

The Lakeland Dairies/Teagasc Joint Programme



The Lakeland Dairies/Teagasc Joint Programme held a land and labour options workshop in the Hotel

Kilmore last Tuesday 9th January. Farmers in attendance had the opportunity to discuss options around farm partnerships, succession, leasing, share farming, contract rearing and managing spring workload with a distinguished group of speakers.

The Speakers included Tom Curran (Teagasc, Farm Structures Specialist), Tom Coll (Teagasc advisor who set up a discussion group for contract heifer rearers) and Dermot Heaney (dairy farmer Kilberry, Navan, Co Meath). Farmers in attendance were divided into three groups and each group were rotated around the three speakers for a question and answers style session.

The speakers and farmers who attended were impressed by the openness and depth of knowledge that was shared amongst the group. The format allowed for all farmers in



attendance to ask the questions that were relevant to their own farm enterprise and have their question answered. The Joint Programme would like to thank our three speakers for giving their time and sharing their knowledge with those in attendance. The Joint Programme hope to run a similar event in the south of the Lakeland Dairies Catchment area in the coming weeks. Further details will be provided by text in the coming week.

Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS)

The Bord Bia Dairy Assurance Scheme is now the required standard for the Irish Dairy Industry, it sets out the criteria to produce quality milk and supports the industry to market dairy products worldwide.

Almost 100% of Lakeland Dairies suppliers are participating in the scheme and 95% of suppliers are fully certified.

Most suppliers are now progressing towards their second and third audits within the scheme.

For suppliers with up-coming audits, having your records and milk production holdings up to the required standard will result in an immediate certification, without close-out being required by Co-Op advisors. Particular attention should be focused on animal remedy usage records, ensuring that they are up to date with all required information recorded, including administration date, remedy name and quantity administered, identification of animals treated, withdrawal dates (both meat and milk withdrawal dates for dairy cows), name of person administering the remedy and prescribing vets name. Please see the example below of animal remedy usage records with all information recorded correctly.

Suppliers who are not fully certified under the Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme will be subject to a deduction of 2 cpl from 1st January 2018. For advice on the Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme and assistance with your certification, please contact our Member Relations Division on 1890 47 47 20.

Animal Remedies Usage Record

Date of Administration	Name and Quantity of Animal Remedy Administered per Animal		Identity of Animal given Remedy (including the ear tag no. or a clear reference to it), State Number of Animals if Batch Treatment	*Date of End of Withdrawal Period (if any)		Name of Person Administering the Remedy	Name of Prescribing Veterinary Surgeon (if applicable)	Condition Treated (Optional)
	Remedy Name	Quantity		Meat	Milk			
1 27/7/15	Penstrep	15ml	680	18/8/15	48 hrs	J. Reilly	Vets LTD	Infection
2 11/8/15 - 3/8/15	Tylosin 20%	20 ml X 3 days	162	8/9/15	96 hrs	" "	" "	Mastitis
3 20/8/15	Tetra-Delta	1 tube	667	28/8/15	108 hrs	" "	" "	Mastitis
4 3/9/15	Risporal 1BR vaccine	2ml	All dairy cows & in calf heifers	—	—	" "	" "	1BR vaccine
5 10/10/15	Ivomec injection	8ml	All weanlings	29/11/15	—	" "	" "	Dosed weanlings
6 29/11/15	Bovaclox DC	4 tubes	326, 234, 636, 851	28/12/15	13/1/16 + 140 hours	" "	" "	Dried off 4 cows
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Please follow the example above when recording withholding periods, dates not days

Above indicates the correct method of in-putting animal treatments in the Animal Remedies Usage Record.

Avoiding Colostrum Contamination of Milk

In excess of 50% of all Spring calving cows / heifers will calve between now and the end of February producing huge volumes of colostrum with the risk of some of this being added to the bulk tank.

The problems associated with processing Colostrum contaminated milk have been communicated to all suppliers in the past and to avoid this problem re-occurring, suitable milking procedures need to be in place and all staff must be familiar with these procedures.

The basic problem is, some milk is being added to the bulk tank too soon after calving.

Avoiding contamination.

Identification of freshly calved cows is necessary here, the method of identification is not critical as long as all staff are familiar with the identification process. Do not add milk from freshly calved cows until they have been milked at least 10 times. If you are unsure of the quality of the milk after 10 milking's, continue holding it out until you are prepared to put it on the family table.

Where possible freshly calved cows should be milked last and this milk then retained for calf feeding. Holding freshly calved milk out for longer periods will also help your SCC.

FARM AVAILABLE FOR CONTRACT HEIFER REARING UP TO 25 ANIMALS
Contact: 087 118 3733 or 087 770 1371

BROWELITE HERD OFFERS SELECTION OF SERVICE AGE HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN BULLS, FROM TOP INTERNATIONAL COW FAMILIES BY TOP INTERNATIONAL SIRES

GOOD TYPE, CONFORMATION WITH EXCELLENT PRODUCTION DAMS TO 740 KG/MS FAT TO 4.58 % PROTEIN TO 3.72%.
CONTACT STEPHEN LAWLOR 087 9252243

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48 acres in Ballyhaise Co. Cavan with entitlements. All suitable for grazing or cutting. 10 unit milking parlour Accommodation for 100 cows. All modern buildings. All land recently reseeded. Available on long term lease. Contact 0860295666.

Antibiotic Residues

Avoiding antibiotic residues this spring;

Record the dates of when cows are dried off and or treated for mastitis, sickness or dosed. Write down when the withholding period is up, (based on the manufacturer's instructions) clearly mark treated animals. Dry cows must be segregated from the milking herd. Ensure all staff involved in the milking process are familiar with the procedure of identifying treated cows, a white board or blackboard in the pit recording treatments and withholding periods is recommended.

If cows calve early, make sure the minimum dry period has passed before adding her milk to the tank.

If you suspect an error in cow identity, treatment or calving date records, do not put the milk in the tank until you are sure the issue is resolved.

Lakeland Dairies have a facility to pre-test milk before collection where there is a doubt of its safety. Avail of this service and ensure your bulk tank is antibiotic free. Penalties for antibiotic contamination of collection units are severe, check with your insurer that you have adequate cover in the event of an accident.

Antibiotic testing kits are available from Andy Brady at 049 5553060 or 087 2544788

Electronic Tagging

Average dairy herd size is rapidly increasing and the use of technology is now a significant aspect in the management of these herds. To make best use of this technology all milk producing animals at least should be electronically tagged.

A start can be made this Spring by tagging all heifer calves with electronic tags. Once tagged a range of different opportunities are then available to you most of all is the labour saving aspect. The tags can be read and stored on a reader and downloaded to your laptop or diary.

Examples of the usefulness of electronic tags;

- Milk recording
- Automatic drafting gates
- Robotic milking systems
- Automatic calf feeders
- Weighing scales
- Herd testing

The cost of the electronic tag is €3.95, the same price with all suppliers. The Farmers Journal of December 16th carried a very good article on tagging in the FOCUS pages, well worth reading.

CAFRE Dairy Open Days

The 200 cow CAFRE Dairy Herd at the **Greenmount Dairy Farm**, Co. Antrim will host two open days on the 24th and 25th January 2018.

Tours will start from 10.30am every 20 minutes each day and the tours will last for two hours. The last tour will start at 1.30pm. A light lunch will be available after the tour.

There will be six stops on the tour of the Greenmount Dairy Farm which will focus on:

- Benchmarking Dairy Herd Performance
- Replacement Heifer rearing
- Slurry utilisation and forage production
- Dry cow management
- Cow and calf management at calving
- Feed efficiency and current herd diets

Performance of the herd against the KPIs will be discussed at the CAFRE Dairy Open Days.

Currently the herd's performance is assessed against a number of key performance indicators (KPIs), as follows:

- Milk yield: 8,777L per cow per year;
- Milk solids yield: 658kg per cow per year;
- Concentrate feed use: 2,729kg per cow per year;
- Milk from forage: 2,712L per cow;

Further information on the CAFRE Dairy Open days is available at www.cafre.ac.uk

CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH



Is your milking machine good to go?!

A new year, a new lactation.is your milking machine good to go? Did you have it serviced during the dry period? If not, how can you be sure that you are heading into a new season with a perfectly functioning milking machine? To ensure it runs smoothly, most people will service their tractors after 500 hours of work, or their cars after about 250 hours of driving.so why should your milking machine be any different? In fact, the milking machine earns you your money, by safely and efficiently harvesting the milk from your most important asset, your cows; shouldn't you make sure that it's running smoothly too and not contributing to a mastitis problem in your herd?

REMEMBER

- CellCheck recommends that all milking machines are serviced twice a year by a IMQCS-registered technician. This equates to about 550 hours of work between services. If you haven't done this yet, get it done now before spring calving and milking start again. A list of registered technicians in your local area is available [click here](#).
- Get the service technician to go through the report fully with you – it is important to have an understanding of how the machine is functioning, and why certain recommendations may have been made.
- Carry out any repairs needed immediately.
- Start the season with a new set of liners, and change them after 2000 milkings or 6 months, whichever comes first. Remember that your cows' teats will spend an average of 60-80 hours every lactation in contact with the liners- making sure that the liners are in top condition will maximise productivity, and reduce the risk spreading bacteria and damaging teats.

More information is available online www.cellcheck.ie and in the CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control

Reducing SCC and Antibiotic usage



For 2018 there are some potential goals that could be set in terms of SCC and Mastitis;

- Reduce bulk tank SCC to below 200,000 if not already there
- Reduce cases of clinical mastitis
- Create the opportunity to use selective dry cow therapy

For some herds there may be an aim to reduce SCC to below 400,000 or 300,000 depending on the current level. The principles are similar in any case.

Key Components of an SCC management plan

1. Information

Where is the herd average currently? How many problem cows are in the herd? What is the pattern of SCC and mastitis? What bacteria are causing the main problems?

2. Action plan

This begins with gathering data and deciding on the next steps. The steps involved will depend on the likely root causes of the problem and may involve Bacterial Culture, Milking routine review, management changes, culling etc. It will require conversations with your VET, AHI Cellcheck, Your Co-Op advisor and others.

3. Review & Refine

The plan will need to be reviewed after each step to check progress and re-examine next steps.

Using selective dry cow therapy this year can save money but the ground work must be done first to have the information to make decisions around dry off.

The AHI Cellcheck program, working with the co-ops, has already had the effect of reducing the national SCC in 2017. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in the advisory and veterinary structure that can be used. IT CAN BE DONE.

Milk recording gives the regular, individual cow SCC data that is required as the basis of any plan. If you have never milk recorded and are unsure of the process why not do a once-off recording and see what it can give you, it will not cost any more than other SCC testing.

Contact Louise Knight 087 2505723 to discuss milk recording options that may suit you.