

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 92% of suppliers are fully certified.

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

Problem areas with re-audits are:

- Medicine Purchase and Usage records (Full 18 months dating back to last audit required)
- Farm Safety Risk Assessment updated and available for inspection
- Dairy hygiene issues (tight fitting doors, no gaps in walls/around pipes etc., clean ceiling, walls and floor, etc.)
- Clean and well maintained milking equipment (clusters, jars, milk tubes etc)
- Health & Safety issues (PTO guards on machinery, Slurry lagoons securely fenced)

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**.

Soil Sampling Programme 17/18

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 €12 / 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 24th November**.

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.

Herd Health Certificates

Please return all Herd Health Certificates by Friday 24th November 2017.

OUT OF SEASON BONUS SCHEME 2017 / 18

	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 and a minimum collection of greater than 250 litres.

No unscheduled collections or carrying or holding milk from one month to the next.

A signed milk supply agreement must also be in place.

Lakeland Grasswatch

With the poor weather we have endured over the past 6-8 weeks showing no signs of improvement, grass supply is behind target on most of our grasswatch farms. Add to this the difficult or non-existent grazing conditions we are faced with, and we are shaping up for a less than ideal end to the 2017 grazing season. Growth figures for the beginning of October show a range of 22 – 69kgDM/Ha, with lighter more free draining soils performing better. Four of our grasswatch farms have introduced silage either to stretch grass supply or where cows are being housed to avoid poaching. The majority of our farms are below target for average farm cover (target 1,000 – 1200).

Farmer	Ltr/Cow	Fat	Prot %	kgMS/Cow	SR	Meal kg	Silage kgDM	Farm Cover	Cover/cow	Demand	Grow Rate
Mid Westmeath	17.5	4.51	3.72	1.48	3.94	3	2.7	759	193	45	40
East Cavan	16.5	4.06	3.52	1.29	2.9	4.5	7.5	787	271	20	36
Mid Monaghan	18.3	4.32	3.82	1.47	2.31	4	8	692	300	21	35
Longford	15.5	4.63	3.79	1.34	2.8	4.5	5.5	860	307	24	22
South Offaly	17.3	4.05	3.79	1.40	2.47	3	0	967	392	37	54
Louth	15.3	5.04	4.25	1.46	3.1	2	0	1077	347	47	69
Meath	17.4	5.00	4.02	1.62	3.47	4	0	713	206	52	35

Management tips for October

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, **where grazing is possible**, 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.
- 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.
- On farms where grazing is not currently possible, do not rule out grazing again this autumn just yet. If an opportunity to get cows back grazing occurs, it needs to be taken. Following the grazing practices outlined above will ensure damage to paddocks is kept to a minimum.
- It is also noticeable that there are good supplies of grass on some farms that cannot graze presently. If it is unlikely that cows will be able to get back to these paddocks then grazing with lighter stock should be considered. Carrying covers of 1200+ over the winter period is not advisable as these swards are

likely to rot at the butt and be unpalatable in spring, especially in heavier wetter soils.

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.

For spring calving cows 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, with the current grazing conditions, it should be strongly considered to house them full time to avoid body condition losses or graze for a maximum of 2-3 hours if grazing conditions allow.

Managing milk lactose levels

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 off any cows producing less than 10L/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.

Silage Quality

With the indoor period now 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.

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)4138584 or Enda on (087)6647022

Teagasc National Winter Milk Event 2017

'Winter Milk in an Expanding Dairy Industry'

Thursday 26th October, Navan Co. Meath

Morning Session - Ardboyne Hotel, Navan (Eircode C15 C9YA)

10:15am: Welcome, tea and coffee

10:45am: TJ Flanagan, Chief Executive ICOS 'The role of winter milk in a growing industry- the milk processors' view'

11:15am: Joe Patton, Winter Milk Specialist Teagasc: 'Calving pattern- the most important decision on your farm?'

11:45am: Brian Garry, Dairy Nutritionist Teagasc Moorepark 'Feeding for yield, feeding for profit - is there a difference?'

12:15pm: Patrick Gowing, Dairy Expansion Service Teagasc 'Business planning for expansion in a winter milk system'

12:50 pm: **Lunch provided in Ardboyne Hotel**

Afternoon Session: Farm Visit to liquid milk herd of Leo Collins, Ardath, Co Meath.

2:15pm Expert speakers will run 4 workshops discussing: **breeding and cow type** for liquid milk herds, **practical feeding plans**; **labour management**, and **energy use efficiency** on farm. (Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear)

To book a place please contact Niamh Allen 025-42457 or niamh.allen@teagasc.ie

Event fee is €20 which includes lunch and tea/coffee

Dry cow therapy-selective or blanket?



There is much discussion lately about the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and how the use of antibiotics in both humans and animals can contribute to it. The use of antibiotics at the end of lactation is one area that is receiving increasing attention. There is much discussion about whether farmers should use blanket or selective dry cow therapy in their herds-what does this actually mean and why do we use dry cow therapy at all?

Remember!

Dry cow therapy (DCT) consists of intramammary antibiotic tubes and/or internal teat sealer. The purpose of DCT is to:

1. eliminate existing udder infections at the end of lactation
2. and prevent new infections over the dry period.

Blanket DCT:

This is when all quarters of all cows are treated with antibiotic.

Selective DCT:

This is when only selected cows i.e. those with infected quarters, are treated with antibiotic. Internal teatsealer can then be used in the remainder of the herd.

When it comes to deciding between blanket and selective DCT, it is not a case of "one size fits all". However, there are certain criteria that a herd owner should be able to fulfil, in order to safely consider using selective DCT. For example, regular milk recording is essential, as without this it is not possible to make informed decisions on the likely infection status of each individual animal. Milk cultures results are also important, as blanket DCT may still be necessary for some herds depending on the bacterial challenges that they face. Excellent hygiene when administering any DCT is critical, but even more so with selective DCT, as there is no antibiotic being administered at the same time.

For full details on using selective DCT in your herd, read Management Note C in the 'CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Control', and discuss with your vet. If you can't fulfil all the recommended criteria, for example if you are not milk recording, then start milk recording now so that by Autumn 2018 you will be in a better position to consider selective DCT for your herd and to safely reduce the amount of antibiotic that you use.

For more information and practical tips on Dry Cow Therapy, see CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control-Guidelines 16 – 18 & Management Notes C – F.

For Sale

Wednesday 25th October in
Cootehill mart @1.00pm.

Autumn calving section of herd

1ST TO 4TH LACTATION

COWS AND HEIFERS

ALL AI BRED, AVERAGE PRODUCTION
5,566 LTS, SCC 130, PR 3.4% BF 4.01%
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Douglas Kinkade
087 2527174.

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Farm Relief Service



Kathleen: 1890 222 100
Ronan Skelly 087- 2978351

Benefits of Freeze Branding

- Freeze brands do not fall off or wear off
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