

Milk Matters

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PAGE **03** Milk Supply Update
- PAGE **14** Grass Matters
- PAGE **17** 2017 Fertility Review
- PAGE **27** Animal Health Ireland



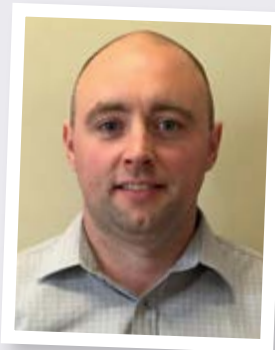
Welcome to the October edition of

MILK MATTERS

DAIRYGOLD'S DAIRY ADVISORY BULLETIN



Dear Milk Matters reader,
 This month's **Nutrition Matters** focuses on getting BCS right now before the milking cows are dried. Thin dry cows will require extra concentrate feeding, fat cows now will need different management. Dropping milk volume and lactose % is an indication of an energy deficit. Feed concentrates and a buffer now, where needed, to avert the fall.



This autumn's grassland management has a massive impact on the quantity and quality of grass available to your cows next spring. This month **Grass Matters** shows us how to set your farm up correctly from October onwards.

Are you too busy to review your herd's fertility performance this year? How can you plan to improve without accessing your strengths and weaknesses? In this month's **Fertility and Breeding Matters**, Doreen takes a look at the areas we all need to review.

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Stack

Liam Stack M.Agr.Sc

RUMINANT TECHNICAL MANAGER,
DAIRYGOLD AGRIBUSINESS

CONTENTS

Milk Supply Update 03

Feeding Spring Calved Cows in Late Lactation 04

UCD..... 08

Dairygold Pre-Calver Mineral Offering..... 09

Have You Used A Post Emergence Spray On Your Reseed? 11

Grass Matters 14

2017 Fertility Review..... 17

AHI Notes 27

CHFC Matters..... 29

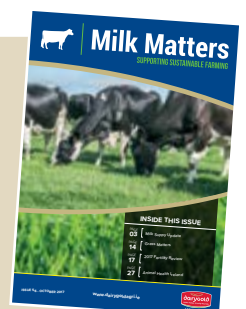


AGRI BUSINESS

To contact the editor of

MILK MATTERS

email: lstack@dairygold.ie



MILK SUPPLY UPDATE

WEEK 38, 2017



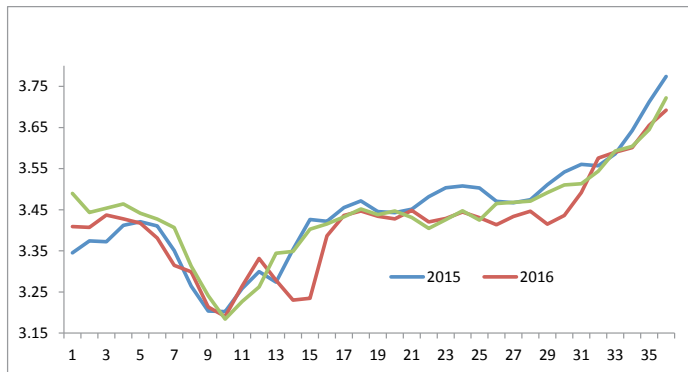
By LIAM STACK, M.Agr.Sc, Ruminant Technical Manager

**Milk production figures are averages based on ICBF dairy cow numbers in the Dairygold region. Individual farm yields will vary between farms.*

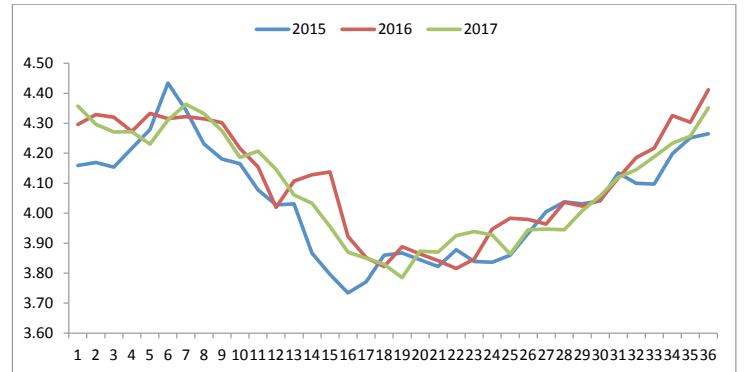
WHERE DO YOU STAND HERE WITH YOUR HERD ?
NEED HELP TO CALCULATE - TALK TO YOUR ASM OR MILK ADVISOR ?

	2015	2016	2017
Cumulative kg MS/cow	312	315	334

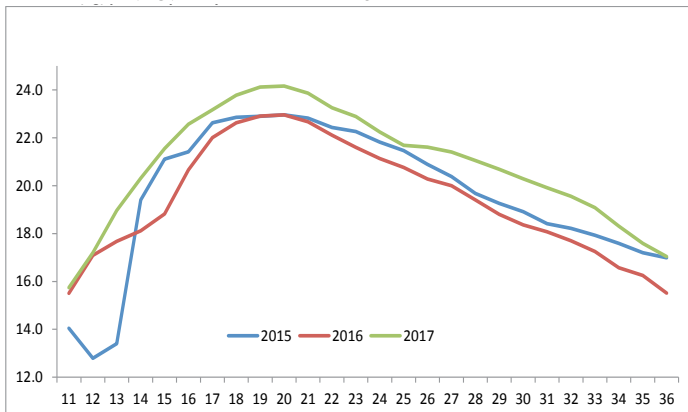
Milk Protein



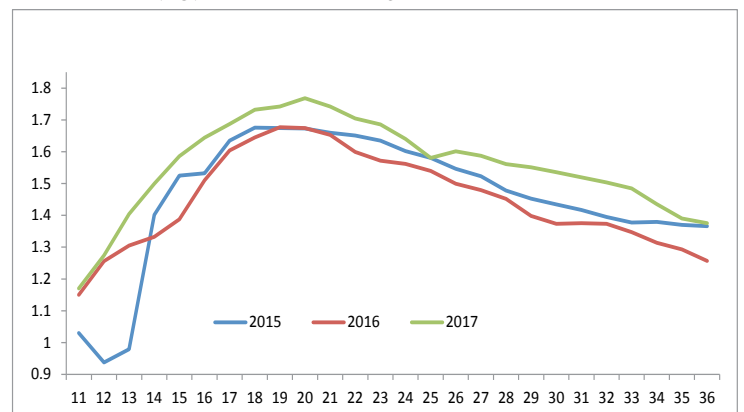
Milk Fat %



Milk Yield (kg) per cow per day



Milk Solids (kg) per cow per day





FEEDING SPRING CALVED COWS IN LATE LACTATION

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

Why Feed In Autumn?

1. Keep grass in the cows diet as long as possible

Yes autumn grass is lower in dry matter and digestibility than its summer equivalent. Yes heavy covers on soft ground can be hard to manage. But that does not mean maximising your cows intakes of this autumn grass is any the less important. You should now have a wedge of grass built on your farm. Concentrates (and silage if required) should be used to ensure that you are moving through the grass in a managed way. You do not want to run through the grass too quickly running out of grass and forcing early housing, nor do you want to end up carrying un-grazed or under-grazed paddocks across the winter.

2. Magnesium, trace elements and vitamins needed

- a. Leafy autumn grass is high in potash, therefore Mg is required to guard against tetany
- b. Autumn grass is low in Se, Cu, I, Zn



KEY POINT: At the first of October it should be taking you 35 days to get around your farm. Use concentrates strategically to ensure this is happening.

3. Manage BCS

Milking cows gain condition more efficiently than dry cows. Some spend now could save in the long term.

What is your cows BCS now? Do your cows need to gain some condition or are they ok?

To gain 1 unit of Body Condition Score requires 200 UFL. To gain a ¼ of a condition score between now and drying off (mid November) your cows need 1.2 UFL per day over their daily milk energy requirement.

1.2 UFL in energy terms is equal to c.2.75 ltrs of milk or 1.3 kg of concentrates.

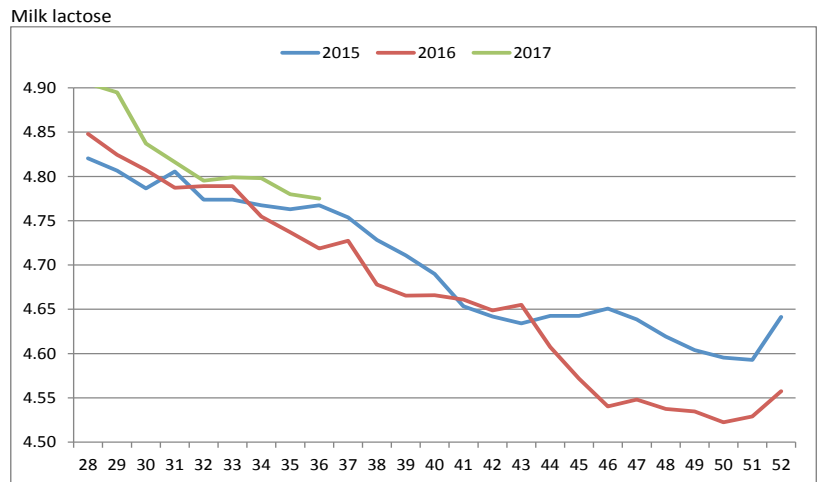
This energy needs to be allowed for when feeding your cows.

Energy and concentrate requirements of the late lactation cow

Milk yield + 0.25 BSC	15	18	22	25
UFL requirement	14	16	18	19
Energy supplied by 16kg DM grass	14.4			
Concentrates required	0	2	4	5

4. Maintain Lactose %:

Maintaining milk lactose will prolong the lactation and maximise the financial benefit of high value Autumn milk. Lactose levels will decline at differing rates depending on your cows energy nutrition. The lactose % of Dairygold milk has held up higher YTD this year compared to 2016 and 2015. To extend your lactation it's imperative you maintain your lactose % as high as possible for as long as possible.



Cause of Low Lactose?

- Low energy intake, caused by low intake of wet, low-sugar, autumn grass.

There is a perception out there that grass silage drops milk lactose. This is only true if grass silage is feed unnecessarily.

Milk lactose levels drop as your cows energy nutrition drops. If your cows are struggling to maintain their intakes on grass, including grass silage to up their overall intakes will also up their energy intakes.

	Kg DM	Kg DM	Kg DM
Grass Intake (kgDM)	15	10	10
Silage Intake (kgDM)			3
Concentrate Intake*		3	3
Overall UFL	13.5	11.8	14.1

*kg Fresh

What to do if lactose is low?

- If you are feeding good autumn grass:
 - Feed 2-4kg/day concentrates, **Hi-Pro Autumn Extend 16%**,
- If you are feeding scarce or wet autumn grass
 - On top of concentrates, introduce dry forage (grass silage/maize silage), Feed Hi-Pro Autumn Extend 18%

5. Milk Yield Response

Autumn grass has a lower energy value (lower sugar content) compared to spring/summer grass even though it can look very leafy and green. Consequently, the response to ration in terms of milk yield is better in the autumn than at any other time of the year; typically, 1 litre of milk per 1Kg concentrate fed. This year with milk price being strong compared to concentrate price should we be driving our cows on to produce more?

With our new Hi Pro Autumn Extend costing c.27c per kg and milk worth = 38-40 c of milk, after concentrate milk. That's a 50% return on investment.



Hi-Pro Autumn Extend 16% and 18%

Dairygold Quality Feeds have launched a new feed to extend your cows lactation by maintaining milk production across this autumn.

Hi-Pro Autumn Extend is designed around the core values that extend right throughout the Dairygold quality feeds range.

- High in UFL, energy is the first limiting factor in animal nutrition.
- Has a high inclusion of maize meal, to maximise the levels of milk protein produced. With autumn grass being low in sugars, a high level of maize meal is very important for driving on milk protein %.
- Has a good PDI balance to maximise milk production
- Has a high inclusion of trace minerals and vitamins included pro-rata with the calmag
- Contains Agolin, a natural rumen modifier that increases yield. Agolin is exclusive to dairygold within our catchment area.

Agolin

Agolin is a blend of high quality plant active ingredients that alters the rumen bacterial population to:

- lower the levels of dietary energy lost from the rumen as methane by 25%,
- lower the amount of dietary protein converted to ammonia by 10%

Methane and ammonia losses are all too often ignored as only being of concern to the greens and politicians. However, methane lost is energy lost, Ammonia lost is protein lost.



KEY POINT: Methane lost is energy lost, Ammonia lost is protein lost.



Less energy lost as methane results in:

- Less BCS losses in early lactation
- More energy available for production
- Increased yield

Less protein lost as ammonia results in:

- Better balance of PDI
- Lower levels of milk urea nitrogen
- Increased production
- Better fertility performance

Independent Published Research with Agolin has shown:

- Increase FCE. Range 4 – 6%
- Increased intakes. Average increase 3%
- Increased milk yield. c. 1 ltr with an initial yield of 18-20 ltrs (will be higher with higher yielding cows)
- Higher pregnancy rate. Range 20 – 24%

dairygold

QUALITY FEEDS

HiPro[®]
AUTUMN EXTEND

contains
Agolin

- High energy feed containing Category One ingredients with Maize as the No. One ingredient
- Contains high levels of Phosphorus and Magnesium
- Contains Agolin[®] a natural rumen modifier that increases feed efficiency, increase production and improve fertility performance
- High quality source of energy and protein
- Available in 16%, and 18% protein cubes

***Dairygold maximises the use of quality
Irish Grain across it's Ruminant Feed Range***



Contact your Area Sales Manager,
Inside Sales or Lombardstown Mill
on 022 47275 to order.

www.agritrading.ie



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Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

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 25-9-17**Farm Details:**

Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 977 kg DM/ha (287 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 52 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 47.6 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 2.65 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 217 (range 155-248)

**Grass Supply:**

AFC on 25th of September was 977 kg DM/ha (range 250 to 1914 kg DM/ha). Cows are cleaning out paddocks very well with PGSH of 3.5-4cm being achieved. Growth is steady at the moment as we continue to graze heavy covers.

Feed Budget:

Cows are being fed an average of 2.65 kg of concentrate. Fifty six cows are on 2.5kg with four cows on 4kg as they reached 240 DIM. Concentrate is 18% protein and now contains Biotin. Grass DMI last week was 14.3 kg at 14% DM on average.

Fertiliser:

Final chemical fertiliser figures for the Milking Platform are as follows:

260 kg/ha (210 units/acre) of Nitrogen; 8.6 kg/ha (7 units/acre) of Phosphorus and 44 kg/ha (36 units/acre) of Potassium.

Milk Production:

Average production is currently 19.5 kg/cow at 4.9% fat and 3.93% protein (1.7 kg MS). SCC is 147,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 13th September.

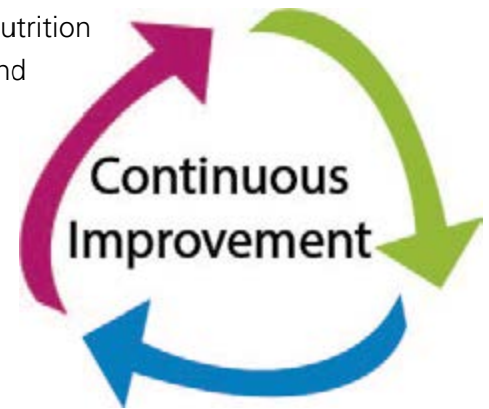
Cow Condition:

Cows were body condition scored (BCS) on Thursday last, September 22nd. The cows are in good condition with an average BCS of 3.0. Within the group we have 4 thin cows (BCS = 2.5) and 5 fat cows (BCS = 3.5).

Breeding Season 2017: The final scan will take place in early October and a full review of the 2017 breeding season will be provided at that stage.

DAIRYGOLD PRECALVER MINERAL OFFERING

To ensure we are delivering the best possible dry cow mineral and vitamin nutrition to your cows we have made a significant adjustment to our already gold stand pre-calver mineral range for 2017. **Talk to your ASM or our Inside Sales team for details on our updated specification.**



These additions, are on top of our continued commitment to the use of Selpex, bioplex copper, zinc and manganese. These additions will ensure your superchoice pre-calver range remains the market leader for mineral nutrition.

When buying a pre-calver mineral please ensure that your mineral is meeting the requirements as laid out in the table.

A mineral formulated to these must haves specifications will results in (assuming correct BCS, energy and protein nutrition at calving down):



KEY POINT: For 2017 we are upping the levels of; Magnesium, Phosphorus, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E; used across the range.

- Reduced subclinical milk fever
- Less retained placentas
- Reduced calf mortality and morbidity
- Enhanced immunity and thrift
- Improved cow fertility

ELEMENT	WHAT IT EFFECTS	COMMENT
Mg	Milk Fever	Minerals must supply 30+ grms as a minimum.
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. 480mg/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 Selpex
Iodine	Weak Calves, Embryonic Death	Mineral cannot supply more than 60mg/day
Vitamin A	Retained Placenta	Mineral should supply >70,000 iu/day
Vitamin D	Milk Fever	Mineral should supply >20,000 iu/day
Vitamin E	Retained Cleansings, Colostrum quality, SCC, Mastitis, Calf growth, calf scours	Mineral should supply >500 iu/day

2017 PRE-CALVER GOLD MINERAL OFFER

**BUY 1 TONNE AND GET 4 BAGS FREE.
BUY 0.5 TONNE AND GET 2 BAGS FREE.
SEE IN-STORE FOR OTHER OFFERS**

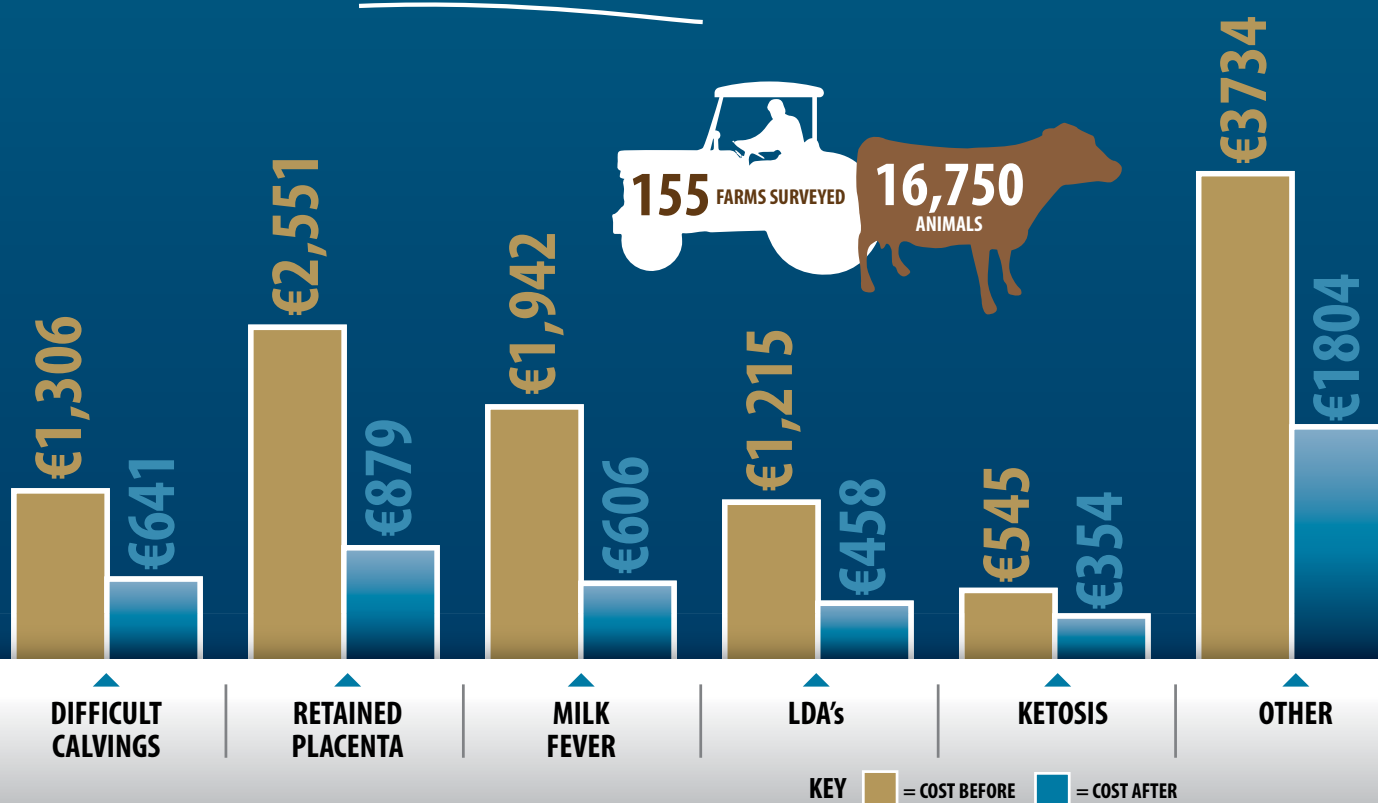


Please contact your local Agri Branch Lead, your local Area Sales Manager or Inside Sales on 022-31644 for more details



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.



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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

HAVE YOU USED A POST EMERGENCE SPRAY ON YOUR RE-SEED?

By DENIS McCARTHY



The easiest and most cost effective time to control docks, thistles and chickweed, etc., is when they are seedlings. In a new re-seed this is 6-8 weeks after sowing. (See attached table.)

What product to use?

This depends on whether you have clover in your re-seed.

Clover safe?	Product	Rate	Comment
Yes	Mastercrop Undersown/ Legumex DB/DB Plus	7L/Ha	Not good on chickweed
Yes	(Mastercrop Undersown/ Legumex DB/DB Plus) + Triad	5L/Ha + 0.75Tb/Ha	Kills chickweed
No	Hurler/Reaper	0.75L/Ha	Kills chickweed
No	Pasture Trio	1/ha	Kills chickweed

My re-seed is "clean" looking – Do I need to spray?

- Yes (in most cases) as mature docks left to seed in the old pasture have had the potential to contaminate the soil with up to 80,000 dock seeds and a lot of these will germinate following cultivation.
- Yes as you will kill all weeds more easily when they are seedlings.
- Yes as you will maximise your investment.



KEY POINTS:

Teagasc research shows that reseed sprays provide very good control of docks for four years after application, whereas mature sprays provide control for just one year.

Is October too late for post emergence spray?

No. Post emergence spray, can be applied as long as temperatures are above 9c. Spraying now while weeds are seedlings, will give a better kill than trying to control more established winter hardy weeds next spring.

Best Practice:

- apply the herbicide onto small, actively growing weeds (e.g., dock leaf = size of €2 coin);
- spray six to eight weeks after reseeding when there are three leaves on the grass and one true leaf on the clover;
- avoid spraying in very dry or cold conditions (talk to your Dairygold ASM, if this is the case);
- keep water rates high: 220-350L/ha (20-30 gallons per acre);



Paddock that received a post emergence spray



Paddock without post emergence spray



KEY POINT: Remember to keep the prescribed cross compliance records and follow the product label.

Dairygold Loyalty Reward Scheme



Have you claimed your 2016 loyalty bonus?

In December 2016 Dairygold issued all eligible suppliers with a loyalty reward cards. The value on this card was related to your eligible* purchases from Dairygold between 1st of November 2015 and the 31st of October 2016. As we approach the end of October 2017 there are still some loyalty reward cards with money outstanding on them.



Please ensure that you have not missed out! Loyalty card balances can be used in any Co-Op Superstores

ELIGIBILITY

All purchases via your individual Trading Account(s) will qualify for the Loyalty Reward Scheme except;

- Contract purchases of straights and whole-grain,
- Purchases through a Purchasing Group Account or Wholesale Account



AGRI BUSINESS

**Please contact your local Agri Branch Lead,
your local Area Sales Manager or Inside
Sales on 022-31644 for more details**

NEW

DAIRYGOLD SOIL SAMPLING SERVICE & FERTILISER PLAN FOR 2017 and 2018



Soil Samples taken from your Farm and Analysed for €16.50 + VAT by Dairygold Agri Services Laboratory



Fertiliser Require Total Sampled Area						
	N (units per acre)	P (units per acre)	K (units per acre)	S (units per acre)	Se (grams/acre)	T Required
Requirements (Total)	165-170	18	38	35	4	2.55
Spread (t/acre)	18	40	35	0	0	2.55
Remaining P & K		1	2	1	0	3.40

Yearly Spreading Schedule Total Sampled Area								
Round	Product	Bags per acre	N (units per acre)	P (units per acre)	K (units per acre)	S (units per acre)	Se (grams/acre)	T Required
1	MOCH KAN 40%	0.75	35	0	0	0	0	2.55
2	MOCH KAN 40%	0.75	35	0	0	0	0	3.40
3	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2-5-15	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
4	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2-5-15	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
5	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2-5-15	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
6	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2-5-15	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
7	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2-5-15	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
8	0-30-20	0.75	0	8	35	0	0	3.40

- Minimum of 10 samples
- Less than 10 samples cost €18.00 + VAT
- Terms & Conditions Apply



Complete your details below and hand to a Dairygold Representative.

Name: Email Address:

Address: Acc. No.:

Phone Number: Estimated Number of Samples:



GRASS MATTERS

By JOHN MAHER, Dairy Specialist, Teagasc Moorepark



TIME TO START THE GRAZING SEASON!!!

The most important task any dairy farmer will undertake over the next 2 months is to ensure that the farm is closed off properly to have an adequate supply of grass early next spring.

Grazing conditions have been challenging during September. Reports I get back on grass supply on farms are very variable. Some farms are swamped in grass which makes grazing out very difficult. Some farms have not and will not have enough grass available for October and will require additional feed to keep cows fed. Irrespective of grass supply on the farm, we must focus on the next grazing season and get it right.

There are two objectives in autumn grazing management of dairy cows.

Firstly the cows must be adequately fed using the cheapest available feed which is grazed grass. Every day at grass is worth €1.80/cow/day additional profit.

The second objective is set the farm up for spring grass. Many farmers do not realise that the grazing season begins in the autumn and that autumn management of grazed grass is the primary factor influencing the supply of grass available in spring on any farm.



To provide grass for grazing in early spring, grass has to be carried over from the autumn period due to low grass growth rates during the winter period. Faraway pastures are always greener and spring grass is a much better feed for a cow than autumn grass. So it is important that we get the autumn management right so we have a good supply of high quality spring grass available next February.

Start of Closing

The start date of beginning the last rotation in autumn and the cover of grass grazed will have a large influence on the supply of grass available in early spring. The last rotation needs to be planned to have grass early in spring. The length of the last rotation should not be greater than 45 days. An excessively long last rotation will

lead to grass being too strong to graze and the sward will be slow to recover afterwards. This will reduce the supply of grass available in spring. This will also affect the swards ability to be in a vibrant state going into winter. Having a nice green cover of grass going into the winter is essential to have grass early in spring.

The last rotation should begin around October 7-10th for most farms. This date will vary a small bit according to soil type and to a lesser extent with stocking rate. For farms with a difficult soil type closing up should begin in last days of September.



Every 1 week delay past the target of October 10th in closing up the farm will reduce grass supply in spring by 100kgDM/ha. Later closing will also reduce the level of autumn and winter grass growth.

Date when 65% is closed

This is a very critical date. For most farms this is early November. This is because most of the grass available in early spring has been grown in October/early November. Very little growth occurs over the winter months so most of the grass available in February is carried over from the previous autumn/early winter. The target is to have about 65% of the farm closed up by the first week in November. For those farms that have a high feed demand in spring, earlier closing up must be considered. This should be over 70% of the farm closed for farms with a higher stocking rate (3+cows /ha) on the milking platform. It is important to carry more grass across the winter for farms with higher stocking rates and a high 6 week calving rate.

For farms with difficult soil types, most of the farm should be closed by November 1st.

You may need to skip grazing paddocks with heavy covers of grass – and graze paddocks with ideal/lower covers of grass- to meet 65% target





SUMMARY OF AUTUMN GRAZING TARGETS

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1st October	400	1,000	40 Days
1st November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		550-600	
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1st October	380	1150	40 Days
1st November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		600-650	
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
1st October	335	1175	40 Days
1st November	70% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		700-750	

- It is important to graze down to a residual of 4 – 4.5 cm in the autumn to stimulate growth throughout the winter and avoid the carryover of dead material over the Winter and into the following Spring.
- The use of strip wires can become essential to allocate milking cows the correct amount of grass and also minimising damage to paddocks in unfavourable ground conditions.
- Use wet weather grazing techniques if ground conditions deteriorate (on-off grazing, strip wires)

TEAGASC/DAIRYGOLD DEMONSTRATION & FOCUS FARM PERFORMANCE

Milk Yield (l/cow)	17.5
Fat %	4.64
Protein %	4.06
MS Yield (kgMS/cow)	1.57
Grass Growth Kg DM/ha	59
Demand kg DM/ha	45
Average Farm Cover (kg/ha)	1048
Cover/cow (kg DM/cow)	359
Meal (kg /cow)	3



2017 FERTILITY REVIEW

By **DOREEN CORRIDAN**, MVB MRCVS PhD, Munster Cattle Breeding



If you have not scanned in September scan this month in October.

September or October are the ideal months to do the final herd scan, this should ideally be done 40 days after the end of the breeding season. The reason for this is that it will allow more accurate calving dates, as the earlier in the pregnancy that scanning is done the more accurate the dates. Once you have the final scan done - Plan for 2018

Munster's Pregnancy Testing Service

Milk recording herds can avail of a convenient pregnancy testing service. Simply identify the cows you wish to pregnancy test or you can do the entire herd. The cost is €3.95 per sample. It is 95% accurate. Contact milk recording 022 43228.

1. What cows and heifers am I keeping for 2018?

- Use your milk recording results and fertility results to identify which cows to keep and the ones to cull.
- Milk recording will identify the poor performers and the high persistent high SCC cows, cows needing treatment over the dry period, cows that can be selected for teat sealer only.
- By the end of the month a new report will be available for milk recording herdowners based on their performance, SCC, genetics and calving date in 2018. If you submit your pregnancy results to ICBF this will be an extremely useful report for selecting which cows to cull.

2. Assess the 2017 stock bull's fertility now.

- With your vet calculate the conception rate of your stock bull.
- Calculate how many empty females were presented to him after the AI season stopped and then what % he got in calf in 3 weeks and in 6 weeks.
- He should have got 60% in calf in 3 weeks and 90% in calf in 6 weeks.





- If he did not hit those targets, the question is why?
- Had you enough bull power?
- Was the bull too young?
- Did he get hurt?
- Did he lose a lot of weight early in the mating period?
- If you had a number of bulls running with the cows you may need to wait for them to calve to sort out the bull factor.
- Genomically testing the calves to verify the sires will sort out the bull fertility issues and the bulls that are having difficult calving's.
- Finally, is he a sub fertile bull?
- If he is a sub fertile bull and there is no other reason for this, there is no point in keeping him for 2018.

3. Value of a 2 and 3-year-old Bull - Work rate.

- If the bull has hit the targets of 60% in calf in 3 weeks and 90% in calf in 6 weeks, he is a valuable animal to have on the farm for 2018. Too many herds are relying on yearling bulls to be released after 6 weeks AI to get the remainder of the cows in calf.
- We are expecting Minors to play in the final stages of the senior championship!
- More mature 2 and 3 year old bulls need to be retained and overwintered correctly and not be seen to be a nuisance on farm. They

can make a substantial contribution to the bottom line the following season by reducing the % empty rate. Admittedly we must take cognisance of safety and once a bull changes his attitude he needs to be slaughtered.

4. Assess your DIY competence.

- If you are a DIY operator now is an appropriate time to calculate your conception rate in both cows and heifers separately. If your conception is lower than 50% in the cows and 70% in the heifers depending on the numbers done, it may be worthwhile to get this checked out and improved for 2018.
- Herdowners are increasingly opting for the AI technician service to improve their fertility performance. Do the € figures it may be more profitable to concentrate on the heat detection and get a professional technician.



5. Vasectomised Bull- Sort one or two for the 2018 season



- As herd size is increasing and quality labour getting more difficult to source it is becoming more apparent that vasectomised bulls and AI are the most profitable and efficient way to breed the dairy herd. The majority of farms would benefit greatly from one or two vasectomised bulls. If you have any February or March born bulls on the farm that are well grown they are ideal candidates for the 2018 season. Otherwise keep a later calf or if none available keep two of your earliest born bull calves from 2018.
- Herds with vasectomised bulls have over 70% of their repeat intervals between 18-24 days and very few 6 week repeat intervals.
- Vasectomised bulls work very well with maiden heifers and after 3-6 weeks AI in cows, when it is getting difficult to heat detect. Also, vasectomised bulls work well in inclement weather conditions.



2017 BORN HEIFERS Weigh, Segregate & Feed



- October is the month that we can lose ground with the younger weanling heifers. This loss in weight among the younger lighter heifers happens even if concentrates are being fed, it often goes unnoticed as they also begin to grow big coats of hair.
- This happens if the group size is too large, a significant difference in size between the youngest and the older ones, grass low in dry matter and feeding quality.
- This is a very good time of the year to weigh these weanling heifers. They should be 220Kg minimum at this stage to be 340Kg by breeding 15th April 2018.
- Having an actual weight allows you to make timely relevant and correct decisions about their feeding regime pre-and post housing.
- Silage analysis results and the weight increase required in the next 6 months will determine the level of concentrates that need to be fed. To maximise performance efficiently the diet must meet both the energy and protein requirements of the maiden heifer. We need to grow these heifers not fatten them.
- It is far superior to begin closing that deficit in size and weight immediately on the 1st of October than allowing them to lose 30-50 KG and then trying to regain it subsequently.
- Due to housing restrictions, often herdowners cannot divide the bunch into 2 or 3 groups, therefore outdoors is an opportunity to get the lighter heifers up to the target weight.

If you have not got a scales ICBF will provide scales and an operator

Call 1850 600 900

**The cost is €60 call out and the weighing of up to 15 animals, the next 16-30 animals @ €2.50 per head, and the next 31-100 @ €1.25 per head.
70 heifers weighed for approx. €100, do the 2017 born and the in-calf heifers.**

***Arrange a date now and it will happen
otherwise it will just go on the long finger!***

In Calf Heifers - Weigh, Segregate & Feed

- On most farms in calf heifers are up to target size and weight and are doing well, however on others they need to be addressed immediately. A good starting point is to weigh them, this can be done at the same time as weighing the weanling heifers.
- Any of them that have not reached target size or weight can be segregated out on the day and fed.
- We are now four months from the 1st February calving.
- In calf heifers will gain little or no bodyweight in the month of January except for the pregnancy weight.
- Essentially, we have 3 months October/November/December which is 90 days to achieve the target weight of 550Kgs at calving.
- Silage analysis results and the weight increase required in the next 90 days will determine the level of concentrates that need to be fed. To maximise performance efficiently the diet must meet both the energy and protein requirements of the in-calf heifer.
- It is far superior to begin closing that deficit in size and weight immediately on the 1st of October than waiting till November to do so.
- October is the month that we can lose ground with in calf heifers, this loss in weight often goes unnoticed as they also begin to grow big coats of hair which makes it difficult to observe what is happening.

Selling Breeding Heifers- Get them Genomically Tested.



- If you have a number of heifers to sell get them genomically tested now. Ensure that you will keep the superior heifers for fertility and production of Kgs of milk solids as your own replacements.
- Genomically testing a heifer will give you as much extra information as milking 20 daughters from her.



- The cost is €22 per heifer.
- You have incurred all the costs of rearing the entire group of heifers, get the benefit of rearing the group for your own herd.



- Each heifer will have cost €1,500 to get to the calving stage, it will be in her 2nd lactation before she has paid for herself. She needs to perform efficiently for 5.5 lactations to maximise her profitability.

Vaccines

When you are purchasing vaccines the following needs to be borne in mind

1. Maintain the cold chain - Most vaccines need to be maintained between 2 to 8°C. Collect them from your vet or supplier and put them in the fridge immediately. Ensure they are maintained between 2 to 8°C in the fridge and that they do not freeze in the fridge- the fridge door is the safest.

2. Pack size. When vaccinating cattle either with the primary (first shot) or booster (second shot or annual booster) avoid using part used vials of vaccines that were previously opened. To achieve this, calculate the number of animals to be vaccinated and order different pack sizes to fit the required number. For example, if you had 120 cattle to vaccinate purchase



2x50 pack sizes and 2x10 packs.

3. Hygienic and Dry. Always be hygienic around vaccination time clean hands, wear gloves and vaccinate on a dry day when the cow skin is dry and clean.

4. Timing. Follow manufactures instructions in relation to vaccination timing of the primary and booster. The estimate is that we have just 50% compliance with timing.

Salmonella Vaccination - Do it now if not done already.

Vaccines need to be timed to be administered to cattle prior to periods of challenge. Salmonella abortion occurs predominantly at dry off and shortly afterwards. The ideal time to vaccinate is September which is 2 months prior to dry off in November. If you did not complete this in September- complete in October as early as possible.

SCC and Dry Off

Do a milk recording close to dry off.

A milk recording prior to dry off is the key to getting a good cure over the dry period.

Identify the cows as follows

For milk recording herds if you go into the Profile-Milk recording SCC it will allow you to divide your cows into the following 3 categories.

- Persistently high SCC and those that were high in 2016 - Cull
- Cows to treat that have high SCC.
- Cows that you may consider for selective dry cow.

If you are not milk recording, you can sign up for 5 tests, do one in autumn of 2017 and the remaining 4 in 2018 and pay in the Autumn 2018. This is an ideal opportunity to plan a good cure rate for the 2017 dry period. By the time you come to paying for it you will have more than recovered the cost of it. Contact milk recording at 022 43228 to do your 1 late lactation test now.

When do I dry off?



- Give each cow at least 60 days to maximise production in 2018.
- Work out the calving date and dry off accordingly.
- 20th January calving 20th November dry off.

What cows do I dry off earlier to allow 60+ days dry?

- 1st calvers always benefit from 8-11 weeks dry.
- Cows with high SCC that you wish to keep and treat, that were not high in 2016 and the udder is normal. The longer the dry period the greater the cure.
- Cows in a low BCS. One option to increase

BCS prior to calving is a long dry period, the other option is to feed concentrates over the level of production to increase BCS. This is certainly an option in 2017 due to milk price being high.

- Cows with low lactose need to be dried off if the lactose is dropping in the bulk tank and those cows milking less than 8-9 litres. React early to a dropping lactose and feed concentrates as once it beginning to drop it is difficult to maintain.

BCS is crucial to maintain and increase in October.

- Try and dry off cows in a BCS of 3.0 to 3.25.
- A number of herds I have seen in the last few weeks are low in BCS. This can be corrected by either drying off early or feeding extra concentrates from now on.
- You will get a response to concentrates and the milk price will justify it depending on yield easily up to 3-4 Kgs.

However, you will need to balance the cow BCS with cleaning out paddocks. This is no issue where grass is tight as you can feed the concentrates. The issue will arise with heavy covers to graze off and not getting the weather to clean them out.





AGRI BUSINESS

DAIRYGOLD BUYING FOR SHAREHOLDERS & CUSTOMERS

Dairygold’s board and management are continuing to leverage its business relationships to source preferential offers for Members and account holders.

We have already advised you that agreements have been reached with two companies which will allow shareholders and customers to purchase insurance and fuels at very competitive prices.

FEED BINS

The Society is aware that a farm’s existing equipment may hinder operational efficiency. Feed bins being an example; smaller feed bins require frequent reordering which can result in feed outages. Smaller order quantities will cost more and older/leaking bins can result in spoilt feed.



This month we reached agreement with Crowley Engineering Ltd and Spirofeed to supply discounted feed bins to Dairygold account holder.

FEED BINS – What’s in it for me?	SAVINGS	e.g. Savings for 100 Cows
Bin discount	€200 to €500 per bin	€300
Dairygold’s promotional discount	€10 per ton up to €250	€250
Increasing orders from 3 tons to 8 tons	€9 per ton	€630
Switch from bags to bulk for calves and weanlings	€30.50 per ton	
TOTAL SAVINGS (if already taking bulk calf/beef)		€1,180
Less re-ordering + big savings + happier cows = no headaches!		



AGRI BUSINESS

DAIRYGOLD BUYING FOR SHAREHOLDERS & CUSTOMERS

What is the offer?

- Crowley's & Spirofeed will offer approximately 8% off the list price of their feed bins – saving up to €450. Prices available from the supplier.
- Bins must be ordered between 1st of September and 30th of November 2017.
- Dairygold will match the supplier discount with a €10 discount on all bulk feed orders up to a maximum discount of €250.
- Your larger bin will allow you to avail of the volume discounts per the price list.
- Recycling your old bin will enable you to replace bagged feed with bulk deliveries, generating further savings.

The first step to avail of these offers is to sign and return your referral forms to our Inside Sales Team, Dairygold Agri Offices, West End, Mallow, Co. Cork (Telephone 022 31644).



AGRI BUSINESS

FEED BIN REFERRAL FORM

Name:	
Address:	
Dairygold Account Number:	
Telephone Number - Landline:	
Mobile:	
Email Address:	
Select Preferred Supplier:	Crowley Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Spirofeed Limited <input type="checkbox"/>
Likely Capacity Of New Bin:	
I hereby request and authorise Dairygold Co-Operative Society Limited to confirm my relationship with the Society and forward my details to the selected bin supplier.	
Signed:	
Date:	





Meet our latest expert in your field.

JP Aherne, our dedicated Dairygold local expert in the Munster region, is happy to visit you at your farm to talk about the cover you need – he can even put it in place straight away.

To find out more about Zurich's exclusive farm insurance deal and preferential pricing for Dairygold members, return your Zurich Insurance referral form to Dairygold.



Zurich Insurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Terms, conditions and standard underwriting criteria apply.

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Animal Health Ireland NOTES

DRY COW THERAPY-SELECTIVE OR BLANKET?

There is much discussion lately about the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and how the use of antibiotics in both humans and animals can contribute to it. The use of antibiotics at the end of lactation is one area that is receiving increasing attention. There is much discussion about whether farmers should use blanket or selective dry cow therapy in their herds-what does this actually mean? And why we use dry cow therapy at all?

Remember!

Dry cow therapy (DCT) consists of intramammary antibiotic tubes and/or internal teat sealer. The purpose of DCT is to:

1. eliminate existing udder infections at the end of lactation
2. and prevent new infections over the dry period.

Blanket DCT:

This is when all quarters of all cows are treated with antibiotic.

Selective DCT:

This is when only selected cows i.e. those with infected quarters, are treated with antibiotic. Internal teat sealer can then be used in the remainder of the herd.

When it comes to deciding between blanket and selective DCT, it is not a case of “one size fits all”. However, there are certain criteria that a herd owner should be able to fulfil, in order to safely consider using selective DCT. For example, regular milk recording is essential, as without this it is not possible to make informed decisions on the likely infection status of each individual animal. Milk cultures results are also important, as blanket DCT may still be necessary for some herds depending on the bacterial challenges that they face. Excellent hygiene when administering any DCT is critical, but even more so with selective DCT, as there is no antibiotic being administered at the same time.

For full details on using selective DCT in your herd, read Management Note C in the ‘*CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control*’, and discuss with your vet. If you can’t fulfil all the recommended criteria, for example if you are not milk recording, then start milk recording now so that by Autumn 2018 you will be in a better position to consider selective DCT for your herd and to safely reduce the amount of antibiotic that you use.



Hygiene when administering any type of dry cow therapy is critical.

For more information and practical tips on Dry Cow Therapy, see *CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control* Guidelines 16 - 18 & Management Notes C - F.





Animal Health Ireland BULLETIN

Contributing to a profitable and sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health



WHY VACCINATE?

The decision on whether to vaccinate (or not) should be determined by your knowledge of the disease risk on your farm coupled with professional advice from your local veterinary practitioner. Biosecurity measures such as avoiding purchase, double boundary fencing, avoiding shared equipment/facilities etc. can help enormously in lowering risks but they do not eliminate them completely. Equally vaccination may not prevent disease but a correctly applied programme can significantly alter the chances of disease spread if your stock became infected. Vaccination

live vaccines have a short in-use shelf life – so aim to use them within one day’s work. Always check the expiry date prior to use and protect vaccines from light. Record all administrations carefully so that you remember to boost at the correct time. Use a clean sterile needle for each administration or at very least change frequently.

Vaccines rarely provide lifelong protection, so it is important to read the package insert carefully and follow the guidelines on vaccine boosting. This may involve either



Always check the expiry date prior to use and protect vaccines from light. Record all administrations carefully so that you remember to boost at the correct time. Use a clean sterile needle for each administration or at very least change frequently.

forms only a part of your farm biosecurity plan and should not be considered the sole component of the plan. It can result in enormous benefits on most farms however when appropriately applied.

of two aspects – some vaccines require a primary course of two doses – so the next vaccine booster may be due in a short time (3-5 weeks) while others vaccines have a single dose primary course with the next booster not due until 6-12 months later.

So what are the important aspects of a correctly applied programme? Firstly, decide on which diseases you need to protect against. Discuss this with your vet as they will be aware, not just of your herd disease history, but also of the risk patterns in the local area. The next step is choosing timing of vaccination. This is determined by seasonality of disease and recommendations of the vaccine manufacturer. Route of administration and dosage are again given on the product insert, but should be confirmed with your local vet if you are unsure. Obtain your supplies from a local legitimate supplier and always ensure you adhere to storage precautions when transporting, storing or using vaccines. Frost can seriously damage inactivated vaccines while both inactivated and

Are there any downsides to vaccination? Although uncommon, vaccination carries the risk of adverse reactions ranging from mild to severe. Vaccine efficacy can be interfered with by concurrent disease that lower immunity e.g. parasitism, nutritional deficiencies etc. Happily, regulatory authorities and vaccine companies ensure that rigorous standards are applied to ensure vaccines are of consistent quality, safety and efficacy.

In summary, plan your vaccination calendar with your local veterinary practitioner, ensure all of the above conditions are met concerning health of treated animals prior to vaccination as well as vaccine storage and use. There are many farmers in Ireland who have experienced first-hand the usefulness of vaccination.



Animal Health Ireland, 4-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim N41 WN27

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

CHFC MATTERS

By IVOR BRYAN, CHFC Public Relations Officer



The launch of the 35th National Dairy Show to be held in Millstreet, Co. Cork took place on 5th of September in Fota Island Resort.



The Show committee were delighted to welcome Professor Thia Hennessy, Head of the Department of Food Business and Development and Chair of Agri-Food Economics at Cork University Business School, to the launch where she outlined the challenges and opportunities that face the farming industry, including Brexit, price volatility and the negative image of animal based products.

This year's Show is designed to attract an audience throughout our farming community and welcomes attendance from all; both urban and rural, town and country and to deliver a great family day out with something for everyone. As in previous years the majority of the events at the Show will be under cover in a venue that offers restaurant facilities and free car parking in addition to live demonstrations of cattle and machinery and with a particular emphasis this year on Farm Safety and Rural Crime Prevention.

The artisan Food Village will showcase produce from up to twenty producers with the exciting addition this year of TV Chef, Richy Virahsawmy, of RTÉ's popular Today Show, demonstrating how best to use the produce in a purpose built kitchen at the venue and which will no doubt wet the appetite of those in attendance. We're



Rachel McCarthy, Edmond Curtin Dairygold, Ed Browne MSD, Jane O'Mahony NDS

not forgetting our younger visitors who will be enthralled by the new addition of a small animal farm with both familiar and more exotic species both of which are sure to be a topic of conversation.

The keen interest in trade stand space at the Show continues to amaze, with interest this year recorded as early as January resulting in upward of 150 stands booking their space and aiming to provide attendees with the opportunity to meet and discuss with suppliers of a wide range of products from the latest in milking technology to animal nutrition, veterinary products, detergents, animal dosing, AI companies and leading financial institutions to name but a few.

Other new features at this year's Show sure to garner keen interest from farmers is when leading tractor sales teams take part in tractor and loader bale handling demonstrations at intervals throughout the day and with up to six different makes of tractors

taking part it is not to be missed. Also new to the Show is an insight into modern cattle restraining crates and a live hoof paring demo too.

The Show will focus on the high risk nature of farming as we are unfortunately all too familiar with the startling statistics in our industry. The National Dairy Show is therefore delighted that the

Farm Relief Services (FRS) and Road Safety Authority (RSA) will be focusing on best practice in preventing farm accidents and we would encourage you to attend the demonstrations.

Rural Crime Prevention also features at this year's Show as theft and break-ins are an all too frequent occurrence and we are appreciative that an Garda Siochana are attending this year to offer advice and assistance to help combat what has become a worrying trend in our community.

The 2016 National Dairy Show was unique in that animals and handlers from all 26 counties competed at the event. We hope to replicate that achievement at this year's Show when all titles achieved by breeders through the past year are laid on the line in Millstreet. The YMA Showmanship League will get proceedings underway on Friday evening, 20th October followed by the under 12 handlers and under 18 handlers



Seamus Crowley NDS, Thia Hennessy Guest Speaker, Maria Burke NDS, Catriona Buckley Irish Examiner, John Kirby NDS



where 1st and 2nd place in each of these two categories will compete for Champion Junior Handler of the Show. The judging of the cattle classes will commence at 9am On Saturday morning when well attended classes will lock horns for the various championships throughout the day, culminating in the Irish Examiner Supreme Champion of 2017 being crowned that evening.

Exhibitors are eagerly awaiting the arrival of world renowned cattle judge, Mr. Brian Carscadden from Canada. Brian grew up on a dairy farm in Ontario and holds a BSc. in Agriculture. His career has taken him from a sire analyst for United Breeders, Ontario to his current role in the Semex Alliance. During the day a number of other awards will also be presented including the NDS Innovation Award which recognises a product that is

new to the Irish market during the previous 12 months and which is open to an individual or company in one of 3 categories, namely scientific, technology and engineering with Gold and Silver prizes awarded in each category along with an overall winner. The Best Trade Stand Award is also always hotly contested on the day and the result eagerly awaited as is the National Recognition Award which is presented to person or persons who are judged to have made a major contribution to the dairy industry and in particular breed promotion.

Our Show will be officially opened this year by recently retired rugby international, Mike Ross.

The committee of the 2017 National Dairy Show would like to thank and acknowledge the immense contribution of our

sponsors. Running an event such as this requires a large financial outlay which would not be possible without the commitment of our sponsors. We are confident that with the co-operation of sponsors, stand holders, exhibitors, stewards and the public that together we can make the 2017 Show the best yet.

Remember all information relevant to the Show can be found on our re-vamped website,

www.nationaldairyshow.ie

where the Prize Schedule, Entry Forms, Sponsor links and pre-purchase of tickets are also available.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and we look forward to seeing you on the 21st October in Millstreet.

Feeds Direct



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