

CREAMERY NEWSLETTER

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

NEW LEVY YEAR PRODUCTION DECREASES BY 3.12%

Milk supply at the start of the new levy year has shown a drop in production of approximately 225,000 litres - down by 3.12%. With grass growth slow we expect peak production to happen later than last year. There is also a trend that cows are calving later and this is having an effect on production to date. Weather conditions have been ideal for grazing, so grass utilisation has been very good. We look forward to a better grass year than what we had in 2009.

SUPER LEVY YEAR 2009/2010 ENDS OVER QUOTA

Provisional figures for the Super Levy year 2009/10 after butterfat and Dual quota adjustments show that Donegal Suppliers ended the year 1.53 million litres (+ 2.3%) over quota. This has been a great achievement by suppliers despite having experienced one of the poorest Summers on record.

When comparing this 2.3% increase to the National position of -11% under, it highlights how suppliers responded to these conditions to achieve this.

As a result of the Country being under quota by the above, there will be no levy due for the year.

U.K. PRODUCTION DROPS BY 9.7 MILLION LITRES

April production according to R.P.A. report shows that milk supply in the month was down 9.7 million litres (- .85%) when comparing April 2010 production with the same month in 2002 (8 years ago) there has been a massive drop of 139.2 million litres.

The drop in production over the past year has left milk scarce and milk prices have continued to rise.

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 one.

TEMPORARY LEASING SCHEME

The 1st. Stage of the 2010/11 Temporary Leasing Scheme has been announced (see Department notice). The price for this stage has been reduced to 2c./litre with a closing date for applications of the 18th June, 2010.

NOTICE NO. 10/04(abbr.)

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

- PRICE AND CLOSING DATE**
The price payable for the leased quota is fixed at **2 cent per litre**. It is not open to Milk Purchasers to set a lower price. **The closing date for applications is 18th June 2010.**
- 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 **if he/she holds a Ministerial Declaration** approving the offer of that amount of quota into the Scheme. The Application Form for such approvals (TL/MD/O9) is now available from Milk Purchasers and must be submitted to the Department by **28th May 2010.**
- 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, May 2010.

FOR SALE; Reduction Sale of 25 Calved heifers 10 Maiden Heifers

All sired by British Friesian Sires.
All 30 Day T.B. and Brucellosis Tested.

In
Raphoe Livestock Mart
On
Wednesday 26th May, 2010
Sale at 1.00 p.m.

For details prior to sale,
contact Mitchell Patterson
on 086 - 3637984

FOR SALE

Oman Bull out of Dam.
9000 kgs milk -
4.68 B.F. - 3.17 Protein.
In First Lactation.
For further details contact
086 - 3339547

FOR SALE

Selection of Pedigree
and PBNR Bulls.
Yields up to 10,000 kgs,
Proteins up to 3.8%.
Contact Trevor Lockhart
087 2219599 / 074 9151054

FOR SALE

Angus Bulls suitable
for cows and Heifers.
For further details contact
086 - 8072637 or 074 91 73846

FOR SALE

Selection of Friesian Bulls
from high EBI milk
recorded herd.
Contact: 087 - 2385693

FOR SALE

1 Freshly calved Friesian Heifer.
Contact 087 7649677



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Teagasc Advice

Teagasc held a Dairy Open Day at Ballyhaise College Cavan in early May. The main messages to emerge on the day are summarised here.

- ▶ Farmers operating a high input system (high levels of meal feeding) are more financially exposed at low milk prices. A high grass system may not deliver as much profit as a high input system at high milk prices but it will reduce the amount of exposure the farmer faces when milk prices fall. The high input system will only work if the fertility of the herd is good.
- ▶ There is an inadequate number of suitable breeding stock available to expand the national dairy herd. Even if a farmer is not expanding his own herd, a replacement rearing enterprise can be a good 'cash enterprise'. It is vital that replacement stock reach their target weights at critical points in their growth – weaning, turnout, breeding and pre-calving. These target weights are not easily achieved; underperformance for any time will result in heifers being underweight at breeding or calving. Weight and body condition score are more important than age when selecting heifers for breeding.
- ▶ There is not enough reseeding taking place. Older, less productive pastures must be replaced if you want to maximize the amount of grass grown and utilized.
- ▶ You have total control over all your grassland management decisions. In general farmers are grazing grass covers that are too high and are slow to remove surpluses. Use the

Pasture Wedge Graph to identify your surpluses or deficits and react accordingly.

- ▶ The availability of high quality grass must drive your decision regarding supplementation. If you have enough quality grass, no supplements are needed. If you are short of grass, you must 'fill the gap'.
- ▶ Use high EBI AI bulls on your herd to breed quality replacements. In addition all bulls used must have a high fertility sub-index.
- ▶ Use a heat detection aid to help identify cows in standing heat. These include: tail paint, paint sticks, kamars, or 'scratch cards'. Automated heat detection systems are also available but are relatively expensive.
- ▶ Synchronisation of cows and heifers does work and will help to reduce slippage in calving dates.
- ▶ Residues are causing some problems, especially in butter. It is advisable to use at least 14 litres per unit to rinse out milk (before main wash) and detergent (after main wash). Check that your detergent-steriliser has the necessary chemical composition to effectively clean your milk equipment. The caustic to chlorine ratio is important. Increasing the usage rate, if the caustic to chlorine ratio is too low, can result in chlorine residues. Water needs to be 70 to 80°C for a hot wash to be effective; the hot wash solution needs to be 50°C leaving the milking plant.

For further information on any of the above recommendations, contact Teagasc Dairy Adviser, Seamus Culhane at 074 9131189, 087 9445781 or seamus.culhane@teagasc.ie

The Secret to Ensuring that your Cows are Getting Enough Grass to eat

By Jeremy McGonigle

Frequently asked questions during the breeding season for Spring calving herds,

Are my cows getting enough to eat?
What should the pre and post grazing height of grass be?

Grazing heights are crude measurements, The result depends on the following-

- Who and what technique is used to measure the grass
- What is the Grass density (if there was poaching over the last 3 grazing seasons- it effects the density)!

The amount of grass a cow eats depends on

- How much grass dry matter is consumed in each bite?
- What is the grass composition ie Sugar level, dry matter %, Crude Protein %.

However, our ruminant team are checking what milk is in the bulk tank. The only real issue is what amount of milk is sold i.e. what you are paid for.

Then if we divide the litres sold by the number of cows in the tank,

$\frac{\text{Litres sold}}{\text{No. Of Cows}}$

and graph each collection. Ensure that you do numbers on a daily basis, if 2 day collection divide by 2 etc.

The results tell us how we are feeding our cows. The very best of managers have a **maximum yield change up or down of 0.25 L/Cow/Day**. Obviously the movement down is of more importance as a drop in milk tells us the cow was short of energy i.e. didn't get enough to eat. **People accept 0.5 L/Cow/Day to be the maximum change as a practical guide.**

100 cow herd and a 2 day collection
Equivalent to a maximum milk drop in tank of 100 Litres

Start drawing graphs and monitor your cows progress closer. The key is an arched graph.

If there are big variations, the cows are not getting enough to eat

Low Butterfat Percentages

The cow's milk butterfat percentage follows a lactational curve. Colostrum is usually very high in butterfat and then as the weeks progress butterfat percentage declines. Normally milk butterfat is at its lowest 8-14 weeks post calving.

After this period butterfat percentage increases until the end of lactation.

The main nutritional influence on butterfat percentage is fibre in the diet. Fibre comes from forages and from concentrates.

Note:

- Spring grass is low in fibre
- The shorter the grass the lower the fibre level
- In feed wagon situations the more chopping that's done the more damage that's done to the fibre → do not over process diets.
- Straw, hay, wagon cut silage and baled silages have higher fibre levels/more effective fibre than precision chopped silages.
- Feed high fibre concentrates. The main fibre sources are soya hulls, citrus pulp and sugar beet pulp
- Feed balanced diets

Cows that are suffering from acidosis (rumen pH too low) have depressed butterfats.

Contact Smyths Daleside Feeds for more information regarding our Summer Diets
074 9171300 or your local representative



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Are you Handling Tuberculosis/Brucellosis Reactor Milk correctly?



Handling and disposal of TB/Br reactor milk is an issue which every dairy farmer needs to address in the overall management and health of their herd.

Since 1 January 2006 milk from individual TB/Br reactors **must not be sold** for human consumption and **must be withheld** from the bulk tank.

Milk from inconclusive animals may be sold for human consumption provided it is heat treated.

This means farmers must have in place facilities to:

- isolate TB/Br reactor animals

- milk reactor animals, if required, last through the parlour
- exclude reactor milk from the bulk tank
- clean and sanitise the parlour and equipment after milking reactor animals
- prevent calves from being fed reactor milk
- dispose of reactor milk via slurry system or land spreading

Where reactor milk is disposed of by land spreading an exemption must be applied for from the Environment and Heritage Service.

If land spreading TB reactor milk, a 6 week gap should elapse before cattle have access or alternatively spread milk on silage ground. With Br reactor milk no cattle access is advised for 6 months except steers.

Farmers must ensure reactor milk is excluded from the food chain to protect their own health, their herd health and consumers health.

For further advice contact your Veterinary Officer dealing with the TB/Br breakdown.