Arrabawn
Together we grow

MARCH 2022 - Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

Arrabawn Winter Bonus 2023

Arrabawn is introducing a Winter Bonus for Manufacturing Milk in the months of January and February 2023. The details are as follows: -

January 2023

- 5c /lt if milk supply is greater than 40% of May 2022 milk supply.
- 2.5c/lt if milk supply is greater than 30% but less than 40% of May 2022 milk supply.

February 2023

- 5c /lt if milk supply is greater than 40% of May 2022 milk supply.
- 2.5c/lt if milk supply is greater than 30% but less than 40% of May 2022 milk supply.

For example: - May 2022 supply 50,000 litres - to qualify for 5c/lt. in January or February 2023 supply needs to be greater than 20,000 litres.
To qualify for 2.5c/lt. in January or February 2023 supply needs to be greater than 15,000 litres and less than 20,000 litres.
Note: Constituents will be paid on top of this bonus.

Managing and Maintaining SCC on your farm

Milk quality for the whole lactation depends on the success of somatic cell count (SCC) control in early lactation, as this is the highest-risk period for mastitis infection to occur. Get on top of SCC early by identifying problem animals and putting good controls in place, such as:

- get your first recording done in March if not already done – clip tails and freeze brands a day or two beforehand to make the job cleaner and cows easier to identify;
- take action when the results come back – identify the high-SCC cows and quarter sample/California Mastitis Test (CMT) and treat on your vet's advice – stop the spread by milking high-SCC cows last or dipping/flushing clusters after milking them;
- be alert to the number of cases of mastitis occurring – if greater than 5% of your cows and 15% of heifers have had mastitis in the first month of calving you should investigate;
- it is good practice to check all cows with a CMT before milking them into the bulk tank – this will help you find any cows with subclinical mastitis;
- don't forget to disinfect gloves after stripping a cow with mastitis, as the bacteria can be spread to the next cow you strip;
- recording all clinical cases is essential to monitor mastitis levels in your herd – a clear, easily seen record on a blackboard or whiteboard should be made during milking and transferred at a later date to a more permanent record;
- some farms use a group chat function on their mobiles for anyone doing milking to record cases and to keep things in one place – keep the chat to treatments only; and,
- do not neglect hygiene for later-calving cows. Calve in a clean dry environment with adequate space – if your knees are wet after kneeling, it is not dry enough for calving cows

Please contact your Milk Advisor if you are having any issues.
Deirdre Divilly – Milk Quality Advisor - 087 9152835
Ronan Moran – Milk Quality Advisor - 087 1469651
Paddy Purcell – Milk Quality Manager – 087 0963869

Better Data – Better Results

New regulations to Veterinary Medicines, nitrates directives etc farming is constantly changing. We need to ensure all aspects of the farm are sustainable and cows within the herd are the most profitable. With these challenges come responsibility to take charge and ensure data is collected and utilised to make smart decisions on farm. *You can't manage, what you don't measure.*

Data Collection includes:

- **Ease of Calving and Retained after births**
  - Recording ease of calving and retained afterbirths are important to record as it will impact the breeding season down the line. With the best will in the world, it can be forgotten which cows had a hard calving or held the afterbirth in May/June. When good records are kept, you can keep an eye on these and ensure they cycle correctly. It is too late remembering they had calving issues when the cow is empty when scanning in September. Some simple steps like the vet checking out the cow at the start of the breeding season can ensure the cow is fully recovered and ready for AI, if not can be corrected before the end of the breeding season.
- **SCC of individual cows and Mastitis treatments**
  - Milk recording is the easiest way to get SCC data for individual cows. This is needed for dry cow tubes next winter. It is important to start as soon as possible, do not wait until next October/ November to start. Mastitis is another important disease to note, to ensure a successful Selective Dry Cow Therapy. Cows which had a case of mastitis in the year will not be selected for sealer only. For example, a cow may suffer with Mastitis in March/April and have a low SCC in November for drying off. If records are not kept properly if may be forgotten about.
- **Illness such as Milk Fever, Ketosis etc.**
  - Cows which suffer from Milk Fever, Ketosis and other nutritional diseases are less likely to go back in calf first time around. These cows are harder to get back in calf and can fall outside the 9–12-week breeding block if they cycle late or do not hold the embryo.
- **Soil, Grass and Silage analysis**
  - Grass makes up majority of the animal's diet so it is important to know what is in the soil, grass and silage. When the mineral status of the forage is known we can avoid deficiency problem and ensure animals are thriving the best to their ability. Supplements such as boluses can be given to correct any issues. With the price of fertilizer this year is it key you spread what is necessary, to correct deficiencies in the soil and not place additional P or K on soil with index 4's.
- **Lameness**
  - Lameness can be a hereditary trait. It is important to ensure cows with lameness are reported as they can be unknown repeat offender. It can be easily missed.

There are plenty of app's which can downloaded on phones, which are easy to use. These apps make record keeping very simple for those who are tech savvy. However, a simple pen and copy book is sufficient. A successful record keeping system is one where notes are kept and can be looked back on. This can be online or on paper.

NEWS

KETOSIS

Ketosis is a metabolic disorder in which energy demands exceed their intake, resulting in a negative energy balance (NEB). Typically, cows will lose body condition from calving to AI service but we must ensure they maintain sufficient body condition and energy levels. On average 7-14% of the herd will suffer from ketosis to some degree within the first 60 days of calving. Subclinical or "hidden" ketosis is a common problem in Irish herds, said to affect around 30% of cows. If there is an acute clinical case on your farm, it's worth remembering that other cows may be developing the same problem without showing any major signs. Ketosis often occurs when there is a change in diet. The cow's appetite is depressed after calving and energy intake cannot meet the increasing energy demand. In the absence of available energy, the cow metabolises her body fat, converting it to 'ketones' as an alternative but lower quality energy source. When large amounts of body fat are activated, the liver is put under excessive pressure. The fat moves faster than the liver can use it and is expelled as ketones in blood, urine and milk.

Look for:

- **Reduced milk yield**
- **Loss of condition (greater than 0.5 BCS)**
- **Reduced appetite (not finishing all feed in parlour and looking empty)**
- **Sweet type smell on the cow's breath or their milk**
- **Some animals express nervous signals including drooling, licking (Pica), chewing and displays of aggression.**
- **Lethargy/ slow**

Treatment

- **An intravenous dextrose solution by a veterinarian is the most immediate short-term fix. A glycerine or propylene glycol drench has longer term effects, and many long-acting corticosteroids are effective for ketosis.**

Prevent ketosis by:

- **Maintaining feed intake in late gestation**
- **Ensuring good body condition at calving, not too fat**
- **Ensuring cows are well fed with energy dense feeds.**
- **After calving, cows are building up to peak yield while restoring their reproductive system for cycling again. This is a very energy demanding process. Supplements to grass should be fed until peak lactation, don't drop concentrates levels too fast!**
- **Avoid over-conditioning cows during late lactation and dry period**
- **In rare cases some very high-producing cows are prone to developing ketosis annually. A propylene glycol drench immediately after calving may prevent on an individual basis in susceptible cows.**

DEOSAN MAR 2022 PROMOTION

TEATFOAM ADVANCE

- 200L BARRELL **€415**
  AVAILABLE EX BRANCH ONLY
- 200L BARRELL X 2 **€415** EACH
  PLUS 1 X 20L FREE DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM
- 200L BARRELL X 3 **€415** EACH
  PLUS 2 X 20L FREE DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM
- 950L IBC **€1700**
  PLUS 2 X 20L FREE DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM

TARGET PRE POST

- 200L BARRELL **€325**
  AVAILABLE EX BRANCH ONLY
- 200L BARRELL X 2 **€325**
  EACH DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM
- 200L BARRELL X 3 **€325**
  EACH DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM
- 950L IBC **€1295** DELIVERED DIRECT TO FARM

DEOSAN OSAN

- 20L **€81.50**
- 200L **€590**

DEOSAN LIQUID CIP

- 20L **€39**
- 200L **€340**

OFFER ENDS MARCH 31ST 2022

Minerals Boluses- The advantages and benefits

The role of trace elements in the fertility and thrive in dairy cows is well established. Trace elements such as **copper, selenium, cobalt** and **iodine** are vital for fertility! Where deficiencies are diagnosed, it is important to address it via a proven method of supplementation.

Trace elements should be supplied to the animal at daily at consistent rates, particularly during key periods during the production cycle (April-June). Boluses are specifically designed to slowly break down over a number of months to deliver a constant supply of minerals to the cow. Every day the cow absorbs the exact same amount of minerals in the body.

Too much of a trace element can prove toxic; too little and the deficiency will not be addressed. Many convenient free-access delivery methods such as lick buckets and blocks have their disadvantages, as intake levels cannot be measured. In fact, studies have shown that intakes between animals are extremely variable, with some animals consuming nothing and others consuming excessive quantities due to palatability differences.

Boluses will complement the minerals status of grass and dairy nuts. Boluses are given in Mid-March to Mid-April to allow sufficient time for the mineral profile to develop in the cow's system. The cow will then be readily fertile in May. It is recommended to take a mineral profile of the grass in which the cows graze. Take a handful of grass from all paddocks and mix into one bag for testing. This will tell you what minerals are deficient, what minerals are tying up another etc. Silage mineral results are also very useful to look back on, as they give a good over all view of the mineral status on the farm.

Copper being tied up with Iron or Molybdenum is a common scenario. A mineral profile can show plenty of copper in the grass but may not available to the cow. Copper and Iron bind together and create a molecule which is not recognised by the cows' intestines, resulting in copper not being absorbed. This is just one example of many. The huge advantage with boluses are they ensure there is enough copper freely available to be absorbed by the cow, even with antagonists present in the diet.

Copper

Colbalt

Iodine

Selenium

Arrabawn Co-Op

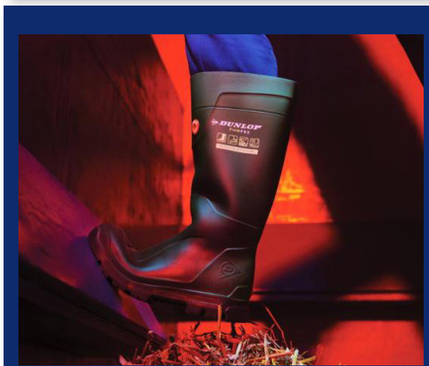
SPECIAL OFFERS

PIG TAILS

JFC LARGE 800 FAST FLOW DRINKER LIMITED STOCKS AVAILABLE IN STORES

PORTABLE MILK CART LIMITED STOCK

MILKSHAKE BUCKET



DUNLOP PUROFORT WELLIES NOW IN STOCK

MILK BAR FEEDERS 52 TEAT FEEDER LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE

3rd APRIL

Arrabawn

Homevalue Hardware

FAMILY FUN

SUPER SALE SUNDAY

ONE DAY ONLY SALE

Arrabawn Newport Co-Op Store 10am - 4pm

One day only clearance offers and so much more on the day.

DON'T MISS OUR SUPER OFFERS

LIMITED TIME OFFERS

www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie

NEWS

Customer Testimonial

Eamonn Cleary runs a dairy farm in Ardcroney, Nenagh Co Tipperary with his bother Con, and his parents Con & Una. The Cleary herd consists of 300 spring calving dairy cows, plus followers on a grazing platform spread over 3 farms. Eamonn & Con took over the running of the farm in 2001. The herd is a Holstein x Friesian cross herd.

65% of the cows calve in a 6-week calving interval. Milk is supplied to Arrabawn Co Op. Heifer calves are kept, whilst bull calves are sold. 80-90 heifers enter the milking herd annually. The farm produces 5800kg of milk, butterfat is 4.3%, protein is 3.6% and scc is 110.

The farm is in an area containing high Molybdenum in the soil, and this has caused issues with copper availability to the animals on the farm for many years. Copper supplementation has always been used in animals of various forms. Issues with fertility in cows, and embryonic death were common over the years in the breeding season. Eamonn started using copper injections, then went onto Copper oxide bolus and saw some improvements.

Analyses was done on forage, bloods and soil on the farm, and this identified average to low blood copper levels, and high Molybdenum in the forage. Eamonn did research on the internet and came across the Coseicure bolus and started using this in his herd. He found they worked well in his herd and fertility improved.

Other items were improved on the farm also. Every cow has their own diagnostic device for capturing data with health alerts, better animal husbandry, improved nutrition and cow management systems in place all aided production and performance over the years.

Through the data set used on the farm, all cows have a target for ai on day 40 post calving. If this is not achieved these cows are examined by his vet and these cows are treated and brought back into line. The Coseicure bolus works well on this farm and Eamonn started using the Coseicure calf bolus on his calves also in recent years. The heifers improve and have a good coat colour after introducing the bolus on the farm.

Eamonn would recommend the Coseicure bolus to other farmers who want to improve herd fertility and animal performance. The use of data to identify mineral imbalances is critical to understanding one's own farm challenges and overcoming them by engaging with your vet and farm advisors to get back on track.

ICBF Summary Data 5-year trend on the Cleary Farm:

- Fertility Sub-Index increased from 33 in 2017 to 65 in 2021 (Nat Ave is 55)
- Herd Calving Interval improved from 403 in 2017 to 379 in 2021 (Nat Ave is 387)
- Heifers calved 22-26 months improved from 68 in 2017 to 91 in 2021 (Nat Ave 74%)
- Herd **EBI** grew from **71** in 2017 to **137** in 2021 (**Nat Ave 120**)

Ragwort

"Ragwort, also known as ragweed or Buachlans, is a common poisonous weed in grazing swards. It is classed as a noxious weed by the Department of Agriculture and is a biennial plant meaning it lives for two years.
Many animals have been the victim of ragwort poisoning and common symptoms are tenesmus, hind limb weakness and general severe animal pain. Ragwort isn't grazing animals first choice to eat, however when cut or sprayed it becomes much more palatable as sugars in the plant are released. Ragwort chopped into silage or hay can be particularly dangerous as animals are forced to eat it as part of the forage.

Control

With smaller infestations manual pulling of Ragwort is an option, but more severe infestations typically require spray intervention. Ragwort is ideally killed in the rosette stage as the longer ragwort gets the longer it takes to break down and rot. So early intervention is required to ensure it does not end up in the silage. Spray early in spring (Feb-March) or in the autumn (September to Mid-November) and allow at least 6 weeks between spraying and cutting silage. " Spray 2,4-D **(D-50)** 1 lt/ac + MCPA **(M50)** 1 lt / ac, between November and April, before the plant starts to get bigger. This spray will also control dandelions and daisies, as well as some control of thistles and seedling docks. Adding **Presto** @ 1 lt / 10 acres will help uptake and performance. Alternatively, spray **Forefront T** @ 2 LT/HA. This is an excellent chemical for the control of a wide range of weeds including docks and ragwort. It can only be applied to grazing ground as it will persist in silage slurry and may interfere with arable crops treated with affected slurry.

Crypto-Ease

Crypto-Ease is a digestive and immunity support for calves from Arrabawn.

Crypto-Ease supports calves recovering from the effects of Cryptosporidium naturally, by boosting calf immunity and nutrient absorption.

Crypto-Ease, for non-specific calf scour**,** will reduce intestinal damage and diarrhoea, and absorbs Mycotoxins and aids recovery.

Crypto-Ease will enhance calf health and performance when used in conjunction with good calf health management practices.

Crypto-Ease can be given to a two-day old calf as a general tonic or given once a day over a 6-day course as an aid if there is a risk of cryptosporidium infecting the calves

Crypto-Ease is available from your local **Arrabawn** branch.

NEWS

Pasture reseeding! Can you afford not to?

A new reseed will double the output of the typical old pasture - 14.5 tonnes dry matter per hectare compared to 7-8 tonnes from pastures reseeded 10 years or more, often it is the expensive con-acre which is in most need of reseeding! The profitability of Irish dairy farms is closely linked to grass utilisation. Increasing stocking rate is only profitable when there is an increase in grass utilisation – each additional tonne of dry matter utilised is worth an extra € 160/ha. It is also worth highlighting that high spring grass utilisation leads to an increased number of grazings and to increased overall dry matter production. High producing farms take weekly measurements, have little variation between paddocks, have plenty of spring grass, more grazings per paddock and have a reseeding programme. These farms are producing 15 – 17 tonnes grass dry matter per hectare - are you? Over the last number of years, Arrabawn has supplied excellent grass seed mixtures – high production, excellent spring and autumn growth and late heading for ease of management. Each year the mixture was significantly better for all these traits than its predecessor. The idea is to continuously measure and improve our grass mixture – aiming for early spring grazing, compact heading dates for optimum silage cutting and high overall yield.

Start planning now – there are many ways to reseed or freshen up old pasture

- **Plough, till and sow**, probably the best on suitable ground, but expensive
- **Burn off** with Glyphosate and direct drill
- **Undersow** a cereal crop (oats or barley) – crop silage in 12 weeks with new grass established
- **Direct drill into standing crop just after grazing, no ploughing, no spraying.**
-

Other forage options: -

- **Multi species pastures – this is a mixture of grasses and other forage species such as plantains and chicory to exploit different nutrient sources in your soil. It is envisaged that the mix will supply your stock with adequate feed with reduced levels of applied fertiliser – possibly up to 40% less Nitrogen.**
- **Red Clover / Italian Ryegrass for high protein silage**
- **Wholecrop or undersown cereal – for a high-quality bulky silage**
- **Forage Maize / Fodderbeet – high quality but expensive**
- **Forage Kale, Rape, Stubble Turnips, Kale Silage**

Lots of options – most can be incorporated into a reseeding programme – now is the time to start planning.

Improving immunity and calf rearing with Omni ProCalf

Maintaining calf health is essential to achieving calf rearing targets and profitability on a dairy farm.

- ✓ Omni ProCalf combines a quality milk replacer with OmniGen-AF®, a unique nutritional speciality product that helps calves maintain an optimally functioning immune system, especially under stress.
- ✓ Complementary feed with the ability to minimise the negative effects of stress.
- ✓ Combination of all-natural component that have a positive effect on immune function.
- ✓ OmniGen increase's the immune cell responsiveness efficiency in both Healthy and stressed animals.
- ✓ Omni Procalf is a unique patented nutritional speciality product that is recommended to be fed to calves from birth onwards.

Improved immune system can result in.

- ✓ *Better DLWG 12%*
- ✓ *More Productive Calf*
- ✓ *Less antibiotic Use*
- ✓ *Lower treatment costs.*
- ✓ *Faster recovery in cases of disease.*

Stressors

- ✓ *Temperature change*
- ✓ *housing*
- ✓ *Weanling*
- ✓ *Ventilation*
- ✓ *Dehorning*
- ✓ *Grouping*
- ✓ *Transport*

A step Ahead

Continuous use of Omni Procalf helps support healthy immune function, which may lead to better herd health and productivity, as well as greater profitability.

Spring Cereals and Root / Forage Crops

Arrabawn can supply all your needs including technical support if you wish to grow your own feed and forage.

- Barley, Wheat, Oats and Triticale • Fodder Beet, Swedes, Kale and Rape • White and Red Clover

Contact your local branch of Arrabawn for details

NEWS

Keep grass on track on your farm

The objective in March is to increase the proportion of the farm grazed, but not to get too far ahead of target. Grass supply has been very good on farms this spring with the average farm cover (AFC) about 900kg DM/ha on March 1 (PastureBase Ireland figures). Where slurry and nitrogen (N) fertiliser applications have taken place, the response in grass growth has been good. The aim must be to keep grass in the diet of dairy cows as much as possible during March.

Keep looking back…

Every dairy farmer will need to examine the farm for grass supply during March. It is important to keep an eye on the recovery of the first paddocks grazed. During March it is important to walk the farm to ensure that there is enough grass available in April to start the second rotation. There needs to be four to five paddocks with a good level of grass recovery to gain a knowledge as to when the second rotation can begin in April. The proportion of the farm grazed in February and level of grass recovery on these paddocks will determine when the second rotation will begin.

Knowing your farm cover makes grazing and feed management much easier. Remember, the AFC should not drop below 550kg DM/ha at any time, otherwise grass growth will be compromised.

Plan slurry application carefully

Plan how best to apply nutrients from slurry in the coming weeks and months from an economic, productivity and environmental viewpoint. With higher chemical fertiliser prices, the value of organic fertilisers has also increased, with 1,000 gallons of slurry nearly doubling in value and now worth €54.

Here are some tips:

- apply slurry in spring where ground conditions are suitable and soil temperature is consistently greater than 6oC;
- match application rates to grass growth rates to maximise nutrient uptake;
- do not apply slurry where heavy rainfall is forecast within 48 hours;
- keep 5m away from drains and watercourses when spreading organic fertilisers;
- ensure the tractor driver is aware of the location of drains, watercourses, wells, karst features, etc., when spreading organic fertilisers and observes the relevant buffer zones;
- prepare and implement an NMP to ensure the nutrients in slurry are targeted to where they are most needed (consult your advisor); and,
- ensure that the capacity of organic manure stores, at a minimum, is sufficient to meet the storage requirements for your county
- Use Low Emission systems (LESS) if possible.

- **Fertiliser part of the climate solution**
- **Climate change is perhaps the greatest challenge facing the world right now. Farmers can be a part of the solution!**
- **What are you doing on your farm to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?**
- **Ask yourself:**
- **Is all my fertiliser nitrogen (N) spread as protected urea?**
- **Are all my soils at optimum pH levels (>6.2 for mineral soils, peat soils 5.5-5.8)?**
- **Are all my soils at optimum phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) levels?**
- **Do all my grazing swards have clover incorporated?**
- **Do I follow a fertiliser plan/nutrient management plan (NMP) for all my fertiliser decisions?**
- **Have I reduced my fertiliser N application rates in the last three years?**

Arrabawn SignPost Farms February Update

Results Dated 28/02/22	Location:	Li-tres/ day	Fat %	Pro-tein %	SCC	Milk Solids/ Day	Meal kg cow/ day	Average Farm Cover (kg DM/ ha)	% Calved	Calving start date	% Grazed	Grazing start date	% farm with slurry	Rate per acre	% of farm with chem N	Rate per acre
Gurteen College	Tipperary	24.2	4.54%	3.30%	130	1.95	6	1250	65%	24/01/2022	7%	21/02/2022	30%	3000	0	0
Conor O Brien	Galway	23	4.65%	3.58%	89	1.94	4	799	75%	01/02/2022	20%	09/02/2022	10%	2500	75%	21 units
Conor Camon	Offaly	25	4.68%	3.83%	153	2.19	5	1006	77%	01/02/2022	0%	01/03/2022	40%	2500	0%	0
Ned Kelly	Tipperary	24.6	4.76%	3.51%	208	2.09	5	960	73%	25/01/2022	34%	26/01/2022	30%	2000	25%	23 units
Average		24.2	4.66%	3.56%	145	2.04	5	1003	73%	28/01/2022	15%	13/02/2022	28%	2500	25%	

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