics, you must contact the vet to create a prescription in order to purchase any of the above products. After the 1st of June, you will not be sold any of these products without a valid prescription. The above products will not be given out over the counter freely, as they are today. This is prevent resistance building on Irish Farms.

Contact your local Arrabawn Store today to discuss the changes coming in June and ensure you are ready for the year ahead.

Contact your local Arrabawn Store today to discuss the changes coming in June and ensure you are ready for the year ahead.



Ned is farming along with his father William in Ballydrennan, Ballycommon, outside Nenagh in County Tipperary. Ned is married to Eleanor and they have three children, Liam (aged 10), Orlaith (aged 8) & Eoin (aged 6). Ned's father William purchased the farm of 13ha at Ballycommon in 1973, however the

farm has grown in size over the years. The Kelly's have been supplying milk to Arrabawn Co Op since 1973. Ned had a great passion for farming since a young age and he took over the farm full time in 2006. Ned also has a keen interest in music and up to recently, Ned thought music classes outside of his farming life

Ned is milking 140 cows on a 51ha milking platform. In total, Ned is farming 121 ha of which some is owned and leased. The overall stocking of the farm is 1.54 LU/ha (129 kg N/ha in 2021). Last year the farm sold 537kg of Milk Solids to Arrabawn Co Op. The EBI of the herd is €137 with a team of 5 bulls chosen through the sire advice on ICBF for the upcoming breeding season which will begin on May 1st. To date, 90% of the herd has calved and the

Arrabawn Signpost Farms Ned Kelly

second rotation began on April 5th. The cows are grazing covers of 1300-1400kg DM/ha. The cows are producing 29L per day at 4.06% Fat, 3.41% Protein and 2.23kg of MS per day. The cows are out day and night and are getting 5kg of meal per day in the parlour. Ned plans to continue feeding the 5kg of meal per day until after the breeding season ends. The milking platform of 51 ha has received

The milking platform of 51 ha has received 2000 gallons of slurry per acre and 46 units of Protected Urea. Soil samples were taken in January 2022 and the Nutrient Management plan will determine the next steps in the fertilizer programme for the year. The silage ground also received 2000 gallons of slurry per acre and 80 units of Protected Urea. There is 28 ha closed for first cut silage in 2022. The planned cutting date is the 20th of May. Luckily for Ned, is has over 50 ha of silage left over from the last few years.

Ned joined the Arrabawn & Teagasc Signpost Farms Programme in 2021. The focus in 2022 is breeding management, grassland management, optimizing soil fertility & reducing chemical fertilizer inputs. The overall aim of the programme for Ned is to reduce his overall Carbon Footprint. Ned's current Carbon Footprint stands at 0.79 CO2 Eq FPCM (from Bord Bia SDAS Data).

NEWS

Bolus-For all age groups!

Although boluses are primarily aimed at dairy cows, there are boluses for all aged cattle, young to old. There are many benefits to giving boluses to your cattle. Most soils across Ireland have an "antagonist" in the soil. The most common ones are high amounts of Iron, Molybdenum and sulphur present in soil. These elements attach to the trace minerals and make them unavailable to the animals digestive system. Boluses ensure the correct amount of these minerals are available daily.

Dairy Cows:

 A bolus will ensure all trace elements and minerals are in constant and even supply. Every cow is getting the same dose daily. No spike or drops in daily absorption rates.

- · Once off procedure, last for 6 months.
- Copper, cobalt, iodine, selenium, zinc, and manganese are all essential for fertility in cows. In order to cycle and retain pregnancy's all these minerals must be available to the cow.
- The cost of a bolus is roughly the same as an Al Straw. Ensuring the cow goes in calf on the first service will help reduce Al bills and ensure compact calving.

Calves:

- Calves are continually growing and need to be supported to ensure they meet growth targets.
- Calves are very susceptible to mineral deficiencies. The most common one

is copper deficiency, which is clearly visible with dry hair and a brown tinge to their coats.

- Calf bolus are available and work for 4-6 months, the summer grazing months
- Growth rates are improved when all minerals are available in the calves body.
- Avoid labour-some administration of tonics and drenches, once off procedure.

There are no down side to giving an animal a bolus, no matter what age they are. It will benefit all animals.

Contact your local Rep or call in store for information.

SAVE THE DATE- 24TH JUNE 2022

Arrabawn Co-Op along with Gurteen College are hosting an Agri Information Day this June.

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

BreederMaX

Next Generation Dairy Fertility Feed

Triple Action Fertility Benefit:

- Highly Glucogenic formulation to reduce Dairy Cow Body Condition Loss.
- · Unrivalled formulation in the marketplace
- Includes De Odorase to help reduce the negative impact that high nitrogen spring grasses has on fertility.
- Contains a unique combination of solutions proven to increase immune status – Sel-Plex, BioPlex Zinc & Copper, Biotin & increased levels of Vitamin E.



For more info contact: Ballysimon Road, Limerick, 061-414988



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