



## Historic day for all members as new Arrabawn Tipperary Co Op formally established

**Arrabawn Tipperary Co-operative Society held its inaugural board meeting on 28th February 2025 in Nenagh**



The meeting followed separate meetings of the boards of old Arrabawn and old Tipperary on 26th February when the merger terms were formalised. The new society has over 4,800 shareholders, 1,400 milk suppliers across 16 counties, and will process almost 900m litres of milk products annually.

The new entity not only brings together two modern and efficient manufacturing facilities but also diversifies the combined portfolio, ensuring resilience in fluctuating markets. The merger will also help underpin the significant investment undertaken at both processing facilities across the past decade through heightened efficiencies across the plants and the Society's wider operations, enhancing the new co-op's competitive edge in the market and ultimately helping to deliver a sustainable and competitive milk price.

### The new co-op will include

- Two primary ingredient manufacturing facilities at Nenagh and Tipperary, processing almost 900 million litres of milk products annually
- 15 agri trading stores, including flagship facilities at Nenagh, Tipperary Town and Athenry.
- One of Ireland's leading feed brands, Dan O'Connor Feeds
- French based cheese production facility, Tippagral

### The inaugural board meeting saw the following appointments:

<b>CEO:</b>	Conor Ryan
<b>Secretary:</b>	Billy Walsh
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Edward Carr
<b>Vice-chairperson:</b>	Barry Donnelly
<b>Management Committee:</b>	Eoin Doorley and Kevin Murray



Back row: Kevin Murray, Barry Donnelly, Edward Carr, Eoin Doorley. Front Row: Michael O Kelly, Conor Ryan, Billy Walsh



# NEWS

## Comment from Chairperson Edward Carr:

"This is a truly historic time for our members, for staff and for dairy processing in Ireland with the formation of our new co-op. This merger is a growth opportunity, and a natural coming together and consolidation of two neighbouring co-ops to create a more resilient and dynamic future for its members."

"It is also a tribute to the founding fathers of the various Co-ops that have combined over the past century and more, to ultimately create Arrabawn Tipperary Cooperative Society. Our job now as a board is to honour that legacy by building towards the future with the creation of a competitive new force in Irish dairying."

## Comment from CEO Conor Ryan:

This is a pivotal time for dairying across our entire catchment, from the west to the south-east of Ireland. A huge amount of work has gone into this over the past nine months and it's right that we pay tribute to all those who contributed on both sides for their commitment to make this merger happen.

The merger is a natural evolution for both co-ops and sets us up positively for the future, enabling us to meet the market fluctuations that will inevitably come our way. We now set about ensuring the best possible transition into this new entity and look forward to delivering the growth and efficiencies that will create and sustain a competitive future for the co-op and its members.



Conor Ryan (Arrabawn Tipperary Co Op CEO), Edward Carr (Arrabawn Tipperary Chairman)



Kevin Murray, Barry Donnelly, Michael O Kelly, Conor Ryan, Edward Carr, Billy Walsh, Eoin Doorley



Michael O Kelly, Conor Ryan, Edward Carr, Billy Walsh, Anne Grace

## Benefits of milk recording in 2025

To get the best use from your milk recording aim to complete the first milk recording within 60 days after calving, this will give the best indication of how well the dry period went. The CellCheck Farm Summary report on ICBF Herd Plus gives a breakdown of mastitis control over the dry period and at calving.

The new infection rate and cure rate over the dry period are the best metrics to gauge the success of the dry period.

The new infection rate is the percentage of cows in the herd that had a SCC less 200,000 prior to calving and are greater than 200,000 in the current recording. The target new infection rate is less than 10% in cows and less than 15% in heifers. Similarly, the cure rates is the percentage of cows in the herd that had a SCC greater than 200,000 prior to calving and are less than

200,000 in the current recording. The target cure rate is greater than 85%.

A new infection rate higher than the target indicates cows are picking up new infections either during the dry period or around the calving. Review dry period housing and calving pens as these may be the main problem areas.

A cure rate lower than the target indicates dry cow treatments were not effective. Bacteriological culture of problem cows may help identify the cause of infections and ensure the appropriate antibiotic treatment is being used. However it is important to note that persistently high cows (ie. Cows with 2 or more consecutive recordings with SCC greater than 200,000) are considered chronically infected cows and typically have very poor cure rates. Chronically infected cows should be removed from the herd as they act as

a reservoir of infection for the rest of the herd. If there are chronically infected cows in the herd, disinfecting the cluster and milkers hands after milking these cows is essential to help prevent the spread of infections to the rest of the herd.

### Things to note in the first milk recording after calving:

Cows can have slightly elevated SCC after calving. However, SCC should have returned to normal levels approximately 2 weeks after calving. SCC over 200,000 after this time is an indication of a subclinical mastitis infection. A CMT test or paddle test is a useful tool to help identify problem quarters.

In general, a herd target of less than 15% of cows in the herd with an SCC greater than 200,000.



# MARCH PROMOTIONS

Offer ends 31st March

## SPECIALS



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TIPPERARY  
Together we grow



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Great  
Value  
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Great  
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**20 teat Milkbar Feeder**



Great  
Value  
**€59**

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Great  
Value  
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**Ako B125**



Great  
Value  
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**Dectomax 500ml**



10 Pack  
**€16.95**

**Pig Tails**



Great  
Value  
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**Gallagher Geared Reel**



2 for  
**€45**

**Moss Buster 5 litre**

[www.arrabawnstores.ie](http://www.arrabawnstores.ie)



## Timing of Nutrients to Build Soil Fertility

Throughout 2024, Teagasc analysed 21,093 soil samples from dairy farms across the country. Of this, only 24% of soils were optimal for pH, Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K). 61% of soils had a pH >6.2, while 37% of soils had a P index 1 & 2 and 38% of soils had K Index 1 & 2. This highlights the need for more focus on soil fertility.

Optimised soil fertility is crucial in maintaining grass growth but also in increasing nitrogen efficiency. It is important that every kilogram of nitrogen applied is effective in growing grass, and the best way to ensure this is by having optimum soil fertility.

It is important that each farm has up to date soil samples and a Nutrient Management Plan complete annually, in order to know the Nitrogen (N) and P allowances and the Lime requirements.

The first step in improving soil fertility is by applying lime. Although generally applied in autumn, Lime can be spread at any time of year where it is required and should be applied to low grass covers.

Leave three months between applying lime and cutting silage to ensure no lime enters the bales or pit.

We are now entering an important time of year where N, P and K are required (Fig 1) to maximise and maintain grass growth throughout the summer.

Remember slurry is a valuable source of N, P and K available on farm. Every 1,000 gallons of cattle slurry (6% Dry Matter) applied per acre is the equivalent of a bag of 9-5-30 when applied using Low Emission Slurry Spreading. It is also worth €28 per 1000 gallons so use this to your advantage.

Target low index soils where slurry will be most effective.

Teagasc research shows that Sulphur has a major role to play in increasing nitrogen use

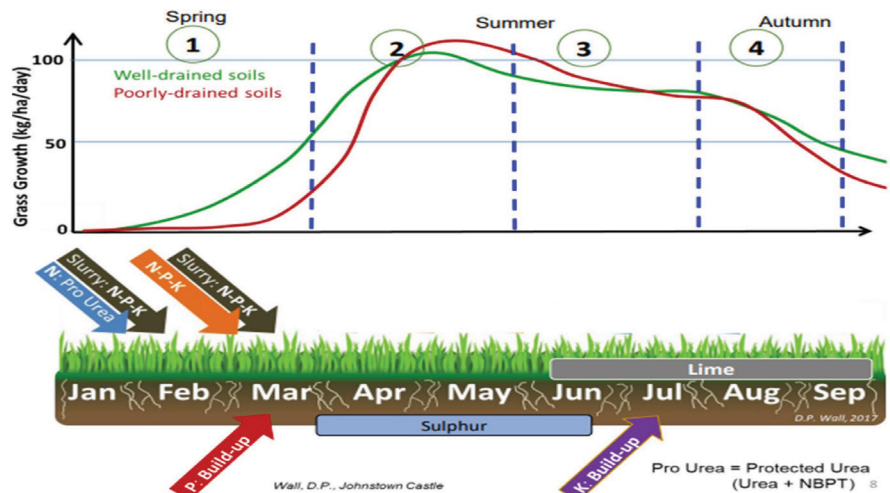


Figure 1: Timing of Nutrients. Liam Quinn. Teagasc Signpost Programme

efficiency (NUE), grass nitrogen uptake, and grass yield while reducing N leaching.

Trials show up to a 2.5t/ha yield response to sulphur applications between March and July so target sulphur during the main grazing season. Sulphur level recommendations are 20Kg/ha per year on grazing ground and 20 kg/ha/cut on silage ground.

K application is usually targeted towards the later part of the year from August onwards as growth is slowing and the risk of grass tetany is reducing.

Building index 1 and 2 soils up to index 3 can yield extra tonne of dry matter per hectare.

One bag of 0-0-50 (Muriate of Potash) to the acre has the potential to build one full index which has huge potential on farm.

In summary, time your nutrient application where it will maximise grass growth. Always apply nutrients keeping in mind: using the right product, in the right place, at the right rate, at the right time.

## Getting Fertilizer Calibrations right this year?

### TRACTOR CHECKLIST

- Adequate counterweight
- GPS System for accurate forward speed and driving width
- Common Tyre Pressures between back and front tyres
- Accurate PTO speed
- Functioning check arms
- Adjustable link arms and toplink

### FERTILISER SPREADER CHECKLIST

- Operators manual should be available in either hard copy or digital format
- Ensure all PTO covers and safety guards are in place
- Grease machine as per operators manual
- Check gearbox oils as per operators manual
- Ensure agitator is functioning and chain is oiled
- Check for rock and play between discs
- Inspect vane condition for pitting/wear
- Ensure spreader is level from left to right
- Ensure adequate height off ground
- Adjust toplink as per operators manual

### PRODUCT CHECKLIST

- Understand fertiliser properties – bulk density, granule size distribution
- Is the product CAN or Urea based?
- What are the components of the blend?
- Every product has unique spreading characteristics, therefore require unique drop point or vane settings
- Spread pattern always needs to be verified with test trays/mats
- Keep fertiliser in a sheltered area
- Use rounded implements for loading
- Cut bags three inches up from side rather than at the bottom



**DAIRY DATA**  
MILK RECORDING SERVICE

**GETTING STARTED WITH DAIRY DATA IS QUICK AND EASY!**

All you have to do is contact James on **0876064344**.

He will then ask you for..

- Your Herd Number
- The Number of units in your parlour
- And when you would like to do your first test!

**Tested locally in Arrabawn ensuring a quick turn around with results in 2-3 days**

Test for Johnes and Pregnancy on your individual milk recording samples



**Dairy Data Herd Health programme:**  
Screening of a bulk tank sample to test for BVD, IBR, Leptospirosis, Salmonella, Neospora, Ostertagia and Liver Fluke

## Arrabawn Tipperary Co Op Milk Supplier Sustainability Programme for 2025

The Arrabawn Tipperary Milk Supplier Sustainability Programme for 2025 is updated to include two new measures from the 2024 sustainability programme edition. The payment for completing all measures in 2025 will be 0.75 CPL per month. However, one of the new measures is now a mandatory requirement to be part of the programme. Each member of the programme must allow a water quality farm assessment to take place on their farm in 2025. Suppliers who opt into this programme in 2025, have the potential to receive a bonus payment of 0.75 cent per litre (CPL) on a monthly payment in exchange for meeting four of the five sustainability criteria below with the water quality action being mandatory:

1. Water Quality
2. Protected Fertiliser
3. EBI Improvement
4. Milk recording
5. Ag Nav & Training

Based on extensive consultation we have chosen to implement these five measures as they are impactful, measurable, and proven to work. We believe implementation of these five measures will have a significant impact on environmental indicators, especially Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Example payment for an average Arrabawn Tipperary supplier supplying 500,000L completing four of the five measures in 2025 is €3750.

### Actions Required in 2025 for the Arrabawn Tipperary Milk Supplier Sustainability Programme

You must complete any four out of five measures,

### Payment Cent per Litre (CPL) for each action required in the Arrabawn Tipperary Milk Supplier Sustainability Bonus 2025

Water Quality  
0.1 CPL

Protected Urea  
0.2 CPL

Milk Recording  
0.2 CPL

EBI  
Improvement  
0.1 CPL

Ag Nav &  
Training  
0.15CPL

with water quality being **MANDATORY**.

#### 1. Water Quality

- Agree to Water Quality Farm Visit and development of a Water Quality Plan
- **Mandatory Action**

#### 2. Protected Urea

- Purchase 2T of Protected Fertiliser per 100,000L of milk supplied in 2024.
- All fertilisers must have a protected N source.
- All fertilisers (min 2T per 100,000L) must be purchased through Arrabawn Tipperary Co Op.

#### 3. Milk Recording

- Participate in Milk Recording in 2025
- A min. of 4 milk recordings is required in 2025.

#### 4. EBI Improvement

- a) Herd in top 50% within Arrabawn Tipperary catchment for EBI qualify automatically,
- b) Herd in the top 50% within Arrabawn Tipperary catchment for EBI gain annually qualify automatically,
- c) If less than 25% of your cows have an EBI or if you fail to meet part (a) or part (b) above, you can genotype 25% of your dairy female stock and this will be a qualifying criterion (max 2 years)

#### 5. Ag Nav & Training

- Participate in 1:1 Ag Nav training with the local Teagasc Signpost Advisor and develop your GHG Emissions farm plan. Obtain your nitrogen surplus number. You do not have to be a Teagasc client to partake.

## Arrabawn Tipperary Monitor Farms Update Week ending 07/03/2025

Farmer	County	Litres/Cow	Fat %	Protein %	SCC	Kg MS/Cow	Meal Kg	Average Farm Cover	% Grazed	% Calved
Conor O'Brien	Galway	17	5.2	3.6	43	1.54	4		25	73
Conor Camon	Offaly	26	4.32	3.55	100	2.05	5.5	916	40	75
Ned Kelly	Tipperary	25	5.09	3.77	110	2.28	5	863	33	69
Edwin Thompson	Tipperary	26	4.32	3.53	295	2.1	4	725	40	73
Gurteen Ag. College	Tipperary	28	4.83	3.63	71	2.44	6	720	25	88
John, Martina & Cora Loneragan	Tipperary	28.5	4.62	3.48	155	2.34	6	820	26	84
Solohead Research Farm	Tipperary	21	4.76	3.61	206	1.81	5	655	45	82
Michael and Odhran Murphy	Tipperary	27.5	4.5	3.38	174	2.23	5	582	15	82
		<b>24.875</b>	<b>4.71</b>	<b>3.57</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>78</b>

**Update:** Grazing is progressing well on the Signpost farms with on average 31% grazed to date. The plan now is to have 60% grazed by March 17. The target for fertiliser is to have 60 units of nitrogen per acre applied by April 1. Contractors may have a role to play in achieving this given that all farms are busy at present. Conditions for slurry spreading have also been favourable with a large amount of silage ground receiving 2000 - 2500gl per acre. Calving is progressing well with 78% calved. Body Condition Score (BCS) is being monitored closely on both freshly calved cows and cows that are to calve later in the spring. Cows that lose >0.5 BCS in early lactation have reduced reproductive performance so it is important to manage condition. Later calving cows are being monitored to avoid becoming over conditioned.



## Spring 2025 Breeding Guidelines

- 1** Every €1 increase in EBI increases profit by €2
- Do you know your herd's strengths and weaknesses?
  - Refer to your ICBF Herd EBI Scorecard to identify areas for improvement.

- 2** Only breed high EBI females to generate dairy replacements

- Breed high-EBI females that have an EBI of at least €185 with dairy bulls (sexed or conventional).

- 3** Decide on a team of dairy and beef bulls

- Select a team of high EBI AI Bulls from the ICBF Active Bull List

Recommended number of dairy bulls to use for different herd sizes.

Herd Size (incl. Heifers)	Recommended minimum no. of bulls
0-100	7
100-150	8
150-200	10

- To increase reliability and reduce risk, equal usage of bulls in the team is crucial i.e. no more than 15% of services from any single bull.

- For herds with greater than 200 cows and heifers, add an extra bull to the team for every 50 extra breeding females

- 4** Steps to take when selecting beef bulls this Spring

1. Review the Dairy Beef Index Active Bull List.
2. Select a calving difficulty threshold that is suitable for your herd.
3. Look for bulls with a high overall DBI as well as a high Beef Sub Index.

See page 3 of this booklet for more information on the DBI.



As Rules Implementer,  
The Agri Mark  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

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## Spring 2025 Breeding Guidelines

- 5** Use Sexed Semen to generate most/all of your 2026 dairy heifer calves.

- Use at least two high EBI sexed semen straws to generate each dairy female required. For example, if you require 25 dairy replacements, use at least 50 high EBI sexed semen straws.

- 6** Complete sexed semen inseminations in the first 3 weeks of the breeding season.

Prioritise using sexed semen on:

Onset of heat	Time of AI
13:00	19:00
16:00	22:00
19:00	01:00
22:00	04:00
01:00	07:00
	21:00

1. Maiden heifers
2. Younger cows (Lactation 1-4)
3. Earlier calving cows (Jan/Feb)
4. Cows with no health issues.

- Optimum timing of AI for sexed semen is 14 to 20 hours after the onset of standing heat.

- 7** Use the ICBF HerdPlus Sire Advice Tool to:

- Manage inbreeding and optimise both dairy and beef bull matings.
- Breed a more balanced female in terms of milk & fertility.
- Maximise beef merit while minimising calving difficulty risk.
- For help running your 2025 Sire Advice, contact the HerdPlus team on 023-8820452 or email [query@icbf.com](mailto:query@icbf.com)



The goal is to breed a dairy cow that is:

1. Healthy and efficient
2. Profitable and carbon efficient
3. Will produce better quality calves for our beef industry

As Rules Implementer,  
The Agri Mark  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

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## FINANCE IRELAND



### Lending Options

- MilkFlex
- FundEquip
- Hire Purchase or Lease
- SBCI Growth and Sustainability Loan

### Why Finance Ireland?

- Quick Credit Decision
- Quick turnaround
- Dedicated account manager who is accessible by phone or email to answer any query

### Who to contact?

Sean O'Meara is Regional Sales Director for Finance Ireland in Tipperary and the wider Munster area. For more information contact Sean on the details below.

M: 086 382 0762

T: 01 639 1370

E: [seanomeara@financeireland.ie](mailto:seanomeara@financeireland.ie)

[www.financeireland.ie](http://www.financeireland.ie)



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