



Calving Checklist - get stocked up !

***Arm Length Gloves *Lubricating Gel *Calving Jack and Ropes* Colostrum* Calf Stomach Tube* Calf Feeding Bottle and Teats* Iodine* Calf Aid Syringe *Thermometer*Electrolytes(Arralyte)* CryptoEase *Infra-Red Lamp* Rechargeable Lamp * Milk Replacer (TopStart PEP) * Calf Warming Jacket * Transition Cow Mineral**

From your local Arrabawn Store

Remember :- ensure the calf gets 3 litres colostrum within the first 2 hours of life

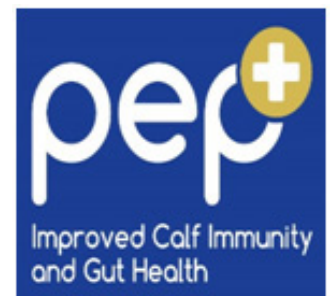
Remember: - ensure the calf gets 3 litres colostrum within the first 2 hours of life.

Get your calves off to a TopStart!



TopStart Milk Replacer has improved its formula to include a herd health Pep+ package. The formula now contains added Probiotics, extra Vitamin E and Prebiotics. This highly nutritious powder contains 24% crude protein, with an expertly picked blend of amino acids sourced from whole milk. Added oils/fats and nutrients to fill 100% of a young calf's dietary needs

Prebiotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act in Large Intestine • Support absorption of minerals by lowering the pH • Protect against bad bacteria
Vitamin E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antioxidant, protect body against free radicals • Damage enzymes, DNA, proteins and cell membranes • 500mg/kg product (vs 300mg in traditional)
Probiotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in the Small intestines • Support good bacteria and introduce new bacteria • Strengthen the immune system



How to feed: 3L twice daily

OR

375gs powder in 2625mls water = 3L (12% solution)
525gs powder in 2475mls water = 3L (15% solution)

Key advantages:

- Performance: Studies show that replacement heifer calves with higher growth rates in the first eight-to-10 weeks of life have significantly improved first-lactation yields and fertility performance;
- Reduced risk of scour: Milk replacer is consistent and acidified to improve digestion and decrease the risk of scour;
- Earlier weaning: Whole milk contains very high levels of fat and energy. This delays solid feed intake, rumen development and ultimately weaning;
- Health: Feeding antibiotic milk greatly increases the risk of development of resistant organisms (at a minimum, do not feed to heifers). Feeding whole milk greatly increases the risk of spreading disease such as Johne's disease.

Greenvale
ANIMAL FEEDS

DO YOU WANT A TROUBLE FREE CALVING SEASON??

If so, feed 2kg of

GREENVALE EAZY CALVER

for one month prior to calving and you will:

- ✓ Provide cows total mineral requirements
- ✓ Reduces silage usage
- ✓ Helps cows calf quickly
- ✓ Helps reduce placenta retention
- ✓ Prepares cow for a successful breeding season

“**Greenvale Eazy Calver** is a feed designed for feeding pre calving to cows. It contains a specially designed pre calving mineral and vitamin package which is delivered in a 2kg daily feeding rate. **Eazy Calver** is based on oats and soya, and formulated at 18% protein. 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.”

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

As you may be aware, the new EU Laws regarding antibiotic usage are being introduced at the end of this month. There will be a change of expiry dates on existing antibiotic prescriptions. **Prescriptions which have an expiry date after the 1st of February 2022 will not be accepted after this date.** For example, if you have a prescription with an expiry of 22/05/22, this must be filled by the 1st of February 2022. This is due to the changing of antibiotic prescriptions from 1 year to 5 days. For further information, contact your Arrabawn rep or call to your local Arrabawn branch.

SPECIAL OFFERS



Calciject



ONLY
€49

Noramax Wellingtons



€287

Milk Heater Bucket & churn 815mm



The **Pink** Screw-on Peach Teat

Peach Teats buy 20 or more @ €4.25 each



AN EXTRA
10% OFF

All Calf Feeders

AN EXTRA
10% OFF



All Milkshake Colostrum products



AN EXTRA
10% OFF

All Aluscrapers



ArraLyte+ buy 10 or more @ 3.00 each



AN EXTRA
10% OFF

All Calving Jackets

LIMITED TIME OFFERS

Today's Calves are Tomorrow's Herd - Successful Calf Health Management

Nutrition is key within the first few weeks of life to set up our calves up for a productive, profitable future ahead. Putting good quality, nutritious feed into your calves in the early days of life will certainly pay you back in the future. Calves which gain an extra 1g/day in the first 8 weeks of life will produce an extra 4L/day of milk in their first lactation.

Check the Supplies!

1. Look through your supplies and ensure you have enough of the basics such as: gloves, lubrication gel, calving jack ropes, feeding tube, iodine spray etc. Get to the shops now to gather all this equipment and have it ready to go.
2. Check equipment such as the calving jack (working correctly and ropes ok), red lamp working, calf coat clean, calving gate swinging easily, teats on feeder in good condition. Ensure they are all working now, don't want to be in situation where equipment is needed and not usable.
3. Refractometer available to check colostrum quality. Remember, must be above 22% to ensure the calf gets enough antibodies in. Look through your store of colostrum frozen in the freezer, anything over a year old should be thrown out.

Colostrum 1,2,3 rule! 1st milk from the cow, within 2 hours of birth and 3L given

Feeding Rates Explained:

Days	Milk Type	Litres per feed	Feeds per day	Concentrates	Roughage hay or straw
1	Colostrum	3L first and 2L after	2 or 3		-
2-5	Transition milk (Milking 2-6)	2.5L	2	Access small amount	Access small amount
6-28	Whole milk or Milk Replacer	3L	2	Ad lib	Ad lib
29-56	Whole milk or Milk Replacer	3L	1 or 2	Ad lib	Adlib

Day 1: When the calf is born the "Colostrum 123" rule must be followed. Calves must receive their 1st feed, within 2 hours of birth, with 3L (8% bw) of good quality colostrum. Any later and the gut wall has reduced ability to absorb antibodies.

Day 2-5: Transition milk (milking 2-6) can be feed to the calf for 2 or 3 days. Although the antibody level is reduced, this milk is still extremely high in fats, vitamins and minerals. This will ensure the calf is receiving a high plane of nutrition to get the best start to life.

Day 6+: Move to whole milk/ milk replacer. The traditional 4L/day of milk is the bare minimum a calf should be feed. Ideally a calf should be getting 6L/day. Calves fed 6L (vs 4L) had better weight gain, better rumen development, better able to consume and utilise concentrates and roughage and less likely to get sick.

Tip: Antibiotic residue milk should not be feed to calves. This is milk from cows receiving antibiotics for any reason (held cleanings/ lameness etc.). The aim of antibiotics is to kill bacteria, they can't define between good and bad bacteria. The newly developing bacteria in the calf's rumen can be damaged by consuming antibiotic contaminated milk. This milk should be dumped only.

Housing and Cold stress:

Cold stress can be often over looked. It can be avoided by:

-Providing plenty of dry, clean straw. This ensures the calf is comfortable, warm, stress free and not using energy to keep warm (which should be used to gain weight).

-Seal off drafts at calf level. If you kneel down on the straw and feel a breeze, the calves are also feeling that breeze, making them cold. Stuffing a gap with straw, placing a sheet of galvanise or rubber matting could make a huge difference to the warmth of the shed

-Calf coats are great investment for smaller or weaker calves. All their energy should be used on thriving and generating a strong immune system, not staying warm.



ONLY
€80.00
for
Sachets

Milking Machine Cleaning-In-Place (CIP)

From January 2021 we should now be fully chlorine free. Going forward we need to be able to solve the issues that can arise from the conversion to chlorine free. There is a perception out there that the chemical is the issue when a farm decided to go chlorine free but in most cases the chemical is not the issue. There are a few things on farm that we need to do when we converted to chlorine free.

1. **Hot water system:** The changeover to chlorine free will never work if you don't have sufficient temperature from your hot water or if you do not have enough hot water on the farm. Most farms have a thermometer for mixing milk replacer for 2 or 3 months of the year but they don't use a thermometer to check the temperature of the hot wash when they are milking for 10+ months of the year.

The targets for a hot wash are

Start of cycle	75°C-80°C+
Mid cycle	58°C-65°C
End of cycle	55°C-57°C

2. Target water usage per unit

Rinse wash	14 litres
Chemical wash	9 litres (10L for 30 units+)
Final rinse	14 litres

3. **Pre and post rinse:** The chemicals we are using were made to work on a machine that has been adequately rinsed with clean water before it is entered into the system. Therefore when rinsing the machine, we must use the advised 14 litres per unit so that milk won't come into contact with the chemicals causing an unwanted reaction which may cause a build up inside the machine. This is a vital step as the phosphoric and nitric based acids can react with milk leaving a

chewing gum like substance inside the machine.

4. **Recalibration and chemical usage:** Another vital step that seems to be overlooked on farms is the recalibration of milk tanks and auto washers or in a manual system the recalibration of the farmer as the usage rates of these new chemicals will be different to your older chemicals. The second reason it is important to recalibrate your machines because these new chemicals will react to older chemicals that may be in the pipes of your system causing blockages in the chemical pumps. We also need to use registered chemicals as the trials have been done on these products and are proven to work you will be fighting a losing battle against TBC when using unregistered products as they may not have 21-29% caustic in their detergents and similarly the acid products will not be up to standard.
5. **Turbulence:** Another issue that seems to be arising on farm is with larger machines (10 units+) is the effectiveness of the air blast on the machine. This unit is normally on the back of the milk line and tends to be overlooked when trying to diagnose a problem. You need to service and make sure these units are working correctly to get an effective wash. Similarly, if your machine is drawing air in the wash trough there isn't enough water in the system which will then limit the turbulence created in the machine and make the wash cycle less effective.

Other issues we are seeing on farm are the lack of routine especially with acid washes. It is advised to do 3-7 acid washes per week as we are now chlorine free. Similarly, if you get into a routine of adding peracetic acid at a rate of 0.15% to the final rinse it will help to lower thermodurics in the machine.

Rubberwear is also a big problem we are seeing on farm. As farmers we think nothing of servicing or changing tyres on a tractor or jeep when they need it but for some reason rubber pipes that are used twice a day every day in milking machines are left unchanged until they disintegrate. Rubber bends, large rubber tubing, long milk tubes are all serviceable parts and need to be changed regularly as they crack and harbour bacteria which will increase your TBC and THD. We need to ask ourselves is everything in the milking machine is working correctly? Is the rubberwear in good condition? Do I have enough hot water? Is it the adequate temperature? Am I using the correct amount of chemical in the wash? It is very easy to blame the chemicals but there are many other questions we need to ask ourselves first.

Contact the Milk Quality Team if you are experience any issues:

Paddy Purcell (Raw Milk Quality Manager) – 087 0963869
 Ronan Moran (Farm Relations advisor) – 087 1469651
 Deirdre Divilly (Milk Quality Advisor) – 087 9152835

Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS)

Advice: If your SDAS cert is due to expire during the busy calving period (Feb to April) you might want to consider pre-scheduling an audit date through Arrabawn for a time that you know that you may be available.

Reminder: All Arrabawn herds must SDAS certified at all times. In the case your cert expires, Arrabawn will not be able to collect milk from your holding.

Contact your milk advisor if you required assistance with your Bord Bia SDAS audit.

Milk Recording

Committing to doing it is the most difficult part because once you start and see the benefits it brings you won't want to stop. To get the most from your milk recording, book your first milk recording for 6 weeks after you started calving. Don't wait until all the cows have calved, as the earlier you begin in lactation the more information it will provide. Herds that are milk recording get a CellCheck Farm Summary Report after each recording highlighting the areas of good mastitis control and areas that could be improved. Milk recording identifies and facilitates the management of problem cows and has the potential to dramatically improve milk price by decreasing your herds overall SCC. What's not to like!

A number of resources are available to help farmers understand the summary report including milk recording organisations, veterinary practitioners and advisors. Make use of this support as failure to act on the milk recording results limits the potential benefits from milk recording.

The most obvious benefit of milk recording is that it allows you to track your best and worst producers. This enables you to make management decisions such as which cows are underperforming and may be suitable to cull, or which cows are high performers and are more suitable for breeding replacements. Milk recording adds significant value to any surplus breeding stock being sold off the farm and if a cow has to be culled for TB, higher levels of compensation will be available if they, or their ancestors have been milk recorded.

To get the best information from milk recording, the first milk recording should be done within 6 weeks of calving and the last recording within a month of drying off and the remainder spread out during the rest of the lactation. For milk recording to inform both mastitis management and drying off decisions, you need to do at least 6 throughout the lactation. ICBF coordinates the Irish milk recording service and there are two types of milk recording services available, the Recorder service or the Electronic DIY service. Contact your local milk recording organisation to find out more and to book in your first recording now, to get the date that suits you!

FOR SALE

3000 lt Bulk Milk tank
 Phone : 0879698153

Portumna Mart

Portumna Mart wishes to advise that a calf/weanling sale will be held every Monday evening @ 5pm commencing Monday Feb 7th 2022. Collection service available if required. For further details please contact the office on 0909 741115.

Usual sales each week –
 Sheep sale every Tuesday @ 10.30am,
 Cattle sale every Wednesday @ 10.30am.



Due to the changing Covid-19 situation we are currently experiencing the decision has been made to CANCEL all CalfCare events nationwide.

A virtual Event will be hosted online by AHI and Teagasc. Links and descriptions of how to access these online events will be shared on their social media pages. We hope you can still join in virtually with us and learn a new trick or two.

Reminder regarding outstanding - Dairy Health Certificate for 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 (DAFM).

On Page 1 - Veterinary Certification of Compliance - the vet must complete the number of animals presented to him as milk yielding animals for certification.

On Page 3 - Herdowner Declaration of Compliance - the herdowner must complete the number of animals presented to him as milk yielding animals to the vet for certification.

These certificates must be submitted to Arrabawn each year. Please send the completed 2021 Certificate to your local Milk Advisor or to:

Arrabawn Co Op, Stafford Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

If you have misplaced your blank Dairy Health Certificate which was sent to you earlier this year, please contact us at 067 41800.

NOTE: Arrabawn will not be in a position to collect milk from your holding unless it has received the fully completed certificate. Please submit ASAP.

January Tillage Update

Now is the time to assess N, P & K status on any ground intended for spring tilling. With rising cost of inputs, such as fertiliser, it's hugely important to know what sort of soil fertility is on the farm. The recommended lists for the spring varieties are now available so don't hesitate in contacting your local branch to see what's available.

Winter Crops are looking relatively well and any later sown crops are coming along nicely too given the extremely mild winter thus far. 1st split of N will not be far away on Winter Wheat & Barley so speak to your local rep on a suitable fertiliser program going forward or at the latest before end of January. Slurry utilisation will be to the forefront this season and, if needs be, testing of Slurry can be looked at with Arrabawn.

Regarding early aphicide or any herbicide program we have a range of sprays to suit your chemical program. We also have a range of trace element and liquid fertiliser products available.

To conclude, on the soil sampling contact your local rep for more information and, to our grain growers, details for spring cropping will be coming to you in the coming weeks.

GPS Soil Sampling

- ✓ ONLINE DIGITAL MAP-BASED RESULTS
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL GRADE AUTOMATIC SOIL SAMPLERS
- ✓ INAB ACCREDITED LAB TESTING
- ✓ IMPROVE YOUR SOIL HEALTH & PRODUCTIVITY
- ✓ SAVE VALUABLE TIME AND MONEY

Contact your local Arrabawn / Dan O'Connor Feeds rep

Please ring 087 6697010 Email: farmsupport@arrabawn.ie • Check out our Website: www.arrabawn.ie

For further information or advice on any subjects or products mentioned in this newsletter

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