

BRANCH OFFERS MARCH

From Monday 21/03/11 to Monday 18/04/11

SOUTHERN STORES

OFFERS OF THE MONTH!!

9v electric fencer c/w 90amp battery + massive 3 yr guarantee €115.00
 Geared reel 3:1 ratio foc 200m supreme polywire €40.00
 Pvc post pk 10 (cattle & sheep) €10.00

Contact Letterkenny on 00353 749121766
 for your nearest store and more details

NORTHERN IRELAND STORES

Hi mag buckets
 Buy 5 for £50.00
 Buy 10 for £95.00

9v fencer free 90 amp battery and massive 3 yr guarantee £85.00

Super fast Geared reel 3:1 ratio c/w 200m top quality polywire £28.00

Ring Brian/Malcolm on 028 82244184

Fertiliser prices not to be beaten contact stores for more details

Dear Customer

Now that another calving season is well on the way it will not be long before you will be inseminating cows again.

Why not make it easy to segregate cows by installing an "ALFCO STAND ALONE DRAFTING SYSTEM".

If you are interested in our system please contact the Co-op and we will call and discuss it with you.

We can also give you the reference names of installations in your area. When you need to draft a cow you simply attach a transponder to the cow's tail. This cow will be identified as she passes through the drafting chute and will be diverted either left or right into a holding pen.

A 6 minute demonstration video can be viewed on www.alfco.ie

Contact Joe, Lifford store for more details

Donegal 



ANIMEC TURNOUT - STORE PROMOTION

OPEN DAYS

Lifford 13th April . Kerrykeel 14th April

Letterkenny 15th April

Many top offers instore on the day.

Don't miss out

Donegal 

March 2011

CREAMERY NEWSLETTER

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

ANXIOUS WAIT FOR OVER QUOTA SUPPLIERS

A number of milk suppliers are anxiously waiting on the final outcome of March milk production to find whether or not they will escape a possible super levy.

The situation is on a knife edge and will greatly depend on the weather and volume of milk held over by over quota suppliers until the new levy year.

February '11 production was 9.23% over February '10. This gives an overall increase of 9.47% approx for the period April '10 to February '11 leaving the creamery over quota.

Nationally the Super Levy position issued by the Department at the end of February is 0.93% under quota - back from 1.88% under in January.

AVOID COSTS OF 200+ WITH INDIVIDUAL COWS:

A recent survey carried out by AFBI at Hillsborough concluded that a third of all herds in Northern Ireland had lameness problems with a financial cost of £178stg (€208) per case.

Every cow needs an annual hoof health check up and regular hoof maintenance to ensure a long and productive milking life. The nature and type of the lameness problems change and vary with changes in farming practices. Farm Relief Hoofcare Operators receive regular ongoing training that keeps them abreast of new and emerging types of lameness problems which means that in many cases they can head off such problems, not allowing them to arise in the first place and thereby prevent the occurrence of the cost referred to above.

We now have a dozen different shoe fittings for cows, each of which has a specific application depending on the problem.

A lame cow will have a reduced milk yield, reduced fertility and is more likely to be culled prematurely. To ensure your cows are getting the most up to date treatment, book the operators with the most up to date training.

Contact Donegal FRS on 074-9145386

Tel: 074-9145386

Fax: 074-9145382

Email: info@donegalfrs.com

Web: www.donegalfrs.com



DAIRY HERD CERTIFICATES

If you are having a herd test soon remember to have your Vet complete your Herd Certificate for you. Certificates are available from the Letterkenny office.

FOR SALE

Bales of Kiln Dried Sawdust for Dairy cubicles.
 Large square bales of top quality English straw.

For further details contact 048 82841578 from R.O.I. or 028 82841578 or mobile 07776141436

FOR SALE

4 Friesian Heifers 14 months old
 Quantity of Friesian Heifer calves
 from high EBI herd.

For further details contact 087 9925492

2015 – BREEDING HEIFERS FOR PROFIT



The Steering Group of the Ballyhaise dairy herd research programme has initiated a campaign this spring to increase the quality and quantity of heifers in the region. This group consists of representatives of the four Co-ops in the region – Connacht Gold, Donegal Creameries, Lakelands and the Town of Monaghan.

With the abolition of milk quota in 2015, it is essential that sufficient numbers of quality heifers are available in this region. Breeding decisions this spring are the starting point for the type of heifers entering the herd in this post quota era.

This is the second of four Newsletters dealing with "2015 – Breeding Heifers for Profit". The focus this month is on bull selection to improve herd fertility.

HERD FERTILITY

There are four legs to the stool which support dairy herd fertility:

- (a) Nutrition (c) Genetics
- (b) Health (d) Mating Management

Should any of these legs fail – herd fertility will suffer. Nationally, herd fertility is below optimum with the proportion of April/June calving cows increasing from 23% to 34% in the mid 2000's. In addition replacement rate is 27%.

This is costing farmers money - extra cost to rear these replacements, expansion is curtailed and herd milk yield is reduced as heifers are a high proportion of the herd. In addition, late calving cows are adding to seasonal peak of milk supply for the processing sector.

One weakness in tackling herd fertility is genetics. Nationally fertility sub-index in the EBI is €29, but is even lower at €21 in the above Co-op areas. Data from ICBF now clearly shows that the higher the fertility sub-index of a herd, the greater the survival of cows from lactation to lactation.

The target is to produce heifers with a €70 fertility sub-index (in their EBI) from breeding decision you make this spring.

BULL SELECTION

The following are the four key steps you must follow this spring to produce heifers with fertility sub-index of €70.

1. Use AI only. AI bulls have reliable information on fertility that a stock bull will never have.
2. Use high EBI bulls – these bring a good balance of fertility and milk.
3. Use a team of bulls (4) from the ICBF active bull list.
4. Team of bulls should have at least €100 fertility sub-index.

You can also improve another trait in your heifers, e.g. protein %, but adhere to the above points above to improve fertility.

SYNCHRONISATION FOR HEIFERS

Well grown heifers (330kg HF) can be synchronised for breeding during April. The benefit is that they will calve compactly at the start of calving season. This sets them up to calve early over the next few years. Prostaglandin synchronisation protocols work very well for heifers, but will not work in non-cycling heifers. The following protocol works:

1. Tail paint all heifers and inseminate following observation of oestrus during the first 6 days of the breeding season.
2. All heifers not inseminated in the first 6 days receive a prostaglandin injecting on day 7 and are inseminated following observation of oestrus in the next 3-5 days.
3. Heifers that failed to come into heat following the first injection of prostaglandin receive a second injection 10 days later.
4. Heifers are again inseminated at a standing heat, or receive fixed time AI at 72 and 96h after the second injection.

Key messages from February newsletter

1. Straws - Use 5.5 straws this spring for every heifer required in three years time
2. Fertility - Use a team of bulls with at least €100 fertility sub-index.
3. Heifers – monitor weights to achieve 0.7kg / day from birth to calving.

MILK PRODUCTION UP AGAIN IN U.K.

According to the latest provisional figures U.K. milk deliveries for February totalled 1021 million litres which is equivalent to 36.5 million litres / day. Compared to the previous year February deliveries were up 43 million litres (4.4%) (not butterfat adjusted).

Cumulative deliveries for 2010/11 stand at 12179 million litres an increase of 470 million litres (4.0%) compared to the same period in 2009/10 and the highest since 2006/07.

Production figures for N.I. separately for February show deliveries at 150 million, an increase of 17 million (12.8%) compared to the previous year.

Provisional butterfat figures for February were 3.99% giving a cumulative butterfat to date of 3.94% down 4 trigger points for same period last year.

DONEGAL FRIESIAN BREEDERS CLUB

ANNUAL APRIL SHOW AND SALE
 OF PEDIGREE AND NON PEDIGREE
 SPRINGING AND CALVED
 FRIESIAN HEIFERS
 IN RAPHOE LIVESTOCK MART
 ON WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL 2011

SHOW AT 11.00 A.M. SALE AT 1.00 P.M.

DAIRY HYGIENE GRANT SCHEME

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have now issued the final criteria for the Dairy Hygiene Grant Scheme. The Scheme commenced on 4th March 2011 and will be closed for valid applications on 31st December 2013. Complete details and application forms are available on the Department website or from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Dairy Equipment Scheme, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.

The following are the main elements of the Scheme:

1. Equipment Grant Aided

Milking Machine equipment – machine units whether in new or existing buildings, units to include and be costed to include any additional piping, pumps etc. within the unit cost.

Items to include and be limited to:

1. New machines (including the replacement of existing machine by a new machine);
2. Extensions of existing machines (excluding upgrades);
3. Auto washer for milking machines;
4. Rotary milking machines;
5. Robotic milking machines;
6. Heat transfer units to take heat from compressors and heat water;
7. Water heaters.

Milking machine equipment includes; wash line, milk line, vacuum line, vacuum pump, milk pump, pulsators, clusters, swing over arms, milk indicator, automatic cluster removers, milk filter, vacuum regulator.

It excludes the following items: all stall work (rump rails, head rails, automatic bailing etc.), mangers, feeders, meal bins, concrete work, building work.

Grant Aid

40% - The maximum amount of the investment eligible for grant aid under the Scheme is €40,000 per holding, minimum €2,000.

Milk storage equipment and ancillary cooling equipment – to be costed on a per volume basis.

Items to include and be limited to:

1. Bulk milk tanks incorporating auto washer and compressor. However grant-aid will not be paid on the retro-fitting of an auto washer on an existing tank;
2. Milk silos including auto washer and compressor;
3. Ice builder;
4. Plate cooler;
5. Replacement compressor

Grant Aid

40% - The maximum amount of the investment eligible for grant aid under the Scheme is €25,000, minimum €2,000.

2. Eligibility Criteria

The Scheme is open to farmers who:

- i. Own or have leasehold title to the site on which it is proposed to carry out the development;
- ii. Have a minimum of 5 hectares, which have been declared under the Single Farm Payment Scheme/Area Aid/Integrated Administration and Control System in the year of application or preceding year. However, the requirement in regard to a declaration shall not apply in the case of successful applicants for milk quota under the New Entrants Scheme or the New Entrants Category of the Milk Quota Trading Scheme;
- iii. Have between 60 and 500 production units in total at the time of application. However –
 - a. In the case of Milk Production Partnerships, the maximum of 500 production units shall be multiplied by the number of eligible partners in the Milk Production Partnership,
 - b. In the case of successful applicants for milk quota under the New Entrants Scheme or the New Entrants Category of the Milk Quota Trading Scheme the minimum requirement of 60 production units shall be reduced by 40;
- iv. Agree to provide relevant bank/building society/credit union details to ensure that all payments made by the Department are paid by means of electronic fund transfer;
- v. Meet the requirements as to reliability with reference to any previous EU co-financed operations undertaken since 2000 within the meaning of Article 24 (2) (e) of Commission Regulation (EC) 65/2011.

3. Points System for Application Ranking

A. Applicant

Select only one category:

Successful applicant under the New Entrant Scheme or 'New/Recent Entrant' or 'Son/Daughter farming in partnership with a parent' categories

of the Milk Quota Trading Scheme (MQTS) – 150 Marks
Allocated milk quota under Milk Quota Trading Scheme (MQTS) (excluding those categories referred to above for which 150 marks are available) – 120 Marks

Less than 35 years of age, with relevant training – 80 Marks

Relevant training – 60 Marks

B. Cost of Proposal

Max. of 100 marks where proposed cost is 20% below reference cost - 5 marks for every 1% that total proposed cost is less than reference cost. Max. marks where total reference costs are 20% below total reference costs. Zero marks if proposed cost at or above reference cost.

C. Sheep or Goat's Milk Producers

Investments in relation to sheep and goat's milk production – 45 Marks

D. FIS Applicant

Applicant did not receive approval or payment for any of the items listed in the terms and conditions of the Farm Improvement Scheme – 40 Marks

E. Dairy Efficiency Programme/Animal Events

Applicant is a participant in the Dairy Efficiency Programme/Animal Events – 40 Marks

F. LFA

If any part of the owned/leased land is in an LFA – 10 Marks

G. Level of Milk quota held/allocated at the time of application

Maximum of 5 marks where milk quota is 100,000 litres or less. Zero marks if quota above 900,000 litres.

Note:

An applicant may pick up points in one or more of categories A, B, D, E, F and G as outlined above

4. Costs for Grant-aid

Grant-aid will be calculated on the lowest of the following costs:

- i. The Department's Reference Costings applicable at the date of approval,
- ii. The total of the invoices marked 'paid' net of VAT,
- iii. The cost of the project proposed by the applicant as indicated on his/her application form.

Where there are no Reference Costings applicable, grant-aid will be calculated on the basis of the lesser of (ii) and (iii) above.

5. Operation of Tranche System

The first tranche, €7 million funding, will close after 2 months, and each tranche thereafter will last for 3 months. The 2nd and following tranches will receive grant-aid of €3.5 million (approximately). €45 million is set aside for the Scheme over the three years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Applicants that are unsuccessful in their 1st tranche application will be informed, and their application rolled over and held in the system until the expiry of the Scheme or until the withdrawal of the application by the dairy producer.

6. General Conditions

- An applicant may get grant-aid for both the milking machine and the milk storage equipment within the maximum investment limits of both Schemes.
- Only new equipment will be grant-aided
- Planning permission where applicable must be incorporated with the application
- Aid will not be given for work commenced or equipment purchased before written approval has been received by the applicant
- Work carried out by the applicant or family member is not grant-aided
- Off farm income is excluded from the calculation of production units. The Department guidelines and application form give a full table of the production units. One unit = 1,818 litres (400 gls)
- Equipment grant-aided must be used for milk production for a minimum of 5 years after the date of issue of the letter of approval to commencing work. Failure to do so will result in all of the grant-aid being refunded
- Tax clearance of the applicant and the contractor is required before the payment of the grant
- It is advisable that applicants should forward their applications to the Department by Registered Post
- Within two years from the date of issue of approval to commence work, all work must be completed and a valid claim for payment received by the Department.

Royal Highland Show

Tour ref: CHSCORSHO

3 Days

Departing Wednesday, 22 June 2011

From £249.00 per person sharing

The Royal Highland Show, in Edinburgh, is Scotland's premier agricultural event. The show offers the ultimate visitor experience, with an amazing selection of livestock, machinery, entertainment, children's activities, shopping, fashion, outdoor living, food and drink. Last year The Royal Highland Show welcomed an attendance of over 170,000, and 2011 promises to be even better!

Price includes:

- Luxury coaching from Ballymena, Dunsilly, Belfast and Larne Harbour
- Return ferry crossing with P&O Ferries – Larne/Cairnryan – Troon/Larne*
- 2 nights accommodation at the 3* Best Western Park Hotel, Falkirk
- Scottish breakfast and evening meals
- 2 days entry to the Royal Highland Show
- Services of a tour manager

Optional extras:

- Single Supplement - £44.00 per person

* Outward Ferry – Larne/Cairnryan @ 07.30/ Return Ferry – Troon/Larne @20.20

ITINERARY:

Day 1:

You meet your coach and travel to Larne to join the early morning ferry crossing to Cairnryan. On arrival, you continue towards your hotel in Falkirk, arriving mid afternoon.

Day 2:

Early this morning you leave your hotel and travel to the Ingliston

showground, where you have a full day at The Royal Highland Show.

Day 3:

You depart the hotel early this morning to return to the Ingliston showground for a second full day at The Royal Highland Show, to enjoy a different programme of events. You depart the showground early evening and travel to Troon to join the evening sailing to Larne. On arrival, you return to your original joining point. We have held some seats so if you wish to book contact sales team on 02890455030 from N.I. or 04890455030 from R.O.I. and quote Donegal Creameries.

Tour ref: CHSCORHDAY

Day Breaks

Departing, Thursday 23, Friday 24, Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June 2011

Prices from £54.00 per adult/ £50.00 senior citizens/ £32.00 per child U16

Price includes:

- Return P&O Ferries foot passenger crossing - Larne/Troon*
- Return coach transfers to Ingliston Showground
- Entrance to Royal Highland Show
- Services of a tour manager

*Outward Ferry – Larne/Troon @ 07.15/ Return Ferry – Troon/Larne @20.20

Itinerary:

Meet your tour manager at Larne Port for your ferry crossing to Troon.

On arrival in Troon you will be transferred by coach to Ingliston to enjoy a packed programme of events at the Royal Highland Show.

Later in the day, you will return by coach to Troon to join the early evening sailing to Larne.

Discussion Group Meeting on the farm of Noel Mc Kinney, Castlefin, Co Donegal, 15th February 2011

Attendance. Owen Gallagher Discussion Groups, Dr Dan Ryan, Morgan Sheehy, Devenish Nutrition, Ray Winters, Brendan Mc Feely, Jeremy Mc Gonigle, Smyths Daleside Feeds

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- * Cow Body Condition.
- * Diseases in Dairy Cows == IBR, BVD, LEPTO, Fluke And Stomach Fluke,
- * Benefits of Feeding the Dairy Cow to her full Potential in Yield and Solids
- * Heifer Rearing and Target weight to achieved at 14 Months of Age to Calving.
- * Dry Cow Management.
- * Benefits of Feeding Straw to Dry and Lactating Cows.
- * Silage quality and Dry matter Intakes. Dr. Dan Ryan spoke of the importance of calf management and rearing.
- * Calf rearing. This has a major impact on lifetime milk production. Avoid setbacks such as pneumonia and cryptosporidium.
- * Mineral dry cow supplementation needs to meet the requirements of your herd . Pre-calving nutrition needs to be set up for the cow to maximize appetite post- calving.
- * Post calving management. The rate of repair of the reproductive tract is dependent on dry cow management, calving difficulties, housing environment and post –calving nutrition.
- * Animal health. The strength of the immune system will dictate the ability of the cow to resist disease. Fit cows are healthy cows.
- * Vaccination programme. The outcome of a vaccination programme is dependent on the health of your cow.
- * Heat Detection; The target heat detection rate should be close to 90%. This figure dependent on the fitness of the cow, body condition score, mastitis,



Farmers attending Farm walk on Noel McKinney's Farm recently.

lameness, disease, diet balance will all impact on the expression of heats in cows.

* Pregnancy rate ; The quality of the uterine environment and egg quality will dictate pregnancy rate.

* Scanning; Ultrasonography is an excellent part of a preventative health management programme (PHMP). Use as an early warning system (EWS) in the reproductive management of the herd. Scanning can be used from 14 days post calving to determine if dry cow and early post calving management of your cow is correct. Scanning can also be used to increase heat detection rates, early non pregnancy diagnosis, to identify embryonic immortality, to age pregnancies accurately, to dry off cows at the proper time, to sex pregnancies between 50 & 110 days and to identify twins up to 110 days of pregnancy.

Many thanks to the Mc Kinney Family for their kind hospitality on the DAY



FOR SALE

High E.B.I. Friesian Heifer calves out of High Fat & Protein herd. Contact 087 4184958

FOR SALE

Friesian Heifer calves out of high Fat & Protein herd. For further details contact 087 2444390