

## Storm Emma

The severe weather of recent weeks created very serious difficulties for dairy farmers and for everyone associated with the collection and processing of milk. Wind, snow and ice combined to create treacherous conditions which have not been seen in the countryside north or south for nearly four decades.

In spite of this adversity, we saw the true spirit of co-operative dairy farming and the determination and patience of rural communities as they came together to support each other as farmers, neighbours and friends. Working together, Lakeland Dairies hauliers, milk suppliers and staff made monumental efforts during this period of very bad weather to keep milk collections going to the best possible extent.

Throughout the catchment area people checked in on each other, cleared yards and roadways of snow and provided tractor towing facilities to enable access to farms and the safe collection of milk.

We are very fortunate and grateful to have such a wonderful community of people within the Lakeland Dairies co-operative.

I also particularly thank our staff who kept all our plants running non-stop, and individual carters for their great commitment and hard work during the bad weather period.

On behalf of Lakeland Dairies, I thank you all for this great work which is exemplary of the very best traditions of dairy farming and co-operative endeavour.

*Kind regards*

**Michael Hanley**  
*Chief Executive*

## Lakeland Dairies Share Register Open to March 30th

The share register of Lakeland Dairies remains open until the end of this month (March) if interested in purchasing shares and haven't applied yet, you have a fortnight to do so.

This will give Lakeland Dairies milk suppliers who are not shareholders an opportunity to become shareholders of Lakeland Dairies.

Being a shareholder enhances your position as a valued milk supplier and will enable your direct participation in the democratic life of the co-operative, for example at AGMs and other meetings where milk supplying members take decisions on the direction of the co-operative. It also enables you, should you wish, to go forward for elected positions within the society.

**Also, existing milk supplier shareholders will have an opportunity to share up to the required formula if they so wish, please contact Member Relations.**

The agreed formula that decides the number of shares each supplier can apply for is based on your 2017 calendar year supply. For new entrants in 2017, the formula will be based on an agreed 12 month supply estimate.

Each share is 5 cent and you must be a Lakeland Dairies milk supplier and have signed the Lakeland Dairies Milk Supply Agreement to become a shareholder.

If you have any queries, please contact our Member Relations Division, on **1890 47 47 20**.

## Basic Payment 2018

### Key Points to Remember

1. All Basic Payments and Transfer of Entitlements applications must be completed online in 2018.
  - 16,000 paper applications 2017
2. Register online as soon as possible.
3. Seek advice on how to prepare Basic Payment applications.
  - GLAS areas must be reconciled with Basic Payment applications
4. Is rented land worth what you are paying for it. Are you better off renting out your entitlements.
5. What is your Nitrate position.
6. Protect your Entitlements.

**Do not leave your application until the last minute as this will cause problems**

## Participants graduate from Member Development Programme

Members of the second Lakeland Dairies Member Development Programme were recently awarded their certificates for successful completion of the programme which took place from November to January.

The programme is designed to increase member's understanding of the dairy industry, markets and policy as well as increase awareness of Lakeland Dairies, its operations and governance. The programme, which is accredited by ICOS Skillnet, qualifies participants for admission as members of the Plunkett Institute. Participation in the programme was open to all members of Lakeland Dairies Regional Committees.

The programme was launched by Michael Hanley, CEO and the series of workshops were delivered by business professionals as well as Lakeland Dairies and ICOS staff covering a variety of areas including: the dairy industry and agricultural policy; corporate governance, marketing, dairy processing and finance.



*Back Row (l to r):* John Coyle, Patrick Sherlock, Nigel Donaldson, John McElroy, John Reilly, Keith Richardson, John Kealy, Tony Farrelly, Stephen Murphy, Patrick O' Brien, Iain Cosgrove, Brian McLeer, Con McManus

*Front Row (l to r):* Bernard Burns, John Cooney, Eamon Duignan – Member Relations Manager, TJ Flanagan - CEO, ICOS, Alo Duffy - Chairman, Michael Hanley CEO, Michael Ryan – Secretary, Eamon O' Reilly (Missing from Photo – Damien McEntee, Eugene McPhillips, Joseph Leonard & Patrick Medforth)

The Programme concluded with a formal dinner and the presentation of certificates by TJ Flanagan, CEO of ICOS, to all participants.

## Avoiding Antibiotic Residues

Spring is one of the riskiest times for milk to be accidentally contaminated with antibiotics. Farmers must pay very close attention to dry off and treatment dates; calving dates; and the manufacturer's instructions for the products used. In order to avoid the possibility of accidental contamination of milk from antibiotics:

- Mark cows prior to treatment or immediately when treated to ensure that their milk does not be put into the bulk tank
- Use a whiteboard in the dairy to ensure that different milkers are aware of what cows should be kept out of the bulk tank and for how long.
- All treated cows should be milked last to avoid errors

- Record both the dates of treatment and the end dates of the withholding periods for both meat and milk for each cow in your Bord Bia medicine records book.
- Test all cows after treatment before allowing the milk back into the bulk tank – this is to ensure that the milk is clear of residues. And remember;
- Double check withdrawal periods before using any antibiotic treatments as they may have changed since the product was last used on-farm.

It is advisable to check that your farm insurance covers your milk for any incidents of antibiotic or other contamination. Most policies cover third party milk only, it is advisable to seek cover for your own milk also.

## Calfcare Open Day Wednesday 10th January

On Wednesday 10th January Animal Health Ireland, in conjunction with Lakeland Dairies and Teagasc, held a Calfcare Open Day on the farm of Eddie Cooney in Tierworker, Kells Co Meath. Big crowd turned out for the event which had four speakers covering practical topics on all aspects of successful calf rearing.

Catherine Carty, a vet from UCD and AHI, spoke on disinfection protocols, particularly:

- Have calving facilities disinfected before the start of calving.
- Regularly clean out/disinfect calving facilities throughout calving to prevent disease build up.
- Do not use calving facility for abortions or housing sick animals.
- Consult your vet when selecting a disinfectant.

Catriona Mullen of Volac spoke on calf housing. She explained the 5 key requirements for a calf shed:

1. Fresh air- Removes dust/ammonia and bugs.
2. No draughts- Calf shed should be sealed to 4 foot in height to prevent draughts.
3. Dry/good drainage- Moisture must be controlled because (a) it helps bugs to survive and spread and (b) it lowers the temperature of the calf house.
4. Warm Temperature- Calves perform best at 15-20°C but they can't generate enough heat to insulate themselves from colder temperatures until older.

5. Clean and Cleanable- When calves leave the shed powerwashing and disinfection should be carried out as soon as possible to kill bugs.

Speaking on Johnes Disease, Lorna Citer the JD Program Manager with AHI had three key messages to prevent infection in the young calf.

- Remove the calf from the calving pen as soon as possible- This reduces exposure to potential infection through dung, etc.
- Clean Colostrum Collection- Cows udder, gloves, buckets and milking clothing all need to be clean to achieve this.
- Feed colostrum and milk from test negative cows- If cow status is known DO NOT FEED TEST POSITIVE MILK TO CALVES!!

Local Teagasc Advisor William Byrne spoke about labour efficient calf management. In a very open and insightful discussion he explained the merits of once a day feeding, keeping the calving shed close to the calf shed and dry cow area for ease of movement, and also the benefits of nighttime feeding of cows which brings on daytime calvings.

This was a very successful day with a good attendance and everyone taking away some useful hints and tips for the upcoming calving season. Thanks to Eddie Cooney for hosting this event.

## Cellcheck Tip Of The Month



### ***You grow what you collect!***

It is not possible to tell which bacteria are responsible for infections just by looking at milk, udders or somatic cell counts - you have to actually grow the bacteria to know for sure. A milk sample can be processed in a microbiology lab so that the bacteria that are present can be identified. However, all bacteria in the sample will be identified, whether they came from the cow's udder, your hands or dirt from a cow's tail!

If a sample contains three or more bacterial species, it is generally considered a contaminated sample. However, the sample has to go through the full lab process before it is known to be contaminated, and so you will still end up paying for a result that is essentially useless! You can avoid wasting time, effort and money, by making sure that any milk samples that you collect are taken in a sterile fashion, so the only bacteria present are the ones you want to identify, that came out of the cow's udder.

***Remember, hygiene is key!***

- Label a sterile sample bottle-do this before sample collection as it can be difficult to write on a label that may have milk sprayed on it.
- Put on disposable gloves.
- Wash and dry the teats.
- Completely disinfect the end of the teats to be sampled, with a cotton ball and alcohol (or teat wipes). This step is critical.
- Remove the cap from the sterile bottle and place it upside down in a place not likely to be contaminated.
- Discard the first 2-3 squirts of milk. Collect the sample in the bottle, holding the bottle at an angle (to avoid anything falling into it) at least 3 - 4 cm from the end of the teat. 2 - 4 mL of milk is sufficient.
- Replace the cap and secure it tightly and keep in a cool dry place until it can be refrigerated, delivered or frozen.

For more information on reducing the risk of residues in milk, see Management Notes A in the-

***CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control***

Ireland's Largest Breeding Program



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**Dairy Breeding & Management Seminar**  
Higher Milk Solids | Better fertility

Tuesday March 20th Errigal House Hotel Coothill  
&  
Thursday March 22nd Longford Arms Hotel  
Starting @ 8pm

Topics include:

- Update on fertility and performance in Lakeland Herds: Adrian McKeague Lakeland/Teagasc Joint Programme –
- NEW HerdApp - The Complete Farm Management & Compliance Tool
- NEW Moocall HEAT - for Affordable & Accurate Heat Detection
- Herd Fertility - Shane Leane PhD (formerly farm manager Moorepark (Curtins) now Breeding Advisor & Product Specialist with Progressive Genetics having recently joined our team)
- Breeding 2018 - Seamus Hughes (Dairy Specialist) covering a range of topics, primarily:
  - a) Driving solids - protein 360
  - b) Genomics or Daughter Proven
  - c) Crossbreeding
  - d) Sexed semen

Progressive Genetics is 100% Irish Farmer owned. We're looking forward to seeing you there!



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Sires

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Herd  
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## FOR SALE

**A SELECTION OF SERVICE AGE BULLS,  
HOLSTEIN BRITISH FRIESIAN CROSSES**  
with EBI's to 220, Dams Butterfat 4.80%  
and Protein to 3.95%.

**ALSO FRESH CALVED HEIFERS AND COWS,  
FROM JOHNES'S FREE HERD,**  
Co-op results for 2017, Butterfat 4.30%,  
Protein 3.52% and SCC 50,000.

**ALSO TWO MATURE FRIESIAN BULLS FOR SALE**  
For more information call 087 6811713 no texts please.

**A SELECTION OF CALVED HEIFERS Sired BY TWIST,  
HOMER AND GREGARIOUS**  
from 9000 It herd with EBI of 100 plus, also a selection of heifer  
calves sired by supershot and raphael.  
Contact; Jim McGrane 0863891037

**DISPERSAL SALE OF THE ENTIRE MILKING HERD**  
for Paddy O'Leary, Corlattylennon, Shercock, Co. Cavan  
will take place at Carnaross Dairy Sale, Kells, Co. Meath  
on Thursday 12th April 2018 at 12 noon.

## Dairy Open Day Ballyhaise 18



5th April 2018

Event Time: 10.00am

Venue Ballyhaise Agricultural College, Co. Cavan

### 'Technologies for Resilient Dairying'

This Open Day will provide dairy farmers and those involved in the dairy industry with the opportunity to view and discuss the latest developments in key dairying technologies that will help you to increase the profitability of your farm business and cope with future challenges.

#### Topics covered on the day will include:

- Breeding
- Grassland
- Heifer Rearing

Latest results from Teagasc research trials  
In addition, a number of grassland demonstrations will take place in which attendees will see first hand the practical impacts of various management practices.

A special forum focusing on 'Family Farming Careers in Dairying' will take place and will include an exciting line up of researchers and farmers at different stages of their farming careers. Dairy expansion and the requirement for an additional 6,000 people in the dairy industry means there are exciting career opportunities in Irish dairying. The forum will aim to explore how farmers can make dairy farming a more attractive career for young people.

Teagasc Ballyhaise18 is an event not to be missed by anyone involved in the Irish Dairy Industry.

This is a KT Approved Dairy Event.

### CLEARANCE SALE; COMPLETE DAIRY HERD AT GOLDEN VALE MART

Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 12.00 noon.  
Herd owner P.J. Kinnarney, Killurin, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Sale includes; 21 heifers, in-calf and calved, 44 cows, in calf and calved (mostly 2nd to 4th calvers), from a closed disease free herd. Enquiries to Golden Vale Mart, Tullamore 057 9321196.

**P & J Agri Books, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan**  
Beef and Dairy Bord Bia document completion  
Farm Register and all farm online services  
Contact; Patricia: 086 2394912 or 086 2117539