Milk Matters

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ISSUE 57 - NOVEMBER 2017

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Welcome to the November edition of

MILK MATTERS

DAIRYGOLD'S DAIRY ADVISORY BULLETIN

Dear Milk Matters reader,

Year on year production is ahead of 2015 and 2016. However, with the wet back end milk production has slowed and is now lower week on week than 2015.

This month's **Nutrition Matters**, examines feeding your stock this winter. As with every year, this is dependent on your herds current BCS or liveweight and your silage quality. Thin dry cows will required extra concentrate feeding, fat cows now will need different management. Light weanling heifers will need the correct feeding to allow them to be at the correct weight come breeding time. Nutrition matters, also discusses feeding strategies for freshly calved cows and explores the options available to you to replace grass silage this winter.

Nationally soil fertility is declining. This impacts our ability to grow grass, to produce milk solids and leads to a requirement for extra fed inputs to be bought. This month Grass Matters, examines this worrying trend and discusses how, we as an industry must work together to assess the decline.

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Stack

Liam Stack M.Agr.Sc

RUMINANT TECHNICAL MANAGER,
DAIRYGOLD AGRIBUSINESS

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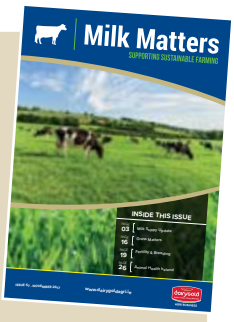


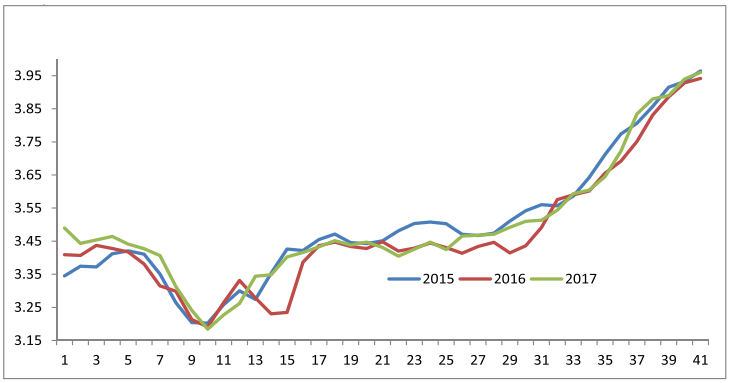
MILK SUPPLY UPDATE
WEEK 41, 2017

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

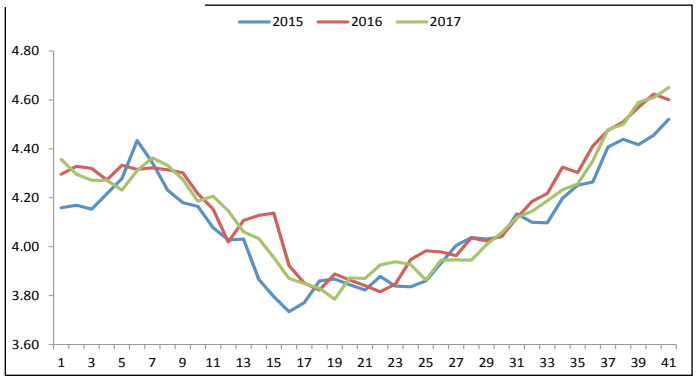
**Milk production figures are averages based on ICBF dairy cow numbers in the Dairygold region. Individual farm yields will vary between farms.*

	2015	2016	2017
Milk Yield per cow in Dairygold (kg)	4737	4652	4846
Cumulative milk solids per cow in Dairygold (kg MS)	358	352	367
Protein %	3.45	3.42	3.45
Fat %	4.05	4.12	4.10
Lactose %	4.84	4.87	4.86

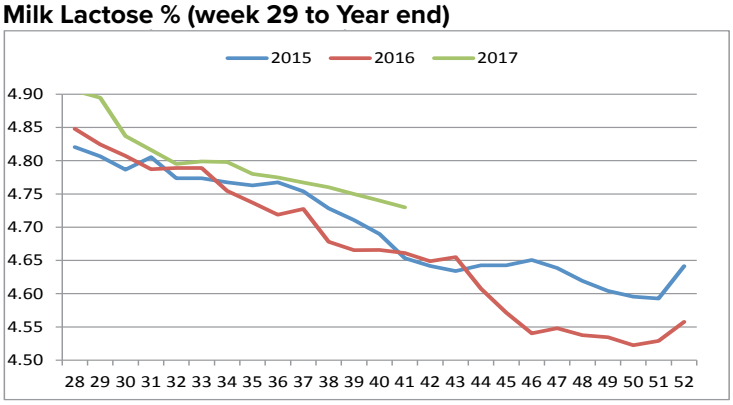
Milk Protein



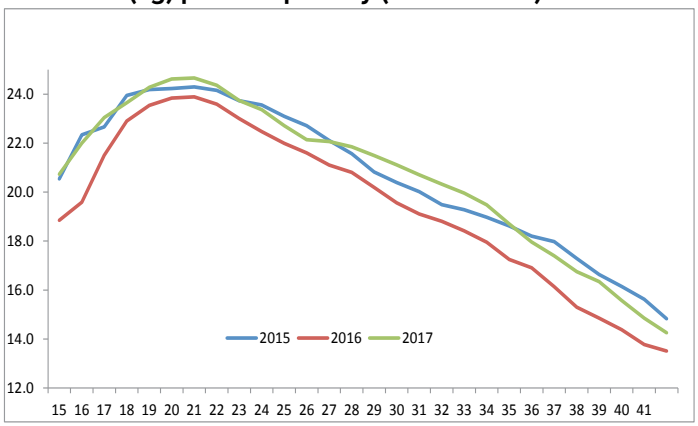
Milk Fat %



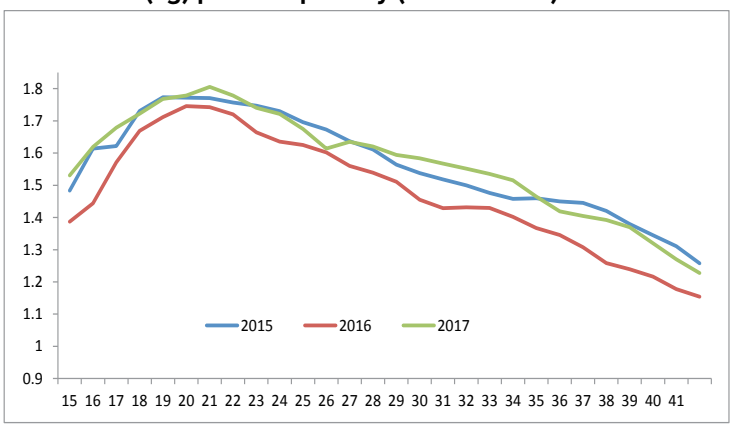
Milk Lactose % (week 29 to Year end)



Milk Yield (kg) per cow per day (weeks 15-41)



Milk Solids (kg) per cow per day (weeks 15-41)



NUTRITION MATTERS

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

Feeding your late lactation spring calved cows.

What and how much you feed will be dependent on the feeds available, your cows yield, BSC and milk price.

Grass:

Hopefully you still have some grass in the diet, and it's imperative that you clean paddocks out as best as possible given the wet few months we've had.

Milk Yield:

The wet September and October has dramatically affected the milk supplied by the average Dairygold cow. At the start of September our average yields were 4% ahead of 2015 and 8% ahead of 2016. By the start of October we were running 3% behind 2015 and 8% ahead of 2016. And as we see out October were running at 5% behind 2015 and 7% ahead of 2016.

Average milk yield of a Dairygold cow (based on total cow numbers supplied by the ICBF) with 2017 as a base.

	2015	2016	2017
Start of September	96%	92%	100%
Start of October	103%	92%	100%
End of October	105%	93%	100%

Diets

The average cow in Dairygold was milking 14 ltrs week ending October 13th.

	Some Grass In the Diet			No Grass in the diet		
Milk yield + 0.25 BSC	10	14	18	10	14	18
UFL requirement*	11.7	13.6	15.5	11.7	13.6	15.5
Grass intake (kgDM)	6	6	6	-	-	-
Silage Intake (kgDM)**	6	6	6	12	12	12
Concentrate intake***	1.75	3.75	6	2.5	4.5	6.5
Overall UFL supplied	11.9	13.8	16.1	12.1	14.0	15.8

*UFL requirement includes 0.9 UFL daily for 0.25BCS gain over a 8 week period, if your cows are on target BCS deduct 1 kg from concentrate requirements **6kg DM silage = 2 bales to 80 cows per day, Grass UFL (DM)= 0.9, Silage UFL (DM) = 0.78 (70 DMD), Concentrates UFL (DM) = 1.06. ***. Concentrate feeding levels = Kg Fresh.

Margin over feed costs based on diets in above table.

Milk yield + 0.25 BSC	10	14	18	10	14	18
Milk Value (€ /day)	4.00	5.60	7.20	4.00	5.60	7.20
Diet costs (€/day)	1.79	2.33	2.94	2.60	3.14	3.74
Margin after diet cost (€/day)	2.21	3.27	4.26	1.14	2.47	3.46

Milk price = 40c/ltr, concentrates = 27c/kg, silage = 16c/kg, grass =6 c/kg

When should I introduce an 18% protein?

Energy is the most important nutrient for your cows. Moving from a 16% to an 18% will have little impact. Feeding 3kg when your cow needs 4kg will have a bigger impact on maintaining yields. You only need to consider moving up in protein once your cows are housed full time.

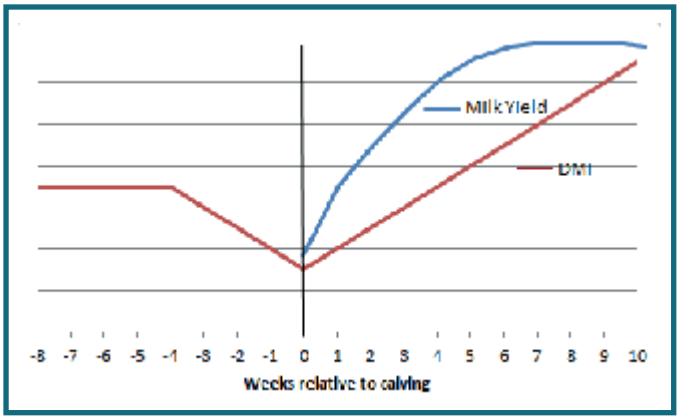
Feeding your early lactation Autumn calved cows.

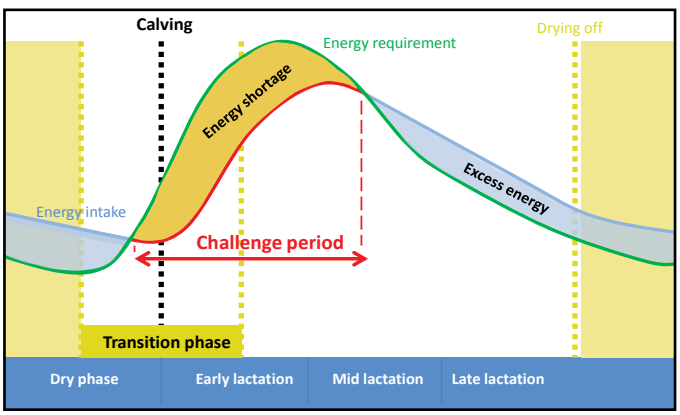
The goal of early lactation nutrition is to produce milk while getting your cows back in calf. Again your feeding decisions are going to be made around milk yield and forage quality. The higher the DMD of your grass silage the more energy it contains and the less concentrates you will need to feed per ltr of milk . As ever, we need to prioritise the feeding of high energy feedstuffs.

	Energy	Protein		DM
	UFL	PDIE	CP	%
Grass silage very good quality (77 DMD)	0.87	80	13	25
Grass silage ~ poor quality (65 DMD)	0.72	60	11	22
Maize silage ~ 30% starch	0.87	68	8	30
Maize silage ~ 25% starch	0.83	68	8	30
Whole crop cereal silage ~ 3T spring barley	0.83	60	9	35
Whole crop cereal silage ~ 2T spring barley	0.72	60	9	35
Brewer's grains	0.92	120	28	28
Apple Pulp	0.8	80	10	15
Fodder beet	1.12	88	8	19
Sugar beef	1.15	82	6	232.5

High energy feedstuffs like fodder beet, sugar beet and good quality maize silage are advantageous. However, with these higher energy comes with lower protein. Be-wary of poor quality grass, maize or wholecrop. Poor quality wholecrop for example is 13% lower in energy than good quality wholecrop (0.72 vs 0.83 UFL). Be wary of wet feeds like apple pulp. These can be value for money at times but must be used sparingly. Your freshly calved cow's biggest challenge is to meet her energy requirements while her intake potential is low. Filling her full of wet or low energy feeds will lower her potential dry matter intake and therefore her energy intake.

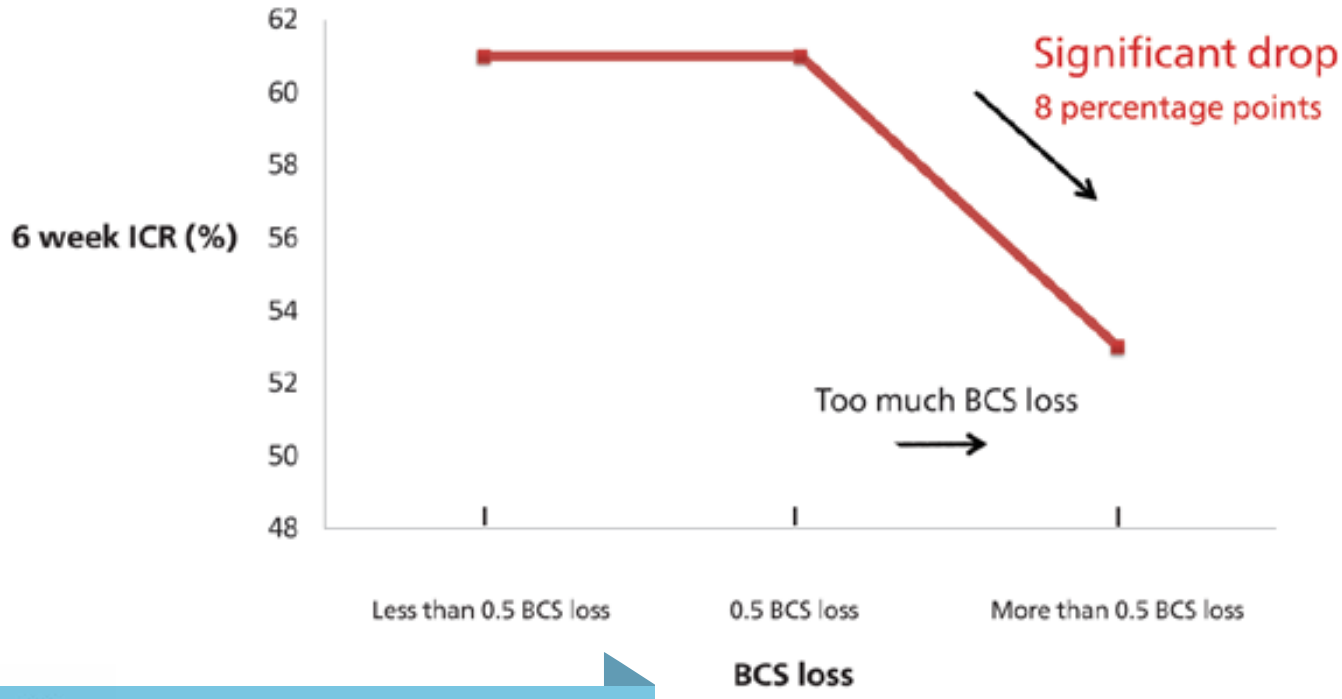
The biggest challenge period is when your cow's intake is not high enough to meet her energy requirement. This leads to body condition score (BCS) loss. Excessive BSC loss in early lactation leads to lower milk proteins and poorer fertility performance.





Shaumann (2015) Lactation process

Relationship between body condition loss post calving and 6 week in calf



KEY POINT: Underfeed for energy = lower milk protein, poorer value milk and ultimately poor fertility performance

Energy nutrition and lameness

Controlling negative energy balance in early lactation is one of the best ways to prevent lameness caused by sole ulcers, haemorrhages and white line disease, according to new research.

When cows lose body condition they begin mobilising fat from all areas of the body, including the fat pad that exists in the feet of cows. Cows have three cylinders of fat lying under the hoof, which acts like gel cushioning in trainers – a shock absorber. Research has shown cows with thinner fat cushions are more likely to have sole lesions.

Again to help in the prevention of lameness we need to limit BCS loss after calving to 0.5 max.

Protein:

Protein is also a consideration. We need to ensure that we are meeting the cows requirements while not over supplying it. A cow's milk yield is driven by PDIE, not crude protein. Within this country we have for years been feeding excessive levels of crude protein. Since the introduction of the PDIE system we have swapped this with feeding excessive PDIE. The level of protein you feed should be in balance with the energy in the cows' diet. An excess of protein to energy leads to high milk urea nitrogen and has been shown to;

- delay first ovulation or oestrus;
- lower/reduce conception rate and
- lead to a greater amount of post calving weight loss.

Protein requirements of a dairy cow (450kg MS or 6000ltrs) at peak yield is 95 to 105g PDI/KG DM (1800-2000 g PDI/day) or 16 % crude protein.

KEY POINT: How much protein should I be feeding, 1st establish the energy content of your diet, then set the protein level.

Mineral Nutrition

Grazed Grass and grass silage is a suboptimal trace element source for dairy cows, deficiencies of copper, selenium and iodine are widespread. Isolated deficiencies in manganese, zinc and cobalt also exist. Mineral interactions within grass silage can results in

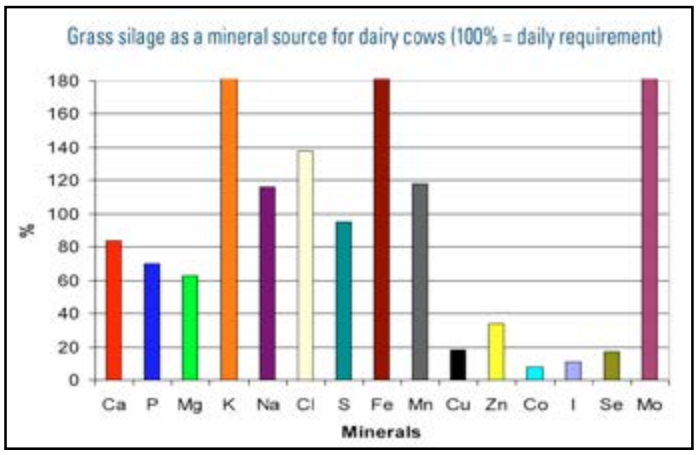
induced or secondary deficiency e.g molybdenum and sulphur cause copper deficiency.

Dietary deficiencies of copper, selenium and iodine are linked to:

- poor fertility,
- cystic ovaries,
- anoestrous,
- irregular or supressed oestrus
- and early embryonic death.

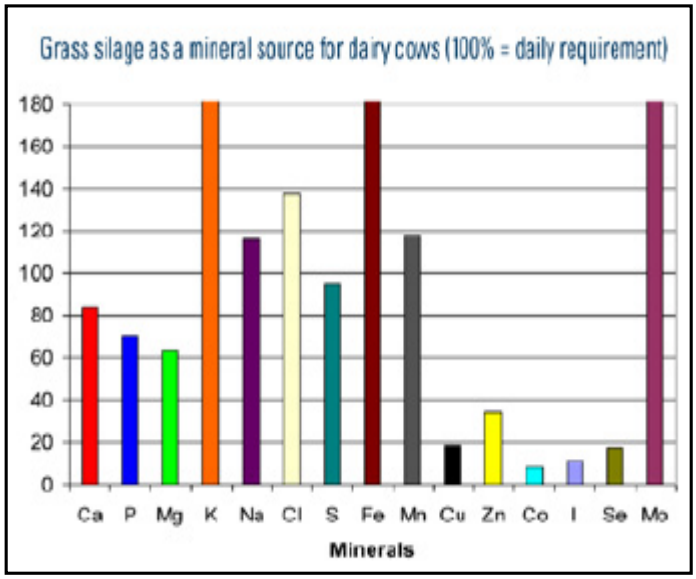
It is extremely important to ensure that the inclusion level of the mineral in a concentrate match the concentrate feeding level. If the concentrate is formulated at 10 kg but you're only feeding 6 kg of a concentrate, the dairy cow will not be getting the correct mineral levels.

The mineral form is also important. Bioplex or organic



minerals are not tied up by mineral interactions, therefore ensuring they are available to the cow. The concentrate should contain adequate levels of bioplex copper, selenium and zinc to ensure fertility performance is maximised.

Research on Bioplex vs Standard Minerals



Ref: O'Donnell, Boland, O'Callaghan, University College Dublin (1995)

How much concentrates do my cows need?

1. The energy requirement is dictated by the yield of your cows?

Energy requirement (UFL) of milking cows)
In a spilt calving herd its hard to know but the latest research from Teagasc, Johnstown castle would indicate that a September or October calved cow is milking c.27 ltrs in November. Higher yielding herds will have higher peaks.

Milk Production at Peak	UFL Requirement	Annual Yield
25	17	5500
32	20	7000
40	24	8800

Milk yield by calving month for a 7000 ltr herd

	September	October	November	December	January	February
Calving Month	Milk Yield					
August	28.2	26.7	25.2	23.8	22.6	21.7
September	9	27.3	**26.9**	25.6	24.3	23.5
October	0	11	**26.7**	27.4	26.3	24.5
November	0	0	10.8	26.5	27.9	27
December	16	10	0	9.7	27.4	28.3

Source Teagasc Johnstown Castle

2. What is your forage base?

a. All grass silage

Concentrate required to sustain differing levels of milk production will vary depending on forage quality					
	Yield				
	23ltrs	25ltrs	28ltrs	33ltrs	37ltrs
Silage DMD	5 gals	5.5 gals	6 gals	7 gals	8 gals
60	9kg	10kg	11kg		
65	7.5kg	8.5kg	9.5kg	11kg	
70	6kg	7kg	8kg	9.5kg	11kg
75	5kg	6kg	7kg	8kg	10kg

b. Mixed forage diet

Feeding recommendations for Goof Maize silage + grass silage and 28ltrs (6gals)	
25% Maize Silage : 75% Grass Silage	7.5 kg Dairy balancer gold 6 25%
50% Maize Silage : 50% Grass Silage	6.5 kg Dairy balancer gold 6 29%
25% Maize Silage : 75% Grass Silage	5.5 kg Dairy balancer gold 4 32%

Prioritise the feeding of concentrates to the cows that need it.

Figures from, Siobhan Kavanagh of Teagasc have shown massive variation of milk yields within a herd. At a winter milk conference she analysed a 7500ltrs herd.

The herd was averaging 21ltrs, with only 8% of the herd exceeding 35ltrs. Flat rate feeding these cows for 28ltrs would have resulted in over feeding 81% of the herd.

Over-feeding lower yielding, late lactation cows will lead to fat cows at drying off and calving. Fat cows at calving leads to a multitude of problems from milk fevers, to lower milk protein in the early lactation, to excessive BCS drops post calving and ultimately poorer fertility performance. Not only are you adding concentrate costs but you could be creating a problem further down the line.

Rumen Function

Poor rumen function leads to undigested feed/energy being passed out in the dung. We need to maximise rumen function by;

- Not over feeding starch and sugar,
- Feeding sufficient effective fibre,
- Feed yea-sacc,
- Feed a rumen buffer where required.

KEY POINT: If you're not making milk you're making expensive manure

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Dairygold Feed Range

Benefits of Dairygold Feed Range:

1. High energy from native grains, Dairygold quality feeds maximises the inclusion of native grains in all its rations.
2. High energy, with high levels of bypass starch coming from maize meal and a blend of high energy digestible fibre resulting in good rumen function and maximum milk yield and protein %.
3. Only good quality protein used, leading to high levels of PDI, good protein efficiency, maximum yield and protein %.
4. Yea-sacc inclusion to aid rumen function and efficiency leading to lower levels of digestive upset, higher milk volume and better fertility performance
5. Agolin included to limited energy lost as methane and the help the cow utilise all her dietary protein resulting in increased milk yield, less body condition score loss and fertility performance.
6. Bioplex copper, zinc and selplex included for better fertility performance, lower SCC and mastitis and less lameness.
7. Elevated levels of Vitamin E, which works with selplex to boost the cows immune function leading to lower SCC and mastitis.
8. Biotin included to prevent lameness and increase milk yield.

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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 17-10-2017

Image © Zoe McKay

Farm Details:
Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 859 kg DM/ha (252 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 51 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 44.2 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 3.2 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 238 (range 176-269)

Grass Supply: AFC on 17th of October was 859kg DM/ha (range 100 to 1894 kg DM/ha). Cows are cleaning out paddocks very well with PGSH of 3.5-4cm being achieved. Ground conditions are beginning to deteriorate here on the heavier parts of the milking platform but in the main very little damage is being done.
We began closing paddocks on the MP on the 8th October with a target to have 70% of the MP closed by 1st November. After the first week we have grazed 21% of the block, which is on target for the autumn rotation planner.

Feed Budget: Cows are being fed an average of 3.2 kg of concentrate. Half of the herd (30) are on 2.5kgs with the remainder on 4kg as they reached 240 DIM. Grass DMI last week was 13.1kg at 13.6% DM on average.

Cow Condition: Cows were body condition scored (BCS) on October 11th. The cows are in good condition with an average BCS of 2.95. Within the group there are 4 thin cows (BCS = 2.5) and 3 fat cows (BCS = 3.5).

Milk Production: Average production is currently 17 kg/cow at 4.6% fat and 4.0% protein (1.46 kg MS). SCC is 79,500. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 4th October.

Breeding Season 2017: The final scan took place on the 4th of October. Despite a reasonably good start to the breeding season where conception rates for the first 3 weeks were just above 50% and the submission rate was 89%, the fertility results are disappointing. It is apparent from our initial checking that we have had weeks where conception rates completely crashed. We are hoping to investigate this fully. Two cows that were earlier scanned in calf have lost pregnancies.

Cows calved	60
Cows eligible for breeding	59
Submission rate (3 wk)	89%
6-week in calf rate	54%
Empty rate (13 wk)	15%

Herd EBI September 2017:

EBI	Milk	Fert	Calv	Beef	Maint	Health	Mgt
124	40.36	47.58	37.74	-8.89	5.19	0.77	1.25

Herd Lameness: The results of a herd locomotion score from Tuesday last, October 10th, showed 10% lameness (locomotion score 3 and above).

FEEDING DRY COWS AND WEANLING THIS WINTER

By EDMOND CURTIN

Cows in the wrong body condition score (BCS) need to have this rectified 2-3 weeks before calving starts. From then on a greater proportion of the energy fed to the cow is partitioned to the calf and the cow won't gain much weight.

Conversely, fat cows need to lose excess BCS before this point, as underfeeding the cow leading up to calving leads to excess negative energy balance at calving and all the subsequent issues:

- Milk fever
- Retained cleansing
- Lower immune status
- Increased NEB post calving = lower milk proteins, milk yields and poorer fertility performance

BCS AT CALVING DEPENDS ON:

- BCS when dried off
- Length of dry period
- Quantity and quality of feed.

Concentrates required by Dry Cows

	Very Poor 55 DMD	Poor 62 DMD	Average 68 DMD	Good 72 DMD
Dry Cow BCS 3	2	1	Silage to Appetite	Restricted Silage
Dry Cow BCS 2.75	3	2	1	Silage to Appetite
Dry Cow BCS 3	4	3	2	1

FEEDING YOUR WEANLING THIS WINTER:

KEY POINTS:
In November your weanlings need to be 40% of your cows' mature weight. For a 600kg February calved Mature Cow, that's 240kg.

In general, weaning performance is not good over the 1st winter with gains as low as 0 – 0.3 being recorded. On-target heifers weighing 240kg need to gain 0.55 kg/day across the 1st winter. Only silage of 75DMD is capable of supporting this. Check your laboratory analysis. Light heifers weighing 210kg need to gain 0.7 kg/day across the 1st winter.

Concentrates required by weanling across the 1st winter

	Silage DMD			
	60	65	70	75
Light Weanlings (0.7kg DLWG)	2.5	2	1.5	0.5
On Target (0.5kg DLWG)	1.5	1	0.5*	*

**Because of good response to meal at low levels all weanlings should get 1kg until January.*

FEEDING YOUR MAIDEN HEIFERS THIS WINTER:

KEY POINTS:
In November your heifers need to be 80% of your cow's mature weight. For a 600kg February calved Mature Cow, that's 480kg.

Target LWG of 0.7 kg/day across the 2nd winter is required. 70 DMD silage diet will support 0.3kg/day.

	Silage DMD			
	55	60	65	70
Concentrates required by heifers	4	2.5	2	1.2

What concentrate should I feed?

The concentrate must have high levels of good quality protein, and minerals for muscle and skeletal growth. It is important that growing replacements are fed enough good quality protein to achieve lean growth rather than the heifer becoming fat.

Dairygold's Prime Elite Heifer Rearer, is a high quality 19% protein feed specially formulated for feeding your replacement maiden/weanling heifers or in-calf heifers up to two months before calving.

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**

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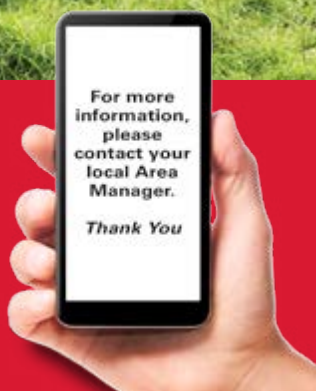

HAVE YOU ENOUGH FORAGE FOR THE WINTER?

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

A dairy cow has a requirement for water, energy, protein, minerals and vitamins. The goal of animal nutrition is to balance the input of these nutrients to maximise animal performance. A winter forage budget gives an insight into yours farms ability to meet your stocks nutritional requirements over the coming winter.

Forage needed for a typical herd

	No.	Silage intake daily (kg fresh)	Silage required over the winter (T)		
			3 months	4 months	5 months
Dairy Cows	**80**	**45**	**324**	**432**	**540**
Incalf Heifers	**25**	**28**	**63**	**84**	**105**
Weanling	**25**	**14**	**32**	**42**	**53**
Total Silage Needed including 15% buffer (T)			**481**	**642**	**802**

If you are short on forage, a number of measures can be used to decrease your demand or increase your feed stocks.

Bale % DM	Equivalent tonnage as 25% DM pit silage
23	0.65
30	0.78
35	0.91
40	1.04

1. Sell excess stock

		Silage saved over the winter		
	Numbers Sold	3 months	4 months	5 months
Dry Cow	**10**	**40.5**	**54**	**67.5**
Weanling	**10**	**25**	**34**	**42**
Store	**10**	**7.2**	**9.6**	**9.6**
Total		**73**	**97**	**119**

2. Purchase alternative feeds

Your animals diet can be made up of; grass silage, cereal silages (wholecrop wheat, barley, triticale), maize silage, concentrates, straw, hay, wet feeds (brewer grain, traffordgold), fodder beet, rape, kale; to mention a few. When buying feeds to fill a

deficit it's important to know what you're getting. Essentially you are trying to fill an energy or UFL gap. Therefore the cost per 1000 UFL dry matter (DM) is the biggest driver of value.

Cost per 1000UFL for differing Feedstuffs

	DM	Energy	Cost per T	Cost per UFL
	%	UFL	€/T	€/1000 UFL
Grass silage very good quality (77 DMD)	25%	0.87	30	138
Grass silage ~ poor quality (65 DMD)	22%	0.72	30	189
Maize silage ~ 30% starch	30%	0.87	40	153
Whole crop cereal silage ~ 3T spring barley	35%	0.83	45	155
Whole crop cereal silage ~ 2T spring barley	35%	0.72	45	179
Brewer's grains	28%	0.92	55	214
Apple Pulp	15%	0.8	25	208
Fodder beet	19%	1.12	40	188

Grass silage = €25/ bale, this table does not put a value on the protein content of feed

Convenience is also a factor. Can you handle a 2nd forage, have you the feeding infrastructure to handle a wet feed?

KEY POINT: Cheap per T does not always = cheap on an energy basis

3. Feed concentrates and straw to lower demand

The Feeding value of straw and concentrates vs grass silage.

	DM	Energy (DM)	CP (DM)*
	%	UFL	%
Straw	0.8	0.44	4
16% Beef cube	0.86	1.1	18
50:50 mix, Straw + Beef Cube	0.83	0.77	11
Grass Silage 70 DMD	0.25	0.78	11

A 16% protein concentrate on a fresh basis is 18.5% protein on a Dry Matter (DM) basis.

Minimum forage requirement:

When using alternative feeds to balance an animal's diets its essential to maintain rumen function. Where roughage is very tight and meals are good value, the minimum roughage that can be fed in terms dry matter is 1% of body weight. For example, a 600kg cow must get 6kgs DM roughage per day (600 x 1/100).

KEY POINT: 1 kg of a 50:50 straw and beef cube mix will replace 5 kg of silage while supplying the same energy and protein.

Consult your Dairygold Area Sales Manager, inside sales or branch agri lead for more information and to discuss the feeding options available to you for the coming winter

dairygold
QUALITY FEEDS

Maximising quality Irish Grain across our Ruminant Feed Range

BAGGED FEED DIRECT

1.05Tn Pallets available, delivered direct to your farm!!

FEEDS AVAILABLE IN 1.05Tn (42 Bags) PALLETS

- Prime Elite Kaf Gro
- Prime Elite Heifer Rearer Cube
- Beeflav
- Superchoice 14% Beef Cube
- Superchoice 16% Beef Cube
- Prime Elite Maize Munch
- Superchoice 13% Beef Blend
- Superchoice 16% Dairy Cube 1.8% Cal Mag

For a full range of feed available in 1.05Tn or 1.75Tn pallets, contact Lombardstown Mill on 022 47275

BAGS DIRECT SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Duhallow, Kerry & West Limerick	Mallow & Mid Cork	East Limerick & Clare	Mitchelstown & New Inn	East Cork, Carrigaline & Ballinhassig

www.dairygoldagri.ie

Easy to Order via;

- Inside Sales & your Area Sales Manager
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- And through Lombardstown Mill Customer Service at 022-47275

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Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally
AGRI BUSINESS

GRASS MATTERS

By JOHN MAHER, Dairy Specialist, Teagasc Moorepark

Grass10
GRASSLAND EXCELLENCE FOR IRISH LIVESTOCK

~ RED ALERT ~

DON'T GRAZE OCTOBER GRASS!!!

October Grass is Spring Grass – So Don't Graze it in November

About 2/3 of the grass grazed in the first 40 days in spring (Feb/March) is grass that grew during October/ Early November. Therefore it is essential that the fields/paddocks closed during October are not grazed in November. Eating into grass supply now will only increase the cost of milk production next spring. Remember every day the cow is at grass next spring is worth €2.70/cow/day. Autumn grass is worth about a €1 less.

Remember your priority now is to close the farm and not worry as much about the milk yield. Many farmers are often unhappy with the grazing job carried out by the cows at this time of year. This is due to the fact that often cows don't graze the dung paths well enough. So the natural reaction is to try and regraze it sometime later – thereby delaying closing. In this situation it is better to leave this paddock closed and forget about regrazing it. It's not pretty but it is the right thing to do.

For those who measure grass the target closing cover in mid-November is 550kg DM/ha.

However, for those farmers who are going to calve down extra animals next spring and more compactly, 600Kg DM/ha is probably a better guide as the target cover for mid-November.

KEY POINT: Every 1 week delay in closing will cost your farm 80-100kg of grass DM/ha in Spring.

Paddocks closed up during October should remain closed and not grazed again in November.

Soil Fertility

The usage of Lime, P and K fertiliser has declined by over 50% over the last 25 years.

Then it will come as no surprise that most of our soils are now deficient in lime, P and K. The current trends continue to disimprove, yet we are trying to grow more grass to produce extra milk and carry more cows on top of this. The net result of all this will be increased use of imported or higher cost feeds.

Soil sampling every 2 years.

The level of soil sampling carried out has remained static for years. In addition soil sampling is now viewed by most dairy farmers as a regulatory task to be completed every 4 years. The reality is that

soil sampling should be carried out for agricultural purposes (i.e. to grow more grass). Completing soil sampling every 2 years will inform you about the level of soil fertility improvement and increase (in most cases) the level of P fertiliser allowed on farm. *Dairygold are providing discounted soil sampling and soil analysis, so why not avail of this offer this back-end.*

Spread Lime

Lime can be spread all year round. However most spreading takes place during non-peak months of grass growing. This is fine provided the machines can travel. Often the weather makes spreading of lime challenging. In many circumstances it doesn't get spread. Agricultural contractors have responded exceptionally well to the lime challenge and are prepared to spread lime in more flexible quantities i.e. 6 tonnes on 3 acres, 10 tonnes on 5 acres to help address the lime challenge.

- Try to spread 2t/ac of lime over the next few months if possible

The farmers on heavy land should try to spread lime after silage cutting when the sward is clean. This can happen both on the grazing platform (after round bales) or the silage ground.

Spread K (Potassium)

Many soils are deficient t in K also and this time of year is a good time to tackle K deficiency. Trying to spread K in spring can lead to grass tetany problems on grazing ground and too much K in silage when applied in large quantities to silage ground.

- Try to spread Muriate of Potash (0-0-50) during a dry spell if you can, during November if your K index is low (Index 1 or 2). 1 bag/acre of 0:0:50 applied will generally result in the soil rising an index. i.e. moving from index 1 to index 2.

TEAGASC/DAIRYGOLD DEMONSTRATION & FOCUS FARM PERFORMANCE

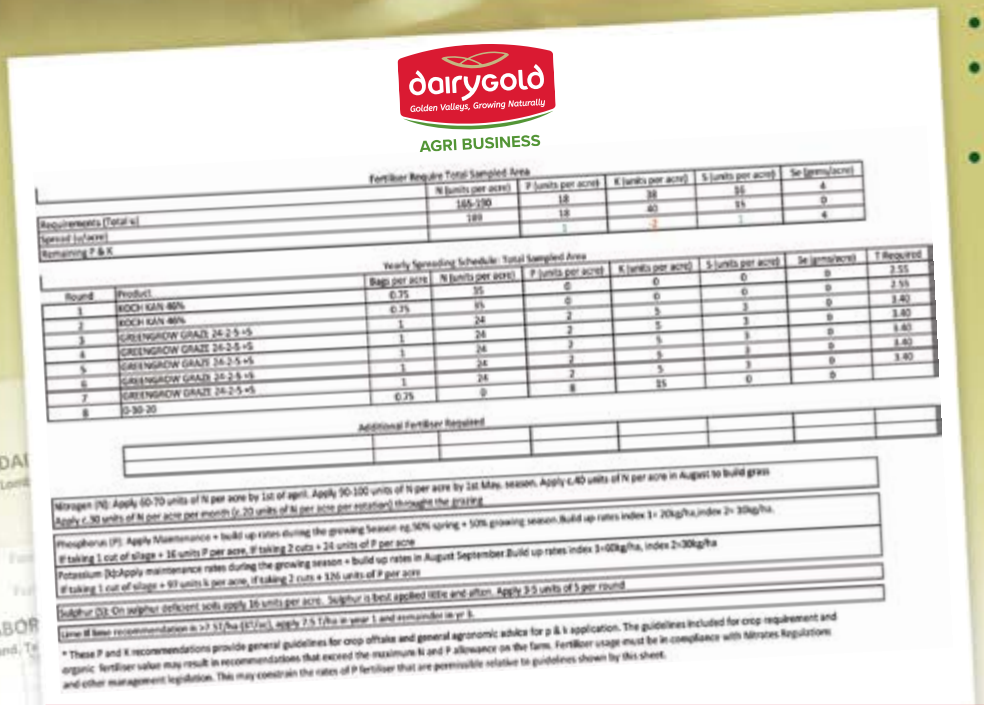
Milk Yield (l/cow)	16
Fat %	4.83
Protein %	4.13
MS Yield (kgMS/cow)	1.47
Grass Growth Kg DM/ha	33
Demand kg DM/ha	41
Average Farm Cover (kg/ha)	880
Cover/cow (kg DM/cow)	316
Meal (kg/cow)	3.1
Silage (kg DM/cow)	1.0

16/10/17

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 (gms/acre)
Requirements (Total s)	165-190	18	38	16	4
Spread (s/acre)	189	18	40	15	0
Remaining P & K					4

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 (gms/acre)	T Required
1	KOCH KAN 46%	0.75	35	0	0	0	0	2.55
2	KOCH KAN 46%	0.75	35	0	0	0	0	2.55
3	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2.5 +S	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
4	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2.5 +S	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
5	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2.5 +S	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
6	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2.5 +S	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
7	GREENGROW GRAZE 24-2.5 +S	1	24	2	5	3	0	3.40
8	0-30-20	0.75	0	8	15	0	0	

Additional Fertiliser Required

Nitrogen (N): Apply 60-70 units of N per acre by 1st of April. Apply 90-100 units of N per acre by 1st May. season. Apply c.40 units of N per acre in August to build grass
Apply c. 30 units of N per acre per month (c. 20 units of N per acre per rotation) throughte the grazing

Phosphorus (P): Apply Maintenance + build up rates during the growing Season eg.50% spring + 50% growing season. Build up rates index 1= 20kg/ha,index 2= 30kg/ha.
If taking 1 cut of silage + 16 units P per acre, If taking 2 cuts + 24 units of P per acre

Potassium (k):Apply maintenance rates during the growing season + build up rates in August September Build up rates index 1=60kg/ha, index 2=30kg/ha
If taking 1 cut of silage + 97 units k per acre, if taking 2 cuts + 126 units of P per acre

Sulphur (S): On sulphur deficient soils apply 16 units per acre. Sulphur is best applied little and often. Apply 3-5 units of S per round

Lime: If liver recommendation is >7 t/ha (3t/ac), apply 7.5 T/ha in year 1 and remainder in yr 3.

* These P and K recommendations provide general guidelines for crop offtake and general agronomic advice for p & k application. The guidelines included for crop requirement and organic fertiliser value may result in recommendations that exceed the maximum N and P allowance on the farm. Fertiliser usage must be in compliance with Nitrates Regulations and other management legislation. This may constrain the rates of P fertiliser that are permissible relative to guidelines shown by this sheet.

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

ISO 17025 INAB ACCREDITED TESTING

dairygold Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally AGRI BUSINESS

Complete your details below and hand to a Dairygold Representative.

Name: ..... Email Address: .....

Address: ..... Acc. No.: .....

Phone Number: ..... Estimated Number of Samples: .....

FERTILITY & BREEDING

By DOREEN CORRIDAN, MVB MRCVS PhD, Munster Cattle Breeding

LET'S GIVE THE DRY PERIOD THE RESPECT IT DESERVES!

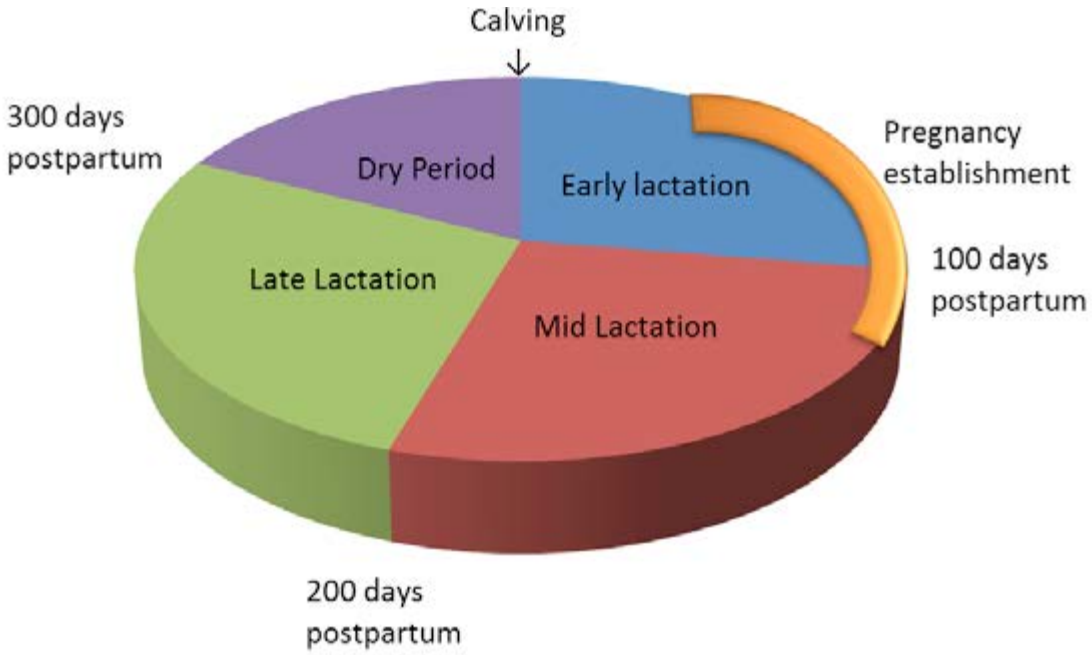
The dry period if planned and executed properly will set you up for 2018.

COW BCS

Cow BCS is crucial for 2018 production and fertility.

Its 90 days to 1st Feb 2018 calving.

1st calvers and cows less than 3.0 BCS calving in Feb need to be dried off immediately and fed accordingly. Cows need to calve down between 3.0 and 3.25.



MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION AVOID PROBLEMS

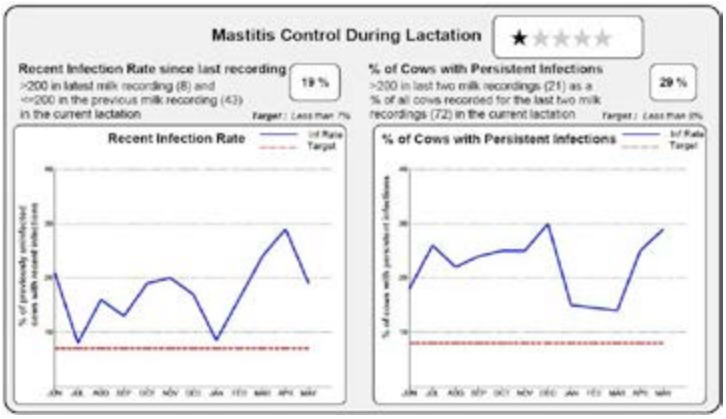
Get silage tested for minerals in addition to quality, especially silage that will be fed to cows in the fortnight pre calving.

Proper mineral supplementation is crucial in preventing milk fevers, low calcium after calving, retained afterbirths, infected uterus and displaced abomasum's.

PLAN THE DRY COW THERAPY NOW

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Graphic 1: Mastitis Control During Lactation

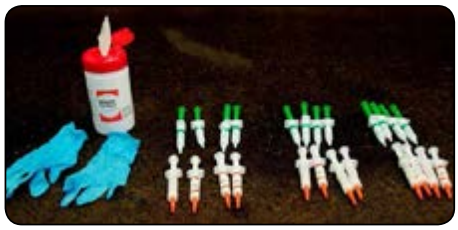


Look at you last milk recording report.
What is your recent infection rate?
If it is above **7%**:

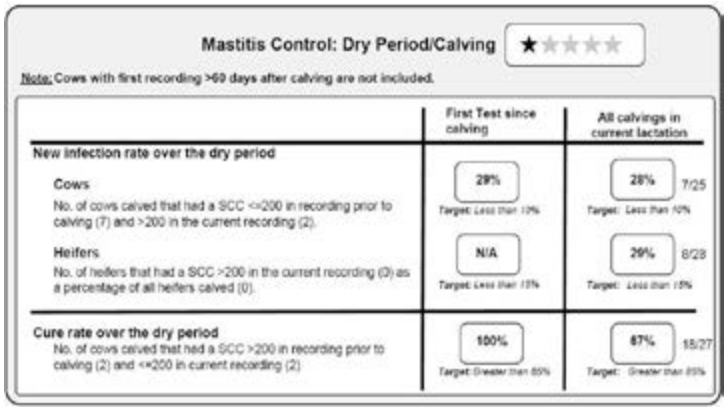
1. Clip cows tails,
2. Pre and post spray or dip clusters and post spray.
3. Keep cubicles clean, dry and limed.
4. Cull the chronic cows now.

Avoid cows getting infected in the last 6 weeks of lactation.

Graphic 1: This herd has a **19%** infection rate since his last recording. In scenarios like this you need to ensure points 1 to 4 from above are being followed immediately.



Graphic 2: How did you perform in the Dry Period in 2016/2017?



What was your:

- new infection rate
- cure rate over the dry period

Graphic 2: This herd has a **28%** new infection rate and a cure rate of **67%** was achieved.

In scenarios like this you need to look at the dry off procedure, the housing and the dry cow tube used.

KEY POINT: Aim to do better during the 2017/2018 Dry Period

Graphic 3: Have a plan for each cow - Use your problem cow report

1. What cows should be culled

2. What cows need an extended dry period
   a. Long acting tube + Sealer + Injection

3. What cows will be ok with a normal dry period
   a. Short or Long acting tube + Sealer

4. What cows will be ok on a sealer only. Only selected cows with low SCC within selected herds should adopt this approach

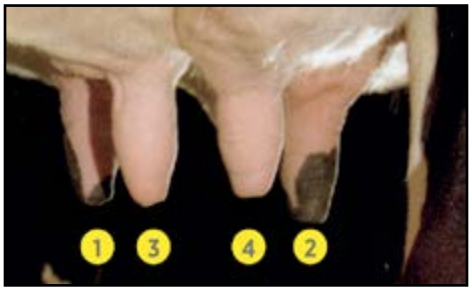
				Mastitis Incidence History (Current Lactation)						Prev. lact.
Cow ID I&R-Tag Cow name Sire ID	Calv. Date Age Group	Lact. Days Test	Tests > 200 Mast Treats	Latest SCC % Herd SCC Last treat	Previous SCC (*1000) herd tests Previous mastitis treatments					Ave. SCC Tests > 200 Mast Treats
				11-may	11-apr	10-mar	22-feb	13-dec	21-nov	
615	15/02/17	5	2	8370	353	70	60			153
	7y 2m	85		15.1						4
	Spring	4								0
410	19/02/17	9	2	5719	2521					231
	10y 3m	81		9.3						6
	Spring	3								0
921	27/02/17	1	3	7172	2279	9999				
	2y 3m	73		7						
	Spring	3								
712	04/02/17	4	3	3188	620	994	45			77
	5y 3m	96		6.7						1
	Spring	4								0

PLAN THE MORNING OF DRY-OFF

- Have the results from sensitivity and cultures
- Clip the cow's tails
- Clean the yards
- Cubicles cleaned and limed
- Reduce concentrates to zero in last week pre drying off
- Decide which 10 or 20 cows to dry off-
- Avoid large group sizes -10 cows is 80 tubes, 20 cows is 160 tubes.
- Head torch and glasses ready
- Leave cows to be dried off till the last row to milk
- Have the breakfast before milking them
- Milk the last row to be dried off – cows are cleaner and the canal is open immediately after milking
- Get help for holding the tails and handing you the tubes
- Use disinfectant wipes for front two teats, tube them then move to two hind teats
- Use disinfectant wipes for back two teats, tube them and teat spray the cow
- Keep gloves clean and sprayed between cows

DRY OFF PROCEDURE

1. TEAT PREPARATION CRUCIAL



2. DISINFECT AND TUBE FRONT 2 TEATS THEN MOVE TO HIND 2 TEATS

3. APPLY DRY COW TUBE AND WORK UP INTO QUARTER

4. HOLD TOP OF TEAT APPLY SEALER, REMOVE TUBE KEEPING TOP OF TEAT PINCHED, PINCH SEALER DOWN INTO TEAT ONCE TUBE REMOVED

5. PROPER TEAT DIPPING POST APPLICATION OR EXTERNAL TEAT SEAL

6. STAND IN CLEAN YARD FOR 30 MINUTES AND PERFERABLY LEAVE OUT IN PADDOCK AFTERWARDS.

7. IF YOU CANNOT LEAVE OUT IN A PADDOCK PUT HIGH YIELDERS AND FREE COWS INTO A STRAW BED TO ALLOW THEM TO STRETCH OUT HIND LEGS AND AVOID SQUEEZING OUT TEAT SEALER.

8. RECORD DATES AND PRODUCTS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE COWS LEAVE THE PARLOUR.

Risk of infection is 3 weeks after drying off and 2 weeks before calving. To prevent this:

- Clean and dry cubicles
- Scrapers on every 2-3 hours a day.
- Run all scrapers together as they will go slow. Injuries avoided more often they run.
- Avoid scrapers running when fresh feeding being given or pushed up.
- Liming twice a day if necessary to keep clean and dry.
- Remove leakers into straw bed and reseal 4-8 days later.
- Use 20% hydrated (builders lime, rhino) lime with 80% agrical pH 14, no benefit of adding more hydrated. 20% not as dusty for the operator, will soak up moisture.
- Use disinfectant limes once a week in 1st 3 weeks- Disinfectant limes Stalson F, Actisan, Prosonex.

SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY

WARNING - THIS IS NOT FOR EVERYONE

Need suitable herds and suitable cows within those herds.

This is where you select cows to receive teat sealer only. This will lead to a reduction in the total usage of antibiotics on farm, which the legislation and the consumers are requesting. Herdowners who have done this successfully in the 2016/2017 dry period have reported a high degree of satisfaction with it. Anecdotally they have noticed a reduction in clinical mastitis in the spring and the mastitis's they got were cured easier, perhaps this is because we are allowing the cow's own immune function to perform and not killing the beneficial bacteria in the udder with dry cow.

Suitable Herd fulfilling all the following

1. Herd SCC preferably under 100,000 SCC.
2. Milk recording for the past two years- min of 6 recordings per year
3. Culture negative for Strep. Agalactia.
4. One cubicle space for each cow
5. Cubicles and housing maintained clean and dry. Limed.
6. A final herd recording within two weeks of dry off.
7. Less than 10% new infection rate in the last two dry periods.
8. Greater than 85% cure rate in the last two dry periods.

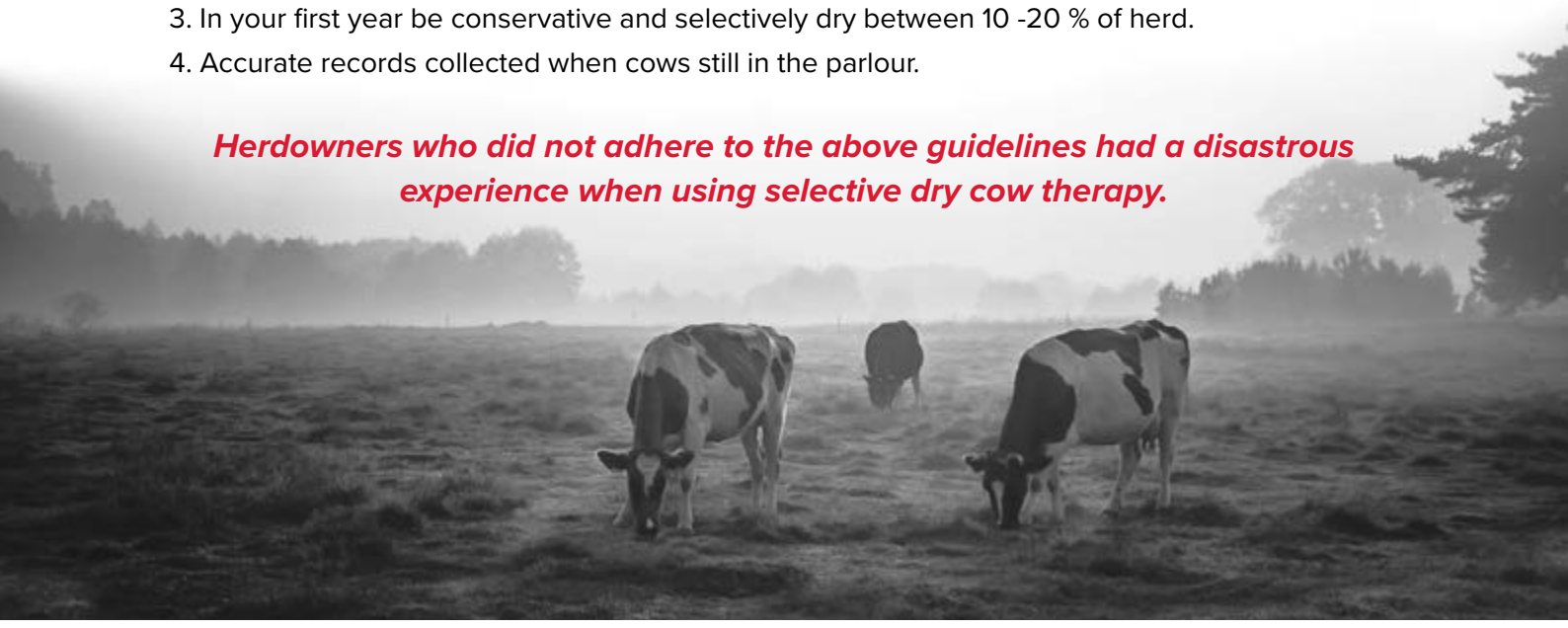
Suitable Cows fulfilling all the following

1. Cows less than 50,000 SCC at the last recording, this ensures no quarter over 200,000.
2. Cows that had no reading over 100,000 for 2017, min of 5 recordings.
3. Cows that had no case of mastitis recorded in 2017.
4. Cows that have no visible teat damage and are not extremely free.

Suitable Procedure

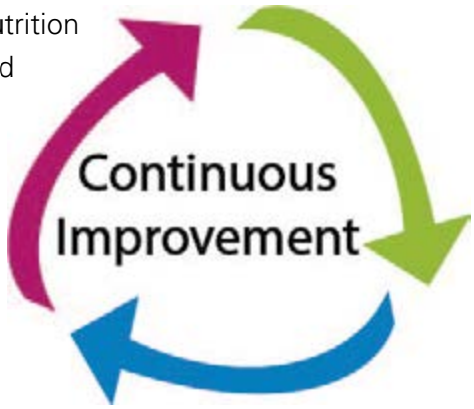
1. Dry off procedure excellently executed, give it the respect it deserves. Remember you now have no antibiotics to allow for a less than ideal procedure.
2. Do it yourself so you only have yourself to blame.
3. In your first year be conservative and selectively dry between 10 -20 % of herd.
4. Accurate records collected when cows still in the parlour.

Herdowners who did not adhere to the above guidelines had a disastrous experience when using selective dry cow therapy.



DAIRYGOLD PRE-CAVLER 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.

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

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

- 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 Selplex
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

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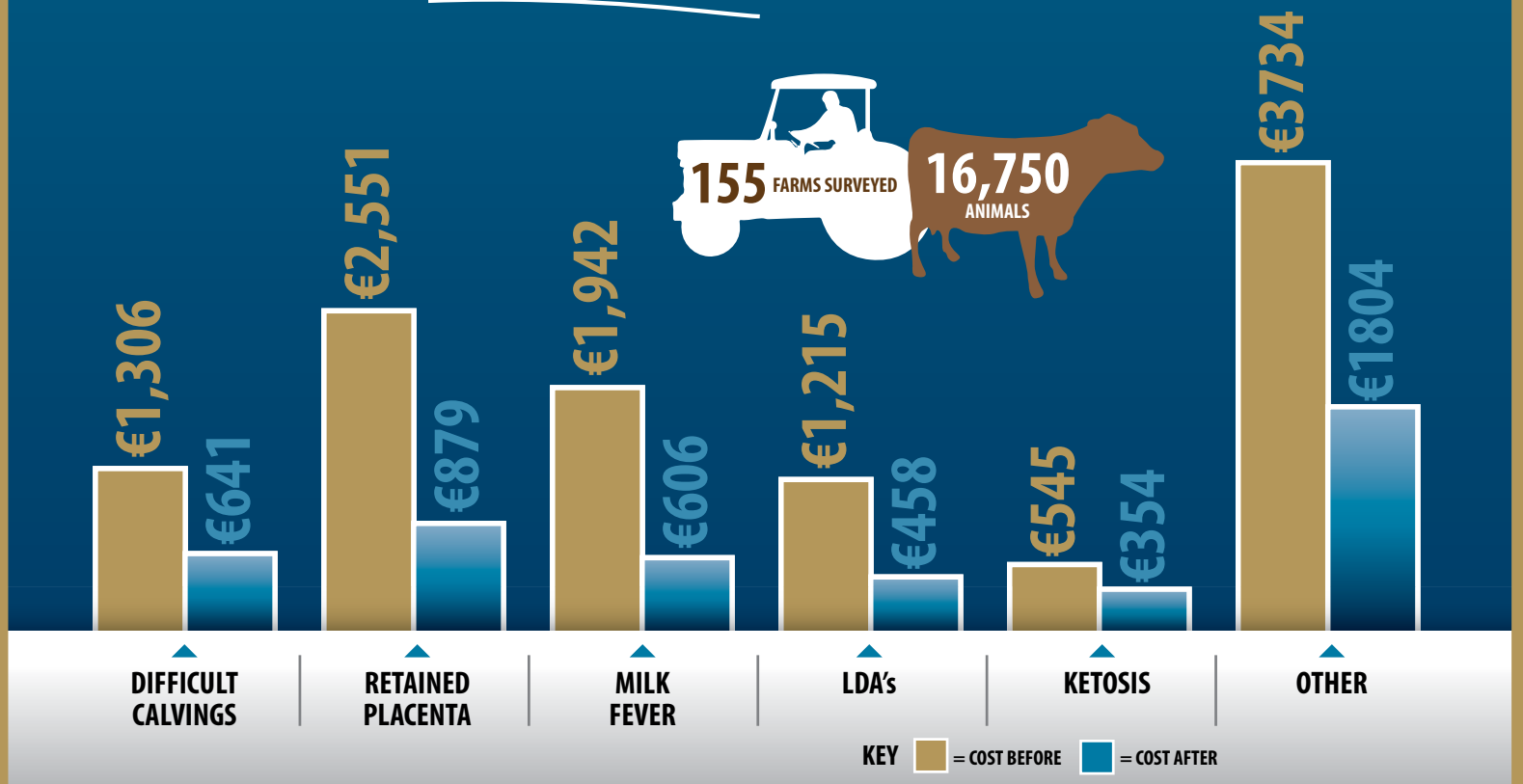
AGRI BUSINESS

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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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.

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Ivan Vallance	086 7930237

CHFC MATTERS

By IVOR BRYAN, CHFC Public Relations Officer

The 35th National Dairy Show

The 35th National Dairy Show was held on Saturday the 21st of October in the Green Glens Arena, Millstreet, Co Cork. The Show is organised and run by a committee selected from the Cork Club. The show committee is ably lead by Show Director John Kirby. A big thank you must go to all that helped to make the show a resounding success, especially this year as we all suffered the aftermath of Ophelia.

The judging of the supreme championship.

On the day of the show a big crowd turned out despite the weather, the large number of trade stands were busy throughout the day. The food hall continues to grow and is developing into a significant attraction at the show.

Irish Rugby International Mike Ross and Chef David Rice of The Kinsale Gourmet Kitchen cooking at the National Dairy Show.

Due to ever increasing entries all of the handler classes were held on the friday evening. With the stock being judged on Saturday by Brian Cascadden, Ontario, Canada. A full list of prize winners is available on the IHFA website. Our congratulations go to all exhibitors and especially to the prize winners.

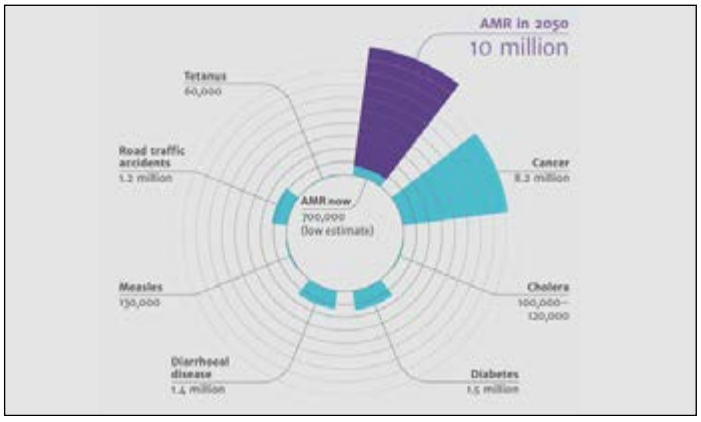
> The Irish Examiner National Dairy Show Supreme Champion for 2017 is Cyril & John Dowlings 'Clonpaddin G Fame'.

CellCheck AnimalHealthIreland.ie

Animal Health Ireland NOTES

While antibiotic resistance or AMR (antimicrobial resistance) as it is usually referred to, is a natural phenomenon and has been around as long as antimicrobials have been, it is fast becoming part of our everyday vocabulary. This is because the pace at which it has been developing in more recent years has increased, and it is now recognised as being a significant threat to human health in the future. AMR is resistance of a microorganism to a drug that it was previously susceptible to. When the microorganism is a bacterium, and the drug to which it is resistance is an antibiotic, this is known as antibiotic resistance.

Since the discovery of penicillin in 1928, antibiotics have revolutionised human health and improved the quality of all of our lives. However, this is now changing, with AMR effectively 'weakening' these invaluable medical treasures. By 2050, it is estimated that AMR-related deaths in humans will have increased more than 10-fold globally, with more people dying of AMR than from cancer. Hence the sense of urgency about addressing this issue, and doing so at a global level.



Source: www.amr-review.org

AMR is linked to antibiotic use – increased antibiotic use is linked to an increase in AMR. Currently, antibiotics are used by doctors to treat sick people, and in the agricultural sector to treat animals. In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the linkage between AMR in people and antibiotic use in animals. For this reason, there is increasing scrutiny of the use of antibiotics in the agricultural sector. There is agreement of the importance of antibiotics to treat sick animals, however, it is no longer considered acceptable that antibiotics should be used to prevent disease, particularly when there are other proven strategies.

The practice of dry cow therapy is being questioned in many countries, by farmers, consumers and society in general. While antibiotic dry cow therapy undoubtedly has an important role to play in treating infections that persist at the end of lactation and maximising cure rates, it has also traditionally been used to prevent new infections occurring over the dry period. Considering our changing attitude and approach towards the use of antibiotic in a 'preventative' fashion, do we also need to rethink how and why we use dry cow therapy? And in fact, how do we define dry cow "therapy"?

Recent analysis of sales data in Ireland (More et al., 2017) indicates that sales of dry cow intramammary antibiotics are sufficient to treat 100% of the national milking herd i.e. all quarters of all cows are being treated at the end of lactation. This is what is referred to as '*blanket dry cow therapy*', which until recently was recognised as best practice in mastitis control and has made a very positive contribution to udder health in many countries. However, as we learn more about AMR and what drives it, we need to review what is considered best practice, as well as the implications of modifying those 'traditional' recommendations. Change is not without risk.

An alternative to blanket dry cow therapy is what is known as '*selective dry cow therapy*'. This is when

only selected cows i.e. those with infected quarters, are treated with antibiotic before drying off. Internal teat sealer is often then used in the remainder of the herd as one of the measures to prevent new infections. While this is considered a more prudent use of antibiotic, we need to bear in mind that this practice is not without risk. So how can we manage this risk? The CellCheck Technical Working Group are currently reviewing all of the science and research on dry cow therapy published since early 2000's, and have identified the following key risks:

1. The first risk is of introducing bacteria when we infuse any intramammary tube into a quarter. When we use internal teat seal only, there is no antibiotic present as "backup" and so the potential consequences are even greater. These 'introduced' bacteria are capable of cause severe cases of mastitis, sometimes resulting in death, early in the dry period. Hygiene standards and practices at drying off – as outlined in detail in the CellCheck Farm Guidelines (pages 117-119) – are essential to protect the udder health of the uninfected cow.

2. The second risk is of missing the opportunity to cure quarters that were infected at drying off, to maximise cure rates before the next lactation starts. A very common question is "*how do I know which ones are the infected animals?*". There are many criteria that need be considered when making these decisions, including milk recording results and milk culture results. Even with all this information on hand, further questions remain such as "*How many milk recording results do I need to have and how close to drying off do they need to be?*" and "*At what cow SCC level should I consider using antibiotic dry cow therapy?*" The reality is that there are still many unknowns, and not all of these key questions can yet be answered. Everyone agrees about the key role of milk recording to help with this decision. At this point, however, different countries have adopted different thresholds for deciding to treat with antibiotics at drying off. This highlights that there isn't one, simple answer to this question. Research, both Irish and international, will help answer some of these questions, direct good and appropriate decision-making and help us to predict some of the risks involved.

Currently, the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control, including Management Note C outline some of the essential herd and cow-level information that must be available in order to safely consider adopting a selective dry cow therapy approach.

Selective dry cow therapy can be considered in herds where:

- There are good clinical mastitis records, milk culture results and at least 3 milk recordings for each cow
- Bulk tank SCC is consistently <200,000 cells/mL
- Clinical mastitis is <2% in the last 3 months
- Recent infection rate is <5%
- Hygiene standards at drying off and management of dry cows is excellent.

Within these suitable herds, antibiotic treatment may not be required for individual cows whose last 3 milk recordings have all been <200,000 cells/mL, and have had no case of clinical mastitis this lactation. These cows should also be checked with a CMT prior to drying off.

All decisions around dry cow therapy, should be made in consultation with a veterinary practitioner who has knowledge of the herd, its history and environment. Over time, as more research and technologies become available, our ability to predict infection and treatment outcomes may change. However, the fundamental requirements of good quality information, excellent hygiene and risk management will never change.

References:

More S., Clegg T., McCoy F. **The use of national-level data to describe trends in intramammary antimicrobial usage on Irish dairy farms from 2003 to 2015**. J. Dairy Sci. 2017;100:6400–6413

Animal Health Ireland BULLETIN

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

JOHNE'S DISEASE BULLETIN

The Irish Johne's Control Programme - Launch of Phase One

The launch of a new Irish Johne's Control Programme (IJCP) was announced recently. The programme recognises that the effective control of Johne's disease at a national level requires a long-term commitment on the part of the dairy industry, milk processors, government and participating farmers. The IJCP builds on the knowledge and experience gained from sources including the previous pilot programme, a review of international best practice and extensive consultation with stakeholders, and provides a range of supports for herdowners, with the objectives of building confidence of freedom for test-negative herds, the resolution of infection in infected herds, market reassurance and improving calf health and biosecurity.

A phased approach has been adopted with Phase One, commencing in 2017, acting as a bridge between the pilot programme and the IJCP for those herds that participated in the former. In Phase Two, which will become available in 2018, access to the programme will be open to all herdowners.

Animal health awareness and knowledge exchange activities are important new components of the Programme and a series of farmer workshops, convened by milk processors and aimed at promoting an awareness of Johne's disease prevention and control, will be scheduled by Co-ops in late 2017 and early 2018. For details of these workshops, farmers should contact their processors.

Herdowners who were formerly enrolled in the pilot programme will receive a letter from the Johne's Disease Implementation Group inviting them to register for Phase One of the programme, allowing them to benefit from the various funded supports available for ancillary testing, VRAMP, and whole herd testing.

Full details of the programme in Phase Two will be decided in the coming months, taking into account the outcome of an international consultancy, but will include herd testing, VRAMPs, investigations for confirmed test-positive herds, funded by DAFM and the EU, and delivered through the TASAH measure of the Rural Development Programme, and the calculation of a Herd Assurance Score to provide individual herds with negative test results with an objective measure of the degree of confidence that they are truly free from infection.

Farmers who were not part of the pilot programme may complete an Expression of Interest form, available from their Co-op or from the AHI website and return this to AHI, who will then contact them when registration opens in 2018.

All farmers are encouraged to find out more about Johne's disease control and how to manage the risk of Johne's disease entering and spreading within their herd by participating in a Johne's disease workshop hosted by their milk processor and signing up to the new programme.

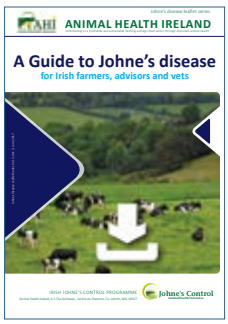
The Key programme elements in Phase One include:

1. Farmer awareness workshops funded by the milk processor.
2. On-farm veterinary risk assessment and management planning (VRAMP) visit, delivered by an approved veterinary practitioner and funded by the milk processor.
3. Support toward the cost of whole-herd testing, funded by DAFM to actively contribute additional contemporary data to inform a consultancy that will help shape Phase Two of the programme.
4. Ancillary testing (using faecal culture or faecal PCR) to resolve the status of animals (and consequently of the herd) with positive or inconclusive ELISA results, funded by DAFM.

Farmers who were not part of the pilot programme may complete an Expression of Interest form, available from their Co-op or from the AHI website and return this to AHI, who will then contact them when registration opens in 2018.

Further Information

Useful information may befound in AHI leaflets on Johne's disease which are available from the Animal Health Ireland website



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DAIRYGOLD BUYING FOR SHAREHOLDERS & CUSTOMERS

Over the past 5 months Dairygold's management have continued to develop its business relationships to source preferential offers for Members and account holders.

FEED BINS

The Society is aware that a farm's existing equipment may hinder operational efficiency; feed bins being an example.

What is the Feed Bin offer?

- Crowley's & Spirofeed will offer approximately 8% off the list price of their feed bins – saving up to €500. Prices available from the supplier.
- Bins must be ordered before the 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

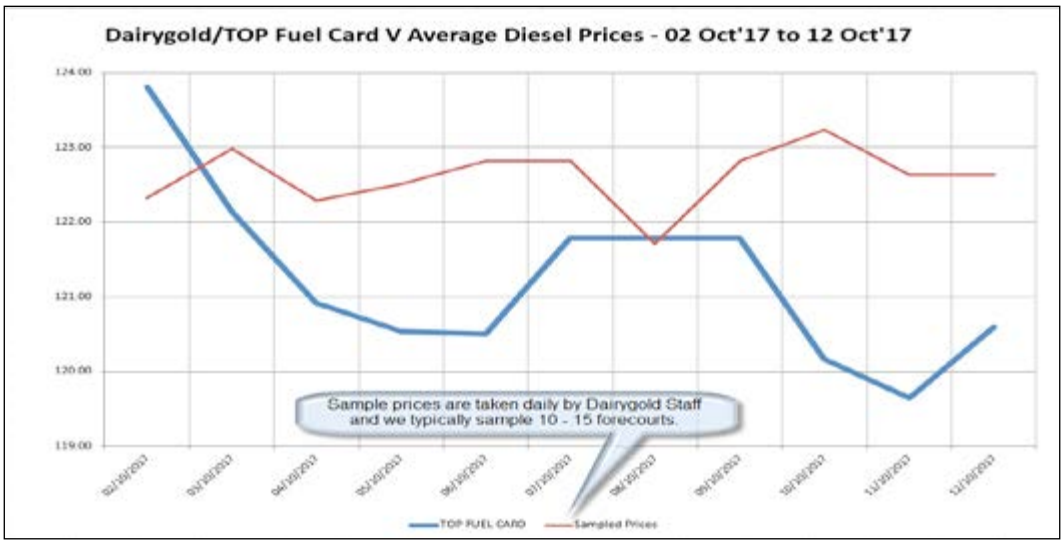
Name:	
Address:	
Dairygold Account Number:	
Telephone Number - Landline:	
Mobile:	
Email Address:	
Select Preferred Supplier:	Crowley Engineering ☐ Spirofeed Limited ☐
Likely Capacity Of New Bin:	
I hereby request and authorise Dairygold Co-Operative Society Limited to confirm my relationship with the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

FUELS

TOP have issued TOP/Dairygold Fuel Card application forms to all account holders who supplied referral forms. However, some account holders have yet to return this application forms. **TOP will be contacting members to complete and return applications forms over the next few weeks. Please see their advert for further information.**

The Dairygold/TOP Oil's fuel card offer good value to Dairygold Members, please see the graph for recent prices. Remember to check the daily fuel card prices using the link below.

The daily fuel prices are available from:
www.agritrading.ie/Dairygold--Top-Oil-Fuel-Prices



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- Your silage mineral analysis
- Current dry cow BCS

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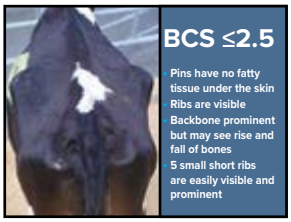
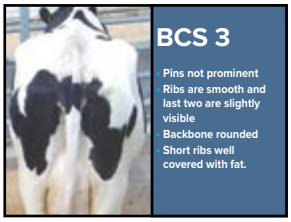
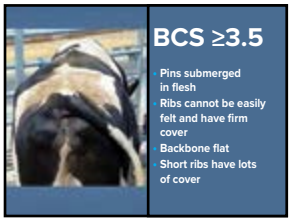
DATE	LOCATION
Wednesday 1st November	Ballinacurra
Thursday 2nd November	Ballinhassig
Tuesday 7th November	Mallow
Wednesday 8th November	New Inn
Friday 10th November	Ardagh
Monday 13th November	Cahir
Wednesday 15th November	Clondrohid
Thursday 16th November	Garryspillane
Tuesday 21st November	Raheen







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For more information, contact Inside Sales on 022-31668