



Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

## ICBF Co-op performance report & Milk Statement Event

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of April**  
**Store in Dromalour**

The ICBF will be in the Store on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April to explain the various information sections contained within the **Co-op Performance report**.

Also on the day queries on the detail on the **North Cork Co-op Milk Statement** will be dealt with.

This event will run in **two sessions** –  
The first at **11.00am**  
& the second at **2.00pm**

Issue April 2017

## Milk Supply & Price

The milk price for March is 31.00 cent per litre (incl. Vat.) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% Protein.



**North Cork Milk Quality Award**  
Judging is currently under way in the **North Cork Milk Quality Award**. This will run twice per year – with 4 finalist and an overall winner in each period.

## Somatic Cell Count

**1. If you are experiencing a high SCC but very few signs of clinical mastitis (less than 2 cases of mastitis/100 cows per month):**

\* Cluster dip (use "Serpent" 30mls/10ltrs of water) between cows to sterilise clusters from cow to cow. This will help reduce the bacteria loading being spread in the cluster.

\*Ensure you are using enough post disinfection teat dip (15mls/cow/milking when spraying, or 10mls/cow/ milking when dipping), always use a strong Chlorhexedine based teat dip like 'Quatro'.

\*Test cows to find high SCC cows and infected quarters, these quarters can be abruptly dried off and help reduce the SCC dramatically.

**2. If you are experiencing a high level of clinical cases of mastitis (more than 2 cases/100 cows per month)**

\*Follow the same procedures as above but you must also pre spray.

\*Pre spraying cows and wiping off pre milking will help keep the teat clean and in turn minimise infection entering the udder during the milking process.

\* If you are experiencing high levels of clinical mastitis it is important to complete a bacteriology on fresh cases to isolate the source of the problem.



## Milk Recording Don't Delay!

Forms are now available from the Co-op to sign up for milk recording.

For 2017 the Co-op will pay a subsidy of €1 per cow to those in milk recording.

Many farmers will wait until most, or even all of the herd has calved before doing the first milk recording of the season.....don't wait! The sooner you start to milk record, the sooner you will identify infected cows that may not have any clinical signs. Early lactation mastitis is a high risk and dealing promptly with new infections will give you the best chance of curing them, and protecting the rest of the herd.

It is the best tool you have to establish which cows are the most productive in terms of fat, protein and milk yields, and 'paying their way"- allows educated decisions on breeding and culling and allows you to manage SCC and mastitis effectively – know your millionaires.

**Don't Delay sign up today!**

**For more information contact 029 50003**



## Preparation for the Breeding Season

### - Getting cows back in calf

With most of the cows calved at this stage, the next big trick is to get cows back in calf again so that they will calve within 365 days and hopefully bring a few of the late calvers forward by a few weeks.

- Fertility performance is hugely influenced by the **cow's body condition** – if she is too thin or losing condition, it may be difficult to detect her in heat and to get her to conceive. At this time of year, with poor growth and varying availability of grass, cows can be short of feed. A cow producing 28 litres milk and eating 12 kg grass dry matter will require 7-8 kg concentrate in order to maintain body condition going into the breeding season. A missed heat and a cow not going in calf will cost € 250 in milk value next year – not to mention the fact that she will drift later and later. So if you're planning on starting your breeding season in early May, ensure that your cows are eating enough energy in the weeks before. Cows that lose over 0.5 BCS (20-25 kg) have 50% lower submission rates and 20% lower conception rates - only milk thin cows once a day to recover.

- Increasing your 6 week calving rate from 60 to 90% is worth €8.22 per cow per percentage unit increase which equates to over €12,000 on a 50 cow herd and over €24,000 on a 100 cow herd due to increased days in milk, cows lasting longer in the herd (better survivability) and reduced breeding costs

- Pre breeding **heat detection** allows you to detect non cycling cows early. Tackling these problem cows will increase three week submission rate. Over 70% of cows come into heat between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 a.m. On average each heat lasts for 9 hours (range 3-30 hours). This is a very short window of opportunity to identify cows. Also, as the number of cows in heat in the herd decreases, so too does mounting activity. Therefore, after the first three weeks of breeding, it is critical that you continue to use a heat detection aid.

- **Synchronisation of heifers** will improve the six week calving rate, achieve faster genetic gain and will allow first lactation heifers more time to recover prior to breeding for the second lactation reducing the chances of them calving late in the second lactation. Bull to a natural heat for the first six days of breeding, on day 7 inject cows that have not been bred with prostaglandin (ovulation) and bull as they show heat.

- Pick **bulls** with €190+ for fertility, +0.20% for protein and +30kg for fat and protein kg (+15kg for protein) and no more than -€2 for health

- When tail painting apply paint on the tail bone 9 inches up from the rump. Keep the line narrow (2 inches) to avoid confusion regarding paint removal -even if only 50% of the paint is removed there is a 70% chance she is bulling.



### Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS)

From **1st January 2017**, **1 cent per litre** will be **withheld** from non-scheme certified suppliers – this includes suppliers who have failed to complete scheme recertification.

If scheme certification is achieved by a supplier **by 1st July 2017 withheld monies will be repaid** to the supplier.

**Failure to achieve scheme certification by the 1st of July 2017 will result in loss of the withheld monies and a continued penalty at 1 cent per litre until scheme certification is achieved.**

Suppliers can apply via North Cork Cooperative creameries for the scheme and will receive a copy of the standard, the Bord Bia Farm book and an application form. A pre-audit and advisory service will be provided by North Cork Cooperative Creameries to ensure adequate preparation of all suppliers prior to the official Bord Bia SDAS audit.

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