



## Major Event in Gurteen College this June!

Arrabawn Co-Op are hosting an Agri Information Open day in conjunction with Gurteen College. There will be over 65 stands on the day with a wide range of companies varying across all aspects of modern-day farming.

This is a great opportunity for you to come and meet face to face with various companies across all aspect of your farming business. The theme of the day is promoting sustainability, efficiency and knowledgeable farming.

We will also have some guest speakers on the day to talk about their views on the future progressions of farming in Ireland.

1. **Liam Woulfe**- CEO Grassland Agro
2. **Conor Mulvihill** - Director, Dairy Industry Ireland
3. **Colin Kelly** – Managing Director - Trading and Member Relations at Oruna
4. **Joe Healy** – Cultivate Non-executive Chair and Director.

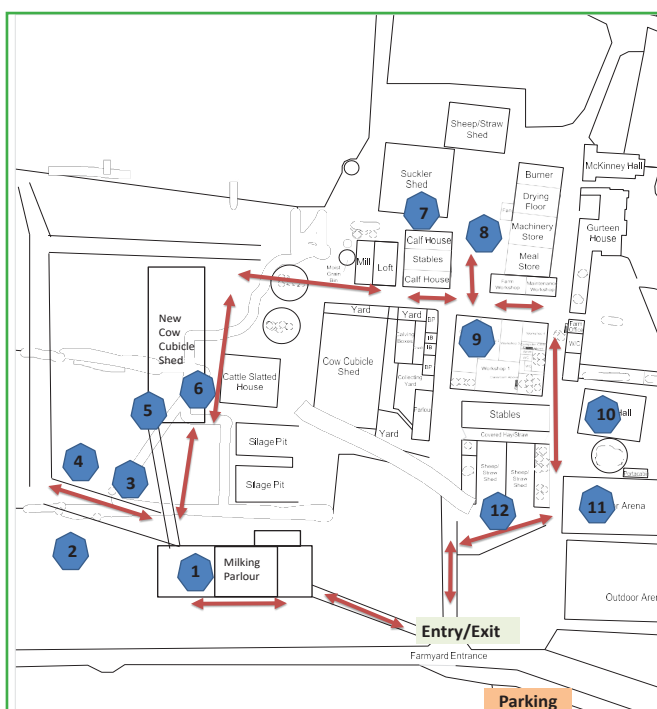
Each guest will give a short talk and then allow for a Q+A session. Get the answers to any questions that have been rattling around your mind!

We are also having a raffle on the day with some great prizes including a JFC Milk Kart, Tonne Fertilizer and a pallet of Feed. All proceeds will be donated to "Ireland for Ukraine". This great charity has helped thousands of

people both in Ukraine by providing essential supplies and Ukrainians who have arrived to Ireland in the past few months.

All are welcome to this free event; it is promised to be a great day out for all involved. There will be something for everyone to enjoy on the day.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
**11am-2pm**  
**Gurteen Agricultural College - E53 TP93**



### Stand and Demo Lay outs

1. Milk Machine layout
2. Machinery
3. Grass, Forage and MSS seed plots
4. Fertilizer, fencing and soil health
5. Cubicle shed design
6. Milk Recording
7. Calves – Genetics and Supplies
8. Farm Yard Safety
9. Lameness and Hoof pairing demo
10. Refreshments
11. Indoor Arena Stands
12. Water Heating systems

## Arrabawn Co-Op Open Day

**Efficient, Sustainable, Knowledgeable Farming**

### Guest Speakers with Q+A

**Liam Woulfe**- CEO Grassland Agro

**Conor Mulvihill** - Director, Dairy Industry Ireland

**Colin Kelly** –Managing Director-Trading and Member Relations at Oruna

**Joe Healy** – Cultivate Non-executive Chair and Director  
**Over 60 stands Showcasing**

- Machinery
- Grass, forage and Multi Species Swards plots
- Fertilizer, fencing and soil health
- Cubicle shed and Milking Parlour design
- Milk Recording
- Calves – Genetics and Supplies
- Farm Yard Safety
- Lameness and Hoof pairing demo
- Refreshments
- Indoor Arena Stands
- Water Heating systems

ALL WELCOME DRAW IN AID OF UKRAINE FREE ENTRY



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## THERMODURICS: TOP TIPS TO MINIMIZE THERMODURIC BACTERIA IN BULK TANK MILK

Thermophilic bacteria survive pasteurisation and adversely affect the shelf life of milk. These bacteria are found in soil, bedding and faeces of dairy cows and can get into the milking plant and bulk milk tank. Thermophilic bacteria can be controlled at farm level by making sure that good hygiene practices are in place, especially during milking. The presence of thermophilic bacteria is indicative of ineffective cleaning somewhere in the milk production process (cow hygiene or milking equipment hygiene).

### **Cow and milking Hygiene:**

- Ensure that teats are clean and dry before milking. If the milk sock is soiled after milking, then teat preparation is inadequate. If you wash teats, they should be dried
- Keep cows in a clean environment – if the udders and teats look dirty, then there is a problem. Keep collecting yards and approach roads regularly scraped
- Keep tails trimmed and clip the udder
- Keep hands/gloves clean throughout milking
- Keep milking clusters clean during milking and if they fall on the floor flush out completely
- Do not wash down clusters while still attached to a cow
- Do not wash down the platform while cows are present
- Cover meal bins in the parlour (some feed ingredients are high in thermophilic bacteria)

### **Milking plant hygiene:**

- Sufficient volume of water to ensure all surfaces are in contact with detergent (9 litres/ unit)
- Measure the wash trough to determine how much water/detergent you should be using
- Adequate turbulence (air injection for large plants) and vacuum level maintained during the wash cycle
- Hot water usage is critical (75/80°C)-lower chemical usage with hot water
- Milk stone remover should be used at a minimum once weekly and more often if water hardness is in issue or install a water softener

- After the wash cycle disinfect the milking plant twice daily with Peracetic acid in an additional rinse
- Thermophilic bacteria survive in cracked and perished rubber-ware, replace regularly
- Build-up of debris in plate cooler-use clean filter sock during washing and get milking machine technician to clean plates
- The vacuum line should be washed out at least once yearly and/or if the milk receiver over flowed or if broken milk liners

### **Bulk milk tank hygiene:**

- Disinfect the bulk milk tank outlet regularly
- Avoid having the milk supply pipe immersed in milk during milk transfer
- Keep the bulk milk let closed at all times, especially during milking
- Insufficient volume of water will result in poor surface contact with detergent and increase the likelihood of chemical residue
- Blocked suck-up detergent tubes will result in insufficient detergent usage, replace these tubes yearly
- Spray balls clogged or spinners not moving freely or missing will impact on the cleaning of stainless-steel surfaces
- Cool milk to 3/4 °C within 30 min of the completion of milking with the aid of a plate cooler

### **Thermophilic bacteria-things you may not know:**

- Higher than normal levels of Thermophilic bacteria can be present in milk during periods of very dry or wet weather
- High thermophilic counts do not mean you will have a high total bacterial count
- It's extremely difficult to eliminate Thermophilic bacteria at the processing site- easier to minimize levels on farm

*Please contact your Milk Quality Advisor should you have any issues with Milk Quality*

## Sowing multi-species swards

If you applied for the Department of Agriculture Multispecies sward scheme, you may be interested in learning a little more about how best to sow multi species swards.

**Choosing a site and preparation:** Choose grazing paddocks over silage fields and choose paddocks with low weed burden. Avoid commonage and land designated as Natura 2000 as they are excluded from the DAFM scheme. Also avoid replacing areas of existing biodiversity (naturally diverse permanent pasture that is not designated) or unused land on the farm with new multi-species swards. It is important that soil fertility is good i.e. pH 6.2-6.5 and Index 3+ for P & K. For details of the seed mixture recommended for this measure see: [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - [Multi Species Sward Measure \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

**Weed Management:** Address weed issues with herbicide before sowing. No post-emergence spray can be applied to the whole field once MSS / clover swards are established. After reseeding, the only methods for weed control are either spot spraying/weed licking/wiping (using a spray that targets the most prevalent weed e.g. for thistles use "Thistlex"), mechanically picking/removing weeds or regular topping to reduce annual weeds. Direct drilling results in lower weed emergence as does good establishment.

**Method of Reseeding:** Similar to grassland reseeding, best conditions for sowing are without drought or frost, and ideally a warm, moist seedbed (~10°C) between April and August.

### **Plough/ Till / Sow**

- Spray-off the existing sward as per normal reseed. Then cut the existing sward as tight as possible while complying with the prescribed interval between spraying and cutting.
- Cultivate soil as you choose (disc/harrow/plough)
- Lime should be applied, if necessary. If using minimum cultivation apply 5 tonne of lime per hectare to the desiccated sward pre-cultivation. If ploughing address any lime requirement post-ploughing.

- Apply normal seed bed fertiliser at sowing (P and K with N) based on soil test results.
- Sow the multi-species seed mix at a rate of 12kg/acre (30kg/ha) at approx. 1 cm deep (choose seeder carefully to avoid seed separation).
- Roll to get fine firm seed bed and good soil and seed contact.
- Allow 6-8 weeks before the first grazing to let herbs establish strong taproots, only graze if new plants are strong enough to withstand grazing

### **Direct drilling into stale seed bed/minimum cultivation**

This is environmentally beneficial because it retains more soil organic matter than a full reseed.

- Graze/cut off existing sward as tight as possible,
- Spray-off with glyphosate as per normal reseed,
- Comply with the interval between spraying and grazing/cutting prescribed on the herbicide label.
- Sow at approx. 1 cm deep (choose drill carefully to avoid seed separation)
- Roll to ensure soil and seed contact
- Seed bed fertiliser and lime as normal for reseed
- Allow 6-8 weeks before the first grazing to let herbs establish strong taproots, only graze if new plants are strong enough to withstand grazing

### **Over-sowing into an existing sward**

Over-sowing into an existing sward is another option but can be less reliable than a full reseed. It has the advantage of being cheaper, taking fields out of production for a shorter duration, and better protecting soil carbon. When done correctly (and with favourable conditions), it can be very successful. However, for the DAFM MSS Scheme, the grass component must be included as part of the seed mix, so over-sowing will be a less relevant option. Note that the principles are almost identical to those for over-sowing of clover into a grass sward.

# SPECIAL OFFERS



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**LIMITED TIME OFFERS**

## Women in Agriculture Celebration Day



The event was a huge success and will become part of Arrabawn's yearly Calendar going forward. We seen people travel from all parts of the country to be involved. Joe Mccarthy would like to thank Jade Fielding for been the event organiser and a big well done to the store teams for making sure the event was ready for the Public. The feedback was well received and we are planning to make it bigger and better for next year. Thanks for your continued support.

The day had many special guests and interviews which show cased how

these women reached their careers today. They spoke about how young girls today have plenty of opportunities to create a career in agriculture and not to shy away from the idea. Arrabawn Co-Op would like to say a huge thank you to Sophie Bell; Katie Shanahan; Alice Hodges; Miriam and Rachel Hastings; Hazel Mullins; Louise Crowley; and Hannah Quinn Mulligan, our guest speakers on the day.

The day was a family fun day and offered something for everyone who attended.



## Summer Mastitis- Issues and Controls

Summer mastitis is an issue we all want to avoid, which most commonly occurs in milking cows, but is also an issue in maiden heifers or dry cull cows. The first sign to watch is an animal standing away from the group and walking with stiffness in their hind quarters. The quarter will present as hard, swollen, hot and can be very painful. When stripped the milk is thick, yellow custard material often with a foul smell following.

Summer mastitis is a serious condition and must not go untreated. In the worst case scenario it may result in abortion of pregnant cows/heifers or even death. Accurate and immediate treatment is required. Treatment is to help reduce the pain/illness being suffered by the cow. An anti-inflammatory/pain relief injection must be given with antibiotic treatments. Recovery is quicker when pain levels are low and the cows own immune system can focus on the infection rather than fighting the swelling. The quarter is quiet often lost, but occasionally they can recover and produce milk again.

### Prevention

Prevention is key to reduce the number of cases on your farm.

1. First step to use suitable fly control

product. Flies are the main carriers of the disease and need to be controlled.

There are some no-milk-withdrawal products on the market. Products will need to be reapplied depending on fly numbers, weather etc. Always consult with your local vet about re applying these products and do so as instructed.

2. Garlic lick buckets for dry cows and maiden heifers. The smell of garlic can taint the milk so only suitable for dry animals. The smell of garlic repels the flies, when absorbed the garlic smell it is excreted through the animals' skin. The flies are deterred from landing on these animals as they do not like the smell of garlic. It is important to monitor dry animals for summer mastitis. They can be often over looked as they are not in the parlour daily.

These garlic licks are often fortified with other minerals which can help thrive throughout the summer months.

3. Avoid fields/paddocks with a lot of tree cover, tall grass, weeds or boggy areas. The flies will hang out in these areas for shelter. Topping paddock regularly can help control this and the flies will not have long grasses to hang out in.

4. Teat skin condition. Broken skin

or sores on the teat attract the flies.

Treat any damaged skin and ensure the teat dip has a good skin protecting ingredients. Example = Deosan Summer Care Plus.

5. Isolation of sick animals. Isolation is key to prevent the spread of disease. Cluster dipping and disregarding of milk will help prevent the spread further also. If a clinical case of Mastitis does occur on your farm, make sure you perform a sensitivity test to ensure you are using the right antibiotic for the most successful cure rate. Take a sample of milk and then continue to treat straight away. A sterile, clean\* milk container is easily available from the milk lorry driver, Rep or local Co-Op store. Ask your lorry driver to drop the sample to the Co-Op lab by leaving a note and the sample out. Name, Co-Op number, cow number and date is required. We will look after it from there, and get the results back within a week. The aim is to build a bank of knowledge throughout the year.

(\*Note, do not use SCC tubes with Red Tablet, sensitivity can not be performed if red tablet is dissolved in milk)

## Bull Safety

Between 2010 and 2019 bulls accounted for 18% of livestock related deaths in Ireland. You can never be too careful around bulls. Heading towards the latter end of the breeding season a stock/vasectomised bull are very active on farms. It is crucial for everyone's safety that a protocol is in place when handling the bulls and everyone is aware of it.

- Farmers and Staff must be competent in handling bulls
- Good equipment available (drafting gates at milking parlour etc.)
- No children on farm when work involves bulls
- Ensure bull has a nose ring and a chain.
- Ensure barrier between you and bull at all times
- Phone must be charged, in hand and emergency contacts readily available
- Make sure someone else knows where you are and rough estimate when you will be returning
- Never turn your back on the bull
- Respect their space and keep your distance from the side, never in front
- First sign of aggressions, cull immediately. (If even breeding season isn't over) Even a quiet bull can become dangerous, do not take any risks keeping a dangerous bull on the farm.

## LAND WANTED

**Looking for a large scale dairy Farm to lease, share farm or open to other arrangements, preferably in the Offaly / Westmeath / East Galway areas. If this may be of interest to you, please contact PADDY PURCELL for further details.**

## Milk Recording

There are numerous benefits to Milk Recording as listed below. Ideally you should be aiming to get 6 milk recordings done in a year. Milk Recording is crucial for your herd to maximise profits and produce top quality milk. Only a little more than 50% of Irish Herds are Milk Recording, which is far from where we need to be. Below are some benefits:

1. Track your best and worst producers. This allows for management decisions such as culling poor performers and or breeding replacements from the best of the bunch.
2. Keep track of the somatic cell count (SCC), ability to lower tank average.
3. Identifying and removing your millionaire cows from the herd can dramatically and instantly improve your bulk tank SCC easily.
4. Adds significant value to any surplus breeding and increases the chances of a bull calf being selected to enter AI through the Gene Ireland programme.
5. Milk recording results are fed into ICBF's genetic evaluations. This allows us to give your cows an EBI with a higher reliability.
6. Cost effective pregnancy diagnosis is now possible through milk samples.
7. Herds that milk record at least four times in the calendar year and have the dry off dates recorded for their cows receive an Annual Report every year from ICBF.
8. Milk recording records increase the compensation available for animals that have to be culled because of a positive TB reaction.
9. Gain up to an extra €42/cow/year
10. Milk Recording will become mandatory to get mastitis and dry cow tubes. Every farmer will need individual cow information to justify getting an antibiotic tube.

Milk Recording can be easily started by calling Munster Bovine (022 43228) or Progressive Genetics (046 954 0606). They will assist you in your first recording and ensure you understand how to work the machines. Technicians can be arranged to help with the first 1-2 recordings or to attend every recording if labour is an issue.

Milk recording can be done in 99% of farms in Ireland. Weather you have a herring bone parlour, rotatory or robots, jars or no jars, milk recording can be adjusted to suit your set up.

### List of Exhibitors and Demo's

#### 1. Milking Parlour

- De Laval
- Walsh's

#### 2. Machinery

- Abbey Machinery
- Alan King Agri Sales
- Arrabawn Machinery
- Atkins Farm Machinery
- Coakley Agri
- ERTH Engineering
- Garahy's Tractors
- Tom Shaw
- WR Shaw

#### 3. Grass, Forage and MSS Seed plots

- Germinal
- DLF
- Future Grass Seeds

#### 11. Indoor Arena

- AgriAudits
- AHV
- AIB
- All Flex Collars
- Animal Health Ireland
- Arrabawn Co-Op
- Arrabawn Dairies
- BASF
- Bank Of Ireland
- Bimeda
- Chanelle Veterinary
- Cling Seal
- Credit Union
- Deosan
- Devinsh
- DOC Feed

#### 4. Fertilizer, Fencing and Soil Health

- Dow
- Farm Team
- Gouldings
- Grassland Agro – Soil Health
- Mullinahone – Solar powered electric fencing
- Gallagher Fencing
- Yara

#### 5. Cubicle Shed Design

- Easy Fix

#### 6. Milk Recording

- Munster Bovine

#### 7. Calf – Genetics and Supplies

- ABP, Advantage Programme
- JFC

#### 8. Farm Yard Safety

- Tractor Safety Demonstration

#### 9. Lameness and Hoof Pairing

- Agri health demonstration

#### 10. Refreshments

- Light refreshments

#### 12. Water Heating Systems

- Calor Gas
- Dairy Geyser
- Flo Gas
- Solar Ireland
- Teagasc Energy Specialist

- Herdwatch
- Inform Nutrition
- MSD
- Milk Flex – Finance Ireland
- MooCall Calving Sensor and Heat Detection
- Paralabs
- Pharvet
- Progressive Genetics
- SmaXtec Ireland
- Spaldings
- Teagasc
- Trouw Nutrition
- Volac

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