Welcome to the September edition of

MILK MATTERS
DAIRYGOLD’S DAIRY ADVISORY BULLETIN

Dear Milk Matters Reader,

Within this month’s Nutrition Matters, we explore how much concentrate will need to be fed for the month of September to allow your farm to grow enough grass to meet its demand for the month. Milk lactose is lower this year than it has been for the past few years. It is important that we are mindful of this and keep a feeding plan in place to maintain lactose as high as possible for as long as possible. Hi-pro Ecolac should be your feed of choice now. It is formulated to maintain autumn milk production while being environmentally responsible.

In Grass Matters, John Maher will discuss the importance of keeping grass in spring calved cows diet as long as possible. He also discusses which fertiliser we should be using right now.

In Fertility and Breeding Matters, Doreen Corridan looks at our priorities for the months. Right now we need to:
- Plan for what kind of herd we will have in 2020,
- Plan how we will manage 2019 dry off
- Vaccinate for salmonella
- Ensure our 2019 born calves are on target

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Stack

Liam Stack M.Agr.Sc
RUMINANT TECHNICAL MANAGER, DAIRYGOLD AGribusiness

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To contact the editor of MILK MATTERS
email: lstack@dairygold.ie
THE YEAR TO DATE

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

Grass Growth

Milk production to week 33 (figures based on ICBF cow numbers):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total annual Milk Yield per cow in Dairygold (kg)</td>
<td>3864</td>
<td>3981</td>
<td>3805</td>
<td>4076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total annual Milk Solids per cow (kg)</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Average Protein %</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Average Fat %</td>
<td>4.02</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>4.04</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Average Lactose %</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>4.91</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>4.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Milk Protein % (weeks 1-33)

Milk Butterfat % (weeks 1-33)

Milk Lactose % (weeks 1-33)
What is the role for concentrates?

1. Prolong the Grazing Season

As we reach September and beyond we need to extend our rotation lengths and build a wedge of grass to carry us through to housing. We need to spread fertiliser to encourage maximum grass growth and lower our farms demand for grass. This will allow cover to build appropriately. Across the month of August we should have increased our farm covers to c.1000kgDM/ha from 500-600kgDM/ha. We need to continue building covers to mid-September. From there, if we’ve planned correctly we should have a nice wedge of grass to carry us to housing. Across the early month of September, we generally need to build a further 100-200kg grass DM per Ha depending on our farms stocking rate.

Without concentrates your cows will eat 17kg DM of grass daily (higher yielding cows will have a higher demand of c.25%). At a stocking rate of 2 cows per Ha on the milking platform that’s a grass demand of 34kg DM daily, at a stocking rate of 3 cows per Ha that’s a demand of 51kg DM daily. Every 3 kg of concentrates you feed drops grass demand by 2.5kgDM/day per cow.

Grass covers built over 15 days in early September:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predicted September growth rate (kg/DM/Ha)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stocking rate</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass growth required per day to meet your herds demand (kg/DM/Ha)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding 0kg in the parlour</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover built per month (kg/DM/Ha)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>−90</td>
<td>−218</td>
<td>−345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding 3kg in the parlour</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover built per month (kg/DM/Ha)</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>−82</td>
<td>−190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding 6kg in the parlour</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover built per month (kg/DM/Ha)</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>−35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At stocking rates of 2.5+ a minimum of 3 kg of concentrates is required to allow grass covers to build. At higher stocking rates up to 6 kg and/or grass silage may be required.
2. Magnesium, trace elements and vitamins needed
   a. Leafy autumn grass is high in potash, therefore Mg is required to guard against tetany
   b. Autumn grass is low in Se, Cu, I, Zn

3. Manage BCS
Milking cows gain condition more efficiently than dry cows. Some spend now could save in the long term. Take action now to ensure cow BCS is on target. A failure to correct BCS now will leave cows with a BCS of 2.75 or less in October requiring special attention. These cows will need high feeding rates at grass or an extended dry period.

4. Maintain milk lactose
Milk lactose is affected by stage of lactation and energy nutrition. Every effort must be taken to keep lactose percentages as high as possible now to prevent milk price deductions and forced early drying off.

Lactose levels of less than 4.45% affect your monthly balance score card, if your lactose levels are less than 4.2% it will affect both your balance score card and monthly base price. With the correct management these figures should be a long way off.

Reasons for low lactose - Low energy intake:
Autumn grass is generally lower in DM, sugar and UFL than summer grass. As we move into the autumn more concentrates are required for the same level of production as is required by summer grass. Higher levels of concentrate feeding alone is no guarantee of high levels of energy intake or milk lactose %. Higher levels of concentrates must come in conjunction with an overall higher daily intake.

For example:
Farmer B below is feeding 2kg more concentrates to his cows than Farmer A but he is allocating 4kg DM less grass daily. His cows total daily intake is 15% lower (15.4 kg DM daily vs 13.2 kg DM daily) and energy intake is 12% lower (14.6 UFL vs 12.9 UFL) than farmer A.

What to do if lactose is low
As with all milk constituents your bulk tank is the best place to assess your cow’s diet. If your lactose is lower than it should be or falling faster than it should be you need to allocate more feed (total) to your cows. If farmer B above allocates 2kg DM more grass to his cows, or feeds 2kg of extra concentrates to his cows he will make up the energy difference. Which option is available to you this year will depend on the overall covers of grass on your farm?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Farmer A</th>
<th>Farmer B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grass Allowance (kgDM)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate feeding (kg Fresh)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall intake</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UFL intake</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to John O’ Donoghue from Nenagh, Co Tipperary who won 2 tickets to the All-Ireland Hurling final plus a luxury two night stay in a 5 star hotel with Zurich Farm Insurance. Pictured is John with Bill Meaney, Zurich Farm Business Development Executive collecting his prize.
ARE YOUR HEIFERS ON TARGET?

By early September your weanling will be approaching the 6-month mark with your yearlings approaching the 18-month mark.

Target weight for age for replacement heifers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6-month Weanling (kg)</th>
<th>18-month Yearlings (kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% mature bodyweight</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holstein Friesian</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Friesian</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X bred</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To ensure that your heifers hit the target, take the following steps:

- Weigh heifers
- Separate underweight heifers from those at or above target weight.
- Give priority grazing and meals to the underweight group;
- Feed 1-2kg/head/day to the underweight heifers
- Re-weigh in six weeks - some heifers will be heavy enough to join the heavy group and some of the heavier heifers may have to join the light group.
- At this stage, all heifers may need 1-2kg/day of feed to keep them growing prior to housing.

2019 PRE-CALVER GOLD MINERAL OFFER

BUY 10 AND GET 1 BAG FREE

PRE-CALVER IMPROVED, IMMUNOBOOST

5% DISCOUNT WHEN BUYING 1 TONNE

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

By KARL SKEHAN, B.Agr.Sc.,
Area Sales Manager, Mob: 085 8001089

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

Mineral Feeding Pre-Calving

The main objectives of a Dry Cow Management Program are for cows to calve;

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

Mineral must haves:
A mineral that is formulated to meet the must haves in the accompanying tables will result in (assuming BCS, energy and protein nutrition and calving management are correct):
• Reduction in sub-clinical milk fever
• Less retained placenta
• Reduced calf mortality
• Enhanced immunity and thrive
• Improved cow fertility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>What It Effects</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mg</td>
<td>Milk Fever</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain 30+ grms per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu (Copper)</td>
<td>Fertility, immune status, production</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain 400mg/day. To limit losses and maximise cow availability c.25-30% of this Cu should be in the bioplex form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn (Zinc)</td>
<td>Lameness, SCC, Mastitis, Production</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain 500mg/day. To limit losses and maximise cow availability c.25-30% of this Zn should be in the bioplex form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Se (Selenium)</td>
<td>Retained Cleansings, Colostrum Quality, Afterbirth, SCC, Mastitis</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain 5mg/day. To limit losses and maximise cow availability c.25-30% of this Se should be Selipex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iodine</td>
<td>Weak Calves, Embryonic Deaths</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain, but not exceed 60mg/day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin A</td>
<td>Retained Placenta</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain &gt;60,000 iu/day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin D</td>
<td>Milk Fever</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain &gt;12,000 iu/day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin E</td>
<td>Retained Cleansings, Colostrum Quality, Afterbirth, SCC, Mastitis</td>
<td>A pre-calver mineral should contain &gt;500 iu/day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

*155 FARMS SURVEYED*

- Difficult Calvings: €1,306
- Retained Placenta: €2,551
- Milk Fever: €1,942
- LDA's: €1,215
- Ketosis: €545
- Other: €3734

**Key**: Cost before in blue, cost after in brown.

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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Kieran Creed: 086-1728335
John Friel: 086-2461648
Edmund Curtin: 086-2441369
Ivan Vallence: 086-7930237
Diarmuid O’ Riordan: 086-2461821
Karl Skehan: 085-8001089
Sean Ryan: 086-2461639
Michael Smith: 086-2470403
Amie Coonan: 087-6308417
Alan Coughlan: 087-6308417
Alan Ryan: 086-2621952
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16,750 ANIMALS SURVEYED
€1,306 DIFFICULT CALVINGS
€2,551 RETAINED PLACENTA
€1,942 MILK FEVER
€1,215 LDA’s KETOSIS
€545 OTHER

If you would like free independent advice from a highly experienced team in Branch or by contacting your local Dairygold representative.

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Denis McCarthy  086 2461647
Sean Ryan   086 2461639
Kieran Creed   086 1728335
Amie Coonan   085 8001089
Edmond Curtin  086 2441369

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

Zurich exclusive farm insurance deal and preferential pricing for dairygold members.

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, CALL JP ON 086 411 3797.
As an industry we are striving to grow more grass in a sustainable manor. Grass is a cheap, high energy feed stuff. Milk produced from it has enhanced human health benefits and a lower carbon footprint when compared to milk produced from grain.

**KEY POINT:** The annual cost of soil sampling is roughly 50 cents/acre/year. This is the same cost as 0.5 units/acre of P fertiliser.

The foundation to growing this grass sustainably is good soil fertility. Correcting soil pH is the same as spreading 2.5 bags of CAN/acre/year. It unlocks soil P and K and it leads to a better grass growth response to freshly applied N, P, and K.

Since the introduction of Dairygold’s soil sampling and fertiliser program in 2016, our soils health status has shown an improvement. From 2015 until 2018 we have more than doubled the proportion of our soil sampled in the optimum range. However, we are still only at c.40% in the optimum range i.e a pH of greater than 6.3 + a P & K index 3 (for grassland).

We are now using more lime and our overall soil pH levels are reflecting this.

The proportion of soils in index 1 and 2 for P and K has dropped. Of concern here however is the increased proportion of soils index 4 for P. Soils are like a vault when it comes to P. The depth of the vault varies with soil type. However, once the ‘vault’ is full, any additional P is at a greater risk of ending up in our watercourses. As you fix your soil pH you should release more of the vaulted P, making it available for growth. If your soils are index 4 you should not be spreading chemical P.

**KEY POINT:** By soil testing, you can save €23/acre on fertiliser. This is on land with high P and K levels (Index 4) and stocked at 2 dairy cows/ha (0.8cows/acre) *smartfarming.ie

For accurate results when taking soil samples:
- Do not sample within 12 weeks of spreading slurry or chemical P
- Take a soil sample every 4 ha /10 ac at a minimum
- Sample the area in a W pattern, taking a minimum of 20 cores per sample area
- Ensure the sample depth is 10cm
- Take different samples from areas that are different soil types, cropping history, slope drainage etc
- Avoid any unusual spots like old fences, ditches, dung or urine patches, drinking troughs etc.

**KEY POINT:** Soils with P Index 3 will yield more grass DM than a soil in P Index 1. Approximately 0.6t/acre (or 1.5t/ha) This extra grass could be worth approximately €180/acre (assuming all other nutrients are optimum). *smartfarming.ie
Soil Sampling Service & Fertiliser Plan

SOIL SAMPLES

Taken from your Farm and Analysed by Dairygold Agri Services Laboratory

€16.50 + VAT* per sample

Targeted Fertiliser Plan included FREE!!!

90% of Irish soils have sub-optimal levels of soil pH. With the right soil fertility and pH,
an average 35ha grassland dairy farm could generate over €40,000 in additional farm income over a five-year period.

3 Point Action Plan to Improve your Soil Indexes:

1. TAKE A SOIL SAMPLE
   Soil corers are available from all Dairygold branches.

2. DO A FERTILISER PROGRAMME FOR YOUR FARM
   Dairygold have designed a fertiliser planning tool which formulates a customised farm specific fertiliser plan for your farm based on your stocking rates, your slurry application and your soils indexes.

3. PUT YOUR PROGRAMME INTO ACTION BY USING THE FERTILISERS YOUR PLAN RECOMMENDS

Targeted Fertiliser Plan included FREE!!!

For more information please contact your Dairygold Area Sales Manager or Inside Sales Team on 022-31644

www.dairygoldagri.ie

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www.dairygoldagri.ie
Soil Sampling Service & Fertiliser Plan

Complete your details below to avail of our soil sampling service and hand it to a Dairygold Representative or Post in to Inside Sales Dairygold Agribusiness, Lombardstown, Co. Cork or Sign up on our website www.dairygoldagri.ie/soil

Name

Account Number

Address

Contact Number

Number of Samples

Samples to be taken by:
Date. __/__/___

I authorise Dairygold to update their records using the contact details provided above and forward these details to relevant third parties to complete the sampling process

www.dairygoldagri.ie

For more information please contact your Dairygold Area Sales Manager or Inside Sales Team on 022-31644
Hi-Pro ECO LAC Dairy

By SUSAN CASEY, B.Ag.Sc,
Area Sales Manager

Hi-Pro ECO LAC is designed around the core values that extend right throughout the Dairygold quality feeds range. It is:
- High in UFL, energy is the first limiting factor in animal nutrition.
- Has a high inclusion of maize meal and digestible fibres, to complement grazed grass, maintaining rumen function and maximise the levels of milk protein produced. With autumn grass being low in sugars, a high level of maize meal is very important for driving on milk protein %.
- Has a good PDI balance to maximise milk production
- Has a high inclusion of trace minerals and vitamins included pro-rata with the calmag
- Contains Agolin, a natural rumen modifier that increases yield.

Agolin
Agolin is a blend of high quality plant active ingredients that alters the rumen bacterial population to lower methane emission, increase milk yield and improve cow fertility.

How it works:
Energy lost as methane can account for up to 8% of the gross energy you feed your cows. Preventing or lowering this loss makes more of this potential feed energy available for your cows. Your cow can then use this extra energy to:
- produce more milk,
- maintain body condition score,
- go back in calf.

Results from the Meta-analysis of 20+ animal trials

Methane:
- 9.6% per/cow per day
- 12.7% per kg of milk
- 13.6% per kg DMI

Fertility:
- Increase Backfat 21%
- Increase Fertility of 9%

Food Conversion Efficiency:
+ 5.5%

Increased Milk Yield:
4.5%

If you have any queries on Hi-Pro Ecolac please contact our inside Sales Team on 022 31644, your local area sales manager or your branch agri lead.
For more information on these products or to discuss how we can work together to achieve greater environmental sustainability please contact your Area sales manager, your local branch Agri lead or our inside sales department. Inside Sales Team on 022 31644
We are now eight months into the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) and good progress has taken place across the country. To-date within the Dairygold region, a public meeting and a later riverside farmers meeting has taken place in the Caha, Allow, Mulkear, Deel, Dead, Dooglasha (Cappamore), Cauteen, Awbeg, and Farahy Priority Areas for Action (PAAS). The Catchment Assessment Team has also, at this stage, commenced assessment of these PAAs and in some cases, now completed their assessment.

One of the main aspects discussed on most farm visits is how pollutants move from farms into rivers. While every farm is different, some general processes in nutrient movement through soils remain constant and if understood, can help you to identify the best method to use to prevent nutrient loss from your farm.

**PHOSPHOROUS**

Phosphorous readily binds to soil. Usually it enters water through one of two main ways:

1. Chemical or organic sources of phosphorous (slurry or farm-yard manure) are simply washed off the land through overland flow and into waterways before it gets a chance to be absorbed into soil or
2. Phosphorous binds to soil and the soil (sediment) is washed into the waterway where it is then broken-down and extracted from the soil by plants and organisms in the river

Phosphorous losses are more likely to occur in regions where soils are heavier and wetter, as absorption is slower to occur.

*To avoid losing Phosphorous from your soil:*

- Only apply your chemical or organic fertilizers to soils in dry conditions.
- Check weather forecasts and avoid spreading before heavy rain — apply little and often to heavy soil areas.
- Always avoid applying fertilizer onto land sloped towards drains or rivers.
- Soil sample and only apply P to soils index 3 or less
Below are two maps which outline the Nitrogen and Phosphate concentrations as measured in Irish Rivers between 2015-2017 by the EPA. (Note: blue and green dots signify high and good quality while yellow, orange, purple and red dots signify moderate to poor quality respectively).

SEDIMENT
Sediment is the fine particles of soil that can travel for miles along a river when soil gets washed in. This is a serious pollutant in Irish rivers. Again, there are two main ways in which sediment is destructive to an aquatic ecosystem:

1. Sediment physically covers the clean gravely floor of rivers which is needed as spawning areas for many species including salmonids.
2. As explained above, soil and particularly top-soil, carries P with it – the most limiting nutrient to most plants, including aquatic plants and algae’s. An excess of this usually very limited nutrient, can cause unnatural spurts of growth in this environment. Aquatic plants photosynthesise by day and respire by night, extracting oxygen by night from the water and releasing it by day. When unnatural spurts of growth occur, oxygen levels vary drastically, causing all other species dependent on extracting oxygen from the water to struggle to survive.

To prevent loss of sediment into waterways
- Do not disturb the banks. Don’t allow cattle to access the rivers and drains on the farm if possible. Where this is not possible, limit their access to minimise disturbances.
- Avoid cleaning drains if possible. If unavoidable, clean during the summer when vegetation will grow back along the bank quickly. Install a sediment trap before cleaning.

- Fencing-off buffer areas adjacent to rivers and drains will help to prevent sediment and nutrient losses.
- Avoid poaching plots close to rivers. Don’t locate water troughs within 20 m of any watercourse and always leave an un ploughed strip when reseeding plots alongside a water-course.
- Direct run-off from any farm road-ways into fields to filter out the sediment rather than directing straight into drains

NITROGEN
While phosphorous is often the most limiting nutrient for aquatic plants, nitrogen is the second most limiting and a common cause of water pollution. Nitrogen is rapidly absorbed and transported by water. It will be quickly washed into soils but unfortunately, if it is not taken up by plants, it can also be quickly washed through soils and into drains, rivers and ground-water. Nitrogen pollution in rivers is most frequently seen is areas where soils are free-draining for this reason.

A Teagasc study of the uptake of nitrogen across the Irish season, carried out in 2013 concluded that ‘the amount of apparent recovery of fertilizer N after eight weeks varied from low in February (21%) and March (46%) to high from April to August (69–98%)’. In the early season, regardless of land trafficability, if soil temperatures are low, the majority of N applied in either chemical or organic form will be lost and will eventually find its way into the river catchment.

To prevent N loss from soils
- It is important to always match application rate with plant requirement and growth rate. Check soil temperatures in the spring and do not apply unless soils temperature is at least greater than 7 °C consistently.
- Nitrogen leached from soil will be greater when pH is not optimum, therefore soil sample and add lime as necessary.
- Use protected urea, particularly if applying nitrogen early in the year.
Upgrading of paddock sizes is something that hasn’t kept pace with the increase in cow numbers on many farms. The average herd size in the Dairygold region has increased from around 77 cows in 2015 to 91 cows in 2019. Upgrading paddocks sizes allows more flexibility around grass management. Where paddock sizes have become too small for herds it is often being compensated for by increasing the pre-grazing grass cover which is dropping milk yield and protein %. Teagasc research has shown that having 36 hour grazing paddocks (3 grazings) and pre-grazing grass yields of 1,400 kg DM/ha is best for cow performance during the mid-season (April to August).

Working out the paddock size for your herd
Multiplying your herd size by 0.045 will give you a paddock size in acres that will have enough grass for 36 hour grazing when the pre-grazing grass cover is 1,400 kg DM/ha (17kg Grass DM allocated per cow per day). For example, a 36 hr grazing paddock for an 80 cow herd is 3.6 acres (80 × 0.045 = 3.6 acres). Paddock sizes for a range of herd sizes is displayed in the table below. This can be used as a guide when increasing paddocks sizes if cow numbers have increased. Removing a dividing wire to move two paddocks into one or dividing three paddocks into two paddocks may be sufficient in many cases in increase paddock size to where it needs to be. When increasing paddocks ensure that water troughs and paddock entrances are appropriately positioned as some many need to be adjusted.

### Herd Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herd Size</th>
<th>Paddock size 24hr grazing (acres)</th>
<th>Paddock size 36hr grazing (acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outlined Below is the Weekly PastureBase Ireland report for August 20th. It demonstrates the average growth rate of 60 Kg DM/ha/day which is typical for August on most farms. The grass growth rate Predictor Model suggests growth rate will increase above 60 kg DM/ha/day. Demand of the herd is about 10 kg DM/ha lower. However with 11 days left in August:

- a growth surplus of 12kg/ha above demand of the herd for the rest of the month (growth rate of 62 kg/day), therefore there should be a surplus of 132 kg DM/ha by September 1st. Add this 132 kg/ha to the AFC of 770 kg/ha and AFC will be about 900 kg DM/ha at a stocking rate of 3.2cows/ha.

At this point in time, the average farm on Pasturebase is on target for September 1st in terms of grass supply!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFC</th>
<th>Cover/LU</th>
<th>Stocking Rate</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Demand</th>
<th>Pre-Grazing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>770 kg DM/ha</td>
<td>240 kg DM/LU</td>
<td>3.2 LU/ha</td>
<td>62 kg DM/ha</td>
<td>50kg DM/ha</td>
<td>1575 kg DM/ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is before any additional land is brought into the farm for the cows or possibly replacements removed from the grazing platform to outfarms or additional meal/silage being fed.

Outlined below are the targets for the autumn for different stocking rates on the milking platform.

### AUTUMN GRAZING TARGETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cover/Cow (Kg DM)</th>
<th>Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)</th>
<th>Rotation Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st September</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>30 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-September</td>
<td>400-450</td>
<td>1,000-1,100</td>
<td>35 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st October</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>40 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st November</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Housed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st September</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>30 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-September</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>35 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st October</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>40 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st November</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Housed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st September</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>30 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-September</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>35 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st October</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>40 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st November</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully Housed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>700-750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

60%+ of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage

65%+ of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage

75% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage
There is a lot of potential to make better use of grass on dairy farms in autumn. Every extra tonne of grass eaten per ha is worth €173/ha. Keeping grass in the diet of the dairy cow and lengthening the grazing season should be a key objective in autumn. The focus of grazing management during September is to build up grass for later in autumn and thereby increase the number of days at grass in October/November.

**Getting Grass Supply Right**
Rotation length should be about 28 to 30 days on September 1st. So if there is 90 acres on the platform you should be grazing about 3 acres/day. If you are grazing more than that, then you would need to slow down to 3 acres/day immediately. This can be achieved by feeding more ration or silage (surplus grass made into round bales) if you really need to slow down the rotation. The demand for grass can also be reduced by selling surplus cows, selling the cull cows, drying off low yielders etc. or removing other stock off the cow grazing platform.

It is important to slow down the rotation as grass growth will decline rapidly during September. So act now if you are behind on grass supply.

Having too much grass is also a challenge. Building up very large volumes of grass on the farm particularly in the latter half of September will leave a “white butt” after grazing. Large volumes of grass are hard to graze out and often grass is wasted or walked into the ground particularly if grazing conditions are poor. Often land is damaged or poached where cows are forced to graze in small areas due the volume of grass being grazed being too high. The vigour of the sward entering into winter is also reduced. So try to avoid rotation lengths greater than 40 days. The target farm cover figure is about 400 kgDM/cow by mid-September for those who measure grass.

Giving cows access to grass is very good at keeping costs low and boosting milk composition. To have this grass, the plan begins now.

**P (Phosphorus) & Nitrogen (N)**
Phosphorus (P) is essential for early spring growth. However, it needs to be available to the plant. P levels in the soil rise slowly compared to Potassium (K). That is why it is better to apply P now and be “ready” for the plant to use early next year. However, if spreading fertiliser containing Phosphorus (P) it needs to be applied before mid-September (regulation closing date).

Nitrogen (N) fertiliser must also be spread within the first 2 weeks of September.

The decision to spread fertiliser nitrogen (N) on particular fields/paddocks over the next 2 weeks should be based on getting a good return on the application. The economic response of fertiliser nitrogen application starts to decline rapidly during September. The best economic response will be achieved on: silage ground, reseeded land, drier paddocks, heavily stocked farms with low grass supply.

Finally, soiled water from the collecting yard etc. can be used as a source of nitrogen to be applied to grassland after mid-September.

Straight potassium (K) (muriate of Potash has 50 units of K per 50kg bag) 0:0:50 can be spread during September and October.
Getting the balance right in grass supply between too much and too little grass!!

Grass growth rates during August increased dramatically on many farms with heavy soils. Many of the farms in the Heavy Soils Programme have made additional silage during August.

Outlined below is the Group Report from Pasturebase for the Heavy Soils Farm for Mid-August. Grass growth rate was above 70 kg DM/ha/day which is about 15%-20% higher than normal. If growth rates remains close to this level for the remainder of August, these farms will have average grass cover above 1000 kg DM/ha for September 1st. Simply put, this is too much grass to be carrying into September. Very high covers of grass are difficult to graze out and the sward is yellow or white after grazing. Cows do not perform as well on this type of grass. The aim should be to have a green base after grazing and the paddock cleaned out well as we enter September.

Surplus grass will need to be converted into baled silage before September 1st.

With high levels of growth it is possible that grass supply can get too far ahead. This is easily solved by making surplus grass into baled silage.

Given the current weather predictions & soil temperatures, it looks like high grass growth rates are going to continue. It is important though that grass is controlled on the farm to get grazing right for the September and October period.

Closing up the farm for the winter normally begins on heavy farms at the end of September. Ground conditions nearly always dictate when stock has to be removed from pasture and housed. Any grazing that happens in
November is generally bonus territory.

Outlined below is the autumn grazing targets in terms of grass supply and rotation lengths for farms with difficult land.

There are 2 key grazing measurements that are particularly important for September.

1. **Rotation Length:**

   Rotation length does not go beyond 35 days during September. So if you have 100 acres of grazing for the herd, the minimum amount of land grazed to be grazed is 3 acres per day. If you are grazing only 2 acres/day, the rotation length is about 50 days, which is far too long. This will result in very heavy covers of grass which are difficult to graze out especially in soft grazing conditions.

2. **Grass Cover Being Grazed:**

   The grass cover being grazed is less that 2000 kg M/ha. Growth rates during late August/September on farms with heavy land can often be quite high. Soil temperatures are at their highest and the soil releases additional Nitrogen. Achieving average growth rates of 50-55 kgDM/ha with a 35 day rotation will produce grass covers less than 2000 kgDM/ha which will be easily enough grazed. Longer rotation lengths with higher growth rates result in very high covers of grass which are very challenging to graze especially when weather conditions are poor.

Presently, it is expected that grass growth rates will remain well above normal in late August and into September. This surplus grass must be controlled. It is important to capitalise on the extra grass growth when it arrives and surplus grass can be made into winter feed.

### AUTUMN GRAZING TARGETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cover/Cow (Kg DM)</th>
<th>Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)</th>
<th>Rotation Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st September</td>
<td>280-300</td>
<td>700-750</td>
<td>25-26 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-September</td>
<td>375-400</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>33-35 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st October</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>35 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st November</td>
<td></td>
<td>80-90%+ of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st September</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>26-27 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-September</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>33-35 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st October</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>35 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st November</td>
<td></td>
<td>Most of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The key message now is try to hold a 30-35 day rotation during September.*
FERTILITY & BREEDING
By DOREEN CORRIDAN, MVB MRCVS PhD, Munster Cattle Breeding

PRIORITIES FOR THE MONTH

A. Vaccination
  • Salmonella vaccination due this month.

B. Weigh 2019 born heifers and incalf heifers this month.

C. Plan now which cows and heifers to milk in 2020.
  • Scan cows this month
  • Test for Johnes this month
  • Genomic test incalf heifers if surplus present
  • Identify under performers from the milk recording reports
  • Identify high SCC cows unlikely to cure

D. Plan the Dry off Plan for 2019/2020
  • CMT test 4-5 cows
  • Power wash & disinfect cubicle shed and calving area
  • Repair cubicle Beds
  • Match the number of cows with cubicle number.

HERD TO MILK 2020

How many cows do I plan to milk in 2020?
Decide how many cows you plan to milk in 2020.

How many of the current incalf heifers am I selling?
Am I selling the right cows?

Identify cows for culling due to low Kgs or % Fat & Protein.

How many REDS have you?
Identify potential cows for culling this autumn now, cows who are in the bottom 15% of the herd with their production corrected for lactation number (1st calvers 22% extra, 2nd calvers 7% extra).

Identify cows for culling due to SCC.
How many REDS have you?
Identify potential cows for culling this autumn now. Cows who had greater than 2 tests greater 250,000 in 2018 and who have had more than 2 tests greater than 250,000 in 2019. If they did not cure last winter, they are unlikely to do so this winter. Cows with three teats and persistent cases of mastitis and cows with other issues need to be considered etc.

Get a scanning done now. It will give more accurate calving dates than scanning in 2-3 months time. Identify the empty cows and late calvers for selling.

Enter the scanning dates into ICBF and if you are in Herdplus you will receive an extremely useful COW report which ranks the cows on future profitability for you.

At your next recording consider testing for Johnes
if not done already or blood test at your annual TB test.
Now is an ideal time to test for Johnes, as it is close to the time you need to make decisions on it. It will allow you identify the cows to cull due to Johnes which is probably 1-3% of the herd in the majority of cases and allow you manage your calf rearing next spring to break the cycle.

How many of the current incalf heifers am I selling?
The number of heifers for sale is determined by the planned herd size in 2020 and the number of the current being retained.

Get a scanning done now. It will give more accurate calving dates than scanning in 2-3 months time.

Depending on the % of your heifers that you are selling it is worth genomically testing them as it will in addition to confirming the sire, identify those heifers with the greatest fertility and milk solids production in the future. At €22 per heifer you have the most reliable genetic information, combine this with the predicted calving dates and the visual looks- size, legs & feet etc will allow you to make the best decision possible.

Herdowners who are not milk recording.
Do 1 milk recording this Autumn; 4 in 2020 and pay for the 5 in June 2020.
- No paperwork required to join up
- No purchase of equipment required
- Extra help can be provided if required at milk recording
- You will receive a meeting if you wish to help you make decisions from the report.

Advantages from doing 1 milk recording this Autumn:
- Make better decisions at drying off – which cows need extra treatment for SCC, identify potential cows for culling
- Identify low fat & protein % cows
- Pregnancy testing can be done on the samples from this recording
- Johnes testing can be done on the samples from this recording
- Get familiar with milk recording at a quiet time of year.

DRY OFF 2019/2020
What level of cure rate did I achieve in the dry period 2018/19?
Check you cell check report. If your cure rate was less than 85% (that is cows greater than 200,000 SCC at dry off and calving down less than 200,00) - you need to address the dry cow the dry cow therapy for this autumn. Are you following best practice in your dry off routine? Are you using the most appropriate intra mammary tube in infected cows? Or are you treating cows that cannot be cured?

Identify 4-5 cows to do a sensitivity and culture on.
Identify 4-5 cows from your current milk recording report who have a high SCC in 2019 and were low in 2018. Once identified do a CMT test on them to identify the infected quarter. From the infected quarter take your sample for sensitivity. Follow the correct procedure in doing so.

What level of new infections had you in the dry period 2017/18?
Check you cell check report. If your new infection rate (that is cows less than 200,000 SCC at dry off and calving down greater than 200,00) is greater than 10% - you need to address the dry cow housing to ensure this is reduced in 2020. Have you the cubicle sheds power washed out yet? Can you improve the cow to cubicle ratio - Install more cubicles or sell some cows.
What level of infections was present in your freshly calved 1st lactation heifers in 2019?
Check your cell check report. If more than 15% of your 1st calvers calved down greater than 200,000 SCC -you need to address this to ensure it does not reoccur in 2020. The most likely source of infection was the cubicle shed in the last 10 days precalving or else the calving boxes. Power wash out these areas now and try and reduce the stocking rate in both in 2020. Consider teat sealing the heifers if it is a recurrent problem or if your conditions are not ideal.

Vaccination
Salmonella vaccination due this month.

Salmonella control - Vaccinate now- Maximum response Spring calving herds.
In this dairying area control of salmonella is very important. I would recommend to all dairy herd owners to vaccinate for salmonella, cows aborting in the autumn are a huge financial loss.

Vaccination is the main method of control for salmonella. Vaccination works by reducing the amount of shedding the carrier animal does and boosting the immunity of the other animals. Other methods are biosecurity, management and maintaining a closed herd to avoid the purchase of a carrier animal. If you have experienced an outbreak it is one you will never forget.

For spring calving herds, the most opportune time to vaccinate is late August or the first week of September, this ensures cows are covered prior to the risk period. All the cows and incalf heifers need to be vaccinated. It is also advisable to begin the vaccination for the 2019 calves this Autumn, by giving them their primary and booster. Then next September 2020 you only need to boost them with one dose of the vaccine, this ensures that they are covered throughout their pregnancy.

The advantage of vaccinating the 2019 calves this Autumn is that it will reduce the carrier state in the heifers, next September 2020 they will only need one dose and they are covered by vaccination till September 2020. Your incalf heifers are now at this point not covered until two weeks after they have received their second vaccine, unless they were vaccinated last Autumn.

Work between the Veterinary College and Moorepark demonstrated that in endemic infected unvaccinated herds that have not experienced an outbreak, profits per cow were reduced by €77/cow on average. Profits in vaccinated herds were €68/cow greater than in unvaccinated exposed herds.

Bovivac S is the only licensed Salmonella vaccine licensed for use.

Dosage
5ml under the skin repeated 3 weeks later (Primary). Boosted within 12 months (Booster).

It is crucial to only allow 3 weeks or 21 days between the two vaccines for the primary course.

If you did not vaccinate last year you will need to give two doses this year, to start the programme again. Always vaccinate on a dry day, maintain hygiene and have a new needle and syringe.

September is the month to weigh the 2019 born heifers and the incalf heifers.

The ICBF have a weighing and recording service. The advantage of booking the ICBF weighing recorder is that it will be done, done in time and secondly it is an extra pair of hands for the job.

No keying of weights by you, will be entered electronically in the database, printout of the weights, average daily gains and predicted weights.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Group Rate</th>
<th>Single Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 animals</td>
<td>€60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 animals</td>
<td>€66.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 animals</td>
<td>€78.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 animals</td>
<td>€91.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 animals</td>
<td>€103.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 animals</td>
<td>€128.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 animals</td>
<td>€153.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2019 and 2020 born heifers - Keeping your heifers on target**

Please see page nutrition matters on pages 4-7

**Watch out for Worms and Hoose - Once the rain has come!**

**Hoose is an emergency. Do not ignore coughing calves.**

Dry conditions followed by moisture gives the perfect conditions for an outbreak of hoose.

Hoose gives no warming unlike stomach worms whereby you get dirty tails, scour and reduced weight gain.

With hoose the first sign you see is some coughing and within days unless treated immediately you can have an outbreak. In dry weather lungworm larvae are not been able to spread onto the pasture nor survive as long as in wet weather. However, once rain arrives, large numbers of larvae that have been trapped inside crusted dry dung pats will suddenly emerge onto the pasture, potentially causing serious outbreaks of hoose.

Work ongoing in Teagasc has identified resistance to some products. Check for resistance on your own farm.

1. Take dung samples from a group of calves before dosing.
2. Clean the yard, lock in the calves for 30 mins, take a teaspoon and jam jar and take a small amount from as many dungs as you can. Take to your vet immediately for examination.
3. Repeat the sampling 2 weeks after dosing.
4. Dosing - Ensure each animal receives the correct amount for its weight.
5. Rotate between the 3 families of products- Albendazoles (white drenches; albex etc.) Levamisoles – (levacide, levafas diamond) and the Macrocytic Lactones (Ivomec, dectomax, cydectin, mastermectin etc.)

Prior to dosing for stomach worms take dung samples prior to dosing.
SUSTAINABLE DAIRY ASSURANCE SCHEME (SDAS)
By SHANE O’DONNELL, Milk Supplier Systems Advisor

Introduction

This month we will look at the main areas that are being examined by Bord Bia auditors in the dairy and the milking parlour. We will also review some examples of where health and safety practices on farms are being examined during the audit.

Dairy and Milking Parlour Hygiene Checklist

The SDAS audit includes a comprehensive review of the overall tidiness, cleanliness and hygiene practices in the dairy and milking facilities on each farm. The following is a checklist of the areas covered in the dairy and milking parlour.

- Photo 1.
  Dairy is tidy and all surfaces are clean

- Photo 2.
  Parlour with clean surfaces and milking equipment

Dairy and Milking Parlour SDAS Checklist

- ✔ A footbath should be available at the entrance to the dairy (or at the farm entrance).
- ✔ Dairy fully sealed to ensure that it is vermin proof.
- ✔ Remove any items from the dairy that are not being used routinely.
- ✔ Any gaps in the walls, pipes, roofing structure of the dairy should be sealed.
- ✔ The milk tank should be maintained in clean condition.
- ✔ Milk tank collection dockets should be retained showing temperature at collection.
- ✔ All surfaces (including walls, ceiling, pit) should be maintained reasonably clean.
- ✔ All pipework of the milk line should be clean.
- ✔ The milking equipment should be clean with no cracked rubbers present.
- ✔ Paper towel should be available. Do not use a common udder cloth.
- ✔ A clear system should be in place to identify cows being treated with antibiotics e.g. whiteboard.
- ✔ Lighting in the dairy and parlour should have protective covering.
- ✔ All electrical fittings should be waterproof.
Farm Safety

Health & Safety is relevant to all farming businesses. As a farmer you are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of yourself, employees and others that may be affected by what you do on your farm.

Remember! It is a legal requirement to have a Farm Safety Risk Assessment (FRSA) where there are fewer than 3 employees on the farm OR a Farm Safety Statement (FSS) where there are three or more employees.

To order a copy of the Farm Safety Risk Assessment Document contact the Dairygold Milk Advisory Helpdesk on 1890 20 08 40

The following include some of the main areas examined for Health and Safety on farms during the SDAS audit.

✔ Open slurry pits should be fenced securely.
✔ Guards should be present on PTO shafts.
✔ Handling facilities for cows during calving should be adequate.
✔ Protective guard should be covering the milking machine pulleys.

Need Assistance with SDAS?
For any queries in relation to the SDAS Contact the Dairygold Milk Advisory Helpdesk on 1890 20 08 40 or alternatively contact your local Milk Advisor.
We can also recommend a number of third-party agents who are providing professional help with preparation of bookwork for the SDAS Audit.

Want to check if you have been SDAS certified or when is your certification expiry date?
✔ Go online to the following website:  
  o [https://gas.bordbia.ie/livestock/Verify/](https://gas.bordbia.ie/livestock/Verify/)
✔ Enter your herd number
  o Click “Check Dairy”
  o Note you can also check your Beef expiry date.
CHFC MATTERS

By ALAN BUTTIMER, CHFC Public Relations Officer

The annual club herds competition results night took place on Thursday 15th August in the Vienna Woods hotel. A total of 62 herds took part this year and were divided into five different groups. The results were as follows.

Autumn/Spring A
Overall Herd; 1st Laurelelm - Rickey Barrett. 2nd Ryefarm - Eddie O’Flynn. 3rd Eedy - Robert & Sylvia Helen.
Best Cow; 1st Laurelelm Jerrick Daffodil - Rickey Barrett. 2nd Eedy Armani Acclaiam - Robert & Sylvia Helen.
Best Heifer; 1st Eedy Solomon Fame - Robert & Sylvia Helen. 2nd Ryefarm Halogen Gaerchop - Eddie O’Flynn.
Cow Family; 1st Gaerchop - Eddie O’Flynn. 2nd Missy - Denis & Claire White.
3 Cows; 1st Laurelelm - Rickey Barrett. 2nd Seaview - Denis & Claire White.
Conformation Herd; Eedy - Robert & Sylvia Helen.
Production Herd; Laurelelm - Rickey Barrett.
Protein % Herd; Ballydehob - Robert Shannon. (3.65%)
EBI Herd; Ballydehob - Robert Shannon. (EBI 171)
EBI Cow; Ballydehob Trixi GZY (EBI 261) - Robert Shannon.
Lifetime Production Cow; Laurelelm Ruben Sassy (10461kg MS) - Rickey Barrett.
Lowest SCC Herd; Ringleader - Noel O’Donovan. (SCC 56)
Judges Prize; Michael White.

Autumn/Spring B
Overall Herd; 1st Coolehill - Richard Forde. 2nd Castleroberts - John Bourke. 3rd Ibane - Michael Coleman.
Best Cow; 1st Clongowes Sid Almeric 2 - Bryan O’Connor. 2nd Ibane Seven Patsy - Michael Coleman.
Best Heifer; 1st Yardgrove Atwood Jeanette - Bryan O’Connor. 2nd Sallybank Adventure Red 2 ET - Ivor Bryan.
Cow Family; 1st Flora - Donal Murphy. 2nd Leulla - Bryan O’Connor.
3 Cows; 1st Coolehill - Richard Forde. 2nd Whelfarm - Kieran Whelton.
Conformation Herd; Coolehill - Richard Forde.
Production Herd; Castleroberts - John Bourke.
Protein % Herd; Currabride - Ivan Buttimmer. (3.54%)
EBI Herd; Castleroberts - John Bourke. (EBI 110)
EBI Cow; Castleroberts Oman Gina (EBI 218) - John Bourke.
Lifetime Production Cow; Castleroberts LCX Emblem (7262kg MS) - John Bourke.
Lowest SCC Herd; Currabride - Ivan Buttimmer. (SCC 45)
Judges Prize; Ivan Buttimmer.

The club would like to thank Dairygold Post Calver Gold for their sponsorship of the competition again this year. Also, a special thank you to the five judges of the competition; Paul Flanagan, Michelle McGrath, John O’Flynn, John Dillon and Ivan Nagle. Well done to all that took part this year and congratulations to the winners.
Autumn/Spring C

**Overall Herd:** 1st Bolomore - Seamus Bourke. 2nd Glencarin - Cal Hennessy. 3rd Massrock - Gerard Lehane.

**Best Cow:** 1st Glencarin Truly Scrumptious - Cal Hennessy. 2nd Snipevale Hebe 19 - Richard & Michael White.

**Best Heifer:** 1st Massrock Crossnacole Dempsey Janeck - Gerard Lehane. 2nd Ballintotas Fraiko Julia - John Shanahan.

**Cow Family:** 1st Ellen - Seamus Bourke. 2nd Lady - Barry O'Mahony.

**3 Cows:** 1st Geraghtown - Jerry & Daniel O'Leary. 2nd Lakemarsh - Diarmuid & Daniel Collins.

**Conformation Herd:** Glencarin - Cal Hennessy.

**Production Herd:** Bolomore - Seamus Bourke.

**Protein % Herd:** Berell - Barry O'Mahony. (3.57%)

**EBI Herd:** Massrock - Gerard Lehane. (EBI 114)

**EBI Cow:** Lakemarsh WWT Buttercup (EBI 207) - Diarmuid & Daniel Collins.

**Lifetime Production Cow:** Berell CIX Marina 1026 (6385kg MS) - Barry O'Mahony.

**Lowest SCC Herd:** Bolomore - Seamus Bourke. (SCC 51)

**Best New Entrant:** Ballintotas - John Shanahan.

**Judges Prize:** Seamus Bourke.

Spring A

**Overall Herd:** 1st Glenrea - Martin & Michael Kennedy. 2nd Millstreet - Denis Kiely. 3rd Glenny - Daniel O'Leary.

**Best Cow:** 1st Millstreet Dewberry - Denis Kiely. 2nd Foxrose Daisy - John Hurley.

**Best Heifer:** 1st Glenrea S2173 Malissa - Martin & Michael Kennedy. 2nd Coppeenrua Massey Berta - Noel Crowley.

**Cow Family:** 1st Candy - Martin & Michael Kennedy. 2nd Linda - Noel Shinnick.

**3 Cows:** 1st Coppeenrua - Noel Crowley. 2nd Ballyanihan - Noel Shinnick.

**Conformation Herd:** Glenrea - Martin & Michael Kennedy.

**Production Herd:** Glenny - Daniel O'Leary.

**Protein % Herd:** Coolmahon - Pat Flynn. (3.80%)

**EBI Herd:** Coolmahon - Pat Flynn. (EBI 137)

**EBI Cow:** Coolmahon Lily YBG (EBI 226) - Pat Flynn.

**Lifetime Production Cow:** Coolmahon Petula Image 1 (8317kg MS) - Pat Flynn.

**Lowest SCC Herd:** Foxrose - John Hurley. (SCC 52)

**Judges Prize:** Daniel O'Leary.

Spring B

**Overall Herd:** 1st Mylawn - Michael Healy. 2nd Windyhill - Denis O’Donoghue. 3rd Carrigeen - William O’Sullivan.

**Best Cow:** 1st Mountcarmel Duplex Darkie - Mark Kelleher. 2nd Kilbrennan K ASI Primal - Tom O'Driscoll.

**Best Heifer:** 1st Springpark Mogul Laurie - Mark Kelleher. 2nd Mylawn Seabreeze 2457 - Michael Healy.

**Cow Family:** 1st Ivory - Michael Healy. 2nd Sensation - Tom O'Driscoll.

**3 Cows:** 1st Mylawn - Michael Healy. 2nd Leestar - Sean McSweeney.

**Production Herd:** Carrigeen - William O’Sullivan.

**Conformation Herd:** Mylawn - Michael Healy.

**Protein % Herd:** Leachtneill - Tom O’Sullivan. (3.76%) & Carrigeen - William O’Sullivan. (3.76%)

**EBI Herd:** Browney - Thomas Kearney. (EBI 162)

**EBI Cow:** Browney LWR Alice 1539 (EBI 253) - Thomas Kearney.

**Lifetime Production Cow:** Kilbrennan Sensation 20 (6034kg MS) - Tom O’Driscoll.

**Lowest SCC Herd:** Springpark - Mark Kelleher. (SCC 54)

**Best New Entrant:** Carrigeen - William O’Sullivan.

**Judges Prize:** Patrick Fitzgerald.
DAIRYGOLD / TEAGASC JOINT PROGRAMME 2018-2019

By GRAINNE HURLEY, Teagasc Joint Program.

The main objective for the Deane’s is to make a high return on their farm investments by producing milk profitably from an efficient herd off high quality grass. The entire herd was weighed in July with an average weight of 513kgs. By the end of July 300kgs milk solids/cow was sold and the Deanes project that the herd will produce just over 500kgs milk solids/cow for 2019. Currently the herd is producing 1.79kg milk solids/cow (20 litres, 4.79% fat and 3.88% protein) on 2kgs meal. This high level of performance is down to excellent genetics with a herd EBI of €158 and also due to a high level of grass management. The Deanes are very focused on grass management and now the current emphasis is to build up a bank of grass that will ensure cows stay out grazing well into late November.

David, Linda & Roy Deane will hold a farm walk on their farm on Thursday 12th September 11am where they will discuss in more detail their costs and experience on taking on a leased dairy farm. Autumn Grazing Targets will also be discussed in conjunction with the Grass10 campaign. All are welcome. Farm Eircode: P51FC64

Current average performance of monitor farmers: 15th September 2019

| Stocking rate on milking platform: | 3.30 |
| Average Farm Cover kgDM/ha | 738 |
| Grass Demand kgDM/ha | 54 |
| Grass Growth Rate kgDM/ha | 64 |
| Rotation length (days) | 26 |
| Milk litres/cow | 21.5 |
| Fat % | 4.54 |
| Protein % | 3.76 |
| Milk solids/cow/day | 1.82 |
| Meal kg/cow | 2 |
PLAN AHEAD FOR DRYING OFF!

Every cow needs a dry period! 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. While you may not be planning to dry off the herd just yet, there are things that you can do now to make sure that you are ready and prepared!

1. Organise help, in plenty of time!
   ➢ Remember, when done properly and hygienically, drying off cows is a slow and tedious job. If your goal is to dry off the last cow as well as you did the first cow, then don’t try and do more than 20 cows at a time.

2. Have the necessary gear ready
   ➢ Have disposable gloves, teat wipes/cotton wool and methylated spirits and intramammary tubes organised.
   ➢ Invest in a head torch so you can see what you’re doing!

3. Manage production levels in advance, if necessary
   ➢ Review expected calving dates – plan so the cow has a minimum of 6 weeks dry, and preferably 8 weeks.
   ➢ Where cows are yielding > 12 L/day in the week before you plan to dry them off, reduce feed intake, but not water access.

4. Consider drying off some animals early
   ➢ Dry off low yielding cows (< 9 litres/day) earlier than the planned date
   ➢ 1st lactation animals will often benefit from a longer dry period
   ➢ Drying off high SCC cows means they won’t keep pushing your bulk tank SCC up. It also means they are not a source of new mastitis infections for other cows. And if you need another reason, cure rates from antibiotic dry cow therapy (DCT) are usually better than treatment during lactation!

5. Milk record the herd
   ➢ Having recent and up-to-date individual cow information is an absolute necessity if you are considering a selective dry cow strategy i.e. only treating selected cows with antibiotic at drying off.
   ➢ A milk recording towards the end of lactation, followed by another in early 2020 will allow you to critically assess the dry period performance of your herd and identify future opportunities for improvement.

6. Discuss your treatment options in advance with your vet
   ➢ Discuss appropriate DCT antibiotic selection, based on herd history, culture results, previous response rates etc.
   ➢ Remember that a selective dry cow strategy is not without risk and is not something to embark on without seeking professional support and advice.
   ➢ Consider applying for a free Dry Cow Consult (TASAH-funded).
   For more information, see [http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=10584](http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=10584)

For more information and practical tips on drying off cows, see CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control-Guidelines 16 – 18 & Management Notes C – F
Lean Farm Training

LeanFarm Training will continue in September. Leanfarm training workshops are open to all Dairygold milk suppliers (including family members). Training involves demonstrations on the tools and techniques of Lean management practices by Dairygold’s Continuous Improvement team and our Milk Advisors. This is followed by a farm walk to see the principles of LeanFarm in action. Leanfarm training is free of charge to all participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Dairygold Region</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th Sept</td>
<td>Tipperary</td>
<td>New Inn Co-op Store Meeting Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Sept</td>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>Raheen Co-op Store Meeting Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Sept</td>
<td>East Cork</td>
<td>Midleton Park</td>
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</tbody>
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Lean Farm Principle: Standard Work

Standardising work on farms enables the farmer to have a clear and visual approach to a particular job or task. Standardised work is visually presented with either clear instructions, diagrams or graphics. Standardised work sets out the “one best way” of doing a job on your farm.

Examples of Standardised Work on Farms:
- Milking Start Up (MSU) process.
- Milking Plant Wash Up procedure.

Benefits of Standardised Work Processes on Farms
- Assists in the smooth operation of the farm in the event of the farmer not being present e.g. family member or relief milker.
- Helps maintain a high level of consistency and establishes best practice routines once adhered to.

Leanfarm Competition

We are now taking entries for our second Lean Farm Idea competition of 2019. Please forward your ideas or improvements by photo to:

(1) leanfarmcomp@dairygold.ie OR (2) by post to Lean Farm Competition, Dairygold Cooperative Society Limited, Clonmel, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

Please note closing date 31st December 2019. Prize for the winner is €200.

Photo 1
Example of standardisation at farm level. This is a written instruction for milking wash routine. This is usually kept in the dairy for the person milking to see.