

Centenary Thurles
Co-operative Society Ltd

SEP - OCT

NEWSLETTER 2012



Milk TBC Workshops

Centenary Thurles Co Op conducted six workshops on-farm during the month of August.



A special emphasis was placed on TBC. The well-attended workshops focused on the procedures required to produce milk with low bulk milk TBC counts. The workshops explained the changes to the milk payment scheme that were introduced from Sept 1st. A follow up meeting took place in Templemore with guest

speaker Dr David Gleeson of Teagasc Moorepark Research Centre outlining the key factors in quality milk production. We include below the recommended weekly wash Routine and a milk tank daily check list that when followed should achieve the high milk quality standards that are required by the processors today.

We would like to thank those suppliers who facilitated us in the provision of their farms and farmyards for the workshops and hope that those who attended derived some benefit.



Recommended Weekly Wash Routine

DAYS 1 - 5 (Mon – Fri)

Hot Wash daily with a non chlorine caustic powder, i.e. Turboclean, Hydrosan, Unisan or equivalent.

Leave this solution in the machine daily and re-use solution cold in the evening and leave overnight.

DAY 6 (Saturday)

De-scale machine in a hot wash.

Leave solution in machine for the day, re-use solution cold in the evening and leave overnight.

DAY 7 (Sunday)

Hot Wash machine with a detergent steriliser (caustic & chlorine), i.e. Turbosan Liquid, Hydrosan Liquid, Unisan Liquid or equivalent.

Do not leave this solution in the machine.

Rinse out immediately with high volumes of cold water.

Re-use solution cold in the evening and rinse out immediately.

Milk Tank Daily Check List

STEP 1

Milk Cooler must be turned on before first milking.

STEP 2

Bulk Tanks are to be cooled to 3°C and checked twice daily.

STEP 3

Check the Bulk Tank cuts out at approximately the same time each day when milk is cooled. Otherwise check and report if necessary to the maintenance company.

STEP 4

Check to ensure the washer in the tank is working properly and check to ensure the tank is clean after washing.

STEP 5

Check to ensure the agitator in the bulk tank is working properly.

Congratulations



Pictured at a trophy presentation on the night of the Thurles Fresh Milk Tipperary Cup Final are members of the Centenary Thurles Greyhound Syndicate whose greyhound 'We Was Happy' was victorious in an earlier race on the night.

Lactose Rejection Standard

Suppliers are reminded that in accordance with our milk payment policy, the rejection standard for low lactose milk is 4%. If your lactose level falls below 4% and there

is no prospect of recovering, you will be asked to cease supply immediately. Lactose results are supplied to you by text so please keep the situation monitored.

Ploughing Championships 2012

This year's National Ploughing Championships will take place at Heathpark, New Ross, Co Wexford, on the 25th to 27th September 2012.

Stockproof Fencing Products will have a stand there, **Stand 55Row C.**

Animal Health Certificates

Animal Health Certs for 2012 are now due and should be returned before the 31st October. A penalty of €100 will apply to all suppliers who have not submitted certs by this date.

Your milk statement indicates if you have failed to submit for 2012. Collection of milk will be refused if this cert is not submitted by 31st January next.

Milk Quota Exchange 2013/2014

The Closing Date for the first quota exchange for 2013/2014 is Friday 28th September. Applications, with the accompanying cheque for purchasers, must be with the Department in Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 on or before that date.

The Scheme will operate generally as heretofore with a Priority Pool of 5c per litre and a maximum allocation of 100,000 litres per Supplier.

It is unlikely that we will have a large quantity of milk offered for sale into the exchange. A feature of recent exchanges has been the existence of a National Pool. The National Pool has not been triggered to date as all milk available for sale has been taken up in all Co-Op areas.

Maintaining Milk Lactose Levels

Lactose % is used as a measure of milk processability and low levels are a feature of late lactation milk.

STEPS IN MAINTAINING THE LACTOSE % IN MILK

1. Feed 2kg of Cubes to spring calves in late lactation
2. Dry off cows producing less than 6.5 kg per day
3. Dry off the herd when producing less than 2 gallons on average
4. Dry off high cell count cows. A high SCC can impact on lactose since it changes the mammary physiology, regardless of stage of lactation
5. Length of lactation should not exceed 310 days
6. Ensure the milking machine is working properly.

Milk Price Increases

Milk Price started 2012 at 34c per litre including VAT. Excessive supply around the globe reduced demand at this price and price fell to 28.5c per litre during the Summer. The supply imbalance has started to correct and prices are moving upwards accordingly. An increase of 1c per litre has been applied to August milk and further increases are anticipated in the coming months.

The volatility in prices which will continue for the foreseeable

future is demonstrated by the changes both downward and upward in 2012. During the year it was anticipated that the decline would even be greater and increases were difficult to envisage. We re-iterate once again that suppliers should ensure they receive the maximum bonuses available to insulate them in times of pressure on prices or costs and to take maximum advantage during the more favourable times.

Grass Seed Varieties

POINTS TO CONSIDER

The most important thing to consider when reseeding is what varieties to sow. Vital traits such as spring growth, autumn growth, digestibility and total yield should be the basis on which the varieties to be sown are chosen. Different varieties perform differently depending on the system they are used in. As a sward sown will be in use for 8 – 10 years, putting some effort into deciding the varieties that you require is time well spent.

Use only varieties that are on “The Irish Recommended List”. The Irish recommended list is the most valuable source of information on the grass varieties that are available in this country. Varieties are evaluated for a minimum of two separate sowings and

four harvest years at a range of six sites around the country. Varieties will only be listed if they show sufficient merit in terms of overall production, seasonal yield, digestibility and ground cover score. Over the past eight years there were 99 varieties evaluated for the first time. Only 23 of these were listed and 76 were rejected. The Recommended List protocol has been adjusted in 2011 to further improve the value of the results.

Today, reduced supply of perennial ryegrass means that some grass seed mixtures are being sold containing varieties that are not well suited to Irish production systems and therefore are not on the Irish recommended list. These mixtures should be avoided. Teagasc estimates the cost of reseeding to be €600/Ha.

It is a very false economy saving 5 or 6 euro on an acre of grass seeds, if you are compromising on the quality of grasses. The better varieties cost more; there is a reason for this.

GRAZING VARIETIES

Grazing mixes should be dominated by late heading diploids but should also have a proportion of tetraploid varieties. Tetraploid varieties have the highest DM yields and large leaf area, even though their tiller density is lower than diploids. In general terms they have an average of 1t DM/ha higher yield than diploids. Tetraploids should be combined with high ground cover and highly digestibility diploids. 40% tetraploid is sufficient in a seed mix, higher levels of

tetraploid can be used but sward management should be adjusted to protect it from damage during the shoulder grazing periods.

SILAGE VARIETIES

Intermediate heading varieties should be included in the seed mixes for intensive silage swards. Tetraploid varieties should make up about one third of silage mixes. For swards cut once a year and then grazed, the amount of intermediate can be reduced, and late heading cultivars can be used. Low yielding late diploids should be avoided on the land targeted for continuous silage harvests. Whatever the varieties in intensive silage systems, persistency will become an issue if high silage yields are harvested to low cutting heights.



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The Value of Silage Analysis

Efficient dairy and beef farmers analyse representative samples from their silage clamps prior to each winter feeding period.



Efficient dairy and beef farmers analyse representative samples from their silage clamps prior to each winter feeding period. The analyses are used to determine silage quantities, and quality in terms of preservation status, energy value and protein content.

In 2012, it is particularly important to analyse silage for the following reasons:

- The prolonged period of extremely wet weather has created very difficult ensiling conditions. Problems are likely to arise with quality of preservation, nutritive value and high ash contents.
- Accurate dry matter contents, and predicted intakes are needed to plan reliable feed budgeting.
- With concentrate feed prices having increased significantly, it is important to accurately establish the correct supplementary requirements for milk production and liveweight gain.

A good silage analytical report will compare the analysed composition with guide values, and interpret the results for use in diet formulation. Important parameters analysed include the following:

DRY MATTER CONTENT

The dry matter of grass silage ranges from 13% to 40%, with the majority between 18% and 28%. High dry matter silage (>24%) is easier to preserve, has little or no effluent losses and gives higher animal intake.

PRESERVATION QUALITY

The quality of preservation is determined by pH and Ammonia Nitrogen values. Target values are 4.0 to 7.0, depending on dry matter content. Ammonia N should be less than 10% of total N. Animal silage intakes are directly related to quality of preservation.

There are likely to be some problems with preservation quality in 2012 because of the adverse ensiling conditions, and the discontinued use of silage additives on many farms.

ASH

Ash is a measure of mineral content, and soil contamination. If there is significant soil contamination, it is more difficult to achieve good preservation and animal health can be damaged.

ENERGY VALUE

Silage energy value is determined by the herbage botanical composition and stage maturity at time of harvesting which will be directly related to Dry Matter Digestibility (DMD) values in the range of 63% to 75%. The ensuing energy values will be ME of 9.0 to 10.8 MJ/Kg, and UFL of 0.7 to 0.9 per kg.

PROTEIN CONTENT

Silage crude protein values generally range from 12% to 17%. Higher values make preservation more difficult, and are largely non-protein nitrogen. Mature grasses harvested in 2012 are likely to have low protein contents. Whilst it is essential to feed adequate protein to meet animal requirements any surplus protein is wasteful when protein concentrates are very expensive.

The French PDI system evaluates True Protein digested in the small intestine. The analytical values are expressed as:

PDIA: Dietary protein undegraded in the rumen, but digestible in the small intestine.

PDIE: PDIA plus PDI supplied by microbial protein from rumen-fermented organic matter.

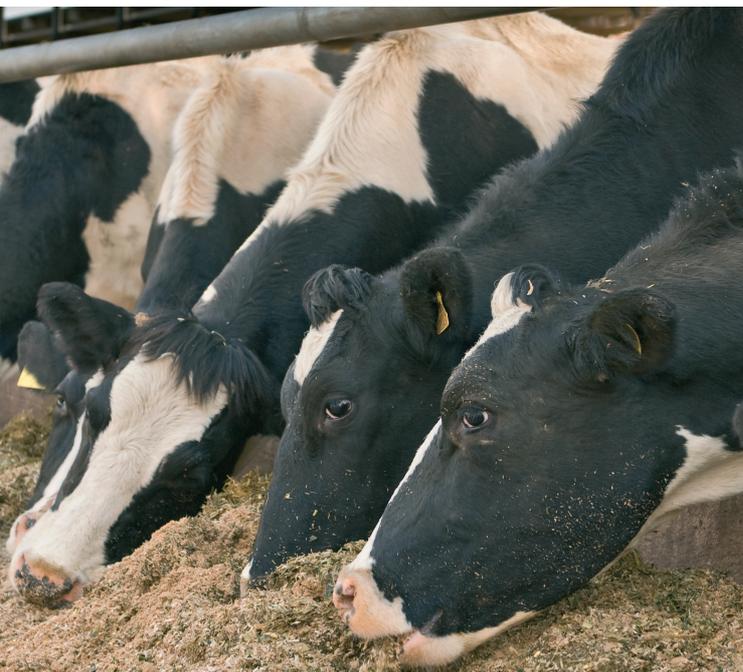
PDIN: PDIA plus PDI supplied by microbial protein from rumen-degraded protein.

MINERAL CONTENT

A knowledge of silage mineral content is required to select the appropriate mineral supplementation for drystock, pre-calver and lactating cows. The minerals analysed include the major (Ca, P, Mg, K, Na, S) and trace minerals (Cu, Zn, Se, I, Co, Fe, Mn, Mo).

INTERPRETATION OF SILAGE ANALYSIS

The Silage Analysis Report will give predicted performance values for drystock, pre-calver and lactating cows. It will also indicate supplementary feed requirements for normal performance targets.



Super-Levy Position

At the end of August, the Society is 2.1m litres or 3.2% over-quota. For the month of August, despite the inclement weather, our suppliers filled their quota after adjusting for Butterfat. It is inevitable once again that the Society will exceed its annual quota for 2012/2013. The latest Department figures show a national under-quota position of 0.56% at the end of July and that under-quota position is likely to be higher when August

figures are published. However, there is still a risk of an over-quota position if conditions become more favourable before 31st March next. Suppliers are advised to monitor their own positions carefully.

The final Super-Levy statement for 2011/2012 is now available and any refunds or additional deductions are included with August statements. 1m litres in national flexi-milk has been allocated to us and the final liability is €447,137.

Dry Cow Intramammaries

Milk Withhold Period	pre calving	post calving
Cepravin	54 days	96 hours
Ubro Red DC	28 days	84 hours
Kloxerate xtra DC	49 days	156 hours
Kloxerate plus DC	45 days	120 hours
Bovaclox xtra DC	49 days	156 hours
Bovaclox DC	45 days	120 hours
Bovimast	28 days	120 hours
Noraclox	28 days	96 hours
Noraclox xtra	42 days	96 hours
Orbenin extra DC	42 days	96 hours

As can be seen from above, different products have different withdrawal periods. It is critical to record accurately the dates on which dry cow intramammaries were administered. It is also critical to adhere to withdrawal periods as indicated on the label.

We strongly advise that a teat sealer be administered with the dry cow therapy as it has a major role to play in preventing the entry of bacteria and the establishment of new infections.

Glanbia Announcement

The Society notes with interest the recent announcement by Glanbia, that Glanbia Co-Op and Glanbia plc propose to enter a joint venture to acquire the Dairy Ingredients business currently owned by the plc and to build and operate the new facility at Belview.

Last June, Glanbia announced that discussions were ongoing and now a detailed proposal

is available for discussion and ultimately for the Shareholders to vote on. An initial presentation and question and answer session has been made available to your Society and following consideration of all aspects of the proposal, your Committee of Management will make its decision in due course whether to support the proposals.


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