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FARM NOTES

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 163

OCTOBER 2016

FOR SALE

10 INCALF HEIFERS, A.I. BRED, SPRING CALVING.
CONTACT: 086-8098474

PEDIGREE REGISTERED SPRING CALVING HEIFERS FROM 1,750 GALLON HERD. SOME BY BRITISH FRIESIAN BULLS OF HOLSTEIN COWS.
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Our extensive range of **Dry Cow minerals** include the following:
LFS Hi Spec Dry Cow 150 **Lakeland Ultra Balance Dry Cow**
LFS Dry Cow 100

All available in half tonne lots for delivery direct onto farm

***Grass silages with high CAB scores can cause problems with retained cleanings and milk fevers when fed in dry cow diets. The Lakeland Ultra Balance range of Precalver minerals have been specially formulated to help overcome the challenge of high CAB scores in the dry cow diet.

For more information on which mineral specification best suits your situation, please contact your Lakeland Feed Representative or Farm Services on 1890 47 47 20.

Miceál Duffy

Qualified Hoof Trimming Specialist



087 9749885

Hoof Care Services

HERD HEALTH CERTIFICATES 2016

There are just over 20% of Herd Health Certificates returned to date, all certificates must be returned by 31st December, no cert no milk collection in January. Most herds will have had their annual herd test by now or within the next ten weeks and this is an opportunity to get your cert signed. A full list of dairy cow tag numbers is still required, a pre-printed list is available if you are registered with agfood.ie, ICBF, from the testing vet or can be submitted hand written. There is no blank tag number form with this year's certificate. Please retain one copy of the Herd Health Certificate, it will be required for your Bord Bia audit.



Winter Milk Workshops

'Breeding and feeding decisions for winter 2016'

Winter milk farms are facing into the highest cost period of the annual production cycle. Feed costs and winter breeding decisions present significant challenges. Teagasc, in collaboration with regional co-ops, will hold a series of workshops over the coming weeks to help milk producers manage these issues.

Topics will include; breeding for better cow longevity, the economics of herd fertility, controlling metabolic disease through nutrition, and winter diet guidelines.

All milk suppliers welcome.

Wednesday 2nd November
Dermot Sherry, Drumhillcock, Co. Monaghan

Workshops will commence at 11am and finish at 1pm.



www.teagasc.ie

MANAGING LACTOSE LEVELS IN AUTUMN MILK

"Due to changes in the mammary gland in late lactation, the lactose level in the milk will decline, coinciding with a decline in milk production. It is therefore important to monitor the lactose levels for your herd as low lactose milk is difficult to process. The aim is to keep this above 4.40% which will be required to qualify for the off peak supply scheme. How to manage lactose levels?"

- ▲ Monitor yield of cows. Dry of any cows producing less than 9L/cow/day.
- ▲ Cows with high SCC produce low lactose milk, at any stage of lactation. Dry these cows off also.
- ▲ Nutrition also has a role to play. Ensure cows are receiving adequate dry matter intake to maintain milk yield without calling on the cows' own body reserves."

Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS)



The Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme sets out the necessary criteria to produce quality milk and in addition assesses and records data to demonstrate the sustainability of Irish dairying. SDAS is now the required standard for the Irish Dairy Industry and supports this industry in marketing dairy products world wide.

To date 94% of Lakeland Dairies suppliers are participating in the scheme and 75% of suppliers are fully certified. **Suppliers not participating or continuously postponing audits will be subject to a 2 c/l penalty from January 1st 2017.**

On farm audits are conducted every 18 months with emphasis on a set of requirements including dairy

hygiene, animal remedy records & farm safety. **These audits also cover the Department of Agriculture, Dairy Hygiene Regulations and are not an additional compulsory farm visit.**

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 included of animal remedy usage records with all information recorded correctly.

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 (i) State Number of Animals (i 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			
27/7/15	Pensteep	15ml	680	18/8/15	48 hrs	J. Kelly	WFS LTD	Infection
11/8/15 - 5/11/15	Tylosin 20%	20ml x 3 days	162	8/9/15	96 hrs	"	"	Milk
20/8/15	Tetra-Delta	1 tube	667	28/8/15	108 hrs	"	"	Milk
3/9/15	Risporin 120 mg/ml	2ml	All dairy cows			"	"	1BR vaccine
10/10/15	Isornec injection	8ml	All weanlings	29/10/15		"	"	Deal weanlings
29/11/15	Borrelax DC	4 tubes	326, 234, 636, 851	13/12/15	14 days	"	"	Dealt off 4 cows



FARMNOTES

BVD TESTING

Call IML Labs at 042 967 5353



FARMNOTES



LAKELAND GRASSWATCH

The beginning of October has finally seen an upturn in weather conditions. On most farms grass supply was not an issue, however, ground conditions were preventing grazing and/or good graze outs of paddocks where cows were actually able to get to grass. This should mean a return to full-time grazing for the majority of our suppliers as ground conditions are finally showing signs of improvement. On the majority of our Grasswatch farms, average farm cover is below target for this time of year. However, farmer focus should now be on having at least 60% of the grazing platform closed up by the 22nd October in order to set the farm up for early spring grazing.

Farmer	Ltr/Cow	Fat %	Prot %	kgMS/Cow	SR	Meal kg	Silage kg	Farm Cover	Cover/cow	Demand	Grow Rate
Mid Westmeath	17	4.57	3.78	1.46	3.24	3	4	582	179	26	26
East Cavan	17.6	4.27	3.80	1.46	2.94	3	4	694	236	41	36
Mid Monaghan	19.8	4.52	3.95	1.73	1.70	3	0	852	501	30	30
Longford	14	4.85	3.94	1.27	2.76	3	0	740	236	44	39
South Offaly	16	4.59	3.87	1.35	2.08	2	0	846	370	38	33
Ballyhaise	13.1	5.18	4.12	1.25	2.78	3	0	881	317	39	33

Management tips for October

Autumn rotation planner

When managing grass in autumn we have two objectives: keeping grass in the cows' diet as long as possible and providing a good opening farm cover (OFC) for next spring. The target OFC next spring should be 550 – 650kgDM/Ha (depending on stocking rate & soil type). To achieve this target closing cover needs to be 450 – 550kgDM/Ha.

- To achieve this OFC you should have been closing paddocks from the 1st October (can delay by one week on drier farms). Therefore, anything that was grazed since the 1st October should not be grazed again this year.
- The target is to have 60% of the Milking Platform (MP) grazed by the 22nd – 25th October. Now is a good time to check what percentage of the farm has been closed. If falling behind target, you may have to graze some lower grass covers first to reach the 60% target.
- The remaining 40% of MP should be grazed between this date & housing.

Wet Weather Management

Autumn grazing can be challenging in particular when the weather conditions are working against you. To ensure good intakes and a good clean out of sward some recommended practices are outlined below:

- Allocate grass in 12 hour breaks. Cows eat most of their grass feed within 2.5-3 hours after each milking. In particularly bad weather put the cows out for these 2.5-3 hours and rehouse.
- Cows do two to three times more damage walking in long narrow paddocks. Allocate square paddocks to reduce cow poaching. Simple cow paths and back fences should be used to reduce walking over the same area on more than one grazing.
- Cows do most walking when it is raining. Therefore avoid letting cows out when it is raining (especially where ground conditions are poor) and bring them in when it starts to rain.

Autumn grass

Leafy autumn grass is highly digestible and is a high crude protein forage. However, it is low in energy as it has much lower sugar content than summer grass (9%vs21%).

- For spring calving cows some supplementation is therefore required to provide the energy and quality protein required to produce high quality late lactation milk and to ensure cows are in the correct BCS at dry off. As well as providing energy for sustained milk production, supplementation will help to reduce feed demand and extend the grazing season.
- For autumn calving cows at grass, supplementation will be required as the lower energy and protein values of autumn grass will not be adequate to sustain milk production and cows will suffer from body condition losses. With the days getting shorter and colder it may be a good option to house the autumn calvers at night to ensure good intakes of forage are being achieved.

Silage Quality

With the indoor period nearly upon us getting your silage analysed will be essential to formulate a diet for the winter period. Without silage analysis it is impossible to properly formulate a diet for the milking herd and young stock. To get your silage analysed contact your Lakeland Agri feed representative.



LAKELAND GRASSWATCH..... continued

Winter feed stocks

With the poor weather this summer and the difficult ground conditions on many farms, a lot of winter forage has already been fed to stock. Coupled with farms that were hoping for a third cut that did not materialise, it all adds up to a potential winter feed shortage. Now is the time to take stock of what you have on farm and take action, if needed, to either reduce the demand on winter feed or secure extra feed stocks. Waiting until feed stocks are almost exhausted inevitably leads to inflated prices being paid for forage.

Feed budget calculator

The Lakeland/Teagasc joint programme team have developed a winter feed budget calculator that can help you decide on the best & most cost effective course of action to take with regard to securing enough winter feed.

Please give Adrian, Enda or Michael a call to run your farm details through the calculator.

For any help with interpreting the grass monitoring data or advice on any of the issues in this month's Grasswatch notes please contact either Adrian on (087) 413 8584 or Enda on (087) 664 7022.



CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH Mastitis Control Makes Cents!

Estimating the cost of mastitis on your dairy farm

Components	Costs (€)
1. Penalties	
What was the total value of penalties that you incurred over the last year for SCC and antibiotic residue? (This information is available from your monthly milk statement)	€ _____
2. Production losses	
What is your current herd SCC? _____	
The estimated milk production loss for SCC of various ranges (per cow, per annum) is presented below ¹ . Please choose the milk production loss related to your herd average SCC:	
• 100,001-200,000 cells/ml=174 litres	
• 200,001-300,000 cells/ml=308 litres	
• 300,001-400,000 cells/ml=367 litres	
• >400,000 cells/ml=424 litres	
Milk production loss for your SCC range	
X number of cows	X _____
X milk price per litre ²	X €0.26
Total value of milk production loss =	€ _____
3. Clinical mastitis costs	
Based on data collected from farms with various SCC ranges on mastitis treatment practices the estimated cost of treating a case of mastitis for each SCC range is:	
• <100,000 cells/ml: €18	
• 100,001-200,000: €18	
• 200,001-300,000: €32	
• 300,001-400,000: €46	
• >400,000: €46	
(intra-mammary tubes, IV antibiotic, veterinary call out and pain relief have been accounted for)	
How many cases of mastitis have you treated this year?	
X cost per case for your SCC range	X _____
Total cost of clinical mastitis cases treated=	€ _____
4. Culling	
How many animals were culled due to mastitis this year?	
	X €1,051 ³
Total cost of culling due to mastitis =	€ _____
Total costs of mastitis on your dairy farm (1+2+3+4)	€ _____

Every extra cent counts when producing milk in a time of low prices. Reducing the incidence of mastitis on your herd, both clinical cases and high somatic cell count (SCC) is a guaranteed way to generate more profit for you. And you might be surprised how much extra profit!

The CostCheck interactive calculator has been developed, using robust economic research from Teagasc, to help you calculate how much extra profit you could earn with a lower herd SCC. You use your own farm data, as well as current milk price, cull cow price, treatment costs etc. to estimate the impact mastitis is currently having on your farm profit. You can then set a target reduction in the incidence of mastitis, and clearly see the additional profit to be gained from achieving this target.

For example, even at a milk price of 22 c/L and without a bonus for low SCC, a 100 cow herd with an annual average SCC of 150,000 cells/mL is generating an extra €7,087 in profit, compared to having an average SCC of 250,000 cells/mL. In this example, the extra profit comes from the following areas:

When calculating the true cost of mastitis, it is easy to quantify the obvious costs but the hidden ones have to be considered too. Use the CostCheck calculator to see how much extra profit could be made on your farm. This tool can be downloaded from the Animal Health Ireland website (www.animalhealthireland.ie) or the Teagasc website (www.teagasc.ie).