

Centenary Thurles
Co-operative Society Ltd

SEP — OCT

NEWSLETTER 2013



8th Annual Centenary Thurles Golden Mile

The 8th Annual Centenary Thurles Golden Mile handicap took place at Moyne Athletic Club Track (by kind permission) on Saturday 17th August last. This year the charity benefitting from the event was the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association.

In the Golden Mile handicap race, we had a field of 10 do battle for the prestigious title and the John Flynn Perpetual Trophy. As always it was a very competitive and sporting event. The handicapper is finding the task more difficult each year in an effort to have all runners reach the final straight together. However, as always, some have more training done than others and defy the handicaps given to them. The gap this year between first and last off was a mere 2 minutes 25 seconds.

The early leader was John Ryan (Feed & Grain) but the exertions of a fast start took its toll and he was picked off one by one by the other contestants. The lead was then taken up by Cashel Senior Rugby player Howard Stanley (Feed & Grain) as the attendance looked to see who would be first to overtake him. Pdraig Crone

(Thurles Home & Garden) had put in a very fast first lap and looked a likely winner entering the final 200m. However the prop forward was not to be outdone and made a winning burst for the line and Howard Stanley (Feed & Grain) became the latest winner of the John Flynn Perpetual Trophy in a time of 6.52. In just failing to catch Howard, Pdraig Crone (Thurles Home & Garden) had a fantastic run in 5.20 to break the all-time record set by John Hogan in 2010, and to finish in 2nd place. In 3rd place and running from the back of the pit lane was Tom Ryan (Thurles Farm Store) with a personal best time of 5.42. 4th was David Brennan (Cashel Home & Garden) in 5.58; in 5th place was a former winner Tom Power (Stockproof Fencing) in a time of 6.15; 6th and 7th were late entrants to the race Ian Stanley (Maintenance) in 6.39 and Ross Kerrigan (Maintenance) in 6.52; 8th place went to another former winner James Byrne (Roscrea Home & Garden) 6.48; 9th was Ultan Nesbitt (Roscrea Home & Garden) in 8.22 with John Ryan (Feed & Grain) finishing 10th in 8.17.

Also held on that evening was an exciting Inter-Branch relay with 5 teams taking part and run over 400m, with the winners being the Thurles/Cashel team of Pdraig Crone, David Brennan and Tom Ryan.

In the (Crazy) Golf section, the winning team was Denis Kennedy, Tom Ryan and Glenn Kerrigan on a score of 28 pts. The above events made for a very enjoyable evening followed by a BBQ in Quinlan's Pub Moyne organised by the Centenary Thurles Social Club. Prizes were presented by Joe Kerrigan CEO of Centenary Thurles Co-op to all the winners and all proceeds of the night went to the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association.



Animal Health Certificates

Animal Health Certs for 2013 are now due and should be returned before the 31st October. A penalty of €100 will apply to all suppliers who have not submitted a cert by this date. Your milk statement indicates if you have failed to submit for 2013. Collection of milk will be refused if this cert is not submitted by 31st January next.

Feed Price Reductions

We are pleased to announce a reduction in compound feed prices of a further €15 per tonne. This reduction is effective from Monday 9th September and follows a reduction of €20 per tonne in August. This cumulative reduction of €35 per tonne brings prices back to those pertaining in August/September 2012.

Fertiliser Spreading

We would like to remind all our customers of the extension to the period this autumn during which Chemical Fertiliser N and P are permitted.

In response to the fodder crisis last June, the Ministers for Agriculture and Environment announced that the closing date this year for the spreading of Chemical fertiliser was extended from the 15th to the 30th September. This was announced in May in response to the fodder crisis at the time and more details are available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2013/may/title,70390,en.html>.

Note should also be taken of the changes made in accounting for P from concentrate feed in calculating the chemical P permitted on farms in 2013 (details are included in the link provided).

It is also worth reminding farmers of the closing date for slurry. It is important to get as much spread as possible during the coming weeks to avoid having slurry in tanks after the closed period begins on the 15th of October.

Lactose

At this time of year, it is opportune to remind suppliers 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. Given the current high milk price and costs suffered on-farm during 2013, if you are not facing a super-levy situation, you should look to maintain lactose levels as best you can. Some tips that we have provided in the past include:

1. Feed 2kg of Cubes to Spring Calvers in late lactation
2. Dry off cows yielding less than 7 litres per day.
3. Dry off the herd when producing less than 9 litres 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 300 days.
6. Ensure the milking machine is working properly.

A bonus payment of 0.5c per litre is paid on average lactose of greater than 4.35% for the months of October to January inclusive.

Milk Collection Quantities

Suppliers are reminded that for quality and economic reasons, the minimum collection volume in the winter period will be 400 litres over three days.

Where suppliers have dried off, they must give three days' notice of their intention to resume milk deliveries.

Milk Price Increase August 2013

After the difficulties of early 2013, we are pleased to confirm that a milk price of 39c per litre inclusive of VAT is now being paid for August milk. This represents an increase of 9.5c per litre over August 2012 and an increase of 7c per litre this year. Undoubtedly, 2013 was a high-cost year with significant additional feed and fertiliser usage allied to high feed costs, but the significant movement in milk price should alleviate the burden suffered by suppliers.

Super-Levy Position

The Society is now 2.8m litres or 4.1% over quota at the end of August. The national position at the end of July was 1.44% under, a position we anticipate has now been eroded. Given all the factors involved, it is likely that a national over-quota position will exist at the end of September.

Significant concern now exists that our suppliers will incur a super-levy this year, which will come hot on the heels of that for 2011/2012 when a bill of almost €450,000 was incurred. On-account deductions of 3c per litre will apply from August milk for those suppliers over their quota profile. A certain 'headroom' will be allowed before deductions commence and this will be reviewed as the year progresses.

Suppliers should monitor their own position carefully and take whatever action is necessary to mitigate their potential liability. A further super-levy is a strong possibility for 2014/2015 also in the lead up to the abolition of quotas.

Ploughing Champions 2013

This year's national ploughing Championships will take place at Ratheniska, Stradbally, Co Laois, on the 24th to 26th September 2013.

Stockproof Fencing Products will have a stand there, **Stand 383, Row W, Block 2.**

Telephone: 050491900
Facsimile: 050422657

centenarythurles.com