

Co-operative News

July 2023



Centenary Thurles
Co-operative Society Ltd

Looking Back on the Years



Pictured: Loran Creamery, established in 1928

Save the Date 125 Years

To mark 125 years, we will be celebrating with an event in the Dome, Thurles, on Saturday 26th August. More details on page 3.

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**

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125 Years

By now, you should have received your invitation to our Special Event of Celebration on 26th August next at The Dome @ Semple Stadium.

An important point to note is that if you are interested in attending, you must request tickets in advance. This is for both Health & Safety reasons and to allow us to cater for the numbers attending.

You can request your tickets by email to **125@centenarythurles.com** or alternatively by phone to **0504-91900**.

Tickets will be scanned at the entrance, the invitation itself will not be sufficient to gain entry. When we are posting out the tickets, we will send you a programme of events. It promises to be a great celebration of our history.



Bonus Share Issue

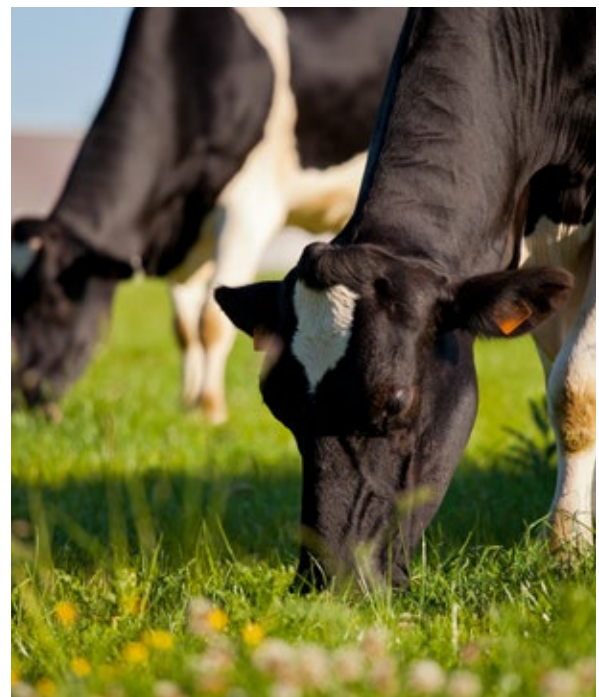
Shareholders at our AGM voted to issue bonus shares to our shareholders and you should now have received two letters.

The first part relates to the approval of a 1:2 bonus issue to those shareholders in situ on 7th June and based on their shareholding on 31st December 2022. The value of this Bonus Issue was €4,286,687 and carries conditional rights of redemption.

The second issue of bonus shares was our normal patronage issue, amounting this year to €357,459. In summary 1 bonus share was issued for each €109 of trading during 2022; 1.05 bonus shares for each tonne of grain supplied and 1 bonus share for each 5,296 litres of milk supplied.

Bord Bia Grass-Fed Certification

Centenary Thurles has achieved Grass-Fed Certification from Bord Bia, adding to our roll of certifications. This ensures our milk is sold to processors with the maximum milk price attainable.



Cell Check Award Winners

Four of our Suppliers have won National Cell Check Awards for 2022:

- Patrick Campion Drom;
- John Fogarty Fethard;
- Michael Kennedy Cloughjordan; and
- Philip & Noel Kennedy Loughmore.

We congratulate each of them and they will be recognised later in the year at an awards ceremony hosted by Animal Health Ireland.

Committee Retirements

Our recent AGM (7th June) saw the retirement of two stalwart Committee Members with over 50 years' service between them.

Tom Maher of Kilcoke, Loughmore has served on the Committee for 24 years. The Chairman paid tribute to Tom at the AGM, describing him as an excellent Committee Member and contributor to debates and a great supporter of the Society and Committee. Tom has been replaced on the Committee by John Egan, Killahara, Loughmore.

Also retiring from the Committee at the AGM was **Jim Russell** of Ballyduag, Thurles. Jim had served as both Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Society and also served in many roles within the Dairy Industry, including as a Board Member of ICOS and Vice-Chairman of Ornuá. The Chairman thanked Jim for his 27 years' service to Centenary Thurles and his wider representation of the Society. The vacancy created by Jim's retirement is expected to be filled by the time this newsletter is printed.

Retiring by rotation and re-elected as Committee Members were:

Central	John Hogan, Michael Power
Cashel	Noel O'Connor
Littleton	Brian Hogan
Loran	Michael Maher
Montore	Mervyn Stanley
Templetuohy	William Maher
Drom	Noreen Barry
Thurles	Jackie Cahill Philip Dwyer

Financial Performance 2022

Our Financial Statements for 2022 were recently presented to shareholders at our AGM.

Key highlights included:

Turnover	€179.3m	+ €56.1m
Profit before Tax	€3.2m	+ €200k
Profit after Tax & Fair Value Adj.	€3.9m	- €900k
Members' Funds	€66.7m	+ €4.4m

Overall, it was a very successful year with inflation impacting the turnover figure in particular.

ICOS Dairy Committee

Recently appointed to the ICOS Dairy Committee to replace Jim Russell, was Denis Brereton of Knocka, Drom. We wish Denis well in his new role.

National Dairy Council

We congratulate Con Callanan of Ardbawn Thurles on his recent appointment to the Board of the National Dairy Council. Con replaces Tim Maher of Kilcurkee, Cattleiney who served for many years with distinction on the Board.

Solar PV

A decision has been made to install Solar PV panels at our Littleton Branch as a pilot project.

The financial case was not compelling, but it was agreed to proceed with the installation of 24 panels at an approximate cost of €16,000. Our demand for electricity from our provider is estimated to reduce by 22-23%. We also plan to host an information meeting for dairy farmers to provide independent advice on the viability of installing Solar PV on-farm. It was acknowledged that those financials may look different, as (i) peak demand generally coincides with maximum daylight; (ii) there may be a greater demand to utilise battery storage for overnight cooling/refrigeration; and (iii) the grant position would be different.

Inflation Graph

The last 12 to 18 months have been a roller coaster for prices, particularly in our sector.

Base Milk price in January 2022 was a solid 40.58c per litre, rising throughout the year by an unprecedented 18c per litre, reaching 58.08c by September. As fast as prices rose, they tumbled at the same rate with our May milk price back at 40.08c. The same can be said in relation to other prices. Feed prices rose by €130 per tonne over the course of 2022, falling back by only €40 per tonne to date in 2023. Further price reductions are envisaged from this month on. Fertiliser, likewise, was volatile. CAN started 2022 at €700 per tonne and rising by year end to €875. Successive reductions in 2023 to date, have seen the price fall below €400 per tonne. The other input cost we show in our inflation graph below is oil. Tractor diesel was maybe 74c per litre

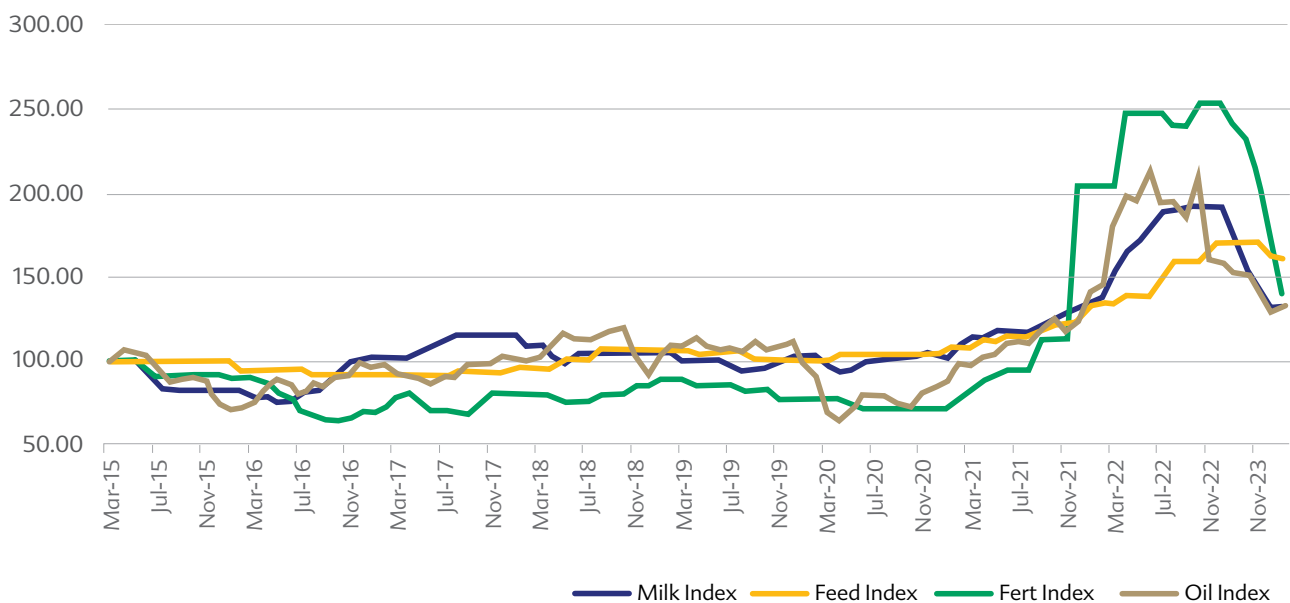
at the start of 2022, rising to 140c by mid-June 2022 and falling back to maybe 85c by mid-June 2023. Truly all volatile figures. We have updated our inflation graph which we have published before. This graph priced all four elements at a base of 100 when quotas were removed in March 2015. It is interesting to follow the price progression with our latest figures in May 2023.

In summary:

- **Milk Price up 32%;**
- **Feed Price up 62%;**
- **Fertiliser Price up 40%; and**
- **Oil Price up 32%.**

The outlier is obviously the feed price and it will be interesting to track developments in the graph in the coming months.

Price Movements - Base March 2015 Index 100



Staff Retirement Function

After a gap of 4 years, we were once again in a position to hold a function to celebrate the service of staff who had recently retired.

At a pleasant function in Templetuohy, both the Committee of Management and Social Club honoured the service to the Society of **Seamus Butler** (Ballyduff), **Paudie Kirwan** (Thurles) and **Kevin Darmody** (Littleton).

Seamus served for more than 41 years as the Society's mechanic at our garage at Ballyduff. His commitment to ensuring the Society's fleet was maintained to the highest standards and response times to breakdowns, served both the Society and our suppliers and customers well.

Paudie had more than 17 years' service to the Mealstore in Thurles. It is safe to say he transformed and maintained that Mealstore and the yard to

the highest organisational and hygiene standards, throughout those years.

Kevin served us for almost 10 years, initially in Cashel and subsequently in Littleton. Deeply knowledgeable in many aspects of our retail offering, he was both helpful and popular with our customer base.

Also retiring early in the year from Reception in Thurles was **Eileen Cummins**. **Eileen** was the public face and voice of the organisation for more than 42 years and had seen many changes in personnel and operations over those years. Eileen has been replaced in that role by **Hazel Lenihan** who we welcome to the organisation.

We thank all four recent retirees for their service and commitment to the Society and wish them good health to enable them enjoy their well - deserved retirements.



L-R: Paddy Daly, Seamus Butler and Marie Slattery



L-R: Paddy Daly, Paudie Kirwan, Hazel Lenihan



L-R: Paddy Daly and Kevin Darmody



L-R: Eileen Cummins and Paddy Daly

Welcoming Terriesa, our new horticulturist!



We are thrilled to announce our new horticulturist, Terriesa Torode! Terriesa has over 20 years experience in the industry and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture.

She also has a weekly gardening feature with the Nenagh Guardian. Terriesa is passionate about teaching people how to maintain their garden and encouraging them to be sustainable. Call in and ask Terriesa your gardening questions - she will be in

Littleton: Mondays from 8.30-5.30pm
Roscrea: Tuesdays and Fridays from 8.30-5.30pm
Thurles: Thursdays from 9-6pm
Cashe: Saturdays from 9-5pm

July Gardening Tips

from Terriesa

In July we ease off from the hard work and spend more time relaxing. There are a few jobs to be done but it's warm, lush and summertime so if you have a few moments free, here are some tips on keeping the garden looking good.

Prune back the spent blooms from roses.

Do not just twist the heads off but use secateurs to go down the stem to a healthy leaf node that is facing outwards from the centre of the rose bush. It's usually around four to five inches down the flower stem. After all flowered shoots have been

removed use a rose fertiliser around the base of the plant or use a liquid rose fertiliser. Weed and spray with rose fungicide to combat black spot and aphids.

Now is the time to be thinking of winter vegetables.

It may seem odd at this time of the year, but the vegetables do have to grow and be ready for eating over those cold, grey months. Nearly all brassicas can be sown now, grown on in small pots and planted out in the vegetable plot by mid-August. Many salads can be sown in succession up until early September. Carrots and beetroot sown now will be ready in October or even September if the weather stays warm! Another job is to lift your second earlies now, dry them off completely and place in a dark cool position. Pinch out the tips of your tomato plants if they have produced around five to six trusses. Always regularly water tomatoes as they can develop a disease called bottom end rot and your fruit will be ruined. So, stick to the same amount roughly at the same time of the day.

We all love bearded Irises (flag irises) and now is the time to lift these if they are not flowering well or you want them elsewhere in the garden.

Just gently fork them all out. Remove old woody parts of the rhizomes, cut the leaves in half like a fan and replant in their new position. Irises enjoy their rhizomes being baked in the sun so only slightly plant them and allow sunlight to the tops of the rhizomes. Next year you will have increased these delightful plants, but they will also flower better for you. Fertilise the ground when planting with slow-release fertiliser.

Pick any and all fruit you are growing.

Train all loganberries and blackberries continually this month onto their framework.

This is the month to prune your stoned fruit, trees like plums, greengages, and damsons.

If you prune these trees at another time of the year, they may get canker or silver leaf disease, and both are almost impossible to eradicate. You're trying to create an open cupped tree with plenty of air movement in the centre of the tree. So, avoid pruning to any shoots that are facing inwards.

Happy gardening to you all and relax and enjoy!

Littleton Revamp

How good does our Littleton branch look after its revamp?!

We stock everything there from paint to petcare, outdoor clothes to garden care and plants, white goods and household essentials and all your agri needs!

A big thank you to the management and staff in Littleton and the Topline Revamp team for all their work and involvement with the revamp!



Heat stress Management from Centenary Agri's Animal Nutritionist,

Howard Stanley

Heat stress in cattle is becoming a frequent issue given all the warm summers we have got in recent years.

Cattle cannot dissipate their heat load very well. They don't sweat effectively and rely on respiration to cool down. There are several management techniques that can be carried out daily to reduce heat stress on animals.

- Let cattle walk at their own pace when you are bringing them in for milking or even being moved to a different field.
- Increased provision of clean, cool drinking water — just like us, our cows can go through gallons of H₂O on a hot summer's day. Position your water sources at the exits to your milking parlour (if cows are walking at their own pace, then they will have time to drink and cool down) and in shaded areas across your fields to help keep cows and water cool. Animals like shaded area in the heat because the ground is cooler, and it helps them to stay cool.
- Flies can cause cattle to bunch up which decreases cooling. If animals start to bunch up, air can't flow between them to cool them down. If animals start getting irritated due to annoyance of flies, then they will start to generate heat so it's worthwhile controlling flies.
- Improved ventilation in your parlour or holding area — just as we open every available window and door in the house and may even stick on a fan — ventilation is key. Removing the ridge of your roof can be a very effective way of reducing temperatures as it allows the moisture created by evaporative cooling to escape. You could also extend the holding area to allow animals to have more room while they are waiting to be milked as this will also help reduce temperatures.

Did you know: According to studies in the US, airflows as low as 10 km per hour can reduce respiration rates in heat-stressed animals by as much as 50%.

- Feeding calf / dry stock at cooler times of day — digestion is heating and usually peaks a few hours after feeding, so providing feed in the late afternoon means that the ambient temperature

should have cooled before the digestive heat peaks.

- Milking in the early morning and late evening — The last thing anyone wants is to be bunched up, queuing or herded in the heat of the day, and your cows are no exception. Keep movement minimal during the heat of the day.

Mid-summer Calf management from Centenary Agri's Animal Nutritionist

Howard Stanley

A few management steps to consider when it comes to feeding and managing calves on your own farm.

The main objective is to maintain a target weight gain of 0.75kg/head/day. All decisions will be essentially based around either maintaining or improving weight gains. As seen in the table below when the calf is 6 months old, they need to be 30% of their mature weight (source- Animal Health Ireland)

- Parasite control: Parasites can have a big effect on how calves perform during the first grazing system. The first plan of action should be to consult your vet and they will advise on the best course of action for your animals. It's always better to be proactive and get dung samples tested rather than waiting for the calves to stop thriving before you decide how to treat them.
- Weighing Calves: weigh calves to ensure they are reaching their target weights; this will be the foundation for management-based decisions. Calves under target might need to be given a better plane of nutrition in the form of leafy grass plus concentrate supplemented. If you have calves that are reaching growth targets, then this poses a different question (which brings me onto my next point)
- Feeding concentrates to calves on grass: many farmers tend to feed concentrates all summer to calves and there is certainly an advantage in doing this as it maintains a constant supply of energy and nutrients throughout the summer and maintains growth rates although the one question that is asked on a regular occasion is "when can I stop feeding concentrates to my calves?" and there is no correct answer to this question. Personally, I would prefer to feed for as long as possible to ensure

he calves get a good supply of vitamins, calcium and phosphorus for bone growth and nutrients such as copper to ensure they stay thriving. The answer to this will be different on every farm but weighing calves can be a big help in deciding what course of action to take. For example, if you have a bunch of calves that are hitting their target weight and there is a good supply of leafy grass to maintain weight gain then there is no issue stopping meal intake, you just need to remember that concentrates are a “complementary feed” and are formulated to supply whatever is missing from grass. The digestive system of a calf is still developing and as a result feeding lush leafy grass can cause scour/ loose dungs and digestive upsets so whilst there is no issue in stopping feed you may need to offer free access to hay or straw to add some fibre into the diet.

- Separate treatment for lighter younger calves: group younger calves separately to give them a chance to grow and develop and remember if they are born a couple of weeks later then they have some catching up to do.
- On a side note, I am hearing some talk in newspaper and media platforms about “summer scour” in calves and what might cause it. I would suggest to anyone that prevention is the first step and that starts with a good quality calf feed. The entire Centenary calf range includes a calf top-up mineral package which adds extra vitamins to boost calf immunity and over performance and it also contains rumbuff which is a buffer + yeast included to boost development of the digestive system and reduces digestive upsets.

	Mature BW	6 months	15 months	Calving
% Mature BW		30%	60%	90%
Holstein Friesian (HF)	580	175	350	525
NZ or BF Friesian	550	165	330	495
Norwegian Red x HF	580	175	350	525
Jersey x HF	500	150	300	450
Jersey	400	120	240	360



Centenary Agri Tipperary Cup: L-R: Chris Delahunt, Ciarán Hackett, Rory Dwan, Dermot Leahy, Eamonn Bergin and Geoff Parnaby

Sponsorship of Mid-Tipperary GAA Senior Hurling Championship

Centenary Agri are delighted to sponsor the Mid Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship 2023.

Centenary Agri Mid-Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship: L-R Eamonn Bergin, Joe Kerrigan (Centenary Agri), Lyndon Fairbrother (JK Brackens), Ger Grant (Upperchurch Drombane), Luke O'Meara (Holycross Ballycahill), Brian McGrath (Loughmore Castleiney), Tom Hayes (Moycarkey Borris), Aidan McCormack (Thurles Sarsfields) and Paddy Daly (Centenary Agri) - missing from photo Drom Inch.

Photo by Eamonn McGee



centenarythurles.com Telephone: 050491900 Facsimile: 050422657

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