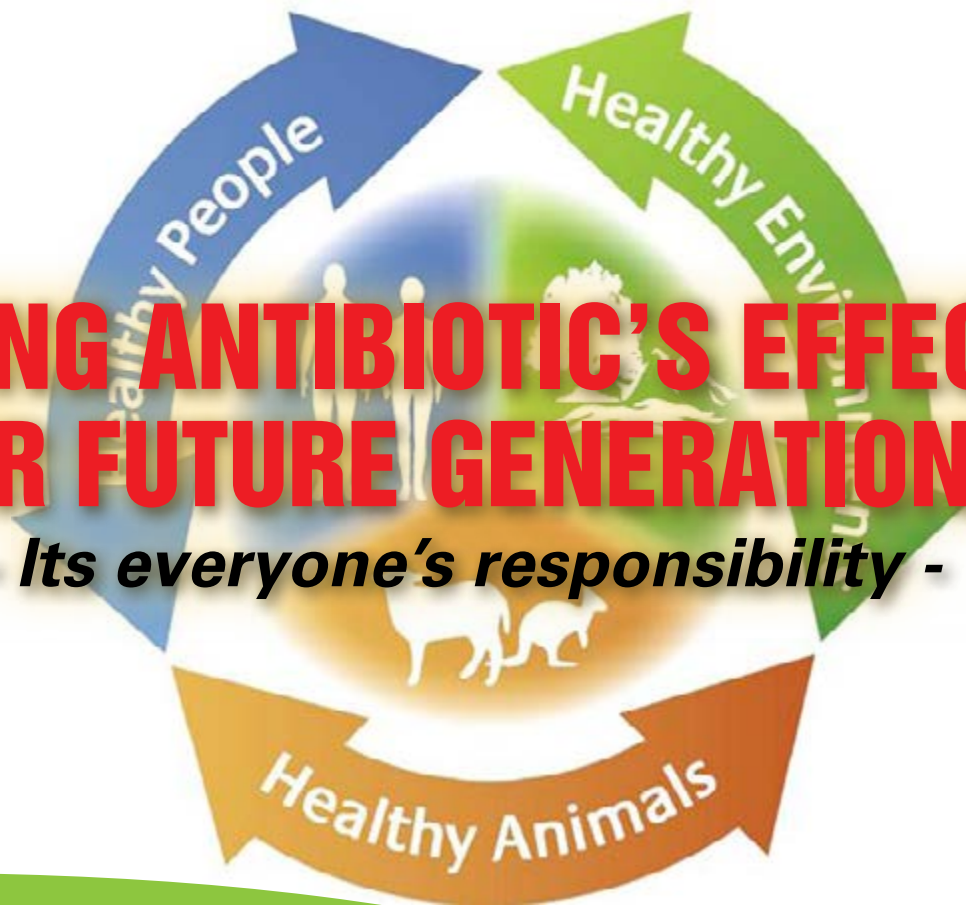
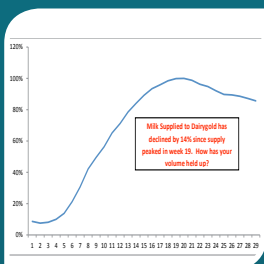


The One Health Triad

**KEEPING ANTIBIOTIC'S EFFECTIVE
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**
- Its everyone's responsibility -



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



**ACT NOW TO MAINTAIN
MILK VOLUMES**
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**ARE YOUR REPLACEMENT
HEIFERS ON TARGET?**
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APPLYING FERTILISER
with high levels of P during August
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**DAIRYGOLD RESEEDING
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PAGE 14

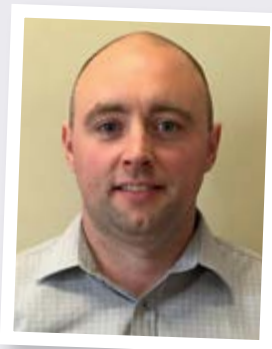
Welcome to the August edition of

MILK MATTERS

DAIRYGOLD'S DAIRY ADVISORY BULLETIN



Heifer rearing is one of the biggest costs on your farm. Are your heifers on target now, to be at the correct liveweight at housing and subsequently at breeding? Check out our ready reckoner to assess your progress.



Milk supplied to Dairygold has held up really well this summer. Within, **Nutrition Matters**, we look at our extended milk plateau and examine the cost benefit ratio to feeding concentrates this autumn.

To keep grass in the cows diet as long as possibly you need to start increasing rotation length and building covers from early August. In **Grass Matters**, John Maher examines the key management techniques necessary to successfully achieve this.

In **Fertility and Breeding Matters**, Doreen Corridan explains Johnes disease. Action is required now to assess your herd Johnes status; to implement a planned approach to stop it coming into your herd or to limit its spread within your herd.

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Stack

Liam Stack M.Agr.Sc

RUMINANT TECHNICAL MANAGER,
DAIRYGOLD AGRIBUSINESS

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To contact the editor of

MILK MATTERS

email: lstack@dairygold.ie



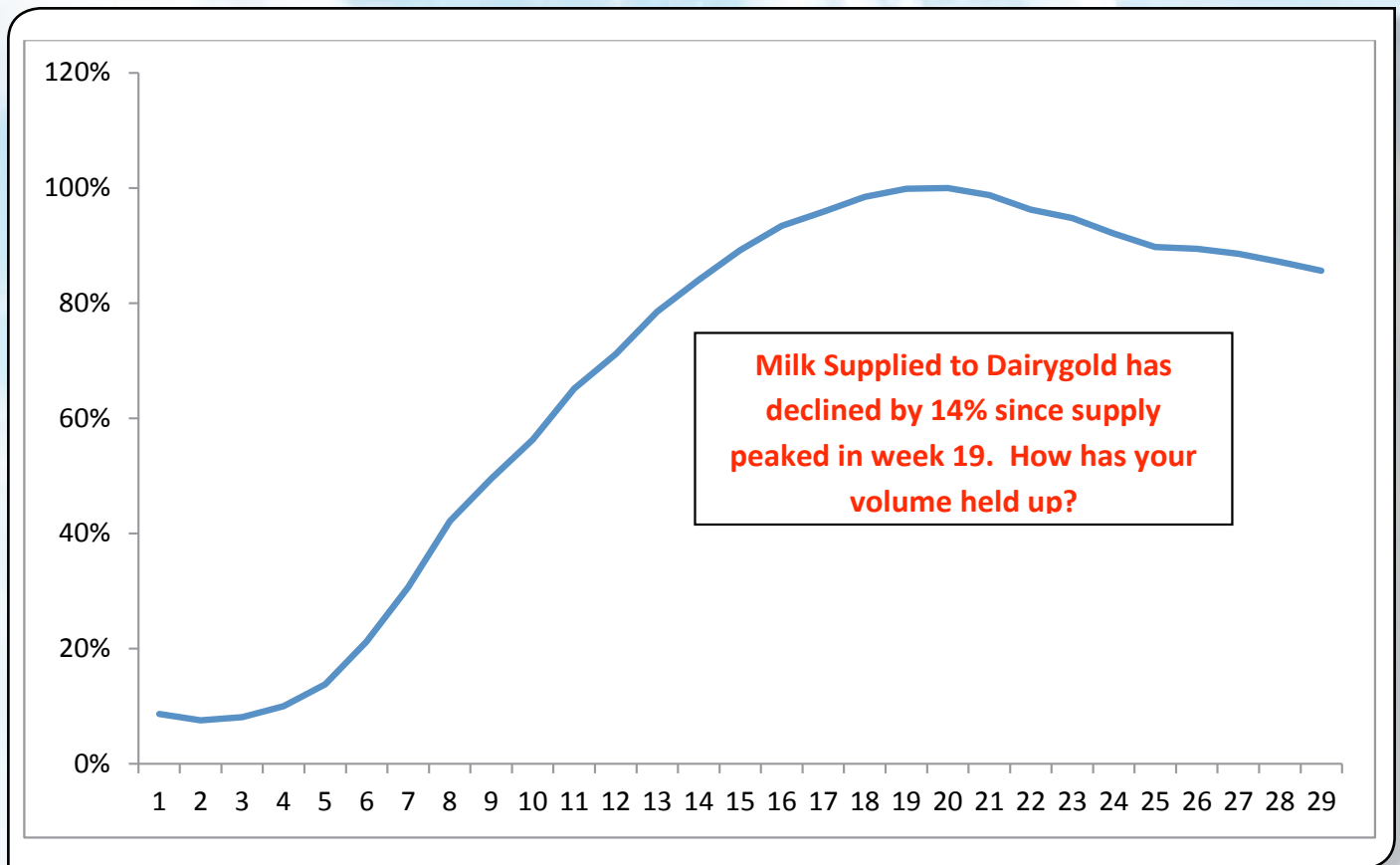
NUTRITION MATTERS

By LIAM STACK,
M.Agr.Sc, Ruminant Technical Manager



Milk volume should decrease from its peak at 2.5% per week or 10% per month. A decrease larger than this is an indication of poor energy nutrition.

% of Dairygold Peak Milk Supplied Weekly



How has your herds volume held up?

PEAK YIELD (a)	PEAK WEEK No. (b)	CURRENT Yield (c)	CURRENT WEEK No. (d)	TOTAL DECLINE % (e)	% WEEKLY decline
28	19	24	29	14%	1.4%
28	19	22	29	21%	2.1%
28	19	19	29	32%	3.2%

Total decline = (Peak yield (a) - current yield (b))/Peak yield (a)

% Weekly decline = (Total decline % (e))/ (current week No. (d) - Peak week No. (b))

Your Herd

PEAK YIELD (a)	PEAK WEEK No. (b)	CURRENT Yield (c)	CURRENT WEEK No. (d)	TOTAL DECLINE % (e)	% WEEKLY decline

NUTRITION MATTERS

Act now to extend your lactation and to profit from our current milk price:

If milk volume starts to decline in late lactation it is very hard to stop its fall. Lower yielding cows will have lower lactose levels and higher SCC forcing earlier drying off. If this happens you will be foregoing a large amount of highly profitable late lactation milk.

To maintain milk volume:

1. Continue to utilise the best grassland management techniques, see Grass Matters for more on this,
2. Feed concentrates where appropriate



Economics of concentrate feeding autumn 2017:

In late lactation 1kg of concentrates can generate 1kg of extra milk. With concentrates costing c.€270/T and milk valued at 38-40c/kg (including balance score cards, SDAS and higher solids), every 1kg or 24.5c spend on concentrates is going to return 38-40c worth of milk. This is a c. 50% return on investment.

Dry Cow Minerals:

If you're buying your dry cow minerals now be cautious that your minerals are going to meet the requirements of the cow.



KEY POINT: For a 70 cow herd this is €273 per month after the concentrate cost. Feeding concentrates must be done responsibly and in a balanced approach to maintaining grass quantity and quality on your farm.

Mineral Feeding Pre-Calving

The objectives of a Dry Cow Management Program are for the cow to calve:

1. In an optimum **calcium** status; This is a function of the silage mineral status and the level mineral of Magnesium and Vitamin D3 in the mineral.
2. With reduced **metabolic disorders**; This is influenced by the mineral Magnesium, Iodine, Selenium and Vitamin E & A levels.
3. In an optimum **immune status**; This is influenced by the mineral Vitamins and trace elements (Selenium and Vitamins A & E).
4. Producing **high quality colostrum**; This is influenced by the mineral and vitamin supplementation.

Mineral must haves:

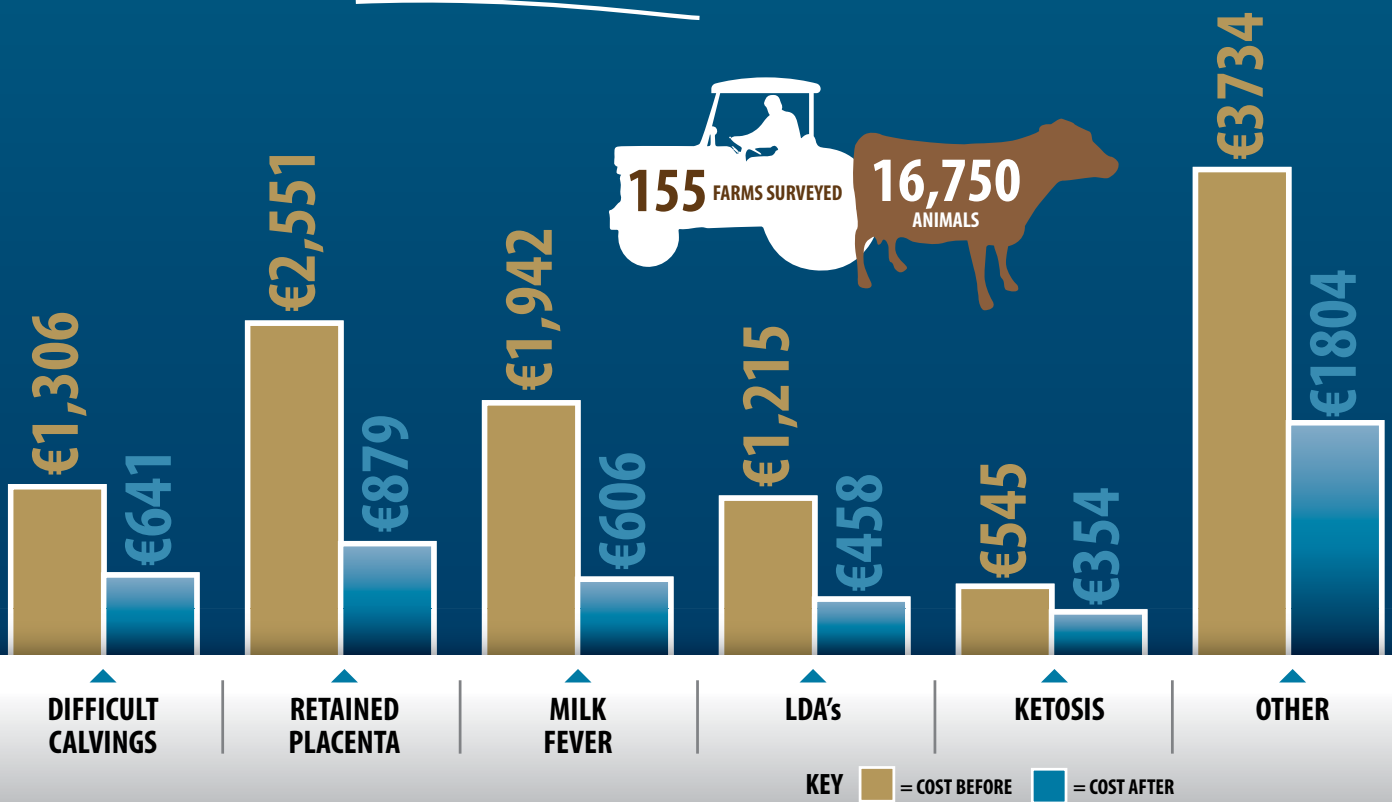
The mineral that is formulated to meet the above must haves will result in (assuming BSC, energy and protein nutrition and calving management are correct):

- Reduction in sub-clinical milk fever
- Less retained placenta
- Reduced calf mortality
- Enhanced immunity and thrift
- Improved cow fertility

ELEMENT	WHAT IT EFFECTS	COMMENT
Mg	Milk Fever	Minerals must supply 20+ grms as a minimum. 25+ grms is better
Cu (Copper)	Cow mineral status, fertility, immune system, production	Mineral should supply c. 400mg/day. To avoid potential losses a proportion of the Cu should be in the bioplex form
Zn (Zinc)	Lameness, SCC, Mastitis, Production	Mineral should supply c. 400mg/day. To avoid potential losses a proportion of the Zn should be in the bioplex form
Se (Selenium)	Retained Cleansings, Colostrum quality, SCC, Mastitis, Calf growth, calf scours	Mineral should supply c. 5mg/day. To avoid potential losses a proportion of the Se should be organic eg Selplex
Iodine	Weak Calves, Embryonic Death	Mineral cannot supply more than 60mg/day
Vitamin A	Retained Placenta	Mineral should supply >60,000 iu/day
Vitamin D	Milk Fever	Mineral should supply >12,000 iu/day
Vitamin E	Retained Cleansings, Colostrum quality, SCC, Mastitis, Calf growth, calf scours	Mineral should supply >500 iu/day

Have you had an issue with Metabolic Disorders on your farm ?

In a recent survey of 155 Irish Farms, a dramatic decrease was shown in the incidences of metabolic disorders following the use of the correct Pre-calver mineral. This can give annual savings of up to €810 per farm.



AGRI BUSINESS

If you would like free independent advice from a highly experienced team of qualified advisors, simply let us know in Branch or by contacting your local Dairygold representative.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Inside sales | 022 31644 |
| Alan Ryan | 086 2621952 |
| Jim Canty | 086 2461648 |
| Tom Mee | 086 8098582 |
| Rachel McCarthy | 086 7930240 |
| Diarmuid O Riordan | 086 2461821 |
| Michael Smith | 086 2470403 |
| Denis McCarthy | 086 2461647 |
| Sean Ryan | 086 2461639 |
| Kieran Creed | 086 1728335 |
| Amie Coonan | 085 8001089 |
| Edmond Curtin | 086 2441369 |
| Ivan Vallance | 086 7930237 |



REPLACEMENT HEIFER REARING

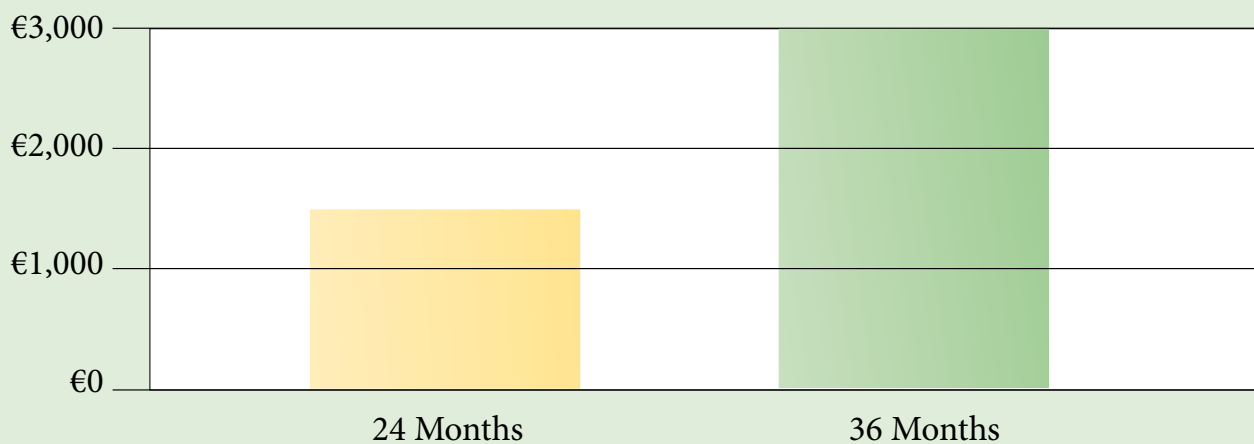
By ALAN RYAN

e: aryan@dairygold.ie • m: 086 2621952



Latest figures indicate the cost of rearing a heifer to calve down at 24 months is €1550, with the cost doubling if she doesn't calf until 36 months. The 24 month calving heifer won't start to leave a profit until half way through her 2nd lactation.

COST TO REAR A REPLACEMENT HEIFER



With Irish farms on average only achieving 4 lactations per cow it is questionable if older calving heifers ever leave a profit.



KEY POINT: Only 55% of heifers are calving down between 22 and 26 months.

REPLACEMENT HEIFER REARING



To ensure a heifer is on track to calve down at 24 months she must reach weight targets at critical times of her development. These targets are based on the mature weight of your cows and are specific to your herd.



KEY POINT: To calve down at 550kg at 24 months a heifer must gain on average 0.7kg everyday. A February born heifer from a Holstein herd with cow body weights of 600 kg should be 30% of her mature weight or 180kg in August. Growth rates decrease during the winter months. Higher than average growth rates are required now to achieve target weights.

We are now approaching the end of the summer. Are your heifers on target?

Weigh your calves now to evaluate how they have done since weaning.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Split heifers into an on-target and light group. Start feeding the light heifers to ensure they come into the house in November at 240kg.



To use Dairygold target weight for age heifer calculator logon to:
<http://www.agritrading.ie/Rearing-Replacement-Heifers>

REPLACEMENT HEIFER REARING

TARGET REPLACEMENT HEIFER WEIGHTS FOR 24 MONTH CALVING - 600KG MATURE COW

Months old	Month	Weight kg	% Mature Liveweight	Your Herd
3	May	120	20	
4	June	140	23	
5	July	160	27	
6	August	180	30	
7	September	200	33	
8	October	220	37	
9	November	240	40	
10	December	260	43	
11	January	280	47	
12	February	300	50	
13	March	320	53	
14	April	340	57	
15	May	360	60	
16	June	380	63	
17	July	400	67	
18	August	420	70	
19	September	440	73	
20	October	460	77	
21	November	480	80	
22	December	500	83	
23	January	520	87	
24	February	540	90	

Prime Elite[®]

HEIFER REARER

Including Biotin

Dairygold's Prime Elite Heifer Rearer is a high quality 19% protein feed specially formulated for feeding your replacement heifers up to two months before calving.

Our Prime Elite Heifer Rearer Contains:

- **High levels of energy and good quality proteins to promote lean muscle growth**
- **Biotin for Hoof Strength - Strong hooves and good feet help improve long-term productivity & increases longevity in the herd**
- **High levels of macro minerals to help grow the skeletal frame of replacement heifers**



AGRI BUSINESS

**Call your local Dairygold Area Sales Manager,
Inside Sales or Lombardstown Mill
today on 022-47275**





GRASS MATTERS

By JOHN MAHER

Dairy Specialist, Teagasc Moorepark

🎵 Time to Face the Music and Dance to a P Tune 🎵

We are into the last ten minutes of the game to fix soil Phosphorus (P) levels for this season. About 60% of the soils are deficient in Phosphorus i.e. are Index 1 or 2 for Phosphorus and every year this trend is getting worse. Our ancestors would turn in their graves if they knew this.



KEY POINT: Almost every dairy farmer should be applying a fertiliser with high levels of P during August.

However, many of the fertiliser products being heavily marketed by the fertiliser industry are not appropriate to fix a deficiency in soil Phosphorus (Index 1 or 2). It is time that a different tune is played and face the reality of where soil P levels are at.

After August, there is only 2 weeks left to spread nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) fertiliser. Phosphorus levels rise slowly in the soils after application of P fertiliser or slurry. That is why it is necessary to apply P fertiliser now to improve soil fertility for the spring when the grass needs P the most.



WARNING
60% of soils are deficient in Phosphorous

ACT NOW
to improve soil P status

Fertilisers to improve soil P status

18-6-12	YES
14-7-14	YES
10-10-20	YES



KEY POINT: Most dairy farmers will need to consider spreading compound fertilisers like 18:6:12, 14:7:14 or 10:10:20 on their grassland during August.

Building Grass: Don't miss the boat!!!

This month is the time to start building grass for the autumn. The growth of grass during the next six weeks is crucial as the rate of grass growth (supply) will be less than what is eaten (demand) by mid-September.

We need grass in the diet of the cow as long as possible to the end of this year.

Why??

- Grass is the cheapest feed
- Milk solids will be higher
- Milk price will be higher
- Body condition will be better

How do we ensure we have grass??

Two things must happen

First: The rotation length must be around 28-30 days by Sept. 1st. So if we have 100 acres of grazing ground we will be grazing about 5 Acres/day (20 day rotation) at the start of August. By the end of the month we need to be grazing about 3.5 acres/day (28 day rotation).



KEY POINT: We must gain about 2 days in rotation every week during August. Farm cover targets are 300+ kgDM/cow for September 1st.

Second: This gain in rotation length will not happen without the application of fertiliser. For



those who are stocked at around 1 cow/ac (2.5 cows/ha), farmers will be applying around 30 units N/ac at the start of the month. However a blanket approach (spreading most the farm on 1 day) of spreading 40 units N/ac on most of the farm in the latter half of August needs to be carried out to ensure a build-up in grass supply. The response to Nitrogen fertiliser diminishes rapidly during September.

Put a grazing plan in place

It is not uncommon for many farmers to end up with a lower supply of grass than they would like entering into the autumn. So it is important that a rotation length of 28-30 days is reached by September 1st. Therefore, if things are not going to plan during August in terms of building grass supply, action needs to be taken. This can involve removing other stock from the milking platform or introducing additional feed to help slow down the rotation. This can be baled silage or meal or a mixture of both.



KEY POINT: Whatever the choice, it is better that additional feed goes into the cow during August to allow grass supply pick up rather than later on when grass growth is much lower.

GRASS MATTERS

On the other hand some farmers end up with too much grass entering into the autumn (Rotation lengths well over 30 days entering September) and struggle to graze it. This grass can be difficult to graze during a period of poor weather conditions. Closing up is also often delayed, closing regrowth compromised and a poor supply of grass in spring often results.



KEY POINT: If the rotation length is gaining too quickly during August, the worst quality paddocks should be removed for baled silage. The earlier this surplus grass is removed, the easier it is to rectify the problem.

Investing in Grazing:

Investment on farm should be prioritised at areas that increase efficiency and reduce the exposure of the business to external shocks such as lower price of product or higher price of inputs etc. Every ton of additional grass eaten by the grazing animal will add €180/ha additional profit to a dairy farm. Therefore it is important that investment is prioritised into areas that will give the maximum return. The table below summarises the potential return on investment for different investments in a dairy farm business. Bottom Line: The level of return to these investments is high.



Potential return on investments for various investments in the dairy farm business based on initial performance, response and investment costs.

INVESTMENT	COST	IMPACT	ANNUAL RETURN (%)
Increase soil P & K levels	P & K application of 20 and 50kg/ha	+1.5 t DM/ha/year herbage growth	152
Reseed full farm in eight year cycle	€650/ha	+ 1.5t DM/ha/year herbage growth	96
Improve Grazing infrastructure	€1000/ha for roads, fencing and water	+ 1.0t DM/ha/year herbage utilised	58



Background: The main aim of the **Systems Research Herd** at UCD Lyons Farm is to evaluate the feasibility (including profitability) of a higher input/output grazing system within a limited land holding scenario. The focus is on maximising milk solids output from the existing land holding which involves high output from individual cows and high stocking rates on the MP. This will occur most efficiently through maximising the use of grazed grass/home grown forage in the system and the strategic use of supplementation thereafter. Such a system might facilitate the successful expansion of the farm business without the need to buy or rent extra land, to buy stock, to acquire extra labour or to provide extra cow facilities. For the study purpose, stocking rate and concentrate inputs are fixed. For more details on the Systems Research Herd visit <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/welcomemessage/systemsresearchherd/>.

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 24-7-17

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 649 kg DM/ha (190 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 70 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 57.8 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 3.6 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 153 (range 91-184)



Grass Supply:

AFC on 24th of July was 649 kg DM/ha (range 104 to 1410 kg DM/ha). We are baling one paddock (1.25ha) on the MP this week to reduce cover/LU and maintain quality grass in the sward.

July rainfall has been 23.3 mm which is behind the rest of the country (60.82mm), so all that arrives will be welcomed in order to keep quality grass growing.

Feed Budget

56 cows are now being fed 3.5 kg of concentrate with the remainder (4) on 6 kg. Grass allowance remains at 17 kg DM per day giving us an overall demand of 57.8 kg DM/ha/day. Grass DMI last week was 17 kg at 16.5% DM on average.

Fertiliser:

210 kg/ha (170 units/acre) of Nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date. We plan to go out with the next split of N early next week.

Milk Production:

Average production is currently 26.82 kg/cow for the week 17th to 23rd July, at 4.48% fat and 3.50% protein (2.13 kg MS). SCC is 96,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 4th July.

BCS:

The average BCS on 10th July was 2.9, with a range of 2.5 to 3.5. 90% of the herd was in the range 2.75 to 3.25.

Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on April 24th and finished on July 23rd (13 weeks). 58% of cows were scanned in calf after 6 weeks of breeding. The final scan will take place in mid-September and a full review of the 2017 breeding season will be provided at that stage.



RESEEDING 2017

By Amie Coonan B.Agr.Sc.

e: acoonan@dairygold.ie • m: 085 8001089

There are numerous reasons why it pays you to reseed including:

The benefits of reseeding can cover its own costs within 18 months to two years. A sward reseeded this year should be expected to last between eight and ten years if the correct management practices are employed.



High PRG swards allow 8% higher milk output per hectare compared to old permanent pasture.

Swards with a low Perennial Ryegrass (PRG) content can reduce profit by up to €300/ha (€120/acre) due to a reduction in the amount of dry matter (DM) being produced.



Old pastures have reduced digestibility and intake potential as well as being inefficient. You are losing up to 25% of the response to Nitrogen fertiliser applications in these old permanent pastures.

Key issues for autumn reseeding

Establishment and post emergence spraying (target circa 6 weeks after sowing) is vital.

To reduce the risk, you should aim to have reseeding completed by early September.



KEY POINTS:

- Reseeding delivers a strong payback on your investment
- Don't reseed too late in the autumn (your target completion date is early September)
- Invest wisely, choose Dairygold quality grass seed mixtures



Paddock that received a post emergence spray



Paddock without post emergence spray

CLOVER POTENTIAL:

In recent years, there has been a large increase in interest shown when it comes to the inclusion of clover in grass swards. Teagasc Clonakilty have been performing research on this topic over the last number of years. Initial results are positive with an increase in grass grown of 1ST/ha and an increase in animal performance of 58kgMS per cow.

However, some challenges can also be seen when it comes to the inclusion of clover in grass swards:

- Maintenance of the clover within the sward.
- Bloat - Clover reaches its highest proportion within the sward in the summer. The use of a bloat oil will be required to limit bloat.
- Lower winter and spring growth - Clover hasn't grown as well as grass over the winter and early spring. This leads to an increased requirement for silage feeding in the spring.

MANAGING CLOVER GRASS SWARDS

- Pre-grazing covers < less than 1,400kg and post grazing heights 3cm to 4cm.
- If the pH is not 6.3 or above, clover will struggle.
- A good P and K index is required.
- Early spring nitrogen application and grazing will help clover later in year.
- Put up a strip wire if letting cows into a paddock with over 50% clover – it restricts cows from selecting clover only.
- To avoid having too much clover in your silage, alternate what paddocks are taken, even for light silage crops.
- Prioritise grazing instead of silage.

RESEEDING 2017

HOW TO ESTABLISH A WHITE CLOVER SWARD ON YOUR FARM

1. Direct Reseeding:

Follow best practice reseeding management with a grass seed mixture containing clover. All Dairygold grass mixtures are available with clover. Contact your area sales manager, branch agri lead or inside sales on 022 31644 for more information.

2. Over-sowing

Success is very much dependent on weather conditions around sowing. The clover can be broadcast or stitched (e.g. Einbock pneumatic seeder). If over sowing paddocks after grazing, post grazing height must be ≤ 4 cm. Alternatively over-sow after taking paddock out for bales. Do not over-sow clover into dedicated silage paddocks.

- Use 1.5 - 2 kg/acre. The higher rate is needed to overcome issues with slugs and a lower germination rate.
- Apply plenty Phosphorous (P), especially if your soils are low in P e.g. one bag of 0-7-30 or 0-10-20 per acre. If possible reduce nitrogen fertiliser post over-sowing.
- Roll or spread 2,000 gallons/acre of watery slurry on paddocks post-sowing to ensure good seed-soil contact.

Ideally over-sow on well managed grassland. If the sward is old with a low content of perennial ryegrass and a dense 'butt' a full reseed is best practice.

Your 9 Point Guide To Achieving Optimal Results When Reseeding:

1. **Identify fields** most in need of reseeding. Fields not reseeded in over 10 years should take priority.
2. **Soil sample** for Lime, P & K levels. Contact your area sales manager, branch agri lead or inside sales on 022 31644 for soil sampling rates and advice.
3. **Spray off** with a glyphosate. Leave for 2 weeks before cultivating. Carry out land drainage if needed.
4. **Choose** the most suitable seed mixture for your needs. Choose seed varieties on the Irish Recommended List. Your area sales manager, branch agri lead or the inside sales team are available for advice on seed mixtures.
5. **Ensure** there is no thrash. You should have a firm and fine seedbed whether you are ploughing or using a minimum cultivation technique.
6. **Sow** and lime once a suitable seedbed is established. You should also apply fertiliser as per your soil sample recommendations
7. **Observe** regularly after sowing to examine for pest damage (slugs, frit fly etc.)
8. **Graze** at a low cover for the first grazing. This supports tillering of the plant in order to promote establishment.
9. Use a **post emergence** spray 6-8 weeks later to control weeds. Your area sales manager, branch agri lead or the inside sales team are available for advice on post emergence sprays.

Fertiliser requirements reseeding:

Reseeding (units per acre)			
Soil Index	N	P	K
1	32	48	88
2	32	32	60
3	32	24	40
4	32	0	24

THE PASTURE PROFIT INDEX (PPI)

The Pasture Profit Index, quantifies the economic (€) value of each key grass trait and based on a variety's trial performance assigns a value to each variety for each key trait. An overall total economic merit value is published for each variety. In addition, the performance of each variety within each trait is contained in the sub-index.

The key traits within an Irish grass based production system are:

1. Seasonal DM yield

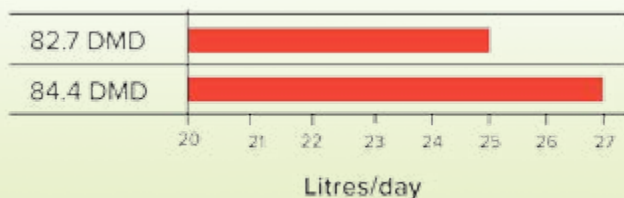
- Spring - highest value.
PPI difference between the highest and lowest variety is €98/ha per year.
- Autumn - high value
PPI difference between the highest and lowest variety is €54/ha per year.
- Summer - lowest value (plentiful grass supply at this time of the year).



2. Quality

Particular emphasis on mid-season quality.

A cow producing 25L/day on a 82.7 DMD sward (average of recommend list varieties) has the potential to produce 27L/day on a 84.4 DMD sward (highest variety on PPI).



3. Persistency

Less persistent varieties need to be reseeded more often. PPI difference between the highest and lowest variety is €28/ha per year.



4. Silage (1st and 2nd cut)

Silage yield.



KEY POINT: The Pasture Profit Index works in a similar way to the Economic Breeding Index (EBI). There is an overall total economic merit value and sub-index for each key trait.

PERSISTENCY

Persistency looks at the Ground Score change of a variety between year 1 and year 2.

This is how long the Recommended List plots stay in the ground for (Y0 = sowing year, Y1 = 1st harvest year Y2 = 2nd harvest year)

For the PPI calculations Teagasc apply an equation based on that initial ground score change and extrapolate what might happen in years 3, 4, 5.....up to year 12.

The number of years a variety yields greater than 6.5 t DM/ha is deemed to be the number of years that variety persists for.

A persistency figure of:

- €0 indicates a variety lasting 12 years or longer
- -€5 is lasting 11 years
- -€11 is lasting 10 years
- -€19 is lasting 9 years
- -€28 is lasting 8 years

If you are reseeding 10-15% of your farm every year as Teagasc would recommend then does any variety have a major issues regarding persistency?

Are there other traits such as quality and seasonal

RESEEDING 2017

DM yield that should concern us more?

Persistency accounts for 34% of the weighting overall with the PPI, but only a difference of €28 between the best and worst variety (i.e. large weighting but small difference between varieties)

Quality accounts for 20% of the weighting overall and has a difference of €103 between the best and worst

Spring growth accounts for 15% of the weighting and has a difference of €98 between the best and worst variety

Given that persistency is the only trait within the PPI which is "estimated" rather than measured, (ie. Seasonal dm yield, quality, silage yield are all measured) and the small difference between varieties, should it really govern our decision making when choosing varieties. Soil fertility and management will be a much bigger driver of persistency at farm level than variety choice.

Dairygold 2017 Mixtures meet the latest Teagasc Moorepark recommendations



What variety/mixture should I use?

This depends on the end use (grazing or silage mixture or combination) and your soil type.

Teagasc recommend the use of mixtures on farm as they can overcome individual varieties weaknesses (no variety has all desired traits). The latest research from Teagasc Moorepark has shown that mixture performance can be predicted from the performance of their monoculture components. Therefore make sure you choose mixtures that contain the best varieties for your requirements.

For information on reseeding and grass seed varieties contact your local area sales manager or inside sales.

INSIDE SALES	022 31644	Shane Cotter	087 0671246
Alan Ryan	086 2621952	Jim Canty	086 2461648
Tom Mee	086 8098582	Rachel McCarthy	086 7930240
Diarmuid O'Riordan	086 2461821	Michael Smith	086 2470403
Denis McCarthy	086 2461647	Sean Ryan	086 2461639
Kieran Creed	086 1728335	Amie Coonan	085 8001089
Edmond Curtin	086 2441369	Ivan Vallance	086 7930237

RESEEDING 2017

Mixture No 1 High Clover Grazing (Also available without clover)

A high tetraploid (astonenergy) and clover mix. Taking advantage of astonenergys exceptional palatability, quality, seasonal growth with proven pasturebase on-farm performance.

Variety	Heading Date
Drumbo	07 June
Majestic	02 June
Astroenergy	02 June
Crusader	
Chieftain	

Total PPI	€105
Spring	€5
Summer	€34
Autumn	€36
Quality	€36

% Tetraploid	48%
--------------	-----

Mixture No 2 Two Cut Silage (Also available with clover)

A mixture designed specifically for silage (two or more cuts) with an appropriate silage heading date, exceptional spring growth for high first cut yields, no clover and durable varieties to ensure a long lasting sward.

Variety	Heading Date
Soloman	21 May
Rosetta	24 May
Fintona	22 May

Total PPI	€159
Spring	€70
Summer	€33
Autumn	€41
Silage	€18
Persistency	€0
% Tetraploid	40%

Mixture No 3 Dairygold Extend (Also available without clover)

Excellent spring and autumn growth combined with exceptional quality for a palatable sward. This mixture is for intensive grazing situations where extending grazing, is a priority. Also suitable for one cut silage systems.

Variety	Heading Date
AberGain	05 June
AberChoice	09 June
Drumbo	07 June
Clover	

Total PPI	€149
Spring	€14
Summer	€42
Autumn	€40
Quality	€58

% Tetraploid	41%
--------------	-----

Mixture No 4 Heavy Soils (Also available without clover)

This mixture has been specifically formulated for heavier soils. Specially designed to create a good dense base to the sward with high ground scoring varieties which will ensure a persistent sward in challenging soils. The Heavy Soils Mix also delivers good seasonal growth and high quality varieties. Lower levels of tetraploid will give a dense sward that will perform in difficult conditions.

Total PPI	Total PPI	Ground Score
Drumbo	07 June	6.5
Clarnrye	06 June	7
Kintyre	07 June	6
Clover		

Total PPI	€99
Spring	€14
Summer	€36
Autumn	€33
Quality	€26

% Tetraploid	27%
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RESEEDING 2017

DAIRYGOLD BETTER GRASS & WEED CONTROL EVENT

Nearly 200 people attended the Dairygold Better Grass and Weed Control Event on the Farm of Michael and Martin Carroll in Coolruss, Bruree, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. The Carrolls run an excellent Dairy farm with a strong emphasis on grassland management.

Mark Nunan of Whelehan Crop Protection closed off

and controls a broad range of weeds, it is also safe to use on new sown leys at the half rate of 1 litre/hectare”.

Mark emphasised:

- Water rates are crucial for spraying grassland weeds – keep to the upper limits.
- Spray in the morning or evening and avoid spraying in the mid-day sun.
- Spray docks at 8-10 inches in good growing conditions.
- Spray thistles at 6-8 inches in good growing conditions.



Pictured at a Dairygold reseeding demonstration at Coolruss, Bruree, Co. Limerick are Seamus O'Mahony, Dairygold with hosts Michael & Martin Carroll. Photo O'Gorman Photography.

the speakers by covering the topic of spraying the new sown ley. **Marks most important statement on the night was; “a post emergence spray 6-8 weeks after reseeding will be critical to the long term control of weeds in your field. This will give you the potential to increase the dry matter yields on your farm for years to come.”** Which spray programme you can use will depend on whether you have clover in the sward.

Mark also spoke on the range of options available when spraying established grassland for weeds. “Pastor Trio, a new product from Whelehans, is very safe on grass



Shane Cotter Grassland Specialist with Dairygold spoke on the seed mixtures offered by Dairygold. “Dairygold use the latest Teagasc research and the PPI index when formulating grass seed varieties”. All varieties in the Dairygold seed range are on the Irish Recommended List. He also stated that modern mixes had the potential to add a further 3-4 tonnes of Dry matter to increase profitability/ha by over €450/ha with the correct soil fertility.

Dr Mary McEvoy spoke on the evening on choosing the correct grass varieties, the Pasture Profit Index (PPI) and best practice around reseeding. Mary stressed the importance of “only sowing varieties that are on the recommended list and are ranked well on the PPI”. Mary likened the PPI to the EBI system used in the Dairy herd and that one of the main focuses should be on “the quality portion of the index”.

Michael Casey from Monsanto spoke on the importance of spraying off field before reseeding. The demo field was sprayed with the full rate of 6L/ha of glyphosate. Michael mentioned that “at a cost of €750/ha to reseed, glyphosate will give you the best long term control at the correct rates”.

For any further queries on any of the topics mentioned above please contact Dairygold Grassland Specialist Shane Cotter on 087-0671246



Pictured at a Dairygold reseeding demonstration at Coolruss, Bruree, Co Limerick are speakers Mark Nunan, TP Whelehan, Michael Casey, Monsanto, host Michael Carroll, Shane Cotter, Dairygold & Mary McEvoy, Germinal. Photo O'Gorman Photography.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Ciara Fox** 6th Class from St Lachteens National School in Donoughmore in County Cork, Ciara was the overall winner of the Dairygold/Zurich schools' poster competition on farm safety. Her win secured a €1,000 prize for St Lachteens school plus a €250 individual prize.

Meanwhile **Emily Twomey** 6th Class from Rathduff National School, Grenagh, County Cork won second place, securing a €700 school prize and a €150 individual prize.

The competition announced back in May asked 5th and 6th class students to make their 'Farm Safety Pledge' in the form of a colourful poster based on a chosen theme (Machinery / Tractors / Animals / Farmyard). The poster design also had to incorporate their safety pledge **"I am farm safe when I"**.

Over 500 entries were received from children across the Dairygold catchment area and some counties beyond. Eight finalists were chosen.

Winners of the Farm Safety Poster competitions

1st Prize	- Ciara Fox	St Lachteens National School, Donoughmore, Cork
2nd Prize	- Emily Twomey	Rathduff National School, Grenagh, Cork
3rd Prize	- Clara Matthia	Scoil Muir Gan Small, New Inn, Cashel, Tipperary
4th Prize	- Anna Coleman	Baltydaniel N.S, Newtwopothouse, Mallow, Cork
5th Prize	- Paul Cooney	Oristown National School, Kells, Meath
6th Prize	- Sarah Flynn	Cannon Sheehan NS, Turnpike, Doneraile, Cork
7th Prize	- John O'Connor	Bennekerry National School, Carlow
8th Prize	- Kate O'Farrell	St Mary's Snr. National School, Dunmanway, Cork



Pictured in St. Lachteens National School, Donoughmore for a presentation to the winner of the Dairygold & Zurich Insurance schools' farm safety poster competition are Declan O'Halloran, Zurich Insurance, Billy Cronin, Dairygold, Winner Ciara Fox, Ballykerwick, Donoughmore, Deirdre McCarthy, Principal & James Lynch, Chairman, Dairygold. Photo O'Gorman Photography.



Pictured in Rathduff National School for a presentation to the runner up of the Dairygold & Zurich Insurance schools' farm safety poster competition are James Lynch, Chairman, Dairygold, Declan O'Halloran, Zurich Insurance, Billy Cronin, Dairygold, runner up Emily Twomey, Alan Dennehy, Principal & Alma Jordan, Agrikids.



FERTILITY & BREEDING

By DOREEN CORRIDAN

MVB MRCVS PhD, Munster Cattle Breeding

KEEPING ANTIBIOTIC'S EFFECTIVE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- *Its everyone's responsibility* -

The One Health Triad



Animals and humans share the same families of antibiotics. Antimicrobial or Antibiotic resistance is a growing issue worldwide. If we do nothing by 2050, 10 million will have lost their lives due to antimicrobial resistance, this is higher than the number of deaths due to cancer estimated at 8.2 million.

There is an onus on us all to reduce the amount of antibiotics.

However, we need to have antibiotics available to us when we need them and need to ensure that they will be effective. No new families of antibiotics are being developed so we need to protect the ones that we currently have.

The motto is

'As much as necessary but as little as possible'

What can we do?

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change

and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.

The less antibiotics we use the less antibiotic resistance will occur.

How do we reduce the usage of antibiotics in dairy herds? In dairy herds, it is milking and dry cow intramammary antibiotics and calf rearing scours and pneumonia that is the greatest use of antibiotics.

Steps to reduce dry cow antibiotics

1. Milk recording - this gives vital information.

- Early milk recording prior to 31st March each year to establish the new infection rate over the winter and the cure rate of treated cows
- Late milk recording as close to dry off as possible, within 1-4 weeks of dry off, to establish SCC at dry off
- A further 4-5 milk recordings required, every 6 weeks to monitor SCC throughout lactation and ensure that no infections in lactation are missed.
- Monitor bulk tank SCC throughout the year

2. Dry Cow Housing - Objective is to maintain a low level of bacteria in the housing throughout the dry cow period.

- Cows need to be going into a clean power washed & disinfected shed
- Fresh air and a dry shed will minimise bacteria growth. Well ventilated sheds are necessary to avoid excess moisture and maximise fresh air, fresh air is one of the best biocides to kill bacteria.
- A Minimum of 1 cubicle per cow is required, this ensure cleanliness of cubicles and reduces stress therefore immunity will not be compromised and animals less likely to get infected.

- Cubicles need to be maintained daily- cleaning and appropriate lime usage.

3. Dry off routine

- Correct procedure at dry off to reduce introduction of infection.
- Group dried off cows for 7 days to avoid leaking on cubicles, dry off in manageable groups.
- Reseal those that leak post drying off.
- Max of 20 cows dried off per person per milking.

4. Selective Dry Therapy- This is the practice of only using dry cow antibiotic tubes on cows that need them.

To do this herds need to

- Herd need to comply with 1, 2 & 3 above
- Herds need to be under a rolling bulk tank average of 150,000 throughout the year.
- The new infection rate over the previous dry period needs to be well under 10%

Selective dry cow therapy to be effective needs attention to detail and work, however it will reduce antibiotic usage on farm and cost. However, some herd owners have reported poor experiences with it as the above was not complied with.

Remainder of the 2017 lactation

Right Animal with the Right

Drug at the Right Dose for the Right Duration

1. Sample each new case of mastitis pre-treatment and get it cultured for the bacteria involved and the do an antibiotic sensitivity.
2. Record all cases of mastitis
3. Record response to treatment

Taking samples for Culture & Sensitivity.

We need to establish what is in the quarter and it is of utmost importance to prevent contamination from the udder and the outside of the teat. If we have a contaminated sample the result we get will not tell us what bacteria is in the quarter and what is the most appropriate antibiotic.

1. Get a clean sterile bottle and keep capped until ready to sample.
2. Sample the cow prior to antibiotic treatment.
3. ID the required ¼ with a

- CMT kit.
- 4. Prepare the teat as you would prior to drying off- put on gloves, clean the teat with wipes.
- 5. Put on clean gloves and put the 1st few squirts on the ground
- 6. Collect the next squirts into the bottle.
- 7. Care in avoiding getting the bottle contaminated.
- 8. Hold the bottle at a 45-degree angle (like pulling a pint) to avoid dust and dirt from the udder falling into the bottle.
- 9. Cover the bottle and get analysed immediately or put the cow number and date on it and freeze until you have a number of samples together.

Beef Health Check.

This document is part of the national plan on antibiotic resistance for beef. However it is useful for dairy herds as well.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Reflect before you inject

AMR – it is a concern for you, your animals, your family and your community

Actions you can take to keep antibiotics working!

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disease prevention measures – enhanced biosecurity, husbandry and vaccination policy 2. Use antibiotics on foot of veterinary advice 3. Avoid use of antibiotics to prevent disease, only treat sick animals with antibiotics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Do not use antibiotics to treat viral diseases 5. Do not use a stronger antibiotic as first line treatment 6. Always give the right dose for the correct number of treatments as prescribed by your vet
--	--



Right Animal
Right Drug
Right Dose
Right Duration

FOLLOW THE ABOVE STEPS TO KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING, IT'S RIGHT FOR YOUR ANIMALS, RIGHT FOR YOU, RIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY, RIGHT FOR YOUR FARM AND RIGHT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



FERTILITY & BREEDING

SCC in August

Controlling SCC in late lactation is important to achieving an overall acceptable score. The majority of mastitis cases now are strep uberis-environmental.

1. Clip cows tails immediately, they are becoming bushy now again after their spring haircut. With cows in after grass now they are like paint brushes! This will keep udders much cleaner.

2. At this time flies can become an issue for cows and cause mastitis either by acting as a vector for transmitting mastitis from one cow to another or by damaging the teat skin. Also dung heaps and silage effluent attract flies and they then become an issue if located close to the roadway to the parlour.

Pour-on's with zero milk withdrawal are useful in control in conjunction with a fly repellent in the teat spray. The pour-ons will stop the cows getting irritated as well as controlling the flies, the repellent in the teat spray is key to get the flies off the teats.

3. Have you changed your liners after 2,500 milking's? 120 cows milked in a 12 unit parlour will result in each liner milking 10 cows in the morning and 10 in the evening. 20 in total each day. Each liner will have milked 2500 milking's in 125 days.



Old liners are difficult to clean and house bacteria in their worn crevices.

Secondly they do not release as quickly and completely as they should resulting in teat damage.

4. Fence off the cubicles if cows need to walk through the shed at milking. These cubicles are a major source of infection as they have not been cleaned and limed. I see this issue regularly in herds zero grazing.

Try and keep yards and roadways clean, as the teat canal is partially open for the 1st 20 minutes after milking, which is often when she is walking through the yard or roadway. Keep the scrapers going if they are walking through the cubicles.

5. Avoid the practice of stopping teat spray during the summer. Ensure to put the fly repellent in it.

6. Watch incalf heifers now for summer mastitis. Avoid grazing them in sheltered fields, use pour-ons, on them to control flies and the flectron eartags with insect repellent. Some herdowners apply Stockholm tar regularly as a preventative.

MILK DROP IN COWS

Some herds experience milk drop more than the natural decrease as lactation progresses. Apart from the common one of reduced dry matter intakes of quality grass. The bulk milk screening tests is very useful in ascertaining what is going on.

Issues I am seeing:

- 1.** Poor Liver Fluke kill in some farms last spring and now showing a marked drop in yield.
- 2.** High IBR levels on the farm and no vaccination being practised.
- 3.** High levels of stomach worms and some cases of lungworm.
- 4.** Poor genetics in the cows with low index for fat and protein KG.
- 5.** High % of 1st calvers in herds.



Now is the time to review your herd Johne's programme

Why should I be concerned about Johne's?

- If I have not got it - I need to keep it out.
- If I have it I need to work to stop it spreading.
- If I am trading breeding stock I need to avoid trading Johne's as well!

The estimated prevalence of Johne's in Ireland is 20%, 1 in every 5 herds infected. Within those infected herds the prevalence is also low 2-5%. With this low prevalence there is minimal impact on health production. However once Johne's gets established in a herd, it reduces milk yield, reduces fertility, increased SCC and leads to premature culling, also reduced income from incalf heifer sales.

Herdowners trading in incalf heifers and breeding stock need to demonstrate that they are low risk herds and are likely to be Johne's free.

How is Johne's different to the other diseases we are more familiar with?

Calves infected in the 1st weeks of life and long incubation period of 2-10 years before symptoms show.

If I visited your farm today the 1st of August with a high dose of IBR and you were not vaccinating you would see the signs in 12 -15 days, by the 12-15th of August you would have cows, heifers and calves coughing, snotty noses and some running high



temperatures, depressed and sick, also the cows would have reduced milk yields for a short period.

Johne's is different, if I visited your farm today the 1st of August with a high dose of Johne's, the only animals I could infect would be the young calves, especially in the first days, weeks and months of life. Secondly you would not see anything until these animals are 3-5 years of age.

We now have a disease that is easily picked up by very young calves and older animals are less likely to become infected, secondly it can take 3-5 years for the signs to begin to show.

In the meantime these animals are spreading the disease to the younger calves without us knowing it - this is often called unseen spread. This unseen spread is the time when Johne's takes hold and establishes in a herd.

Johne's is important to dairy herdowners as the concern is also there for young babies as it is for young calves, therefore baby infant formula is the product of concern. Of course it can spill over into milk or meat but it is adults that are consuming them.

FERTILITY & BREEDING

What are the signs of Johne's in a dairy herd?

Even though the cow got infected as a young calf the bacteria stays in the gut cells dormant for 2-10 years. Then when it becomes activated it thickens the wall of the gut, food cannot get absorbed as well as it should, the cow's immunity is reduced, then the animal does not produce as well as is expected and fertility is also reduced. At this stage most of these cows get culled out of the herd for not being in-calf, high cell count or poor producers or for other health reasons, this occurs especially in spring calving herds.

If animals are culled because of infertility, poor performance or other diseases, an infected herd may never have cows with the more obvious signs of Johne's disease. These herds will just not be able to achieve the target of 500kg of milk solids per cow or the 70-90% six week calving rate.

If I have never seen any signs of Johne's in my herd, why should I test?

By the time you will see actual signs of Johne's it is too late - the ball is in the back of the net with the green flag raised!

Is there any treatment for Johne's?

There is no effective treatment for Johne's. Prevention is the only option, prevention of entry and prevention of spread.

How is Johne's spread?

Johne's is spread from an infected cow that picked it up as a calf. When this cow becomes infectious at 3-5 years of age she is shedding Johne's

in her dung, colostrum, milk and maybe across the womb to her calf. A positive cow in the calving shed/pen will be shedding millions of bacteria in her dung, the young calves in that pen will pick it up from the bed and then when the calves begins sucking it will pick it up from the dirty areas around the udder and dirty teats. Also the colostrum and milk will contain Johne's so mixing colostrum and milk from different cows can increase the risk of spread of Johne's. The most common way that Johne's is spread in a herd is by the dung, milk and colostrum of positive cows being ingested or fed to young calves, without the herdowner realising that these cows are positive.

Some of the labour saving practices that we are adapting now are favouring the spread of Johne's in infected herds - group calving accommodation, feeding pooled colostrum and milk to calves and not having very clean calving pens due to the pressure of a 70-90% calving rate in 6 weeks.

How did I get Johne's in my herd?

The most common way that Johne's enters a herd is through the purchase of an infected animal either as a calf, incalf heifer, cow or bull from an infected herd. You purchased it!

What is the first step in establishing my herd's Johne's status?

Initially testing all the animals over 2 years of age which is all the milking herd is a very good starting place. You can do this either through the individual sample that is taken at the time of milk recording or by taking blood samples at the time of your TB test.

The milk recording sample is very convenient and cost effective, it costs €5.50 for two tests on each cow.

In addition to testing AHI has developed a nice risk assessment programme that your vet can carry out for your farm.





Are the available tests accurate and is there a difference between individual milk and blood?

The tests that are available are more than adequate to identify that the herd is infected or not. However we need repeated tests on individual cows to establish their status. There is no difference between the milk tests offered by Munster group and blood testing. Currently we have a lot of herds addressing Johne's successfully with the current tests and changing their calf rearing practices.

If I have positives in my test, what do I do?

Step 1 is Hygiene

Step 2 is Testing

If you have one or more positives repeatedly the likelihood is that the herd is infected. You cannot change or treat the cows you have but you can ensure the replacements born in 2017, 2018, 2019 etc. can be kept as clean as possible.

Protect the 2017 replacements from dung, milk and colostrum from positive cows.

Cull all known positives and suspects after consultation with your vet (usually 1-4 cows).

This will ensure their dung is not on the coats of other cows or in the calving boxes.

Have clean well bedded calving pens and snatch the heifer calf immediately before anything enters her mouth and put her in the calf rearing shed.

Give her 3-4 litres of clean colostrum in the first 2-6 hours of birth from her own mother.

Then the replacements need to go on milk replacer as we cannot be confident that the remaining cows are negative.

Doing nothing is not an option as Johne's will continue to spread in the herd. It is much better to deal with Johne's and to protect the 2017 replacements onwards.

If you have never tested before but wish to begin a low cost, convenient, easy entry way is at your last milk recording prior to dry off to test the cows, the sample will also do the Johnes testing, and the cost is €2.75 per cow.



FERTILITY & BREEDING

SALMONELLA CONTROL

In this dairying area control of salmonella is very important. The two vaccines that I would recommend to all dairy herdowners to do are leptospirosis and salmonella. Both are zoonosis and the entry of salmonella into a naïve herd results in multiple abortions in late pregnancy.

Vaccination is the main method of control for salmonella. Other methods in conjunction with vaccination are biosecurity, management and maintaining a closed herd to avoid the purchase of a carrier animal.

For spring calving herds the most opportune time to vaccinate is the first week of September. All the cows and incalf heifers need to be vaccinated at this time.



KEY POINT: It is also advisable to begin the vaccination for the 2017 born calves this autumn, by giving them their primary and booster.

Then next September 2018 you only need to boost them with one dose of the vaccine. The advantage of vaccinating the 2017 calves this autumn is that it will reduce the carrier state in the heifers, next September 2018 they will only need one dose and they are covered by vaccination till September 2019.

Each year I am coming across abortions in incalf heifers due to them not being vaccinated in time, as they may be in outside places etc. Your incalf heifers are now at this point not covered until two weeks after they have received their second vaccine, unless

they were vaccinated last Autumn as weanlings and just need a booster now.

Recent work between the veterinary college and Moorepark demonstrated that in endemic infected unvaccinated herds that have not experienced an outbreak, profits per cow were reduced by €77/cow on average at a milk price of 24c/litre. Profits in vaccinated herds were €68/cow greater than in unvaccinated exposed herds.

Bovivac S is the only Salmonella vaccine licensed for use.

DOSAGE

Two 5ml doses under the skin twice 3 weeks apart. Boosted within 12 months. It is crucial to only allow 3 weeks or 21 days between the two vaccines.

CHFC MATTERS

By IVOR BRYAN
CHFC Public Relations Officer



We've had a busy month of July with the CHFC sending teams to compete at the National open day stock judging competitions and also the results of the National herd's competition being announced. By the time you read this we will also have held our summer field evenings, we would like to thank the 3 host farmers and their families for inviting us unto the farms. I would like to congratulate all the prize winners at the national open day/ Club field evenings. Finally I'd like to invite you all to our club BBQ on the 17th of August in The Vienna Woods Hotel, and CHFC Post-Calver Gold Herds competition. Tickets are available from any club officer.



Spring Section National herds competition Michael Spillane (3rd) Mountain Herd, Denis Kiely (2nd) Millstreet Herd, and Tomas Byrne (1st) Lask herd, with Brendan Collins sponsor.



1st placed under 18 year olds Cork team at IHFA open day. Brian Osbourne, Conor Lehane, and Seona Osbourne with David Bermingham fbd



2nd placed Cork Senior team Avril Eager, Red mills, Ger Lehane, Gordon Kingston, James Crowley, William Grogan and Colclough Byrne Sponsors.



THE RISK OF LUNGWORM (hoose)

As we enter the second half of the grazing season, and following the recent wet weather, the risk of lungworm (hoose) in susceptible cattle is high. Lungworm is caused by a roundworm, *Dictyocaulus viviparus*, which completes its lifecycle in the lungs of cattle. Clinical signs of infection include coughing and difficulty breathing, and death can occur with very little warning. Therefore, it is important that farmers be vigilant for signs of lungworm and take action without delay.

Young cattle in their first grazing season, and older animals which have little immunity, are at greatest risk of infection. Animals grazing pasture that was grazed by infected cattle the previous year may become infected if the larval burden on the pasture is high, and animals can acquire a dangerous level of infection after even one day of grazing a contaminated pasture.

Close monitoring of animals for any sign of disease, with treatment of the entire group if coughing is observed, is recommended.

There are various tests available to confirm infection, including faecal sampling (albeit that deaths from acute infection can occur before larvae appear in the faeces). Alternatively, a veterinary practitioner can take samples from the lungs to detect lungworms. Post mortem examinations should be carried out if deaths occur.

Anthelmintics can be given in the face of a lungworm outbreak or as part of a strategic control programme. All three groups of wormers are effective against lungworm, however only the macrocyclic lactones (e.g. Ivermectin) have a persistent action. This is important if cattle remain on infected pasture. Silage aftergrass will have a lower level of infection than pasture grazed since spring and can be used to reduce the risk of disease due to lungworm. A live intranasal vaccine is available for vaccination of cattle; however, it can only be given before turnout, which limits its usefulness.

Discuss lungworm control with your veterinary practitioner and be ready to act if signs of lungworm occur in cattle.



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Phone 071 9671928 • Email admin@animalhealthireland.ie • www.animalhealthireland.ie



Don't ignore a summer SCC rise!

Is your bulk tank somatic cell count (SCC) starting to creep up slightly? If so, don't ignore it! It is likely to be because the number of infected quarters in your herd is starting to increase a little, which in turn can lead to more infected quarters, and so on. High herd SCC in late lactation is generally because of spread of infection during the summer, not 'just late lactation'. Don't assume that small bulk tank SCC increases during the summer will 'settle down'- act now, and set your herd up for late lactation, with minimal mastitis infections and maximum milk production.

Despite an annual improvement in the average SCC of herds over the last few years, we still consistently see herd SCCs starting to rise from early summer. It then usually continues to creep up for the rest of the year. The financial impact of a 'creeping' SCC should not be underestimated. For example, at a milk price of 30c/L, if the average bulk tank SCC of a 100-cow herd increases from 150,000 cells/mL to 250,000 cells/mL, it reduces the overall farm profit by approx. €8,200. An additional €4,000 of extra profit is lost if the bulk tank SCC increases from 250,000 cells/mL to 350,000 cells/mL.

What to do?

Milk record the whole herd now, and identify any high SCC cows i.e. $SCC > 200,000 \text{ cells/mL}$

1. These high SCC cows should be marked and milked last to minimise disease spread.
2. Discuss a treatment plan with your vet- while treatment may appear to be the most logical option, remember that cure rates can range from 20-80% depending on various factors, such as the bacteria involved, the duration of infection and the cow's lactation number.
3. Remove the source of infection -Dry off individual quarters i.e. simply stop milking it, do NOT use a dry cow tube. Consider culling if the cow is a repeat offender i.e. high SCC in two consecutive lactations.

For full details on dealing with high SCC cows, see Management Note M in the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control.



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