

FARM LABOUR



We are currently offering very competitive rates for farm labourers and relief milkers. Call today for more details on price and availability.

Due to the increased demand we are also recruiting for experienced farm workers in Donegal & Northern Ireland. Please contact us to register for work.

Donegal FRS Group, Oakfield Demesne, Raphoe, Co. Donegal.

Tel: (00353)74 9145386
Email: info@donegalfrs.com
Web: donegalfrs.com

CREAMERY NEWSLETTER

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

MILK PRODUCTION RISES AGAIN - JULY UP 6.92%

Good grass growth and utilisation over the month of July has again given rise to increased milk production in Donegal. When comparing July, '10 with July '09 milk production has increased by 6.92%. These increases over the past few months now gives a cumulative rise in production for the period April to July of 5.75% when compared to the same period last year.

U.K. JULY PRODUCTION UP BY 39.4 MILLION LITRES

According to the latest R.P.A. figures, July U.K. production showed an increase of 39.4 million litres (not butterfat adjusted) over July '09. This increase has been maintained from May and now gives a cumulative production increase of 117.8 million litres. The provisional Butterfat % for July '10 was 3.82% down one trigger point from July '09. Due to lower butterfats since April the cumulative butterfat % now stands at 3.84% down 6 trigger points from last years figure.

TEMPORARY LEASING

The 1st phase of the temporary leasing scheme has been completed. Again demand outstripped supply by 2:1. The 2nd phase will run later in the year.

To date there is no up-date on the National position for April to July.

DAIRY HERD CERTIFICATES

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



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



CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAIL
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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 in 2010/2011. These grants are specifically for Sons and Daughters of Milk Suppliers or Store 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 **no later than Friday the 24th September, 2010.**

I wish to apply for Grant for Agriculture College in 2010/2011.

Name of Milk Supplier / Customer

Milk No. or Account No.

Name of Applicant

Address

Signed (Applicant)

Date

TAKE GREAT CARE IN DRYING OFF COWS

At this time of year winter milk suppliers commence to dry off cows due to calve in Autumn.

It is very important at the end of lactation to give the cow a sufficiently long dry period to allow for the repair of udder tissue. It is recommended that a period of 8 weeks be given.

Dry cow antibiotic /teat sealant administration

Administration of dry cow therapy is a critical and difficult task. It is vitally important that the dry cow therapy be administered carefully, as bacteria can be easily introduced into the teat and can result in severe clinical mastitis if the teat end is not disinfected properly. Cows should be dried off in batches if possible. It is necessary to plan in advance for the time and knowledge that is required to carry out this task properly. Allow plenty of time to treat the cows. More than one person is often needed to do the job well. Ensure that the person carrying out the task is well trained in the procedure, and if a number of operators are involved, that they are well trained also, and adequately supervised.

- Treat all quarters of each individual cow with the same treatment
- Dry cow antibiotic tubes and /or teat sealant should be administered after the final milking (decision based on lactation milk SCC, infection type and incidence for individual cows)
- Milk out the quarter fully before infusing the dry cow antibiotic /sealant

- Disinfect the teat end - vigorously rub the teat end for 10 to 15 s with cotton wool soaked in methylated spirits
- Avoid contamination of the nozzle of the antibiotic tube before insertion into the teat canal
- Partially insert (or use short nozzle if supplied): the antibiotic tube nozzle into the teat canal (this is advisable in order to minimise dilation and ensure rapid closure of the teat canal)
- Infuse the contents of the antibiotic tube into the quarter - hold teat-end firmly between thumb and forefinger and with other hand, gently massage the antibiotic upwards into the teat (thus is not done with teat seal)
- Teat spray (post milking teat disinfect) treated quarters immediately after infusion
- Record cow number, date and product details of all dry cow treatments
- Mark the cow (leg band and spray paint on udder) so that cows that have received dry cow therapy can be readily recognised
- Do not leave cows in yards or soiled areas in the period immediately after dry cow therapy application
- Maintain dry cows separate from the milking herd if possible and put dry cows in clean, dry paddocks (particularly for the first two weeks after drying-off) to reduce teat exposure to environmental mastitis bacteria.

After treatment cows should be checked regularly in case of possible new infection.

BRANCH OFFERS - AUGUST

For 1 month only from 23/08/10 to 24/09/10

SOUTHERN STORES

- Ectospec pour on 500ml €25.00
- Clik pour on 5L €170.00
- Kilomec injection 200ml €20.00

CONTACT LETTERKENNY ON 00353 749121766

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND MORE DETAILS

NORTHERN IRELAND STORES

OFFER OF THE MONTH

Deosan Farm cold cleaner 20kg
+25L Hypochlorite +foc box blue
nitrile gloves only £36.50+vat

YOU SAVE £9.00 EX VAT

- MCPA 10L buy 3 for £85.00 +vat
- Hi Mag buckets buy 5 for £50.00 no vat

Full range dairy equipment spares Fullwood Alfa
Dairymaster Gascogine in stock
Milking liner deals now on for all parlour sizes.

Silage wrap, net and twines keenest in the north.

RING BRIAN / MALCOLM ON 028 82244184



FARM MANAGEMENT NOTES AUGUST 2010

Grazing Management

- Grass growth has been excellent for July this year with growth rates of 60-90Kg DM/ha/day recorded at the end of July. However, be aware that rates will be reducing from now on due to time of year and efforts should be made to build up a wedge of grass for the autumn.
- Grazing rotation length should be increasing as we move through August. Moorepark suggest a rotation of 21 days in mid/late August extending to 30-35 days by late September.
- Do not be tempted to reduce Nitrogen fertiliser inputs even during good growth, as the effects will be seen in a few weeks time. If grass growth rates decline significantly during August then Nitrogen application and response must be maximised now. Continue to sow 1 bag CAN/acre after each grazing.
- In some parts of the country grass supply is currently exceeding demand due to the excellent growing conditions throughout July. If this is the case on your farm consider the following:
 - speed up the rotation and graze out swards with heifers/young stock.
 - mow off fields now and round bale so that a re-growth builds up for grazing in the autumn. August is the last chance to grow good grass this year.
 - after-grass can be let bulk up for a little longer (25 days+) than a grazed sward with less detriment to quality.

Silage

- Many second cut swards are now harvested. Where a 3rd cut is being taken, apply 2 units of nitrogen for every day until the target cutting date.
- After the second cut silage is in, this is an appropriate time to estimate how much fodder is available on the farm. This can be roughly estimated, before a detailed analysis is available, on the following basis:

Silo length x breadth x height x 0.8 = tonnes of fresh silage

Over a six month winter a dairy cow will consume about 8 - 10 tonnes of silage depending on the quality.

Reseeding

- Reseeding is expensive but represents good investment giving high returns for the following 7-10 years. Advantages include:
 - Potential yield increases of up to 25% for grazing and silage.
 - Up to 20% higher grass digestibility.
 - Improved growth and better quality silage.
 - Better animal performance.

- Plan reseeding to ensure it will not lead to grass shortage in September/October and that new swards are well established before winter frosts. Bum off the old sward with glyphosate and do not plough for at least 7 days.
- High clover seed mixtures should be sown by mid August while straight grasses can be sown up until early September. Not more than one third of the mixture should be tetraploid due to their open growing habit and they should be sown with high tillering diploid grasses. Generally intermediate and late heading ryegrasses are more persistent and easier to manage and should make up the bulk of the mixture.
- Fertiliser and lime should be based on soil test results. New ryegrasses thrive best at soil pH 6.5. As a general rule spread 2 tonnes lime/acre and work into the soil during cultivation.

Milk Yields and Composition

- Milk yields in the bulk tank should be monitored closely. If the rate of decline is 4% per week or greater address problems such as:
 - Grass quality/grazing management
 - Level of concentrate supplementation
 - Water supply - cows require approximately 4 litres of water for each litre of milk produced. Ensure large capacity troughs (400-450 litres) have a filling rate of at least 15 litres/minute.
- Very lush grazing with high intake characteristics may cause butterfat % to fall very low. Maintaining high fibre levels in the cows diet will not bring about such a decline. 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. Aftergrass will usually raise milk protein % due to its higher energy content, digestibility and intakes, provided enough quantity of grass is allocated to the cows each day.

A cow milking 22Lt and receiving 2kg concentrate/day is receiving only 11% of her energy requirement from concentrate i.e. 89% must come from grass if yield is to be maintained, milk composition maximised and body weight loss minimised.

Setting out to improve milk composition should be a long term goal for most dairy farmers. This will mean a change of emphasis regarding breeding, feeding and overall management.

By Jeremy McGonigle