

Centenary Thurles
Co-operative Society Ltd

APR - 2022

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the April edition of our newsletter!



With this newsletter we are committed to giving you updates in Centenary Thurles every quarter. We want to keep you informed of what's going on in the Society-whether that is new developments in the technology we use, new products we are launching or challenges we are helping our stakeholders with. We also want to give advice on topical issues in agriculture and encourage a sustainable practice within our community.

In this edition:

- Thoughts turn to breeding from Teagasc
- AGM
- Agri Aware Activities
- Identifying Digestive Upsets
- Grass Seed Catalogue 2022

If you would like to see some specific content in these newsletters or give us some feedback, please contact us on **(0504) 91932** or email cholmes@centenarythurles.com

Follow us for all the latest news in Centenary Thurles:

 @centenaryagri | @centenaryhomeandgarden
 @CThurles

AGM Date

Our AGM is scheduled for:

Wednesday 8th June

and notice will follow in due course. After two years of AGMs on Zoom, we hope this year to be in a position to meet in person.

Thoughts turn to Breeding from Teagasc



As the calving season begins to quieten down on many farms across the country, focus now turns to breeding preparation. Management of the herd in the upcoming weeks prior to breeding ultimately has a detrimental effect on the success of the breeding season.

The objective on every farm should be to retain 80-82% of the cows currently in the herd to milk again in 2022. In turn, the ideal replacement rate is 18-20% allowing the herd to achieve its full potential in terms of milk solids production. Higher replacement rates prompt questions, as the age profile of the herd will not support maximum output and the performance of the herd will be reduced.

The optimum replacement rate of 18-20% equates to 5.5 lactations/cow. Ideally, half of the incalf heifers coming into the herd should be replacing involuntary culls or females that fail to go back in calf and the other 9-10% voluntary such as late calvers. Rearing a dairy heifer replacement comes at a cost of close to €1,500. Once a cow, which has been reared on a farm, calves for the first time it takes approx. 1.6 lactations before she has covered the cost of taking her through to calving at 24 months. Simple tasks over the next few weeks will ensure she stays a lot longer.

1. Heat Detection

Pre-breeding heat detection is very useful to identify cows that aren't cycling in advance of the mating start date (MSD). One month before MSD tailpaint all milking cows red. Note the cows that have paint removed if you see them in heat, but you should be more concerned about the cows that still have the paint. Ideally, over 70% of the herd should be cycling by MSD.

2. Body Condition Score

Monitoring the condition score of cows prior to breeding is paramount. Cows are inevitably going to be in a negative energy balance as they reach peak lactation before hitting peak dry matter intakes. Consider putting thin cows (<2.75) on once-a-day milking.

3. Problem Cows

There will be set backs in most calving seasons even with the best of management; milk fever, retained placenta, hard calvings and mastitis. All of the named issues compromise reproductive efficiency and if they go unchecked a proportion of these cows will end up on the cull list. Carry out a scan to

check if cows have an infection and ensure they are cycling even if they exhibited signs of heat. The earlier the intervention the higher the chance of retaining these cows in the herd.

Management of later calving cows

Profitable spring milk production is underpinned by having a compact calving period striving to have greater than 90% of the herd calved in February and March. However, nationally more than 25% of spring calving cows calve down after April 1st. These cows will have reduced profitability due to higher feed costs and a shorter lactation period. In order to avoid a further slippage in calving date and to try get these cows back in calve as soon as possible farmers could opt for;

1. Once a Day Milking (OAD)

OAD works on the principle of reducing body condition loss as milk production will be reduced. OAD post calving will get cows cycling faster and increase conception rates to first service. Farmers can return to twice a day milking once the cows have been served or delayed for three weeks post first service. Cows on OAD will be served 50 days post calving. Farmers in this scenario can often be 'penny wise and pound foolish' as the reduced milk yield is minimal (approx. €50-80) in comparison to losing a cow out of the system.

2. Synchronisation

Farmers must remember hormonal intervention isn't a quick fix to achieving high levels of reproductive performance if underlying issues exist within a herd. Cows also need to be calved a minimum of 30 days before commencing any programme.

Submission rate will be 100% and the timed AI eliminates the requirement to detect these cows in heat. The cost of the above programme ranges between €35-40.

Milk Supply Management Policy

We are now into peak milk supply and all suppliers will have received details of their profiles and volumes that can be supplied each month without penalty. It is important to monitor that supply and take corrective action if necessary. We have had 12 suppliers avail of the Retirement Scheme which freed up some volume for others. The decision of the Supreme Court to allow the further development of Belview is welcome and one which we hope will lead to the easing of restrictions at peak in the years ahead. Suppliers are aware that the restrictions apply only to the April to June period and supply outside of this period has no volume restrictions.

Input Prices

We expressed concern in our last newsletter for input prices for 2022. This concern was expressed pre the outbreak of war in Ukraine. Prices unfortunately have continued to rise. Oil prices have been extremely volatile on a day-to-day basis and have remained high.

We have done our utmost to manage pricing of feed and fertiliser over the peak usage period this Spring. Equally as important, we have managed to procure sufficient stocks to allow farming to continue as desired. We have been able to minimise feed price increases due to the strong harvest last year and a certain volume of forward purchasing. By 31st March the cumulative increase for the year to date was 'just' €30 per tonne. However, this position will not hold and is being kept under review on a weekly basis. Whilst we are still backboned with Barley, Wheat and Oats, the unavailability of certain other ingredients and rising prices will lead to further increases, some of which may have happened by the time you read this newsletter.

Our price of fertiliser remained unchanged from the start of the year until the 31st of March. The market and competitors' prices would have suggested otherwise. As with feed, fertiliser is on a strong upward curve, and it is uncertain whether or when peak prices will be reached. Between the back end of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, we believe we have achieved 2/3 of our normal calendar year sales at very competitive prices for our customers. We also anticipate some reduction in usage. However, prices will undoubtedly rise as our stocks dwindle and we have to go to the market again.

New Guaranteed Milk Price Scheme

A new Guaranteed Milk Price Scheme has just been launched, running from March 2022 to December 2024. Whilst these schemes have received a lot of negative publicity in recent times and are not for all suppliers, should you wish to partake, please return the application form as soon as possible.

Some of the key features:

- Guaranteed Prices (incl. VAT)

2022	41.90c
2023	39.90c
2024	39.90c
- Payments for Sustainability, Seasonality, etc. will be additional if qualifying
- There is a feed price adjuster built in (upward only)
- Minimum application is 10,000 litres per annum

As always, the Scheme is entirely **voluntary** for Suppliers and **no recommendation** is made by Centenary Thurles to Suppliers to either join or not to join the Scheme.



Fence Posts

Spring Offer

Mon 14th February – Sat 30th April 2022

Terms & Conditions Apply.

		Code
5' x 3"-4" Round Posts Creosoted	€5.95 for 60+	0142102
5' x 4"-5" Round Posts Creosoted	€7.50 for 35+	0142103
6' x 4"-5" Round Posts Creosoted	€8.50 for 35+	0142106
7' x 5" Straining Posts Creosoted	€27.50 for 5+	0142108
5' x 3.5" Certified Round Posts	€4.30 for 50+	0142203
5' x 4" Certified Round Posts	€5.00 for 50+	0142206
5' x 3" Round Posts	€2.60 for 50+	0142002
7' x 6"-8" Straining Post Rough	€15.30 for 5+	0142062
8' x 6"-8" Straining Post Rough	€17.00 for 5+	0142064

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Agri Aware was founded in 1996 by the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA), the Irish Farmers' Journal, FBD Trust, Bord Bia and Ornua (formerly the Irish dairy board). Agri Aware is a charitable trust that is funded by the farming and agri-food industry.

To convey the importance of the agri-food industry amongst the general public, Agri Aware delivers high impact educational and public awareness initiatives and projects for students and the general public.

Agri Aware Activities

Agri Aware has enjoyed a busy start to the year with the return of students to our Farm Walk & Talk series, a national radio campaign and the most exciting part of our longest-running schools programme, Incredible Edibles, starting.



Farm Walk & Talk

Ten venues over three weeks in early March hosted 4000 students as the Agri Aware Farm Walk & Talk series returned with students in-person for the first time since 2019.

Students were treated to a variety of experiences across the three weeks even witnessing and actively participating in the short lambing season at UCD Lyons Farm.

Farm Walk and Talk stopped at Teagasc colleges in Mountbellew, Clonakilty, Ballyhaise, Grange and Gurteen, The Irish Farmers Journal Farm in Tullamore, Teagasc Research Colleges at Moorepark and Kildalton, Pallaskeny Salesian College and UCD Lyons Farm.

The series of events is a longstanding collaboration between Agri Aware, Teagasc, UCD, the Irish Farmers Journal, and I.A.S.T.A.

All schools that attended Farm Walk & Talk got access to a suite of educational videos from a variety of contributors alongside the comprehensive study notes.

Incredible Edibles

Growpacks have arrived in schools. The biggest ever intake of pupils to the Agri Aware Incredible Edibles schools programme are getting stuck into the most engaging, and most important part of the project, planting.

The 68,000 registered participants have been getting their growpacks delivered over the last few days with schools widely sharing news of the deliveries on social media!

Incredible Edibles is our longest established programme in its 14th year. Schoolkids across Ireland get their hands dirty as they grow their own fruit and vegetables in the schools. We are looking forward to seeing what fruit and vegetables are harvested!

Farm Safe Schools

Agri Aware, AgriKids and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine have teamed up to bring the Farm Safe Schools programme to classrooms.

Our Farm Safe Schools co-ordinator Alma Jordan has been on tour with a whole host of both virtual and in-school visits. Farm Safe Schools completed 16 in-school events with more school visits over the next month. We have crowned our regional Farm Safety winners, once again the standard was very high.

Well done, everybody.

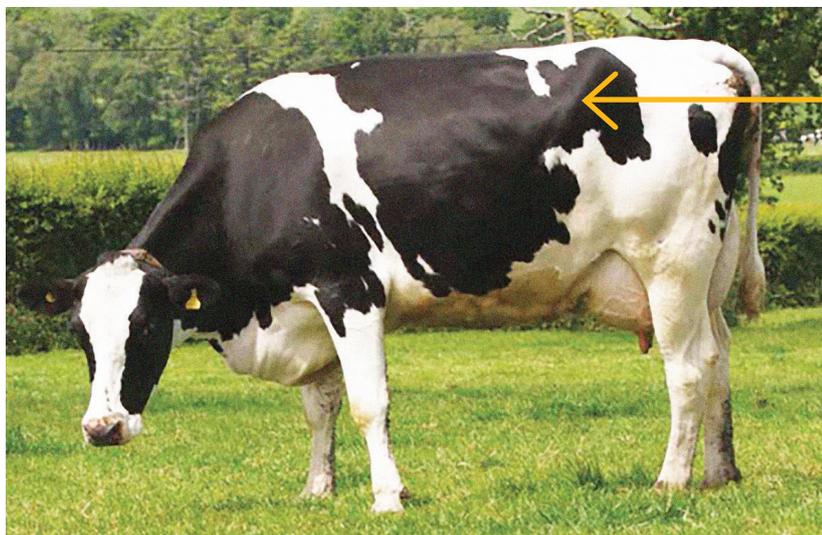
- Leinster:** Ruby Boland, Gaelscoil Nas na Riogh, Naas, Co Kildare
- Munster:** David Long, Grange National School, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
- Ulster:** Ben Lynch, Mullahoran National School, Co Cavan
- Connacht:** Conor O'Grady, Kiltormer National School, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

Sustaining Ireland

Our Sustaining Ireland campaign built on the success of 2021 with a national radio campaign on RTE and regional stations. The 30-second ad ran through late January and into early February.

Sustaining Ireland was a great success in 2021 with over 4 million digital impressions on the suite of videos, to see all of the farms featured, see www.sustainingireland.ie We are looking forward to adding more farms.

Advice on identifying Digestive upsets while grazing grass from Centenary Agri's Animal Nutritionist, Howard Stanley.



Triangular area to monitor when seeing how full your cows are.

Even though grass is the cheapest feed ingredient that a cow will eat, fresh grass has its limitations. Fresh grass has high levels of rapid fermentable carbohydrates (sugars), a high % of protein and low % of fibre and this will cause imbalance in the diet, leading to digestive upset.

A study conducted at UCD on 12 spring calving herds at grass found that

- 11% of cows had a rumen pH of less than 5.5 (SARA)
- 53% of cows had a rumen pH of less than 5.8 - too low for optimal feed digestion and intake

These cows were fed grazed grass, containing sugar levels in the range of 10.1-12.7% and cows fed less than 2kg of concentrate/cow/day.

Subacute Ruminal Acidosis (SARA) is more common than we may realise, and it is quite easy to identify on a farm using the following steps.

Step 1: Monitor Rumen fill and rumination (cows chewing the CUD).

This is a very useful tool to use to see how a cow's digestive system is working.

Monitoring rumen fill is best done 2-3 hours after milking. Rumen fill is monitored by looking at the triangular area on the left-hand side of the cow. If the triangular area is visible the animal is empty, and the triangle is full up it indicates there is food in the rumen.

Rumination is simple to measure- there should be 65% of chewing the cud at any one time, particularly 3 hours after the cow enters the paddock after milking. If you have a significant number of cows standing up, not chewing the cud and the triangular area looks empty then you need to take action to rectify this problem. Offering free access to either straw, hay, or any roughage when cows are milking will have a positive effect.

Step 2: Monitor cow's dungs.

This is another simple tool which refers to the digestion of the stomach. The longer a food material can stay in the cow's stomach, the longer the rumen bacteria will spend digesting the feed and therefore the more energy the cow will utilise out of the feed leading to better weight gain or milk production. Picture 1 (right) might be a common sight on dairy farms. The dung is very watery and loose with gas bubbles. This indicates that there was a rapid fermentation in the stomach and as a result the food passed through the rumen too fast, and the bacteria and water absorption was poor. Picture 2 (right) is the ideal structure of a dung on grass. This has nice structure to it; it is not watery and there are no bubbles, indicating that the cow's stomach had no difficulty digesting this grass.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Step 3: Monitor milk results.

As a Rule of thumb- if milk protein % drops suddenly, it is worth investigating. Further indicators of SARA at grass include:

- If greater than 10% of the herd have a higher milk protein than milk fat.
- A rapid fall in fat percentage of 0.3%-0.5% occurs in a week.
- A sudden fall in milk protein of greater than 0.3% occurs in a week.
- A milk fat to milk protein ratio of less than or equal to 1.1 to 1.

This ratio is got by dividing the butter fat % by the protein e.g. butter fat 4.4% protein 3.5. $4.4 / 3.5 = 1.18$. this is ideal. If this ratio was to show a figure higher such as 1.4 it would indicate that there is too much fibre in the diet.

- Review average bulk milk samples with caution.

Individual milk records (if they are being recorded) can highlight the range of butterfat percentages across the herd.

Step 4: Consult the experts.

After visually assessing your herd and if you suspect a problem, please talk to a member of the Centenary Agri team. Every Cube that is formulated by me is balanced with ingredients that complement grass-based diets. For example, our MAXISAF range has a full rate inclusion of Actisaf yeast and this has been found to have a positive effect on rumen function leading to better digestion, which in turn give better milk results at grass. Every 3kg of feed will provide 6grams of yeast. I would encourage every farmer to talk to one of the sales team and choose a feed to complement their feeding system.

CENTENARY
Agri

Spring Promotion

FREE
250ml with
every 1L
purchased



Coxx-Kure 1L

(Product code: 0040138)

Starts Monday 7th March
while stocks last.

Coxx-kure is an oral suspension for piglets and calves, for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis. Contains Toltrazuril which kills all stages of Coccidiosis.

For more information please contact any of our sales representatives or branch managers.
www.centenarythurles.com

Ballyduff | Cashel | Littleton | Loran | Montore | Roscrea | Templemore | Thurles



SDAS and have 100% participation by suppliers to further enhance the marketability of our milk pool. We recently applied to Bord Bia to be a certified grass-fed milk supplier.

Our audit was conducted on Wednesday 9th March and we are awaiting full certification as a supplier of certified grass-fed milk to GIL and Tipperary Co-Op.

Celebrating 125 Years

2023 will mark 125 years in the existence of our Society. It is an excellent achievement and a tribute to all those who have gone before us, shareholders, suppliers, committees, and staff. That achievement will be honoured appropriately next year.

Tipperary Fresh continues to grow

We are thrilled to announce that Tipperary Fresh, our non-GMO milk, is stocked in 10 more Dunnes Stores across the country. This means that we are now stocked in 21 counties, and we are excited to see the growth of Tipperary Fresh across Ireland.

Ultan Nesbitt Gardening Advice

Our horticulturist, Ultan Nesbitt, will now be in Cashel all day on Wednesdays and Thurles on Fridays and Roscrea on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Ultan is very knowledgeable on gardening and planting flowers and seeds. He has a segment on Tipp FM on Wednesdays from 11.30-12 noon where he gives listeners gardening advice. Call into any of our branches on the days above to meet Ultan and get his top tips for your garden.

Centenary Thurles Grass-Fed Audit



The Grass Fed Standard for Irish dairy was developed as a response to market needs and provides a way for Irish dairy processors to make a verified claim that their product has been sourced from Irish grass fed cows. In today's market, there are more opportunities to leverage the natural advantage of Ireland's grass based systems. Feedback from Irish dairy companies selling and finding new markets for dairy products suggests that it is no longer acceptable to just declare that a product is grass fed, the market requires evidence to support the claim. Centenary Thurles fully participate in the Bord Bia



Grass Seed Catalogue 2022

At Centenary our grass seed mixtures are specially designed to meet the needs of our farmers. We select the highest performing varieties listed on the DAFM Recommended List and Teagasc Pasture Profit Index. Using varieties with proven performance under Irish conditions, we formulate mixtures focussed on seasonal DM yield, quality and persistency, creating highly productive and palatable swards which last.



Derogation Farms

Farmers in derogation must include 0.6 naked white clover or 1.0kg coated white clover per acre when reseeded. All our mixtures are available with or without white clover.

The following mixtures meet the rules for farmers in derogation:

- No. 1 High-Digestibility Grazing
- No. 2 Two-Cut Silage
- No. 3 Premium Gold
- Top 5 Extend
- Multi-Species Sward

Please speak to one of our Reps for further advice.

Mixtures are correct at time of going to press. If a variety becomes unavailable, it will be replaced by the next best available.

CENTENARY No. 1 High-Digestibility Grazing

An exceptionally high quality mixture for intensive grazing systems.

- High quality varieties to increase animal intake and performance
- High tetraploid mix (77%) for higher sward utilisation
- Meets derogation requirements

Kg/acre	Variety	Heading Date
3.0	Ballintoy (T)	June 04
3.5	Astonenergy (T)	June 01
2.0	Dunluce (T)	May 29
2.5	Drumbo (D)	June 05
1.0	Pelleted White Clover	

12.0 kg

T = Tetraploid
D = Diploid

Mean Heading - June 02

CENTENARY No. 2 Two-Cut Silage



Our intensive silage mixture for a two-cut silage system targeting both high yield and high quality with the best possible aftermath grazing.

- Suited to a first cut in late May
- High DMD varieties that will also deliver high silage yields
- Meets derogation requirements

Kg/acre	Variety	Heading Date
2.5	AberClyde (T)	May 25
2.5	Dunluce (T)	May 29
2.0	AberMagic (D)	May 28
4.0	AberWolf (D)	May 30
1.0	Pelleted White Clover	

12.0 kg

T = Tetraploid
D = Diploid

Mean Heading - May 28

CENTENARY No. 3 Premium Gold



Our premium grazing mixture with proven performance to deliver on yield, quality and overall performance for intensive production systems.

- Leading varieties on PPI
- Exceptional quality and seasonal DM yield
- Suited to intensive grazing, cut-and-graze or zero-grazing
- 54% tetraploid for higher sward utilisation and animal performance
- Meets derogation requirements

Kg/acre	Variety	Heading Date
4.0	AberClyde (T)	May 25
2.0	AberGain (T)	June 04
2.0	AberChoice (D)	June 11
3.0	Ballyvoy (D)	June 03
1.0	Pelleted White Clover	

12.0 kg

T = Tetraploid
D = Diploid

Mean Heading - June 03



CENTENARY No. 4 Heavy Soils Mixture

A dense and persistent sward specially designed for challenging land and reclaimed areas.

- Persistent varieties with good mid-season performance
- Suited to grazing or cut-and-graze systems
- Derogation farms must sow 1.0 kg coated white clover per acre. Speak to our technical team for further advice.

Kg/acre	Variety	Heading Date
3.0	Briant (T)	June 03
4.0	AberGreen (D)	May 31
4.0	Kerry (D)	June 03
0.5	Pelleted White Clover	

11.5 kg

T = Tetraploid
D = Diploid

Mean Heading - June 02

CENTENARY Multi-Species Sward

Our multi-species mixture designed to increase biodiversity, sustainability and offer significant benefits to grazing systems.

- Contains N fixing and N lifting species
- High quality feed throughout the summer
- Meets requirement of DAFM Multi-species Measure

Kg/acre	Variety	Type
6.6	Perennial Ryegrass	Grass
0.7	Timothy	Grass
1.5	White Clover	Legume
1.5	Red Clover	Legume
1.0	Plantain	Herb
0.7	Chicory	Herb

12.0 kg

T = Tetraploid
D = Diploid

Top 5 Extend

A high-quality mix from Germinal for intensive rotational grazing systems.

- Strong seasonal yield with excellent quality
- Palatable leafy grasses for higher animal performance
- 50% Tetraploid
- Meets derogation requirements

Kg/acre	Variety	Heading Date
2.0	AberGain (T)	June 04
4.0	Gracehill (T)	June 04
2.0	AberChoice (D)	June 11
3.0	Ballyvoy (D)	June 03
0.6	White Clover	

11.6 kg

T = Tetraploid
D = Diploid

Mean Heading - June 02

Clover Fix

Suited to oversowing into new reseeded or established swards.

Coating includes:

- Fertiliser to promote root growth
- Rhizobium inoculant for more rapid N fixation

Sufficient for 5 acres in a new reseed to meet derogation requirements.

Clover Fix

5.0 kg	Coated White Clover Blend
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We have a range of pollinator and insect friendly, low maintenance wildflower mixes suited to agricultural or garden use. Contact us for more information.

Fodder Crop Seeds

Centenary stocks a full range of fodder crop seeds in all our stores- beet, maize, kale, rape, turnips, and triticale. Advice service available from qualified technical staff.

ADD A SPLASH OF HOME TO YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPES

The taste of Tipperary

Perfect for curries and desserts

Add fresh new flavour

centenarythurles.com



CENTENARY
Home & Garden

SUMMER SALE

28TH APRIL - 9TH MAY



**SAVE
BIG**



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