



Mastitis Control Make Cents!

Farmers don't milk cows to lose money, yet that is what they are doing if they have a high somatic cell count on their farm. A recent study by Teagasc has shown that the net farm profit in a 97 cow herd with an average SCC of 250,000 is 1.3 cents per litre lower than if the same herd were producing milk with an average SCC of 150,000. If the milk price fell by this amount, there would be an outcry. Yet, this is what is happening and there are no complaints!

When calculating the true cost of mastitis, it is easy to include the obvious ones but the hidden costs have to be considered too.

On-Farm Costs	Costs At Processing level
Production losses	Lower product yield
Increased culling	Reduced quality
Higher vet bills and drug costs	Reduced shelf life
Discarded milk	Reduced market access
Penalties/lost bonus	
Stress	
Time & labour	

To lower the costs of mastitis:

Tip 1: Treat effectively

- Do milk cultures on affected quarters to diagnose the cause of mastitis and to decide what, if any, treatment is appropriate.

Tip 2: Milk Record

- Monthly milk recording costs approx. €16 per cow per year.
- A 5,000 litre cow generates €1,500 milk income at 30cpl => at this price you can afford to milk record!
- Monthly milk recording gives you accurate information on individual cows
 - Somatic Cell Count
 - Protein and Fat content
 - Milk yield
- Early identification of problem cows facilitates timely treatment.

Tip 3: Does your milk processor pay bonuses for milk quality?

- If so, they are worth aiming for!

Tip 4: Reduce the stress cost of managing mastitis for you and your family

- Managing mastitis increases time in the parlour, slows down milking and is frustrating.
- This is difficult to measure but has an impact on the farmer and their family.

What is mastitis costing you on your farm? CellCheck is currently developing a cost calculator so you can easily calculate how much money you can save by controlling mastitis.

Remember Mastitis Control Makes Cents!

BRANCH OFFERS SEPT

For 1 month only from 19/09/11 to 30/10/11

SOUTHERN STORES

Dairy Hygiene specials

- Noroclox dc 30 cow herd pack €75.00
- Bovaclox xtra 30 cow herd pack €170.00
- Boviseal teat sealer 30 cow pack €180.00

All above prices include 21% vat

Contact Letterkenny on 00353 749121766

for your nearest store and more details

NORTHERN IRELAND STORES

Autumn Calving specials

- Life aid extra 48pk £ 50.00 + vat
- Pre calver buckets (high spec) buy x5 20kg buckets only £55.00 no vat
- Caliject milk fever bottles (12pk) only £33.50 + vat

NOW SUPPLYING COW CUBICLES PARLOUR MATTING AND COW COMFORT SOLUTIONS FOR ALL ASPECTS OF ANIMAL HOUSING.

For a free quote contact Neil: N.I. 07713886853

ROI: 00447713886823

SMYTHS AUTUMN FEED SPECIALS (all stores)
Munchy Stage 1: buy 10 bags get 1 FREE (Oct and Nov only)

Munchy Stage 2: buy 10 bags get 1 FREE (Oct and Nov only)
Now in stock bulk ton bags cubicle lime at very competitive prices..

Full range dairy equipment spares Fullwood Alfa
Dairymaster Gascogine in stock
Milking liner deals now on for all parlour sizes.
Ring Brian/Malcolm on 028 82244184



September 2011

CREAMERY NEWSLETTER

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

DONEGAL OVERALL PRODUCTION UP - AUGUST DOWN

There has been a slight improvement in the Donegal milk production trends. The month of August was down by -3.48% on August 2010 giving a cumulative increase for the period April to August of + 1.29% on the same period last year.

With the deterioration of weather and ground conditions we expect a further decrease in September and therefore an improvement in levy position.

NATIONAL POSITION

Latest figures issued by the Department of Agriculture give Ireland 2.82% over quota . This is an improvement of 0.94% - as the July figure was 3.76%.

With many milk processors urging suppliers who have their quota filled or nearly filled to stop or cut back, we expect a further reduction in September.

We urge suppliers who are in this over quota position to keep in touch with the Creamery for advice.

U.K. August Supplies slow down

Latest figures issued by the R.P.A. show that August supplies as compared to August '10 were only up by 1.3 million litres. The increase has come from the Northern Ireland suppliers where supplies in August were 161 million litres, up approx. 5 million litres or 3.2% on August last year. In Britain for the same month supplies were down by 4 million litres (approx)

The cumulative supply for the period April to August were up by 91.4 million (approx + 1.6%) Butterfats for the year have been up each month (April to August) as compared to the same period last year. This increase shows that the cumulative Butterfat to date has jumped from 3.83% to 3.95% up 12 trigger points.

FOR SALE

Round Bales of Hay
€30 per bale

Contact 074 91 57148

FOR SALE

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



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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FARMERS OF TOMORROW

All agriculture colleges across the country are reporting record numbers of applicants for courses. This shows the amount of interest that is currently surrounding the entire agri sector. As a survey carried out by Macra na Feirme on the views of young farmers reports that expansion is the top priority for most. The only way that the farmers of tomorrow can expand and insure a profitable future in farming is through farm management skills and cost reducing measures. This is where Donegal Farm Relief can help with our experienced, fully legal operators who are available when you need them, to carry out all sorts of duties from relief milking to general farm work, fencing to freeze branding and scanning and are available province wide at competitive rates, Why not call today and discuss your requirements and see how we can be of service.

LOOKING FOR EXTRA FARM INCOME?

Donegal FRS are always looking for good, reliable people to carry out the relief services we provide, if you think this would be of interest to you please check our website or Facebook page to find out more / or contact Steven on 00353 (0)87 9643332 for detail.

DONEGAL FRS GROUP

Oakfield Demesne, Raphoe. Tel: 074-9145386 Email: info@donegalfrs.com

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.

PLI for Profit

An AgriSearch Conference in association with CAFRE & AFBI
Tuesday 18th October 2011
Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown at 10.00am

AgriSearch will be holding a key conference on the importance of breeding in the dairy herd and in particular the use of the Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI).

Key note speakers to include:

Alistair Carson, Head of AFBI, Hillsborough, who will outline the benefits of PLI to the Northern Ireland Dairy Industry.

David Mackey, CAFRE will look at the importance of lifetime performance and outline how to use PLI and its sub-indices on farm and how it has been used to good effect on the farms of Drew McConnell and Gary McHenry as well as the Greenmount Future Herd. (Drew and Gary will be on the discussion panel)

Lucy Andrews, Holstein UK will look at breeding to deliver longevity, sustainability and profitability.

Gary Watson the Northern Ireland Representative on the UK Genetic Advisory Forum of DairyCo will discuss the work the Forum is doing for dairy farmers and will outline the tools farmers need to use to make genetic progress.

Marco Winters, Head of Genetics, DairyCo will be chairing a panel discussion session and Dr Sinclair Mayne will be summing up the key take home messages at the end of the conference.

This conference is a rare opportunity for farmers to hear from leading industry figures on how best to advance their herd through the use of the PLI and will be of interest to all farmers no matter what their production system. In order to facilitate catering arrangements conference places must be booked in advance through AgriSearch on 028 8778 9770. There will be a nominal charge of £10 per delegate.

Booking Form:

Please reserve me: _____ places at £10 per head. I enclose a cheque made payable to AgriSearch.

Names: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Return to: AgriSearch, 97 Moy Road, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. BT71 7DX



FARM MANAGEMENT NOTES SEPTEMBER 2011

DAIRY COW management has been difficult in September due to high rain fall. Many grazing areas have been damaged, try to avoid this happening again as it can become a long-term issue for future grazing.

On many farm visits over the past few weeks, it has been advised that cows should be housed at night and fed round bales of silage, where possible, rather than opening the pit. Feeding silage at night will help to maintain body condition and milk yields. Allow the cows to graze during the day until weather settles down, this will help to extend your grazing season.

Feeding levels of silage on a dry matter basis – 6-7 kg/cow/night. Silage intake will depend on the quality of the silage, the rainfall, grass supply and quality. Cows producing 20lt of milk on grass and silage – feed 5kgs of an 18% protein ration. **DO NOT ALLOW COWS TO LOSE BODY CONDITION** at the time of the year, particularly second calving heifers and cows calving in Dec/Jan. Feed according to cow

body condition, milk yields and appetite.

DRY COWS at grass and calving over the next 4-6 weeks, should be housed and fed with good quality silage ad-lib, with at least 1-1½kgs of straw per cow until calving. Taking cows off fresh grass will help reduce the incidence of milk fever. Calve cows down in body condition score of 3-3½. Assess cow body condition on a regular basis. If cows are losing weight or not likely to meet body condition score, introduce cow developer 2 or 4, and feed accordingly. Where no concentrate is fed, make sure a good dry cow mineral is fed and it contains the correct trace elements, especially formulated to redress the imbalances which can occur in dairy herds.

SUCKLER COWS

• Declining body condition in an Autumn calved cow, coupled with the effect of a suckling calf, can cause problems getting cows back in calf. To improve this situation

feed 2kg of concentrates to help maintain body condition.

• First calved heifers and older cows should be penned separately from the main group to maximise silage intake, without bulling, and allow meal to be fed.

• If you are breeding your own replacements, select for;- Reasonable size – mature cow weight of 600kg.

Good docility
Good conformation, e.g., R grade heifer. (Very muscular can be prone to difficult calving).

Select for milky cows.

DAIRY HEIFERS REPLACEMENTS - ensure that their target body weight is being achieved with the present wet weather.

6-12 months old – feed 2kg Replacement Heifer/head/day, on grass.

12 months old to 6 weeks before calving – feed 2½-3kg Replacement Heifer, on grass.

By: Jeremy Mc Gonigle – SMYTHS DALESIDE FEEDS

NOTICE NO. 11/07

2012/2013 MILK QUOTA TRADING SCHEME – 1st STAGE

NOTICE TO CO-OPERATIVES/DAIRIES AND MILK SUPPLIERS

Applications are invited from milk suppliers wishing to purchase or sell quota in the first stage of the 2012/2013 Milk Quota Trading Scheme. Application forms are now available from Co-operatives/Dairies.

The closing date for receipt of applications, which will only be accepted in the Department's Headquarters in Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, is **Friday 7th October, 2011.**

Quota purchased under the Scheme will be available from 1st April, 2012.

The Scheme will comprise a Priority Pool and a Market Exchange, with the price for priority pool quota set by the Minister at **5 cent/litre**. The maximum quantity that can be purchased from the Scheme is 100,000 litres, except by those in the Successor or Lost Lease category of the Priority Pool. Sellers who are successful in selling only part of their quotas on the Market Exchange in their Co-op area will have the remainder of their quotas sold, through a national pool, to buyers in other Co-op areas who have not had their full request satisfied through their own Market Exchange.

All participants are advised to consult the Scheme's detailed rules, which are now available from Cooperatives/Dairies or directly from the Milk Quota Section of the Department, and on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie, under "Dairy Farming/Milk Quotas/Milk Quota Trading Scheme".

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
August, 2011.