



North Tipperary Agricultural Show

On Monday, August 5th, the annual North Tipperary Agricultural Show took place at the Nenagh Showgrounds. Established in 1875, this event has been a key part of the community for 149 years.

The North Tipperary Agricultural Show plays a vital role in the community. It shows how crucial agriculture is to our lives and gives local producers a chance to showcase their products. This event is a key date on the calendar for farmers, local businesses, and attendees. The event fosters a sense of community by allowing attendees to share ideas and connect with one another.

Arrabawn was thrilled to again be the main sponsor for this great event, highlighting our commitment to supporting local community relationships and community spirit. We believe in building strong connections within our community and supporting the important agricultural sector.

On the day, there were many exciting displays, a dog show, a kids' play zone, and a petting zoo, to name a few. Arrabawn were also excited to also have a display stand on the day.

The show was a huge success. There was a large turnout, with hundreds of people in attendance, and they did not let the rain showers dampen the spirits!

Congratulations to all involved for organizing a smooth and well-executed show! We look forward to supporting more events like this and strengthening our community ties in the future.

We look forward to next year's show!
Below are some pictures from the day!



Arrabawn were delighted to host a delegation on buyers from South East Asia as part of Bord Bia and EU Dairy Campaign Inward Buyer Visit last month.

We were delighted to share our story, past present and future and show how we process our farmers milk ready for export. Markets of South East Asia are very important destinations for Arrabawn protein. We hope they had a great rest of trip and enjoyed their afternoon at Arrabawn.



Everyone Benefits from Cleaner Water

The new Farming for Water European Innovation Project (EIP) includes a €60m budget to fund a range of on-farm measures to improve water quality

Q: What is it? A: €60m Water EIP (European Innovation Programme) designed to target the most vulnerable areas for water quality across the country with specific measures that will have maximum impact in improving water quality.

Q: Who is operating it? A: LAWPRO (Local Authority Water Programme), Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland, in collaboration.

Q: Why is it needed? A: Water quality needs to improve locally, regionally and nationally.

Q: What is the main objective? A: To help farmers implement appropriate measures to address and improve water quality issues in vulnerable areas for water quality. Putting the "right measure in the right place" is a key part of the programme.

Q: How does it work? A: Specialised Water Quality Advisors (from ASSAP/Teagasc & the Dairy Co-ops) approach farmers in the most vulnerable areas for water quality with a view to assessment and voluntary participation in the programme.

Q: Is there guaranteed access? A: No, there is a rigorous selection process similar to many other schemes. It is not until this process is carried out, that approval and subsequent participation in the EIP can be granted.

Q: Are there payments? A: Yes, there are 41 different measures in the EIP with varying rates of payment for each.

Q: When did the scheme start? A: It was announced in March and has opened for applications in recent months.

Farming for Water Quality Farm Event

Eoin Toohey's Farm Moneygall County Tipperary

September 4th • Starting at 11am



Q: What is the scheme's relevance to Tillage? A: Use of Cover/Catch Crops are a key measure in the EIP to address the high nitrates problem, in areas such as the southeast, in particular. There are also pesticide measures to deal with specific issues.

For more information contact Michael O'Dwyer at Arrabawn Co-op on 0872667153.



Better Farming For Water Campaign



- Nutrient Management**
 - 01 Reduce purchased nitrogen (N) & phosphorus (P) surplus per hectare
 - 02 Ensure soil fertility is optimal for lime, phosphorus and potassium
 - 03 Ensure application of fertiliser and organic manure at appropriate times and conditions
- Farmyard Management**
 - 04 Have sufficient slurry and soiled water storage capacity
 - 05 Manage and minimise nutrient loss from farmyards and roadways
- Land Management**
 - 06 Fence off watercourses to prevent bovine access
 - 07 Promote targeted use of mitigation actions such as riparian margins, buffer strips & sediment traps to mitigate nutrient and sediment loss to water
 - 08 Maintain over-winter green cover to reduce nutrient leaching from tillage soils



A €60m locally led Agri-environmental project to protect water quality

Primarily using nature based solutions, the Farming for Water EIP project aims to deliver targeted actions to reduce loss of nutrients, sediment and pesticides from agricultural lands.

Funding for Water Management

Install measures to protect water quality on your farm

Rainwater Management Plan



Tree planting in buffers



Solar troughs and fencing



Bunded Drains



WHAT IS THE AMBITION?

This European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project will engage up to 15,000 farmers across the country where water quality needs to be improved.

Duration:

This is a five year project 2023 -2027

WHAT ARE MEASURES?

ASSAP advisors will support you in designing the appropriate measures on your farm and funding will be provided to install these. Measures are bespoke to your farm and local water issue.

HOW TO SIGN UP?

Contact your advisor: The project will focus on areas needing most attention to protect water quality. Farmers from within these areas will be invited to participate by appointed farm advisors or agents working on behalf of the project such as ASSAP (Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme) advisors, Dairy Co-Op advisors and the wider agricultural industry.

AUGUST OFFERS

SPECIALS



Arrabawn
Co-Op

ALL PHILMAC FITTINGS



SAVE 10%

ALL PORTWEST BOOTS



SAVE 10%

ALL GENFITT RANGE



SAVE 10%

ALL CASTLE PAINTS



SAVE 15%

ALL JFC MEAL BINS



SAVE 10%

ALL WATER PUMPS



SAVE 10%

Preparing for winter housing

Clare Clabby

While there is no single factor to successfully control infectious disease, housing and the surrounding environment can contribute significantly to the control of infectious diseases. Now is a good time to review our housing needs for the coming winter and carry out any repair or maintenance work that may be required.

Research has shown that dry cow housing can significantly contribute to SCC (somatic cell count) in the following lactation. Cows housed on cubicles that are cleaned and limed daily over the dry period have significantly lower SCC and risk of mastitis in the following lactation.

CUBICLE SHEDS

Is there sufficient capacity to house both cows and first-time calving heifers in the shed? At a minimum, it is advised to have one cubicle per cow, with a 10% surplus advised (for example, 100 cows and heifers with 110 cubicles available). Are cubicle bars in good condition and securely fixed in place to prevent cows,

particularly heifers, from turning around in them. Keeping cows and heifers faced the correct way in cubicles contributes to improved cleanliness in the environment.

CUBICLE MATS

Clean dry cubicles are a key component to reducing the risk of new mastitis infections over the dry period. Are cubicle mats in good condition? Excessive wear/cracks in cubicle mats may act a reservoir for dirt and bacteria and increase the risk of mastitis infection as a result. Similarly, are cubicle mats fixed and lying flat, older cubicle mats can curl up at the ends and hold dirt and moisture. Are there any repairs required to the roof to ensure cubicles remain dry for the housing period?

FLOORING AND SCRAPERS A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environment that can be easily scraped and avoids the accumulation of waste can contribute to reduced incidence of lameness and mastitis. Cows with cleaner hocks, bellies, and udders are less likely to

develop mastitis infections. Additionally, maintaining a clean environment will help mitigate the spread of infectious diseases such as mortal arrow which can spread rapidly at housing.

Check flooring, older concrete floors can become slippery from wear and tear. Consider regrooving floors to improve grip and reduce slipping. Older concrete floors can become broken down and cracked which makes them more difficult to clean and allows for the accumulation of waste. Consider repairing floors where required before housing.

Now is the time for existing scrapers to be serviced and repaired. Consider if there is a requirement for any additional scrapers in sheds/walkways/yards to avoid a buildup of waste.

DRINKERS

Access to fresh water is essential. Review drinkers and ensure they are in proper working order. Consider whether there are sufficient drinking points in the shed, especially during the calving season, as older cows may bully newly calved heifers and restrict their access to water if there is only one drinker available.

Mastitis and SCC control involves knowing your cows and their SCC levels

Acting as soon as you notice SCC rising is key. This indicates that infection levels are rising, which is a negative for cow health, milk value and processability.

Teagasc research shows that:

- 100,000 to 200,000 cells/ml indicates approximately 20% of the herd are infected.
- 200,000 to 300,000 cells/ml indicates approximately 30% of the herd are infected.
- 300,000 to 400,000 cells/ml indicates approximately 40% of the herd are infected.

So, if you have elevated SCC on farm, the next steps are to milk record, use the CMT to identify infected quarters, and then carry out some culturing and sensitivity on milk from the infected quarters. That will give insights into which cows, which quarters are infected and then you can review your options for:

- The Herd
- The individual cows

Once you have identified your infected cows from your uninfected cows you should be able to prioritise the management of both groups. You should be able to milk uninfected cows as normal –but it is key to protect from infection. However, cows can vary quite a bit in SCC and infection status so milk recording on a regular basis and using a CMT will be key to preventing infection of this group of cows. Focus on:

1. Teat Disinfection
2. Grouping of animals based on SCC readings.
3. Clean Gloves/Aprons while milking.
4. Clean and fresh clusters

With the infected cows it is critical to not allow cross-contamination between this group of cows and the uninfected group of cows. This can be managed by treating cows (consult with your vet), use of the CMT and drying off with long-acting treatments.



SCC Advice & Management

Interested in one-to-one SCC management & advice from a trained advisor, please contact Arrabawn Milk Quality Advisor Clare Clabby 087 9152835

Top 5 Tips for TBC and Thermoduric control this August

• **BULK TANK** – The bulk tank should be cooling milk to under 4°C to minimize bacteria growth within 2 hours of milking. Are compressors working correctly? Have you enough gas in the system? Is water flow to your plate cooler adequate? This will lower your energy costs. Put a clean filter sock in before washing to keep the plate cooler free from debris and in turn bacteria.

• **DETERGENTS**- A good strength caustic needs to be used while rotating in your acid washes often enough. If you are in a hard water area a water softener may be required or your detergents will not be effective. We recommend writing a weekly routine on a chart containing all the necessary hot and cold washes along with which ones are caustic and which are acid. Finally keep an eye on your detergents that they are still fresh and in date.

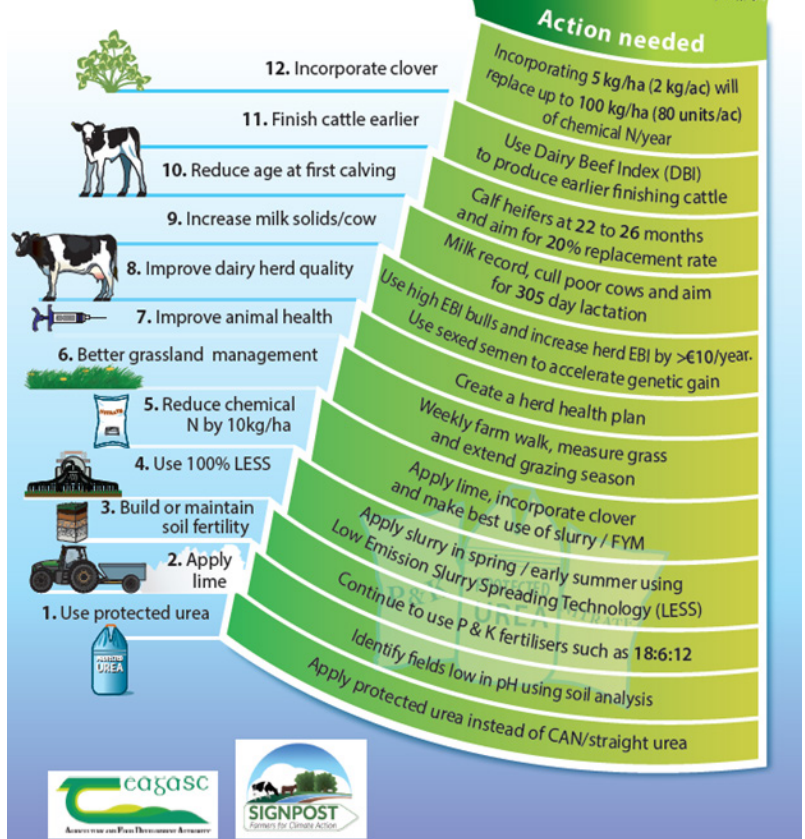
• **HOT WATER**- One of the most common problems found at farm level is hot water is not hot enough. Use a thermometer to check that it is reaching 75-80°C. This will ensure you have enough hot water going through the system at the start to be dumping at 55°C after 8-10 mins.

• **VACUUM LINE**- There should be no milk residue in the vacuum line. This is a key area for thermoduric control. This is one of the key areas for thermoduric bacteria control.

• **CLUSTERS** – liners should be changed every 2000 milking's and checked that the rubber is not rough. Claw piece should be checked by feeling around on the metal and plastic to ensure no biofilm build up is present

• **AUTO WASHERS**- check that pipes are not kinked or that detergent has not crystallized inside them particularly if you are changing over detergents as the new and old products can react and form crystals. Ensure the correct amount of product is being taken up.

Where are you on the 12 Steps to reduce Gaseous Emissions on YOUR FARM?



Ag Nav Sign Up

Know My Number – Make My Plan

A "Know My Number – Make My Plan" Sustainability Digital Platform, will allow farmers to see and understand their carbon emissions and sequestration profile as a baseline on which to act.

Ag Nav will provide an accurate:

- Total GHG emissions
- Carbon Footprint
- Nitrogen Surplus Figure

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 Ag Nav. Please contact Michael O Dwyer on 0872667153.

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.

Arrabawn Milk Supplier Sustainability Bonus 2024 Sign Up

Arrabawn has as ongoing focus on sustainability and a commitment to the environment at our core. We know our milk suppliers hold similar values and are equally committed. It is our priority to create a sustainable future for Irish farming, and changing how we farm to reduce our environmental impact, will be key to ensuring we can do this.

Arrabawn Co Op has introduced a sustainability bonus, called the Arrabawn Milk Supplier Sustainability bonus, which we offer our milk suppliers who undertake impactful sustainability measures on their farm. Suppliers who opt into this scheme in 2024, have the potential to receive a bonus payment of 0.5 cent per litre (cpl) on a monthly payment in exchange for meeting three sustainability criteria:

1. Using Protected Fertiliser
2. EBI Improvement
3. Milk recording.

Based on extensive consultation we have chosen to implement these three measures as they are impactful, measurable, and proven to work. We believe implementation of these three measures will have a significant impact on environmental indicators, especially Greenhouse Gas Emissions. There is still time to sign up for the Sustainability Bonus. Contact Paddy Purcell on 087 0963869 for more details.

The National Genotyping Programme (NGP)

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL GENOTYPING PROGRAMME?

The National Genotyping Programme is a collaborative initiative enabling Ireland to take the first step in achieving a fully genotyped national herd. Based on a cost-sharing model between the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, the beef & dairy industry & participating farmers. Genotyping the national herd will provide a huge opportunity for both the Dairy and Beef industry accelerate in the rates of gain of our national breeding indexes (e.g. EBI, Eurostar & DBI), which will enhance farm sustainability & reduce carbon emissions.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS TO THE FARMER?

Labour saving: Farmers signed up to NGP will have exclusive access to Double Tissue Tags. By sampling animals at birth, farmers don't have to wait for button tags or hair-cards for SCEP or Pedigree Societies and then round up and bring in animals for sampling at a later stage. It is also much safer and easier to tag and sample newborn animals than more mature animals.

Cost: Herds accepted into the National Genotyping Programme will genotype any remaining ungenotyped breeding stock FREE. From 2024 to 2027 (inclusive), farmers will be required to genotype ALL calves born at a reduced cost of approximately €6. (This is an estimate and includes the farmer's contribution of €4 towards genotyping, plus the additional cost associated with a double tissue tag and postage cost.). Herds participating in SCEP will only incur the €6/calf cost of those calves not counted towards their annual 70% SCEP genotyping requirement.

Parent verification: Parentage errors (which currently sit at an average of 15% nationally) lead to incorrect Eurostar figures and create paperwork to correct once the animal is already registered. Genotyping at birth will confirm parentage & correct any errors prior to registration.

Genomic Eurostar figures: Animals sampled at birth will receive genomic evaluations at the earliest possible opportunity, increasing the reliability of their Eurostar figures well before they are selected/sold for breeding and confirming their eligibility for SCEP.

Commercial Beef Value (CBV): Genotyped weanlings and store cattle that are being traded through marts will have their CBV displayed on mart screens.

More Information:

1. The Standard Rate for Genotyping is currently 18 per sample.
2. The Genotyping fee of €4 for Newborn calves excludes the additional cost of the double tissue tag and postage. The overall cost per animal will be approximately €6.
3. A direct debit for the genotyping fee for Newborn calves will be triggered once calf tags are ordered with the Tag Provider. This will be collected from the herdowner, by ICBF, approximately within a month of the order.
4. Membership of HerdPlus or Suckler Cow Efficiency Programme (SCEP) is mandatory. Fees for HerdPlus are set out below:

Membership Type	Annual Fee
Beef HerdPlus	€60
Dairy/Dual HerdPlus	€100 + €0.50c/cow calved

WHAT'S INVOLVED IF JOINING IN 2024?

Preparation: Phase 1 of the programme will involve the genotyping a further 100,000 breeding stock from participating herds across the country. This will all take place in 2024. Once tags have been received, farmers will have 3 weeks to return samples. There will be no cost to the farmer for sampling these animals. Only breeding animals not already genotyped (e.g. through BDGP, Ped Society etc.) will need to be sampled. Having all the breeding females sampled in advance of the 2025 calving season ensures that the online DNA Registration process works effectively and efficiently i.e. the DNA of a 2025-born calf will match up correctly to its corresponding dam.

Ordering Tags: To avoid any potential issues around tag types, farmers who are accepted into the programme, will only be able to order the specific Double Tissue Tags from their chosen tag supplier. The farmer's contribution will equate to approximately €6/animal. This includes the cost of genotyping, additional tag cost and postage. All tags must be ordered before the 2024 calving season.

Note: The €4 fee payable for genotyping of newborn calves will be payable to ICBF, after an order for Double Tissue tags has been placed with the tag supplier. This must be paid in advance of any genotyping being processed. For herds participating in SCEP, the genotyping cost deducted from their SCEP gross payment will be adjusted to account for the €6/calf already paid by the herd towards the cost of the genotype, tag and postage of their SCEP samples.

Note: Participating herds must have access to register calves online. Paper registration methods, such as white cards or Animal Events sheets will not be accepted.

DNA Calf Registration: All farmers who avail of the free genotyping in 2024 are now committed to registering their calves via the appropriate DNA Registration

channels. This will take place from 2025 to 2027 inclusive and ALL calves on the holding must be registered via the official DNA Registration process.

HOW WILL I REGISTER CALVES VIA THE DNA REGISTRATION PROCESS?

Step 1: DNA: When the calf is born the farmer tags with a double tissue tag. DNA samples are posted to the Genotyping Lab in the return envelopes provided. It is essential that samples are sent off regularly. It is recommended that you send DNA samples to the lab at least twice per week at peak calving. As calving slows down, it may be sufficient for samples to be sent once per week.

Calf details: All the basic information such as Date of Birth, Sex, Sire, Dam, etc must be recorded as soon as possible. This can be recorded on Agfood.ie or via any of the Farm Software Packages.

Note: Paper registration methods, such as white cards or Animal Events sheets will not be accepted.

BVD: The BVD sample is sent to the BVD lab as normal, and the DNA sample is posted to the Genotyping Lab in the return envelope(s) provided.

Step 2: The sample is received and processed in the genotyping lab and results are sent to the ICBF database.

Step 3: ICBF confirms the parentage and results are made available to the farmer/DAFM.

Step 4: The calf's passport is issued, and the calf is now fully registered via the DNA Registration process.

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

The National Genotyping Programme partners include the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM), Dairy Industry Ireland (DII), Meat Industry Ireland (MII) and participating farmers. The genotyping cost of €18 per sample will be divided equally between the three Programme Partners; 1. DAFM, 2. DII & MII and 3. Participating farmers (i.e. €6 contribution per programme partner).



Interested in Milk Recording?

- Improve Your Herd's Profitability
- Monitor Somatic Cell Count (SCC)
- Identify Performance of Individual Cows
- Milk Pregnancy Testing & Johnes Testing

A minimum of 4 milk recordings is required to give you more accurate information for herd management decisions

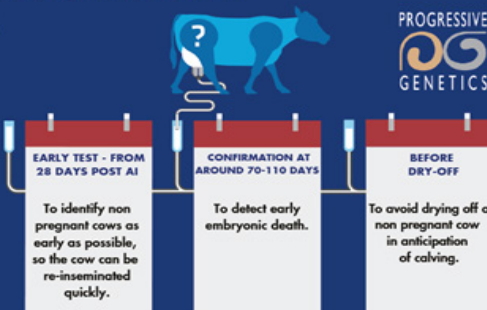
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Milk Record & Pregnancy Test with confidence

Sign Up Today!

046-9540606

progressivegenetics.ie/milkrecording



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

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