

CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH

High SCC cows?



Don't turn a blind eye!

While maximising production and selling as much milk as possible may be a priority this autumn, turning a blind eye to animals with a high somatic cell count (SCC) could prove to be a very costly exercise. Cows with a high SCC have a subclinical infection- they are not producing milk to their full potential because this infection has damaged some of the mammary tissue. Feeding cows has already been a costly exercise on many farms this year-are you sure that all cows are giving you a return and not just costing you money? To make matters worse, high SCC cows are a constant source of infection in your herd! So how should you deal with them?

1. Know who the culprits are!

Milk record the whole herd now- any cow with an SCC > 200,000 cells/mL is likely to have at least one infected quarter. While milk recording might be seen as an extra cost, it can be more expensive not to! If you are not milk recording, how will you know who the culprits are? You may suspect a few, but you will miss many more. Milk recording will also allow you to identify the most productive cows in terms of fat, protein and milk yields, and who are 'paying their way'.

2. Minimise the spread of infection!

After a high SCC cow is milked, the bacteria from the infected quarter can be detected on the liner of that cluster for up to 6 milkings. Thus, high SCC cows should be marked and milked last to minimise disease spread. If it is not possible to run them as a separate herd, hold them back and milk them as the last row. This will prevent them infecting other cows. Good hygiene during milking (of the cow, the milker and the parlour) and a good milking routine are also essential to prevent the spread of bacteria.

3. Deal with these problem cows now!

Don't ignore these high SCC cows-just because their infections may not be visible to the naked eye, this does not mean they are insignificant. In fact, these infections can have more of an impact on your herd than clinical infections as they can lurk for longer before being detected and dealt with.

• Should you treat this infection?

While this may be a logical option, treating high SCC cows is not always appropriate or recommended. Remember that cure rates can range from 20-80% depending on various factors such as the bacteria involved, the duration of infection and the cow's lactation number. Discuss a treatment plan for these cases with your vet.

• Remove the source of infection instead

- Drying off individual quarters will prevent the spread of infection, and the impact that these cows have on your bulk tank SCC. Use a CMT to identify the problem quarter and simply stop milking it, do NOT use a dry cow tube.
- Alternatively dry the cow off early, particularly if she is a candidate that would benefit from a longer dry period. Discuss an appropriate dry cow treatment with your vet.
- Finally, sometimes you need to just cut your losses. Consider culling if the cow is a repeat offender i.e. high SCC in two consecutive lactations.

For more information on controlling mastitis in late lactation and dealing with high SCC cows, see Guidelines 14 and 15, and Management Note M in the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control.

Out of Season Bonus Scheme 2018-2019

Criteria for the 2018-2019 Out of Season bonus scheme are as follows:

	November	December	January	February
Target (% of May Supply)	50%	45%	45%	45%
Payment	3 cpl	5 cpl	5 cpl	5 cpl
SCC Max	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
TBC Max	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Lactose % Minimum	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%

Other quality criteria and conditions include:

- No added water or antibiotics
- A minimum collection of greater than 250 litres
- No unscheduled collections, carrying over or holding milk from one month to the next
- A signed milk supply agreement must also be in place to qualify for the 2018-2019 Out of Season Scheme.

Winter Livestock Housing

- 1) Suitable for Dairy / Beef animals
- 2) Capacity 130 head
- 3) Cubicle & Slat matted penning
- 4) Round bale silage included, approx 450 bales.
- 5) Winter feeding and management provided.
- 6) 9t Split Feed Bin
- 7) Excellent Handling facilities
- 8) Meets Dept. of Ag Approval
- 9) Artic Access
- 10) Nitrates loading can be reduced
- 11) Secure.
- 12) Located in Monaghan, 30 mins from M1.

Would be interested in a medium to long term partnership.

Phone - 086 - 8550706.

FOR SALE

12 Spring born pedigree registered and genomic tested Friesian heifer calves, average EBI €155.
Kevin Clare, Ardee, 087 2766672



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FARM NOTES

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SHAREHOLDERS URGED TO ATTEND SGM AND APPROVE Lakeland Dairies and LacPatrick Merger

Lakeland Dairies and LacPatrick Dairies have reached agreement to merge following the unanimous approval of the Boards of both co-operative societies who are recommending the proposed merger to shareholders.



Andrew McConkey (Chairman, LacPatrick Dairies), Michael Hanley (CEO, Lakeland Dairies) and Alo Duffy (Chairman, Lakeland Dairies).

The Boards of both Societies have unanimously recommended shareholders to attend the forthcoming SGM at 1.00 pm in Cavan (Hotel Kilmore) on Tuesday 23rd October and to VOTE IN FAVOUR of the merger.

Lakeland Dairies will hold our SGM in Cavan (Hotel Kilmore) at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 23rd October, 2018.

Registration will open at 12 noon and refreshments will be provided. Only shareholders can attend the SGM and vote.

Shareholders are urged to come to the SGM in large numbers and the Board are recommending all shareholders to vote in favour of the merger.

Exclusive discussions about a possible merger started last June and have reached a positive outcome where the Boards of both societies are unanimously recommending shareholders to vote in favour of the merger at Special General Meetings which will be held on Tuesday 23rd October next. Regulatory approval will also be required.

Lakeland Dairies and LacPatrick Dairies are neighbouring societies and both operate on a cross border basis exporting the vast majority of their output to global markets. Each has a heritage of excellence in co-operative dairy farming spanning well over a century and share common business development aims in the interests of their shareholders, milk producers and rural communities.

The amalgamation of Lakeland and LacPatrick is a coming together of two dairy co-operatives on the island of Ireland to form a strong force in the global dairy industry. Both co-operatives are highly successful agrifood industry players with excellent manufacturing facilities and complementary strengths and advantages in their various worldwide markets.

As an absolute priority, the combined new co-operative will work to support dairy farming families on a long term basis into the future by maximising market returns and paying a sustainable and competitive milk price in line with market conditions.

Owned and controlled by farmers, with over 3,200 milk suppliers and a collective milk pool of some 1.8bn litres, the new co-op will be the second largest dairy processor on the island of Ireland. It will have a combined annual turnover in excess of €1bn, creating internationally competitive scale while ensuring efficient costs of operation.

The announcement was made jointly by the Chairman of LacPatrick Dairies, Andrew MacConkey and the Chairman of Lakeland Dairies, Alo Duffy, together with Michael Hanley, CEO of Lakeland Dairies who will be appointed Group CEO of the new merged co-operative society which will adopt the name of Lakeland Dairies.

Lakeland Dairies will hold its SGM in Cavan (Hotel Kilmore) at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 23rd October, 2018. Registration will open at 12 noon and refreshments will be provided. Only shareholders can attend the SGM and vote. The Boards of both co-operative societies are unanimously recommending shareholders to come to the SGM in large numbers and vote in favour of the merger.



GRANTS FOR TANKS TAMS II Ends 31st December 2020

How old is your bulk tank? How efficient is your tank? How long after milking does it take your tank to reach 4 degrees? ideally half an hour. In the event of long periods of warm weather will your compressor cope with the additional cooling burden?

TAMS II Dairy equipment grant scheme is in place to **December 2020**, the opportunity exists for milk suppliers to upgrade their bulk milk tanks at a reasonable cost but the deadline is fast approaching. There is 40% grant support for established farmers and 60% for young trained farmers. A farmer can secure approval to upgrade his milk tank and has 12 months from the date of approval to complete the work.

The example below sets out the cost of an upgrade;

Proposed Milk tank size (Including Auto washer and compressor)	8,000 Litres
Dept of Agriculture Allowance (Excluding V.A.T.)*	€23,132
Grant Support at 40%	€9,253
Gross Cost of Tank	€13,879
Less Trade in Allowance ?	€6,000
Net Cost of Tank	€7,879

*VAT is Recoverable as Bulk Milk Tanks are classified as fixed investment.

Where expansion is taking place and bulk tanks are too small, now may be a good time to invest in a new bigger tank. New tanks are very energy efficient, have advanced cooling / washing technology and have a range of safety features to ensure milk quality. When purchasing and calculating tank size, take into account planned expansion and allow for FIVE MILKINGS at peak production.

Postponing the purchase of this necessary equipment post 2020 will exclude you from availing of this grant.

Peter Varley, Irish Farmers Journal has a comprehensive article on TAMS II in the IFJ week ending 5th October, **well worth reading!**

The Application Process;

Applications must be submitted online through agfood.ie. Applicants who wish to apply online or through their agents must first be registered for online services (OLS) with the Department. Instructions for registration can be found online at www.agfood.ie or you can contact agfood online services helpline in the Department's Portlaoise office Locall **1890 0252 118** or **0761 064424** or email agfood@agriculture.gov.ie

Applicants can submit more than one application per tranche, subject to the minimum investment ceiling.

For Details and to assess your eligibility for the scheme contact your Agricultural Advisor.

Need to upgrade your Milk Tank?

**40% support available under TAMS
60% support for young qualified farmers**

Closing date 31st December, 2018.

Attractive allowances for Trade-in on your old tank.

We have a team of experienced, accredited consultants based in your local area available to guide you through the application process. Fast, reliable, hassle free service guaranteed.

**Contact us today on 087-3575198
Leading Sustainable, Profitable Agriculture**



EDI CENTRE LONGFORD FREE IT Training

**Commencing Oct 15th 2018 at
EDI Centre Longford**

Class 1 6 – 8pm

Class 2 8-10pm

Total 10 hours

***This programme will give Farmers an
introduction and a better understanding of
Dept of Agri website***

**For further enquiries contact
Anthony Dockery 086 8264868 or
Breda Murphy 043 3347515**



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CELLCHECK ON-FARM EVENTS

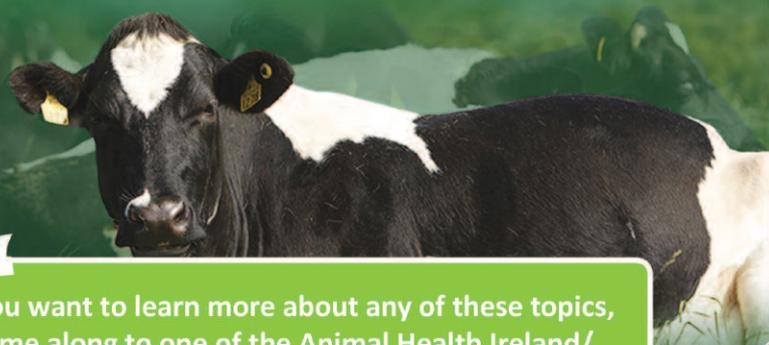


Get ready to maximise your herd's full potential for 2019

What topics will be covered at these CellCheck Events?

- 1. What is the best way to dry off cows?**
See a practical demonstration on drying off cows, including teat preparation and tubing technique.
- 2. Is there a role for selective dry cow therapy (SDCT)?**
 - With a growing focus on responsible antibiotic use, should you be considering SDCT?
 - What are the benefits? What are the risks? Is your herd suitable, and if so, learn how to get started.
- 3. Can you reduce the risk of mastitis for in-calf heifers?**
Find out how to reduce the risk of new infections. Learn about the pros and cons of various management practices, and which might be most suitable for your herd.
- 4. How can you best look after your dry cows?**
How cows are managed during the dry period affects their subsequent milk yield and fertility. How can you ensure dry cows are fit for calving next spring? Where feed is scarce, how can you safely stretch what feed you have for them this winter?

If you want to learn more about any of these topics, come along to one of the Animal Health Ireland/ Teagasc CellCheck Open Days.



Changes to the calculation of SCC. (derogation factor)

This derogation granted in 1986 will be **removed with effect from November 1st 2018**. Calculation for SCC's will continue on a three month rolling geometric mean throughout the full year, without the coefficient previously applied in the low production period.

Purpose of removing the derogation

There has been a significant improvement in the SCC levels in the Irish dairy herd over recent years, particularly since the introduction of sector supports including Bord Bia's Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme and the AHI CellCheck Mastitis Control Programme and the associated workshops. The continued use of the derogation runs counter to the efforts of industry stakeholders to reduce SCC levels and to maintain and build on the Irish dairy sector's reputation for quality and safety.

Who should be concerned?

A small number of suppliers will be affected with this derogation removal. They are suppliers regularly receiving rejection / warning notices and suppliers forced to cease production because of high Geometric SCC calculations. If you are in this group of milk producers, please call Member Relations Division **1890 47 47 20**.

Soil Sampling Programme 18/19

The Lakeland Dairies Subsidised Soil Sampling Programme will be available for the months of December, January & February. The service which includes having soil samples taken and tested is available at a subsidised cost of €15 / sample to all Lakeland Dairies milk suppliers. Milk suppliers wishing to avail of this service should contact Member Relations on 1890 47 47 20 to register before Friday 23rd November.

Please note, taking of soil samples will be limited to one farm visit per milk supplier registered for the programme.

Soil testing and the correct use of the results generated is not only fundamental to growing high yields of good quality grass; it also has the added economic advantage of enabling a more efficient use of organic manures and bagged fertiliser.

DATES	ON FARM VENUE START TIME: 10.30AM	EIRCODE
02 NOV	Donal McElroy , Carrickallen, Kikerley, Dundalk, Co. Louth. <i>Supported by Lakeland Dairies, LacPatrick and Glanbia</i>	A91 FC78
08 NOV	Anthony McCarron , Knockaronaghan, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan. <i>Supported by LacPatrick, Lakeland Dairies and Glanbia</i>	H18 EV58

This series of CellCheck events is being run with the help and support of the local Co-op in each region.

