



Arrabawn Signpost Farmers on a recent tour of the Arrabawn Ingredients plant in Nenagh. In the photo above: Paddy Purcell (Arrabawn), Ken Flynn (Gurteen College Farm Manager), Conor O'Brien (Arrabawn Signpost Farmer), Ned Kelly (Arrabawn Signpost Farmer), Michael Murphy (Arrabawn), Mark Plunkett (Teagasc), Liam Quinn (Teagasc Arrabawn Signpost advisor). Missing from photo is Conor Camon (Arrabawn Signpost Farmer)

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**  
**Arrabawn Coop Open Day**  
 Friday June 21st  
 Gurteen Agricultural College  
 All Welcome!!

## AgNav – Know My Number – Make My Plan

A “Know My Number – Make My Plan” component of the programme, supported by AgNav the Sustainability Digital Platform, will allow farmers to see and understand their carbon emissions and sequestration profile as a baseline on which to act. A team of 21 Signpost climate advisors are here to support this programme.

AgNav is a programme that calculates the greenhouse gas emissions for a farm. It collates data from ICBF plus Bord Bia and uses Teagasc’s life cycle assessment models to calculate the emissions produced on a farm. To find your emissions number, you need to sign up for the Signpost Advisory Programme.

With advisory support, farmers

will make a plan to improve by adopting positive changes and technologies, and advisors will help them with the implementation of the plan and tracking of progress.

This will also create trust and build capacity for supporting the adoption of new technologies as they emerge. The ambition of the programme is to engage with 50,000 farmers between now and 2030. Use your phone to scan the image below to sign up for the programme.



## Signpost Farm Walk

Padraig, Conor & Mary Camon,  
 Killourney, Cloghan, Birr, R42 NW54

Topics to be discussed include:

- Current Farm Performance
- Emission Profile
- Water Quality
- Grassland Management

📅 Wednesday 24 April

🕒 11 AM

## Using PIP Maps to Minimise Losses on Signpost Farmer Conor Camon's Farm

Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps have been developed by the environmental protection agency to help focus on areas that may affect water quality. These maps are effective in identifying areas for potential nitrogen and phosphorous loss, along with showing the water quality status of watercourses and identifying critical source areas and overland flow paths.

On a recent visit to signpost farmers Padraig, Conor, and Mary Camon's farm, these PIP maps were discussed. Decisions around fertiliser application are being made at present on the farm. As always factors such as weather, good field conditions, active grass growth, soil temperature above 6 degrees and using the right product at the right rate are taken into account before spreading fertiliser, but the PIP maps are another tool that can be used target fertiliser to maximise its effectiveness and prevent losses to watercourses.

In discussion, it was evident from the maps that the milking platform is more susceptible to nitrogen loss, while an out block is more susceptible to phosphorous

loss. This identifies the need for a slightly different management on each block.

For the milking platform, the risk of potential nitrogen loss is high, identified by a dark purple on the PIP map. The most effective way of reducing the potential of nitrogen loss is by optimising soil fertility, using sulphur to maximise nitrogen use efficiency, and incorporating clover to reduce overall chemical nitrogen use. These measures are in place on Camon's farm and will continue to help reduce the potential of nitrogen loss.

For the out block then, the PIP map indicates that there is potential for phosphorous loss, identified by a dark blue colour. Areas with high potential of phosphorous loss are generally associated to poorer draining soils. The PIP map shows a high amount of overland water flow on the out block, which can carry phosphorous and sediment. Breaking overland flow paths, maintaining buffer margins, and applying fertiliser when there is active growth all contribute to reduced phosphorous and sediment loss. Hedgerows are effective in

breaking overland water flow paths.

Camon's have recently planted 480m of new hedgerow to divide parcels on this out block, which have contributed to reduced overland flow and increased biodiversity on the farm.

It is important to make maximum use of all fertiliser applied be that organic or chemical fertiliser. PIP maps are an important tool in targeting these fertilisers to where they are most effective, while also helping prevent losses to watercourses. Should you want to discuss the PIP maps for your farm contact your local agricultural advisor or consultant.

There is Teagasc/Arrabawn signpost event on the Camon's farm on Wednesday the 24th of April 2024 from 11am – 1pm. We will be covering the emission profile of the farm, the PIP maps for improving water quality, and grassland management. The circode is R42NW54 and all are welcome on the day.

**Liam Quinn**  
Teagasc Signpost Programme

**Signpost Update 3-4-2024:** Grazing has been variable on the signpost farms throughout March. Focus is now turning to fertiliser for silage ground. The target application for (5t/DM/Ha) 1st cut silage is 100 units of Nitrogen per acre including a combination of nitrogen from slurry applied, and protected urea with sulphur. Where slurry at 6% dry matter was applied at 2,500 – 3,000gl/acre, phosphorous and potassium levels are adequate. If silage ground did not receive slurry, and there is a phosphorous and potassium allowance, compound fertiliser such as 0-7-30 or 18-6-12 is being used and then topped up with nitrogen in the form of protected urea and sulphur. The target for sulphur is 10-15 units per acre.

Farmer		Litres/				Kg/MS/			Average Farm			
Farmer	County	Cow	Fat %	Protein %	SCC	Cow	Meal Kg	Cover	Growth	% Grazed	% Calved	% Fertilised
Conor Camon	Offaly	28	4.49	3.22	89	2.22	5.5	686	19	2	93	0
Ned Kelly	Tipperary	27	4.54	3.2	80	2.15	6	1089	22	22	80	0
Conor O'Brien	Galway	23	4.36	3.1	27	1.77	5	885	14	62	95	75
Gurteen Ag. College	Tipperary	28	4.41	3.21	102	2.17	6	664	14	65	93	95
<b>Average</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>43</b>

# APRIL OFFERS

## SPECIALS



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## Making the most of your milk recording this breeding season

Clare Clabby

Farm Relations Advisor

As we approach the breeding season it is important we maximise the returns from our time and money invested in milk recording. Milk recording is an important tool for identifying your top producing cows in your herd from which to breed your replacement heifers from.

ICBF have numerous reports available based on your milk recording results. These can be found by logging in to your ICBF account, clicking on the 'Reports' button in the blue bar at the top of the screen and then clicking 'MILK MANAGEMENT' (Figure 1).

For the breeding season, a useful report to look at is the 'Milk Recording Lifetime Report', circled in red below (Figure 1). This gives an overall summary of the herd and ranks the cows within your herd from Top 20%, Average and Bottom 20% performing cows.

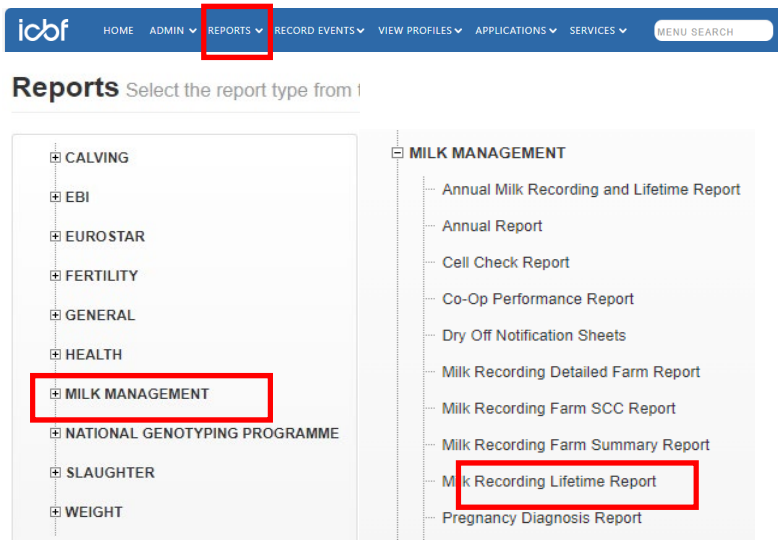


Figure 1. Step by step guide to access milk management reports in ICBF

### The Milk Recording Lifetime Report Explained

The first table 'Production Summary' compares your overall performance herd with the top 20% herds milk recording. This is a useful toll to allow you identify areas in your herd which you may need to focus on improving in terms of milk production (milk volume or milk solids), fertility, or SCC (average SCC for the herd or the percentage of cows over 200,000 SCC). Identifying which of these three areas are performing well or need improvement will be the foundation of your breeding plan.

The second table 'Milk Recorded Margin Per Day' compares the cows in your herd against each other in three categories 1) the top 20% in the green churn, 2) the average in the grey churn and 3) the bottom 20% in the red churn. To improve the overall performance of your herd, the goal is to reduce the gap between your top 20% and bottom 20% which results in a more uniform herd. This optimises the profitability of every cow in the herd, not just the top 20%. In the following pages of this report each cow is individually ranked, with the top 20% highlighted green and the bottom 20% highlighted red. Ideally, we should be breeding all replacement stock from the top 20% of cows in the herd. At a minimum, replacement heifers should not be bred from the bottom 20% of cows. These cows should be selected for a beef bull with a high CBV value.

### The Milk Recording Lifetime Report – Managing your SCC

The Milk Recording Lifetime Report can be a useful tool to manage SCC in the herd. In the third table on the bottom half of the 'Milk Recording Lifetime Report' page (Figure 2) a summary of cows SCC performance in the herd is given. Cows are categorised into 4 groups depending on their SCC. The top line shows the results for the current milk recording, while the bottom line allows you to compare with the previous milk recording.

1) Persistently infected cows (shown in red) have had two consecutive milk recordings over 200,000. The target is to have 8% or less of your herd in this category. Persistently infected cows should be identified and treated. If there is no significant reduction in the SCC of a persistently infected cow after 2 rounds of treatment, she is considered chronically infected. Chronically infected cows should be removed from the herd as they act as a reservoir for infection for the remaining healthy cows.

2) Recently infected cows (shown in orange) have previously had an SCC below 200,000 and are now over 200,000 in the latest milk recording. The target is to have 7% or less of your herd in this category. Similarly, these cows should be identified and treated.

3) Recently cured cows (shown in blue) have previously had an SCC over 200,000 and are now below 200,000 in the latest milk recording. These cows should be monitored in your next milk recording to ensure re-infection hasn't occurred.

4) Healthy cows (shown in green) are cows that are consistently below 200,000. This should make up the largest percentage of your herd. This can be monitored by comparing against previous milk recording to identify potential outbreaks of infection early.

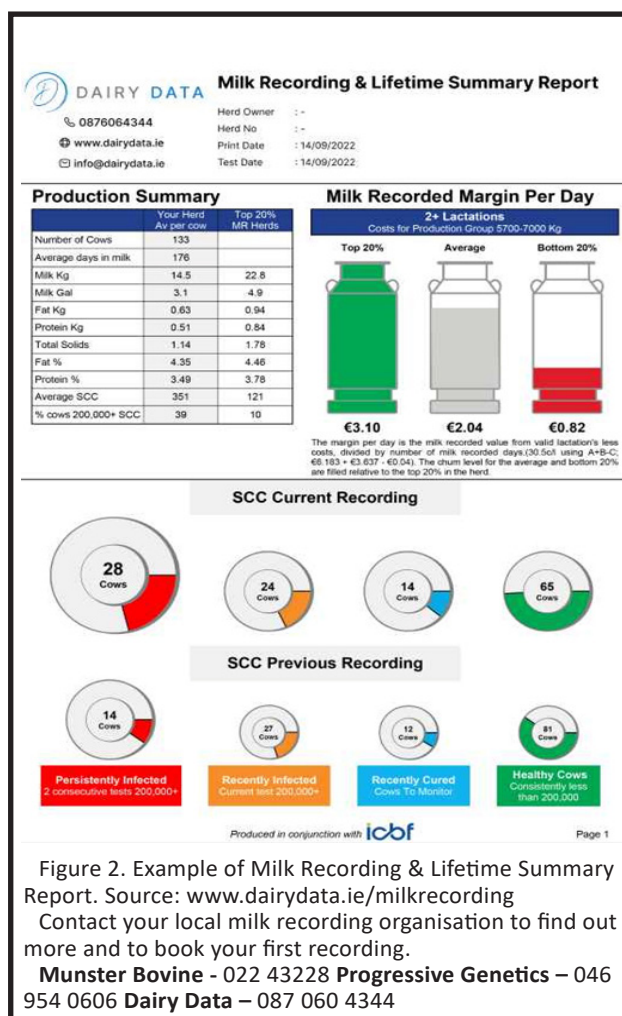


Figure 2. Example of Milk Recording & Lifetime Summary Report. Source: [www.dairydata.ie/milkrecording](http://www.dairydata.ie/milkrecording)  
Contact your local milk recording organisation to find out more and to book your first recording.  
**Munster Bovine - 022 43228 Progressive Genetics – 046 954 0606 Dairy Data – 087 060 4344**

Please contact your milk advisor for assistance with managing you SCC

## As the season finally gets off to a start it's worthwhile checking the Lubricant Levels of all your machinery.

As the season finally gets off to a start it's worthwhile checking the Lubricant Levels of all your machinery.

Lubricants play a crucial role in the Maintenance, Performance and Protection of all Agri Machinery particularly during the busy Spring / Summer seasons.

### They serve several essential functions:

**1. Reducing Friction:** Lubricants create a thin barrier between moving parts, significantly reducing friction. This not only prevents wear and tear but also enhances the efficiency of machinery, ensuring that it operates smoothly & economically during critical periods.

**2. Cooling Components:** By reducing friction, lubricants also help dissipate heat generated by the engine and other moving parts. This cooling effect is vital for maintaining an optimal operating temperature and preventing overheating, especially under heavy workload periods.

**3. Protection Against Rust and Corrosion:** Quality lubricants contain additives that protect metal surfaces from moisture and contaminants, preventing rust and corrosion. This protection is crucial for the longevity of machinery and their components.

**4. Cleaning the Engine:** Many modern lubricants have detergents and dispersants

that help clean the engine by removing sludge and varnish. This keeps the engine running efficiently and extends its lifespan.

### Choosing the correct Lubricant:

#### OEM Spec:

The OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) Spec is the easiest way to find out exactly what grade of Oil / Lubricant is required for your piece of machinery. These Spec's will be listed in the Owners Handbook.

When it comes to Engine Oils the OEM will Spec a grade with an API Classification (American Petroleum Institute) i.e. API CI-4 and an ACEA Spec (Association Constructures de European Automobiles) i.e. ACEA E7.

A combination of these Spec's will appear in the Handbook along with appearing on the Labels of the Arrabawn Engine Oil range.

**Just as an FYI NO Tractor manufactured since circa 1996 / 1997 has Spec'd a SUTO (Super Universal Tractor Oil) 10W-30 or a STOU (Super Tractor Oil Universal) 15W-30 for the Engine or the Transmission / Backend.**

The main reason for this is the advancements in technology around these components over the past 25+ years.

The minimum requirement for an Engine

Oil since circa 1996 / 1997 is an ACEA E7 & API CI-4 which is the **Arrabawn Turbo Diesel E7 15W-40.**

**Quality Standards:** Opt for Lubricants that meets or exceed the quality standards set by the OEM. High-Quality / High Performing Lubricants may cost more upfront but can save money in the long run by reducing wear, enabling the machinery to run more economically, extending machinery life, and reducing expensive Top Up's during the busy seasons.

### Best Practices for Lubricant Application:

1. **Follow the Manufacturer's (OEM's) Recommendations:**
2. **Clean fittings before connecting.**
3. **Monitor for Leaks:**

Proper lubrication is a cornerstone of machinery / equipment maintenance, especially during the demanding Spring / Summer seasons.

Lubricants play a vital role in ensuring the efficiency and longevity of agricultural machinery.

If you are unsure as to the Spec required by a piece of Machinery, please contact one of our branches with the **Manufacturer, Year, & Model** and we'll be able to find out what grade is recommended for you.

## Control docks now for dock free silage

Dock can wreak havoc in silage. Teagasc research has shown a 10% dock infestation can result in a 10% drop in grass silage yields.

With many crops about to be closed, for an early silage cut there is now a real opportunity to plan an application of DoxstarPro and get rid of the docks before the silage is cut.

Docks severely damage yield and quality of grazing and silage swards. In first cut silage, even a moderate infestation of docks will cut dry matter yields by at least a tonne/acre and significantly impair quality. In baled silage, dock stems play havoc with the film, leading to substantial wastage.

The ideal time to spray is two to four weeks after nitrogen is applied when docks are actively growing and are 15-25cm (6-10in) high or across and before a seed head begins to emerge. This is called the rosette stage.

The key requirement is to wait for a minimum of three weeks after DoxstarPro is applied before harvesting the silage. This ensures that the chemicals get fully translocated down to the roots, a vital factor in achieving long-term control.

The dock taproot can be up to a metre deep. A translocated herbicide, DoxstarPro has the right combination of chemicals and the mode of action that ensures a complete kill of the root system, ensuring effective, long-term



control.

Unlike hormone and dicamba-based products, DoxstarPro does not affect grass growth.

### For best results

- Apply DoxstarPro to silage swards a minimum of three weeks before cutting.
- Apply when docks are actively growing and are 15-25cm (6-10in) high or across.
- Apply at a rate of 2 litres/ha as a single application or two applications of 1 litre/ha six to 12 months apart.
- Use a minimum of 300 litres water/ha (30gals/ac)

## April CellCheck Tip

### Are you interested in a free mastitis consult?



Hopefully the weather will have picked up when you are reading this as it has been a challenging Winter and Spring, which might make you open to hearing some good news. Following the positive feedback and results from farmers that have participated in CellCheck Dry Cow Consults, the CellCheck team have developed a consult to help farmers that are having difficulty in managing mastitis and SCC levels on their farm. 2022 saw the introduction of a new TASAH-funded in-lactation consult called 'Cell Count Solutions', as a pilot programme. We are happy to say that further funding is available, enabling a national roll out of this consult. As mastitis is a multifactorial problem it benefits from a multidisciplinary approach. This new consult is an opportunity to commence the process of mastitis problem-solving using a multidisciplinary team. It is also important to remember that there is no quick fix to resolving mastitis issues and this consult is a first step in ongoing multi-disciplinary engagement and support.

Although the TASAH-funded consult is vet-led, a key objective of the consult is to identify other on-farm service providers, such as farm advisors, milk quality advisors and milking machine technicians with whom the farmer already has a relationship and to kick-start a collaborative approach to addressing mastitis. There are no eligibility criteria for farmers to participate in this consult. It

is targeted at herds with an SCC above 200,000 cells/ml and/or are struggling to manage mastitis in their herds.

Farmers can register through the AHI website and select their preferred, trained veterinary practitioner and choose the additional service providers (milk quality advisor, farm advisor, milking machine technician), who will also have the option and ideally be involved in the consult while also providing ongoing support to the farmer.

**The goals of the consult are to work with you the herdowner, to:**

- Initially assess the herd mastitis situation, based on available information and data, and propose some early remedial actions.
- Identify and understand the economic opportunity and potential from improving mastitis control on-farm.
- Identify and agree mastitis-related goals and develop a detailed plan, for both further investigation and monitoring of the herd's mastitis situation.

To register, click [HERE](https://portal.animalhealthireland.ie/CKKTASAHLACFR/) <https://portal.animalhealthireland.ie/CKKTASAHLACFR/>

## Arrabawn Water Quality Improvement Programme

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2. Land Management
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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.



## CELL COUNT SOLUTIONS

### SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING

- ✓ Do you want to improve your mastitis problem solving skills?
- ✓ Do you want an opportunity to get more involved in udder health investigations?
- ✓ Are you interested in being part of a team that helps your clients to deal with high SCCs and mastitis problems?
- ✓ Are you keen to learn how to communicate more successfully with your clients?

Cell Count Solutions training is open to veterinary practitioners, farm advisors, milk quality advisors and milking machine technicians. It highlights the roles that different professions play in supporting herdowners in the management of mastitis.

This free training has a blended approach to learning and involves two stages:

**Stage 1** is fully online and can be completed in your own time. The five modules of Stage 1 must be completed before attending Stage 2.

**Stage 2** is delivered in person by Animal Health Ireland. It aims to provide an understanding of the various areas of expertise that each profession provides and to support professionals to deliver an in-depth investigation of mastitis on-farm using relevant farm data available to them.

All service providers must complete both stages of the training to allow them to participate in the veterinary-lead TASAH funded consult. This consult is the first step in creating a multi-disciplinary team, to support farmers in the ongoing process of investigating and resolving mastitis issues.



Scan QR code to register for Stage 1

<https://portal.animalhealthireland.ie/CKKTASAHLAC1T/>



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