

FARM PLASTICS COLLECTIONS of

**Bale Wrap (no net)
Covers (must be clean & rolled up)**

Up to 400 wraps or equivalent only €40, including:

**Fertiliser Sacks (large & small)
25-Litre Drums (must be washed, no lids)
Clean Lick Buckets (handles removed)**

Via Milford Mart or Stranorlar Mart



**For details, telephone
086 785 6060**

CREAMERY NEWSLETTER

BALLYRAINE, LETTERKENNY, CO. DONEGAL. TEL. (074) 9121766, FAX (074) 9124823

CLARKE RETIRES FROM DONEGAL CREAMERIES AFTER 47 YEARS



Clarke Moores retirement after 47 years was marked at a function held in Kees Hotel, Stranorlar on Friday 22nd. July.

Clarke commenced work at the Old Nestles Plant and then moved to the Donegal Creameries plant in Ballyraine, Letterkenny which was built in the early 60's. There Clarke was involved in milk collection, intake, testing and pasteurisation of milk. Later he became Transport Manager and also co-ordinated milk assembly and dispatch.

About 18 years Clarke transferred to the Killygordon Liquid Processing Plant where he continued in the same role.

Over these years Clarke has seen a lot of changes from collecting milk in cans to bulk tankers to collecting from refrigerated tanks on farms.

Clarke had excellent working relationships with staff, lorry drivers and milk suppliers. He carried out his work in a competent manner making sure milk was collected and dispatched efficiently every day. This was demonstrated so effectively during last winter when we experienced the worst winter weather on record.

We would like to take this opportunity to again thank Clarke for his long dedicated service to Donegal Creameries and we wish Clarke and his wife Mina a long and happy retirement.



Donegal Estates
Estate Agents

ATTENTION FARMERS

Donegal Estates offer a professional and confidential service in the following areas:

- Valuation for transfer, taxation, compulsory purchase etc.
- Site Sales
- Farm sales and lettings
- Property Management
- Auctions of stock and machinery



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GRANTS FOR FURTHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE

Donegal Creameries are again offering a number of grants to Students who will be attending Agriculture College on 2011/2012. These grants are specifically for Sons and Daughters of Milk Suppliers or Store Accounts Customers who are intending to return home to work on the farm.

If your Son or Daughter wishes to be considered please complete the slip below and return to Donegal Creameries, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal no later than Friday the 16th September, 2011.

I wish to apply for Grant for Agriculture College in 2011/2012.

Name of Milk Supplier / Customer.....

Milk No. or Account No.....

Name of Applicant.....

Address.....

Signed (Applicant).....

Date.....

MILK INTAKE DIPS SLIGHTLY IN JULY

Donegal Milk intake was back by 0.97% compared to July 2010. This small decrease only represents approximately 86,000 litres.

The cumulative production for the period April to July '11 was still above last years production by 2.4% for the same period. With only 4 months of the levy year gone production to date represents approximately 50% of Creamery Quota. Again we remind suppliers

that they should closely examine their production against quota and make necessary adjustments to production to avoid levy.

NATIONAL POSITION

The National production for the period April to July now stands at 3.76% over quota. This is a slight reduction from the June figure of 3.98%.

LOOKING FOR EXTRA FARM INCOME

Here at Donegal FRS we are always looking for good, reliable people to carry out the relief services we provide, if you think this type of work would be of interest to you please check our website or Facebook page to find out more on what Donegal FRS has to offer you

Contact:
Donegal Farm Relief Services
Oakfield Demesne, Raphoe,
Co. Donegal.

Tel: 074-9145386

Fax: 074-9145382

Email: info@donegalfrs.com

www.donegalfrs.com

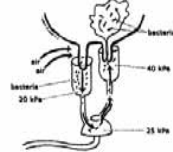


HOW DO YOU HANDLE YOUR CUPS?

How ever stopped to think how many times in your milking career you will put clusters on cows? And how many times you'll take them off? Well, if you're milking 90 cows, twice a day, with an average lactation length of 280 days, you'll put those clusters on over 50,000 times a year. And then you'll take them off 50,000 times a year (unless of course she kicks it off first!). Over a lifetime of milking that repetitive action adds up. After 40 years, you'll have put on over 2 million clusters.....and taken them off over 2 million times too!

Cluster handling is given very little attention, considering the important role it has to play in milking efficiency, mastitis prevention, milker welfare and cow comfort. Air entering the cups can lead to vacuum fluctuations, and air impacts at the teat ends. This contributes to teat-end damage, and can drive potentially bug-laden milk up the teat canal, leading to new cases of mastitis.

Too many milkers suffer repetitive strain injuries (RSI) such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, from years of putting on and taking off clusters incorrectly. Stop and think about how you cup cows.



Air entering the cup can cause vacuum fluctuations and create air impacts at the teat end.

TIPS

Tip 1 Putting on clusters:

- Alternate hands for both sides of a herringbone to avoid RSI and muscle/tendon over-use
- Holding the cluster in one hand, and applying all the cups in a "round-the-circle" fashion is an efficient and milker-friendly way of cupping cows.

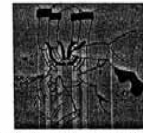
Tip 2 When clusters are on:

- Use a teat plug when milking 3 teaters-don't just twist the redundant cluster.
- Don't put weights on clusters (machine stripping) - it can lead to overmilking and allow air to enter the cups.
- Check cluster alignment - it should sit squarely under the udder.

Tip 3 Taking off clusters - Be patient - don't yank them off!

1. Use the button or kink the tube to break the vacuum
2. Wait! 1-2 secs
3. Gently rotate the cluster 30-60 degrees.
4. Clusters should then slide freely off the teats.

If clusters are hard to remove, or are not releasing correctly, make sure that buttons on the claws are working correctly. Check air admission holes regularly.



Check air bleeds regularly.

ALWAYS REMEMBER....."vacuum, wait, twist"

"Round-the-circle" cluster attachment

This is an efficient and milker-friendly way of cupping cows-it creates a change in muscle usage and helps to avoid repetitive strain injuries.

Use the right hand to put the cups on the right hand side row of cows (facing the exit) because it is easier to reach through the back legs.

1. Holding the clawbowl in your left hand, reach over the left arm with your right hand, to put on the left back cup,
2. then left front,
3. then right front,
4. and finally right back.

On the left hand side of the parlour, use the left hand to put on the cups.



When cupping the right hand row of cows, hold the cluster in your left and start with the left back cup.



FARM MANAGEMENT NOTES AUGUST 2011

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Grass growth has been good for July again this year with growth rates in Donegal between 57/76 kg DM/ HA /DAY recorded from the middle to end of July. However, be aware that growth rates will be reducing from now efforts should be made to build up grass for autumn grazing.

* A cow milking 221t and receiving 2kg of concentrates / day is only 11% of her energy requirement from concentrates i.e. 89% must come from grass if yield is to maintain, milk composition maximised and body weight loss minimised. On many farms visited over the last few weeks the energy level needed to be increased to 15% of her energy requirement from concentrate i.e. 3kgs per 221t. There are a number of factors to consider at farm level to look at on how much concentrates should be used, such as cow type, body condition, grass supply and quality, and the number of first calving heifers in the herd.

* Milk protein % will be affected if there is any decline in total energy intake in the diet e.g. grass shortage or poor grass quality. Energy intake will be

determined by total dry matter intake each day and the quality of grass consumed.

* Butterfat on other hand very lush grass with high intake characteristics can cause butterfat% to fall very low. Maintaining high fibre levels in the cows will not bring about such a decline i.e. buffer with silage if possible, and fed with a good fibre balanced dairy diet.

* Water is still a forgotten nutrient on farms - cows require approximately 4lt of water for each litre of milk produced. Ensured large capacity troughs (400-450 litres) have a filling rate of at least 15litres / minute..

WEANING OF SUCKLED CALVES IN AUTUMN

* Weaning can be very stressful for both cow and calf. If badly managed, the weaning process will cause lack of thrive and predispose calves to diseases such as pneumonia. The harmful effects of stress at weaning can be reduced by the following:

* Introduce a palatable creep feed such as Munchy super bull/calf stage 2 or Munchy beef weanling at least 4-6 weeks prior to weaning. Feed 1-2kgs /

head /day depending on weight of the calf and availability of grass

* allow calves to forward creep graze into a field ahead of the cows. This weakens the cow/calf bond and calves also get benefits of the better quality.

* weaning calves at grass avoids the double stress of housing and weaning at the same time.

By Jeremy McGonigle Smyths Daleside Feeds

FOR SALE

Good Quality Pit Silage €30per tonne
Round bales of Silage double
wrapped €20 per bale.
For further details contact
086 6006464

FOR SALE

Round Bales of Hay
€30 per bale
Contact 074 91 57148

WANTED

Holstein Friesian Dairy Cows
Contact Gerry on
00447739611665

DAIRY HERD CERTIFICATES

Dairy Herd Certificates are again required for this year. If you are having a test shortly contact the Letterkenny office if you require certificate to be sent to you.

Farm Accident and Sickness Scheme

What would you do if you were sick or injured and could not perform the day to day running of your farm?

Here at Donegal farm relief we offer a scheme second to none. If you fall ill or have an accident Farm Relief's trained operators will ensure that your farm will continue to run smoothly and give you peace of mind until you are rested and recovered.

There are 2 cover options to choose from

- A) Benefit of 50% of the Farm Relief cost up to a maximum of €300 per week for a premium of just €205 p.a
- B) Benefit of 75% of the Farm Relief cost up to a maximum of €500 per week for premium of just €410 p.a

If you think this scheme would be of interest to you please contact us to find out more details.

U.K. PRODUCTION UPDATE

In July U.K. Milk deliveries amounted to 1163.3 million up 22.4 million on the previous year, representing approximately 2% of an increase. This July '11 increase has been the highest since July '05.

The cumulative production to date is 90.6 million litres up on the same period in 2010/11. For this period N.I. production has increased over last year by 40 million litres (+5.66%)

The Butterfat figure for July '11 was 3.92% up 10 trigger points on July '10. This now gives an overall Butterfat % to date for the period April to July of 3.94% up 9 trigger points.