



Farm Profitability Programme Feature Farm

Michael & Don Bourke – Churchtown



Tip of the month

Prepare the cows for breeding by feeding your cows correctly. **'Feed the cow and she will feed you'**. Get a pre breeding scan done on all cows to see who isn't cycling and put corrective actions in place.

HERD SIZE	97
LITRES PER COW/ PER DAY	31 litres
FAT%	4.90%
PROTEIN%	3.51%
KG MS/COW	2.68kg/ms
SCC	142
TBC	25
% HERD CALVED	100%

New entrant into dairying from beef farming in 2019,

Milking using robots, very happy with everything milking is going fantastic and recently installed a second robot, getting the basics right and everything else works out. The long-term plan is to milk 120 cows producing more than 500kgs of milk solids per cow.

Cows are currently fed Zero grazed grass ad-lib and 4kg 19.5% Dairy Nut with Rumbuff, Megalac and fertility booster minerals.

Breeding will be kicking off from this week, overall team of 11 bulls picked for dairy AI and 10 sexed semen straws will be used. Sire advice was also completed on farm. All cow received a Smarttec bolus with high selenium and are vaccinated for BVD, IBR, and Lepto to prevent any possible health issues with the herd.

Muriate of potash spread in the back end of 2021 where required. All 2022 fertiliser is nitrogen based with some sulphur. Soil samples indicated no chemical P&K required. All slurry spread on the farm is spread with dribble bar system.

MILK PRICE

The milk price for March 2022 is 45 cent per litre (inc. Vat) with a 2 cent per litre supplementary payment for milk of 3.6% Butterfat and 3.3%

HERD HEALTH CERTIFICATES

Please return pages 1 &3 (white pages) of signed Herd Health Certificates from your vet to:

Darren Deasy, North Cork Creameries, Dromalour, Kanturk, Co. Cork.

Sending Milk Samples to the Lab

Proper Labelling of sample bottles is highly important to make sure all samples can be tested in a timely manner and the correct tests carried out.

All samples need:

- **Supplier sticker** with supplier number
- **Type of test** that needs to be carried out
- **Labelled** (using permanent marker only)



MilkedIn App



Please contact Caroline Hedigan on 085 876 3059 with any queries relating to set up or issues relating to the Milked In App.



Grass Testing



The grass test gives accurate results on both Sugar and Nitrate levels with an 8-hour turnaround time (provided the sample is at the lab before 10am in the morning).

To avail of this service, drop the grass samples to the Dairygold laboratory in Lombardstown or by post to: Dairygold Analytical Services Laboratory Lombardstown, Mallow, Co Cork.

How to take a representative grass sample:

- A sample can be taken from individual fields or groups of fields
- Walk in a zig/ zag pattern
- Cut sample at mower height & avoid soil contamination
- Sample must have the following information written clearly on bag:

Name /contact number/ Co-op number/ sample name/ nitrogen application details & the tests required e.g. sugars/ nitrates or both.

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Breeding Tips

Heat Detection Aids Available in Stores



1. Know your herd's strengths and weaknesses.

Refer to your ICBF Herd EBI Scorecard to help establish what these are

2. Select a team of high EBI AI bulls when breeding your dairy herd replacements.

For a typical 100 cow dairy herd, a minimum of 8 bulls should be used on your herd, with no more than 15% mating's to any one bull.

3. Target high EBI females to breed your next generation of dairy herd replacements.

High EBI females are typically maiden heifers, first and second calvers. Lower EBI cows should be bred to beef AI from the start of the breeding season.

4. Use the Dairy Beef Index (DBI) to select suitable beef AI sires for your dairy herd.

A team of bulls should be selected that suits the various dams in your herd (i.e., maiden heifers, young cows and mature cows) and the number of these that are selected for beef AI.

5. Use the ICBF HerdPlus Sire Advice Tool.

To help manage your breeding program and simplify the process of sire selection. It will allocate your bulls to cows based on their strengths & weaknesses, as well as manage inbreeding.

6. If using sexed semen, only use high EBI sires and ensure that all sexed semen inseminations occur early in the breeding season.

Pay careful attention to straw handling and AI procedures, as sexed semen contains fewer sperm, and these sperm are more fragile after the sorting process.

7. North Cork Creameries AI Subsidy

When selecting bulls ensure they meet the NCC criteria of a minimum of +.15% for both Butterfat and Protein and +18kgs of milk solids to get the subsidy of €10/straw (up to a max of 20)