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Golden Valleys, Growing Naturally

AGRI DIVISION

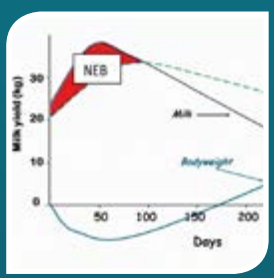
# MILK MATTERS

Issue 51 - MAY 2017 www.agritrading.ie

Dairygold's Dairy Advisory Bulletin

# DURING MAY WE NEED TO MAINTAIN GRASS QUALITY AND GET OUR COWS BACK IN CALF

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE










Welcome to the April edition of

# MILK MATTERS

## DAIRYGOLD'S DAIRY ADVISORY BULLETIN

May has arrived. Growth is good. Now you need to get your cows back in calf in a timely manner. This can prove to be a difficult job.

In this month's **Nutrition Matters** we explore some of the nutritional aspect that affect your herds fertility performance. We also examine low butterfats at grass, what if anything can be done?

**Fertility and Breeding Matters**, discusses maximising production through milk solids. For this you need a herd of mature, healthy cows with high genetic merit and long lactation lengths.

**Within Grass Matters, John Maher** looks at managing grass to maximise grass DMD and milk output. John also discusses our need for good quality silage and the appropriate fertiliser we should be using right now.

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


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# NUTRITION MATTERS

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

## NUTRITION, THE EBI AND GETTING YOUR COWS BACK IN-CALF

Your herds' fertility performance is multifactorial.

To achieve good fertility you need:

- To breed for a fertility cow
- To feed your cows correctly (energy, protein, minerals and vitamins)
- To ensure the health status of your herd is good (BVD, IBR, Lepto, SCC etc)
- To manage the breeding season correctly

**KEY POINT:** Nutrition alone is not the answer. Correct nutrition will only allow your cows to express their genetic potential.

Every effort must be taken to increase your herds' genetic potential to go back in calf, by utilising the best genetics available, to drive your herds EBI for fertility.

Put simply, cows with a high fertility sub-index are more likely to go back in-calf.

**2017 MUNSTER AI PANELS**

| Name | | EBI | Prod SI | Fert SI | Health SI | Main SI | Milk | Fat | Prot | Solids | Fat % | Prot % | CI | SUV |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fresh 2017* | Avg | 261 | 76 | 135 | 6 | 9 | 66 | 12 | 10 | 23 | 0.17 | 0.15 | -6.8 | 4.2 |
| High Output Balanced EBI | Avg | 240 | 85 | 114 | 5 | 1 | 182 | 15 | 13 | 28 | 0.13 | 0.11 | -5.7 | 3.6 |
| Super Grazers | Avg | 220 | 68 | 101 | 2 | 18 | -30 | 13 | 8 | 21 | 0.25 | 0.15 | -5.0 | 3.2 |
| Fertility | Avg | 254 | 58 | 155 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 16 | 0.14 | 0.12 | -8.5 | 4.1 |
| Strong Friesian Type | Avg | 213 | 55 | 112 | 1 | 13 | -14 | 10 | 6 | 17 | 0 | 0 | -6 | 3 |
| Pedigree High Prod. | Avg | 240 | 85 | 114 | 5 | 1 | 182 | 15 | 13 | 28 | 0.13 | 0.11 | -5.7 | 3.6 |

Fresh 2017* Gestation = 3.9

## HIGH vs. LOW FERTILITY EBI

| Early Post Calving | At Breeding |
|---|---|
| Greater feed intake | Stronger oestrus expression (i.e., stronger heats and longer heats) |
| Better BCS | Fewer silent heats (i.e., occurrence of ovulation without showing signs of heat) |
| Earlier resumption of cyclicity | Lower rates of ovulation failure (i.e., shows signs of heat but fail to ovulate) |
| Superior uterine health | Higher levels of progesterone after ovulation (essential for successful establishment and maintenance of pregnancy) |

*Source: Teagasc*

# NUTRITION MATTERS

## FEEDING FOR MAXIMUM FERTILITY:

**KEY POINT:** As cows approach the breeding season they need to be on a rising plane of nutrition i.e. not losing weight.

Grazed grass is the most economical way to feed a cow. Do you need to feed concentrates?

**KEY POINT:**
Don't overestimate grazing intakes. Grass intake depends on availability and grazing conditions.
Use concentrates strategically to fill the gaps in your grazing cow diets.

| Milk Yield | Grass intake | Concentrates needed to meet energy demand | Kg concentrates needed to meet energy demand |
|---|---|---|---|
| >25 | 17 | no | |
| 28 | 17 | yes | 1.5 |
| 30 | 17 | yes | 2.5 |
| 32 | 17 | yes | 3.25 |
| 34 | 17 | yes | 4.25 |
| 36 | 17 | yes | 5 |
| 38 | 17 | yes | 6 |

*Assumes 0 BCS change, +/- 1 kg DM grass = +/- 1 kg of feed, +/- 1 kg of milk = =/- 0.5 kg of feed*

## WHAT ABOUT MINERALS:

Your cows need a daily supply of magnesium to prevent grass tetany.

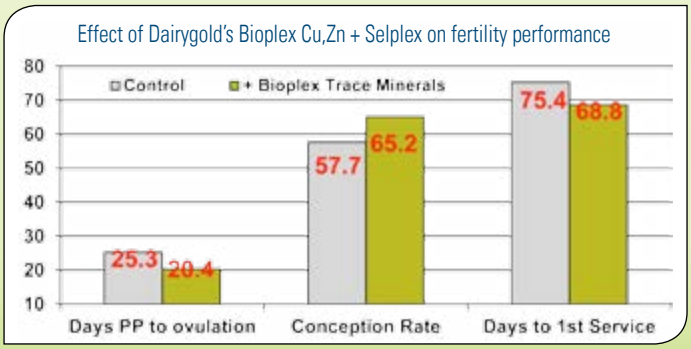
**KEY POINT:** Grass does not meet your cow's Phosphorus, Calcium, Selenium, Iodine, Zinc requirements.

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

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

## MINERAL FORM:

Bioplex or organic minerals are not tied up by mineral interactions, therefore ensuring they are available to the cow.



## MINERAL FEEDING OPTIONS?

When assessing your options, remember you need to supply magnesium, phosphorus and trace elements. If you're not using a concentrate this can require a combination of products.

### 1 Boluses only supply trace elements:

- How much are they supplying daily?
- What form is the mineral in?
- You need to supply magnesium separately

### 2 Minerals in the water are available in all combinations:

- Magnesium only
- Magnesium + Iodine and selenium
- Magnesium + all trace elements
- Can you guarantee intake?

| | Energy | Protein | Mg | Trace Elements | Vitamins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Post Calver Gold 14%** | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Dusting Cal Mag + trace element bolus** | No | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| **Mag Chloride Flakes + trace element bolus** | No | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| **Flow Mag + trace element bolus** | No | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| **Flow Mag Fertility + trace elements** | No | No | Yes | Yes | No |

The cost of feeding magnesium through concentrates is dependent on the milk yield response. Yield responses are typically 0.6kg milk per kg of concentrates. Higher yielding cows that struggle to maximise their intakes at grass will deliver a higher response of c.1kg milk per kg concentrates.

| Options for getting Magnesium and Trace Elements into cows | |
|---|---|
| | Net Cost (c/hd/day)* |
| **Dusting Cal mag** + trace element bolus** | **17c/day** |
| **Mag chloride flakes*** + trace element bolus** | **16c/day** |
| **Flow mag*** + trace element bolus** | **21c/day** |
| **Flow mag fertility + trace elements**** | **32c/day** |
| **Post Calver gold 14%*** | **1 - 25c/day** |

**Key:**

* assumes a milk yield response of 0.6 - 1 kg milk/kg concentrates and a milk price of 30c/ltr

*** 17kg/ha. labour input required

**** large herds may need to split for a morning and evening dose

**** need a dispensing system, adjust during wet weather

| Benefits of the Gold Range |
|---|
| **1. Yea-sacc = + 5% milk yield, 5-7 less open days, higher rumen ph =less SARA** |
| **2. Bioplex Cu, Zn, Mn and Selplex = less SCC, Lameness, Better fertility performance + 8% conception rate** |
| **3. Biotin = less lameness, + 5% milk yield** |
| **4. High inclusion of Maize meal = increased milk protein, less SARA** |

# Biotin Now Available In Post Calver Gold Range

**Addition of Biotin to a dairy cow diet leads to:**

1. **Less lameness**
2. **An improved health status**
3. **Increased milk yield**

NOW AVAILABLE IN POST CALVER GOLD

innovation

## Lameness:

Poor fertility, mastitis and lameness are some of the biggest costs on dairy farms. Every lame cow costs you on between €280-300.

Published research has shown that feeding c.20mg Biotin per day had positive effects on:

- White line separation,
- Digital and Inter-digital Dermatitis,
- Healing of Sole Ulcer
- Lameness in Seasonally Calved Dairy Cows

**Estimate Cost of a Single Case of Lameness**

| | €/Case |
|---|---|
| Treatment Cost | 55 |
| Loss of Production (c.500ltrs @0.15c/lt margin) | 75 |
| Culling (10% of lameness = culling) | 100 |
| Reduced Fertility | 50 |
| | 280-300 |

LESS LAMENESS

## Biotin on milk yield:

Published research has shown that feeding c.20mg Biotin per day increased milk production by between 1.3-1.6 ltrs per day. These trials also reported higher intakes (c.0.87kg).


Colman Purcell, Dairygold nutritionist believes that the biggest responses are to be got in the most intensive feeding situations with the higher producing cows, but that a ROI is delivered with much lower responses.

## Biotin on herd fertility:

Colman concluded that "it would be reasonable in my opinion to expect that any improvements in hoof health and locomotive score would have positive knock-on effects on fertility."

***Please contact inside sales or your local ASM for more information.***

# POSTCALVER GOLD

Now contains Biotin

- High energy feed containing Category One ingredients with Maize as the No. One ingredient
- Contains high levels of Phosphorus and Magnesium
- Contains BIOPLEX® Zinc, Copper and Manganese and SEL-PLEX® organic selenium from Alltech® to support the immune system and improve fertility parameters
- Contains high levels of Vitamin E
- Contains high levels of Vitamin D to prevent milk fever post calving
- Contains YEA-SACC® live yeast to improve digestibility, feed efficiency, increase production and improve fertility performance
- High quality source of energy and protein
- Available in 14% , 16%, 18% and 20% protein cubes

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

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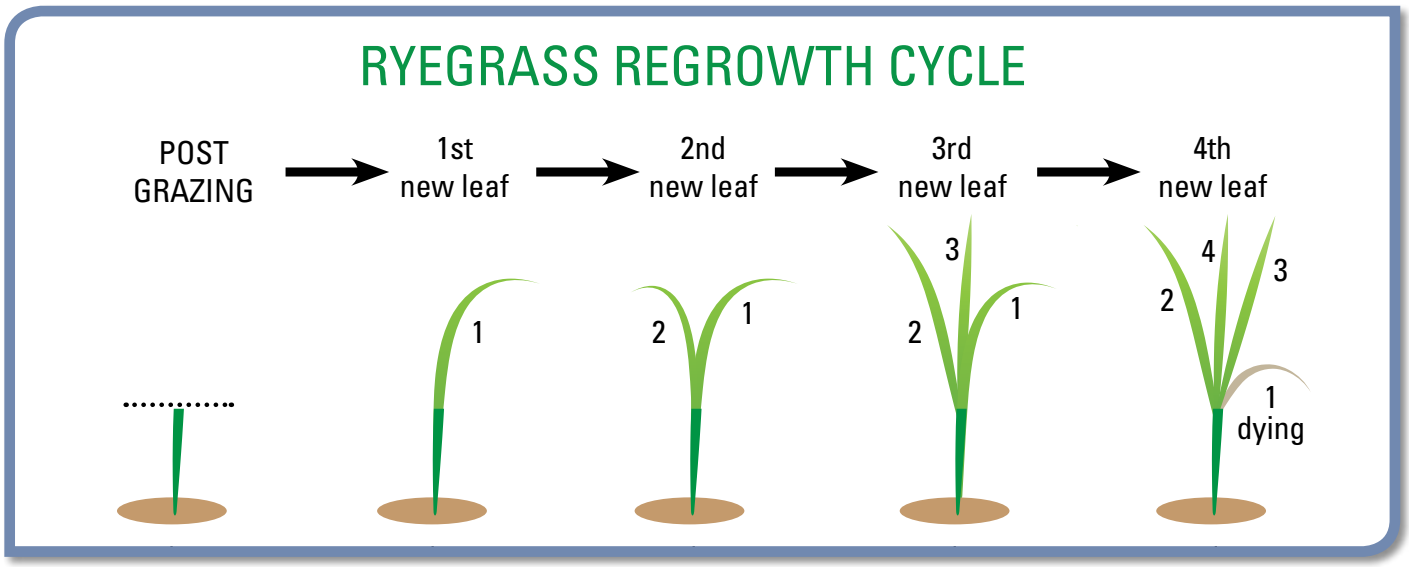
# GRASS MATTERS

By JOHN MAHER
Dairy Specialist, Teagasc Moorepark

## KEEPING THE SWARD GREEN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM




- **Enter the paddock in the green state**

This will mean the sward is at the right stage of growth. So the grass plant is right for grazing when it is at the 2-3 leaf stage. The performance of the plant and the performance of the cow grazing the plant are ideal. Of course if grass starts growing the 'fourth' leaf – the rotation is getting too long – then this field/paddock should be removed as surplus grass for silage. Try to keep to a 20 day rotation and graze the magic 1400 kg DM/Ha. A growth rate of 70 kg DM/ha/Day for 20 days = 1400 kg DM/Ha. Longer rotations result in less grass grown/ha – poorer cow performance – less grass utilised per ha.

- **Leave the paddock in the green state**

**KEY POINT:** It is better from a grass plant point of view and cow performance point of view to be chasing grass rather than having too much grass.

Maintaining sward quality is essential for the next month. So paddocks must be grazed out well to 3.5-4cm (using a plate meter). This is easily achieved if you graze 1100-1400kgs DM/ha or keep an 18-20 day rotation. When grazed, the paddock is green (leaf) to the base. Some farmers will try to graze strong grass for fear of running short of grass.

The temptation is to go topping grass when the grass gets too strong. This is wasting feed. Most farmers are going to carry more cows. It makes more sense that this "wasted" feed is in a bale than let it rot after topping. Most dairy farmers who are on the greener platform operate at rotation lengths of 18-20 days. The topper doesn't need to be used.

# GRASS MATTERS

## KEY POINT THIS MONTH: AVOID STEMMY GRASS!!:

**Every 4% reduction in Grass Digestibility will reduce milk yield by 1kg/cow/day.**
**Every 4% reduction in Grass Digestibility will reduce milk solids yield by 5%.**

May is generally the month when the rate of grass growth reaches its peak for the year. So grass supply can change fast. How you respond to grass growth is the key. You have to be aware as to what is happening on the farm in terms of grass growth.

For those who measure grass, the average farm cover should be at 160-180kg DM/cow. This is the average farm cover divided by the stocking rate on the milking platform. Once the cover/cow is established, the key thing is to make a decision and act upon it.

## QUALITY SILAGE

May should be the month for making silage. Overtime silage harvesting has been "slipping" into June. There is now a greater role for quality silage at the start and end of the year. This can come in the form of bales or good quality pit silage.


**Why is good silage needed:**

- cows will be milked longer leaving a shorter dry period to put on condition.
- carrying more cows means demand for grass will be higher both at the front and back end of the grazing season.

# GRASS MATTERS

We all want to maximise the amount of grass in the diet and minimise the amount of silage. If silage has to be in the diet of the milking cows, it needs to be good quality. Therefore, having good quality silage must be a focus.

Hopefully, grass growth will improve substantially during May. Surplus grass can be put into bales.

**KEY POINT:** May bales must be well wilted – at least 24 hours of very good sunshine or 36 hours. Often bales made this time of year can be "soft" – so make sure to get a good wilt.

**Fertiliser:**

It is important to keep applying Nitrogen Fertiliser (30-40 units N/acre). However many dairy farms are deficient in P & K so nitrogen compounds (N, P & K products such as 18-6-12) should be applied. Many farms will also respond to a sulphur application during May and June. Applying ASN or Sulpha 33 (26/33%N & 14/12%S or per 50kg bag) now at 1.5 bags/acre will meet both your sulphur requirement for the year and nitrogen requirement for the month.

**KEY POINT:** Recent research at Clonakilty has shown that an extra 700 kg/DM/ha will be grown by application of sulphur. This is worth around €100/ha additional profit.

**Teagasc/Dairygold Demonstration and Focus Farm Performance**

| | |
|---|---|
| Milk Yield (L/Cow) | 28.5 |
| Fat % | 3.9 |
| Protein % | 3.44 |
| MS Yield (KgMS/Cow) | 2.15 |
| Grass Growth Kg DM/Ha | 62 |
| Demand Kg DM/Ha | 61 |
| Average Farm Cover (Kg/Ha) | 720 |
| Cover/Cow (Kg/DM/Cow) | 185 |
| Meal (Kg/Cow) | 2.9 |


# Making the Farm a Safer Place

## Open Day at Mallow Racecourse

**Friday May 12th 2017**

GARDAI AND THE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

DEMONSTRATION STANDS

HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY

A PARENT'S VIEW

AGRI-AWARE MOBILE FARM

SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

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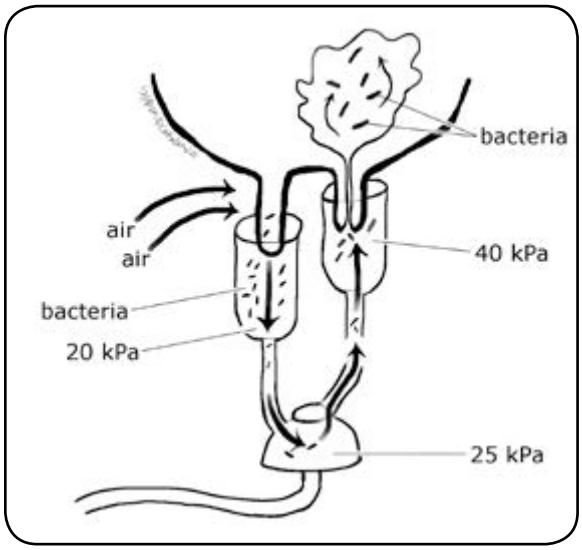
# DO THE TWIST!

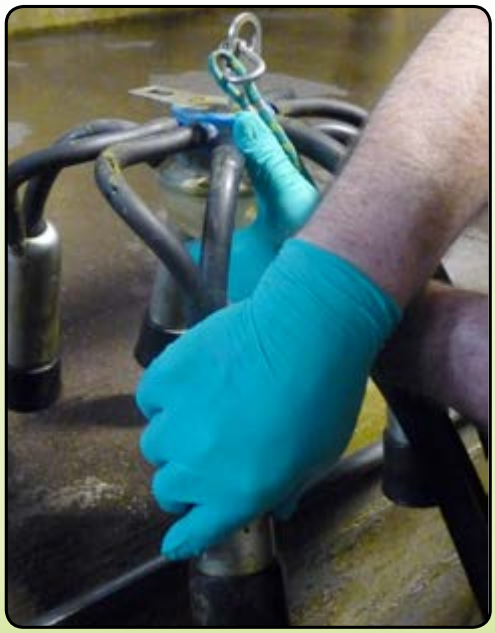
The twist……it may not always be in fashion on the dance floor, but it should always be practised in the parlour. 'Break, wait, twist and drop'……the key steps in taking clusters off cows. It's crucial that clusters are not pulled off under vacuum, as this creates air impacts. Air impacts contribute to teat-end damage, and can drive potentially bug-laden milk up the teat canal, leading to new cases of mastitis.




*Air entering the cup can cause vacuum fluctuations and create air impacts at the teat end*

Clusters that are hard to remove, or are not releasing correctly, are a sign that the equipment is not working properly. If this is happening, make sure that buttons on the claws are working correctly. Check air admission holes regularly.

Cluster handling is given very little attention, considering the important role is has to play in milking efficiency, mastitis prevention and cow comfort. But don't just think about cow health……consider your own health too. Too many milkers suffer repetitive strain injuries (RSI) such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, from years of putting on and taking off clusters incorrectly.



*When cupping the right hand row of cows, hold the cluster in your left and start with the left back cup*

How you ever stopped to think how many times in your milking career you will put clusters on cows? And how many times you'll take them off? If you're milking 90 cows, twice a day, with an average lactation length of 280 days, you'll put those clusters on over 50,000 times a year. Over a lifetime of milking that repetitive action adds up. After 40 years, you'll have put on over 2 million clusters…….and taken them off over 2 million times too!


## BE PATIENT - DON'T YANK OFF THE CLUSTERS!

1. **Break** - Use the button on the claw bowl, or kink the long milk tube to break the vacuum
2. **Wait!** 1-2 secs
3. **Twist** - Gently twist the cluster 30-60° - this helps to make sure that all 4 liners release at the same time
4. **Drop** - Clusters should then drop freely off the teats


## WHEN CUPPING COWS, REMEMBER TO:

- **minimise air admission**
- **alternate hands for both sides of a herringbone to avoid RSI and muscle/tendon over-use**
- **hold the cluster in one hand and apply all the cups in a "round-the-circle" fashion. This is an efficient and milker-friendly way of cupping cows.**


## "ROUND-THE-CIRCLE" CLUSTER ATTACHMENT

Use the right hand to put the cups on the right hand side row of cows (facing the exit) because it is easier to reach through the back legs.

1. Holding the clawbowl in your left hand,
2. reach over the left arm with your right hand, to put on the left back cup,
3. then left front,
4. then right front,
5. and finally right back.

On the left hand side of the parlour, use the left hand to put on the cups. This creates a change in muscle usage, and gives better reach depending on whether the clusters are being placed on the right or left side of the herringbone.

For more information on recommended milking techniques, see Guideline 5 in the Lactation section of the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control

# CHFC MATTERS

By IVOR BRYAN
CHFC Public Relations Officer

# CLUB SALE IN BANDON MART

At the recent Club Bull Sale in Bandon Mart John O'Callaghan had the Champion bull with 'Mountfarna Torondo' who sold for €3000, Daniel O'Leary had the Reserve Champion with 'Glenny Derry 1517' who sold for €2550. The club would like to thank the judge Jane O'Mahony for doing a great job placing the bulls.

In the sale that followed the showing another of John O'Callaghan's bulls topped the trade 'Mountfarna Allrounder' selling for €4300, the rest of the sale followed the spring sale trends with a sale average of €2256 for a 47% clearance.

Good luck to all purchasers and we hope to see you at next year's sale.

*Judge Jane O'Mahony placing a class of bulls.*

*The champion Friesian at the annual pedigree bull show & sale in Bandon Mart 'Mountfarna Tornodo' sold for €3,000 & is pictured with owner John O'Callaghan, Farnivane, Bandon, Co Cork. Photo O'Gorman Photography.*

*The reserve champion Friesian at the annual pedigree bull show & sale in Bandon Mart 'Glenny Derry' sold for €2,550 & is pictured with owners Denis & Daniel O'Leary, Riverstick & Carlisle Smith, President, Cork Holstein Fresian Breeders Club. Photo O'Gorman Photography.*

*To keep up to date with the latest happenings in the club please check out the clubs Facebook page.*

# LOW MILK BUTTERFAT %

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

## Milk fat comes from:

- fibre digestion by bacteria producing acetate,
- fats, either dietary or from the cows back

## Low milk fat comes from a combination of:

- Low rumen pH (SARA) from lack of structural fibre
- The fatty acid profile of the grass.

## Butterfat production from fibre digestion:

For this to happen you need

1. fibre in the diet
2. bacteria in the rumen to digest it.

This very quick passage rate also leads to lower food conversion efficiencies with energy, protein and minerals passing out with the dung.

Sub acute rumen acidosis (SARA) is a condition associated with the above that drops the rumen pH. The bacteria that digest fibre don't survive at low rumen pHs. Therefore with SARA the bugs required to product the butterfat from the fibre aren't around either.

We can have a positive influence on fibre digestion in the rumen while cows are out at grass by:

- Feeding some straw: From my experience

## Fibre in the diet

Grass is full of highly digestible fibre. So fibre itself is not a problem. However, due to the high digestibility of the grass this fibre passes through the rumen very quickly, i.e the bugs don't get a great chance to break it down into butterfat (acetate). results are variable, with a lot of work required to ensure the cows will take in the straw. The best results I've seen are where farmers are willing to feed straw daily in the paddocks with the cows. You do not however want to be replacing large volumes of high energy leafy

# LOW MILK BUTTERFAT %

grass with lower digestibility forages. 0.25-0.33kg of straw daily is more than enough

- Feed concentrates based around digestible fibres and maize, not wheat.
- Use yea-sacc and or a buffer with your concentrates
- Feed a specific fatty acid designed to increase butterfat % (I will discuss this later)

## Fats in the diet

Fats are either saturated or unsaturated. Unsaturated fats go through a transformation within the cows rumen that leads to low milk butterfats. The fatty acid profile of fresh grass is high in a specific unsaturated fat, CLA which leads to low milk butterfats. You cannot change the fatty acid profile of the grass.

So it's a triple whammy. Some of which is within our control more of which is not. This fatty acid change has its biggest effect when in April/May when cows are transitioning to an all grass diet. This of course is also when grass quality is at its best on our farms.

## What impact is this lower milk fat having on my cows?

Thought on this differ from none to substantial. My thoughts are that your butterfat % right now is not as important as your protein %. Milk protein % is the best avenue to access your cows energy status. Low energy status and poor fertility performance go hand in hand. If you had a low protein and a high butterfat I would be far more concerned.

I would think the low levels of fat caused by SARA is leading to poorer energy, protein and mineral utilisation. However if your feeding your cows the right grass and concentrates (based on rumen friendly raw materials with yea-sacc added) then the issue may be from the fatty acid profile of the grass.

## Financial Impact of low Butterfat:

I would say that independent of any potential health implications of low butterfat there is a real economic impact. Butterfat is the poor relation compared to milk protein but it has an economic value.

If we take 2 cows both milk 28 ltrs @ 3.45% protein, 1 with a fat of 3.55% the other with a fat of 3.8%.

The second cow is supplying 25c more milk value on a daily basis or for a herd or 80 cows € 575 for the month.

## Megaboost feed range:

Just as some fats in the diet lower milk butterfat %, there are other fats that boost milk butterfat %. Our megaboost feed range has a very specific fat added that has resulted in milk butterfat improvements of c. 0.15-0.2% out on farm. Megalac will not give the same improvement in fat %. Fats are very high in energy with a UFL of c. 2.5 times that of barley. Adding fats to the diet has been shown to increase milk yield by 0.5 - 1ltr. This milk yield response however is only achievable when the addition of the fat actually increases the UFL of the feed.

## The Economic Benefits of the MegaBoost range

| Herd Details | Number cows in the herd | 80 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Post Calver Gold 14% | MegaBoost 14% |
| Production Performance | Milk Yield (ltrs)* | 28 | 28.5 |
| | Fat %** | 3.55 | 3.70 |
| | Protein % | 3.45 | 3.45 |
| | Milk Price (c/ltr) | 31.81 | 32.32 |
| | Gross output per day (€/cow/day) | 8.91 | 9.28 |
| | | | |
| Feeding | Feeding rate (kg/hd/day) | 3 | 3 |
| | | | |
| | | (€/cow/day) | |
| Net Benefit | Margin over purchased feed | 7.99 | 8.26 |
| | +/- Margin over purchased feed per day | 0.27 | |
| | +/- margin over purchased feed cost for the herd per day | 22 | |
| | +/- margin over purchased feed cost for the herd over 4 weeks | 606 | |

* mega fat within the megaboost range has been proven to increase milk yield by 0.5ltrs

** mega fat within the megaboost range has been proven to increase milk fat % by 0.15-0.2 %


### A warning on fat inclusion:

There is no point starting with a feed of 0.92 UFL, add in fat using poorer raw material and arriving back at 0.92 UFL. All you've done is replace rumen fermentable carbohydrates (which drive milk protein %) with fat. This could potentially have a negative impact on milk protein %. When you add fat it needs to be on top of rumen fermentable carbohydrates not at their expense and it needs to increase you concentrates overall UFL.

**Background:** The main aim of the **Systems Research Herd** at UCD Lyons Farm is to evaluate the feasibility (including profitability) of a higher input/output grazing system within a limited land holding scenario. The focus is on maximising milk solids output from the existing land holding which involves high output from individual cows and high stocking rates on the MP. This will occur most efficiently through maximising the use of grazed grass/home grown forage in the system and the strategic use of supplementation thereafter. Such a system might facilitate the successful expansion of the farm business without the need to buy or rent extra land, to buy stock, to acquire extra labour or to provide extra cow facilities. For the study purpose, stocking rate and concentrate inputs are fixed. For more details on the Systems Research Herd visit http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/welcomemessage/systemsresearchherd/.

## Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 24-04-17


### Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65 ha (3.48 ha closed for 1st cut silage)
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 4.02
Farm Cover:861kg/DM/Ha (214 kg DM/cow)
Growth rate: 54kg DM/ha per day
Demand: 65kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 6-8 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 60 (range 18-94)

### Grass Supply:

AFC on 24th April was 861kg DM/ha (range 300 to over 2000 kg DM/ha). We are 18 days into the second rotation, so we will be starting the third rotation on Thursday or Friday of this week. Growth is up slightly on what it was last week although we are expecting it to drop again due to lower temperatures being forecasted for this week. Slower than expected growth means we will likely need to graze a paddock that had been previously closed off for silage.
We are allocating 16kg DM of grass and 7kg of concentrate per day. We are aiming to graze out paddocks tightly (~4cm) in the second rotation, especially those that were not grazed well in the first.

### Grazing conditions:

Grazing conditions remain good with very little rainfall last week. Grass that the cows grazed over the weekend was 18% DM. Cows did not clean out paddocks as well as we would have liked last week. This is due mainly to the fact that some of the paddocks were left quite dirty having been grazed in difficult conditions in the first round.

### Supplements:

Cows are being fed on average 7kg (between 6 and 8 kgs) of a high energy (0.94 UFL), medium protein (16%) concentrate. They start at 4 kg/d after calving and are built up to 8 kg over 7 days. Once they reach 60 DIM this is reduced to 6 kg/d.

### Fertiliser:

Urea was applied at a rate of 61.75kg/ha (½ bag per acre) on the 19 th of January.

Urea was also applied at a rate of 123.5kg/ha (1 bag per acre) on 15 th of March.

The farm was blanket spread on 19th April. 20-2- 12 was applied at 166kg/ha (1.3 bags per acre) on P index 2 soils and CAN was applied at 123kg/ha (1 bag per acre) on P index 3&4 soils.

### Milk Production:

Average production is currently 34 litres per cow, 4.3% fat, 3.4% protein (2.6 kg MS). SCC is 52,000.

### Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on April 24th and will continue for 12 weeks.
Breeding is all by A.I. and bulls to be used across the herd this year are as follows: FR2226, FR4020, FR2298, SEW, FR4019, FR4118. These bulls are selected largely for their suitability to maintaining the two distinct groups (Low vs High milk PTA) within the system, along with increasing overall herd EBI.

# FERTILITY & BREEDING

By DOREEN CORRIDAN
MVB MRCVS PhD, Munster Cattle Breeding

## MAXIMISING PROFITABILITY THROUGH MILK SOLIDS SALES

**TO MAXIMISE PROFITABILITY AND KGS OF FAT & PROTEIN SOLD YOU NEED:**

1. Genetics: Have a herd of cows bred from high genetic merit AI sires.
2. A mature herd with 2/3 of the cows in their 3rd lactation onwards: A mature herd is crucial for high Kg milk & milk solids sold per cow. 2nd lactation cows have on average 18% more production than 1st lactation cows and 3rd lactation + cows have 24% more. If you can have 60% of the herd in their 3rd lactation and upwards you are maximising production.
3. An average lactation length of 280 days: Have 90% of your calving in February and up to mid March.
4. Healthy cows: Ensure that disease is not limiting production or performance in your herd.

**HOW DO I ACHIEVE THIS?**

1. **Have a herd of cows bred from high genetic merit AI sires.**

Select the panel of sires that most suits your needs. Talk to your AI technician to ensure he has them in his tank for you.

Use 5-7 sires from your chosen panel in equal proportions across the herd.

**Fresh Panel 2017**

***This panel is for herdowners looking for a herd of profitable, low to medium input cows, with an output of 500Kgs of milk solids sold per cow from 500-700Kg of concentrates stocked at 2.5 Lu/Ha while maximising the A + B – C (Prod SI) payment system.***

*Daughters from this panel will:*

- achieve excellent fertility (Fert SI- average 11 sires 135), a high six-week calving rate maximising the number calving's in February and up to St. Patricks Day,
- maintain their calving interval as they will reduce it each year by 7 days (CI -6.8 days) and the calves will be born four days shorter than the average 283 days (Gest -4),
- have more daughters surviving from one lactation to the next within the herd, the survival figure is 4.2%. This high survival rate reduces the number of replacements required, ensuring that 60%+ of the herd will be 3rd and 4th lactation cows and increasing your herds average milk production,
- maximise milk price. The 11 sires on this panel will increase fat by 0.17% and protein by 0.15%, with each .1% increase in protein is worth 0.6c+ c/l and each .1% increase in fat is worth 0.3+ c/l on average.

**High Output Balanced EBI Panel**

This panel is for herdowners looking for a herd of high producing cows, with an output 7,000+ litres or 600Kgs+ of milk solids sold per cow and maximising c/litre sold.

***Overall this is a very impressive panel with***

# FERTILITY & BREEDING

***+145Kgs of Milk, +27 kgs of Milk Solids, +0.16% in Fat and 0.12% in Protein with a Fertility of 118.***

High Fertility SI will drive high production through the maturity of the herd and a shorter calving interval resulting in a reduced number of stale cows.

Production will be high from this panel as they have the genetics to produce the Milk & Milk solids kg and the genetics for fertility to ensure a mature herd.

To ensure a mature you need:

- a high Fert SI, this will give high survival rates from one lactation to the other, in this panel it is 3.9%.
- a high calving interval (CI) is also needed to ensure a calving interval of <380 days. Shortening the calving interval will drive production through less stale cows in the lactating group, the calving interval for this panel is -5.8 days.

**Super Grazers Panel**

This panel is for herdowners looking for a herd of profitable, very low input, healthy cows, with an output of 400-500+ Kgs of milk solids sold per cow from <400Kg of concentrates stocked at 3.0+ Lu/Ha while maximising the A + B – C (Prod SI) payment system.

***These cows will produce 100% + of their Kg bodyweight in Milk Solids Kgs, they are the most efficient converters of grazed grass to Kgs of milk solids.***

This is achieved with a superb maintenance figure, high Kgs milk solids from high %, and a high fertility and short gestation figure to ensure a mature herd of 66% + in 3rd lactation upwards and 280 days in lactation.

This panel of 8 sires have a superb maintenance figure, averaging 18 which will result in a herd of small to medium sized cows. The health figure

averages 2 for the 8 sires. This will facilitate high stocking rates, high grass intakes and low concentrates levels fed.

Kgs of Milk solids are maximised from high %, 21Kgs of milk solids from +0.25% fat and 0.15% protein while maintaining milk Kgs.

The calving interval of -5 days with -4 days on gestation length will ensure increased days in milk. A mature herd of 66%+ is ensured with the fertility of 101 and the survival of 3.2%.

This panel is unbeatable for the combination of all traits, primarily maintenance, health, milk solids Kgs from % and fertility.

**Fertility Panel**

***This panel is for herdowners who primarily wish to improve the fertility of their herd and increase Kgs of milk solids sold and price achieved.***

Targets for fertility to maximise profit are:

- a 6-week calving rate of 90% - that is 70% of this year's cows and all maiden's heifers,
- empty rates of 5-10% after 10 -12 weeks breeding
- a replacement rate 18% in a non-expanding herd.

If you need to improve any of these this is the panel for you.

***This panel has an exceptional fertility index ( Calving Interval and Survival).***

This panel will shorten the calving interval by 8.5 days which is keeping a February calving cow calving in February and bringing a March calving cow back to February in 3 lactations.

Daughters from this herd will produce 500 Kgs of milk solids sold as they have the genetics to produce the milk solids and the genetics for fertility to ensure a high survival rate from one lactation to the next, resulting in a mature herd. This high survival rate reduces the number of replacements required.

This will ensure that 60% + of the herd will be 3rd and 4th lactation cows with the genetics to produce high Kgs of milk solids and %.

**Strong Friesian Type**

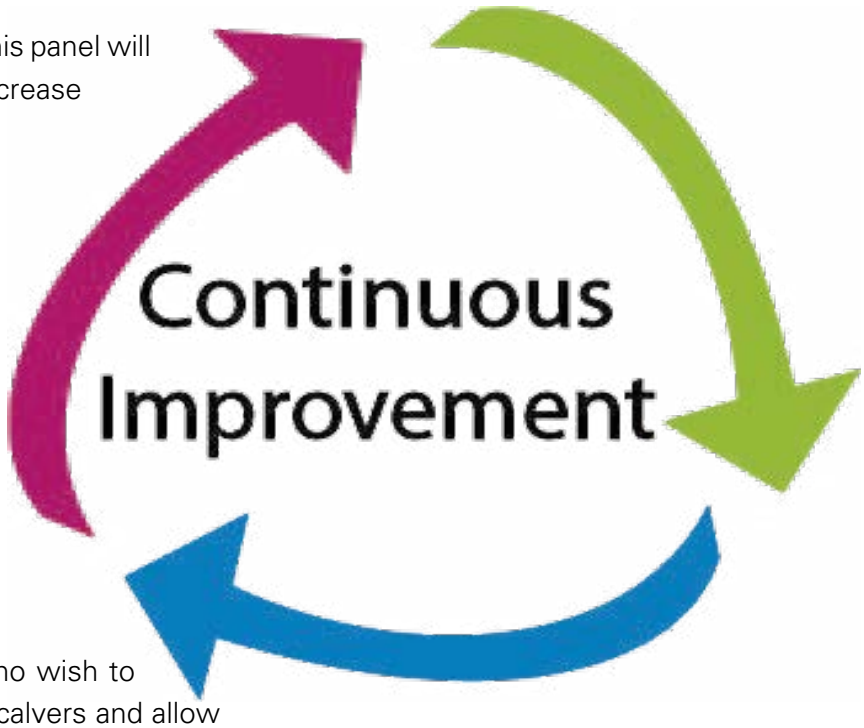
***This panel is for herdowners who wish to maximise calf & cull cow value and breed a strong durable cow while maximising fertility and Kgs of milk solids produced.***

Sires in this panel will produce daughters of medium in size with good chest and rump width that will hold their body condition scores.

As well as producing a strong Friesian type cow this panel will increase your Kgs of milk solids sold, the average for the 9 sires is + 17 Kgs, this is an exceptional combination of strong Friesian type and production. Also, your milk price c/l will be enhanced with +0.18% Fat and 0.12% Protein.

# FERTILITY & BREEDING

This panel has a good fertility index of 112, this panel will shorten the calving interval by 6 days and increase survival by 3% per lactation.




**Calving Ease:**
Easy calving is critical to ensure the replacement heifer remains in the herd, produces well in her 1st lactation and goes back incalf quickly. This panel is for increased security at calving for maiden heifers, using all the information that herdowners record at calving. All the sires have high reliability >90% for calving ease.

**Short Gestation:**
This panel is designed with herdowners who wish to shorten the length of pregnancy in the late calvers and allow them to calve easy ensuring a quicker return to service. This is a superb choice for the 3rd service onwards to compact down the calving period and get cows into lactation quickly. Each day in lactation is worth 2Kgs of milk solids, with each 1 Kg of protein worth €6+ and each 1 Kg of fat worth €3+, this is €9 per day in production alone, each week reduction is worth €63 per cow. This panel will shorten the pregnancy up to 11 days. This short gestation panel was selected also on easy calving with an average of 2.3% calving difficulty.

**Pedigree High Production**
***This panel is for herdowners looking for a herd of high producing cows, with an output 7,500+ litres or 600Kgs+ of milk solids sold per cow from 1 Tonne + of concentrates.***

Pedigree status is maintained, all the 9 sires are pedigree (PED).

***Overall this is a very impressive panel with +182Kgs of Milk, +28 kgs of Milk Solids, +0.13% in Fat and 0.11% in Protein with a Fertility of 114.***

High Fertility SI will drive high production through the maturity of the herd and a shorter calving interval resulting in a reduced number of stale cows.

Production will be high from this panel as they have the genetics to produce the Milk & Milk solids kg and the genetics for fertility to ensure a mature herd.

To ensure a mature herd you need a high Fert SI, this will give high survival rates from one lactation to the other, in this panel it is 3.6%. A high calving interval (CI) is also needed to ensure a calving interval of <380 days. Shortening the calving interval will drive production through less stale cows in the lactating group, the calving interval for this panel is -5.7 days.

**2017 MUNSTER AI PANELS**

| Name | | EBI | Prod SI | Fert SI | Health SI | Main SI | Milk | Fat | Prot | Solids | Fat % | Prot % | CI | SUV |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fresh 2017* | Avg | 261 | 76 | 135 | 6 | 9 | 66 | 12 | 10 | 23 | 0.17 | 0.15 | -6.8 | 4.2 |
| High Output Balanced EBI | Avg | 240 | 85 | 114 | 5 | 1 | 182 | 15 | 13 | 28 | 0.13 | 0.11 | -5.7 | 3.6 |
| Super Grazers | Avg | 220 | 68 | 101 | 2 | 18 | -30 | 13 | 8 | 21 | 0.25 | 0.15 | -5.0 | 3.2 |
| Fertility | Avg | 254 | 58 | 155 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 16 | 0.14 | 0.12 | -8.5 | 4.1 |
| Strong Friesian Type | Avg | 213 | 55 | 112 | 1 | 13 | -14 | 10 | 6 | 17 | 0 | 0 | -6 | 3 |
| Pedigree High Prod. | Avg | 240 | 85 | 114 | 5 | 1 | 182 | 15 | 13 | 28 | 0.13 | 0.11 | -5.7 | 3.6 |

Fresh 2017* Gestation = 3.9

**2 Have a mature herd with 2/3 of the cows in their 3rd lactation onwards. This maximises production. Your most profitable cows on the farm at the moment are the 3rd lactation + cows calving in February. Lets maximise this group for 2018.**

**Keep 8/10 cows of your current herd for 2018. Control SCC and achieve a high 6 week calving rate. Cows are culled out of herds for not going in calf or for having a high SCC.**

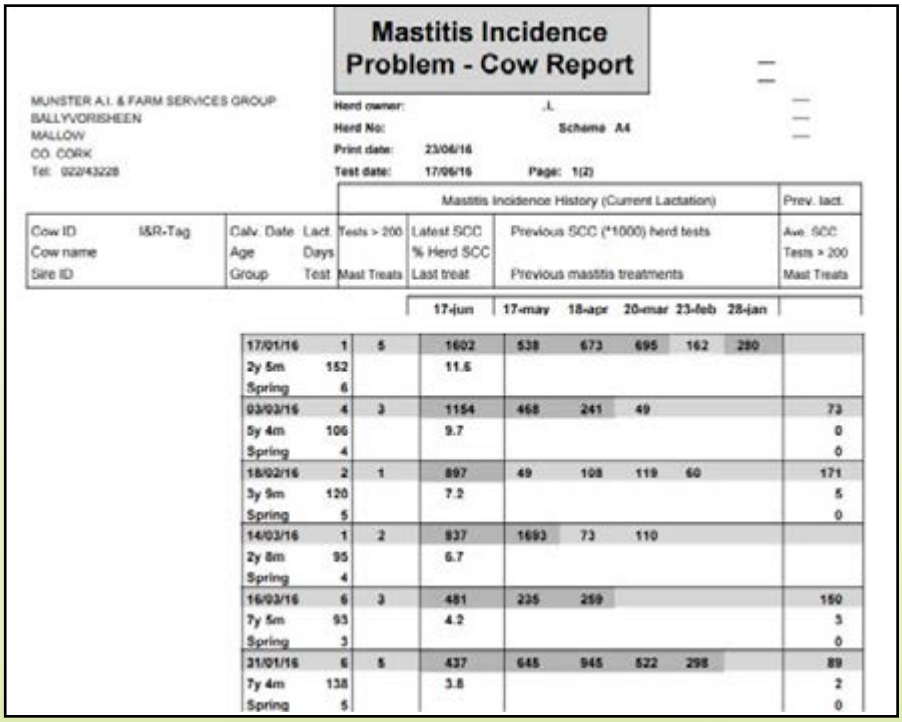
We are now in the first 1/3 of the lactation period.

Use milk recording now to ID high SCC cows and to avoid the spread in SCC to the remainder of the herd.

The first cow on, the Mastitis Incidence Problem" report is a 1st lactation heifer, calved in Jan with SCC of 280,000 was not treated as she showed no clinical signs. By June she had reached 1, 602,000 SCC.

She is:

- now contributing 11.6% of the bulk tank SCC.
- contaminating the cluster when



**Mastitis Incidence Problem - Cow Report**

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

Herd owner: J.
Herd No: Scheme A4
Print date: 23/06/16
Test date: 17/06/16 Page: 1(2)

| Cow ID / Cow name / Sire ID | I&R-Tag | Calv. Date / Age / Group | Lact / Days / Test | Tests > 200 / Mast Treats | Latest SCC / % Herd SCC / Last treat | Mastitis Incidence History (Current Lactation) — Previous SCC (*1000) herd tests / Previous mastitis treatments: 17-jun, 17-may, 18-apr, 20-mar, 23-feb, 28-jan | Prev. lact. Ave. SCC / Tests > 200 / Mast Treats |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17/01/16 | 1 | | 5 | | 1602 | 538 673 695 162 280 | |
| 2y 5m | 152 | | | | 11.6 | | |
| Spring | 6 | | | | | | |
| 03/03/16 | 4 | | 3 | | 1154 | 468 241 49 | 73 |
| 5y 4m | 106 | | | | 9.7 | | 0 |
| Spring | 4 | | | | | | 0 |
| 18/02/16 | 2 | | 1 | | 897 | 49 108 119 60 | 171 |
| 3y 9m | 120 | | | | 7.2 | | 5 |
| Spring | 5 | | | | | | 0 |
| 14/03/16 | 1 | | 2 | | 837 | 1693 73 110 | |
| 2y 8m | 95 | | | | 6.7 | | |
| Spring | 4 | | | | | | |
| 16/03/16 | 6 | | 3 | | 481 | 235 259 | 150 |
| 7y 5m | 93 | | | | 4.2 | | 3 |
| Spring | 3 | | | | | | 0 |
| 31/01/16 | 6 | | 5 | | 437 | 645 945 522 298 | 89 |
| 7y 4m | 138 | | | | 3.8 | | 2 |
| Spring | 5 | | | | | | 0 |

she is milking and will pass the infection to the next 8 cows.

The second cow on this 2016 report is a 4th lactation cow, calved in mar with SCC of 49,000 (also had low SCC the previous year 73,000). She got infected in April and by June she had reached 1, 154,000 SCC. She is now contributing 9.7% of the bulk tank SCC.


Both these cows should have been treated early in lactation and would have responded well to treatment.

***Early detection and treatment would have ensured that they would be cured and would have remained in the herd for the 5.5 lactation target and not spread infection to other cows.***

**3 Have an average lactation length of 280 days.**

**Have 90% of your calving in February and up to mid March.**

May is about heat detection and submitting cows for insemination.

**Maiden Heifers**

- Apply scratch cards and crayons on a dry day. Vasectomised bulls are excellent.
- Bring heifers into the yard each day for AI.
- This is made easier by feeding 1KG of concentrates.
- 1st week of breeding need to have a 1/3 of the heifers bred. 10 out of 30 heifers.
- If not 1/3 bred in 1 week investigate immediately.
- Then inject the remaining 2/3 not bred with PG.
- They will be on heat 48 to 72 hours later. Ensure your availability.
- All heifers will now be bred in 12 days.
- Renew scratch and watch repeats.
- All heifers will be pregnant within 30 days or will have achieved 2 services.

Keep the heifers extremely well fed with superb grass in the breeding season, if a shortage is experienced supplement with concentrates.

Avoid delaying breeding in lighter heifers. Breed them to calve early, however give them preferential treatment for the summer to ensure that they are being housed in October at target weight.

**Cows**

- Tail painting twice a week is key.
- For every 100 cows need 4-5 each day for AI.
- Keep cows now on a rising plane of nutrition.
- The volume of milk and especially the protein % needs to be increasing week on week now.

**CALVING DIFFICULTY**

| AI code | Name | Breed | | EBI | PTA Calving difficulty % | Reliability % calving difficulty | Number of progeny calving difficulty | PTA Gestation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FR2385 | (IG) NEXTGEN YKG CANDY 593 | HO | SRM | 282 | 1.8% | 94% | 620 | -4.5 |
| FR2371 | (IG) ARDRAGOLD PARKER | HO | Ped | 248 | 1.3% | 96% | 813 | -5.9 |
| FR2031 | (IG) TISAXON ELMO | HO | Ped | 243 | 1.8% | 96% | 878 | -5.3 |
| FR2036 | (IG) DERRYLAMOGUE VINCENT | HO | Ped | 236 | 1.8% | 99% | 3710 | -2.9 |
| FR2297 | (IG) CASTLEBLAGH RONNIE | HO | Ped | 232 | 1.8% | 93% | 476 | -3.5 |
| YAD | (IG) DIAMOND ANDY | HO | SRM | 216 | 2.1% | 99% | 17681 | -2.5 |
| FR2003 | (IG) HILLSDALE HARTY | HO | SRM | 213 | 1.8% | 91% | 352 | -2.1 |
| FR2235 | (IG) BALLAGH PRINCE SPICE | HO | Ped | 201 | 1.7% | 98% | 1610 | -5.1 |

- If the protein % is not increasing weekly investigate and make it happen, it will increase within days of correction.
- Cows less than 2.75 BCS that will be maintained for 2018 need to be put on once a day milking for 3 weeks.
- Cows calved 35 days and not bred need to be synchronised and fixed timed AI if BCS is greater than 2.75.

**4 Healthy cows are key. Ensure that disease is not limiting production or performance in your herd.**

**Herd Health Bulk Tank Milk Sampling Simple, Sensible and Straight Forward way to know and monitor your herd status.**

- Draw up a Herd Health plan for your herd with your information
- Identify what disease is limiting your herd performance
- Monitor the energy balance with your milk recording
- Is your dosing programme effective? Monitor parasites
- Is your vaccination programme effective? Monitor quarterly
- Monitor and control Johnes in your herd

***To sign up for this service contact Ashling on 022 43228.***

**The milk testing schedule is as follows**

| Disease | 1st Test May | 2nd Test June | 3rd Test August | 4th Test November |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BVD | Y | Y | | Y |
| Neospora | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| IBR | Y | Y | Y | |
| Leptospirosis | Y | Y | Y | |
| PI3 | | | Y | |
| RSV | | | Y | |
| Schmallenberg | | | Y | |
| Salmonella | | Y | Y | |
| Stomach Worms | | Y | Y | |
| Liver Fluke | Y | Y | Y | Y |

- Make a phone call and sign up for this comprehensive disease testing regime.
- Your 4 bulk milk samples will be collected automatically in the Mallow lab.
- The results will be posted to you.
- Make a phone call if you have any queries in any result.
- At year end we will meet you to discuss your results and put a plan in place for the following year.

# DAIRYGOLD'S NEW GRASSLAND SPECIALIST SERVICE

By SHANE COTTER Mob: 087 0671246
B.Agr.Sc, Dairygold Grassland Specialist

# Dairygolds New Grassland Specialist Service coming to the Limerick and North Cork Area

## Maximise your grass growth in 2017

***Increasing grass utilisation by 1.0tn DM/ha/year is worth €180/ha to dairy farmers.***

***Controlling a field with 20% docks can grow 2t/ha extra grass worth €360/ha.***

***An extra 3-5tn DM can be produced from reseeding pastures worth €500-900/ha.***

Dairygold will, this year, be running a grassland specialist programme in the Limerick and North Cork Area. The programme is a free service to you and is intended to improve grassland productivity on your farm throughout the year.

**How the service works:**
I will be available to you to offer advice and support in all aspects of your grassland management, giving you advice on-farm around new grassland sward management as well as advising you on grassland weed control options.

**The Service**
The main focus will be around reseeding and weed control. Improvements in both have the potential to radically increase the amount of grass you grow.

**Reseeding Plan: A two year reseeding payback**

**KEY POINT:** An extra 3-5tn DM can be produced from reseeding pastures

There are many benefits to reseeding poorly performing fields including.

- Provides more grass in the shoulder months
- A 25% increase in response to nitrogen
- A higher feeding quality
- Quicker re-growth
- Allows higher stocking rates for improved efficiency

In the coming months there will be a number of One to One Branch Workshops running whereby I will provide you with:

- Advice on seed mixtures
- Fertiliser applications
- Post emergence management.

**Keep an eye out for your nearest workshop and avail of this free service.**

## GRASSLAND WEED CONTROL

**How much are docks costing you this year?**



- ✔ Controlling a field with over 20% dock level can grow an extra 2tn DM/ha of grass
- ✔ Dairygold Agribusiness has solutions for any of your grassland weeds

***Please don't hesitate to contact myself, your area sales manager or your local branch with any queries on your grassland management and reseeding programme for this year.***

# GRASSLAND WEED CONTROL

By DENIS McCARTHY
IASIS, Dairy Field Sales Manager


When it comes to grassland weed control, I have noticed farmers rank it in varying degrees of importance on their farms. Some are meticulous and are constantly monitoring and controlling, some are vigilant and never allow grassland weeds become a major problem and others seem to have thrown their hat at it, and given up. Whichever way you rank it on your farm the fact is, where ever you have a weed within a grass sward it is taking up space and nutrients and reducing you grass yield potential which in turn results in less money going to the back pocket.

In fact, controlling a field with 20% docks can grow 2t/ha extra grass worth €360/ha. In my view the decision whether to control grassland weeds or not is an easy one, it simply must be done. When it comes to deciding how and when it should be done is a little less simple.

Having decided to control your grassland weeds there are a number of factors to be considered when deciding how to go about it, when to go about it and which product is best suited to do the job at a competitive cost.

## FACTORS YOU NEED TO CONSIDER

- What type of grass field are you spraying, is it permanent grass or is it a new ley.
- Is it a grazing sward or a silage field?
- How close to grazing or cutting is it?
- Is now the best time to control these weeds?
- Weather conditions.
- Is there clover present? If so do you want to keep it
- What are the main weeds you need to kill?
- Are you looking for short or long term control, this is a cost factor.
- Is this field owned or rented. This may influence your spend.
- Do you know if there is chickweed present?
- Is it common chickweed or mouse ear chickweed?
- Are there Dandelions or buttercup present?
- Is there any Ragwort in the field or under wires?

***Our area sales Managers are available to help you decide on a course of action best suited to your situation, based on establishing you individual needs through discussion on this list of factors. I have outlined below a summary of some products and rates which you can use based on the different field scenarios.***

# GRASSLAND WEED CONTROL

## NEW LEYS/ UNDERSOWN WEED CONTROL…

***Burn-off:***

- Two chances to control weeds
- Burning off: Do not skimp on rates (6L/ha of standard products).
- Roundup Flex highly recommended (4.5L/ha) better uptake.
- Allow enough time after spraying before ploughing (7-10 days standard)
- Key to control difficult weeds before tap roots develop

***POST EMERGENCE:***

***New leys 5 to 6 weeks after sowing with no clover….***

- **Hurler or Reaper: @ .75L/ha,**
- **Hi load Mircam: @ 1 to 1.25 L/ha**
- **Envy: @ 1.5 l/ha**
- **PatorTrio: @1L/Ha**
- In this case I would let swards get well established as these sprays have a wide weed spectrum and can handle strong weeds.
- Grazing interval for Hi load is 14 days and is best to go as close to grazing as possible as grazing tends to revitalise crop after the spray. Reaper, Envy & Pasture Trio have a 7 day grazing interval so sometimes works in better as you may need to graze sooner.

***Ney leys 6 weeks after sowing with clover but no Chickweed…***

- **Mastercrop Undersown/Legumex DB or any undersown spray in stock.**
- **Rate 7 litres per Hectare**
- Need to spray when weeds are small but clover must have one trifoliate leaf.
- Generally will do a good job, on target weeds, docks, thistles, etc. timing importing.
- Will not Kill chickweed .
- Won't kill Mayweed. Common in compacted ground

**New leys 6 weeks after sowing with Clover and Chickweed…**

- More difficult situation as clover safe products are poor on chickweed.
- **Undersown: @ 5L/ha plus Triad @One Tablet to .75 Ha**
- Clovers need to be strong, 2to3 trifoliate leafs. This leads to stronger weeds at spraying.
- If chickweed is very bad you may need to discuss using products like hi-load, Hurler, Envy or PastorTrio which will take out the clover. Not much good anyway in having

*Paddock that received a post emergence spray*

*Paddock without post emergence spray*

clover in a field of Chickweed.

- Fields with history of Chickweed, you should consider using non clover grass seeds, and establish the clover after weed control.

## ESTABLISHED SILAGE FIELD…

***Important in Silage fields to get good weed control, best to use products that give long term control and spray early.***

### *No Clover, Docks & Chickweed…*

- ***Doxstar Pro:*** @1L/Ha in 300 to 400 litres of water/Ha 28 days before cutting,
- ***Hi-Load Mircam:*** @ 1.25 L/Ha in 200L/Ha of water 14 days before cutting(short term control)
- ***Hurler/Reaper:*** 1.25 To 1.5L/Ha = Will do Similar Job to Hi-Load. (short term control)
- ***Envy:*** @ 2l/Ha in 200 to 400 litres of water 28days before cutting. New product.
- ***PastorTrio:*** @ 2L/Ha in 200 To 400 Litres of water/ 28days before cutting. *New Product*


*A high volume of water is need to carry the chemical into the tap root of the dock*

### *With Clover - Docks & ChickWeed…..*

- There is really no good option here that will kill the chickweed and keep the clover. You must decide if its more important to kill the chickweed or keep the clover.

### *With Clover & Docks Only….*

- ***Eagle:*** @ 60g/Ha. 21 days pre-cutting in 300+ L/Ha of water.
- ***Prospect:*** @ One pack to 2 Ha , generally not used until the autumn as can be hard on grass

# GRASSLAND WEED CONTROL


Chickweed

## ESTABLISHED GRAZING FIELDS..

***No Clover - Docks & Chickweed ....***

- ***Hi Load Mircam:*** @ 1.25 L/Ha 14 day grazing Interval.
- ***Hurler /Reaper:*** @ 1.25 L/Ha 7 Day Grazing Interval.
- ***Doxstar Pro:*** @ 1 litre /Ha in 300+ litres Water/ Ha 7 day grazing Interval.
- ***Envy:*** @ 2L/Ha in 300 to 400 litres of water/ha 7 day Grazing Interval.
- ***PastorTrio:*** @2L/Ha in 300 To 400 litres of Water/Ha , 7 Day Grazing Interval

***No Clover - Docks, Chickweed, & Thistles...***

- ***Pastor Pro:*** @2 litre/Ha 300+L/ha Water, Grazing interval 7 days
- ***PastorTrio:*** @ 2L/Ha 300+L/Ha water , Grazing interval 7 days
- ***Hi Load Mircam:*** @ 1.25 L/Ha , Grazing Interval 14Days

***No Clover – Thistles & Nettles only...***

- ***Thistlex*** @ 1l/Ha, 7 days grazing interval.

***Clover Sward with Docks & Chickweed and other weeds....***

- No real option here to kill weeds and save the clover. Use clover safe dock sprays and manage chickweed out through grazing or kill the chickweed a long with the clover.

***Clover Swards with Docks Only....***

- **Eagle** @ 60g/Ha in 300+l/Ha of water. 7 days pre Grazing.
- Prospect can be used but is hard on grass.

***Where Dandelion & Buttercup are a problem.....***

- D50 @ 3.3L/Ha, 14 day grazing interval.
- Envy @ 2L/Ha, 7 day grazing interval.
- Pasture Trio @ 2 L/Ha, 7 day grazing interval.

# GRASSLAND WEED CONTROL

- Forefront @ 2L/ha. Expensive would only use if need to kill Ragwort & Nettles at the same time. Good long term control

***Where Dandelion & Buttercup are a problem along with Docks & Chickweed***

- Forefront@ 2 L/Ha Grazing interval 7 days.
- Envy @ 2L/ha Grazing Interval 7 days cutting interval 28days
- Pasture Trio @ 2L/Ha, 7 day Grazing interval cutting interval 28 Days.
- You could use D50 at 3.3L/Ha but you may get poor control of the docks, however a follow up with hi-load or Reaper at a later stage is an option.

***When controlling these weeds clover will always be killed.***

## ESTABLISHED GRAZING OR SILAGE FIELD….

**Ragwort Control….**

*Ragwort*

- **Lupo** @ 4 L/Ha.
- Six weeks pre Grazing or Cutting.
- Spray Late Feb to March. Or October.
- Need to get plants small at the rosette stage but need good temperatures and growth.
- For best result add a penetrant @.2L/ha
- Will also kill Docks & Thistles.
- Ragwort is poisonous to livestock but smell keeps them away. Killing the plant eliminates the smell but not the poison so you have to allow plants to completely rot away before grazing/cutting.

***Rushes….***

- Need to be green and actively growing. Often best to cut and spray after circa 3 weeks regrowth.
- MCPA @ 2.7/Ha is product of choice but need to add Torpedo at 0.2L/ha to aid control

***In all cases it is important to watch out for any other stress factors such as frost, drought, rolling etc. Which may reduce the effect of the product used or cause damage to the sward.***

***Please contact your local ASM for more information.***

# Feeds Direct

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| **Thursday:** | Mitchelstown & New Inn |
| **Friday:** | East Cork, Carrigaline & Ballinhassig |


## EASY TO ORDER

**at Lombardstown Mill Customer Service & Inside Sales on 022-47275, your local Area Manager or Co-op store, or via your Dairygold online services account.**

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