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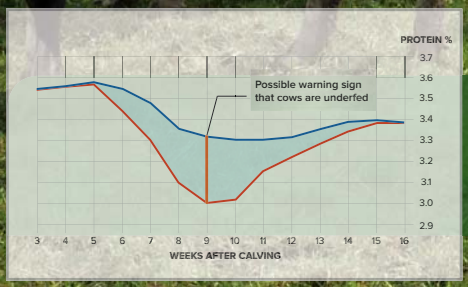
Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally

AGRI DIVISION

MILK MATTERS

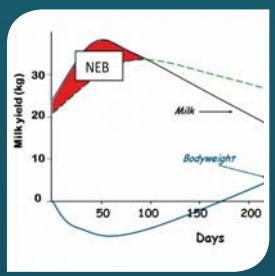
Issue 49 - MARCH 2017 www.agritrading.ie

Dairygold's Dairy Advisory Bulletin



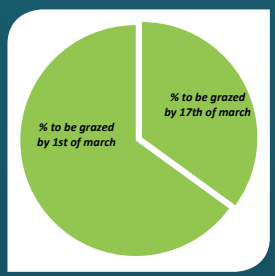
How can you avoid the pitfalls of **underfeeding** cows in March?

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



FEEDING FOR BREEDING
PAGE 03

SEE INSIDE FOR NEW GRASS, GRASS SILAGE AND MAIZE SILAGE FERTILISER IN 2017
PAGES 10, 19 & 31



HOW MUCH OF YOUR FARM IS GRAZED?
PAGE 12

FERTILITY & BREEDING
PAGE 21

Welcome to the March edition of

MILK MATTERS

DAIRYGOLD'S DAIRY ADVISORY BULLETIN

Dear Milk Matters Reader,

This months **Nutrition Matters** examines how correct nutrition can positively influence fertility performance. The article also highlights how butterfat and protein percentages can be used as a management tool, helping you to access the nutritional status of your herd.

Grass Matters explores how management decision made now influence the amount of grass your farm will grow this spring. You need to ensure that you have enough of the farm grazed in early march to allow sufficient time for grass to recover. You need to ensure you have enough early fertiliser out to ramp up growth this spring. You need to ensure your fertiliser programme matches your soils p&k requirements.

In **Fertility and Breeding Matters**, Doreen Corridan explains that Herd Health Bulk Tank Milk Sampling is the easy way of monitoring the health status of your herd. This month's edition also explores how to use milk recording in the battle with SCC.

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Stack

Liam Stack M.Agr.Sc

RUMINANT TECHNICAL MANAGER,
DAIRYGOLD AGRIBUSINESS

CONTENTS

To contact the editor of

MILK MATTERS

email: lstack@dairygold.ie

FEEDING FOR BREEDING

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

Nutrition and Maximising Fertility Performance

For good fertility performance you need:

- An optimum breeding management programme,
- A feeding programme appropriate for your cow,
- A good herd health status,
- An AI programme that breeds for fertility.

KEY POINT: Every 1% increase in 6 week calving rate is worth €8.2 per cow.

Moving from 58% 6 week calving rate (national average) to 90% will increase profits in a 100 cow herd by €26,500 or will increase net margin by c. 5c/ltr.

FERTILITY PERFORMANCE IS A PRODUCT OF SUBMISSION RATE AND CONCEPTION RATE

SUBMISSION RATE	CONCEPTION RATE		
	40%	50%	60%
HIGH	62%	73%	82%
MEDIUM	55%	65%	75%
POOR	46%	56%	65%

High = 90% in the first 3 weeks and 100% in 6 weeks
Medium = 80% in the first 3 weeks and 90% of the remaining non pregnant cows in 6 weeks
Poor = 60% in the first 3 weeks and 75% of the remaining non pregnant cows in 6 weeks

Submission rate is influenced by

- **Healthy wombs**

Difficult calving or poor hygiene in the calving box can cause infection in the cows' womb. This needs to be treated appropriately and any cow not bulling by day 40 after calving needs to be checked by the vet.

- **Early return to cycling/ heat**

Cows calving down in poor Body Condition Score (BCS) have a longer calving to first service and a longer calving to conception interval than cows calving down with a greater BCS.

- **Heat detection**

All farmers should use tail-painting and/or visually inspecting their herd 4 times a day for 20 minutes duration.

Conception rate is influenced by:

- Energy Nutrition
- Disease
- Protein Nutrition
- Mineral nutrition

KEY POINT: Correct mineral and vitamin nutrition, especially selenium and vitamin E has been shown to have a positive effect on healthy wombs.

NUTRITION MATTERS

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

Early Lactation Nutrition Challenges:

1. Do you know the energy requirement of your cows?

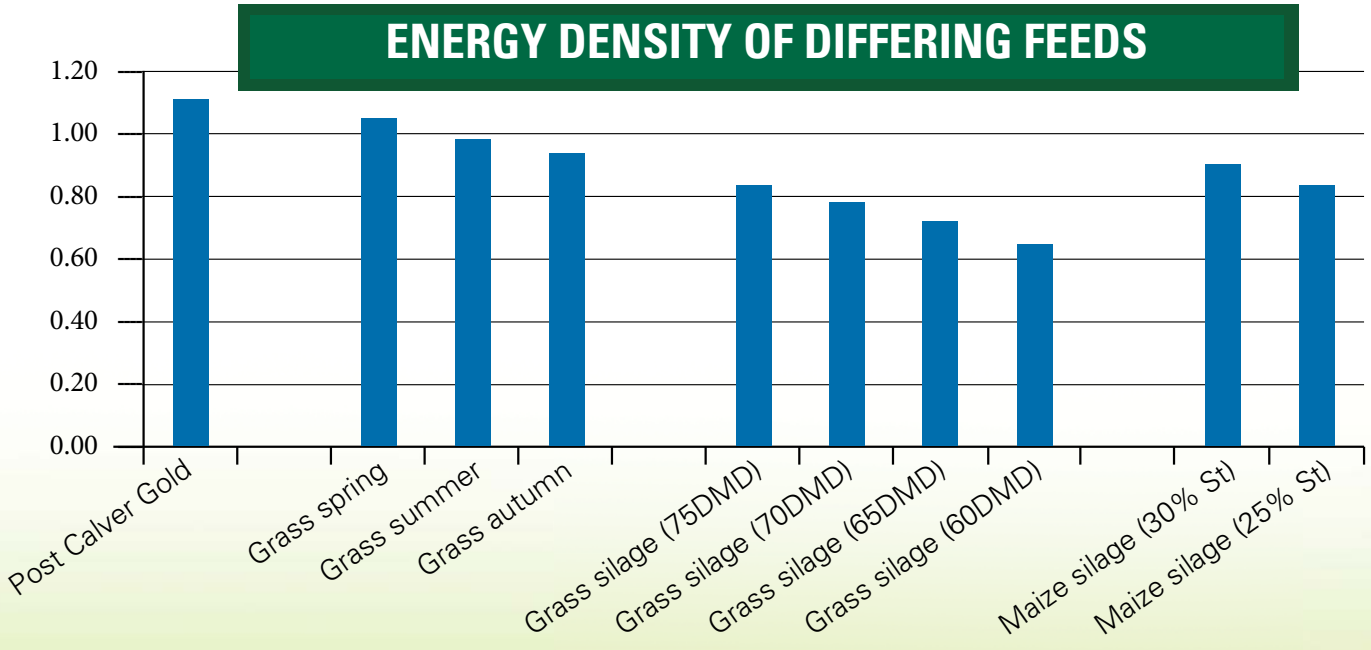
This is a function of milk yield, the higher the yield the higher the UFL requirement.

MILK YIELD	UFL / DAY	MILK YIELD	UFL / DAY
20 Litres	15 UFL	30 Litres	19 UFL
25 Litres	17 UFL	35 Litres	22 UFL

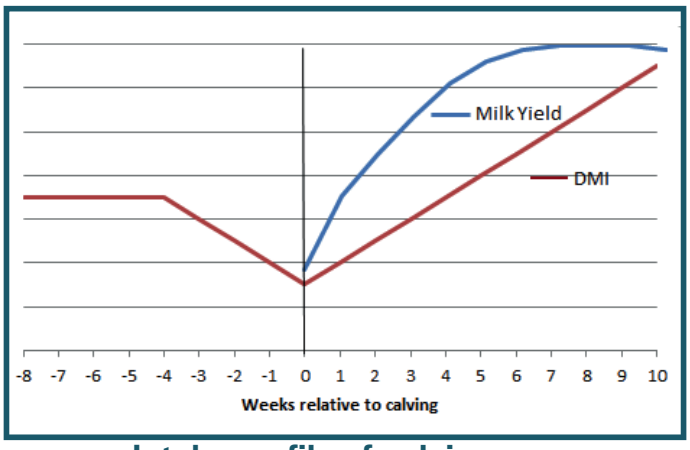
2. Energy intake:

Energy intake is a product of the energy density of the diet and the intake potential of the diet. You need to maximise both to achieve a high overall energy intake.

KEY POINT:
It is not uncommon to be feeding the highest energy feeds and through low intakes to still have a low overall energy intake.



KEY POINT:
In early lactation when our cow's intake is at its lowest point we need to prioritize the feeding of the highest UFL feeds.



Intake profile of a dairy cow

By now everyone should have a level of grass in your cows diets. To stimulate spring re-growth and to allow ample time for covers to build up to magic day you should have 30% of your farm grazed by the 1st of march with a further 30% grazed by paddy's days. So what implication does this have on your feeding decisions?

Simply put, good quality grass is the highest energy forage you can give your cows. The more of it you can get into your cows diets the better. It will provide more energy than grass silage, requiring less concentrate feeding while returning better production. However, our approach to grass at this time of the year must be planned.

If we over allocate grass, we will run down our covers too much and wont have sufficient grass on the farm come the 4th-10th April.

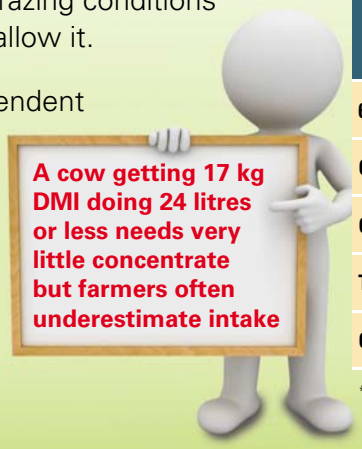
We must adjust our concentrate feeding based on the quantity of grass our cows are eating.

Grazed Grass:

Intakes of grazed grass can be as high as 17kg DM, if the grass allocation, grazing conditions and grassland management allow it.

The intakes of grass are dependent on:

a. Kgs allocated
b. Ground condition
c. Grass quality (DMD). This has a big effect during the main grazing season
d. Dry Matter



What is the Grass DM:

This depends on:

- Recent weather
- Speed of growth/rotation length
- Amount of dead material in the sward

Rotation Length	Very Wet To Touch	Wet To Touch	Damp To Touch	Dry To Touch	Dry To Touch In A Drought
20 Days	11 - 13%	13 - 15%	15 - 16%	17 - 18%	19 - 23%
30 Days	12 - 14%	14 - 16%	16 - 18%	18 - 19%	
40 Days+	14 - 16%	16 - 17%	17 - 18%	18 - 22%	
Dead Material			+1 - 2%	+2 - 3%	

Ref: Grasstech

Concentrates required: Out By Day, In By Night

Milk Yield (kg/d)					
	18	22	26	30	34
6kg Grass DM + 6kg 64 DMD Silage	4	6	8	10	12
6kg Grass DM + 6kg 70 DMD Silage	3.5	5.5	7.5	9.5	11.5
6kg Grass DM + 6kg 74 DMD Silage	3	5	7	9	11

Ref: Adapted from F Mulligan, UCD

Milk Yield (kg/d)						
	18	20	22	24	28	32
12kg DM Grass	2	3	4	5	6.5	8.5
14kg DM Grass	0	0.5	1.5	2.5	4.5	6.5
16kg DM Grass	0	0	0	0.5	2.5	4
17kg DM Grass	0	0	0	0	1	3

Ref: Adapted from F Mulligan, UCD

Spring Nutrition Plan for a cow peaking at 25ltrs

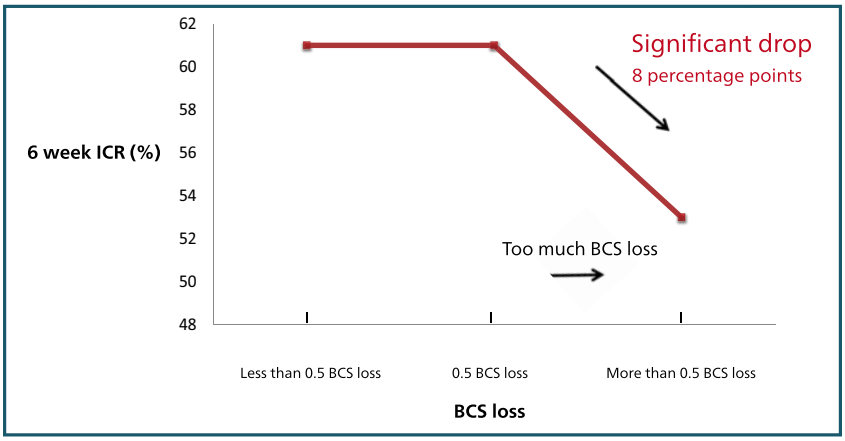
Diet	Length of period (weeks)	Concentrates (kg/d)	Total Concentrates for period (kg)
68 DMD Silage	3	8	168kg
Out by day, In by night	3	6	126kg
Grazing full time (13-14kg DM)	8	2.5	140kg
Total			434kg
Cost c/ltr (Spring Nutrition)*			2.3 c/ltr

**Assume a concentrate price of 290€/T and 5500kg annual production*

NUTRITION MATTERS

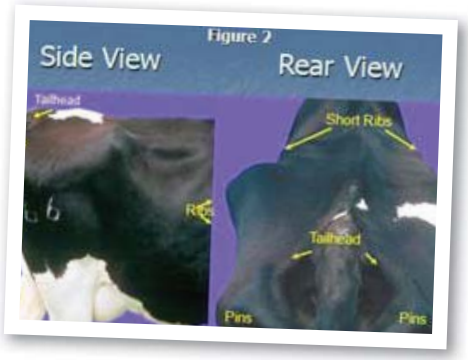
KEY POINT: Ultimately if we get this energy intake wrong, the cow will lose too much BCS in the 1st 8 weeks after calving, resulting in poorer herd fertility performance.

Relationship between body condition loss post calving and 6 week in calf rate (for cows with a pre-calving condition score of > 3). Teagasc trial 1999.



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 a flat hand to refine the score by feeling the boney projections and the amount of fat in-between.

Early Warning Sign of Underfeeding

1. **Low Milk Proteins:**
In early lactation, herd protein below 3.05/3.1 are of concern.

2. **High butterfat to protein ratio.**
This is an indication of ketosis. In early lactation, herd butterfat:protein ratio of above 1.4:1 are of concern. Eg. Butterfat % of 4.5, protein % of 3.15 is a ratio of 1.43:1. The high butterfat% is coming from the body fat the cow is losing.

Reason for low milk protein or ketosis:

- Diet is too low in energy
- Low Energy is caused by:

1. Feeding low energy (UFL) feeds i.e poor quality silage or poorly managed grass (with insufficient concentrates to balance)
2. Low intake of high energy feeds i.e overestimating grass allowance.

ACTION:

- Correct concentrate feeding for grass silage quality.
- Better grassland management.
- Increased concentrate feeding at grass if cows intakes are not being met.
- Buffer feeding with good quality forage if required.

MYTH:

- Feeding a higher protein feed at the same level will help. This will only worsen the situation.

KEY POINT: The amount of crude protein that a cow can turn into milk protein is a function of the energy she is fed. Dietary protein levels should be a function of the energy density of the diet.

PROTEIN NUTRITION:

Feeding excess protein to energy leads to high milk urea nitrogen and has been shown to;

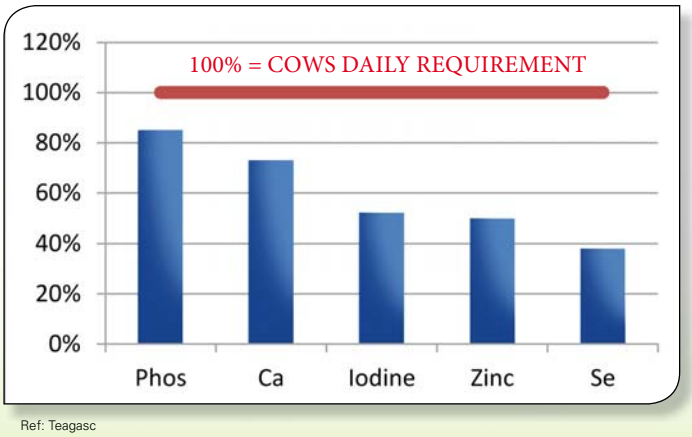
- delay first ovulation or oestrus;
- lower reduce conception rate and
- lead to a greater amount of post calving weight loss.

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

Mineral Nutrition:

On both silage and grass diets cows need mineral supplementation.

Grass as a mineral source for dairy cows



Ref: Teagasc

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

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

TRACE MINERAL REQUIREMENTS OF A DAIRY COW

	mg/hd/day	Mineral Role
Copper	150 - 450	Infertility & production
Selenium	3 - 5	Fertility, SCC, Mastitis, Disease resistance
Cobalt	5 - 10	Low production, low DMI
Manganese	100 - 450	Low production, possible dwarfism
Zinc	375 - 750	Lameness, SCC, Production
Iodine	12 - 60	Weak Calves, Embryonic Death

Teagasc: Higher levels are for deficiency situations – lower levels are for routine supplementation

Are your concentrates supplying minerals pro-rata with the cal mag level?

As the feeding rate of your feed decreases the total trace element inclusion should increase. Not just the level of cal mag.

Let's take copper as an example:

- 1.05% cal mag feed should contain c. 65 mg Cu per kg.
- 1.80% cal mag feed should contain c. 95 mg Cu per kg.

Research carried out by Dairygold nutritionist team indicate competitor feeds in the market have a fixed trace element inclusion. This means mineral inclusion is not topped up to allow for lower feeding rates.

NUTRITION MATTERS

These feeds can contain as low as 25-50% of the Copper, Zinc, Iodine, Se and Vitamin E that the feed should contain. This leads to under feeding of trace elements in a period critical for your herds' fertility performance.

Its not all about mineral inclusion, mineral form is also important:
We need to ensure that the mineral we feed our cows are being used by the cow and are not being excreted.

There are 2 different forms of mineral.

1. Inorganic.
These minerals have:

- Poor animal availability. A lot of what you feed is excreted.
- Have a big environmental impact
- Can lock up of other minerals

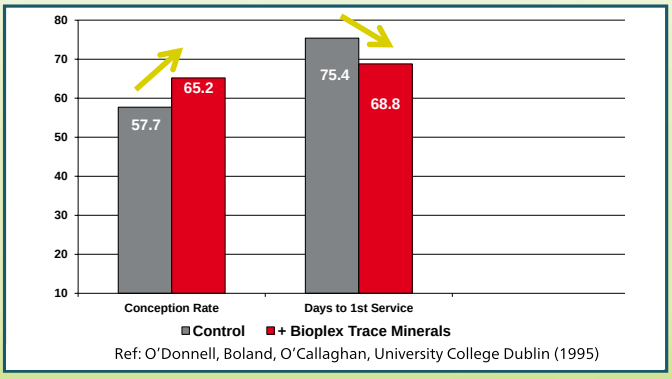
2. Organic
These minerals mimic the structure of natural plant minerals. They have:

- High animal availability
- Have a low environmental impact
- Don't lock up other minerals
- Have mastitis, lameness and fertility benefits when compared to inorganic minerals

Dairygold feeds contain:

- ***Organic Copper, Zinc & Mn, to help improve hoof & udder health, performance & fertility.***
- ***Selplex, Organic Selenium which works with our elevated vitamin E levels to help boost cow & calf immunity and help improve retained afterbirths, SCC, mastitis & fertility.***

Organic vs Standard Minerals



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

Post Calver Gold:

1. Is a high energy feed, with high levels of bypass starch coming from maize meal and a blend of high energy digestible fibre. Resulting in good rumen function and maximum milk yield and protein %.
2. Is only uses good quality protein, leading to high levels of PDI, good protein efficiency, maximum yield and protein %
3. Has yea-sacc included to aid rumen function and efficiency leading to lower levels of digestive upset, higher milk volume and improved fertility performance.
4. Has bioplex copper, zinc and seplex included for better fertility performance, lower SCC and mastitis and less lameness.
5. Has elevated levels of Vitamin E, which works with seplex to boost the cows immune function leading to lower SCC and mastitis.

Let's do the maths

Assuming your going to feed 400kg per cow between calving and cows going back in calf, with post calver gold commanding a €20/T premium.

That an additional spend of €8 per cow.

What do I get for my €8 spend:

Yea-Sacc = 4% increase in milk yield + better fertility performance.
For a 25 ltr cow at 30c/ltr = €27/cow

That's a 3:1 return on investment from the Yea-Sacc alone + the fertility, lameness and SCC benefits of the bioplex minerals

dairygold
Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally

AGRI DIVISION
Quality Feeds

POSTCALVER GOLD

Postcalver GOLD Range

Features and Benefits

- High energy as per Teagasc recommendations
- Maize as the number one ingredient. NOW MAIZE IS ALSO INCLUDED AS THE NUMBER ONE INGREDIENT IN POSTCALVER GOLD 14% AND 16%.
- Sel-Plex and Bioplex minerals which have been proven to increase conception rates (Bioplex Zinc will also help hoof strength recovery).
- High levels of vitamins A, D and E
- Yeasacc is included at recommended daily rate to drive intake, increase fibre digestion and help reduce the energy gap. Yeast has been proven under Irish grazing conditions to minimise the risk of digestive upsets. This is particularly important when a cow's diet is abruptly changed e.g. turnout to grass after calving or where long fibre (fodder) is in short supply.

Postcalver GOLD delivers these formulation features and their associated benefits for 5-10 cent/head/day above the cost of our high energy range (More Milk, Dairy Pride, Milkrite and Grass Aid), irrespective of the feeding rate. We recommend feeding Postcalver GOLD feeds as soon as cows calve until confirmed in calf again.

http://www.agritrading.ie/GOLD-Range

FIRST CUT SILAGE - What should I use?

By Rachel McCarthy
B.Ag,Sc. • Dairy ASM

Nitrogen Requirements
100 units per acre

Sulphur Requirement
16 units per acre

P + K Requirements
Consult your soil sample

	P Allowance	K Requirement
Index 1	**32**	**140**
Index 2	**24**	**120**
Index 3	**16**	**100**
Index 4	**0**	**100**
3000 gallons/ac Slurry	**-21**	**-90**
Field Req = Req - Slurry		

K Requirements

It's no secret and our recent soil samples have proven that Silage ground tends to be among the poorest ground for soil K indexes on Irish farms. Generally, Irish farmers are not getting enough Potassium (K) out on silage ground. But it's not all about front loading K, timing is very important.

Timing x rate –

The amount of Potassium x the timing of Potassium can have a huge bearing on silage yield and quality.

KEY POINT: It is recommended not to apply in excess of 70 units of K per acre before taking a first cut silage.

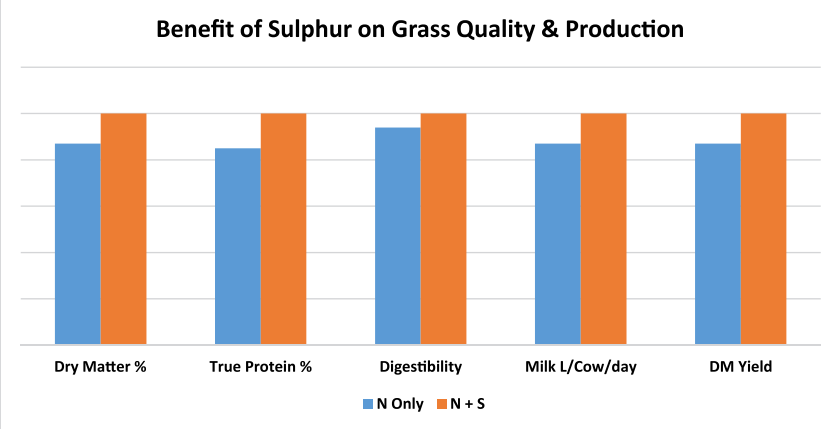
Much the same as the phenomenon which can cause grass tetany in grazing situations, heavy applications of Potassium early in the season on silage ground can lead to "luxury uptake" of Potassium in the crop and ultimately high levels of K in silage. This in turn can increase the risk of Milk Fever in the spring. Potassium levels in the silage should be <1.8%. A recent mineral analysis conducted by Dairygold has shown potassium ranging from 0.98% to 3.5%, with an average potassium of 1.94% in your silages.

FIRST CUT SILAGE - What should I use?

Farmers who are applying 3000gallons/ac of slurry will usually have this pre-harvest requirement covered. Any additional K requirements should be applied later in the season. As higher levels of K applied may be taken off in the plant, it may not result in soil K levels increasing.

Sulphur Requirements

In a recent survey, sulphur has been identified as being deficient in the majority of 1st cut silage crops. Historically, with 24:2½:10 or CAN, no sulphur has been applied to these crops. Sulphur can have a dramatic effect on the quality of your silage so if possible make sure to spread some sulphur on your silage ground. Silage crops can use up to 16 units/acre/cut.



Products

Where slurry is not being used:

1. **Silage Boost**
   21:2:10 + 2% Sulphur + Avail

2. **Selenicut**
   20:2:12 + 2% Sulphur + Selenium

Product	Rate	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium	Sulphur	Avail	Selenium
Silage Boost	4½ bags/ac	94.5	9	45	✔	✔	✘
Selenicut	4½ bags/ac	90	9	54	✔	✘	✔
24:2½:10	4 bags/ac	96	10	40	✘	✘	✘

Silage Boost and Selenicut are 2 products specifically formulated for use on Silage ground. Their adjusted formulations along with the inclusion of Sulphur make them the best choice for any silage crop not receiving slurry.

Where slurry is being used:

1. **Selenigrass ± Sulphur**
   -25:0:0 + 2% Magnesium ± Sulphur

2. **Sweetgrass**
   23:0:0 + 3% Sulphur + 5% Sodium + 1.2% Magnesium

Product	Rate	Nitrogen	Sulphur	Selenium
Selenigrass ± S	3½ bags/ac	87.5	✔	✔
Sweetgrass	4 bags/ac	93	✔	✘
CAN	3½ bags/ac	94.5	✘	✘

- Make sure to spread any additional P + K that may be required after the crop of silage has been harvested

GRASS MATTERS

By JOHN MAHER
Dairy Specialist, Teagasc Moorepark

St. Patricks Day

The Farm needs to be Green with Recovery!!!

Every dairy farmer who takes grazing seriously will need to examine the farm for grass supply during March. The primary time will be St. Patricks day and the primary area to look at is the paddocks grazed in February. This will tell you what grass recovery has taken place. There would need 4-5 paddocks with a good level of grass recovery (400 kgDM/ha on March 1st) to ensure that the 2nd rotation can begin in early April. Taking average growth rates in March of 18-20kgDM/ha/day – then these paddocks will have a cover of 900-1000 kgDM/ha by April 1st. This will only happen though if these paddocks have received their 60-70 units N/ac by early march.

"The proportion of the farm grazed in February and level of grass recovery on these paddocks will determine when the 2nd rotation will begin"

Grazing in March

We must keep grass in the diet of dairy cows as much as possible during March. There are many reasons for this but primarily it is to:

- Increase Milk Price
- Lower the cost of milk production
- Grow more grass and increase grass quality in subsequent rotations

Need to get Grazing:

Indications from PastureBase Ireland (Grazing Database) are that grazing has got off to a slow start in February. However there is a lot of grass on dairy farms. The target is have to have 30% of the farm grazed by March 1st. We will probably reach about 20%. So there needs to be catch-up.

This can only happen if cows are turned out fulltime and silage removed from the diet of the cow. As long as ground conditions are adequate underfoot – grazing can take place day and night. When ground conditions are difficult, then practices have to be put in place to keep grass in the diet of the cow without causing serious damage to the land. These practices include:

- Grazing for a few hours after each milking
- Using different entry and exit points to the paddock
- Grazing low covers of grass in difficult grazing conditions
- Using grazing techniques that minimise damage to land

KEY POINT: Grazing stimulates the grass plant to grow but also is beneficial to achieving good sward quality for the rest of the grazing season.

The grazing targets for March are as follows:-

- Have 65% of the farm grazed by St. Patrick's Day (March 17th)
- Finish the first round of grazing by early April

It is important though that once a paddock/section is grazed during difficult weather that a back fence is put up to prevent cows going back onto this area.

So as many farmers are behind on having 30% of the farm grazed by March 1st – getting as close to grazing 65% of the farm by Patricks Day is the next target.

Once silage is in the cow's diet, her appetite for grass is compromised i.e. grass intake is reduced. So we need to get cows grazing by day and night in March to catch up and remove silage (if not eliminate) it from the diet as much as possible. Having silage in front of the cows will reduce their urge to graze. If silage does have to be fed, then it should be fed to the minimum level. Cows should have no silage left in front of them a few hours before being turned out to graze.

Start of the Second Round of Grazing:

It is important to keep an eye on the recovery of paddocks grazed in February during March to ensure that enough grass is available in early April. Therefore you must walk the farm. The Spring Rotation Planner tracks the proportion of the farm grazed but tells us nothing about the supply of grass available. It also supplies no information about the levels of regrowth on the farm. Regrowth levels have to be tracked on the farm from early march.

KEY POINT:
For those who measure grass, the average farm cover should not drop below 500kg DM/ha at any time, otherwise grass growth will be compromised.

April 5th is the target date to start the 2nd rotation for those who follow the Spring Rotation Planner. However this is dependent on:

- reaching the 30 % grazed in February
- having 60-70 units of N/ac out in March on the earliest grazed paddocks
- Normal level of growth.

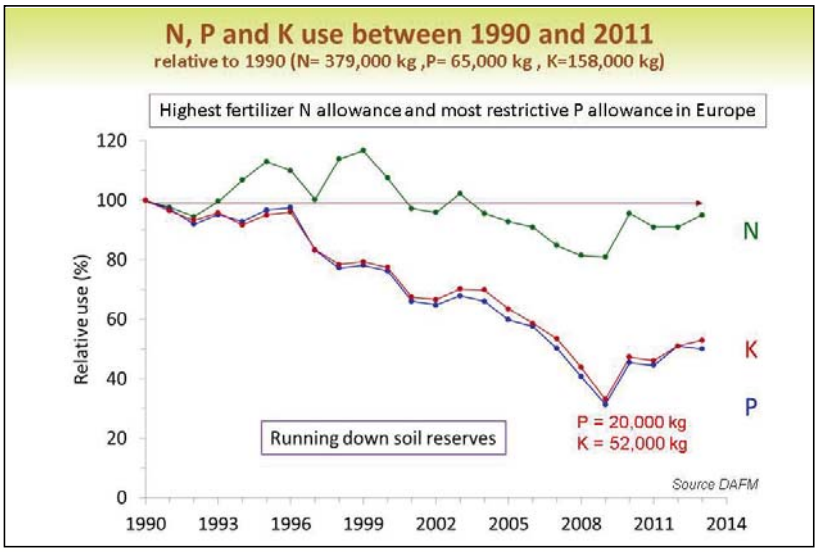
So if you are farming on heavier land or not reaching the targets above, then the 2nd rotation has to begin a bit later e.g. April 12th. If growth is above normal then the 2nd rotation can start earlier. However you must know what grass is on the earliest grazed paddocks to make this decision. 2-3 paddocks of 1000 kgsDM/ha is required to start the 2nd rotation.

GRASS MATTERS

Fertiliser/Slurry

It is important to keep grass growing on the farm. Grass will need to recover after grazing and be ready to graze again in the first half of April. So Nitrogen fertiliser needs to be spread. The target is have 60 -70 units of Nitrogen applied to every acre (grazed and ungrazed) before April 1st. This nitrogen target can be achieved through a combination of slurry (6 units N/1000 gals) and fertiliser.

The soil fertility problem has not gone away. While slurry has P and K in it, it may not be appropriate for applying to grazing ground in latter half of March. So many farmers should consider spreading nitrogen compounds e.g. 18-6-12 to help improve soil fertility. Phosphorus (P) in particular is very important for growth of grass in spring.



60-70 units of N /acre needs to be applied before April 1st. Applying a product like 18:6:12 will help improve soil fertility.

As can be seen from the diagram on fertiliser imports of P & K since 1990s, we are only importing 50% of what we used to do during the era of milk quotas. Yet we are now planning to grow more grass to feed more cows to increase milk production.

This starts with soil testing to find out where you are with your own farm. The next step is to react to the soil tests and spread the right fertiliser products. Unfortunately, too many people in the industry and farmers think that spreading products like 27:2.5:5 will fix soil infertility - These products cannot fix soil infertility!!. It must be 18:6:12 or stronger.

KEY POINT:
Its time that we address the issue of soil fertility seriously.

GRASS MATTERS

Teagasc
Agriculture and Food Development Authority

dairygold
Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally

Teagasc/Dairygold Demo/Focus Farmers Summary of Grass Production 2016

Total Grass Grown Tons DM/Ha	13.25 T
Grass Grown between Dec 1 – Apr 10 2016	0.8 T
Grass Grown between Apr 11 – Aug 10 2016	7.9 T
Grass Grown Between Aug 11 – Nov 30 2016	4.5 T
Closing AFC 2016	668 kgDM/ha
Opening AFC 2017	934 kgDM/ha
Growth Over Winter (Kg/ha/day)	5 kg/ha/day

PRIME ELITE 25 PLUS JFC MILK KART COMPETITION

Dairygold announced the winner of their Prime Elite 25 Plus JFC milk kart competition in conjunction with Volac and JFC Agri. Congratulations to Cal Flavin Clashadonna, Youghal, Co. Cork on winning the JFC Milk Kart worth over €900. There will be another draw for a JFC Milk Kart on 13th March 2017 with one entry per 10 bags of Prime Elite 25 Plus purchased.

Denis McCarthy Dairygold, Sean Quigley JFC, Cal Flavin Dairygold Supplier, Seamus O Mahony Dairygold

The calves are thriving well on this new higher protein replacer without any digestive issues. Prime Elite 25 Plus has been very easy to mix" with Cal also observing that it is almost "like whole milk in the bucket". Seamus O'Mahony commented that "Dairygold Agri Business strives to improve efficiency for our customers and that Prime Elite 25 Plus has been formulated to the most stringent quality standards for optimal growth rates in line with AHI recommendations" Denis McCarthy Dairy Field Sales Manager Dairygold Agri added that he hopes more farmers get to try this new product and be in the with a chance to win another Kart in the March Draw.

TRIED, TRUSTED AND RECOMMENDED FOR TARGET DRIVEN RUMEN DEVELOPMENT

Formulated to increase intakes & performance, increase growth rates, improve immunity, enhance utilisation of Vitamin E and increase general calf health

Prime Elite®
KRISPI KAF STARTER

www.agritrading.ie/Key-Calf-Rearing-Guidelines

High Energy, 18% Protein, Elite Calf Feed

Contains High Quality, Palatable Ingredients including Digestible Sources of Fibre to Optimise Digestion

FEED PRIME ELITE KRISPI KAF TODAY... FOR BETTER THRIVE TOMORROW

Prime Elite Krispy Kaf is Dairygold's 18% Coarse Calf Starter Ration. Colman Purcell, Dairygold Quality Feeds Nutritionist and Liam Stack, Dairygold Ruminant Technical Manager, **recommend you use Prime Elite Krispy Kaf as the calves first solid feed** since it caters extremely well for the targeted rumen development needs of your young calves.

WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE PRIME ELITE KRISPY KAF FOR YOUR YOUNG CALVES?

1. Prime Elite Krispy Kaf 18% is formulated with **high quality, palatable ingredients** featuring generous levels of:
   - Pulses and cereals, including flaked maize.
   - Soya and good sources of digestible fibre.
2. Prime Elite Krispy Kaf 18% protein is made with **high quality protein ingredients** to help promote calf growth.
3. Prime Elite Krispy Kaf 18% is **fully balance for macro minerals vitamins and trace elements** to meet your growing calf's needs, enhance the utilisation of Vitamin E and improve calf immunity.
   - From day 3, feed daily along with water and a roughage source, preferably straw.
4. **Contains Nustart** a unique combination of essential oils, prebiotics, functional fibres and natural antioxidants.
   - Nustart also includes a precise profile of vitamins and trace elements required by young calves.
   - Nustart promotes healthy rumen development and is **proven to increase intake,** increase growth rates, decrease the risk of scours and increase general health.

NuStart
For the start of a lifetime

Please see back of each bag for the Dairygold Calf & Heifer Rearing Programme recommendations or log onto
www.agritrading.ie/Key-Calf-Rearing-Guidelines

CO-OP SUPERSTORES

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Delvotest

The Delvo SP-NT Test is the most definitive test method for inhibitory substances in the milk declared by Dairygold to the Department of Agriculture. This is the industry's gold standard in antibiotic residue testing in milk helping you to eliminate the risk of bulk tank contamination on your farm.

What are the Deductions?

All deductions are levied based solely on the results of this test. Suppliers are requested to adhere to withdrawal guidelines. Treatment withdrawal times are based on EU Limits.

What is the Opportunity?

Suppliers are advised to test individual cow's milk supply following all treatments, in advance of adding it to the bulk tank supply, to prevent antibiotic penalties. It is the milk supplier's responsibility to ensure that his/her milk is free from antibiotics.

How it works?

The Delvo test is a standard diffusion test for the detection of residues of antibacterial substances in milk. The test consists of ampoules. The medium is coloured purple by a PH indicator. When the milk sample is added, the milk will either remain a purple colour or turn yellow. Milk samples which are free from antibiotic substances will change colour from purple to yellow. The test takes approximately 3 hours. Ampoules have a short shelf life so dates need to be monitored. A test carried out by Ampoules that are out of date will show an incorrect result.

Delvotest Starter Kit 0691950	€230
Delvotest SP Ampoules - Box of 25 0691951	€62
Delvotest SP Ampoules - Box of 100 0691952	€185

SPECIAL OFFER
- Get FREE Box of 25 Ampoules worth €62 with every Delvotest Starter Kit

WHILE STOCKS LAST

BUY NOW @ www.coopsuperstores.ie
and avail of **delivery direct to your farm** from the supplier to allow customers to enjoy the longest shelf life on the Delvo test SP-NT Ampoules.

Speak to your local store manager today to place an order or shop online @ www.coopsuperstores.ie

Shop online at coopsuperstores.ie

dairygold Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally

MAIZE GOLD BOOST

By Diarmuid O'Riordan

Maize Gold Boost

- Maize is a high output crop and requires significant soil nutrients to support yield.
- An up to date soil analysis is vital to ensure proper crop nutrition.

Nutrient Requirements for Maize (units/ac)

- Chemical Nitrogen fertiliser is best applied before the last cultivation and incorporated in as top dressing Nitrogen fertiliser after emergence can cause scorch
- Zinc is the most important trace element deficiency in maize and most likely to elicit a yield response when applied however Magnesium and Manganese deficiencies are very common also.

	N Allowance	P Allowance	K Requirement
Index 1	144	56	200
Index 2	112	40	180
Index 3	88	32	152
Index 4	60	16	96
Typical nutrient value 5000 gallons/ac Slurry	-30	-21	-127
Field Requirement = Requirement - Slurry			

Dairygold Maize Gold Boost

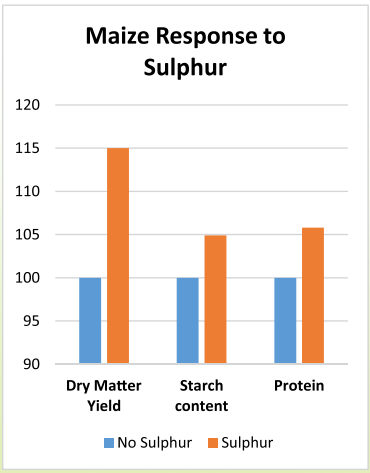
19 – 4 – 19 + 1.3% Sulphur + Wolftrax Zinc

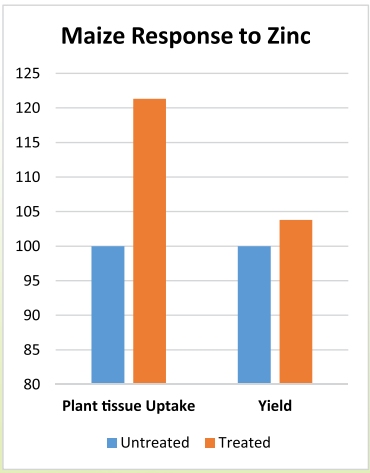
Dairygold Maize boost is specifically formulated to meet maize nutrient requirements in the South West of Ireland. It should be applied at a rate of 8-9 bags/ac and incorporated into the soil prior to sowing.

	Bags to the acre	Nitrogen Index 1	Phosphorus Index 3	Potassium Index 3	Sulphur	Zinc
Crop Requirements		144	32	152	16	Yes
16-4-20	9	144	36	180	0	✘
Maize Gold Boost	8	152	32	152	10.4	✔

Features & Benefits:

- The Nitrogen in Maize Gold Boost is Urea based. As the product will be incorporated into the soil there are no issues or fears with regard ammonia losses.
- Nitrogen from Urea is held longer in the soil and provides a prolonged release thus feeding the crop later into the season.
- Sulphur – Maize Gold Boost supplies much needed Sulphur to the plant that can increase Dry Matter Yield by up to 15%. Sulphur applications can also increase starch levels and protein content





- Wolftrax Zinc – Zinc is the most common trace element deficiency found in Maize grown in the South West of Ireland. Early intervention with zinc coated fertiliser can prevent yield penalties from the outset.

CHFC MATTERS

By IVOR BRYAN
CHFC Public Relations Officer

At our recent club meeting we were delighted to elect Mrs Ursula Forrest as our new chairperson, she replaced Mr Joe Collins who finished his 3 year term, we'd like to thank Joe for his time and look forward to working with Ursula.

We are delighted to announce the club pedigree hiefer sale will be held on Friday the 24th of March in Cork Marts, Corrin mart, Fermoy.

Robert & Stephen Shannon who exhibited the Champion heifer at the 2016 sale, with the judge Stephen Nagle.

There are strict qualifying criteria:

- Minimum dams protein % of 3.4% in one complete lactation or max of 305 days.
- Minimum dams 500kgs milk solids in one complete lactation or max of 305 days.
- Dams must be classified GP 82 or better.

Entries and enquiries to:	**Joe Collins**	**087 8245024**
	Gerdy Lehane	**086 8203236**
	Martin Kennedy	**087 2657661**
	Richard Forde	**087 8248381**

It should be a sale to purchase a quality addition to your herd. Catalogues will be available from Corrin Mart.

The club are delighted to announce our annual club Bull sale will be held at Bandon Mart on Wednesday 5th of April. This year the qualifying standard has been increased to dams yields of 550kgs milk solids and 3.5% protein in one lactation of max 305 days. This has been increased to ensure that this sale remains a premier place to purchase a breeding pedigree bull. We look forward to seeing you this spring.

Eddie O Flynn exhibiting the champion bull at the 2016 club sale with judge James Crowley and Club President Carl Smith.

FERTILITY & BREEDING

By DOREEN CORRIDAN
MVB MRCVS PhD, Munster Cattle Breeding

FERTILITY - PREPARING FOR BREEDING END APRIL

MAIDEN HEIFERS

1. **Vaccinations**
   Complete all vaccinations prior to breeding season; BVD and Lepto are licensed to be administered together.

2. **Live Weight and Body Condition Score**
   Live Weight and Body Condition Score are the two factors influencing heifers coming into heat and their subsequent conception rates.

   Ensure heifers are 330 + Kgs and their BCS is 3.0-3.25 at mating.

   Get light heifers out immediately as their weight gain will lift.

On the following regime heifers can gain 1kg per day.

- Heifers on target/Grass Scarce need 2 Kg of concentrate
- Heifers on target/Grass Plentiful grass should be sufficient
- Heifers below target/Grass Scarce need 3-4Kg of concentrate
- Heifers below target/Grass Plentiful need 2 Kg of concentrate

Avoid holding back light heifers for 3 weeks, breed them and work with them throughout the year to maximise their gain each month.

MILKING COWS

1. Ensure all vaccinations are completed
2. Ensure cows adequately fed and the intakes matches the output. Please see, the nutrition matters article.
3. An option to increase BCS in cows of low BCS is to put them on once a day (OAD). This lowers the output and if you keep up the input it increases BCS. Only put cows on OAD that you wish to keep for 2018, low SCC. Feed them twice a day with the main herd and milk them once a day preferably in the evening if they are still in at night.

LATE CALVERS AND COWS YET TO CALVE

Prevent these cows going into negative energy balance in the week before calving and in the 1st eight weeks post calving. Avoid restricting intakes of cows regardless of BCS in the last 10 days pre calving as their requirements are rocketing.

KEY POINT:
It is advisable to feed 1 - 2 Kg of concentrates in this period as it also helps to acclimatise the rumen to the diet post calving.

A late calver consuming c.10 - 12kg of forage will require 5 kg of concentrates for 24Kg, while the early calver, due to its higher overall intake of 15Kg of grass will only needs 1.5KG of concentrates.

STOCK BULL PURCHASE

Ensure enough bull power, this is crucial for compact calving, 1 young bull needed per 15-20 empty females.

Our female numbers are increasing and our stock bull numbers have not increased accordingly.

1. Check his easy calving index. In AI we are finding that for maiden heifers you need less than 2% difficult calving figure and for cows 4% or less. The reliability is lower in stock bulls and to be

sure you need to try them out in cows in their first year for security. In achieving a 90% 6 week calving rate calving ease is crucial to get cows cycling but also to be able to cope with the calving.

2. Buy him/them two months in advance of when needed, to allow for acclimatisation and disease testing.
3. Bulls are very susceptible to stress and sudden nutritional changes.
4. Footbath him/them on arrival to avoid introduction of Mortellora and pair him with another animal.
5. Vaccinate him/them with whatever the herd is being vaccinated for.
6. Get him/them fertility tested by your vet.
7. Ensure a young bull is able to serve prior to letting him loose with females. Confine him in a paddock with a female on heat and observe.
8. Monitor him/them throughout the breeding season either with a chinball on him or scratch cards on heifers. Young bulls need to be fed during the breeding season.

CONTROL SCC IN 2017

Control of SCC for 2017 begins now with an early milk recording before mid - march prior to all the cows calving. Waiting for all the cows to calve will result in less information, a delay in treatment and culling decisions resulting in a poorer overall outcome.

Early milk recording is a key requirement for establishing the:-

1. New infections in the dry period in cows.
2. 1st calved heifers SCC.
3. Cure rate achieved in the dry period.
4. Identify cows and heifers to treat early in lactation, achieve a good outcome and protect the herd.
5. Identify cows to cull immediately in order to protect the herd for 2017.

Mastitis Control: Dry Period/Calving ★★★★★

Note: **Cows with first recording >60 days after calving are not included.**

	First Test since calving	All calvings in current lactation
New infection rate over the dry period		
Cows No. of cows calved that had a SCC <=200 in recording prior to calving (24) and >200 in the current recording (8).	**33%** **Target:** Less than 10%	**33%** 8/24 **Target:** Less than 10%
Heifers No. of heifers that had a SCC >200 in the current recording (9) as a percentage of all heifers calved (15).	**60%** **Target:** Less than 15%	**60%** 9/15 **Target:** Less than 15%
Cure rate over the dry period No. of cows calved that had a SCC >200 in recording prior to calving (25) and <=200 in current recording (10)	**33%** **Target:** Greater than 85%	**33%** 10/25 **Target:** Greater than 85%

1 New infections in the dry period in cows.

An early milk recording is key in establishing the number of new infections in the dry period.

The aim is to have less than 10% of cows which is less than 1/10 having an SCC greater than 200,000 in the first milk recording after calving that had a low SCC at dry off, ideally none.

In this herd 8/24 (33%) cows calved had an SCC greater than (>) 200,000 and had less than 200,000 (<) at dry off.

This needs investigation in the following areas

- Dry off procedure adapted.
- The 2 weeks post dry off and in the 2 weeks precalving predominantly
- Hygiene in the Heifer Routine Management.
- Housing cleanliness

2 1st calved heifers SCC.

An early milk recording is key to establishing the SCC of 1st calved heifers, early identification will ensure more effective treatment outcomes, to ensure a long herd life of low SCC and reduced culling.

The aim is to have less than 15% of heifers which is less than 1/6 heifers having an SCC greater than 200,000 in the first milk recording after calving, ideally none.

In this herd 9/15 (60%) heifers calved had an SCC greater than (>) 200,000 in the current recording.

This needs investigation in the following areas

- Hygiene in the 2 weeks precalving predominantly.
- Housing cleanliness
- Heifer routine management, spraying etc.
- Calving area-cleanliness, bullying and time spent there.
- Time and gentle attitude in training heifers to the milking routine.
- Udder oedema (flagging), warts etc.

3 Cure rate achieved in the dry period/ Effectiveness of dry cow therapy.

An early milk recording is key to establishing the cure rate in SCC achieved in the dry period.

The aim is to have a cure of 85%, that is for every 7 cows dried off with a SCC over 200,000 we need 6 of them to be under 200,000 after calving, ideally all of them cured.

In this herd the cure was 40% only 10/25 cows calved to date were cured in the dry period.

This needs investigation in the following areas

- Length of the dry period.
- Dry off procedure adapted.
- Dry cow therapy.
- Hygiene in the 2 weeks post dry off and in the 2 weeks precalving predominantly.
- Housing cleanliness

Mastitis Incidence Problem – Cow Report

MUNSTER A.I. & FARM SERVICES GROUP
BALLYVORISHEEN
MALLOW
CO. CORK
Tel: 022/43228

Herd owner: PAT MURPHY
Herd No: IE1234567 **Scheme A4**
Print date: 10/02/16
Test date: 05/02/16 **Page: 1(2)**

Cow ID I&R- Tag / Cow name / Sire ID	Calv. Date Lact. / Age Days / Group Test	Mastitis Incidence History (Current Lactation): Tests > 200 / Mast Treats	Latest SCC / % Herd SCC / Last Treat	Previous SCC [*1000] herd tests / Previous mastitis	Prev. lact. Ave. SCC / Tests > 200 / Mast Treats
			05-feb	08-dec 18-nov 14-oct 02-sep 22-jul	
1175 IE-1234567-5-0956 / MBZ	13/1/16 9 / 10y 0m 23 / Spring 1	1	2908 / 4.0		48 / 0 / 0
697 IE-1234567-5-0956 / IE201334780916	21/1/16 1 / 2y 0m 15 / Spring 1	1	2339 / 3.2		
956 IE-1234567-5-0956 / SJM	20/1/16 4 / 5y 0m 21 / Spring	1	1140 / 2.4	1248 900 2944 1046 998	1204 / 7 / 0

4 Identify cows and heifers to treat early in lactation, achieve a good outcome and to protect the remainder of the herd.

Treatment of cows in early lactation that are likely to cure is time and money well spent. These cows will return to full milk and will not be a source of infection for the other cows in the herd.

Identify these cows as soon as possible and treat rapidly as early identification will ensure more effective treatment outcomes.

In this herd the following cows and heifer need to be identified for treatment and should respond favourably.

Cow 1175 had an average SCC in 2016 of 48,000 with no test over 250,000 SCC, she now has an SCC of 2908,000. Heifer 697 has an SCC of 2339,000.

Actions

- Do a CMT test and Identify the offending quarter
- Ideally do a culture and sensitivity
- Consult your vet and treat aggressively.

5 Identify cows to cull immediately in order to protect the herd.

Consider culling cows with high SCC in the current lactation who were also high in the previous lactation, despite having been treated in the dry period with antibiotic therapy.

In this herd 956 had an average SCC of 1204,000 in the previous lactation with all 7 tests over 250,000. She calved down now with a SCC of 1140,000 despite receiving dry cow antibiotic treatment.

This cow has a persistently high SCC and is unlikely to cure however the main reason for culling her is that she is a major source of infection in the herd and can be responsible for the spread of infection to other cows.

These cows if in good condition after calving will make €3.20+ per Kilo.

HERD HEALTH BULK TANK MILK SAMPLING

Simple, Sensible and Straight Forward way to know and monitor your herd status.
Bulk milk samples are collected at the Mallow laboratory and analysed there.
If you want to join contact Munster herd health 022 43228.

IBR

Herds that have a high bulk milk reading in IBR and are not vaccinating are losing 250 litres of milk per cow per lactation (Teagasc Moorepark).

In herds that are not vaccinating the gB test is used and in herds that are vaccinating the gE test is used.

The bulk milk test is an extremely useful way in initially establishing the IBR status of the herd whether vaccinating or not.

Vaccination works in two ways, it reduces the shedding of the virus by the carrier animals and secondly it boosts the immunity of the naïve non carriers to help them withstand the challenge of exposure.

In herds that need to vaccinate the ideal time to vaccinate is one month before calving. The reason for this is that calving is a very stressful

time on cows and the carriers are more likely to shed virus around calving. Secondly the incalf heifers joining the herd for the first time are likely to be naïve as these have been reared in isolation from the cows also they are likely to be stressed post calving. If you have not yet vaccinated, get in before the breeding season.

One vaccination regime is to vaccinate with the live vaccine every 6 months- for spring calving herds that is January and July. This regime is working well in all herds.

In closed herds with a reduced challenge an annual vaccine of inactivated IBR provided a live vaccine has been administered within the previous 6 months.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis is a zoonoses, it can be passed from cattle to humans. Infected cattle secrete leptospirosis in their urine therefore milkers in the pit can be easily infected by urine splashing onto their skin or eyes. For this reason alone every herdowner should be vaccinating for leptospirosis. Ideally vaccination should be done one month prior to the breeding season.

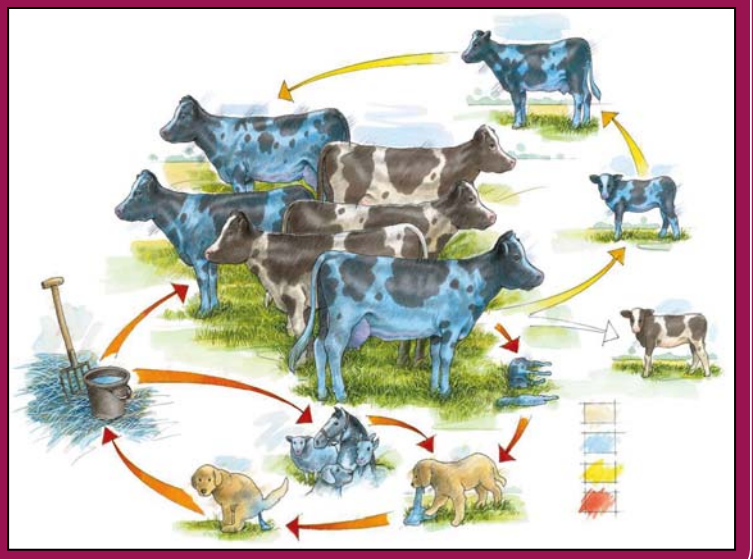
Herds that have shown to have leptospirosis in the herd and are not vaccinating are losing €12 per cow per lactation (Teagasc Moorepark), mainly due to poor fertility.

Herds that have a high reading for leptospirosis in the bulk milk tank and are not vaccinating would be well advised to vaccinate for leptospirosis.

NEOSPORA

Neospora is the number two cause of abortion investigated at the regional laboratories.

Neospora is transmitted two ways in a herd, a positive cow will have a positive calf over 80% of the time and secondly cattle eating food that has been contaminated with infected dog or fox faeces. Dogs and foxes become infected by eating infectious afterbirths.



Herds that have shown to have neospora in the herd are losing €12 per cow per lactation (Teagasc Moorepark).

The bulk milk sampling is a very useful way to establish if have you got neospora in the herd.

Herds with neospora in the herd need to be careful at calving to avoid dogs and foxes having access to afterbirths. Try and dispose of the afterbirths into an underground tank or barrel if possible. Also try and avoid the contamination of food with dog or fox faeces.

Herds with no new source of infection are having success in identifying the positive cows in late lactation and breeding these to beef bulls and breeding their replacements from the negative cows.

SALMONELLA

Salmonella is a zoonoses, it can be passed from cattle to humans. For this reason alone every herdowner should be vaccinating for salmonella.

Herds that have shown to have salmonella in the herd and are not vaccinating are losing €96 per cow per lactation (Teagasc Moorepark).

Salmonella is the number one cause of abortion investigated at the regional laboratories. A salmonella abortion storm in a herd is something you do not want to experience. Herds that have a high reading for salmonella in the bulk milk tank and are not vaccinating would be well advised to vaccinate for salmonella.

In spring calving herds the ideal time to vaccinate for salmonella is late august/early September, initially cows and heifers need two doses three weeks apart and then an annual booster within the 12 months.

Evidence has shown that vaccinating young stock earlier has reduced the number of carriers. For this reason as well as protecting heifers throughout their pregnancy it may be advisable to give the 2015 born heifers their primary and booster vaccine now prior to them going to grass and then come September they will only need a single booster.

LIVER FLUKE

Ongoing work in Moorepark is showing a loss of €150 per cow in herds with Liver Fluke are not addressing it. Over 80% of herds are affected by Liver fluke, the dry period is the only time to achieve a kill in the dairy cow. A high proportion of herdowners are not achieving a good of Liver Fluke kill across the winter. The reason for this is either not using a product that contains Triclabendazole (eg Fasinex 240, Endofluke, and Tribex) or underdosing or not dosing all the cows.

Liver fluke causes damage to the liver resulting in reduced performance in production and fertility in dairy herds and also reduced immunity.

The bulk milk test is excellent for liver fluke and gives a very good indication of the level on the farm in the autumn and also gives a very good indication of the kill achieved by the March/April test.

Herdowners should know the level of Liver Fluke on the farm and know the level of kill that they are getting.

STOMACH WORMS AND LUNGWORMS

A number of factors are resulting in an increased parasite burden of stomach and lung worm on farms. Stocking rates are increasing, we are grazing later in the season and earlier in the season resulting in a reduced period of time with no animals on pasture and finally we are grazing tighter.

Secondly with the increased use of the macrolytic lactones (ivermectin, moxidectin, epimectin) and their persistence, the development of immunity is reduced.

The bulk milk test is a very useful test for stomach worms. When the temperature of the soil surface rises to 10-12^{0}C activity increases.

In herds with a high level of stomach worms in the bulk milk it is worth dosing the first calvers only with a zero withdrawal product.

In 2016 we saw an increased level of lungworm in some herds with cows coughing, if you were one of these herds it would be advisable to talk to your vet. The diagnosis of lungworm in adult cows is best done by getting your vet to listen to the cows with a stethoscope when they are infected, as there is no suitable bulk milk test and the dung will be negative for lungworm eggs even though it is lungworm that is causing the problem. There is a vaccine available for lungworm that is used extensively in the UK with success - Huskvac. Immunity develops rapidly for lungworm, however you need to act in March.

BVD HERD INVESTIGATIONS

A number of key changes have been made to aspects of the national BVD eradication programme for 2017. This includes the requirement for all herds with test-positive calves born in 2017 to undergo a herd investigation by a trained veterinary practitioner of the herd owner's choice. These investigations, are free-of-charge to the herd owner, being delivered as part of the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) and funded by the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020. Investigations must be completed within three months of the date of the initial positive result.

These investigations follow a standard format and have several goals:

- **identify a plausible source or sources of infection.** Based on the time period during which the dam could have been infected, and her location during the period, the vet, as part of a farm visit, can consider a series of possible transmission pathways from sources of infection that may be either inside or outside of the herd.

- **ensure that the herd is left free from BVDV.** The vet will also identify and test any animals within the herd whose status is either not known or is suspect (e.g. animals with a DAMPI status due to their having produced a persistently infected (PI) calf). This is to identify any previously unidentified PI animals in within the herd.

- **review herd biosecurity and agree farm-specific measures to prevent its re-introduction.** Consideration of the various transmission pathways allows the vet to identify key risks on a herd by herd basis. From this, up to three recommendations to reduce the risk of reintroduction will be agreed with the herd owner, who will receive a written copy of these.

The results of the investigations will also be available to AHI for analysis. The BVD Helpdesk will contact eligible herd owners to inform them of the requirement to have a herd investigation and to identify the trained veterinary practitioner they wish to nominate to conduct it.

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

The 1-2-3 of the CMT!

Early identification of mastitis gives you the best chance of cure, and of preventing persistent problems. Clinical cases will have obvious signs, such as clots in the milk or a swollen quarter, but what about the subclinical cases? These have no signs at all, other than a high somatic cell count (SCC). The California Mastitis Test (CMT) is a quick and easy 'cow-side' test that is useful for detecting subclinical mastitis by estimating the SCC of the milk. The test works on the principle that mixing milk with a reagent causes the somatic cells in the milk to rupture. When the DNA is released from these cells, it coagulates and forms slime-the more cells there are in the milk, the more "jelly-like" the result!

It is good practice to check all cows and 1st lactation animals with the CMT before including their milk in the bulk tank for the first time-that way you can be confident that any problem cows are picked up early, before they cause more trouble.

3 easy steps!

1. After discarding the first 3-4 squirts of foremilk, collect 2-3 squirts of milk from each quarter in each separate well.
2. Add an equal amount of reagent to each well. Swirl the paddle gently, mixing for 10 secs.
3. Look at the consistency of the fluid in each well (not the colour), and record the amount of gel reaction that occurs within 20 seconds (from none to almost solidified).

CMT kits are available from most co-op retail stores and veterinary clinics and are very inexpensive. Replacement bottles of reagent can be purchased separately. This is one of the best investments to make in your dairy-go get one and start practising!

What do the results mean?

- **Results are generally categorised as follows: negative, trace, 1, 2, 3.**
- **This test is subjective! i.e. what you score as 1, your neighbour might score as a 2.**
- **Remember-the important thing is that any positive reaction (1,2 or 3) indicates a high SCC in that quarter.**
- **To become accurate and consistent, practice on cows with a known high SCC.**

For more information, see the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control, or see the YouTube video on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6vDjeG7Ry4&feature=youtu.be

USE UREA BASED NITROGEN ALL YEAR ROUND

GREENGROW PASTURE BOOST

PASTURE BOOST

PASTURE BOOST
GEN 28-2.5-5 +5%S +1%MG+3%CA

As part of Dairygolds ongoing efforts to bring the newest technologies in fertiliser and best value to our customers, we are delighted to bring another new fertiliser option to our customers, Greengrow Pasture Boost.

Greengrow Pasture Boost

28-2.5-5

+5% Sulphur (S)

+1% Magnesium (Mg)

+3% Calcium (Ca)

27-2.5-5

27-2.5-5

No Sulphur (S)

No Magnesium (Mg)

N0 Calcium (Ca)

Features & Benefits:

- 28% Nitrogen – Pasture Boost contains 2 forms of Nitrogen, GEN and Ammonium. The Ammonium is in a readily available form for the plant while the GEN is Urea coated with a urease and denitrification inhibitor so it can be used all throughout the season without fear of losses.
- 5% Sulphur – Sulphur is proven to increase grass yield and protein. Increases of 2t/ha and 3.3t/ha have been seen where Sulphur is applied to grazing and silage ground respectively.

3 bags/ac - Greengrow Pasture Boost

84-7.5-15-15S-3Mg-9Ca

Prolonged Release Nitrogen

Prolonged Release Sulphur

Available Magnesium and Calcium

≠

3 bags/ac - 27-2.5-5

81-7.5-15

Unprotected Nitrogen

No Sulphur

No Available Magnesium and Calcium

As part of our new product launch, Dairygold have a very special promotional price in place at the moment.

Contact your local A SM while stocks last!!

dairygold Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally

GEN GOULDING ENHANCED NITROGEN

GOULDING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Re: Agriculture Cashflow Support Loan Scheme

The **Agriculture Cashflow Support Loan Scheme** arranged by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, in co-operation Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) is now available to farmers and small businesses. This scheme may benefit your farm enterprise and would give you access to a Finance scheme at a lower cost and over longer terms than other finance arrangements which are currently available in the market place.

The main features of the Agriculture Cashflow Support Loan Scheme are:

- Applications accepted for loan amounts up to a maximum of €150,000 per farm operation (No minimum loan amount applicable).
- Loan terms available between 1 and 6 years.
- Loans are unsecured.
- Loans will be provided at a fixed interest rate of 2.95% under this scheme.

The loan can be used to:

- Fund Future Working Capital requirements (e.g. feed, fertiliser, trading stock, other costs etc.).
- As an alternative to agri trading credit (e.g. refinance of existing balances with your Co-op or the finance of future working capital used to fund feed, fertiliser, seed etc. required over the coming 12 months) or
- To Replenish Cashflow already used (prior to 31 December 2016) to fund farm capital investment (e.g. Land & Machinery purchase as well as land drainage and farmyard development costs).

If you wish to obtain further information or apply for the Agriculture Cashflow Support Loan Scheme, please contact your local Branch of Allied Irish Banks, Bank of Ireland or Ulster Bank and they will discuss in detail the Terms & Conditions of this Scheme.

These are the only Financial Institutions which have been allocated funding for this scheme.

If you wish to obtain an application form for the **Agriculture Cashflow Support Loan Scheme** please contact us on 025-44067 or email us on fbf@dairygold.ie

Reply to: Clonmel Road, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, P67 DD36, Ireland. **T** +353 (0)25 24411