



Emerging Farmer Development Programme

Congratulations to our 12 Arrabawn milk suppliers who completed an Emerging Farmer Development Programme which took place over six days from 21st September to 14th December. The programme was designed in conjunction with ICOS and included modules on corporate governance, agricultural policy, dairy industry, marketing, sustainability & the bioeconomy, Arrabawn's history and operations, as well as leadership & strategy. The content was delivered by an array of speakers from ICOS, Teagasc, Ornua and Arrabawn, and was well received by all attendees.



In photo: Brian Molamphy, Conor O'Brien, Paul Ruane, Thomas Hogan, Edward Carr (Chairman) Tony Colleran, Thomas O'Meara, Paul Kelly, Jerry Moloney, Cathal McHugo. Absent from photo: Mella Briscoe, Michael Delaney, Ger Boland.

Future Proofing Your Farm



The crowd gathers for our Future Proofing Your Farm Event which took place in the Abbey Court Hotel Nenagh on January 10th. Special thanks to our speakers on the day Tom Fallon (Teagasc Building Specialist), John Conroy (Teagasc Dairy advisor Tipperary), Claire Mooney (ASSAP advisor Tipperary), Padraig Fogarty (Signpost advisor Tipperary) & Gillian Delahanty (Tipperary County Council)

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 2023 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.

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.

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.

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

HOUSING AND COLD STRESS:

Cold stress can be often overlooked. 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 2024 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.

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 producing cows. 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 4 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
Dairy Data – 087 2165902

Area Meetings

Reminder of our final Area meetings for this month.

Thank you for those who attended in Loughrea, Nenagh, Carlow and Charleville earlier this month.

**Birr County
Arms Hotel
Thursday
25th Jan.
2024
8 pm**

JANUARY

SPECIALS



Arrabawn
Co-Op

MILK BAR FEEDERS



10% OFF ALL RANGE

PEACH TEATS



FROM €4.50

SURVIVOR



FROM €12.95

MILK SHAKE 7KG



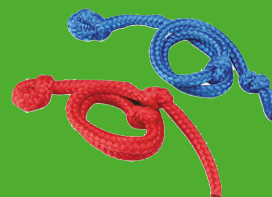
2 FOR €120

CALF JACKETS



€24.95

CALVING ROPES RED/BLUE



€10.95

RITCHEY LUBE 1LT



€5.95

AGRI HEALTH STOMACH TUBE



€18.95

MILK HEATER



**WAS €370
NOW €310**

CHECK INSTORE FOR OTHER SPRINGTIME OFFERS

www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie

Signpost Farm Updates

2023 has been a good year on the 4 Signpost Farms with lots of new technologies taken on and 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 2022 and a Sustainability report has been developed which tracks the economic, social, and environmental sustainability on each farm. This is the second time this data has been recorded and the 2021 figures will be used as the baseline figures for the Signpost Program going forward. The table below shows how the Arrabawn Signpost Farmers are currently performing when compared to 2021 Data from their farms.

	2022 Data	% Diff between 2021 vs 2022
Total farm emissions t CO2-e (IPCC1)	822.6	+1.96
Emissions kg CO2eq. per kg FPCM (IPCC)	0.74	-4.02
kg chemical N / ha	108	+3.77
% total chemical N as protected urea	24	+4.25
% slurry spread using LESS	100	+16.2
Total farm Ammonia emissions	3.36	-3.22
Area farmed, ha	124	+5.8
Cow numbers	112	+1.69
Meals fed kg/Dairy Cow	1284	+29
No of days grazing	266	+3.83
Family Farm Income €/ha	1581	+22.9
% farm using lime	50	0
Ground Lime usage t per farm	32	+78
% CAN_N	2.7	-1.33
% Urea_regular_N	17.34	-9.63
% Urea_protected_N	24.26	+4.33
N_use_efficiency	32	+10.2
P_use_efficiency	47	+6.73

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 test ends. 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 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.

Testing Open Days

On site testing open days in Tyone Mills Thursday 25th of January and Athenry branch Wednesday 31st of January. Sample bottle available in branches to bring samples on the day

- Faecal Egg Counts
- Strongyle (round worms), Strongyloides, Nematodirus, Tape worm, Ascarids
- Liver Fluke and Rumens Fluke Detection
- Lung worm Detection
- Rotavirus
- Cryptosporidium





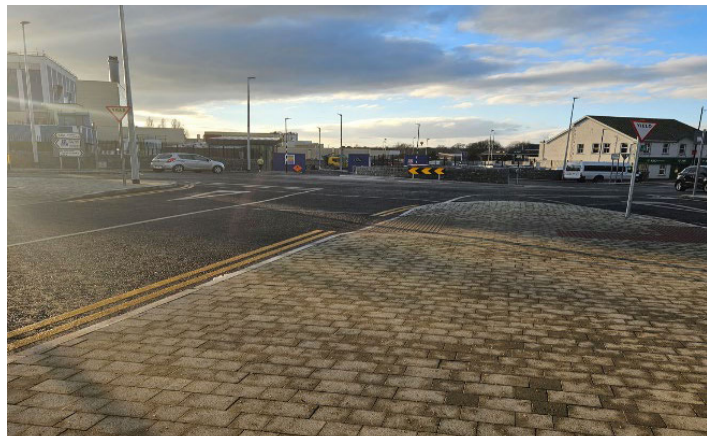
Arrabawn Co-op hosts Latvian Farmers Visit to Ireland to enhance co-operation among co-operatives

Farmers and co-operative members from Latvia, visited Ireland from the 4th – 7th December 2023, as part of a knowledge sharing initiative. The event was arranged between the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS) and the Latvian Agricultural Cooperative Association (LLKA). 22 farmer members, representing dairy, livestock, grain, and fruit and vegetable sectors, had the opportunity to learn about Irish agriculture and in turn share the Latvian agricultural story.

Included in the visit was meeting with Arrabawn Co-operative and a visit to Arrabawn Farmer, Michael Kennedy's farm, where the exchange of information and good practices were discussed, as well as drawing on comparisons from the agri-industry in both countries. A follow up discussion at the co-op, showcased the Arrabawn portfolio, followed by a plant visit to the Nenagh plant, facilitated by Ollie Heffernan (Plant Manager).



Development work currently being undertaken at the Arrabawn Plant in Nenagh



The pictures above outline the work that is being carried out on new entrance to the plant from the roundabout at the railway, the new weighbridge area, the new intake and wash station and the new security hut. Completion date for this development is early February

Nenagh Creamery History

By The Nenagh Guardian

The first step to find a creamery at Nenagh was taken in January of 1913 when a representative meeting was held.

It was decided to purchase the site of eight acres from Mr Cleary at Stafford Street for £60 per Irish acre. It was decided to apply for registration as a Friendly Society.

Messrs J. Nolan, T. O'Brien, R. Spain, P. Kennedy, E. Burke, Martin Ryan and Martin Gleeson were selected to make the application for registration.

The creamery was registered in March of 1913 with 638 shares, representing 540 suppliers, 98 ordinary shareholders.

On January 1914, Dan Hogan, Islandbawn, was elected by 5 votes to 4 as engine driver, and on January 10 1914 at a meeting of the committee it was decided to advertise for a manager.

On January 31 of that year, Mr Cass, manager of Toomevara creamery, was elected as manager at a salary of £150 per year. Mr Cass did not accept that position. Mr P. Coleman of Lacka (former manager of Templederry) was appointed.

There were 28 applications for the position of dairy maid at a salary of £1 or £1.10 per week. Miss O'Meara, niece of Mr. Ed O'Meara, Boulageelagh, was appointed. The erection of the building was under the supervision of Mr T.J.O' Meara. The most modern and up-to-date machinery was installed and erected under the supervision of Mr Harold, of Limerick Dairy Supply Company.

On April 10, 1914, Nenagh Co-Op Creamery opened its door, and the first supply of milk was taken in from suppliers. During the fight for freedom the Nenagh creamery was burnt to the ground by Crown Forces on November 9, 1920.

The creamery, with all its up-to-date machinery, one of the best in Ireland, was burned down and nothing remained but twisted iron and blackened walls and a heap of debris. The loss of the creamery was estimated at £20,000. Later the creamery was rebuilt and has gone from success to success with the result that today the production of milk has reached the figure of 6 million gallons a year.

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For further information or advice on any subjects or products mentioned in this newsletter

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