



DETERMINE ROOT CAUSE OF HIGH TBC RESULTS

In order to determine root cause, sampling as follows should be conducted:

1. **Sample ex milking machine receiving jar at very start of milking.**
2. **Sample ex milking machine receiving jar near end of milking.**
3. **Sample after the plate cooler.**
4. **Sample from the cooled tank.**

- Ensure sampling points are clean & sterile bottles are used.
- Ensure samples are labelled with the number 1-4 on the supplier bottles which can be obtained from the co-op laboratory.
- Ensure samples are stored under refrigeration until sent for testing – which should be as quickly as possible. These then will be tested and results reported.

For More Details please Contact Marie Lehane at North Cork Creameries.

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Milk Supply and Price

The milk price for May is 33.00 cent per litre (incl. Vat.) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% Protein.

Health and Safety -Protect your skin
Almost one in four (23%) skin cancer deaths in Ireland are people working in the construction, outdoor and farming industries. Be SunSmart

- cover up – wear long sleeve shirt and cap to give shade to your face, neck and ears;
- seek shade – especially from 11.00am to 3.00pm; wear wraparound sunglasses make sure that they give UV protection
- slap on sunscreen –make sure sunscreen is SPF 15 or higher and has UVA protection.

GRASSLAND WEED CONTROL

Weeds can seriously reduce your available grass and grass silage yield and quality. For every 1% ground cover by weeds, you can assume that your pastures are losing 1% yield. While various weeds can cause problems in grassland, the three most common are docks, thistles and nettles. These weeds if left uncontrolled can quickly start dominating grasslands. Seeds from these weed plants are very resilient, can remain dormant in the soil for years and then germinate anywhere the soil surface is exposed and conditions are favourable.

Control Strategies

Good grazing management practices help to minimise grassland weed problems i.e.:

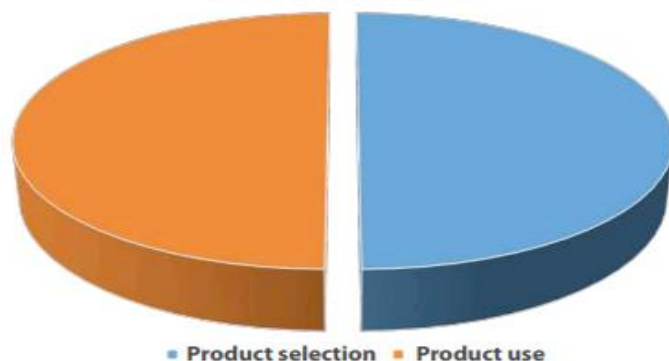
- Drainage
- Maintaining soil fertility
- Avoiding poaching

Where weeds manage to establish, weed control is highly dependent on herbicides. However, it is important to remember that as good as any specific herbicide is, only about 50% of the resultant control is down to the product used.

Creeping thistle - Short term control is achieved using MCPA type products e.g. M50 in May-June, before flowering. Long-term control can be obtained with Thistlex which gives a slower but more effective kill. Optimum timing for Thistlex is in spring when the thistles are 15-20cm (6-8 inches) high or after silage when thistles are actively growing.



Successful Weed Control



Successful weed control is 50% about choosing the correct product and 50% using it correctly

Spraying best practises & equipment checklist (50% of weed control)

- ✓ Ideally sprayers should be checked and calibrated once a year, check:
 - ✓ For cracks in the tank and hoses
 - ✓ Pressure gauges
 - ✓ The boom suspension operation
 - ✓ Nozzle output (if varies +/- 5% over standard replace nozzle)
- ✓ Sprayer setup is very important, check:
 - ✓ Boom height (target 50cm above grass/weeds)
 - ✓ Forward speed
 - ✓ General sprayer condition
- ✓ Follow specific instructions for product selected on dose rates, water volumes, timing of spray etc.
- ✓ Weather conditions on the day (dry, calm) PLUS weather for the 3-4 days before spraying (good growing conditions to ensure the weed absorbs the chemical)

Product Selection

In established pastures the key to successful control is the correct use of a chemical that targets the specific weeds present.

Weed control in new leys

Grassland reseeding is an ideal opportunity to control problem weeds in a field as there is an opportunity to 'burn off' weeds with glyphosate prior to sowing and then hit seedling weed plants a few weeks after sowing, when they are weak.

When using glyphosate products, it is very important to use the correct rate i.e. 5L/ha (3.5 pts/ac) minimum and 6L/ha (4.25 pts/ac) where established perennial weeds like docks are present for 360g/L products.

To complete the job and ensure a weed free start for new pastures, a post emergence herbicide should be used before the weeds reach 10cm (4 inches) in height. Spraying at this stage ensures that weeds don't get the opportunity to build up root reserves which makes them much harder to eliminate. Where there is no clover sown products like Hurler represent the best value for money.

Where clover is included in grass seed mixtures, it is important to wait until the clover has reached the characteristic trifoliate leaf stage and specialist herbicides e.g. Legumex DB are used to protect the clover. Add Triad for clover safe control of chickweed.

Perennial nettle - Tends to grow in clumps in pasture and can prevent grazing. Its growth pattern makes it an ideal target for spot treatment e.g. with Grazon Pro, Nettle Ban etc.



Docks - There is a vast range of chemical formulations and products available for dock control in grassland; a summary of a selection of these are shown in table 1.



Daxstar Pro for control of Docks where clover is not important



Perennial weeds like docks have a strong root network.

Call in to store today for expert advice on our full range of grassland herbicides and seeds, all at competitive prices