



FARM PROFITABILITY PROGRAMME
Quality, Efficiency, Sustainability



MILK PRICE

The milk price for April 2022 is 48 cent per litre (inc. Vat) with a 2 cent per litre supplementary payment for milk of 3.6% Butterfat and 3.3%

Grass Testing



This month's feature farm is;
Paddy Lane – Knocknaska, Abbeyfeale Co. Limerick



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.

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

HERD SIZE	42
LITRES PER COW/ PER DAY	25 litres
FAT%	3.92
PROTEIN%	3.35
SCC	106
TBC	17
TCM	0.002
FEED KG	4kg 16% Nut
GRASS ROTATION	Mid way through 2nd rotation. Grass Growth is good.
SLURRY (SPLASH PLATE)	90-95% slurry spread.
SILAGE GROUND - FERTILISER 27% N (CAN)	3 bags /acre Plus 2500 gallons of slurry
HEAT DETECTION METHOD	Tail paint Hereford bull with the cows
SILAGE MADE ON FARM	All Bales
SILAGE	Cut in 2 weeks time weather depending.



Reseeding to Improve Sustainability

Grassland Reseeding Advice

Weather and ground conditions usually mean there's more time available to reseed grass swards in spring, but autumn may suit from a feed budget perspective. Whether spring or autumn is best for you, protect your investment and make the most of its benefits by doing it well:

- **Test your soils and correct any deficiencies** - maiming for pH 6-6.5 and P& K indices 3
- **Ensure a good kill of the old sward** – it's the only opportunity for controlling weed grasses
- **Create a fine, firm seedbed and roll well** - to increase seed-to-soil contact and the chance of a successful germination
- **Check reseeds regularly during establishment** - and tackle problems such as pest attacks as soon as possible



Chlorates & TCM

- Chlorine based detergents are not allowed to be used for the cleaning of milking equipment and equipment on processing sites. Chlorine is linked to 2 residues- Trichloromethane (TCM) & Chlorate.
- TCM is associated with Poor plant rinsing and use of high chlorine products Accumulates in fat portion of milk and fat rich product
- Chlorate is associated with Chlorate increases as chlorine degrades-storage Chlorate present in detergents/disinfectants and water supplies.
- TCM tests are carried out to measure the level of chlorine present in milk, to identify if chlorine free cleaning is being carried out.
- A satisfactory result is <0.002 mg/kg (2 on supplier texting system).
- Anything above this level is too high. Milk supplier will be suspended if chlorates are continually high in their milk samples

8 Tips for Sowing White Clover Seeds

1. Ensure broadleaf weeds are under control

Make sure you have weeds well and truly under control. Work with your agronomist to ensure the correct sprays are used at the right time both before and after establishing the new ley.

2. Choose the right clover to suit management

Always choose clovers from the Recommended Grass and Clover Lists and opt for a blend. If you're wanting to cut your grass sward for dairy cows, choose large- and medium-leafed varieties. For sheep, choose small- and medium-leafed clovers.

3. Introduce white clover seed when soils are warm and moist

Stitch in clover at least six weeks after weed control to adhere to withdrawal periods. A warm, moist seedbed is vital (April-August, depending on location).

4. Ensure good seed-to-soil contact

Over-sow after grazing or cutting the field to improve the seed-to-soil contact. Identify the pastures you want to reseed this Autumn now and put together a targeted weed control programme with your agronomist to nip weeds in the bud before establishment. Getting a good clean seedbed could mean you could include white clover in the mix from the start which will reduce the costs associated with going in at a later date.

5. Go for a slightly higher seed rate

A slightly higher seed rate of 4kg/ha is recommended for over-sowing compared to a full pasture reseeding effort to compensate for higher seeding loss.

6. Carefully graze the grass to help white clover establish

Under grazing or overgrazing is the enemy when it comes to clover establishment. Graze too hard and white clover will be knocked back and graze too lightly and grass will outcompete the clover. The key is to graze down to a residual of 1,500kgDM/ha or 4cm so sunlight can get down to the clover. Graze lightly and for short periods until clover is well established.

7. Adopt good rotational grazing

Once clover has established, adopt good rotational grazing to enable clover to rest and recover – always graze down to 4cm.

8. Think carefully about fertilizer

Avoid application of nitrogen in the early establishment as it will encourage grass to grow and increase the risk of clover being outcompeted. Apply a 0:20:30 fertiliser just after clover has been stitched in so potassium and phosphate are available for the young clover plant.