Arrabawn TIPPERARY
Together we grow

JULY 2025 - Issue 7

NEWSLETTER

Co-ops Back Women in Dairy

Dairy Women Ireland Launches Landmark Funding Partnership at Moorepark

Dairy Women Ireland (DWI), the national education and support network for women in dairy, is proud to announce significant progress in securing a landmark partnership model with milk processors across the country. This collaborative effort aims to provide long-term, sustainable support for women in the dairy sector through annual processor contributions.

Founded in 2021, DWI has grown into a vibrant, grassroots network that empowers women across Ireland's dairy industry. From regional meetups to national conference events, the demand for support, education, and connection has been evident — and it's growing. To date, DWI's work has been made possible through member subscriptions and generous one-off sponsorships from key industry players, including the current flagship sponsors, Kerry Dairy Ireland and FDC in an effort to get the ball rolling and build momentum.

However, DWI's ability to meet the increasing demand for its services and to reach the women working in dairy across the country, has been limited by funding. In response, the organisation proposed a forward-thinking solution — a funding structure where milk processors contribute €2 per supplier annually for a number of years. This investment reflects a fair and equitable commitment, proportionate to processor size.

We are delighted to announce that the majority of dairy processors in Ireland have now committed to this initiative, and even more thrilled to have publicly launched this milestone at the Moorepark Dairy Open Day on July 2nd, 2025. Moorepark Open Day provided an ideal platform to celebrate this collective commitment to supporting women in dairy and building a more inclusive future for the industry.

"With this partnership, we are not only securing funding for Dairy Women Ireland, but we're also helping processors meet their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) goals in relation to gender equality and inclusion," said Mary Kinston, President of Dairy Women Ireland. "This is about investing in the future of farming, creating stronger communities, and building a more balanced, resilient industry."

This new model of funding will allow DWI to expand its services, reach more members, and amplify the voices of women working in dairy across Ireland. It represents a powerful and timely step forward for the sector, and shines a light on those investing in women in farming, in a truly meaningful way.

Dr. Mary Kinston, DWI President, with Mella Briscoe, Arrabawn Tipperary Representative Committee.

Dr. Mary Kinston, DWI President with representatives from co-ops including; Tirlán, Centenary, Carbery, North Cork Creameries, Dairygold, Arrabawn Tipperary and Lakeland Dairies

Time-Management: dealing with current challenges

By Tom McTague
CellCheck Team

As the heavy workload eases (a little!) at this time of year, it is important to take a break from routine to recharge the batteries. Labour is one of the main challenges for a farmer to maintain an optimal bulk tank or herd SCC. Consistency and extra work in the parlour were some of the key findings in Cell Count Solutions TASAH during 2024.

Review and Planning

Mid lactation is a good time to review milking cow management in particular milking routine. The key to reducing work in the parlour is to examine your routine in the pit. Are there simple tasks that can be standardised as a suitable routine for your parlour? Set a specific date aside for yourself and your milkers to review and plan. Consult the Cell Check Farm guidelines on AHI website to carry out the review. Guidelines 21- 27 provide the basic elements of milking cow management in a simple layout.

Divide your milking management into tasks currently carried out in the parlour between entry and exit of a cow. Examine unnecessary and necessary parlour tasks in detail to reduce farm level SCC in the following areas:

- *Pre milking routine:* Fore milking, washing and drying of teats, washing of udders, communal drying of teats/udders.

- *Post milking routine:* Post milking teat disinfection, dipping or spraying, coverage of teat disinfection, retention of cows in the yard post milking.

- *Mastitis control:* Use of gloves to stop spread, management of persistent or recurring mastitic cows, hygiene and treatment.

The final review should be a walkthrough of your routine with everyone and ensure that tasks that are not needed are eliminated. Most importantly, consult with your veterinary practitioner and/or farm advisor to also review your routine as part of herd health planning.

AHI
Animal Health Ireland.ie

Johne's Disease (JD) – Controlling the Spread on an Infected Farm

By Liam Doyle
Johne's Disease Programme Manager

Johne's Disease is caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis (MAP).

It spreads when MAP is passed from infected or shedding animals to young calves and other vulnerable stock. Typically, older animals shed the most bacteria, while calves in their first few months are most susceptible to infection.

How JD Spreads on an Infected Farm

JD can circulate silently for years before any clinical signs appear. Animals become infected primarily in two ways:

1. *Through dung, colostrum, and milk* – Calves may ingest MAP bacteria from contaminated milk, colostrum, teats, or bedding.
2. *Before birth* – Infected dams can pass the bacteria to their calves in utero. This risk increases as the dam's disease progresses.

Once MAP is shed, it can survive in the environment—including slurry—for many months, and in some cases, over a year. This long-term environmental persistence contributes to ongoing transmission without visible signs. By the time the first case of JD becomes apparent, it's likely that:

- Several other animals in the herd are already infected but undetected.

- Calves and other young animals are at significant risk.

As illustrated in Figure 1, infection can gradually escalate: more infected animals shed more MAP into the environment, which in turn increases the infection rate among susceptible stock—a classic snowball effect.

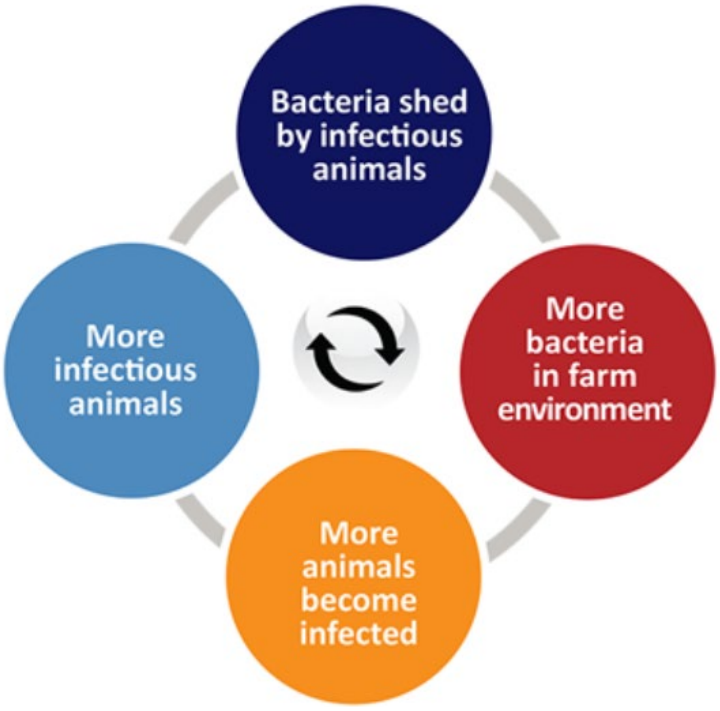

Figure 1 is a visual representation of how MAP infection and environmental contamination can increase over time, creating a cycle of escalating disease.

AHI
Animal Health Ireland.ie

JULY SPECIALS

SPECIALS

Arrabawn TIPPERARY
Together we grow

www.arrabawnstores.ie

NEWS

Is Red Clover Silage an Option for your Farm?

Red clover silage has huge potential to deliver both economic and environmental sustainability at farm level. The combination of increased yield, increased quality and reduced chemical nitrogen use, makes it an attractive option. With the potential of fixing over 200kg/N/Ha this can have significant savings on chemical nitrogen, having a cost and environmental benefit.

Red cover can be sown as a monoculture but is generally sown through perennial rye grass and white clover mixes. Red clover is more suited to multi-cut silage swards because of its ability to fix large amounts of atmospheric nitrogen.

Red clover grows from a tap root which is different to white clover that has a stoloniferous growth, that grows horizontally along the top of the ground. Because of this red clover requires different management. It has a poor capacity to spread out in the sward or replace shoots that are damaged by machinery or disease, which accounts for its relatively short lifespan of three to six years.

Red clover silage has a protein content in the region of 16 - 20%. The feeding value of red clover silage is higher than grass silage, resulting in greater intakes and higher levels of animal performance in terms of milk yield, protein yield, and liveweight gain.

Yields of 15 T/DM/Ha are achievable with red clover. The first harvest of the crop is generally mid-May achieving yields of 5-6 T/DM/Ha, with subsequent harvests at six to eight week intervals. The second cut is generally mid-July with yields of 4-4.5 T/DM/Ha and the final cut in late August or early September that can achieve yields of 3-3.5 T/DM/Ha.

Farmers Perspective

Signpost farmers Conor and Vincent O'Brien from Tynagh, in Co. Galway, established 4 hectares of red clover with perennial ryegrass and white clover on an out block in 2023. At sowing the crop received two tonnes of lime to the acre, along with three bags of 10-10-20.

The crop receives 2,500 gallons of good quality cattle slurry and half a bag of 38% protected urea with sulphur for each cut. In 2024, the red clover silage was stored separately as baled silage. This provided high quality feed in spring 2025. Freshly calved cows performed well throughout spring while receiving the red clover silage. Conor remarks "cows were achieving up on 3.6% protein here throughout the spring, and a large part of achieving this was the inclusion of the red clover silage in the diet"

This year the red clover silage has achieved yields of 5,344 T/DM/Ha in mid-May and 6,160 T/DM/Ha on 3-7-2025 (Fig. 1). With another cut planned for the end of August these bales will be prioritised for freshly calved cow's again next spring.

Liam Quinn
Teagasc Signpost Programme

Figure 1: Red Clover Silage baled on Conor and Vincent O'Briens farm 3-7-2025

Week 7-7-2025

Farmer	County	Litres/ Cow	Fat %	Pro %	SCC	Kg/MS/ Cow	Meal Kg	Average Farm Cover	Cover/ Cow	Growth	Demand	Breeding End Date
Conor Camon	Offaly	27.5	4.21	3.68	81	2.21	4	700	156	90	55	11/07/2025
Ned Kelly	Tipperary	28.2	4.14	3.53	105	2.23	3.5	1060	364	80	44	10/07/2025
Edwin Thompson	Tipperary	24	4.04	3.6	187	1.89	1	944	319	79	45	18/07/2025
Conor O'Brien	Galway	22.5	4.35	3.65	35	1.85	1.5	627	167	65	55	01/07/2025
John, Martina and Cora Lonergan	Tipperary	25.0	4.00	3.51	60	1.93	4.0	775	250	34	46	15/07/2025
Solohead Research Farm	Tipperary	22.5	4.16	3.73	134	1.83	2.0	520	199	63	42	14/07/2025
Michael and Odhran Murphy	Tipperary	28.0	4.25	3.63	115	2.27	3.0	422	180	65	40	11/07/2025
Gurteen Ag. College	Tipperary	25.4	4.3	3.63	81	2.07	3.5	808	220	63	52	10/07/2025
Average		25.4	4.2	3.6	99.8	2.0	2.8	732.0	231.9	67.4	47.4	

Update: Average growth rates across the Signpost farms is 75kg/DM/day. This growth is welcome but weather conditions are making it difficult to remove surplus paddocks. Paddocks with high covers have been identified and will be baled as soon as conditions allow. Meal has been reduced across the farms to maximise grass in the diet. Paddocks that have 20% clover content are being priorotised with soiled water at a rate of 1500-2000gl per acre. Where a lower clover content of 10% or 15% is on the paddock these should receive 8 and 12 units of nitrogen per acre. Where there is adequate clover on paddocks savings can be made on chemical nitrogen but if clover content is over estimated and nitrogen is reduced, grass growth will be comprimised.

Photo: Red Clover silage baled on Conor and Vincent O'Briens farm 3-7-2025

NEWS

What are Catch Crops and how can they add value to your farm?

Catch crops are cultivated between primary cash crops to maintain ground cover, retain soil nutrients, and enhance soil health.

While not typically grown for commercial sale, they can serve secondary purposes such as winter grazing or incorporation as organic matter.

Catch crops utilise residual nutrients in the soil following the harvest of a cereal or oilseed crop, thus maintaining soil biology and preventing leaching of soluble nutrients such as nitrate. With their vigorous root systems, these crop species condition and break up the soil, making it more friable for ease of cultivation, while the residual herbage that remains greatly enhances the organic carbon content and structure of the soil. Catch crops generate a large mass of herbage, which helps protect the soil from exposure to heavy rainfall during the winter period. This reduces the potential of leaching of nutrients, soil erosion, and surface run-off while also increasing water infiltration.

Catch Crops are available to apply for through the Farming for Water EIP under two guidelines to suit several cropping systems:

Option 6A (Other Cropping Systems) - the crop should be sown as early as possible, ideally by mid-August, but no later than 1st September annually each year. This catch crop must remain in place until 1st January annually.

Option 6A Payment - €229/ha/yr.

Option 6B (Winter Cropping Systems) - the catch crop should be set by the 1st August and remain in place until 30th September.

Option 6B Payment - €173/ha/yr.

As agricultural practices continue to evolve, integrating catch crops into crop rotations offers a practical and impactful way to promote sustainable agricultural practices, as well as improve water quality on farm.

For more information on catch crops or how to apply for the Farming for Water EIP, please contact your local Arrabawn Tipperary ASSAP advisor.

ASSAP Farming for Water Quality

FARMING for WATER
Water European Innovation Partnership - AGRI

ahi Animal Health Ireland .ie

Approaching mid lactation- time to take stock of your problem cows.

As we approach mid lactation, and hopefully you have a little more time available following the busy calving and breeding seasons, it is a good opportunity to review how your herd is performing. If you notice your bulk tank somatic cell count (SCC) starting to creep up slightly during the summer months do not ignore it, as it is likely to be because the number of infected quarters in your herd is increasing a little. This in turn can lead to more infected quarters and so on. Do not assume it will 'settle down.' Act now and set your herd up well for late lactation, with minimal mastitis infections and maximum milk production.

What is a problem cow?

A cow that has had 3 or more clinical cases of mastitis during her lactation, or that has had an average SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or higher in two consecutive lactations despite antibiotic treatment during the dry period, is a problem cow. Cure rates for mastitis vary and it is worth remembering that some of these problem cows cannot be cured.

How can milk recording help?

Milk recording your cows regularly allows you to easily see what is happening within your herd. It is the best tool you have to establish which cows are the most profitable in your herd while also identifying cows with a high SCC, indicating subclinical mastitis. After teat disinfection, milk recording is the next most valuable tool in dealing with high SCC and mastitis. These problem cows are not only costing you money, which is sometimes not apparent, but they can also be a source of infection for the healthy cows. Milk recording is also the most reliable way of collecting individual cow information required to identify the cows that will need a dry cow antibiotic.

Herds that milk record get a Cell Check summary report, along with an individual cow information report after each milk recording. To achieve the full benefit of milk recording it is important to look at these reports carefully. They give an overview of the key areas of mastitis control, highlighting the areas of good mastitis control and the areas that could be improved. If you are not used to interpreting the reports, do not be afraid to ask your milk recording organization, vet, farm, or co-op advisor to help you navigate them.

The reports show how your herd is performing in relation to the recommended targets. One target is to have less than 15% of the herd with an SCC above 200,000 cells/mL. The report also shows the spread of infection during lactation by comparing SCC levels in consecutive recordings in each cow. This identifies those cows that have been recently infected, if their SCC is above 200,000 cells/mL in the most recent recording or that are persistently infected, if they have had two consecutive recordings with an SCC above 200,000 cells/mL.

If you have not done so already, book a milk recording and use the records to identify cows with a high SCC and make a plan around the best approach to dealing with them. For example, drying off problem quarters may be a sensible option. Alternatively, some cows may need to be culled when milk yield allows, so make the decision easier and do not breed them now. With the recent drop in milk prices and the potential shortage of grass following the unusual weather conditions, it may make more sense economically, to cull these cows sooner rather than later.

Top 5 Tips for TBC and Thermoduric control this July

TBCs and Thermoduric are assessed twice per month and show as TBC and THD in your test message. If you are having issues with TBC or THD please contact our milk advisor as soon as possible.

- ***Bulk tank*** – The bulk tank should be cooling milk to under 4°C to minimize bacteria growth within 2 hours of milking. Are compressors working correctly? Have you enough gas in the system? Is water flow to your plate cooler adequate? This will lower your energy costs. Put a clean filter sock in before washing to keep the plate cooler free from debris and in turn bacteria.
- ***Detergents***- A good strength caustic needs to be used while rotating in your acid washes often enough. If you are in a hard water area a water softener may be required or your detergents will not be effective. We recommend writing a weekly routine on a chart containing all the necessary hot and cold washes along with which ones are caustic and which are acid. Finally keep an eye on your detergents that they are still fresh and in date.
- ***Hot water***- One of the most common problems found at farm level is hot water is not hot enough. Use a thermometer to check that it is reaching 75-80°C. This will ensure you have enough hot water going through the system at the start to be dumping at 55°C after 8-10 mins.
- ***Vacuum line***- There should be no milk residue in the vacuum line. This is a key area for thermoduric control. This is one of the key areas for thermoduric bacteria control.
- ***Clusters*** – liners should be changed every 2000 milking's and checked that the rubber is not rough. Claw piece should be checked by feeling around on the metal and plastic to ensure no biofilm build up is present.
- ***Auto washers***- check that pipes are not kinked or that detergent has not crystallized inside them particularly if you are changing over detergents as the new and old products can react and form crystals. Ensure the correct amount of product is being taken up.

How to address a build-up of Thermoduric Bacteria in your milking parlour and bulk tank.

When a build-up in a bulk tank or plant has been identified, it is important to get it removed as soon as possible. Some build-ups may have been there for a long time, and will have multiple layers of minerals, fat, protein which may be difficult to remove. Acid descaler works well on mineral deposits, and caustic detergents work well on fat and protein residues. For effective treatment it is important to:

a) Carry out multiple washes on the one day – follow an acid wash immediately with a detergent wash and your final rinse.
b) Increase the hot water temperature and volume where inadequate.
c) Increase the dose of the liquid products or preferably use a powder product as it has a much higher concentration of caustic.
d) Peracetic acid should also be used in the final rinse as a steriliser.

North Tipperary Agricultural Show 2025

Celebrating 150 Years of Farming, Family & Fun

• Bank Holiday Monday, August 4th
• Show Grounds, Nenagh
• Gate Opening by Dylan Slevin: 10:00 AM Midday
• First 150 entries FREE to mark our 150th anniversary

This year marks a major milestone for one of Ireland's longest-running agricultural events — the 150th anniversary of the North Tipperary Agricultural Show! Arrabawn – Tipperary are proud to be the main sponsors of the show .

The Nenagh Show, officially known as the North Tipperary Agricultural Show, has a long and rich history dating back to 1875.

It has been a prominent community event in Nenagh for nearly 150 years, celebrating rural life and agricultural traditions.

The show has evolved from its early days of ploughs and prize cattle to a modern celebration of rural life, becoming a special day out for families and the wider community. Get ready for a vibrant day filled with competitions, exhibitions, demos, local talent, and good old-fashioned country fun — all set in the heart of Nenagh.

There's a fantastic lineup of live demos and talks happening throughout the day, offering entertainment, education, and inspiration:

· **Sheep Shearing** – watch the experts in action!

· **Flower Arranging** by Ryan's Florists

· **Dog Obedience Demonstration** by Classic Canines

· **Beekeeping Talk** – learn about honey, hives, and helping pollinators

· **Gardening Demonstration & Talk** – green tips for every grower

· **African Drumming** – feel the rhythm with a lively cultural performance

· **Grow Your Future with Gurteen –** an engaging talk from students and staff of Gurteen college about education provided in the college

· **Dog Grooming** demonstrations

· **Local History Talks** – explore the roots of our farming traditions