



Issue: March 2018

SPRING SALE

Farm Hardware/Fencing

*Big reductions across our range of **water troughs, piping, stakes, wire and fencing accessories***

Sale Starts 2nd

April 2018 Ends 30th April

Call instore for more details or phone
02950003 or 02979002

Milk Price

The milk price for February is 34.5 cent per litre (incl. Vat.) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% Protein.

Health and Safety- Look After Yourself

A recent Teagasc survey has revealed that the level of farm accidents has increased in recent years. Accidents involving livestock (42% of cases) or vehicles/machinery (25%) were the most frequent and dairy farmers reported the highest level of accidents. Almost all farm accidents required medical treatment, with the majority of accidents leading to time off work. In fact, one-third of accidents required 30 days or more off work. March is the busiest work time on dairy farms. It is important that you keep safety to the fore. You can ill afford to be injured (or have one of those working on your farm injured) and on the sidelines at this critical time of the year.



**TOPSTART
MILK REPLACER
FROM CO-OP
SOURCE IS
AVAILABLE
IN YOUR
LOCAL BRANCH
FOR 2018**



Launched in 2017 this quality assured calf milk replacer has proven to enhance early growth rates and rumen development. TopStart is a 24% protein milk replacer based on digestible milk proteins to optimise growth and development with a balanced blend of oils to improve digestibility and nutrient intake. The inclusion of NeoTec4™ supports the immune system and promotes weight gain, structural growth and feed efficiency in calves.

AVAILABLE IN 20KG BAGS, TOPSTART IS SUITABLE FOR BUCKET AND ALL COMPUTERISED FEEDING SYSTEMS AND IS IN STORE NOW

New Product Ranges Creosote Stakes



Murphy Concrete Troughs



Call instore for more details or phone
02950003 or 02979002

March is crunch time for calf health

Mid March to early April is the highest risk time for calf health problems. Numbers of young calves on the farm are usually at peak, putting facilities and work time under pressure. Now is a good time to review management and hygiene around calf rearing on your farm.

- Make sure calves have at least 1.8m² floor area and 10m³ of air space per head. Measure if you are not sure. Having correct space per calf reduces disease risk. Maintain clean bedding.

- Avoid adding extra calves to settled pens if short on space. Provide some extra area (e.g., hutches, new shed area) or better still get some early-born calves to grass.

- As calving slows down, do not mix younger and older calves in the same space. Pens must be cleaned and disinfected and allowed to dry before introducing a second crop of calves.

- Keep registrations up to date and move out calves that are to be sold as soon as possible.

- Are later-born calves getting enough colostrum? Doublecheck that standards are being met as well as at the start of calving. Clean and disinfect dump buckets, calf feeding bottles and other equipment; these tend to accumulate dirt over the busy period.

- As the season moves on, dirty calving pens become a major source for cryptosporidium scour infection for newborn calves. Clean and disinfect, or move to a new calving area. Sick calves mean more work, more stress, poorer welfare and lower lifetime performance. A few checks in mid March can make a big difference to the health of the calf crop.



Early Fertilizer application

In last month's newsletter, we talked about breakfast for grass – early nitrogen (N). Grass requires phosphorus (P) for spring growth; ryegrass requires P to survive. The level of P offtake in the form of milk is increasing constantly on dairy farms. Soil P levels nationally are poor, mostly Index 1 and 2 (very low and low P levels). Therefore, every dairy farmer should consider spreading a high P compound fertiliser during March/April. Products like 18:6:12 (2bags/acre) should be spread on most dairy farms over the next few weeks. The objective is to have half the P requirement for the year applied by mid April. On soils with very poor soil fertility (Index 1 soils), 10:10:20 (2 bags/acre) should be applied. Ideally, slurry should be targeted at the low index silage paddocks/fields before or at closing. Finally, the recent review of the Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) has resulted in increased allowances of P fertiliser for Index 1 and Index 2 soils for many dairy farms. But if you are to avail of this additional P 'build-up' allowance you need a new nutrient management plan prepared, and submitted, to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) before April 20

Weekly Deliveries

Day	Area
Monday	001 Kanturk
Tuesday	002 Glensouth
Wednesday	003 Castlecor 004 Banagh
Thursday	005 Ballyhoulihan
Friday	006 Cullen

Please order 24 hrs in advance instore
or on 02950003

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