



## Arrabawn Co-Op AGM and SGM

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place at 11am on 19th April 2023 in the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh. The AGM will be followed by a Special General Meeting where the Board will recommend the passing of motions on the following Rules changes:



- Restructure of the Representative Committee to accommodate seats for the East and South branches in District 1.
- Reduce number of supplier members on the Board from 18 to 14.
- Introduction of maximum term time for Board members.
- Scope to increase number of Independent Directors on the Board from one to two.
- Introduction of a minimum trading threshold for Board and Representative Committee members.

These motions are very important for the future and ongoing progression of our Society and the Board would be very grateful for your support on the day.

I look forward to seeing you on 19th April.

**Edward Carr, Chairman**

## Emerging Farmer Development Programme

In conjunction with ICOS, Arrabawn are designing a development programme for emerging farmers which will commence in the second half of 2023. The programme is intended primarily for current suppliers who have aspirations to join the Representative Committee or current Representative Committee Members who have ambitions for election to the board in the future.

The content will include modules on Arrabawn and the Dairy Industry, Dairy Markets & Marketing, Agricultural Policy, Corporate Governance, Sustainability and Financial Management.

It is hoped that this exciting initiative will help Arrabawn to build a strong pipeline of suppliers to occupy seats on the Rep Committee and Board.

Expressions of interest or queries should go to Billy Walsh at [bwalsh@arrabawn.ie](mailto:bwalsh@arrabawn.ie) or 067 41826 by 28th April 2023.

  
**Arrabawn**



## Super Sunday Sale

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# MILK QUALITY

## Ways to achieve and maintain a low thermoduric count

It is recommended to have cows' teats clean and dry before milking, as the teat is the likely route of thermoduric into the milk.

- In the milking machine it is important to have the rubber ware in good condition.
- Liners need to be changed every 2,000 milking's.
- Long milk tubes, from the clusters up to the milk-line, have a lifespan of about three years. Once they go beyond that, they're going to crack.

No matter how good your wash routine is and your temperature of water, if you have worn, cracked rubber ware it's going to be nearly impossible to keep it clean, and you're going to have a high thermoduric count.

The most important aspect of the wash routine is the pre-rinse,

- 14L of clean water per unit. The pre-rinse ensures that the machine is cleaned out of milk residues and will make the detergents work.
- If you have a poor wash routine, thermoduric bacteria will find a home in the milk machine, and they will grow into huge numbers.

With inadequate cleaning, thermoduric bacteria in the milk attach to the inside of the rubber ware and milk-line forming a biofilm – a brown, waxy film. This biofilm builds and grows over time, Cronin warned, and the detergent will have no effect whatsoever.

If a biofilm is found in the milk-line, it indicates that the temperature of the hot wash is not hot enough.

### TROUBLESHOOTING

1. You need to be starting the hot wash at 75°
2. With automatic systems, it is recommended to measure how much detergent is actually going through the machine every two months.
3. It could be taking up only half the volume that it was set-up for,
4. You could have a very good TBC (total bacteria count) and then all of a sudden you have a high thermoduric count,
5. If you keep the rubber ware right; cows' teats clean and dry; proper detergent; and a proper hot wash, you won't have an issue with it

### SUMMARY

Thermoduric levels in milk can be minimised by:

- presenting clean cows for milking.
- replacing cracked rubberwear.
- regular plant hot washes between 70° and 80°.
- weekly acid descales of milking equipment.

### TCM (TRICHLOROMETHANE)

TCM content in dairy products, especially butter, is also a very important quality parameter. Achieving the correct levels of TCM is essential from a market place perspective. Given the increased focus on this issue among our key international customers, Arrabawn will continue the TCM testing programme and education awareness at farm level. In 2022, 91% of Arrabawn Suppliers were compliant with the TCM Limit.

The allowable limit for TCM in milk is 0.00124 mg/kg and this is influenced by cleaning and disinfection routines which use detergents containing chorine.

To maintain low chlorate and TCM levels, farmers will need to

1. Ensure that correct cleaning procedures are in place.
2. Use 14 litres of water per milking unit to rinse the plant after the main wash cycle.
3. Use approved detergent products at the recommended rates and avoid using products with excessive chlorine content.
4. Buy in smaller quantity and use products as close as possible to the manufacturing date,
5. **Avoid stock piling products.**
6. Store products in cool dark place away from sun light.

### MILK QUALITY TEAM

Paddy Purcell	Milk Quality Manager	087 0963869
Ronan Moran	Farm Relations Advisor	087 1469651
Deirdre Divilly	Farm Relations Advisor	087 9152835

*"If you don't measure it, you can't manage it"*



## DAIRY DATA

- Dairy Data is a new Milk Recording company operating in the North Tipperary and surrounding areas
- All our testing is carried out in Arrabawns Lab and the reports are generated in association with ICBF

### WHY MILK RECORD?

- Identify poor performing cows
- Identify high SCC cows
- Data used for drying off dates & selective dry cow therapy
- Inform management decisions on breeding & culling
- Improve herd genetics
- Increase the value of your herd



**New to Milk Recording or an Existing Milk Recording Herd? Call James today on 0876064344**

# MARCH SPECIALS



**Pro-tool 12 Cart sprayer**  
€35



**Calf Jacket**  
€20



**Gallagher 9V 90amp Battery**  
€26



**Geared Reel 3:1**  
€43



**Ako B150 fencer**  
€149



**Gallagher Polytape 20mm / 12.5mm 200metres -10%**



**Tail Painter**  
1 Colour kit



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**AlbeX Gloves**



**SAVE €5**

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## 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

Check that you are on target to have 66% of the farm grazed by 17 March for drier farms (10-14 days later on heavier farms)



Using slurry this spring on silage ground can contribute a significant proportion of your P&K requirements



Book a milk recording for your farm



Don't forget 1,2,3 for colostrum management



Turning out your maiden heifers 6-8 weeks pre breeding will help them reach their target breeding weight



For tillage crops, apply 1st N split when soil, crop & weather conditions are suitable



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 6°C;
- 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?



## We had a special visit to our Tyone Garden Centre recently from 'Ladybirds Preschool'

They picked up our school pack of seeds pots and compost disks along with pictures of sunflowers to colour in!

They fed our resident fish and had loads of fun smelling all our beautiful flowers!

## 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 reseed! 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 reseed 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 reseed programme - now is the time to start planning.



To Maximise milk output from cows feed

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## Nitrates Action Programme Changes applicable 2023

### CLOSED PERIOD - SLURRY AND CHEMICAL FERTILISER

- Closed for slurry period starts 1st October 2023
- Closed period for chemical fertiliser ends 26th January, 29th January and 14th February in zones A, B and C respectively
- Predefined scientific criteria for slurry spreading extension up to 15th October or early chemical fertiliser from mid-January – exceptional circumstances – Ministerial decision



### MORE EFFICIENT USE OF SLURRY AND ORGANIC MANURE

- Compulsory implementation of LESS expanding on phased basis:
- All farmers operating above 150 kg N/ha from 2023
  - All farmers above 130 kg N/ha from 2024
  - All farmers above 100 kg N/ha from 2025

#### From 2023 onwards:

- LESS for all pig slurry
- LESS for applications to arable land or incorporation within 24 hours

### SOILED WATER STORAGE AND MANAGEMENT

- Soiled Water Closed Period
- Between 10th December and 31st December 2023
  - Between 1st December and 31st December 2024
- Between 1st December and 31st December 2025 for Winter/Liquid milk Soiled Water Storage
- 3 weeks storage in 2023
  - 4 weeks storage in 2024
  - 4 weeks storage in 2025 for Winter/Liquid milk

### SOIL SAMPLING

From 2023

- All farmers above 130 kg N/ha must take soil samples.
- All sown arable land must be soil sampled.
- Where soil samples are not taken P Index 4 will be assumed

### BUFFER STRIPS FOR TILLAGE LAND

- 6m buffer required to protect intersecting watercourse if late harvested crops.
- 3m buffer strip requirement for arable crops to align with CAP Strategic

Plan Buffer strip for chemical fertiliser

- 3m buffer strip requirement for chemical fertiliser application on all land

### OTHER GAP MEASURES

- Storage of silage bales – max two high in absence of suitable facilities for collection and storage of effluent.
- Also minimum of 20m from surface water /abstraction point.
- 10% reduction in max chemical N allowances for grassland applicable from 2022

## 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.

## FOR SALE

Dispersal sale  
happening on the  
18th of April 2023

Approx 40 milking cows  
10 maiden heifer and a number of heifer calves

Viewing @10:30am

Sale commencing at 12:00pm

Full pedigree milk recording

All cows classified.

Contact: Gerry Lally

Kilbeg, Monivea, Co. Galway, H65Y281

Phone 085 2503575

Stay connected with us!! Check out our website for weekly farming updates. Find us at [www.arrabawn.ie](http://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 0963869 • Email: [farmsupport@arrabawn.ie](mailto:farmsupport@arrabawn.ie) • Check out our Website: [www.arrabawn.ie](http://www.arrabawn.ie)