Milk Matters

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING

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www.dairygoldagri.ie

dairygold
Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally
AGRI BUSINESS

Welcome to the December edition of

MILK MATTERS

DAIRYGOLD'S DAIRY ADVISORY BULLETIN

Firstly a merry Christmas and happy new-year from all involved in the production of milk matters.

2017, has been a good year for growth and price. It's been very wet from august onwards, which posed challenges but overall I think its been a good year to be a dairy farmer. It is the goal of this publication to challenge the way you do things, to highlight what the best 10% are doing and to drive efficiency and profitability on your farm. Never has a year illustrated the importance of this more. Improved technical efficiency through higher grass growth, correct nutritional management, better breeding programmes and breeding management drive sustainable performance on your farm.

This month's continues that focus. **Grass Matters** highlights the need for early fertiliser application and the grass growth benefits of it. In **Fertility and Breeding**, Doreen Corridan discusses abortions and winter dosing strategies.

Dry cow management will have a big impact on your 2017 calving and breeding season. A successful dry cow period should culminate in a healthy calf on the ground with few metabolic disorders. This month in **Nutrition Matters** we highlight the importance BCS at calving and of pre-calving minerals in achieving this.

Liam Stack

Liam Stack M.Agr.Sc

RUMINANT TECHNICAL MANAGER,
DAIRYGOLD AGRIBUSINESS

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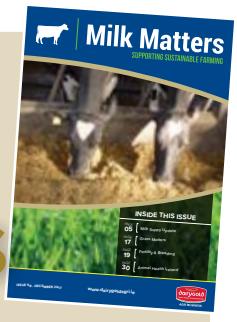
To contact the editor of

MILK MATTERS



email: lstack@dairygold.ie

MESSAGE TO DAIRYGOLD AGRI BUSINESS CUSTOMERS

Dairygolds, Agri Business would like to thank you sincerely, for your continued loyalty in 2017 and wish you and yours an early, happy Christmas.

AGRI BUSINESS

2017 was a good year for grass growth and milk price. The spring and early summer brought very strong growth in the months of March, April, May and June. The main summer growing season mirrors the summers of 2015 and 2016 closely. As the climate turned wet from September onwards growth remained steady but grazing conditions turned poor.

Annually we have had a good grass growing year, with grass production 6% ahead of 2015 and 2016 (14/11/2017).

Grass production 2015-2017 (up to 14/11/2017)

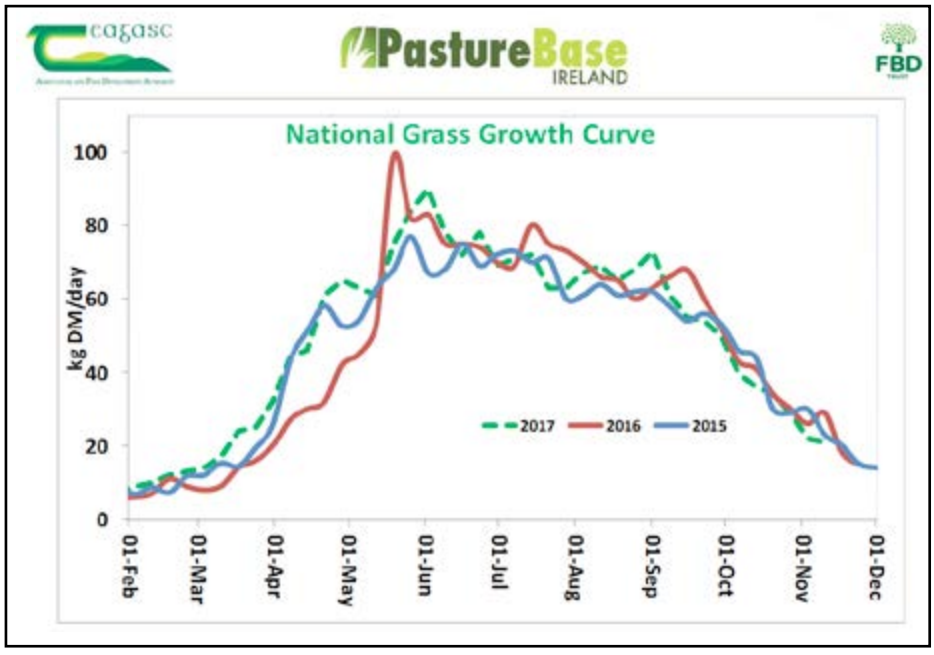
Year	T Grass/Ha
2017	14434
2016	13741
2015	13694

At a stocking rate of 2.2 Lu/Ha this equates to 315KgDM extra grass per Lu.

Dairygolds new dedicated sales structure is in place now since quarter four of 2015. We no longer have a "horses for all courses" approach. We now have dairy focused, beef focused and tillage focused Area Sales Managers. We trust that you are reaping the benefits of our more focused and technical sales team.

Dairygold Agri Business – consistent, trusted, innovative

In 2017 Dairygold Agri Business,



Seamus O'Mahony, M.Ag.Sc
Head of Sales & Marketing Agri Business

OUR DAIRY TEAM

Denis McCarthy, I.A.I.S.I.S, *Manager*

Kieran Creed I.A.I.S.I.S

Rachel McCarthy B.Ag.Sc

Sean Ryan Dip Bus Mgt

Michael Smith

Edmond Curtin B.Ag.Sc

Ivan Vallence B.Ag.Sc

Amie Coonan B.Ag.Sc

DAIRY AND BEEF DIET WAGON TEAM

Liam Stack M.Ag,Sc.
Manager

Alan Ryan

Diarmuid O' Riordan

Tom Mee

Liam Stack, M.Ag,Sc.
Manager

Alan Ryan B.Ag,Sc.

Diarmuid O' Riordan
I.A.I.S.I.S.

Tom Mee
Dip, Dairy Sc.

has continued to offer you the best quality, latest innovation and best value within our product range. Established brands, like the PreCalver GOLD and PostCalver GOLD products remain market leaders. Our Prime Elite 19% Heifer Rearer, with biotin and PRIME ELITE Krispi Kaf, with NuStart, continue their market share growth.

However, we are constantly looking at ways to improve and innovate.
In 2017 Dairygold Agri Business has:

- added biotin as standard to our Postcalver GOLD dairy range
- Added Agolin to our Hi-Pro dairy range

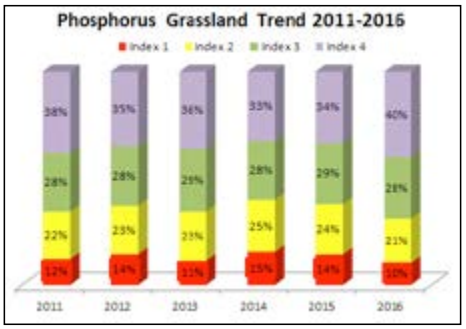
Both of these additives have health and performance benefits. Biotin tackles lameness to deliver more milk, while Agolin decreases methane and ammonia emissions to increase production and fertility.

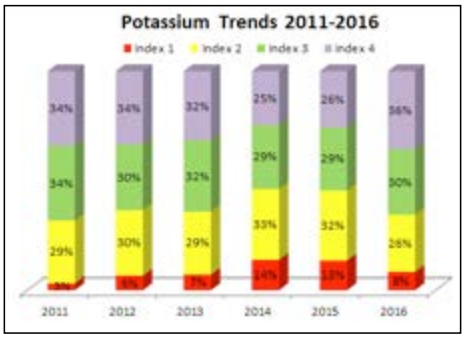
Dairygold Agri Business has launched a new 25% calf milk replacer, Prime Elite 25% Plus. This products couples quality and consistency from its raw materials with Digestarom, a natural additive that decreases calf scours while increasing nutrient digestibility, calf intakes and ultimately pre-weaning calf liveweight gain (LWG).

Our fertiliser package for 2017 was again driven on a competitive price and new environmentally sustainable products that drive production and efficiency. We continue to promote K@N Fertiliser, a urea based fertiliser with a stabilizer called AGROTAIN®. Recent trials carried out by Teagasc have found that K@N outperforms all other commercially existing compounds for Greenhouse Gas emissions. In 2017, we also introduced Greengrow Pasture Boost. It's based around GEN nitrogen. Again, GEN is a urea based fertiliser coated with urease and a denitrification inhibitor. Both products allow the use of urea based fertilisers all year round, while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with fertiliser application.

2017, has also seen the continued development of our service offering. Our ASMS have undergone continued training on animal nutrition, grassland management, grassland weed control, soil nutrition, calf nutrition, cow signals and beef centric.

In 2016, we developed a soil fertility programme. This in conjunction with the continued effort of the Dairygold Teagasc Joint Program has seen an improvement in the soil fertility results being generated by our Agri-Services Laboratory, Lombardstown since 2012.





Our team are dedicated to serving your needs and we look forward to meeting and working with you again in 2018.

Merry to Christmas to all from everyone witin Dairygolds Agri Business.

INSIDE SALES TEAM

Mary Deane, B.Ag.Sc
Manager

Rebecca O'Sullivan
B.Ag.Sc

Liam Cronin
B.Ag.Sc

Shane Cotter
B.Ag.Sc

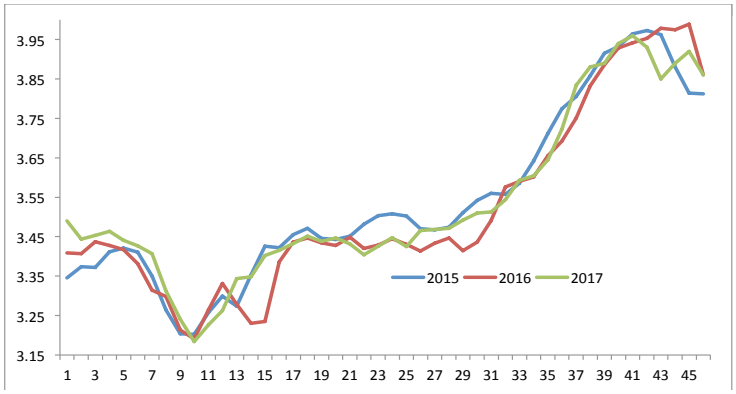
MILK SUPPLY UPDATE
WEEK 46, 2017

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

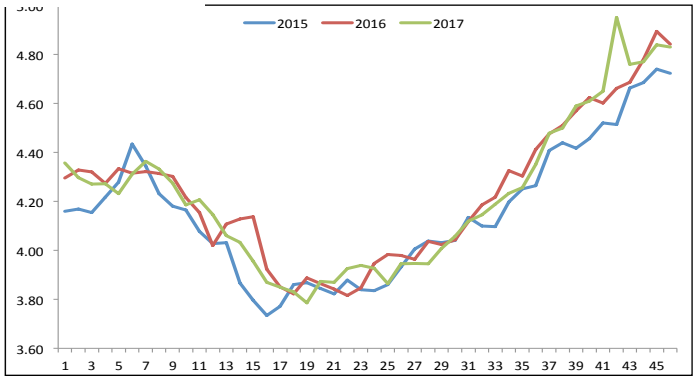
**Milk production figures are averages based on ICBF dairy cow numbers in the Dairygold region. Individual farm yields will vary between farms.*

	2015	2016 YTD	2017
Milk Yield per cow in Dairygold (kg)	5133	5027	5217
Cumulative milk solids per cow in Dairygold (kg MS)	392	385	400
Average Protein %	3.45	3.42	3.45
Average Fat %	4.05	4.12	4.10
Average Lactose %	4.84	4.87	4.86

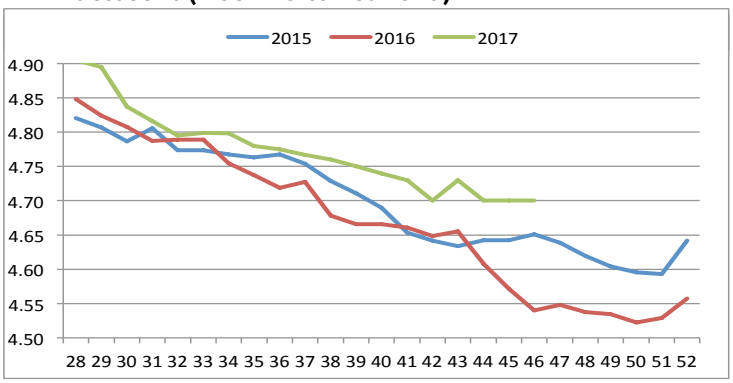
Milk Protein



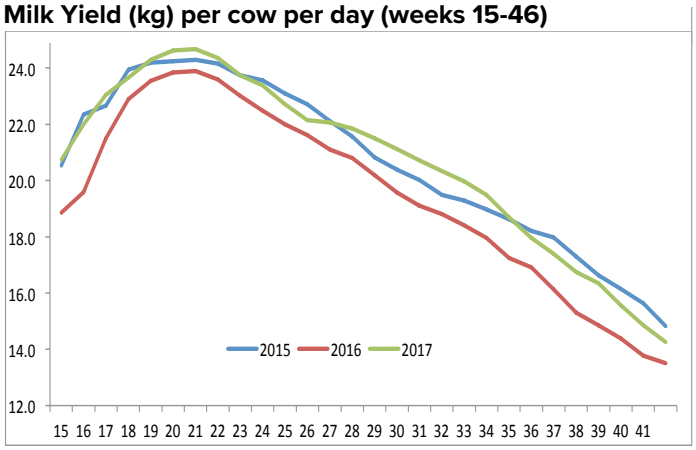
Milk Fat %



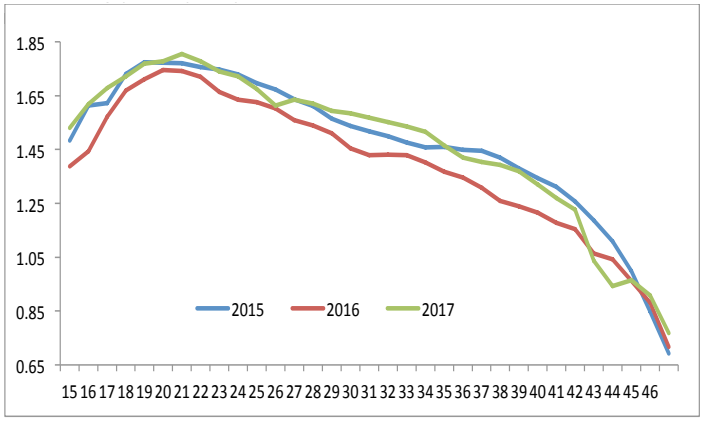
Milk Lactose % (week 29 to Year end)



Milk Yield (kg) per cow per day (weeks 15-46)



Milk Solids (kg) per cow per day (weeks 15-46)



Dairygold 's Co-Op Superstores wins "WEBSITE OF THE YEAR 2018" at Retail Excellence Awards

www.coopsuperstores.ie, Ireland's Largest OnlineCountry Store, scooped the coveted title of 'Website of the Year' at this year's Retail Excellence Awards which were held at the Malton Hotel, Killarney.

The awards celebrate the best of every facet of Irish retail across stores, people, managers and team members, ecommerce and suppliers.

Breaking the mould as the first online website of its kind to win the title in the retail awards' 20 year history, www.coopsuperstores.ie, beat off stiff competition from hundreds of Irish e-commerce retailers.

Winning the award was a proud achievement for the popular Farm, Home & Garden online store which was launched less than 3 years ago at a time when it was regarded as an early adopter in the Agri Sector to the online e-commerce landscape. E-Commerce is part of Co-Op Superstores omni-channel retail strategy with their online store working seamlessly with their physical stores across Munster.

As part of the competition, every aspect of the www.coopsuperstores.ie performance including usability, Search Engine Optimisation (SEO), its range and availability of products, use of the various digital channels and delivery service was scrutinised by a team of expert and independent judges.

As part of the prestigious award win, Co-Op Superstores will now go on to represent Ireland at the Global E-Commerce Summit which will be held in Barcelona next year.

Commenting on the win, John O'Carroll, Dairygold Retail General Manager said: ***"We are thrilled to have won the award of 'Website of the Year' particularly as the first website in the sector to have done so. This award is testament to our vision and commitment to providing our customers with a first-class customer experience that is in line with consumer demand and trends of today. Dairygold, through our retail division Co-Op Superstores, is fully committed to providing a seamless omni-channel retail offering that is customer focused and our e-commerce site www.coopsuperstores.ie plays a key part in this. I would like to thank my team whose passion, professionalism and dedication has been instrumental in winning this award."***

David Fitzsimons, Chief Executive of Retail Excellence commented: ***"Dairygold Co-Op Superstores are a superb example of agri-retailers breaking new ground by embracing the potential of online selling and we are delighted to see them take the national title of Website of the Year. Our Awards process was very thorough from start to finish. We interviewed every finalist in this competition with the help of some of the best e-commerce retailers and industry leaders in the game".***

"As always the competition was intense and with the coveted nature of the title every finalist reached new heights in promoting retail excellence within their operations which made it all the more difficult to select the overall winner. Dairygold Co-Op Superstores triumph is testament to the hard work of the owners, their staff and investment in their retail operations."

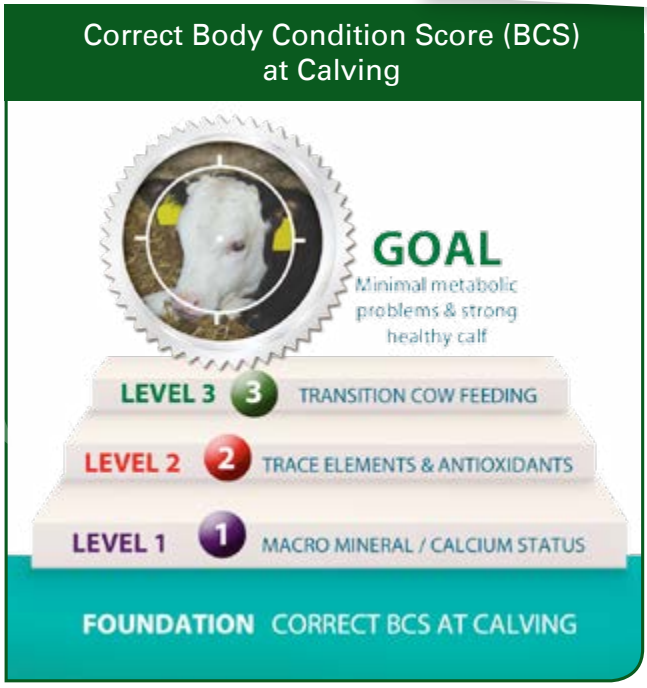
DAIRYGOLD DRY COW NUTRITION PROGRAMME

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

KEY POINT: The most stressful time for your cows is around calving with over 50% of dairy cow metabolic problems occurring within three weeks of calving.

Proper dry cow management and preparation for this period of stress is critical.

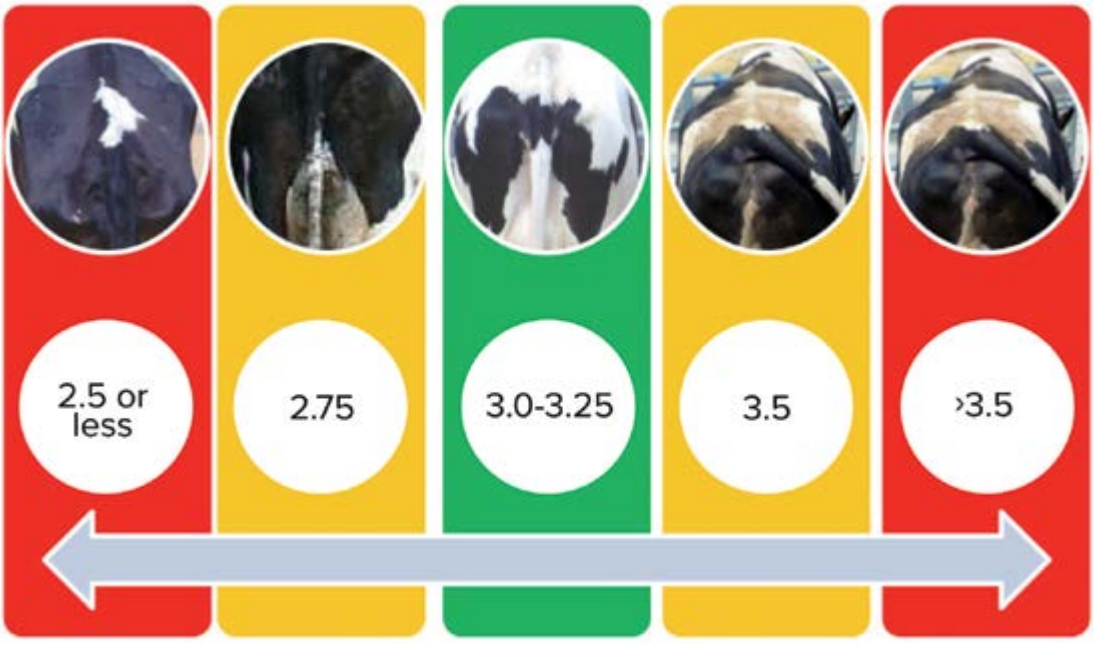
DANGER ZONE



FOUNDATION: Correct Body Condition Score (BCS) at Calving

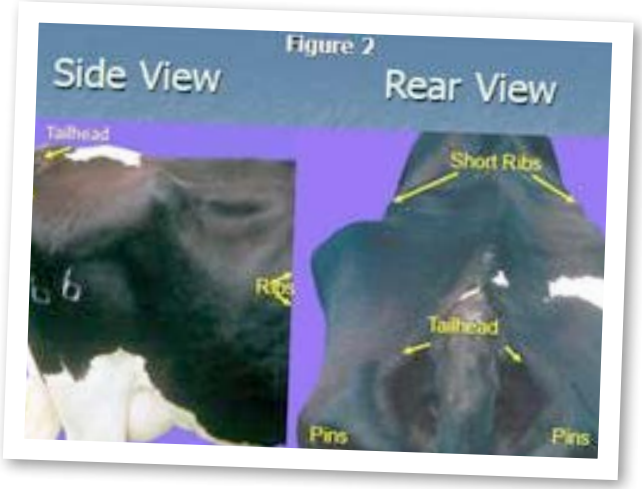
Without a strong foundation, your dry cow programme has little chance of success. Calving your herd down in the correct BCS (individual cow range 3.0 > 3.25) delivers this sound foundation; with proven benefits for fertility, milk yield and cow health (reduced metabolic problems e.g. milk fever).

Body Condition Score Target: DRY COW TARGET: 3.25 • HERD RANGE: 3 - 3.5



How to Body Condition Score

To condition score your herd properly you need to run your cows through the crush and handle them. However an overall visual inspection is also important. Apply firm pressure on the three primary reference points:



1. **Pins and Tail Head:** Use fingers to score by feeling for the amount of fat around the tail-head and the prominence of the pelvic bones.
2. **Short Ribs/Loin:** Use a flat hand to refine the score by feeling the boney projections and the amount of fat in-between.
3. **Ribs:** Use flat hand to refine the score by feeling the boney projections and the amount of fat in-between.

Feeding Dry Cows This Winter:

KEY POINT: 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.

Assuming your cows don't have to gain any body condition it is relatively easy to meet your dry cows energy requirement in month 7 and 8.

The potential of an all grass silage diet to meet a dry cow's energy requirement:

ENERGY REQUIREMENT (UFL)			
	MONTH 7	MONTH 8	MONTH 9
0 BCS	7	7.5	8.5
Proportion of the cows UFL requirements met by all grass silage diet (assuming 0 BCS change)			
	MONTH 7	MONTH 8	MONTH 9
60 DMD	95%	88%	67%
65 DMD	100% +	100%	83%
70 DMD	100% +	100% +	95%

However, in the final few weeks before calving your cows intake drops, as her dry cow energy demand is peaking. An all grass silage diet will not meet her energy requirement then. During this phase concentrates are required to limit the degree of negative energy balancing at calving.

Fat cows need to lose excess BCS before the final month of pregnancy. Underfeeding a fat cow (who's intake is already excessively depressed) in an attempt to correct BCS in the last month, leading up to calving, adds to herd energy deficit.

Consequences of getting BCS wrong at calving:

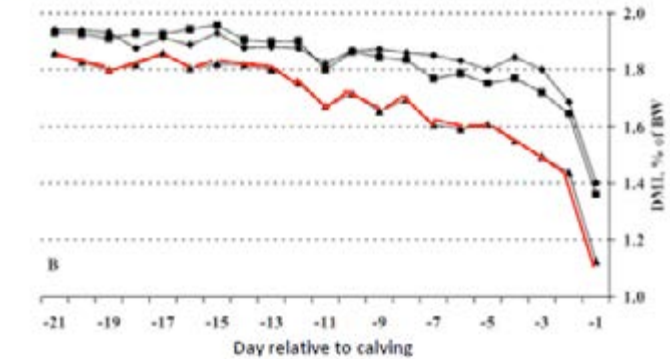
Thin cows at calving:

- Lower milk yield, poor fat and protein %
- Increased incidence of lameness
- Immune-suppression: Mastitis, SCC
- Poor fertility performance in the following breeding season

Fat cows at calving:

- Excessive NEB at calving leading to:
- Increased risk of milk fever
- Increased risk of a retained cleansing
- Lower immune status, SCC, Mastitis
- Increased NEB post calving = lower milk proteins, milk yields and poorer fertility performance

Pre-calving feed intake (Hayirli et al., 2002)



Cows in the correct BCS at calving down

Fat cows at calving down

KEY POINT: Cow BCS, dry period length and Silage DMD (feeding value) should dictate your dry cow feeding strategy.

BCS AT CALVING DEPENDS ON:

1. BCS when dried off
2. Length of dry period
3. Quantity and quality of feed.

	Very Poor	Poor	Average	High
	55 DMD	62 DMD	68 DMD	72 DMD
Dry Cows - BCS 3-8 week dry period	2	1	Silage to appetite	Restricted Silage
Dry Cows - BCS 2.75-10 week dry period	3	2	1	Silage to appetite
Dry Cows - BCS 2.5-12 week dry period	4	3	2	1

MINERAL FEEDING FOR PRE-CALVING COWS

DRY COWS SHOULD RECEIVE A HIGH QUALITY FORMULATION, PRE-CALVING MINERAL MORNING AND EVENING FROM 6 - 8 WEEKS BEFORE CALVING

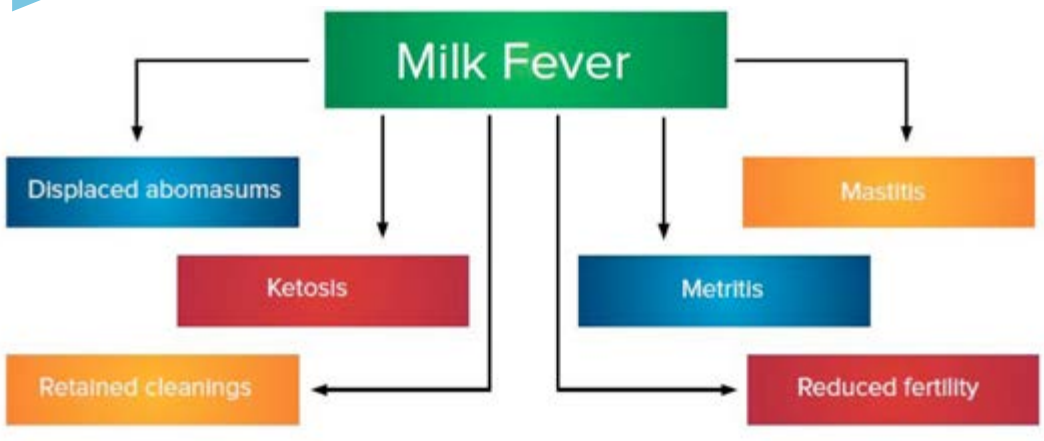
The main aim of this feeding is to

- Prevent milk fever, and retained cleansings,
- Produce a healthy calf,
- Ensure the cow calves down in the correct mineral status.

MILK FEVER

Sub clinical milk fever is a gateway disorder, with these cows being more susceptible to retained cleansings, metritis, ketosis, lower production, poor fertility performance.

KEY POINT: If your herd is showing 5% clinical milk fever then 33% of your herd are suffering from sub clinical milk fever.



When assessing your herds risk of milk fever be wary of:

1. Herd body condition score, with fat cows being 4 times more likely to suffer from milk fever.
2. Herd age, with cows on their third and greater lactation being more likely to suffer.
3. Calcium status. Where low, milk fever risk is very high.
4. History, a cow that had a milk fever in the previous lactation is 10 times more likely to have it in the current lactation.

Calcium supply and demand

Grass silage generally supplies an excess of calcium for a dry cow but a deficit of calcium for milking cows. During the dry period the cows stores this excess. Once she starts to bag up, her diet cannot meet her requirements and she needs to draw calcium from her bones. This switch from storing to drawing calcium requires a hormonal change, which is controlled by the cows' magnesium and vitamin D nutrition.

The potassium effect:

An excess of potassium limits magnesium absorption, delaying the release of calcium and increasing the incidence of milk fever. Grass silage with greater than 1.5% potassium can cause such issues. Grazed grass can contain 2-2.5 times the level of potassium compared to grass silage leading to higher levels of milk fever from cows calved off grazed grass.

Milk fever check list:

1. BODY CONDITION SCORE: CALVE COWS AT CONDITION SCORE 3.0

2. FORAGE:

GRASS SILAGE

- Check the potassium status of grass silage (see laboratory analysis report).
  If its greater than 1.5%: - You should dilute silage with straw, hay, maize silage, wholecrop. Ensure that the cows UFL and PDI requirements are being met.

  Feed adequate Mg and vitamin D (Read the label before you buy precalver minerals).

- Calcium status of your silage (see laboratory analysis report). A dry cow has a requirement for 50grms of calcium. Silage calcium percentages of greater than 0.5% are over supplying calcium (grass silage only diets). Do not feed additional calcium in minerals. Feed adequate Mg and vitamin D.
- Mg status of your silage. The dry cow requires 40grms of Mg. Good quality pre-calver minerals will supply 25grms. Your silage needs to supply the rest. Is it? (See laboratory analysis report)

GRAZED GRASS

Limit intake by calving cows on bare paddocks.

3. PRE-CALVING MINERAL

- Calcium. Your dry cow does not require large amounts of Ca, pre-calving mineral should contain less than 2% Ca.

- Magnesium, Pre-calving mineral should supply 25grms of Mg per head per day
- Vitamin D, pre-calving mineral needs to supply greater than 10000iu/per day

Dairy cows intake naturally declines as she's approaches calving. This decline comes as her pre-calving energy demand is peaking. Silage only diets will struggle to meet the cows' energy requirement in the final 3 weeks pre-calving. Ask about Transition GOLD cubes for these 3 weeks (fed regardless of BCS).

Retained Cleansing

Retained cleansings can be a secondary issue from sub-clinical milk fever and are therefore controlled by similar management to milk fever.

When assessing your herds risk of retained cleansings be wary of:

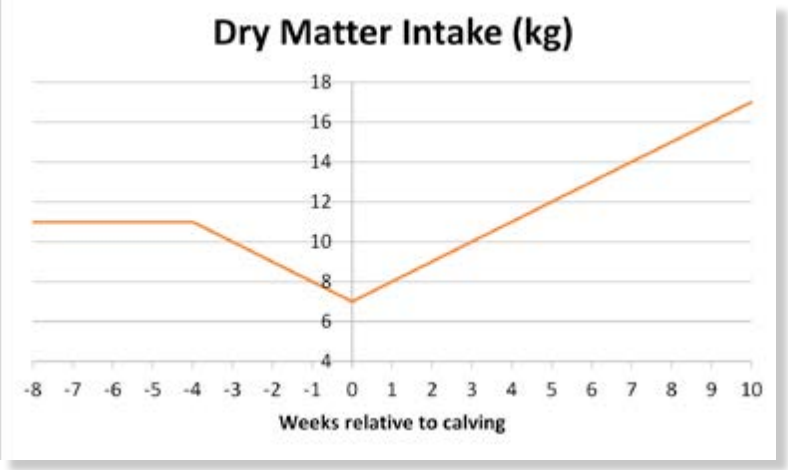
- Body condition score / Energy balance

With over conditioned cows the intake decline can be up to 30% higher.

Cows in a high degree of negative energy balance at calving are at an increased risk (by 80%) of suffering from retained cleansings.

Feeding 2-3 kg of pre-calver gold (silage quality dependent) will help fill the energy gap and ensure your cows are calving down in a positive energy status.

Month of Pregnancy	UFL Required
Month 7	7
Month 8	8
Month 9	8.5

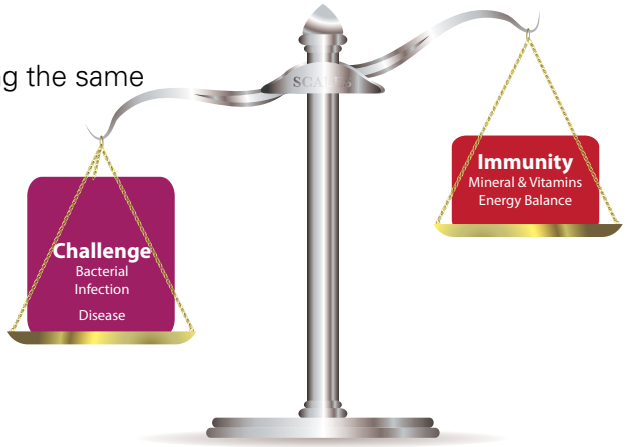


Mineral and vitamin feeding

Ca status: It's important the control to cows calcium status using the same mineral nutrition as with milk fever.

Selenium: pre-calving needs to supply between 3-5mg (dependent on silage Se status). The form of the mineral is also important. Organic forms of the minerals like Selplex being more bio-available to the cow.

Vitamin A: pre-calving needs to supply approx 40000iu per day



Healthy Calves:

Limiting calf mortality and morbidity is influenced by getting 3 litres of good quality colostrum into new born calves within the first 2 hours of birth. Pre-calving nutrition can influence the quality of colostrum.

For good quality colostrum the pre-calving mineral should supply

Between 3-5mg/day of selenium.

Greater than 800iu/day of vitamin E. In the US up to 2000 iu of vitamin E are feed per day.

Calf thrift is influenced by iodine nutrition. Ensure the pre-calving mineral supplies 50-60 mg per day. Ensure the cow calves down in the correct mineral status.

Choosing a dry cow mineral for your farm

WHEN TO FEED?

Start feeding dry cow minerals a minimum of six and preferably eight weeks prior to calving.

FEEDING OPTIONS?

Fixed rate feeding of well-balanced minerals is the cheapest and best way to guarantee an adequate mineral supply. This can be done by:

1. Powdered minerals-divide the allowance into two parts and top-dress evenly over silage twice a day (allows all animals the opportunity to take in the correct allowance of minerals) or as part of a TMR.

2. Including the correct daily allowance in concentrates (where BCS is below target)

	Feeding Rate	Cost (€/hd/day)	Total Daily Cost (€/hd/day)
Beef Feed	2kg	0.56	
Pre-calver gold mineral	120grms	0.16	0.72
Pre-calver gold feed	2kg		0.63

3. Other options

- Liquids, boluses etc. are useful where options one and two are impractical but inferior due to limited specification i.e. they can supply:
  - 0 Mg
  - 0 vitamins
  - 0 organic minerals etc.

- Free access supplementation (e.g. mineral buckets and licks) is not as reliable as fixed rate feeding as there is variation in intake between animals and should only be used where it is impractical to use fixed rate feeding. Again they are often low in Mg content.

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

1. In an optimum ***calcium*** status,
   This is a function of the silage mineral status and the level of Magnesium and Vitamin D3 in the mineral.

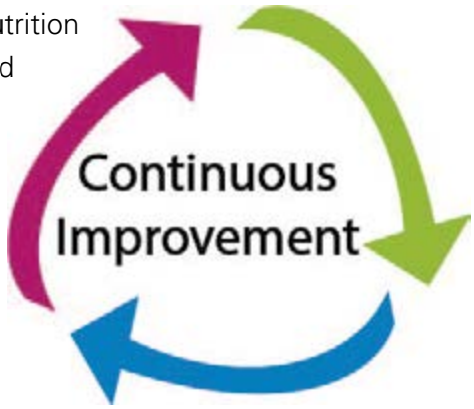
2. With reduced ***metabolic disorders***,
   This is influenced by the minerals Magnesium, Iodine, Selenium and Vitamin E & A levels

3. In an optimum ***immune status***,
   This is influenced by the minerals, vitamins and trace elements (Selenium and Vitamins A & E)

4. Producing ***high quality colostrum***,
   This is influenced by the mineral and vitamin supplementation.

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-have specifications will result 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

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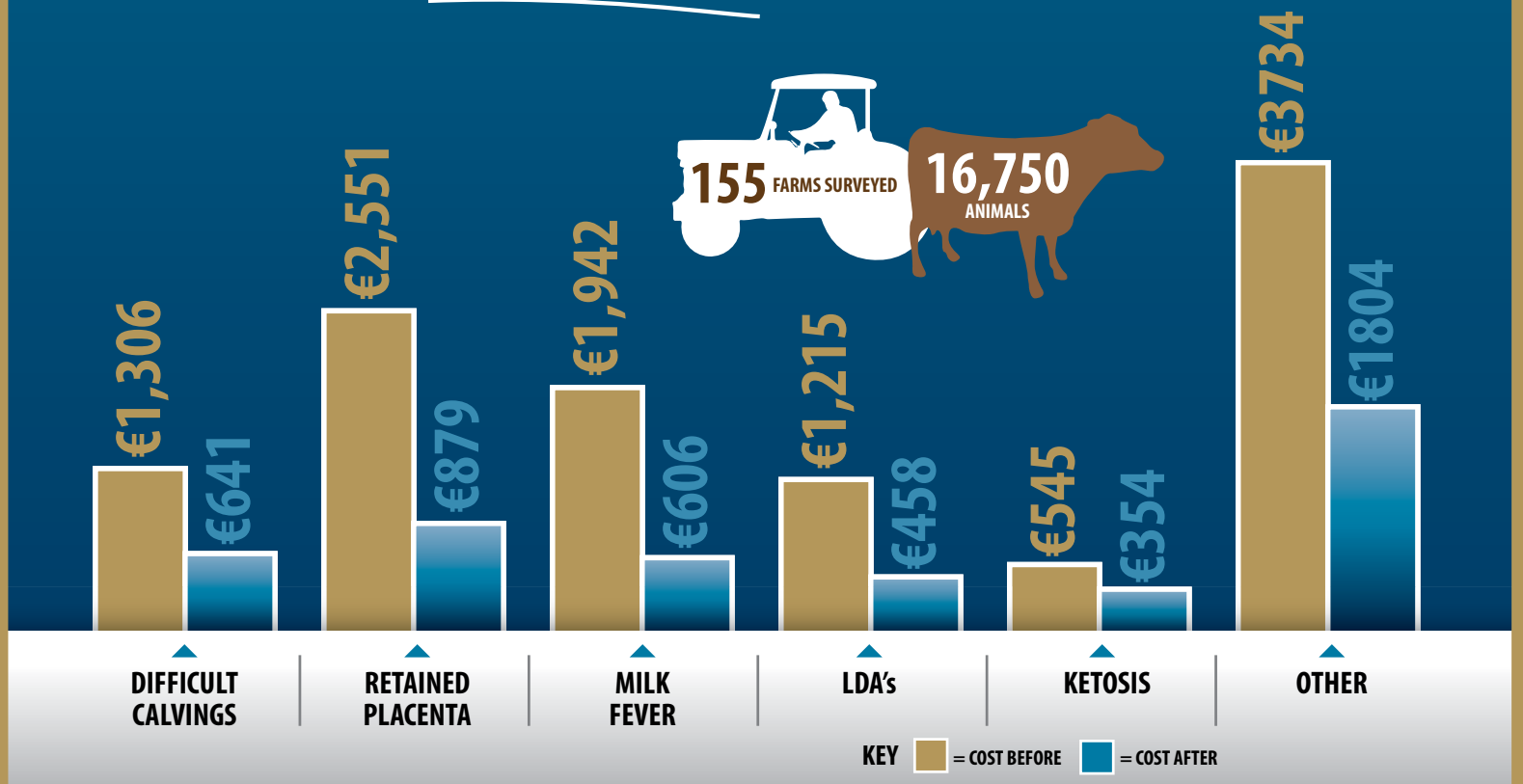
Have you had an issue with Metabolic Disorders on your farm ?

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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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 20-11-2017


Image © Ciaran Hearn

Farm Details:
Closing Cover: 476 kg DM/ha
Supplement: Concentrate 5 kg/cow/day
Cows Milking: 60
Average DIM: 273 (range 211-304)

Grass Supply: The MP is closed this week with an average cover of 476 kg DM/ha. We will be aiming to begin grazing in the Spring with an average cover of approximately 800 kg DM/ha, which we are on target for if growth over recent winter periods is repeated this year.

Feed Budget: Cows are being fed an average of 5 kg of concentrate. 35 cows are on 6kgs as they reach 270 DIM, 20 cows are on 4kgs and 5 cows continue on 2.5kgs as they have yet to reach 240 DIM.
All cows are being allocated 13 kg DM/day of silage. Current silage quality is as follows: 33%DM, 78 DMD, 13.7% Protein, 0.89 UFL.

Dry Off: Drying off of cows will begin later this week or early next week. Cows will be dried off in batches with an aim to give cows an average dry period of 60 days. Cows which drop below 9 kg milk/day will also be dried off regardless of 2018 calving date.

Selective dry cow therapy will be used where only cows with a problematic high SCC will be treated.

Once dry, cows will be offered a silage only diet of 9 kg DM. The silage being offered to dry cows will be as follows: 31%DM, 67 DMD, 13.2% Protein, 0.74 UFL.

Milk Production: Average production is currently 14.17 kg/cow at 4.67% fat and 3.95% protein (1.22 kg MS). SCC is 114,600. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 8th of November.

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

GRASS MATTERS

By JOHN MAHER, Dairy Specialist, Teagasc Moorepark

Doing the famous five in a row!!!!

The last 4 years for grass production have being excellent. For those farmers who measure grass regularly on Pasturebase Ireland, the average grass production is 14 tons DM/ha for (2014-2017 inclusive). The question is can we repeat this in 2018 and do five in a row. If we go as close as Kilkenny (and Kerry), I will be happy. Although, I am often reminded though that the Cork ladies could!!!!

grass supply but also grass quality.

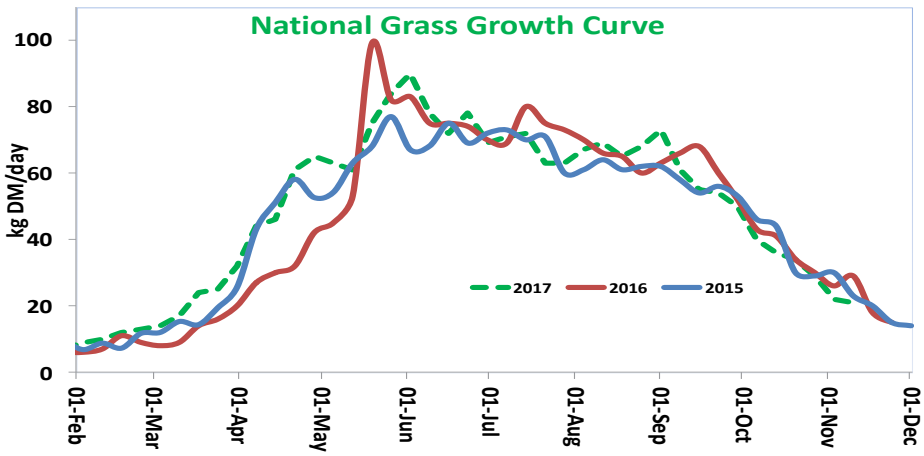
Farmers who measure grass weekly will generally tell you it has allowed them to carry more cows. i.e. increased stocking rate on the farm

GROWING & EATING GRASS!!

The objective of the Grass10 campaign is to achieve **10 grazings**/paddock/year eating **10 tonnes** grass DM/ha. This is equivalent to growing 14 tons of grass and utilising (eating) 75% of the grass produced. Not all the grass grown is eaten due to dung-paths, poor grazing conditions etc.

In order to achieve this objective, we will need to achieve significant changes in on-farm practices, specifically:

1. Improved grassland management skills
2. Improved soil fertility
3. Improved grazing infrastructure
4. Improved sward composition
5. Increased grass measurement and usage of PastureBase Ireland



The real secret to achieving high levels of grass production on However, it is obvious from the growth pattern on the graph above that every year, season, month etc. can be different. This variability is largely (though not completely) influenced by weather patterns. This is the nature of grass production. However measuring grass supply on the farm every week particular from late March on enables much greater control of

Growth Period	Grass Grown/Rotn (kg/ha)	Rotn. Length (days)	No. of Rotations	Growth (kg/ha) required/day
Feb 1 to Apr 6	975	65	1	15
Apr 7 to Aug 5	1400	20	2-7	70
Aug 6 to Aug 31	1625	25	8	65
Sep 1 to Oct 10	1900	40	9	48
Oct 11 to Nov 20	1100	40	10	27
Total Grass production/ha	14000	290	10	

the farm is to get 10 grazings or rotations per paddock per year. The best farmers at growing grass achieve very close to this. Outlined in the table is how this is achieved. The game is won and lost between April and August (the main growing season) where 5-6 grazings /paddock must be achieved in 120 days i.e. Six 20day rotations.

UREA DELIVERY

The response of early spring fertiliser Nitrogen applications is averages about 10kgDM/kg N. Last spring, the response was a lot higher (almost double).

peak workload starts. Spreading a half bag of Urea/acre (23 units/acre), the average spreader load will cover 16 -20 acres. So 2 hours will allow you to spread a lot of urea on the farm. For the record 2 hours won't spread much slurry. So spreading 2 tons of Urea fertiliser will allow 80 acres of land to get fertiliser application.

This fertiliser should be purchased for delivery into your yard immediately in the New Year. The cost is about €700 (€350/ton). It is a small cost to have your grass growing for January/ February on.

Soil sample results and fertiliser planning is often not completed. So why not have the Urea ordered for delivery in early January for €700 and avoid all the hassle that is associated with early spring fertiliser delivery.

Surplus grass made into bales - keep for the Spring

Initial silage analysis suggests that silage quality is not great. Therefore having to feed this silage to cows in milk in spring is not ideal at all. So the high quality bales made during the year from surplus grass should be kept for the spring for feeding to cows in milk when ground conditions are poor or grass is in short supply.

Hold at least 1 bale / cow for the spring for the average farm (1 cow/acre). For those herds who are stocked higher this may mean holding 2 to 3 bales/cow depending on the stocking rate.

$$\underset{\text{(land)}}{40\text{ha}} \times \underset{\text{(response per kgN)}}{10} \times \underset{\text{(23 units/ac)}}{30\text{ kg/ha}} = 12{,}000\text{kg}$$

$$\frac{12{,}000\text{kgs}}{100\text{ cows}} = 120\text{ kgDM/Cow} \div 12\text{kgDM/cow} = 10\text{ days grass}$$

As herd demand for grass is increasing on most farms due to increased cow numbers and more compactness of calving, therefore more grass is needed. So this early nitrogen application will easily provide an extra 10 days at grass.

The opportunities for spreading fertiliser N in January/February are often limited so the Urea fertiliser needs to be in the yard. However, workload is now also a huge challenge as there is often not enough time do tractor work in February for many dairy farmers. This where the contractor may help or else have the fertiliser spread in Late January before the

DELIVERY DELAYS

Every January there is always logistical challenges with delivery of fertiliser. There is uncertainty about price. There is uncertainty about quantities of fertiliser required and subsequent delivery. Everyone wants fertiliser at the same time. The weather can also prove challenging with delivery.

TEAGASC/DAIRYGOLD DEMONSTRATION & FOCUS FARM PERFORMANCE	
Milk Yield (l/cow)	12
Fat %	5.14
Protein %	4.1
MS Yield (kgMS/cow)	1.16
Grass Growth Kg DM/ha	16
Average Farm Cover (kg/ha)	668
Meal (kg /cow)	4

FERTILITY & BREEDING

By DOREEN CORRIDAN, MVB MRCVS PhD, Munster Cattle Breeding

ABORTIONS

We are now in the peak abortion season for spring calving cows.

All abortions storms start with a single case initially.

The first one seen may not be the first one as studies have shown that less than 30% of all abortions are observed.

An abortion rate of 2% between the fourth month and term may be considered normal.

The main aim of abortion investigation is to prevent abortions next season by implementing informed control strategies and to try and limit further abortions this season.

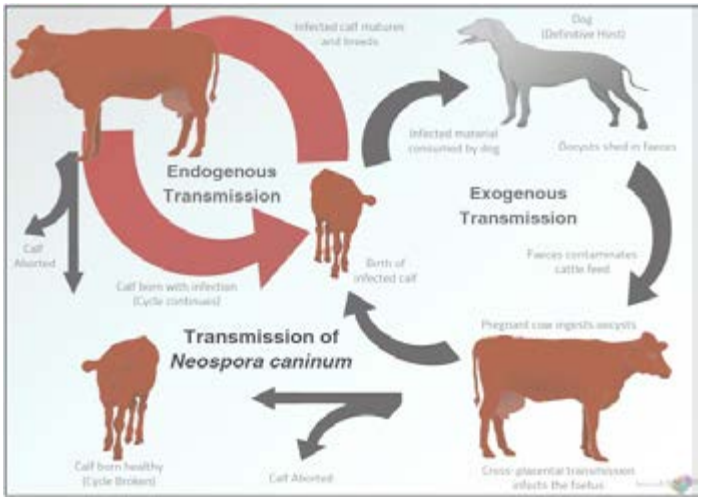
Call your veterinary practitioner to investigate the abortion and get samples to the regional lab.

- Identify the cow that aborted. Ensure no other cows, dogs or foxes have access to the cleaning and foetus.
- Tissue tag the foetus or calf for BVD.
- Have all collected material foetus and placenta stored in a plastic bag, tie the bag and place in a second strong bag and tie again- cable tie. This material along with a blood sample from the dam will greatly improve the diagnostic rate in the regional veterinary lab. Fresh samples are superior to those left for a few days
- Isolate the aborting cow asap (not in the calving box) for at least 3 weeks until vaginal discharges have ceased, and the lab tests are back.
- Have as much information available as possible for your vet.
- Prepare a recent history of husbandry and management changes.
- Have previous laboratory reports available e.g. bulk milk results for 2017 etc.

OWN HEALTH

When cows abort always assume it may be infectious, you need to protect yourself and the other pregnant cows. Risks to you include salmonella, leptospirosis and listeriosis. You can reduce these risks by wearing protective clothing and gloves when handling aborted material. Always keep pregnant women, children and older people (lower immune system) away from aborted cases.

NEOSPORA



It seems to be an increasing problem in a proportion of herds. I have seen an issue with zero grazing – perhaps the cows are not as discerning as those grazing. However, those who are tackling it and farming their way out of it are having good success. It spreads in the herd either by positive cows already in the herd having positive daughters, this is very common or by cows and heifers eating food contaminated by infected dog faeces containing Neospora eggs. Herds that have put control measures in place and are breeding their replacements from negative cows are having good success. If you have a high bulk reading in Neospora it is worth tackling it this Autumn. The best time to

blood test is late pregnancy, avoid the last 3 weeks of pregnancy. Identify the positive cows and breed them to beef bulls (resultant progeny for beef only, avoid replacements entering the sucker herd). Use the negative cows to breed your replacements from and put in measures to prevent ingestion of contaminated food by dog or fox faeces. Do not shoot the dog! Keep your own dog as they become immune over time.

SALMONELLA

A number of herds have experienced abortions in their in-calf heifers, with salmonella being isolated, prior to they receiving initial vaccination and booster. On investigation the cows were boosted as normal in September however the in-calf heifers did not begin their vaccination programme till October or November, mainly because they were in an outside place. This year the vaccine was not available, however it is becoming available now. A simple solution to this is that if you are vaccinating for Salmonella do your 2017 born maiden heifers now with two doses, three weeks apart. They will then have immunity throughout all their pregnancy and will just need to be boosted once with the cows in the autumn of 2018. This results in just one extra shot in a cow's life yet you're in-calf heifers are protected throughout their pregnancy. It will also reduce the carrier state.

Moorepark in conjunction with UCD have shown a benefit of €70 per cow per lactation to vaccinating with Salmonella in infected herds

DOSING AND PARASITES CONTROL

General Dosing Guidelines

- Diagnostics needed to decide what you need to dose for - Bulk tank, Factory data, faecal egg counts
- Protect products from frost
- Avoid Under dosing due to under estimation of bodyweight, weigh a proportion of each group
- Calibrate the dosing device
- Clean dosing equipment before and after use
- Care during dosing to avoid injury to the mouth or pharynx
- Too frequent and repeated use of anthelmintic from the same class, over an extended period leads to resistance.
- Suspected clinical cases of resistance to anthelmintic should be investigated using – Faecal Egg Count Reduction Tests
- Avoid Cattle having access to the surface water such as streams, ponds or ditches within 7 days after treatment
- When spreading manure from treated animals on arable lands a safety distance of 10 m to adjacent surface waters must be kept
- Thoroughly Shake the product before use, may need to reduce the volume in the container

OWN HEALTH

- When dosing do not smoke or eat or drink
- Wash splashes from eyes and skin immediately
- Wear Gloves and protected clothing
- Take off any contaminated clothing immediately after dosing
- Wash hands and exposed skin before meals and after use

LIVER FLUKE

Liver Fluke control is crucial for productivity as a healthy liver is required for production, performance and immunity. Cows with a heavy Liver Fluke burden have reduced milk yields, poorer reproductive performance and a reduced immune system, therefore they will be more prone to other diseases and will not respond to vaccinations as well as they need to.

There is wide variation between farms on the level of Liver Fluke, some farms have none about 20% - 40% have a medium level and the remaining 40% have an elevated level. Farms with Liver Fluke have some heavy or wet patches where the Liver Fluke reside on the pasture in the mud snail, drainage of these patches may help but in general these farms cannot eradicate Liver Fluke however they can control it and reduce its impact on productivity.

DIAGNOSIS

To deal with Liver Fluke correctly we need to know

1. Have I got Liver Fluke on my farm?

2. Secondly did I get a good kill rate in the 2016/2017 winter period?

In herds that are on the bulk milk testing with Munster and Dairygold both these questions are answered clearly for the milking cow herd. If you look at the first reading in April it will tell you the kill you received in the 2016/2017 winter period, it should be under 30 for an effective kill. If you look at your second reading in August/September it will tell you the level of Liver Fluke picked up over the Summer and Autumn above 30 is positive.

In herds not participating in the bulk milk, I would advise doing so for 2018.

For this winter other available information to you is:

- If you have had any cattle slaughtered in a factory that is reporting Liver Fluke or if you sold the cows to a dealer he will have received the report and it would be worth getting a copy of it. This is useful and one positive is enough for a diagnosis.
- Secondly take dung samples and get them analysed, it is important to note that rumen fluke is easily picked up in dung samples while with Liver Fluke we may need to repeat samples. ***A negative dung sample does not mean there is no Liver Fluke present, I have seen serious issues with making decisions one a single dung sample.***

TREATMENT

The most effective treatment for Liver Fluke in dairy cows is Triclabendazole.

- Ideally wait until cows are housed 2-3 weeks to treat them.
- The most critical points in dosing cows for Liver Fluke are
- Protect the product from frost
- Adhere to the milk withdrawal dates.
- Dose all the cows, some cows get missed in herds due to the different dry off dates and separate groups been put together.

Under dosing is the biggest issue I have seen. I would love to be buying cows from herdowners on the basis of the weight they are dosed for!

Cows are under dosed because their weight is under estimated, cows will spit out some dose and dosing guns may be not calibrated properly or draw air.

When Liver Fluke dosing, dose to the weight of the heaviest cow, allow for wastage and air in the gun. Triclabendazole is a very safe dose with a high margin of safety.

In most non-cross bred herds with cows in good condition, heavily in calf up to 7 months, allowing 10% for wastage and 2-5 ml of air in the gun, I would dose for 800Kg across the board.

The second effective Liver Fluke dose is Trodax, it has a 6 month withdrawal in cattle. It is unsuitable for dairy cows however it can be used in the weanlings in their first winter and in in calf heifers in June and July.

Albendazoles 10% (Valbazen, Albex, Tramazole, etc) are useful in cases of very low Liver Fluke herds and can be used as a combined Liver Fluke and worm dose. However, they are only effective against the adult Liver Fluke, so they can be used three weeks after housing to get all the worms and repeated just before calving to get the Liver Fluke that matured in the dry period.

PRODUCT	TRICLABENDAZOLE	WITHDRAWAL MEAT	MILK WITHHOLD	DOSE
Tribex 10%	Triclabendazole 100 mg	56 days	41 days plus 84 Hours after calving	6ml/50Kg
Endofluke 100mg/ml	Triclabendazole 100 mg	56 days	45 days plus 48 Hours after calving	6ml/50Kg
Fasifree 10%	Triclabendazole 100 mg	56 days	45 days plus 48 Hours after calving	6ml/50Kg
Fasinex 240 mg/ml	Triclabendazole 240 mg	56 days	35 days plus 48 Hours after calving	2.5ml/50Kg
Triclaben 10%	Triclabendazole 100 mg	56 days	41 days plus 84 Hours after calving	6ml/50Kg

STOMACH WORMS & LUNG WORM AND LICE

All cows need to be dosed for stomach and lung worm. We have two main products available to us the Albendazoles (Valbazen, Albex, Endospec, Tramazole, etc) and the Macrocytic Lactones (Ivermectin, Mastermectin, Cydectin etc.).

Avoid the use of the Levamisole's (levacide, levafas diamond) in the winter firstly they are not licensed in cows and secondly, they do not cover type 2 worms which are important for winter housing. However, they are excellent summer and autumn doses in young stock.

Albendazoles 10% (Valbazen, Albex, Endospec, Tramazole, etc):
These are excellent worm doses and kill mature Liver Fluke as well. As they kill mature worms only, they need to be used when animals are housed 3 weeks and you need to repeat prior to calving to get the remaining Liver Fluke. Again, the principles of avoiding under dosing applies as discussed above. They have a withdrawal of 60 hours.

This makes them a very useful dose for winter milk producers prior to calving, or for herds milking some cows through the winter.

They are also useful in a year with a good back end when we can graze cows outside until late November or early December. In these cases, we can use the tricalbendazoles at dry off for Liver Fluke and come in before calving with the albendazoles to pick up the Liver Fluke picked up in the late grazing and matured over the winter and the worms.

Albendazoles are also very useful in herds that have used a lot of Ivermectim in the past, as rotation of products in important to reduce the likelihood of resistance.

With the Albendazoles we need to use a lice treatment in addition.

Macrocytic Lactones (Ivermectin, cydectin etc):
These cover all stages of worms, so they can be done at housing or up to 2 weeks prior to housing and they also cover lice. Use the pour ons as opposed to the injectables at housing as the pourons cover both the sucking and biting lice while the injectables cover the biting only. In herds that have already used this family during the summer it is worth now considering an Albendazole.

- Prior to use ensure the cow skin is dry and clip hair on the back of young stock prior to application.
- Wear gloves when applying the products.

The withdrawal on most of the Ivermectin products is 60 days, however Cydectin an excellent product has just 6 days.

These products are very convenient to use which has led to their over use on some farms in the past number of years.

To avoid the development of resistance we need to:

- Have a dosing plan in place for grazing and winter dosing.
- Rotate products between the three families- Albendazoles, Macrocytic lactones and the levamisole's
- Dose strategically. Be guided by diagnostics
- Avoid the excessive use of dosing products
- Avoid under dosing- Know the correct weight

PRODUCT	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	WITHDRAWAL MEAT	MILK WITHHOLD	DOSE RATE WORMS ONLY	DOSE RATE LIVER FLUKE & WORMS
Albencare	Albendazole 150mg	14 days	60 hours	3ml/50Kgs	3.5ml /50Kgs
Albex 10%	Albendazole 100mg	14 days	60 hours	4ml/50Kgs	5ml/50Kgs
Albex 2.5%	Albendazole 25mg	14 days	60 hours	16ml/50Kgs	20ml/50Kgs
Endospec 10%	Albendazole 100mg	14 days	60 hours	4ml/50Kgs	5ml/50Kgs
Osmonds Flexiben 10%	Albendazole 100mg	14 days	60 hours	4ml/50Kgs	5ml/50Kgs
Tramazole 10 %	Albendazole 100mg	14 days	60 hours	4ml/50Kgs	5ml/50Kgs
Valbazen 100mg/ml	Albendazole 100mg/ml	14 days	60 hours	4ml/50Kgs	5ml/50Kgs

- Talk to your veterinary practitioner and draw up a plan

VACCINATION PROGRAMME IBR.

In IBR vaccination programmes much confusion exists, there are essentially two options as follows.

Option 1 - Every 6 months live

Every six months vaccinate all animals on the farm, with a live IBR vaccine either Bovilis or Rispoval into the muscle. Bull calves that may be of interest to AI centres should not be vaccinated. Calves under three months of age need to receive the vaccine intranasally. In spring calving herds, the ideal times to vaccinate are 1 month prior to calving December/January and again in June/July. This regime is simple to operate and avoids animals or times getting missed. This regime is suited to all herds, especially those with an extended or all year-round calving pattern, those purchasing in females and herds where their heifers are contract reared.

Option 2 - Annual inactivated.

Every December/January all the animals on the farm receive an inactivated vaccine under the skin, ideally this needs to be done 1 month prior to calving. However initially they need to have received a live vaccine within the previous six months. If you are on a live programme currently and want to switch to the inactivated annual programme, if you have administered all animals with a live in June/July 2017 you can administer an inactivated in December 17/January 18 under the skin. These animals are then covered until December 18/ January 19. The young stock needs a live IBR vaccine in June/July 18. This regime is best suited to closed herds with compact calving.

LOYALTY REWARD BONUSES WILL BE ISSUED TO QUALIFYING MEMBERS AND CUSTOMERS IN DECEMBER IN THE FORM OF A 2017 LOYALTY REWARD CARD WHICH CAN BE REDEEMED AT YOUR LOCAL CO-OP SUPERSTORES ACROSS FARM HOME & GARDEN.

NEW from Dairygold

Prime Elite 25 Plus®

Protein	Oil	Ash	Fibre	Ca	Na	P
25%	18%	7%	0.1%	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%

- Improved "whole of life performance" - today's heifer calf is tomorrow's milking cow.
- Formulated with specially selected high quality fats and proteins designed to meet the nutritional needs of high performance calves
- Contains globular proteins to promote early thrive
- Contains Digesterom for better digestion and better feed efficiency
- Contains Garden gut conditioner 100% recommended rate
- Low ash content and correct mineral levels to avoid scours

Prime Elite 25 Plus® promotes less calf scours and higher growth rate through:

1. Acidification by Citric Acid

Acidifications helps to maintain optimum gut conditions encouraging beneficial gut bacteria and discouraging the pathogens that cause scours and limit performance.

2. Gardion®

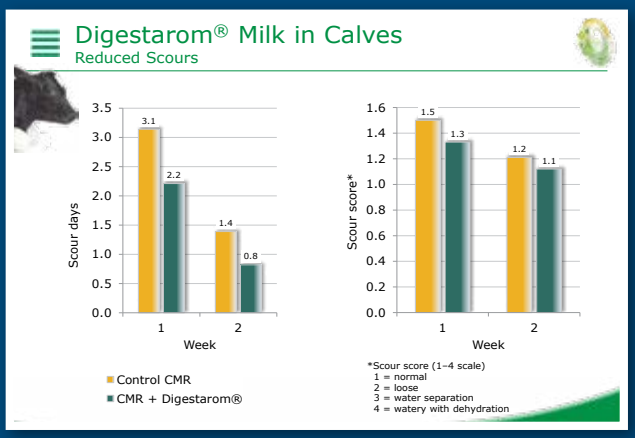
A garlic extract (Allin) helps to reduce the colonisation of pathogenic bacteria in the gut. Pathogenic bacteria cause scours and limit performance.

3. Digesterom

Digestarom® is a blend of essential oils coming from differing plants, principally caraway seeds, liquorice, oak bark and vanilla.

These oils have been shown in independent research trials and on-farm to:

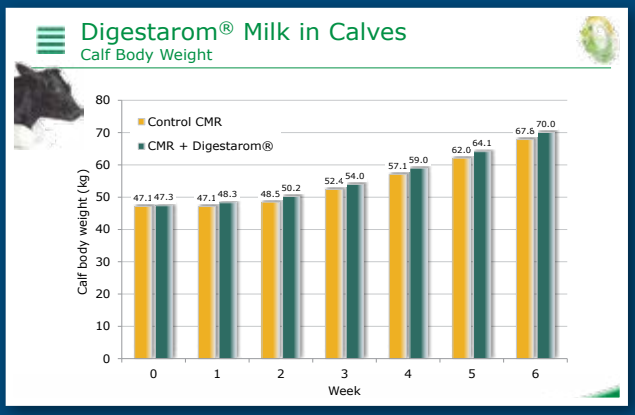
1. have antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effects, decreasing scouring with calves and decreasing the numbers of days, it takes a calf to recover from a scour.

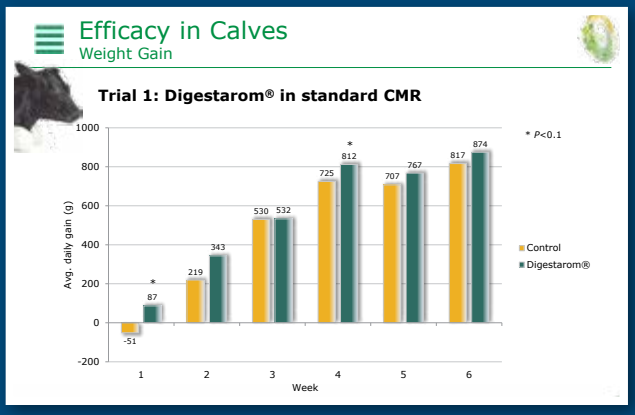


2. Increase nutrient digestibility by increase gastric secretions and increased micro villi growth

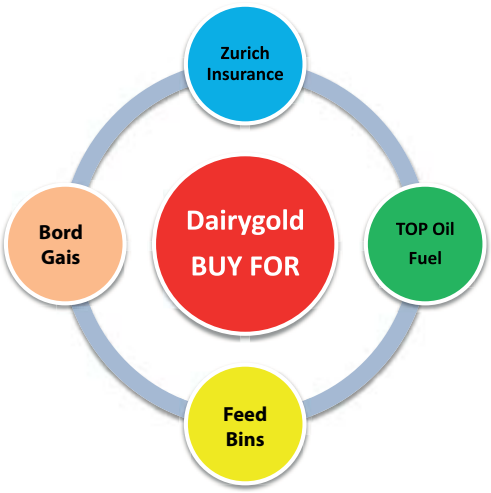
3. Increase CMR and starter calf intake, through increase palatability due to the vanilla extract

4. Increase pre-weaning calf LWG and weight at weaning





Dairygold Buying For Shareholders & Customers



Dairygold's management have continued to explore the society's business relationships to develop offers for the benefit of Members and account holders.

The Buy For project commenced in July with offers from Zurich Insurance and TOP Oil. During September we added feed bins to the portfolio and this month we reached agreement with Bord Gais for an electricity affinity scheme.

FARM ELECRICITY

Securing a longer term deal for farm electricity was requested by the Board of Director and the **Co-op** is pleased to ***announce an agreement with Bord Gais for an electricity affinity scheme to Member and Account Holders, starting on 10th of December 2017.***

Applying on-line clearly offers the best value but applications can also be made via telephone. We believe the 20% discount for on-line application over a 24 month term offers good value and avoids the hassle of changing your power supplier annually!

What do I need to do?

- Have a recently electricity bill to hand. Note your MPRN number and your type of meter (typically DG2) – this information is usually on the top-right of your bill.
- Apply on-line to get electricity saving of 20%-28% on standard rates.
  See: *www.bordgaisenergy.ie/affinity/*. The user name to log in is **Dairygold**. The Username will be issued in due course.
- You can also phone **01-6110151** to avail of the telephone offer, giving savings of 10% + €175 cashback.
- It only takes a few minutes and your electricity should be switched to Bord Gais within 5 working days.

The table below lists the discount available. Standing charge & PSO Levy are not discounted.

Channel	Tenure	Discount Y1	Discount Y2	Discount Y3 +	Cashback
Web	1 year	28%	5%	5%	N/A
Web	2 year	20%	20%	5%	N/A
Phone	1 year	10%	5%	5%	€175

Dairygold Buying For Shareholders & Customers

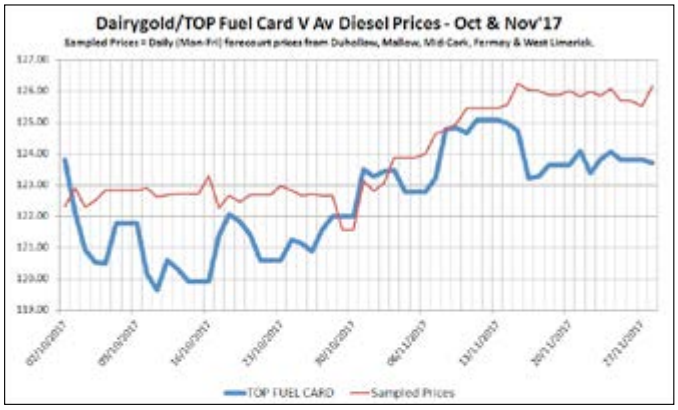
FEED BINS

- Crowley's & Spirofeed are offering approximately 8% off the list price of their feed bins – saving up to €500. Prices available from the supplier.
- Dairygold will match the supplier discount with a €10 discount on all bulk feed orders up to a maximum discount of €250.
- The feed bin offer has been extended to the **21st of December 2017**.

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). The referral form was printed in November's Milk Matters and are available from Branches and ASMs.

FUELS

Some account holders have yet to return their TOP Oil application forms. **TOP are currently contacting members to complete and return applications forms**. 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

FARM & HOME INSURANCE

Zurich are a global insurance company; they provide preferential rates to Dairygold Members and offer several enhancements for free.

To get a farm or house quote, please complete a referral form and ***return it to our Inside Sales Team, Dairygold Agri Offices, West End, Mallow, Co. Cork (Telephone 022 31644).***

The referral form was printed in November's Milk Matters and copies are available from Branches and ASMs.

CHFC MATTERS

By IVOR BRYAN, CHFC Public Relations Officer

The 35th National Dairy Show

The Cork club would like to thank all the people who have helped to make this year a successful and enjoyable one for the club. We would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New year, and we look forward to seeing you at our events next year.

The prize winners in the Under 12 handling class at the National Dairy Show Sponsored by Dairygold 1st Hannah Greenan, 2nd Manus Murphy, 3rd Brian Hurley

Judge Jane O'Mahony judging the bull's at this year's bull show and sale in April.

The Macra na Feirme Stock judging prize winners at this year's IHFA National Open Day, all from Cork. Pa Deasy, Edel O'Connell, Clive Osbourne and Christy McCarthy.

The Successful Cork YMA team at this year's National calf show where they won 4 out of the 5 trophies they competed for.

John Barrett winner of the production cow class with Edmund Curtin of Dairygold

Animal Health Ireland BULLETIN

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

Parasite Control at Housing

Housing provides an important opportunity for parasite control in cattle. Aside from ectoparasites, the main targets for parasite control at this time of year are gutworms, lungworm and liver fluke. Cattle pick up these parasites only when grazing. Therefore, once housed, cattle will no longer pick up new fluke or worm parasites. This means that effective parasite treatments at or after housing should keep animals virtually free of worms and liver fluke until they return to pasture the next year.

For gutworms, particularly in young cattle, it is important to select a wormer that has activity against the inhibited larval stages as well as the adult worms. Some benzimidazoles and products containing macrocylic lactones (e.g. ivermectin, doramectin, moxidectin etc.) are active against these inhibited larval stages whereas levamisole is not. If this is not done, these larvae can resume development towards the end of the winter and cause a potentially fatal disease.

It is important that young cattle in particular are clear of lungworm and have healthy lungs over winter. Lungworm can increase their susceptibility to pneumonia after housing. Doses that treat gutworms will also be active against lungworm.

Liver fluke is present on many Irish farms and all farms at risk should dose for fluke at housing. Acceptable levels of liver fluke control may be achieved with a fluke treatment at housing on farms where the burden of liver fluke is low. However, if fluke burdens on grass are high, a further fluke treatment may be given 6-8 weeks after housing. An alternative approach is to take dung samples at this time and check for the presence of fluke eggs to see if this follow up treatment is necessary.

Winter is also the most common time to see infestations with external parasites such as lice and mange mites and these should be considered when selecting treatments.

Consult your veterinary practitioner in order to discuss the most appropriate parasite control for cattle in your herd at housing.

See www.animalhealthireland.ie for a range of leaflets on parasite control

Animal Health Ireland, 4-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim N41 WN27
Phone 071 9671928 • Email admin@animalhealthireland.ie • www.animalhealthireland.ie

CellCheck AnimalHealthIreland.ie

Animal Health Ireland
NOTES

Everyone needs a break!

With the better milk price this year, some farmers may be tempted to continue milking cows as long as they keep producing milk. However, this could prove to be a costly exercise in the long run. It is important to remember that every cow needs a dry period before she calves again, and starts her next lactation. Every farmer and milker needs a dry period too! This is your chance to take a break from the routine, which is important for your own mental and physical health.

For the cow, this is the time when mammary tissue regenerates, repairs and prepares to produce milk again. It is also the period when cows have an opportunity to reach the optimal body condition score, in preparation for calving and the start of the next breeding cycle. The general recommendation is that cows need a dry period that is at least 42 days long. To ignore, or significantly shorten the dry period, could have a detrimental effect on the productivity of the herd in 2018. Shorter dry periods can also increase the risk of antibiotic residues in milk after calving, if sufficient attention is not given to the minimum dry period duration of the product. Just because the product was fine to use last year on cows that had a 7 week dry period, doesn't automatically mean that is ok to use this year in cows that might only be dry for 6 weeks!

The dry period is also an ideal time to deal with those high SCC cows, or chronic cases of mastitis. While factors such as the bacteria involved can influence the outcome, generally treating infected cows with dry cow therapy (DCT) delivers a better cure rate than treatment during lactation.

REMEMBER!

Hygiene at drying off is absolutely crucial
what you do now will have an impact on udder health in 2018

See the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for more information on this topic.

dairygold
QUALITY FEEDS

SETTING UP YOUR DAIRY FARM FOR IMPROVED LABOUR AND TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY IN 2018

On the 12th of January 2018 Dairygold Agribusiness are delighted to bring together an expert panel of speakers to help you set up your dairy farm for improved labour and technical efficiency in 2018

Location: Corrin Mart, Fermoy

Start Time: 12pm

End Time: 2pm

Lunch available after the conference

This is a DAFM approved Knowledge Transfer Dairy Event

Ireland's EU Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014 - 2020
Co-Funded by the Irish Government and the European Union

"The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas"

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

AGENDA ON THE DAY

TOPIC	SPEAKER
Pre-weaning calf nutrition	Una Hickey, Volac
Getting soil fertility right through strategic fertiliser use	Stan Lawlor, Grassland Agro
Managing a high producing spring calving herd, the learning from 2017	Karina Pierce, UCD
Managing and employing labour on dairy farms	Nollaig Heffernan, Heffernan Consultancy Ltd.

Also available at the event will be:

- Dairygold nutritionist doing diet formulations
- Fertiliser Companies
- Animal Health Advisors
- Co-Op Superstores

www.dairygoldagri.ie

Please contact your local ASM or our Inside Sales Team on 022 31644 to book your place at the event

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