



Board Trip to New Zealand

The Arrabawn Board of Directors and Executive Team recently returned from a trip to New Zealand

The full itinerary included time on both the North and South Island and started with a visit to Fonterra Headquarters in Auckland and a meeting with their CEO Miles Hurrell and Chairman Peter McBride. The trip also included a visit to Fonterra's Edendale Plant where casein, cheese, SMP and WMP is processed, and is also home to the world's largest dryer.

At Tatua Dairy Company, specialists in Dairy Ingredients Solutions in the heart of New Zealand's largest dairying region – the Waikato, the Group met with CEO Brendan Greaney and Board of Directors for an interactive group discussion.

As part of the trip, the Board also met with Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) and Dairy NZ. They also visited Massey University and the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre in Palmerston North.

A highlight of the trip was a guided tour of Thomas and Peter Clinton's 7,000 acre dairy operation in Invercargill on the South Island, which trades as Premier Dairies. The Board were extremely grateful for the time and hospitality offered by the Clintons and their contractors, which included a briefing on the current issues impacting New Zealand agriculture by experts in finance, policy and the land market.

Overall, it was a very educational Board trip which was enjoyed by all.



Arrabawn Board and Executive Team outside Fonterra's production plant in Edendale on 4th December 2022.

2023 Calving Pack

Get all your calving essentials in one place. All items included for only €79.00!

The pack includes:

- Calving jack ropes
- 9lt bucket
- Electronic thermometer
- Marker spray
- Disposable gloves
- Superlube obstetric gel
- 10% iodine solution 500ml
- 2.5L Crypto Ease



Area Meetings

Reminder of our final Area meetings for this month.
Thank you for those who attended in Loughrea and Mallow earlier this month.

Nenagh Abbey Court Hotel
Wednesday 18th Jan. 2023 8 pm

Eastern Talbot Hotel, Carlow
Thursday 19th Jan. 2023 8 pm

Birr County Arms Hotel
Wednesday 25th Jan. 2023 8 pm

Christmas in Tyone



The Christmas experience at our Tyone Mills branch was a huge success. It was a great opportunity for us to support local and young



entrepreneurs on the night. We would like to Thank Lisa Hennessy for taking the Lead coordinator for the event and big thanks to



our store teams who support to make the night a memorable one. Over €900 raised on the night for Embrace farm who are our charity

partner. We would also like to thank everyone who visited on the night, helped in so many ways and operated stalls.

Reminder regarding outstanding Health Certificates

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 2022 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.

Get your calves off to a TopStart!

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

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.



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.



Heifers for sale

15 heifers by Munster

AI Friesian Supergrazer Sires.

Scanned to calf Feb, March, April 2023.

Phone John 0852870792,
based in Ballinasloe area.

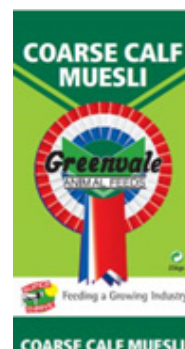
Portumna Mart

Portumna Mart wishes to advise that a calf/weanling sale will be held every **Monday evening @ 5pm commencing Monday Feb 6th 2023.**

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

Coarse calf muesli is a highly palatable 18% crude protein ration designed to ensure your calves get the best possible start in life. The feed is made from a unique blend of cooked barley, maize, full fat soya and other quality ingredients to guarantee a high performing starter feed for young calves. The protein content is particularly suitable for young fast growing animals and can be introduced to calves from birth. Coarse calf muesli also contains yeast to improve rumen function.



SPECIALS

GET AN
EXTRA
**15%
OFF**



All Milkfeeders

GET AN
EXTRA
**15%
OFF**



All Stomach tubes



€60
FOR 15QTY

**4314014 - Arralyte
+ Calf Electrolyte**

€25
FOR QTY 10



**0262504 - Lamb Volostrum
(50gr one sachet)**

GET AN
EXTRA
**10%
OFF**



All Colostrum products

2 FOR
€120



Milkshake bucket 7.5kg

Today's Calves are Tomorrows 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.

Day2-5: 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.

Make 2023 a better year with 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 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.

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!

Munster Bovine – 022 43228

Progressive Genetics - 046 954 0606

Johne's Disease - How to control at calving

What is Johne's disease: Farmers should be extra vigilant in preventing Johne's disease at calving time. Johne's disease is a contagious infection caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*).

It gradually damages the gut wall, meaning feed isn't converted as efficiently. This leads to weight loss, scour and if left unattended, emaciation and death. It also leaves the animal more prone to other infections.

The disease is irreversible and occurs in three steps. 1) infection, through exposure of contaminated faeces or milk. Calves are at very high risk of picking up disease. 2) Infectious stage, shedding large volume of bacteria, immune response low, moderate gut damage. 3) Affected, showing clinical signs and high volume of shedding. Large amount of gut damage, thin, low thrive, increasing antibody response.

How it is Transferred: It can be passed on if a newborn calf swallows the bacteria in their infected mother's colostrum. It can also be transmitted if they ingest a small amount of manure



from an infected animal. The bacteria can live in the manure in dirty bedding or on the skin of the teats. While colostrum is vital to a calves early development, it is just as important to be vigilant for Johne's disease. Calves are occasionally infected at birth when the mother is in advanced stage of the disease. If a newborn becomes infected, signs of this aren't likely to surface until two or more years later. Any animal under the age of two are at risk of picking up bacteria. Johne's is a difficult bacteria to get rid of and can last in the environment (sheds) and slurry for months or even up to a year.

How to prevent the spread:

However, if you apply best practice you can minimise the spread of the infection on your farm at calving time.

- Remove the calf as soon as possible from the calving pen, and into a clean, dry and uncontaminated environment. Calving pens must always be clean and have a thick layer of clean straw.
- Collect the colostrum yourself. This way you can maximise the quality of what the calf is taking on board. When you do this, make sure your hands, the cow's udders and the containers for the colostrum are clean before you collect. Additionally, wash the container between uses.
- Feed the colostrum from test negative cows. Avoid pooling colostrum from cows with an unknown status.
- Avoid group calving scenarios when possible. If numerous cows are in a pen, there are multiple sources of infection for a calf.
- Avoid spreading slurry on land that will be grazed by calves in the summer.



Sign Post Farm Updates

2022 has been a great year on the 3 Signpost Farms with lots of new technologies taken on put into practice by the Signpost Farmers and lot of information spread through farm walks, social media and the newsletter all with aim of reaching the targets set out by the Signpost Program. Data has been collected from our monitor farmers for 2021 and a Sustainability report has been developed which tracks the economic, social and environmental sustainability each farm. This is the first time this data has been recorded and 2021 figures will be used as baseline figures for the Signpost Program going forward and sustainability reports will be done annually for all Signpost Farmers going forward. The table below shows how the Arrabawn Signpost Farmers are currently performing when compared to Teagasc National Farm Survey Results.

	GHG emissions per kg FPCM (IPCC)	Family Farm Income/Ha	Milk Solids (Kg/Cow)	Herd EBI	Chemical Nitrogen Use (Kg/ Ha)	N Spread As Protected Urea (%)	Slurry Applied by Less (%)	Slurry Applied January to April (%)
National Farm Survey Average	0.81	€1,145	447	173	178	44.5	29	46
Arrabawn Signpost Farm Average	0.73	€1,145	501	134	104	22.5	85	70

As a look forward to 2023 we hope to build on the great work completed on Signpost Farms to date. Carbon sampling is due to take place on all Signpost Farms as well as LIDAR mapping to give a true picture of how much carbon each farm is emitting and sequestering.

Great progress has been made around the use of slurry and nitrogen on farms, the plan for 2023 is to focus further on animal genetics through genotyping all herds and looking to incorporate more clover/ multispecies to further reduce farm carbon footprints. Throughout the year there be several opportunities to interact with the programme through farm walks and events as well as through online and media communications.

Create a slurry spreading plan with your adviser

Right Place - Use your soil tests to guide manure to low P and / or low K fields, target fields with the highest demand for P and K i.e silage ground, set-aside 2,500-3,000 slurry/ac for the silage ground on grassland farms, use a dribble bar/trailing shoe to get the best N value from the slurry.

Right Rate - Match your slurry application to the demand for P and K, adjust application rate based on your slurry test results or the type of tank you are taking the slurry from.

Right Timing - Retain enough slurry to cover the 1st cut silage ground as it has the highest nutrient demand.

Right Source - Identify the tanks in your farmyard that are better suited to silage ground or Index 1 or 2 ground vs grazing ground

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 9482791 Email: farmsupport@arrabawn.ie • Check out our Website: www.arrabawn.ie