

Issue: July 2018



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## Heavy Duty Gate Sale

## 2 Day Promotion



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>  
July

30% discount on all heavy  
gates

### Mastitis Control, environmental influence

Mastitis is not a mystery disease. It occurs when bacteria get into the quarter, through the teat end. These bacteria multiply and cause inflammation and infection. The cow's immune response to this infection results in an increase in the somatic cell count (SCC) of that quarter, and sometimes in clinical signs. The bacteria come from two main sources – other cows, and the environment. We can identify the cows that are a potential source of infection, i.e., the cows with clinical mastitis and those that have a subclinical infection or simply a high SCC. But what exactly do we mean by environmental risk? Very often we focus on housing and cubicle management when we think of reducing the environmental risk. But we need to remember that everywhere a cow goes, her teats go too! Even if cows are not housed, they still have an environment all around them – grazing, roadways, muddy gateways, collecting yards, parlour, etc. All of these areas are potential sources of environmental bacteria and hence infection. Reducing the numbers of bacteria at the teat ends reduces the risk of mastitis

### Milk Price

The milk price for June is 31 cent per litre (incl. Vat.) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% Protein.

+ 1 c/l Supplementary Payment

### Fodder budget

North Cork Coop is encouraging all of its clients to complete a fodder budget early in July. The purpose of this budget is to compare what you are going to need this winter with what you have now and are likely to make over the coming weeks. Dealing with any shortfall now (while there is still time to do something) is the most sensible approach. Blank budget forms are available in store.

### Health and Safety Keep Children safe

July is a high-risk month for childhood accidents, as children are often playing outdoors. Examine your farm for childhood hazards and remove them. Children should not be present when dangerous work is in progress. Most importantly, discuss farm safety issues with children and young persons. Show a good example, as this is vital for positive attitude formation towards safety. Provide a safe play area for young children.

#### CONT'D

#### 1. Milk clean cows

a. Clip tails and udders. b. Put cups on clean, dry teats.

#### 2. Clean up your act!

a. Wear clean gloves when milking.  
b. Wear clean overalls and aprons for milking.

#### 3. Work in clean surroundings

a. Keep the parlour clean during milking  
b. Clean concrete yards between each milking to ensure that cow standing areas are clean.

#### 4. Fix areas that make teats muddy

a. Clean and renovate areas around troughs, gates, roadways, housing and the entrance to the parlour area. For more tips on reducing the risk of mastitis see the 'CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control'

## Water systems

Cow water intake	60-110 litres/day dependent on weather conditions 4 litres of water per litre of milk
Cow drinking speed	14 litres per minute (3 gallons)
Trough size	Allow 5-7 litres per cow
Ballcock	Fast flow ballcocks essential 32 litre per minute. Small ballcocks only allow 8 litres per minute flow
Main pipe layout	Ring loop system preferable. If not possible. large diameter pipe 32 mm minimum

### Pipe size

The most common problem with water supply on farms. For example, at a flow rate of 3 m<sup>3</sup> per hour (50 lit/min or 11 gal/min) with a 32 mm (1¼ inch) pipe the pressure is reduced by 4.83 psi for every 100 m of pipe. The reason the flow rate reduces because of friction between the water and the inside surface of the pipe. The larger the pipe the less friction between the water and the wall of the pipe.

### Ring system

If you are installing a new main line, incorporate the existing line as well if it's in good condition and not too difficult to do. This is worthwhile where pressure is low or the main line is long and the end of the new line and the existing line are not too far apart. Connecting up the ends of two main lines (of the same size) to form a ring main will almost double the flow rate

### Troughs

Cows can drink anything from 10 litres of water when dry to 60 - 110 litres when milking, depending on production levels and weather conditions; typically cows will require four litres of water per litre of milk produced. They can drink at the rate of 14 litres a minute from a trough. Allow cattle 10 to 15 litres per 100kgs of body weight per day. Peak water intake generally coincides with peak grazing periods. Peak demands occur especially after evening milking and to a lesser extent after morning milking. Water flow rates must be capable of supplying these peaks of demand. Carefully consider trough location; cows don't like to walk more than about 250 m to get a drink. Locate water troughs away from paddock gateways and farm roadways. This will shorten the walk to water, prevent bottlenecks, and reduce the wear and tear at gateways. Check water troughs regularly to ensure that ballcocks are working properly and that there are no leaks; a leak at a water trough is a real disaster. Flow rate should be considered before trough size in ensuring adequate supply. However, large troughs provide more drinking space and can compensate a bit for poor flow rate at peak drinking time. The main advantage of big troughs is they give more space for drinking. Each cow drinking at a trough needs 450 mm of space measured along the trough rim. For large herds it may be necessary to install a second trough in the paddock. Siting troughs underneath a paddock wire fence will more than halve drinking space. Heifers and timid cows may also get bullied if adequate drinking space is not available. The area around the trough should be able to take a lot of cow traffic i.e. a similar surface to a farm roadway and ideally have good drainage.



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