



## Area Meetings

The following Area Meetings have been arranged for January 2023.

|          |                        |   |          |
|----------|------------------------|---|----------|
| Loughrea | Lough Rea Hotel & Spa  | Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 | 8 pm     |
| Southern | Hibernian Hotel Mallow | Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023    | 11.30 am |
| Nenagh   | Abbey Court Hotel      | Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023    | 8 pm     |
| Eastern  | Talbot Hotel, Carlow   | Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023     | 8 pm     |
| Birr     | County Arms Hotel      | Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023    | 8 pm     |

**We look forward to meeting you at one of these locations.**

## Holiday OPEN HOURS

**DEC 23 9AM to 6PM**  
**DEC 24 9AM to 1PM**  
**DEC 25 CLOSED**  
**DEC 26 CLOSED**  
**DEC 27 CLOSED**  
**DEC 28 9AM to 6PM**  
**DEC 29 9AM to 6PM**  
**DEC 30 9AM to 6PM**  
**DEC 31 CLOSED**  
**JAN 1 CLOSED**  
**JAN 2 CLOSED**  
**JAN 3 9AM to 6PM**  
**JAN 4 9AM to 6PM**



## Health Certs

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. The certificate 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. 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 2023 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.
3. Please send a completed health certificate by the 31st of December 2022 to Arrabawn Co-Op Stafford Street Nenagh Co. Tipperary



## CalfCare On-Farm Events

SUPPORTED BY



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# CALFCARE 2023 'BACK TO BASICS'

**CALF REARING KPIS** What are the main key points to look out for when rearing calves - mortality, morbidity?

**KNOW YOUR NUMBER** What is the correct number of calves to rear in a particular shed and what are the alternatives if you have more calves than the optimum number - looking at calf comfort and alternative housing options.

**FEEDING CALF MILK REPLACER** Management around the feeding of milk replacer fed either manually or using automatic feeders.

**MANAGEMENT AT WEANING** Best practice at weaning which can minimise the risk of 'summer scour syndrome'.

**SIGNS OF CALF HEALTH** Identifying signs of good health and illness - managing pain relief and vaccination.



This series of CalfCare events is being run with the help and support of the local Co-op in each region.

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| DATE         | ON FARM VENUE   START TIME: 11.00 AM                                    | EIRCODE  |
|--------------|---|----------|
| WED 04 JAN   | MICHAEL AND ODHRÁN MURPHY<br>Bigpark, Latteragh, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary  | E45 HD89 |
| THURS 05 JAN | PIERCE BREEN<br>Newtown, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick                      | V94 667T |
| FRI 06 JAN   | WILLIAM HEALY<br>Ballyshonin, Berrings, Co. Cork                        | P12 H213 |
| MON 09 JAN   | JOHN CULLINANE<br>Shanaway, Ballineen, Co. Cork                         | P47 AK80 |
| TUE 10 JAN   | LISAVAIRD DAIRY FARM<br>Kippagh, Dunmanway, Co. Cork                    | P47 TV08 |
| WED 11 JAN   | KIERAN AND NIALL O'BRIEN<br>Grallagh, Grange, Co. Waterford             | P36 WK79 |
| THURS 12 JAN | KEVIN MURPHY<br>Chapel, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford             | Y21 E2T3 |
| FRI 13 JAN   | JOHN ROCHE<br>Hacketstown, Co. Carlow                                   | R93 WE1N |
| TUE 17 JAN   | DONAL AND EILEEN McSWEENEY<br>Knockardrahan, Kanturk, Co. Cork          | P51 EY62 |
| WED 18 JAN   | MICHAEL BURNS<br>Muckenagh, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway          | H53 ND32 |
| THURS 19 JAN | PADRAIC AND PAT KENNEDY<br>College Hill, Templemore, Co. Tipperary      | E41 Y273 |
| FRI 20 JAN   | EOIN CORRIGAN<br>Batterstown House, Trim, Co. Meath                     | C15 HHF2 |
| TUE 24 JAN   | JOHN, CARMEL AND JOHN JR KING<br>Shanrath, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick | V42 P272 |
| WED 25 JAN   | DAVID SOMERVILLE<br>Moysdale, Killanley, Ballina PO, Co. Sligo          | F26 N2H2 |
| THURS 26 JAN | BALLYHAISE AGRICULTURE COLLEGE<br>Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan                 | H12 E392 |



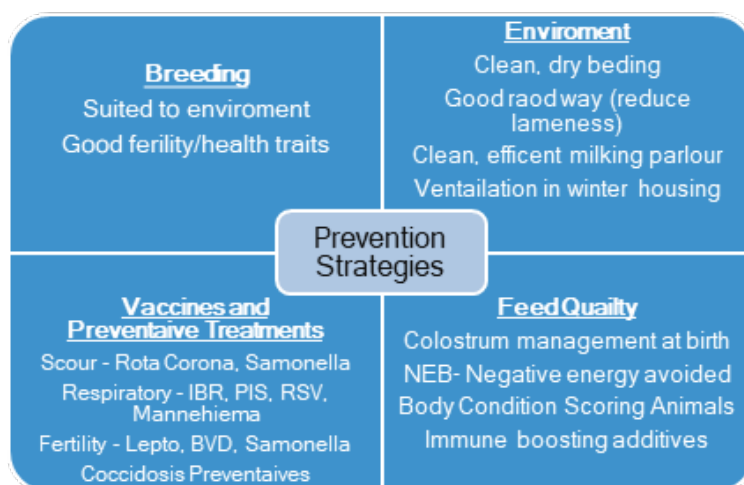
## Some things to think about going into 2023

As you may have heard, there will be some new changes coming down the line to make Irish agriculture more sustainable. These changes may seem daunting at the start however there is many supports available to help make the transition as smooth as possible. Irish Farmers will need to be open minded, willing to accept help and adapt to the new guidelines.

These changes should not be seen as negative, but as a chance to evaluate your current situation and make changes for the better. Antibiotics will not be as readily available as before but it shouldn't be an excuse to affect profitability of your farm. The animal's welfare will not be affected. All sick animals will still be treated with the care that is required; more prevention strategies will be needed to reduce the number of sick animals.

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 EU laws regarding antibiotic usage was implemented. The aim is to reduce the volume of antibiotics used throughout the farm. One particular area which will be focused on is drying off. Selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) will be implemented on farms will meet the criteria. Milk Recording will be a major player in SDCT, as individual cow data is required. In order to get an antibiotic tube for a cow at drying off, it must be backed up with data to prove the antibiotic tube is needed. This change may cause worry about the SCC reading next spring, but the addition of Milk Recording will benefit the herd in the long run. You can identify the most profitable cows for breeding replacement heifers, remove potential cull cows, and reduce the cost at drying off.

If problems are regularly occurring on the farm, now is the time to look ahead, plan, prepare and prevent these issues occurring again in 2023. Is there an outbreak of scour with new born calves every year? Review the housing conditions, was there a draft? Enough dry bedding? Colostrum management? Vaccines used? Some small changes could make a big difference in reducing issues. Coughing weanlings in the autumn, there are many respiratory vaccines available on the market to prevent coughing in calves. When the vaccines are administered alongside good worming protocols weanlings will remain healthy and thriving.





# SPECIALS



**ONLY  
€35**

### Calf jacket

4976340 - calf coat thermo plus  
breathable 80cm



### Electrolytes

4314014 - arralyte + calf electrolyte  
€60 for 15qty  
0262504 - lamb volostrum (50gr one sachet)  
€25 for qty 10

### All teats

0330423 -

peach teat - pink with thread  
0330487 - 10 pk milk bar teats  
0331837 - lamb teat  
black pull-on  
23052645 - hiko white  
lamb teat pk 20

**ALL TEATS  
EXTRA  
10% OFF**



**ONLY  
€35**

### Iodine

0262288 - iodine  
solution 10% 2lt



**SET 2  
ONLY  
€7**

### Calving ropes

0332206 - calving  
jack ropes



**ONLY  
€43**

**ONLY  
€36**

### Forks

0322242 - darby  
manure fork lh  
f105dlhr

20003077 - darby  
hayfork 3 pr lh  
f304 d48lhr



**ONLY  
€160**

### Hip clamp

0332383 - cow  
lifter hip clamp type  
900kg max



**ONLY  
€250**

### Calving jack

0332216 - calving  
jack tecnall c/w  
moorepark hd



### Tail Tape

4976261 - Ritchey tail tape red  
45m (all colours)  
An extra 10% off  
4976260 - Ritchey tail tape  
green 45m  
4976262 - Ritchey tail tape  
yellow 45m  
4976263 - Ritchey tail tape blue  
45m



### Dairy supplier post.

Little Stars pre school Rath Birr Co Offaly learnt all about dairy farming and would like to thank Arrabawn co-op for the generous donation of milk and yogurts. Deirdre Holloywood (Teacher) and Liam Guinan farmer and Arrabawn milk supplier Birr. Kids left to right Kate Anna Róise and Millie.

## AHI CellCheck Tip - Collecting sterile milk samples



Whether you are collecting a milk sample for SCC analysis or to determine what type of bacteria are present by culturing the sample, a sterile milk sample is essential to provide accurate results.

There is a specific procedure to follow to collect good quality milk samples. Bottles must be sterile (not just clean) and teat ends must be scrubbed with 70% alcohol to disinfect them adequately. The step by-step guide below tells you how to collect the milk.

If you cannot get the sample to the lab on that day, fresh samples can be stored by freezing for up to four months without any negative effect on most major mastitis pathogens.

### Collecting milk samples:

- Sterile sample bottles-  
**NO PRESEVRATIVE TABLET NEEDED.**
- A marker to label the bottle.
- Disposable gloves.
- Disinfectant/cleaning solution.
- Paper towels.
- A mixture of 70% alcohol and cotton balls or disinfecting teat wipes for

disinfecting teat ends.

- A cool dry place to store samples before delivery or freezing.

### Label the bottle

- Date, the cow's ID and the quarter sampled.

### Put on disposable gloves

### Clean and dry the teats

- Clean the teats with running water and disinfectant/cleaning solution.
- Dry with a paper towel. Completely disinfect the end of the teats to be sampled. This step is critical!
- If you are sampling more than one teat, disinfect (for a minimum of 10 seconds) the farthest teats first.
- Check the cotton ball/wipe. If it is dirty, repeat the scrub using a clean cotton ball until no more dirt seen.

### Get the sterile bottle ready

- Remove the cap, avoiding touching the inside surface of the cap or bottle.
- Squeeze the first couple of squirts of milk onto the ground.

### Collect the sample in the bottle

- Hold the bottle at an angle

(to avoid anything falling into it) at least 3 -4 cm from the end of the teat.

- If you are collecting a combined sample from all quarters, move the bottle away from the first teat and repeat the initial squirts of the next teat before moving the bottle back.

**Take the first samples from the teats closest to you. Try to get the same amount from each teat.**

**Replace the cap and secure it tightly and keep in a cool dry place until it can be refrigerated, delivered or frozen.**

**If there are any obvious contaminants or for example the lid was dropped, then take the sample again, starting with sterilising the teats.**

**Deliver the sample to the veterinary clinic or laboratory that day, or freeze (for up to 4 months).**

**Wash your hands with running water and dry using a paper towel after each cow, including the last cow.**

## Prep starts now for Spring calves!

Spring can be the busiest time of the year so getting yourself prepared as possible when the cows are dried off will save you time when calves hit the ground in January or February.

It is important that sheds in which calves will be born in or moved to are thoroughly disinfected prior to spring. Calves are born with zero immunity so care must be taken to protect them from diseases. Remember back to last spring, did you have an issue with calves getting sick? Now is the time to tackle those disease not when the calves get sick next spring.

Below are some things that will help with common diseases:

- Vaccines – Rota, Corona and Salmonella can all be vaccinated against.
- Bacterial diseases can be prevented through disinfectants.
- Ensure all milk feeders are washed, disinfected and teats changed.
- Water drinkers, hay racks, concentrates troughs are thoroughly cleaned.

Prepare a list of commonly used equipment in spring and ensure you are well stocked up and not panic buying when calving starts. Ensure you have

the following ready to use and available:

- Calving Jack- clean and working efficiently
- Calving Jack rope – clean and spare available
- Calving gloves
- Lubricant
- Calf Jackets
- Rehydration powders/tablets
- Bottles of calcium
- Naval spray
- Ear taggers – working correctly
- Containers to store and freeze colostrum when needed.
- Calving gates – open and closing correctly, head gate working.

Calf Jackets are a very undervalued tool on many farms. Calf jackets are vital to use when you have a small, weak or ill calf. The jacket will ensure that the calf remains warm and allow for a quicker recovery. A calf wears a jacket, all energy can be used to thrive and recover from an illness, rather than trying to keep warm. Having a few calf jackets on the farm will greatly help your calves next spring.



## Ukraine Donation

Following on from a very successful event in Gurteen College in June 2022 Arrabawn Co-Op raised €500 for “Ukraine for Ireland” through a raffle on the day.

The money has been successfully donated to the well-deserved cause. We would like to thank all people who contributed to the raffle on the day.

## Return to milk in New year

You must give Arrabawn Co-Op 5 days’ notice before returning to milk in the New Year. You can contact your local advisor to let them know your intentions to return to milk production. It is also important to notify your lorry driver.



Oisín Sullivan was very busy this year making a wooden model of an Arrabawn milk collection tanker for his Junior Cert woodworks project. Oisín’s dad Derek is one of our hauliers. Very well done to Oisín, great detail and superb finish on this piece of work.



## How to ensure hygiene standards remain high this winter.

For the next number of weeks spring-calving herds will be producing milk off cubicles, while also beginning the process of drying-off cows. It is important during this period that hygiene standards are maintained, so the milk quality does not decrease.

### Hygiene standards

Maintaining hygiene standards from cubicles is much more difficult compared to grass, as the bacterial load placed on cows is much higher. The cubicle shed will harbour much more bacteria compared to a paddock. When outdoors cows are much cleaner and coats do not carry or build up any dirt.

If standards slip, somatic cell count (SCC) and mastitis cases could increase within the herd. This is an issue as we do not cows picking up infections prior to drying off and passing infection from one to another. It is important that the number of potential bacteria a cow is exposed to when in the cubicle shed is low. Cubicles should be limed twice daily and excess dirt should be removed. Scrapers should also be running regularly to ensure that dung does not build up in the shed. Cows should also not be allowed to walk or lie too far up into the cubicle. When lying down or standing on the cubicle their back end should be over the edge of the cubicle. So that when the cow dungs, it will end up on the floor not on the cubicle. Some corri pipe or rope can be used to create a breast bar, to prevent cows walking too far into the cubicle.

### Milking

Cows' teats are likely to have a higher number of bacteria present compared to other times of the year. Because of this, it is important that they are cleaned prior to clusters being attached. When milking, it is important that clusters are attached to clean, dry teats. To achieve this pre- and post-teat spraying may be required, along with wiping of the teat pre-attachment of the cluster. As spring-calving herds move towards drying-off it is important that cell counts are kept under control. An increase in cell counts or a case of clinical mastitis at this stage of the lactation is a concern – particularly in a cow you had planned to use selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) on. Cell counts need to be closely monitored and any increases investigated to determine the cause.

## How to maximise your liver fluke treatments this winter

Fluke treatments are a vital part of your herd health plans when cattle are indoors. However, you must ensure you are being efficient as possible and get the best results from the product used.

1. There are numerous products on the market for fluke. The price range can vary between brands, the cheapest may not always be the best option. Ask your vet or staff in store which are the best products to use. The product may initially seem cheaper, but could have a larger dose rate, so work out more expensive as you have to buy multiple bottles of product. Where as you might only need one bottle of the more expensive brand.
2. Many companies use the same active ingredient but with different names, branding etc. If you are concerned about cattle developing resistance, you need to switch up the active ingredients, not just brand names.
3. Timing is key to ensure an effective treatment. Some products target early stages of fluke, which should be given 2-3 weeks post housing. Some products target adult fluke so should be treated at least 10 weeks after housing. Make sure you read all the labels and dose at the correct time.
4. Ensure all guns/applicators are calibrated and worked correctly. You must ensure all animals get the correct dose. Under over dosing animals will not give efficient or reliable results.
5. Cattle must be weighed to ensure you are giving the correct dose rate. It can be difficult to accurately guess the rate of cattle. When cattle are grouped in similar sizes bunches, pick out 4-5 animals to weigh and use their weights an average. Each evenly sized group should be weighed, don't assume all cattle weigh the same.

