

Information from DARD Veterinary Service

IVOMEK SUPER INJECTION FOR CATTLE

PLEASE NOTE THE WITHDRAWAL PERIODS FOR THIS PRODUCT

- Animals must not be slaughtered for human consumption during treatment.
- Cattle (meat) – 66 days
- Do not use in cattle producing milk for human consumption.
- Do not use in non-lactating dairy cows including pregnant heifers within 60 days of calving.

Milking 3 times / day

We are currently experiencing an increase in demand for our milking services, particularly from Dairy farmers who are considering milking 3 times per day.

Some Dairy farmers claim they can increase their milk production by up to 15% and allowing for the additional feed costs and the extra labour involved they find it is very worthwhile.

The labour cost will depend on the number of cows and the length of time it takes to milk them as well as the actual time of the milking.

Freeze Branding

If you have animals for freeze branding in the coming months, we would very much appreciate if you could let us know as soon as possible as this will help us considerably from an organising point of view.



Contact:
Donegal FRS Group
Oakfield Demense, Raphoe.

Tel: 074-9145386
Email: info@donegalfrs.com

CREAMERY NEWSLETTER

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

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2010

As 2010 draws to a close the main event that will be remembered will be the state of the Irish Economy and the consequential "bail out" which has drastically damaged the country's reputation and its standing globally. All people will be affected by this through higher taxes, lower service and reduced spending. This will result in a different environment in which to do business. There is also a view that the Celtic Tiger never came to the North-West and that consequently we should not have as far to fall as some regions. However, I am sure all will agree that things are going to be significantly different.

Some of the better news for 2010 will include the weather which has until very recently been very good for milk producers; this is a welcome change from the situation of the last two years. In addition the improvement in commodity dairy prices has gone some way to offset the disastrous situation experienced for the previous two years. As I outlined 12 months ago Donegal Creameries has continued to participate in the so called "Milk Ireland" discussions. I am sorry to report that very little has happened, other than the appointment of consultants to prepare a report. Notwithstanding this situation, Donegal Creameries will pursue a pro-active strategy with its neighbours to ensure that all reasonable options are considered to ensure the best long term future for its milk producers.

Within the Donegal Creameries Plc group we expect to deliver our overall plans for the full year. In the Dairy Division the star performance came from The Different Dairy Company. This business includes the old Ennis Foods Business and the Organic Dairy products business. During the year we built on our platform in the UK market and expect this to continue into next year. We now have a solid retail focussed business with a growing list of customers with whom we are building good relationships. In Ireland we have entered the Organic dairy products business. We now have two own label customers and have recently launched our "Organic for Us" Brand. Our Liquid milk business is very challenged with significant margin pressure in the market to retain volume. The Chef In a Box business acquired last year has been successfully integrated and plans are being finalised to move to larger premises to deliver our growth plans in the future. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work being done by the team in Killygordon. In the last 12 months they have worked very hard in bringing new customers and products to the plant. This has added significantly more complexity to our factory without which we would have a very poor business. I would also like to mention the importance of planning ahead for our milk producers. The Dairy business is pursuing a differentiation strategy, this will require a milk pool with a flatter milk production curve and further Donegal suppliers to consider producing Organic milk. We recognise that this will not suit many milk producers who will remain focussed on a spring calving grass based model. I would emphasise two points to those suppliers; firstly,

Donegal Creameries will collect and trade milk on your behalf, but the opportunity to add value is very low and the Creameries costs have to be covered and, secondly, don't get caught in the middle by trying to be all things to all people.

I am pleased to update that the Agri-Inputs business is much improved over the last year. The Smyth's feeds business continues to benefit from its reputation as delivering solutions which maximise total performance from livestock. Jeremy Mc Gonigle is providing regular reviews in the monthly newsletter and customers are pleased with the results including the improvement in cow fertility and cull rates. The story with the Agri-Stores is one of good work done but much more to do. Unfortunately, during the year we have had to cut costs that have regrettably impacted on people; however, we continue to develop a stores model more capable of meeting customer needs for value and service going forward. I would add that your support to Smyth's and the Stores is appreciated and underpins the interdependency on which the organisation was built.

Our property business has performed in line with expectations. Nothing has been bought, sold or developed. This is expected to continue in the short term. We are pleased with the rental income generated from our property assets in 2010.

Continuing on with our produce business, even though the key period of the seed potato business is just beginning we are confident of a good result. Irish Potato Marketing (IPM) has been identified as a fast growth business for the last few years and this continues. We expect good volume growth in 2010 and 2011 and have committed more resources to drive performance. We are pleased with the first year performance of Solanex in Brazil and will develop similar models in other high potential markets in the future. The Grianan Grain Company will have its first full year. This business manages the production and sale of Organic produce from the Groups Grianan Estate. We expect a good result with around 1000 tonnes of product grown and sold, however, the recent cold weather has not been helpful.

We are expecting a good overall performance from our investments in Associates, the key associate being Monaghan Mushrooms which benefited from its acquisition in Canada at the end of last year.

At Group level we are pleased with the improvement in the share price, which with the dividend is the measure of shareholder value. There is a clear strategy to grow the business and we look forward to 2011.

Finally I would like to thank you for your support and wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas with health and prosperity for 2011.

Ian Ireland

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

24th December	Closing at 1.30 p.m.	29th December	All stores open.
25th December	Christmas Day (Public Holiday)	30th December	All stores open.
26th December	St. Stephens Day (Public Holiday)	31st December	Closing at 1.30 p.m.
27th December	Closed in lieu of Christmas Day	3rd January	Closed in lieu of New Years Day.
28th December	Closed in lieu of St. Stephens Day	4th January	All stores open.



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

WANTED

We have a requirement for land to let on short and long term lease agreements. Please contact our office to discuss.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAIL
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Ballyraine
Letterkenny
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W: www.donegalestates.ie

NOVEMBER MILK SUPPLY INCREASES BY 18.5%

The increase in milk supply over the past few months has continued into November '10 with an 18.5% rise over the same month last year.

This gives a cumulative increase for the period April to November of over 9% which is approximately 5 million litres (not butterfat adjusted). This increase in production can be again attributed to the excellent year and especially to the good Autumn conditions.

NATIONAL POSITION

The National position at the end of October according to the Department of Agriculture was just over 4% under quota. The corresponding figure for the end of October 2009 was 10.1% under quota.

DAIRY HERD CERTIFICATES

There are still some Producers who have not returned their Herd Certificates for 2010.

Please note Certificates must be in the Letterkenny office by Thursday 23rd. December.

Remember no certificate no milk picked up from 1st. January 2011. If you need Certificate contact the Letterkenny office immediately.

44.6 MILLION LITRE INCREASE IN NOVEMBER U.K. PRODUCTION

For the seventh consecutive month U.K. production has shown an increase over the same months in 2009. November 2010 increase was 44.6 million litres (not butterfat adjusted)

This gives a cumulative increase for April to November of 342.2 million litres (not butterfat adjusted) over the same period last year.

The provision butterfat % for November was 4.11% up from 4.08% in November '09 This is the first month in this quota year that the butterfat has exceeded the monthly Butterfat % in 2009.

The cumulative of 3.90% this year is still under the 2009 butterfat for that period of 3.95% - down 5 trigger points.

FOR SALE

12 MRI Dairy Heifers, scanned incalf to MRI Bulls.

Due to calve from mid February onwards.

For further details contact Robert Tait on 087 7516086.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE FOLLOWING ARE MEMBERS OF THE DAIRY AND STORES COMMITTEES

Dairy Chairman Mr. Patrick Kelly Senior, Waterwheel Farm, Ballyarl, Killygordon.

Mr. Frank Brown, Stroan, Drumkeen.

Mr. Brian Byrne, Drumdoit, Castlefinn

Mr. George Anderson, Mullinacross, Laghey

Mr. Thomas Callaghan, Bahanbouy, Convoy

Mr Billy McMahon, Breaghy, Ramelton.

Mr Charles McCandless, Lisnacara House, Culdaff.

Mr. Stuart Scott, Tulnaree, Carndonagh.

Stores Chairman Mr. Michael Reid, Knockfair, Stranorlar

Mr Ivan Bates, Dromore, Raphoe.

Mr John Hamilton, Brownhall Estates, Ballintra.

Mr. Eamonn Kerr, Drumheerive, Ramelton

Mr John Russell Ballylawn Manorcunningham

Mr. John Speer, Castleshannaghan, Letterkenny.

Mr. George Woods, Ballinacor, The Cross, Killygordon.

Donegal Creameries / Smyths Daleside Feeds Dairy Seminar held in the Mount Errigal Hotel



Back Ray Winters, Smyths, Dr. Dan Ryan, Jeremy McGonigle, Smyths
Front Morgan Sheehy, Devenish, Mr. Ivan Grier, Donegal Creameries and Mr. Owen Brennan, Devenish.



SMYTHS DALESIDE NEWS

Congratulations to Joseph Boal who won the prize of 1 tonne of calf feed.

Smyths Daleside Feeds would like to thank all our customers for their support and would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

NOTICE NO. 10/08
(abbr.)

SCHEME FOR TEMPORARY LEASING OF MILK QUOTA IN 2010/2011 SECOND STAGE

Given the current national quota position, Co-ops may establish the extent of any demand in their areas before proceeding with the implementation of the Scheme. In this regard suppliers interested in leasing from a temporary leasing pool should contact their Co-ops immediately.

1. PRICE AND CLOSING DATE

The price payable for the leased quota is fixed at **1 cent per litre**. It is not open to Milk Purchasers to set a lower price. **The closing date for applications is 14 January 2011.**

2. ELIGIBILITY TO TEMPORARY LEASE QUOTA INTO THE SCHEME

Producers who wish to offer unused quota into this scheme must have first delivered a minimum of 20% of their quota in the current milk quota year. However, a producer who does not deliver the minimum amount, or who makes no deliveries at all, may offer the full amount of unused quota into the Scheme only where he/she holds a Ministerial Declaration approving the offer of that amount of quota into the Scheme.

3. SCHEME DETAILS

A full version of this notice and the detailed rules of the Scheme are available from Co-operatives/Dairies or from Milk Quota Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at (01) 6072857. Details are also available on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
November 2010.

N.B. As already stated in the above Dept. Notice the 2nd. Stage of the scheme will only operate if there is sufficient demand from active suppliers to lease.

BRANCH OFFERS DEC

From Monday 20/12/10 to Monday 19/01/11

SOUTHERN STORES

Boviseal herd pack 30 cow €145.00

Animec Super 250ml €75.00

Animec Super 500ml €137.50

Tel: 074 9121766

OMAGH & LISNASKEA

Fertility Milking cow mineral optimum high spec 25kg - buy 5 bags for only £70.00

Calcium bottles 40cm5 12pk £26.50 + vat

Closamectin pour-on fluke and worm special deals in-store

Contact Malcolm /Brian 04882244184