



Farm Profitability Programme Pat Dennehy – Kanturk



TIP OF THE MONTH; GO ON HOLIDAYS.
'YOUR CHILDREN WON'T REMEMBER YOU FOR HOW HARD YOU WORKED, BUT THEY WILL REMEMBER THE TIME THEY WENT ON HOLIDAYS WITH YOU'

HERD SIZE	146
LITRES PER COW/ PER DAY	18l (Once-a-Day Milking)
FAT%	4.35%
PROTEIN%	3.80%
KG MS/COW	1.51kg/ms
SCC	140
TBC	7
TCM	0.002
FEED KG	1kg 15% Dairy Nut
BREEDING	Start Date: 4 th May Stop Date: 24 th July All AI and Angus bull with heifers
GRASS	Nearly ran out of grass - due to drought conditions/ took a lot of bales and reduced nitrogen being spread on the farm. Zero grazing grass into the cows at the moment
AVG FARM COVER	900kg DM/ha
RESEEDING	8 acres sprayed off 15 acres next week to be done. Disc harrow and direct drill. 2 tonnes of lime and 3 bags of 10.10.20. Uses the NCC mixtures high density sward with tetraploid varieties.
FERTILISER	½ bag of protected urea or a bag of 18.6.12 every second round
SILAGE	1 st Cut Bales & Pit. 2 nd Cut Bales as paddocks get too strong and kept for spring feeding.

MILK PRICE

The milk price for June 2021 is 35 cent per litre (inc. Vat) with a 0.5 cent/litre supplementary payment for milk of 3.6% Butterfat and 3.3% Protein.

Some Timely CellCheck Reminders for July



1. REGULAR MACHINE CHECKS:

Using simple daily, weekly and monthly checks will keep your machine problem free, and provide an early warning if anything is amiss. Check out the farm Guidelines on the AHI website for more detail.

2. TEAT DISINFECTION:

Do not stop during the summer months! Completely cover every teat, of every cow, after every milking. It's the most effective way of preventing new infections and reducing SCC. Some disinfectants also act as fly repellents, helping reduce the number of flies in the parlour during these warm evenings- don't forget that flies also carry mastitis-causing bacteria.

3. MILK RECORD:

By recording your cows regularly (at least 6 times per lactation) you can easily see what's happening within your herd- which are the problem cows or top performers? Use the CellCheck Farm Summary Report to see the areas of excellence, and those that need attention. All this information will be extremely useful when it comes to drying off cows.

Correcting Soil Fertility on your Silage Fields with Lime



Lime is regularly referred to as the forgotten fertiliser of Irish farmers with only 50% of the national lime requirement being spread. However, it is important to remember that it is a sustainable and cost effective way to improve soil fertility and grassland productivity on farm

Nitrogen usage

Irish agriculture is expected to reduce our use of nitrogen (N) fertilisers and increase our usage of lime. Correcting soil pH, allows for more efficient use of N fertilisers, meaning less N will be required to grow the same amount of grass. For what is a relatively cheap product, lime offers many benefits to Irish farmers in terms of return on investment. The return on investment from lime gives an extra €4-7 for every €1 invested in lime.

Silage ground

One thing farmers could be considering doing in late summer or early autumn is spreading lime on silage ground. After second-cut has been harvested, the sward is clean, which means lime will not stick to the grass leaves. This offers farmers the opportunity to spread lime on these fields, if it is required. With the harvesting of second-cut silage just around the corner, now is a good time to organise getting the lime spread. This also means that the required time between lime and slurry of three to six months can be observed.

The timing of lime application

Traditionally, lime was spread in the backend of the year, but in recent years the backend has been the wettest time of the year. Although spreading lime is important, damaging land to do so is not advised. The advice around the spreading of lime has now changed because of this. It is recommended to spread lime when weather conditions are more favourable – earlier in the year.

Why control Johne's disease?

1. Good practice

Preventing or controlling Johne's disease will improve animal health and welfare, and contribute to better productivity and sustainability.

2. 'Prevention is better than cure'

With Johne's disease, spread is slow and challenging to detect, 'Prevention' in this context includes both stopping infection from entering and interrupting the spread of the disease within your herd.

3. Infection can be costly

An infected herd - even without obvious signs of disease – is estimated to lose in the order of €33 per cow per year. For an average herd of 90 cows, the estimated loss is €3,000 or 1.9% of milk revenue. This is due to reduced production, early culling and lost value for those cull animals.

4. If your herd does not have Johne's infection

The Irish Johne's Control Programme will support you to keep infection out of the herd and will help you to avoid any animal or financial losses due to the disease.

5. If your herd has Johne's infection

The Irish Johne's Control Programme will support and guide you to reduce and manage the spread of infection within your herd, and to minimise the impact of the disease on your animals resulting in improved animal health.

6. Standardised measures for disease control

Whole herd testing, and follow up to positive test results will help you to understand and take charge of Johne's disease risks in ways that suit your farm.

7. Funded supports

The financial supports of the programme fully fund the VRAMP, any follow-up testing required and veterinary support for infected herds.

8. Flexibility

You can decide on the timing of when it suits you to complete your Whole Herd Testing and VRAMP.

9. Spin-off benefits for other diseases

Control of Johne's disease will improve and reduce the spread and impact of other calf and animal health issues including scour, pneumonia, and lameness in your herd

10. Information and advice

Your veterinary practitioner who is specially trained and engaged by the programme is available to provide you with advice and support. AHI also provides you with information on the programme