Arrabawn TIPPERARY
Together we grow

JUNE 2025 - Issue 6

NEWSLETTER

What is the National Genotyping Programme?

The National Genotyping Programme is a collaborative initiative enabling Ireland to take the first step in achieving a fully genotyped national herd. Based on a cost-sharing model between the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, the beef & dairy industry & participating farmers. Genotyping the national herd will provide a huge opportunity for both the Dairy and Beef industry accelerate in the rates of gain of our national breeding indexes (e.g. EBI, Eurostar & DBI), which will enhance farm sustainability.

What are the benefits?

Labour saving: Farmers signed up to NGP will have exclusive access to Double Tissue Tags. It is much safer and easier to tag and sample newborn animals than more mature animals.

Cost: From 2025 to 2027 (inclusive), farmers will be required to genotype ALL calves born at a reduced cost of approximately €6. (This is an estimate and includes the farmer's contribution of €4 towards genotyping, plus the additional cost associated with a double tissue tag and postage cost.).

Parent verification: Parentage errors (which currently sit at an average of 15% nationally) lead to incorrect breeding values eg, EBI, CBV, EuroStars and create paperwork to correct once the animal is already registered. Genotyping at birth will confirm parentage & correct any errors prior to registration.

Genomic Breeding Values: Animals sampled at birth will receive genomic evaluations at the earliest possible opportunity, increasing the reliability of their EBI & Eurostar figures well before they are selected/sold for breeding.

Commercial Beef Value (CBV): Genotyped weanlings and store cattle that are being traded through marts will have their CBV displayed on mart screens.

What is involved if joining?

Preparation: Herds who sign up in 2025 will be required to DNA sample all of their breeding stock currently on farm. This will all take place in 2024. Once tags have been received, farmers will have 28 days to return samples. There will be no cost to the farmer for sampling these animals. Only breeding animals not already genotyped will need to be sampled. Having all the breeding females sampled in advance of the 2026 calving season ensures that the online DNA Registration process works effectively and efficiently i.e. the DNA of a 2026-born calf will match up correctly to its corresponding dam.

Ordering Tags: To avoid any potential issues around tag types, farmers who are accepted into the programme, will only be able to order the specific Double Tissue Tags from their chosen tag supplier. The farmer's contribution will equate to approximately €6/animal. This includes the cost of genotyping, additional tag cost and postage. All tags must be ordered before the 2024 calving season.

Note: The €4 fee payable for genotyping of newborn calves will be payable to ICBF, after an order for Double Tissue tags has been placed with the tag supplier. This must be paid in advance of any genotyping being processed.

Note: Participating herds must have access to register calves online. Paper registration methods, such as white cards or Animal Events sheets will not be accepted.

DNA Calf Registration: All farmers who avail of the free genotyping in 2025 are now committed to registering their calves via the appropriate DNA Registration channels. This will take place from 2026 to 2027 inclusive and ALL calves on the holding must be registered via the official DNA Registration process.

How will I register calves via the DNA Registration process?

Step 1: DNA: When the calf is born the farmer tags with a double tissue tag. DNA samples are posted to the Genotyping Lab in the return envelopes provided. It is essential that samples are sent off regularly. It is recommended that you send DNA samples to the lab at least twice per week at peak calving. As calving slows down, it may be sufficient for samples to be sent once per week.

Calf details: All the basic information such as Date of Birth, Sex, Sire, Dam, etc must be recorded as soon as possible. This can be recorded on Agfood.ie or via any of the Farm Software Packages.

BVD: The BVD sample is sent to the BVD lab as normal, and the DNA sample is posted to the Genotyping Lab in the return envelope(s) provided.

Step 2: The sample is received and processed in the genotyping lab and results are sent to the ICBF database.

Step 3: ICBF confirms the parentage and results are made available to the farmer/DAFM.

Step 4: The calf's passport is issued, and the calf is now fully registered via the DNA Registration process.

NEWS

Farming For Water EIP Project

In partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) secured €60 million in funding for a Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Project in Ireland for 2023.

EIP-Agri projects are locally led and collaborative, focusing on innovative solutions to natural resource issues, such as water. This programme aims to address water-related challenges through innovative approaches, while also contributing to climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection.

The Farming for Water EIP project targets priority catchments across the country where water quality is below target levels. Of the total funding, €50 million is allocated to 43 supplementary measures that exceed regulatory requirements, including sediment traps, riparian areas, and catch crops.

The primary objective of the EIP is to address agricultural pressures on water quality within the Arrabawn Tipperary catchment area. Building on the success of the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP), this initiative aims to further assist farmers in implementing targeted on-farm measures.

Arrabawn Tipperary has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable farming practices through its participation in ASSAP and by incentivizing dedicated water quality measures within the Sustainability Bonus.

How do I get involved in this project?

To get involved in the Farming for Water EIP, start by consulting your local Farm Sustainability ASSAP advisor, who can determine your eligibility for the project. Each applicant must complete a Rainwater Management Plan, which maps the movement of rainwater across the farmyard and land into the drainage network. This plan helps identify where mitigation measures should be implemented. Upon submission of the Rainwater Management Plan, farmers receive a once-off payment of €250.

Common measures implemented by Arrabawn Tipperary suppliers include the farmyard bucket and brush, Nitrogen surplus consultations, farmyard settlement tanks, vegetated bunded drains, willow filter beds, and slurry analysis.

Week ending 6-6-2025

Farmer	County	Litres/ Cow	Fat %	Pro %	SCC	Kg/MS/Cow	Meal Kg	Average Farm Cover	Cover/ Cow	Growth	Demand
Conor Camon	Offaly										
Ned Kelly	Tipperary	28.8	4.09	3.61	86	2.28	5	728	232	55	47
Edwin Thompson		28	4.14	3.52	209	2.21	3	780	253	64	44
Conor O'Brien	Galway	26	4.34	3.6	41	2.13	5	500	140	57	57
Gurteen Ag. College		26.5	4.4	3.55	100	2.17	3.5	589	164	90	52
John, Martina and Cora Lonergan	Tipperary	27.50	4.05	3.45	110	2.12	4	711	229	73	46
Michael and Odhran Murphy	Tipperary	31.25	4.18	3.59	102	2.50	3	505	200	71	43
Solohead Research Farm	Tipperary	22.65	4.14	3.64	192	1.82	2	756	196	66	58
Average		27	4.19	3.57	120	2.18	3.6	652	202	68	50

Update: Grass growth is variable within the Signpost farms. It is important to walk the farm regularly and maintain a cover per cow of 160 - 180 and an average farm cover figure above 600. Take out surpluss paddocks where necessary and where figures are below target reduce demand. Remember that every 1 tonne of Dry Matter (4-5 bales) will remove approx. 4kg of Phosphorous and 30 kg of Potassium. Slurry can be used to replenish P and K. If the nutrients are not replaced this will decline soil fertility and ultimatley lead to reduced grass growth and reduced nitrogen efficiency.

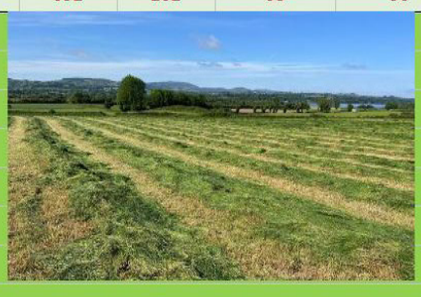

Photo: Surplus bales taken off a paddock on Ned Kelly's farm in Nenagh Co. Tipperary

JUNE SPECIALS

SPECIALS

Arrabawn TIPPERARY
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www.arrabawnstores.ie

NEWS

Farmer Focus: Michael Murphy

Michael and Odhran Murphy

1. Family

My name is Michael Murphy, I am married to Olivia, and we have four children, Elaine, Odhran, Eimear and Miriam. I live in the parish of Templederry between Borrisoleigh and Nenagh. Odhran is planning to come home to farm in partnership with me in the future and is in Australia at the moment.

2. Farm Entreprises

I run a dairy and calf to beef system. We are milking 81 cows this year and rear all calves on farm. Our annual production performance last year from our dairy herd would be over 8,200 kgs at 3.57% protein and 4.41% fat which means the herd produced over 650kgs of milk solids per cow. I did feed 1.4 tonne of concentrate/cow as I found it a very challenging year to keep quality grass ahead of the cows. I would like to be feeding about 1 tonne of concentrate/cow/year, but every year is different!!

All calves except dairy replacements are finished off the farm between 16-20 months of age. I am in the advantage scheme through ABP with the beef animals and all animals are slaughtered in ABP Nenagh.

3. Land Type

The milking platform is 750ft above sea level and it can be quite challenging as there is only about 6 inches of topsoil and then you meet rock or gravel. My stocking rate is probably lower than most due to land type and not wanting to enter into a nitrates derogation.

The dairy replacements and beef enterprise are reared 20km away from the milking platform near the village of Upperchurch. This platform would be a heavier farm than at home and more drought resistant than the home block.

4. Calving Start Date

I start calving on the 15th January, as this helps me finish all cattle off grass in their 2nd year.

5. Mating Start Date

I started breeding on the 11th April. I do six weeks Friesian AI and then I use an Angus stock bull to finish. Maiden Heifers also run with an Angus stock bull on the out farm.

6. Bulls Used

The Friesian AI Bulls I used this year are as follows:

FR1194 – Sulan Quest

FR9940 – Barrowvale Excalibur

I also used a homebred Friesian bull on some cows as he was off one of my best cows and after I checked for inbreeding, he was only related to his mother

The Angus stock bulls were purchased from the Fellfort Herd and they have a high DBI index. I have bought bulls from this herd for the last number years and have been very happy with the offspring.

When I pick my bulls for my herd, my top four traits I look for are Production, Milk Solids and beef and carcass quality. These traits are very important as it will look after both sides of my business.

7. Breeding Update

The angus bull is now out with the cows and I plan to stop breeding on the 11th July. I am happy with repeats this year. I got a 90% submission rate in the first 3 weeks and this has definitely helped me achieve a high conception so far.

8. Grass Quality

Grass Quality has been a challenge as it can stress easily with the low level of topsoil. I did get 6 acres of reseeding this year and used a high tetraploid mix to help cater for weather related challenges.

Benefits of Milk Recording

Clare Clabby

Milk recording provides valuable information on individual cows somatic cell count (SCC) and milk solid performance throughout the lactation.

SCC

Milk recording is an essential tool for monitoring individual cow SCC. Milk recording results will help identify high SCC cows, these are cows with SCC greater than 400,000 cells/mL. In addition, cows with SCC greater than 200,000 cells/mL are considered sub-clincally infected cows and should be closely monitored. Sub-clinically infected cows are potential "super spreaders" for mastitis infection in your herd and can potentially be spreading mastitis infection to healthy low SCC cows (cows with SCC below 200,000 cells/mL). Identifying sub-clinically infected cows is a crucial step in preventing the spread of mastitis infection in the herd.

SCC records throughout the year allow you to make informed decisions when it comes to dry-off and culling. Consistently low SCC may be considered for teal sealer only (i.e no antibiotic dry cow tubes) at dry-off. While cows with fluctuating SCC throughout the lactation may benefit from antibiotic dry cow tubes at dry-off. Consistently high SCC cows should be strongly considered for culling as these cows are potential spreading infection to herd mates.

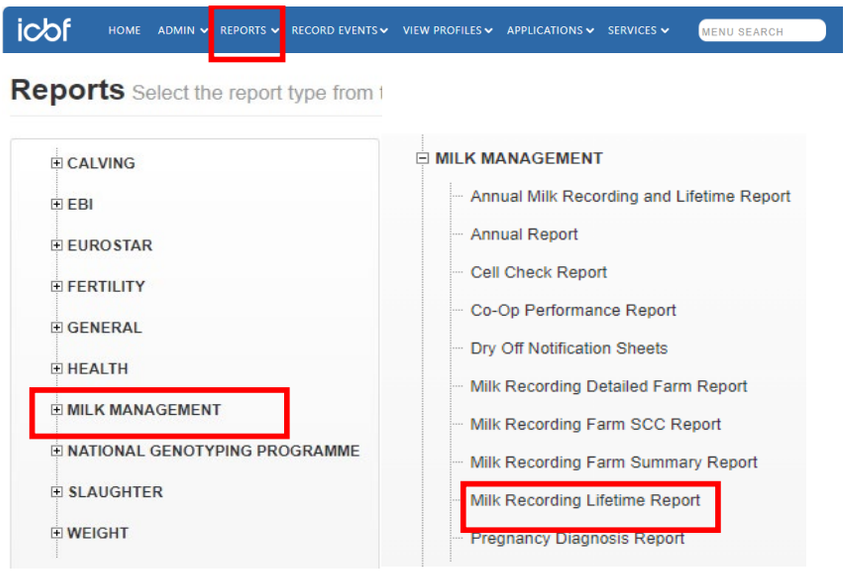


Figure 1. Step by step guide to access milk management reports in ICBF

Milk Solids

Milk recording is an important tool for identifying your top producing cows in your herd from which to breed your replacement heifers from.

ICBF have numerous reports available based on your milk recording results. These can be found by logging in to your ICBF account, clicking on the 'Reports' button in the blue bar at the top of the screen and then clicking 'MILK MANAGEMENT' (Figure 1).

A useful report to look at is the 'Milk Recording Lifetime Report', circled in red below (Figure 1). This gives an overall summary of the herd and ranks the cows within your herd from Top 20%, Average and Bottom 20% performing cows.

The Milk Recording Lifetime Report Explained

The first table 'Production Summary' compares your overall performance herd with the top 20% herds milk recording. This is a useful tool to allow you identify areas in your herd which you may need to focus on improving in terms of milk production (milk volume or milk solids), fertility, or SCC (average SCC for the herd or the percentage of cows over 200,000 SCC). Identifying which of these three areas are performing well or need improvement will be the foundation of your breeding plan.

The second table 'Milk Recorded Margin Per Day' compares the cows in your herd against each other in three categories 1) the top 20% in the green churn, 2) the average in the grey churn and 3) the bottom 20% in the red churn. To improve the overall performance of your herd, the goal is to reduce the gap between your top 20% and bottom 20% which results in a more uniform herd. This optimises the profitability of every cow in the herd, not just the top 20%. In the following pages of this report each cow is individually ranked, with the top 20% highlighted green and the bottom 20% highlighted red. Ideally, we should be breeding all replacement stock from the top 20% of cows in the herd. At a minimum, replacement heifers should not be bred from the bottom 20% of cows. These cows should be selected for a beef bull with a high CBV value.

The Milk Recording Lifetime Report – Managing your SCC

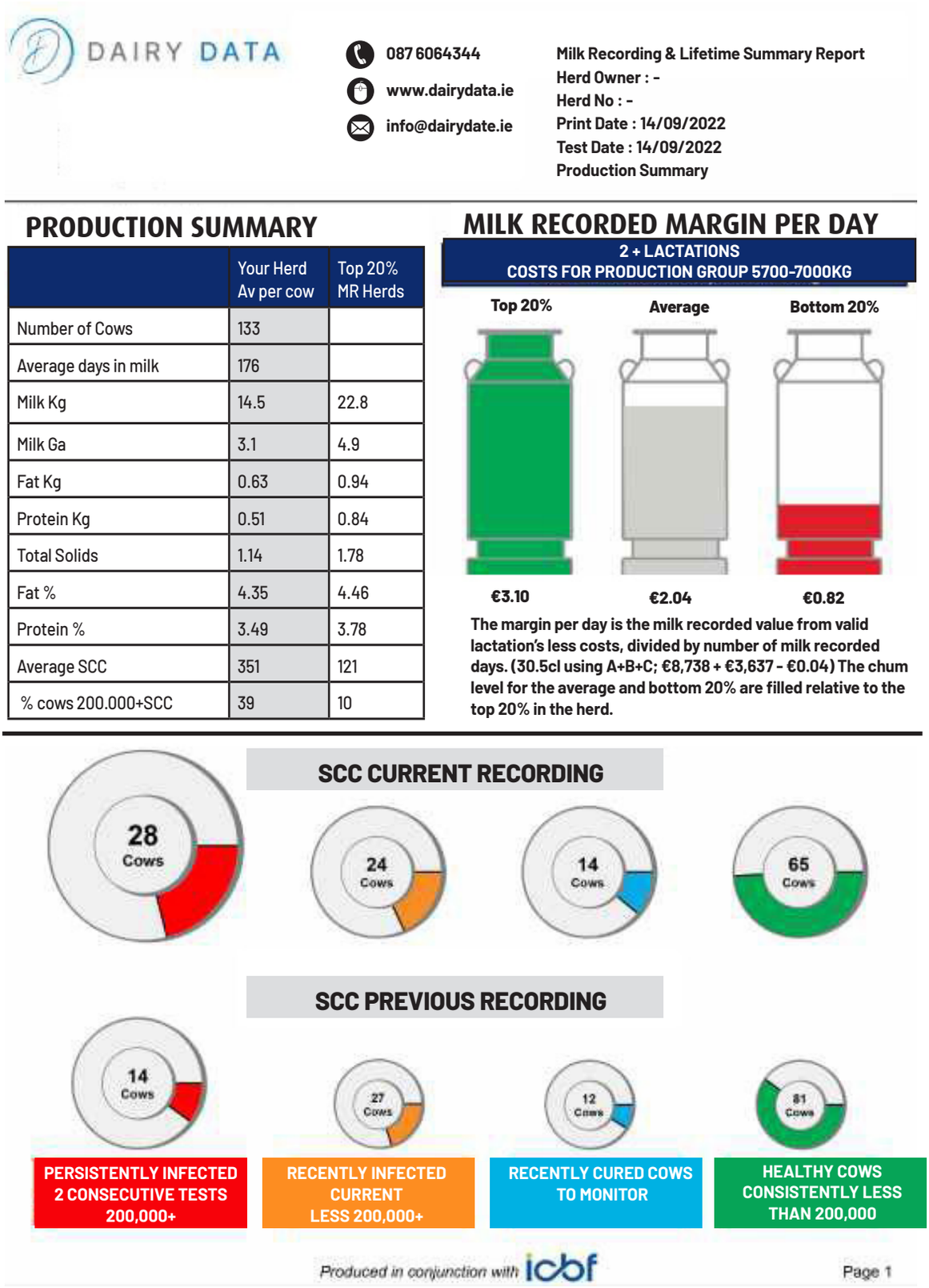
The Milk Recording Lifetime Report can be a useful tool to manage SCC in the herd. In the third table on the bottom half of the 'Milk Recording Lifetime Report' page (Figure2) a summary of cows SCC performance in the herd is given. Cows are categorised into 4 groups depending on their SCC. The top line shows the results for the current milk recording, while the bottom line allows you to compare with the previous milk recording.

1) Persistently infected cows (shown in red) have had two consecutive milk recordings over 200,000. The target is to have 8% or less of your herd in this category. Persistently infected cows should be identified and treated. If there is no significant reduction in the SCC of a persistently infected cow after 2 rounds of treatment, she is considered chronically infected. Chronically infected cows should be removed from the herd as they act as a reservoir for infection for the remaining healthy cows.

2) Recently infected cows (shown in orange) have previously had an SCC below 200,000 and are now over 200,000 in the latest milk recording. The target is to have 7% or less of your herd in this category. Similarly, these cows should be identifed and treated.

3) Recently cured cows (shown in blue) have previously had an SCC over 200,000 and are now below 200,000 in the latest milk recording. These cows should be monitored in your next milk recording to ensure re-infection hasn't occurred.

4) Healthy cows (shown in green) are cows that are consistently below 200,000. This should make up the largest percentage of your herd. This can be monitored by comparing against previous milk recording to identify potential outbreaks of infection early.



DAIRY DATA

087 6064344
www.dairydata.ie
info@dairydata.ie

Milk Recording & Lifetime Summary Report
Herd Owner : -
Herd No : -
Print Date : 14/09/2022
Test Date : 14/09/2022
Production Summary

PRODUCTION SUMMARY

	Your Herd Av per cow	Top 20% MR Herds
Number of Cows	133	
Average days in milk	176	
Milk Kg	14.5	22.8
Milk Ga	3.1	4.9
Fat Kg	0.63	0.94
Protein Kg	0.51	0.84
Total Solids	1.14	1.78
Fat %	4.35	4.46
Protein %	3.49	3.78
Average SCC	351	121
% cows 200.000+SCC	39	10

MILK RECORDED MARGIN PER DAY

2 + LACTATIONS
COSTS FOR PRODUCTION GROUP 5700-7000KG

Top 20% | Average | Bottom 20%

€3.10 | €2.04 | €0.82

The margin per day is the milk recorded value from valid lactation's less costs, divided by number of milk recorded days. (30.5cl using A+B+C; €8,738 + €3,637 - €0.04) The chum level for the average and bottom 20% are filled relative to the top 20% in the herd.

SCC CURRENT RECORDING

28 Cows | 24 Cows | 14 Cows | 65 Cows

SCC PREVIOUS RECORDING

14 Cows | 27 Cows | 12 Cows | 81 Cows

PERSISTENTLY INFECTED 2 CONSECUTIVE TESTS 200,000+

RECENTLY INFECTED CURRENT LESS 200,000+

RECENTLY CURED COWS TO MONITOR

HEALTHY COWS CONSISTENTLY LESS THAN 200,000

Produced in conjunction with icbf

Page 1

Figure 2. Example of Milk Recording & Lifetime Summary Report. Source: www.dairydata.ie/milkrecording

Contact your local milk recording organisation to find out more and to book your first recording.
Munster Bovine - 022 43228
Progressive Genetics – 046 954 0606
Dairy Data – 087 6064344