



## Liquid Milk Business

On 15th September last, the CCPC granted authorisation for the sale of Arrabawn's Liquid Milk Van Sales business to Aurivo to proceed. This followed the initial decision of the Arrabawn Board in August 2022 to sell this business for commercial reasons.

As a result, Arrabawn ceased liquid milk distribution on 30th September and the Van Sales business transferred to Aurivo on 1st October.

All Arrabawn Van Sales employees transferred to Aurivo on 1st October. Several operation's staff based in Kilconnell have transferred to the

Ingredients plant in Nenagh and to other stores across the wider Arrabawn Group.

The majority of other staff in Production and Administration are leaving the business on a phased basis and we are extremely grateful to them for their commitment, flexibility, and hard work down through the years. We wish them all well for the future.

A number of alternative use options are currently being explored for the site in Kilconnell.

## Guest Attendee on Representative Committee

Invitations are invited from young farmers (under 35 years of age) for a position on the Representative Committee. This position is for two years and is open to everyone who is currently farming either on their own or in association with someone else who has an interest in how the Co-Op operates and who would like to gain experience of co-op structure.

To apply for the position please write a short letter explaining your interest and the reasons you feel would make you a suitable candidate also

outlining your qualifications and farming experience.

A short list of applicants will be prepared, and selection will be made following interview.

Please address your application to the Secretary, Arrabawn Co-Operative Society Ltd., Nenagh, Co. Tipperary or by email to [bwalsh@arrabawn.ie](mailto:bwalsh@arrabawn.ie). Closing date for applications is October 31st, 2023.

### REMINDER

#### Arrabawn Loyalty Bonus Scheme

We are continuing to run our loyalty Bonus Scheme which reward's milk suppliers for their loyalty in purchasing farm inputs from Arrabawn, the current scheme is operating from 1st December 2022 to November 30th, 2023, and will be based on purchases per litre of milk sold to Arrabawn.

The bonus will be issued in the form of a Gift Voucher which can be traded in any Arrabawn store. Please contact your local sales rep/ branch to maximise your voucher over the remaining period of the scheme.

#### Bonus Shares on ruminant animal feed

Arrabawn has operated a Bonus Shares Scheme for several years whereby shareholder customers have been issued with bonus shares based on 2% of the value of ruminant feed purchased in the previous year. The scheme allows farmers/milk suppliers to build their shareholding in the Society.

Please contact your local Sales Rep for more information



**Arrabawn**

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# New Changes to the Milk Quality Standards in 2024

Following a recent decision by the Arrabawn Board, the Milk Quality Standard changes outlined below have been agreed and will come into effect from 1st January 2024.

1. Total Bacteria Count – TBC
2. Somatic Cell Count – SCC
3. Bord Bia SDAS Certification
4. Lactose %

These changes are designed to recognize suppliers who meet high quality standards in our ongoing efforts to promote the highest quality milk at Arrabawn. The milk quality standards will be reviewed annually.

## 1. Total Bacteria Count (TBC)

See below the existing versus new milk quality standard for Total Bacteria Count (TBC)

	Current	New
<50,000 average	Base Price	Base Price
Max Single test 70,000		
51 - 75,000	-1.25c/litre	-1.75c/litre
76 - 100,000	-2.25c/litre	-3c/litre
101 - 150,000	-3.25c/litre	-6c/litre
151 - 200,000	-4.25c/litre	-6c/litre
201 - 300,000	-5.25c/litre	-9c/litre
>300,000	-7.25c/litre	-12c/litre

Payment will be based on the average of all tests in the month. Max single test result is 70,000.

## 2. Somatic Cell Count (SCC)

See below the existing versus new milk quality standard for Somatic Cell Count (SCC)

	Current	New	New
<250,000	0.2c/Litre Bonus	<200,000	0.4c/litre bonus
251 - 400,000	Base Price	201 - 300,000	Base price
401 - 500,000	-1c/litre	301 - 400,000	-1c/litre
501 - 600,000	-2c/litre	401 - 500,000	-2c/litre
600,000 +	-4c/litre	501 - 600,000	-4c/litre
		600,000+	-8c/litre

The test period will be in the calendar month. Where supply pattern permits, there will be a number of tests of SCC each month. Our aim is to test every collection. The average of these results will be used for payment purposes. The winter months of November to February will remain at 400,000. A 1c/litre penalty will be excluded for these months for suppliers between 300,000 to 400,000, however the bonus of 0.4c/litre will remain at 200,000 for this period.

## 3. Bord Bia SDAS

The next milk quality standard change is to the Bord Bia SDAS certification scheme. From January 1st, 2024, all farms must be certified under this scheme; milk will not be collected if the farm is not certified. This rule applies all year round.

## 4. Lactose %

The lactose % is a very important component in milk and milk with abnormally low lactose is not suitable for processing. See below the existing versus new milk quality standard for Lactose %.

	Existing	New
>4.25%	Base Price	Base Price
4.00 - 4.24%	-2c/litre	-3c/litre
<3.99 %	-5c/litre	-5c/litre + no collection

The new Milk Quality Standards will come into effect from 1st January 2024 and will be published at the end of this year.



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### URBAN ALMA PRO

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**Species appropriate feeding all around the clock:** adjust the feeding curve to each individual animal with the corresponding amount of milk feed being distributed throughout the day.

**Metabolic programming as a result of intensive feeding:** provides many small milk portions for a natural approach.

**Health monitoring:** provides a variety of health parameters - retrievable at any point.

**Improved growth rate:** constant and regular feeding enhances daily weight gain.

**Consistent milk concentration:** maintains homogenous milk feed mixture by continuous mixing.


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**For more information visit your local Arrabawn store or [www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie](http://www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie)**

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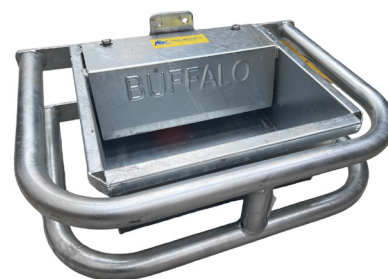
**Aluscraper Range**  
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## Preparing for drying off; the first job of 2024 and not the last job of 2023!

Good preparation is key to a successful drying off event. Planning should begin at least a month before you aim to start drying off. As you are aware, the new Veterinary Medicine Regulations came into effect in January 2022, meaning that farmers need to move away from 'blanket dry cow' therapy and adopt 'selective drying off strategies', which involve a more targeted use of antibiotic treatments. Only cows with evidence of infection are treated with antibiotics at drying off. Internal teat sealer should be used in the remainder of the herd as one of the measures to prevent new infections.

However, to be able to do this successfully there are some key management and hygiene practices that must be in place.

### Advance preparation that needs to be done before drying off:

- Milk recording within a month of drying off to identify cows with a high SCC, (followed by another recording in early 2024 to evaluate the success of the dry period).
- Collect sterile samples from a selection of high SCC cows, including old, young, recently infected, and chronic cows, to get a profile of the type of bacteria that are in the herd.
- Arrange a consult with your vet to discuss the drying off strategy.
- Review expected calving dates, to ensure an adequate dry period is achieved (minimum 6-8 weeks, longer in young or thin cows).
- Management of production levels; where cows are yielding greater than 12 L/day in the week before planned drying off, reduce feed intake, but not water access.



- Clip cows' tails and rear udders to ensure better hygiene.
- Avoid skipping milkings in the days leading up to drying off - meaning cows should be dried off abruptly.

We need to remember that a selective drying off strategy is not without risk and is not something to embark on without seeking professional support. It is important that time is put aside to discuss records and the drying off procedure with your advisor and vet. As part of the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) funded through the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020, a free Dry Cow Consult, is available for eligible farmers. The purpose of the TASAH Dry Cow Consult is to enable farmers to engage with their veterinary practitioner to develop farm-specific selective dry cow strategies, where appropriate. Applications are currently open for the TASAH Dry Cow Consult and details are available on the Animal Health Ireland website: [www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie). To be eligible, the farmer must meet the following criteria:

- average bulk milk tank SCC for the last 12 months is less than 200,000 cells/mL,
- at least 4 whole herd milk recordings in the last 12 months.

It is also time to start gathering the necessary equipment and arranging extra help that you will need at the time of drying off, as it can be a slow and tedious job. Drying off should be done separately and not done during milking. As the goal is to dry off the last cow as well as you did the first cow, then no more than 20 cows per person should be done on one day. Drying off cows should be avoided when the farmer is tired, hungry, or stressed. The necessary equipment needed includes:

- a clean apron,
- head torch,
- disposable gloves,
- teat wipes or cotton balls and surgical spirits,
- marker and recording notebook,
- and intramammary tubes, including teat sealers.

The importance of good hygiene cannot be over emphasised. Having a system in place for cleaning, sterilising teats and tubing and repeating for each cow is also an important part of the routine and teats should be disinfected after administering tubes. Cleaning the parlour between batches helps to maintain a clean environment.

Following drying off, keep the cows standing for a minimum of thirty minutes in a clean environment, like a nearby dry field or clean cubicles. The importance of good hygiene during the dry period should not be forgotten. Cows are susceptible to new infections particularly in the early dry period before their teats have sealed and in the 2 weeks prior to calving. Cows need to be monitored closely during these times because if mastitis is not identified promptly the cow can become very sick, very quickly.

## October Farmer Focus - Bernard Kelly Arrabawn SCC Winner 2022

Bernard Kelly from Ballydangan, Co. Roscommon was Arrabawn's winner of the 2022 Somatic Cell Count award. Bernard is also the overall winner for the Animal Health Ireland Cellcheck award for the co-op in 2022. Bernard farms a mixed dairy and beef enterprise on 100 acres in Co. Roscommon. Having also won an AHI CellCheck award in 2021 he believes managing somatic cell count should be a priority on all farms. Bernard is milking 50 Friesian cows twice per day at 7a.m. and 6p.m. using a 10-unit Dairymaster machine along with owning 50 head of drystock and being an AI technician. He believes in order to manage SCC it is important to act straight away if there is a rise in bulk tank SCC. He follows a simple but effective process of drawing the cows, identifying the problem cow, and treating the problem cow once he sees a spike in his SCC. When it comes to farming 'Every year is a different year' says Bernard but the following are some tips Bernard believes helps him to achieve a low SCC year on year:

- Bernard believes cleanliness is vital in the control of SCC. He achieves a clean environment for the



cow by clipping tails twice per year and keeping his 60 cubical cow shed clean and not overcrowded.

- Bernard uses Topsan SC plus post milking as a teat spray. He washes down cows with water pre-milking if dirty and then draws the cows at every milking, this helps to stimulate the cow to let down milk also before putting on the cluster which also

helps to avoid bimodal milking.

- Having expanded from 30 cows to 50 cows in the last 5 years, keeping a young herd is key to achieving his cell count goals. Cows in their third lactation or older become more difficult to cure when treating mastitis.
- Minimizing stress is vital to Bernard, this includes management stress in the parlour but also environmental stress such as water and heat stress during the summer months.
- Bernard began milk recording in the last 2 years because of the new regulations around antibiotics at dry off and believes it has been a hugely beneficial tool in achieving his consistent low cell count.
- Every year Bernard carries out sensitivity testing on his herd before drying off to ensure the correct treatment is given to his high SCC cows. He believes a long dry off is crucial for his high SCC cows and usually dries off from mid-November to begin calving at the beginning of February.
- As regards the milking machine- Servicing the machine at the beginning of each year is mandatory in Bernard's view and Bernard finds cluster removers a big addition in his parlour to avoid overmilking.

## Congratulations to Arrabawn milk suppliers, Owen and Orla Cleary of Kildarby, Borrisokane on winning the Arrabawn cup at the North Tipperary show.



Pictured is John Ryan (Bawn) (Arrabawn) presenting the cup to Orla. Also pictured is Siomha and Aibhlin Cleary."

## Closing Paddocks for the Winter

As the grazing season comes to a close, some decisions will need to be made. The aim is to have 60% of the paddocks grazed by the end of October and the remaining 40% in November if weather permits.

Once a paddock is grazed in October or November it should be closed off until next spring. If weather conditions are good, it can be tempting to leave cows out for an extra few days but it will have a big impact on the covers next spring.

With lower growth rates than expected recently the average farm covers will be lower in some places so extra caution is needed when deciding to close paddocks.

When closing paddocks the order which you do so must be considered. In early February which paddocks tend to flood? Have soft ground? More difficult to graze? Furthest away from the parlour? These paddocks should be grazed towards the start of October/November so that you do not need to graze them until March next year. The cover will be slightly heavy by March but the cows diet will be adjusted to grazing again and able to manage the heavy cover. Also ground condition should have improved making them easier to clean out.

Freshly calved cows in late January or early February have a lower intake of feed, so allowing them to graze slightly lighter covers will ensure a good clean out and encourage good grass growth for the second round.

Paddock which you intend to graze first should be closed in the later parts of October to ensure lower covers – but before the furthest away or most difficult paddocks to graze.

Close grass clover swards late October / early November

Order your Protected Urea for 2024

Apply lime

Sign up for the Signpost Advisory Programme

Regularly assess cattle & slaughterer as they become fit

Apply K to low index soils

# NEWS

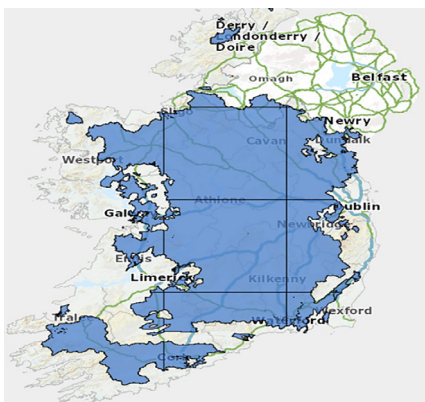
## Nitrates Derogation cut from 250kg N/ha to 220 kg N/ha confirmed

The final Implementation Map identifying areas that are subject to a reduction in limit in 2024 (250 to 220kg N/ha – areas in blue) is published on the DAFM website and can be accessed at the link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c9563-rural-environment-sustainability-nitrates/#water-quality-review-implementation-map-for-2024>

A proportion of derogation farms will have lands in both the 250kg/ha area and the 220kg/ha areas. The limit on these farms will be calculated on a parcel-by-parcel basis and where any part of the parcel is within the areas identified at the 250 kg limit, the whole parcel will be subject to this higher limit.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will be writing to derogation farmers in the coming weeks, to confirm the reduction from 250 to 220 and provide any information relevant to the changes. In the interim, the maps published will enable farmers to access the information necessary to assess their individual nitrates limit from 1 January next year.

Arrabawn would encourage suppliers over 220kg N/ha to contact them as soon as possible.



## CellCheck Top 500 “Milking for Quality” awards

Arrabawn is delighted to announce that we have 38 winners in the AHI Cellcheck Top 500 Milking for Quality Awards. The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday November 9th in the Killashee Hotel in Naas, Co. Kildare. See below the list of the Arrabawn winners & congratulations to them all on excellent milk quality in 2022.

Name	Location
Joe & Annette Kearns	Galway
Joe Hayes	Galway
Bernard Kelly	Roscommon
Paul Gohery	Galway
Joseph O Meara	Tipperary
Vincent & Conor O Brien	Galway
Sharon Hennessy	Galway
PJ Teehan	Tipperary
Martin Coffey	Galway
Kieran Kelly	Galway
Francis Oakley	Offaly
Michael & Damien Hough	Tipperary
Tomas Bowe	Wexford
Joseph Fallon	Galway
Francis Lydon	Galway
Alan Mulcahy	Tipperary
Michael Fagan	Wexford
Rory Dunne	Tipperary
John Ryan	Tipperary
Gary Tooher	Tipperary
Gregory & Michael Kirwan	Galway
Andrew Hogan	Tipperary
Nicholas Kennedy	Waterford
Tom Hogan	Tipperary
Tom Cahill	Galway
Don Mclean	Tipperary
Temple dairy Farm	Tipperary
Martin Burke	Galway
Martin Murphy	Laois
Joseph Clarke	Galway
Tim Fogarty	Tipperary
Seamus Grealley	Tipperary
John Frawley	Tipperary
Garryglass Farm	Galway
Maurice Clarke	Galway
Michael Mahon	Galway
Patrick Fleming	Wexford
John Kelly	Galway

“Contact Michael and the team to discuss the various finance and delivery options available to milk suppliers and also to discuss our range of TAMS approved machinery”

**MACHINERY**  
091-844086.

**Arrabawn**  
Together we grow

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