



Milk Recording is a tool which is vital on every farm to make data-based decisions! So why not start this year?

1. Reducing bulk tank SCC will be easily seen as cows contributing to the high value can be easily removed. 2 or 3 cows in a 100-cow herd can drive up the overall value very easily.
2. Earn more for surplus heifers or cows being sold from by having the data to back up their EBI's and potential milk supply.
3. By knowing the amount of milk solids being produced you can feed more accurately according to their production values and removing cows with high SCC will stop the spread of disease in the herd and ensure udders are healthy.
4. Breed from the best cows only, use the best bulls on your best cows to produce great calves. Don't breed from poor performers! This can only be known from milk recording regularly.

Reduce bulk tank SCC

Add value to animals

Improve Yield and solids

Breeding decisions-breed best

Accurate EBI's

Identify best and cows to cull

Benefits of Milk Recording

5. EBI values are great but don't always give the full picture. Two cows with the same EBI's can vary hugely in milk volumes produced. One cow may have higher milk solid values while another cow with the same EBI could be made up from fertility values.
6. Identify cows to culls follows on from breeding

decisions. The bottom few cows in the herd should be ideally removed each year to allow for younger cows with better genetics to enter the herd. Cows with millionaire values for SCC have no place being in the herd and should be shipped out!

Arrabawn Water Quality Improvement Programme

Free advice to all our suppliers
Confidential service
Focus on areas to improve water quality!

1. Farmyard Management
2. Land Management
3. Nutrient Management



Water Quality Action Plan for each Farm

For more information Contact Michael O Dwyer on 087 2667153

Funding for Water Protection Measures

Funding is available under the Water European Innovation Partnership for measures implemented to reduce the loading of Phosphates, Nitrates and Sediment entering our river network from agricultural sources.

Among the measures for which funding is available are, Hedgerow Establishment, Fencing of Waterbodies, Multi Species Swards, Pasture pumps and solar powered pumps with water troughs, Riparian Buffer Zones, Small Scale Wetland Ponds and Willow Beds, Sediment Traps and Water Bars, Farmyard Sediment Collection Tanks, Culverts and Bridges, Gateway relocation.

Technical Help This Spring!

Dan O'Connor Feeds is available this Spring to provide technical assistance on the ground during the calving season.

Michael Murphy, one of our ruminant nutritionist, is available throughout this calving season to provide support on fresh cow nutrition or to help address any health issues that may occur on your farm.

Contact your sales representative or Dan O'Connor Feeds 061-414988 to organise a phone call or an on-farm visit.



Animal Feed Compounders

DAN O'CONNOR
— feeds —

Arrabawn/Animal Health Ireland Calf Care Event

On the 15th of January Arrabawn Co-Op along with AHI hosted a Calf Care Event, just outside Nenagh, County Tipperary. Michael Quinn opened his farm to host over 80 people on day, despite very cold weather conditions on the day, it did not stop any of our suppliers joining in on the discussions. There was a great range of speakers on the day covering a wide range of topics from the birth of the calf right through to the weaning of the calf. There was some great questions and debates had on the day. We would like to thank Michael for hosting a highly successful event.

If you missed the event, below is a summary of the information outlined and key talking points on the day:

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS:

- Allow 2.0-2.5m² per calf in all pens – over stocked sheds lead to increased risk of disease spreading.
- Ensure fresh air is able to circulate efficiently in all sheds.
- 8-12 calves per group max. easier to manage.
- Keep indoor temperatures at 17°C to ensure maximum thrive, with no drafts.
- Ensure plenty of straw for calves to “nest”, allowing them to sleep in a warm, dry area.
- Calf Jackets are a terrific addition to add extra heat for sick or weak calves.
- A standard bay (15ft x22ft) can comfortably house 15 calves.
- A slope of 1:20 will ensure good drainage in pens.

FEEDING YOUNG CALVES

The first few weeks of life are crucial for ensuring that animals thrive and maximise outputs later in life. Calves have huge potential to convert feed to growing and thriving.







- Calves (40kg birthweight) should get 3L of colostrum within the first 2 hours of life. This volume should be adjusted based on the size of the calf.
 - E.g. A jersey type calf should get 2.5L and a larger Limousine calf get 4L.
- Feed transition milk (milking 2-6) to calves aged 2-5 days old, then move to whole milk or transition milk.
 - Although the antibody level in this milk is dropped, the milk dose has a higher nutritional value than whole milk.
 - If reheating colostrum, do so by gently warming in a bucket of warm water. Boiling or heating too quickly will destroy the antibodies, leaving the calf with no immune system.
 - 4L per day is RESTRICTIVE feeding and should be avoided.
 - Calves need 6-8L of milk or milk replacer per day.
 - More feeding results in better thrive, better immune systems, better rumen development, lower rates of disease and lower mortality.
 - When feeding milk replacer look for the below values at a minimum.
 - Protein 23-26% ◦ Fat 16-20% ◦ Ash 7-8% ◦ Fibre Max 0.1%
- Some powders on the market are slightly cheaper with protein values of 18-20%, these are not sufficient and will not benefit the calf in the long run.
- When mixing powders do not use boiling water, water above 40°C will destroy the proteins in the powder and are useless to the calf.
- When introducing concentrates to calves give a small handful daily.

MANAGEMENT AT WEANING

- Avoid abrupt weaning. Slowly decrease milk intake over the course of 10-14 days, to allow the calves to adjust.
- Ensure calves are eating 1kgs of concentrates per day.
- Allow 5L of water per 1kg of concentrates eaten. Water and concentrates are essential for good rumen development.
- Pellets or coarse rations are both good to be feed to calves.
- **Summer Scour:**
 - Summer Scour is typically seen in dairy calves shortly after been let out to grass. Signs include extreme scour, no thrive, pot belly, weight loss and in severe cases ulcers in the mouth.
 - The exact cause is not known, but it typically occurs in calves let out to lush green after grass or leafy green grass.
- **Some things to help reduce this:**
 - Put calves in paddocks with strong/stemmy grass. Calves need the stemmy grass to ruminate and to further develop their stomachs.
 - Give calves hay/straw while at grass to allow for extra fibre intake.
 - Do not put calves into paddocks which have been recently cut for silage.
 - Back fence paddocks to ensure calves continue to eat stemmy grass not regrowth.
 - Calve will prefer the sweeter, fresh grass to stemmy grass but it will not benefit their rumen development.

SIGNS OF CALF HEALTH

Identify common problems

Signs of good health and vigour		Respiratory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright • Playful • Curious • Keen to drink milk • Clear eyes and nose • No cough • Normal temp. (<39.5) 	Scour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean hindquarters • Well-formed faeces • Normal temp. 	
Look for early signs of disease		Respiratory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be quiet • Slow to stand • Still drinking milk • Discharge from eyes and nose • Cough on movement • High temp. (> 39°C) 	Scour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirty hindquarters • Loose faeces • Normal temp. 	
Late signs of disease		Respiratory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dull • Reluctant to stand unaided • Off milk • Severe discharge with pus • Frequent coughing and wheezing • High temp. (> 39°C) 	Scour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet hindquarters • Hair loss • Dehydrated • Watery faeces • Variable temp. 	

- **Remove** - Removing the scouring calf from the group – this helps prevent the spread of infection and gives the calf a better chance of recovery. Calves should be isolated in a well bedded pen and well away from other healthy calves.
- **Rehydrate** - The most important part of treating scour is fluids. Give two extra feeds (2 litres at each) per day of a good quality oral rehydration solution when the calf starts scouring and while scouring persists, even if the calf is bright and alert. These should be given separately from the milk feeds (for example, at lunchtime and again late in the evening). It is safe to give these fluids by stomach tube, assuming you are competent and confident with the technique.
- **Feed Milk** - Continue to offer scouring calves normal amounts of milk or milk replacer if they want to drink it. Do not feed diluted milk to calves. It does not cause, worsen, or prolong scour. Milk should not be stomach tubed, only electrolytes can be tubed.
- **Type** - Depending on the cause of scour there are other treatments specific to the type of scour. It is very useful to know the diagnosis as there are some treatments that can be used as preventatives also, which may help in the outbreak type scenario.
 - Do I need to give antibiotics? Antibiotics do not work against parasites and viruses that most often are responsible for scour. They should not be routinely used in the management of the mildest cases of calf diarrhoea. However, they should be used (by injection form only), if the calf is very sick, if blood is in the scour or if it has a temperature >39.5°C.
- In the case of an outbreak always contact your vet for the best advice.

MANAGING CALVES FOR SALE

Biosecurity:

- Minimise the number of people entering calf sheds.
- Disinfect before entry to the shed.
- Consider different clothing and footwear when purchasing calves either at marts or on farms.

Handling and Transport:

Calves destined for sale must be given the same standard of care as every other calf on the farm.

All calves must:

- Be fed colostrum.
- Be fed twice daily and have access to water.
- Have protection from wind and rain and have a clean dry bed.
- Be handled gently at all times.

When transporting calves they must have:

- Completely dry and withered navel.
- Can be correctly identified with the correct documentation.
- Suitable bedding added to vehicle floors.

Producing Quality Calves from the Dairy herd:

- Use of CBV (Commercial Beef Value) – tool for beef farmers to identify higher beef merit calves.
- DBI (Dairy Beef Index) – tool for dairy farmers to improve the quality of their beef calves without compromising on essential characteristics such as easy calving and gestation.

FEBRUARY

SPECIALS



Arrabawn
Co-Op

5 PACK GATE HANDLES



ONLY
€10.⁹⁵

FORCEFIELD POLYWIRE



20% OFF

AKO BATTERY B125



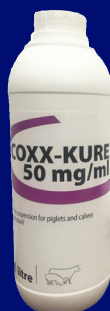
WAS €129
NOW €109

ARRALYTE+ CALF ELECTROLYTE



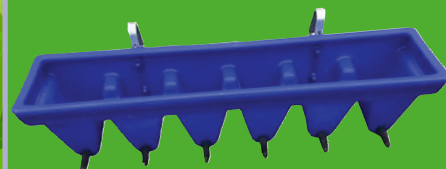
€3.⁵⁰ EACH
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15 OR MORE

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WAS €109
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6 TEST COMPARTMENT FEEDER RANCHER



€120

CHECK INSTORE FOR OTHER SPRINGTIME OFFERS

www.arrabawnhomevalue.ie

Managing SCC During the Calving Period

There are huge potential gains to be made by preventing mastitis infections around calving as the calving period can be critical in determining the infection status of the herd and individual cows throughout the rest of the lactation. Cows are very susceptible to infection around calving because their natural defence systems are low. Two weeks before and two weeks after calving are critical in managing mastitis and if >5% of your herd get mastitis in the first month after calving you should investigate and correct any problems. Around calving the udder is often filled with milk for long periods of time without being milked and bacteria may enter the end of the teat if udder pressure is high and the teat canal opens, they can then multiply and establish infections. There are two types of mastitis: contagious (e.g. Staph. aureus) and environmental (e.g. Strep. uberis and E. coli). Contagious mastitis causing bacteria usually reside in udder tissue and on teat skin and are most commonly spread during milking. Environmental mastitis causing bacteria survive in the cow's environment and while milking may facilitate their entry into the teat canal, the environment is the primary source of infection.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Calving boxes should be kept clean, with fresh dry bedding. If your knees are wet after kneeling it is not dry enough. Calving on slats and cubicles must be avoided. If calving outdoors the calving area should be sheltered, well drained and have minimal manure contamination. If there is water visible on the ground surface or in your wellie prints it is not dry enough for calving cows. Studies have shown that teat disinfection twice weekly in the 2-4 weeks before calving will reduce the challenge from environmental bacteria. Scrape passageways at least twice per day during this period and if automatic scrapers are present, they should run more frequently i.e. 6-8 times a day. Keep cubicles clean and dry by liming regularly. Keeping the housing dry is vital as it is more difficult for bacteria to survive and multiply under dry conditions.

IN THE PARLOUR

Do not leave cows dripping milk after calving, bring them into the dairy as soon as possible, check udders, machine milk and disinfect teats with a teat dip or spray. Freshly calved cow's teats are tight and tender, teat skin is often dry as it has been weeks since the last application of teat spray emollient and they are sometimes carrying dirt and manure. It is important for the first milking when

the risk of new infection is highest to invest in teat preparation. Check all cows are milked out fully in all quarters and ensure cows are not over or under milked. Ensure milk let down is occurring particularly in heifers. Stressed or agitated cows may have disrupted oxytocin levels. Calving heifers separately is always good practice as heifers are more likely to be bullied causing stress and forced to calve in the less suitable area of the calving pad/pen.

IDENTIFYING CLINICAL MASTITIS CASES

Clinical mastitis cases are costly and if missed can increase the bulk tank SCC. Early detection and treatment of clinical mastitis cases in the calving period reduces the risk of severe cases developing. It also reduces the risk of infection passing to other cows and developing chronic infections. Look for swollen quarters and check for heat and pain in all freshly calved cows. Check milk from all quarters of freshly calved cows every milking for the first 8 milking's (the colostrum and transition phase). Look for watery milk, clots, or flecks. With E. coli mastitis visible changes may not always be obvious. Check the healthy quarters first so infection is not transferred and disinfect gloves after examination. Consider taking samples for culture to identify the bacteria involved, these samples can be frozen for up to 4 months and if you become worried about the number of clinical cases you are having you can get them tested.

WARNING: When using test buckets (diversion buckets) for a prolonged period at or below the height of the cluster, there is a risk of damaging teats from overmilking. This is because the extra vacuum that usually lifts milk up into the milk line will be operating at the cluster. To avoid this issue only use test buckets for a short period of time (5-7 days) and avoid overmilking.

Many farmers are using selective dry cow treatment programmes when drying off cows and must remember that residual teat sealer is still an issue after calving so cows' milk should be withheld from the bulk tank for 6-8 milking's post calving regardless of antibiotic usage to minimise the amount of residual product entering the milk tank. If milk contaminated with teat sealer is used in cheese manufacturing, it can lead to black spot blemishes in maturing cheese. It is vitally important to ensure all sealant is milked out. Colostrum also has a higher acidity level than milk and may cause your bulk tank acidity levels to be raised if included in the bulk tank.

Testing Open Days

Our on-site farming testing service has been a tremendous success, with great participation from farmers at both sites. The feedback we have received from farmers who have engaged with the service has been positive.



**Heifer Sale in Portumna Mart Co. Galway
on the 23rd of February starting at 12 o'clock**

Tim Reddan is selling 40 freshly calved heifers.

- ✓ Milk Recorded
- ✓ Bred from proven Bulls.

AHI Milking for Quality CellCheck Awards

Congratulations to Kieran & Paul Kelly on winning the AHI CellCheck Milking for Quality Award for the 10th year in a row. This is a remarkable achievement and constantly achieving SCC results <70,000. Kelly's average SCC in 2023 was 64,000. This award was presented at the AHI Awards in Killashee House last November.



BELOW ARE SOME OF OUR 38 WINNERS WHO WERE AWARDED WITH MILKING FOR QUALITY CELL CHECK AWARDS, LAST NOVEMBER.



Michael & Damien Hough



Andrew Hogan



Michael & John Fagan



Tom Hogan

Joe Hayes
Joseph O Meara
Vincent & Conor O Brien
Maurice Clarke
Francis Oakley
Joseph Fallon
Rory & Lucy Dunne
Gregory & Michael Kirwan
Nicholas Kennedy (RIP)
Don Mclean
Temple dairy Farm
Patrick Fleming
Martin Murphy
Joseph Clarke
John Frawley



Alan Mulcahy



Tim Fogarty



Tomas Bowe



John Ryan



Gary & Marian Tooher



PJ & Sean Teehan



Cyril Greally



Bernard Kelly



John Kelly



Frances & Barry Mahon

NEWS



Francis Lydon



Joe Kearns



Tom Cahill



Martin Coffey



Martin B Burke



Paul Gohery



Donal & Sharon Hennessey



Patrick Hanrahan

Early Cow Nutrition - 100 days post Calving

Early lactation is most stressful time of the year for cows. They calf down, reach peak yield and prepare to cycle again all in 2-3 months. All these events require a lot of energy which must be supplemented through the diet. It is natural that cows will lose some weight, but it can be controlled with good diet management.

- Cows require 17-18% Crude Protein at this time. Ensure to choose a good quality dairy nut with the sufficient protein content. This protein will support milk peak yield, maintain body condition and general health (immune function). Cows may need up to 8-10Kgs of concentrates in early lactation, ideally split into morning and evening feed.

Silage Protein + Ration Protein ÷ 2 = ideally 17-18%
E.g. » 13% Silage + 22% Ration = 17.5% CP in diet

- The grass protein levels in spring can range between 22-24% protein. If cows are out on grass during the day, a 16% ration would be plenty sufficient in their diets.

- Energy and carbohydrates are also critical to balance. Ketosis and NEB- Negative Energy Balance are a result of low energy intake, which will have a knock-on effect on feed intake, loss of BCS, lower yield, longer to cycle again.

- A cow could lose 0.7kg/day if not fed its daily energy requirements. A high genetic merit cow will mobilise body fat at a higher rate than a lower genetic merit cow.

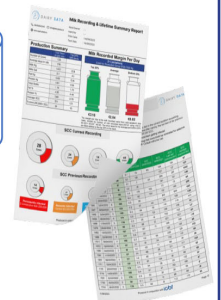


Milk Recording Service

James - 0876064344

➤ New to Milk Recording or an Existing Milk Recording Herd?

➤ Reports can be viewed as soon as 2-3 days after the milk recording



How do I sign up?

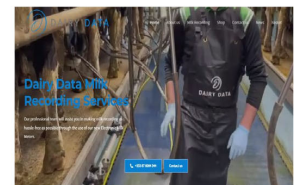
Contact us and have the following details ready:

1. Your Herd Number.
2. Number of units in your parlour
3. When you want your first test

☎ 0876064344 – James Cleary



🌐 www.dairydata.ie



- Cows should be encouraged to up their feed intake as every additional kg of Dry Matter consumed can support 2-2.4kg more milk.

Feed intake can be encouraged by:

- o Good forage quality- DM and DMD.
- o Increased feeding frequency- little and often.
- o Consistent feeding times.

- o Feed Infront of cattle 20hrs of the day.
- o Forage length of at least 2.6cm to encourage chewing and rumination.
- o Avoid major changes in diet.
- o Cows tend to eat straight after milking, ensure sufficient feed is available directly after milking.
- o High producing cows will tend to eat 12 times a day for roughly 23 minutes.

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 0963869 • Email: farmsupport@arrabawn.ie • Check out our Website: www.arrabawn.ie