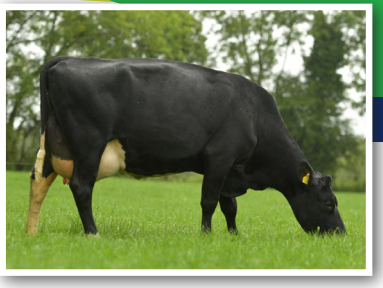
Arrabawn TIPPERARY
Together we grow

AUGUST 2025 - Issue 8

NEWSLETTER



150th North Tipperary Agricultural Show

It was a day steeped in tradition and celebration as thousands gathered at the North Tipperary Agricultural Show to mark an extraordinary milestone: 150 years of this much-loved local event.

Held on the August Bank Holiday Monday, the Nenagh showgrounds buzzed with activity from the moment the gates opened at 10am. The day officially began with a welcome by Dylan Selvin and from the earliest animal competitions to lively musical performances, this year's show was one of the biggest and best in recent memory.

The morning kicked off with the ever-popular young stock, broom mare and foal, and pony classes. By mid-morning, the sounds of country singer Aishling Rafferty on the main stage created a lively atmosphere and set the tone for a feel-good day out.

One of the standout moments came in the early afternoon with the arrival of the Liam MacCarthy Cup, making a stop here on its continuing tour of Tipperary. Sports fans gathered to meet guest players and celebrate the county's rich hurling heritage.

The dog show began at 1pm and drew huge interest, with obedience displays from Classic Canines impressing both children and adults alike. At the same time, cattle, sheep, and goat judging got underway, showcasing the quality and dedication of the region's farming community.

Later in the afternoon, African drumming and dancing added rhythm and energy to the Demo Tent. This was followed by an educational session from Gurteen College titled Grow Your Future.

The day ended on a high note with the Brass Band performing on the main stage from 4pm to 5pm. It was a fitting finale to a day filled with joy, community spirit, and pride in the county's agricultural heritage.

Arrabawn Tipperary was thrilled to again be the main sponsor for this great event, highlighting our commitment to supporting local community relationships and community spirit. We believe in building strong connections within our community and supporting the important agricultural sector. The Nenagh show was a huge success. There was a large turnout, with hundreds of people in attendance. Congratulations to all involved for organizing a smooth and well-executed show!

NEWS

Arrabawn Milk Supplier of the Year 2024

Ned Kelly (Tipperary)

The Arrabawn Co – Op Milk Supplier of the year for 2024 is Ned Kelly from Ballycommon, County Tipperary.

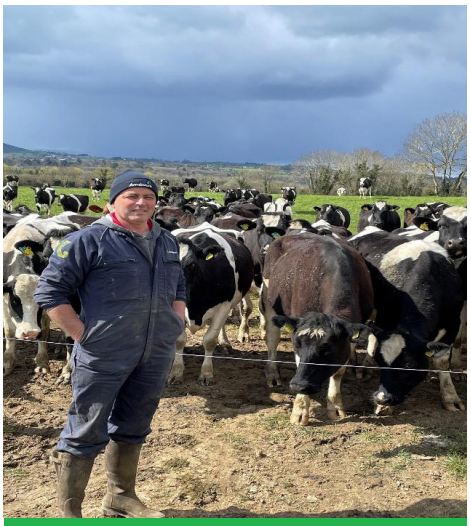
Ned milks 141 cows in Ballycommon on the picturesque banks of lough Derg in North Tipperary.

Key stats:

Cow numbers:	141
Herd EBI:	223
Milk Supply (ltrs):	842,289
Concentrates kg / cow:	1200
Milk solids kg / cow:	486
Fat % (weighted):	4.35
Protein % (weighted):	3.50
Milking units:	24
TBC ('000 weighted):	17
SCC ('000 weighted):	95
Proportion of herd using selective dry cow:	15%
Proportion of nitrogen protected urea used:	67%
Grass measures per year:	20+
Carbon footprint:	0.95

Ned has been an Arrabawn Tipperary Signpost Farmer since 2023.

With an impressive combination of sustainability, milk quality, animal care, and family dedication, the Kelly farm stands as a shining example of the best of Irish dairy farming.



Arrabawn Co Op would like to congratulate Ned Kelly and his family on winning the very prestigious award of "Arrabawn Milk Supplier of the Year" and thank them for representing Arrabawn Co Op to the highest of standards.

Farming for Water EIP Application

The Process

The Farming for Water EIP is an integral part of Ireland's Water Action Plan. The Water Action Plan (2024) states that farming is the biggest threat to water quality in Ireland. The European Commission and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are providing 50 million euros in funding which has been ring fenced for farmers to implement targeted actions on the ground above regulatory requirements. Launched in March 2024, the programme will run until 2027. Its aim is to support farmers in the implementation of measures to minimise agricultural impact on water quality. This is to reduce the amount of phosphate, nitrate, sediment and pesticides entering our river networks. The ambition of the project is to contribute significantly to achieving improvements in water quality status across the country.

The application process involves an on-farm visit with an ASSAP (Agricultural Sustainability and Support Advisory Programme) adviser from the Co-op (David Ryan/Michael O'Dwyer). which will identify those areas which require the most attention to restore and enhance water quality. The farmer and adviser will agree on where improvements and actions are necessary on farm.

The first step in every farm visit is a rainwater management plan (RWMP) whereby the adviser uses all available evidence as well as the tools developed by the EPA called Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps. The PIP maps are based on the nutrient loading at farm scale as well as the soil drainage potential and show the riskiest areas in the landscape for losses of nitrogen and phosphorous to water. PIP maps also show overland flow pathways and flow interception points to help target actions where water quality monitoring indicates an impact. The adviser using these maps together with the farmers knowledge of water movement within farmyards and across fields to select the "right measure in the right place".

The Farming for Water EIP has identified pressures on the farm, including reducing the Source of the nutrients, intercepting the Pathway of nutrient movement (e.g. spatially targeted buffers) and protecting the Receptor (e.g. fencing watercourses to restrict access to livestock). The Farming for Water EIP has developed a list of 43 measures designed to reduce these losses.

Applications will be prepared by advisers on behalf of farmers. These will undergo a thorough administrative review, technical validation and dual funding risk assessment. Once approved, farmers will receive a letter of approval outlining the supported measures and can proceed with their implementation in accordance with the specified guidelines. After implementing the measures, the method of verification as outlined in the approval letter must be submitted. Once the submission has been validated, payment will be transferred directly to farmer's bank account via electronic fund transfer. Payments are allocated on a measure-by-measure basis, ensuring farmers are only compensated for measures they have successfully implemented.

All farmers must have a valid BISS application to qualify for entry into the Farming for Water EIP. The maximum farmer payment is forty thousand euros.

For more information, please contact either David Ryan 0862014144 or Michael O'Dwyer 0872667153.

AUGUST
SPECIAL OFFERS

SPECIALS

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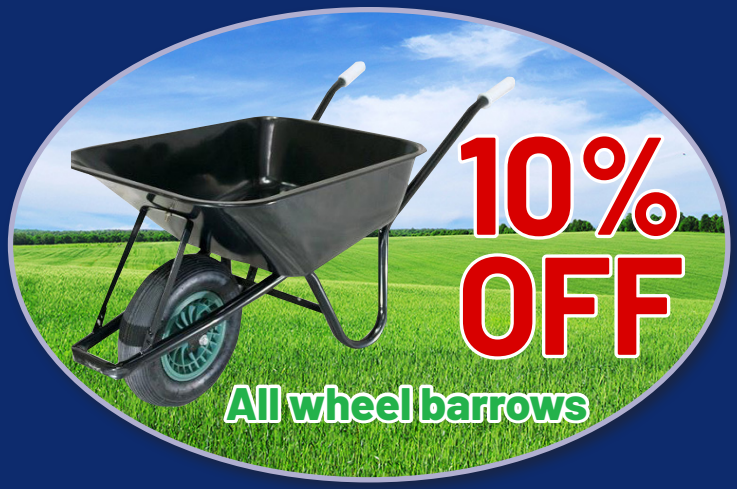
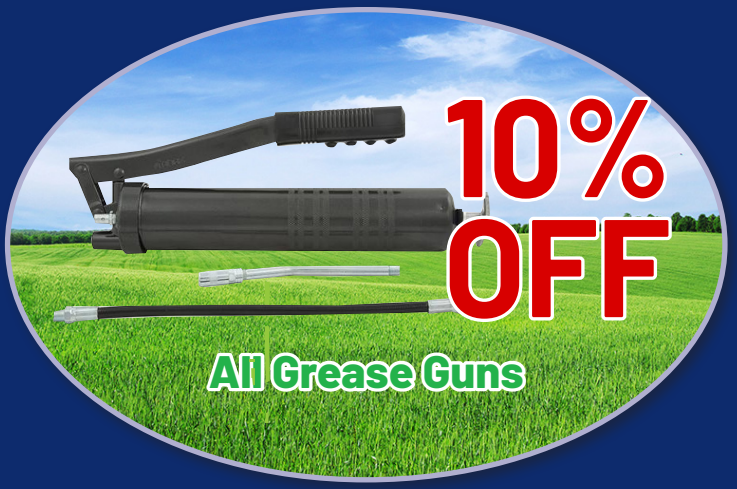
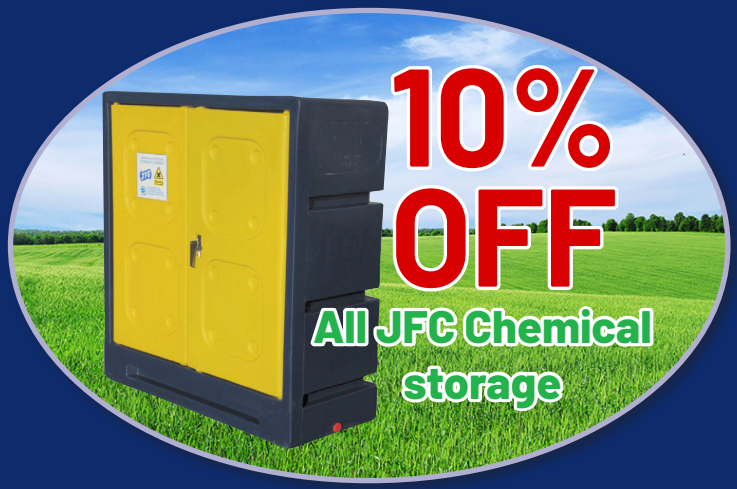
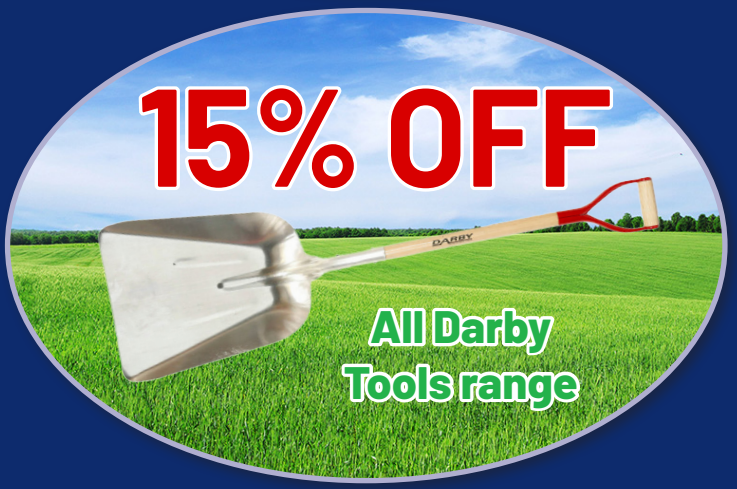
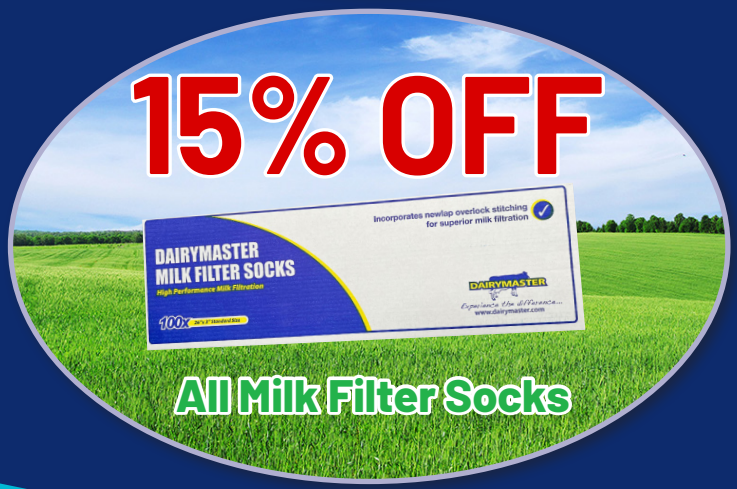
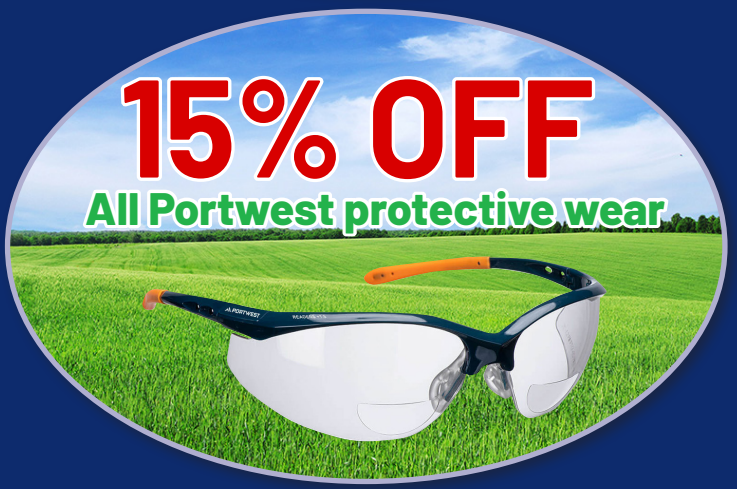












www.arrabawnstores.ie

Getting Setup for the Autumn

by Andrew O'Neill - Farm Relations Advisor

As we move into late August, the main aim on the farm is build enough grass to feed your herd through the Autumn. It has been a good grass growing year and this has helped the average Arrabawn Tipperary Co-op milk supplier produce 20kgs of solids per cow more than last year so far.

Following the Autumn grass targets in Table.1 developed by Teagasc, it will help in your decision making this Autumn. These targets have been designed to help build covers into the Autumn as it is important that the rotation length is extended to about 28-30 days by the 1st September.

September

On many farms reseeded ground and silage ground is brought back into the rotation by now and this will be reach your rotation length target. If you haven't scanned yet now is the time to scan to get accurate data for drying off later on in the year. Scanning can be done 40 days after the last serve. If you are struggling to build covers then you might be able to reduce your stocking rate by selling empty or cull cows as they are very valuable stock at the moment. Increasing concentrate levels from September can also help build covers and help hold milk volume for a more prolonged period into the Autumn. September is always a good month to get your silage tested so you can plan for the Winter in time regarding mineral supplementation and use higher DMD silage for milkers in late lactation and target lower DMD silage for the dry period.

October

It is important this month to get 60%-70% of the farm grazed so you have a cover of grass for next Spring. It is best to start closing paddocks from 10th October on drier farms and early October on heavy farms. The aim this month is get good graze outs <4.5cms whilst also maximising milk solids output. On heavier farms ground conditions have been very favourable this year but it is still important to target paddocks with good roadway access to close first so there is grass available for next Spring if the weather allows. Maintaining milk yields can struggle this month as the dry matter in grass can drop, so having high DMD silage available at the barrier at milking time or feeding concentrates to help to top up DM intake will help maintain performance.

November

Lactose levels in milk is the priority in November with cows coming to the end of their lactation. It's important that lactose levels don't drop below 4.25%. It is important that 60%-70% of the farm is grazed now and that the remaining will be grazed before stock are housed fulltime. Paddocks that have high levels of clover or paddocks that were reseeded recently are best to grazed in November as it will promote light down into the sward for the Winter and into the Spring which will help with the fixation of nitrogen. Some paddocks that you may have being disappointed with graze outs earlier that have been closed, now is the time to assess how much grass you have on the farm, as dry cows may be able to graze these off better before being housed. I understand that weather plays a bit part of grazing at this time of the year but it may an option worth considering. It is important that you have a closing cover of between 700kgs-800kgs depending on stocking rate.

Table 1: Autumn grazing targets

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1st August	180	450	20 Days
Mid August	200	500	25 Days
1st September	300	750	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1st August	180	550	20 Days
Mid August	250	750	25 Days
1st September	330	990	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
1st August	190	665	20 Days
Mid August	220	770	25 Days
1st September	280	980	30 Days

Table 2: Timing for Spreading of Lime with Slurry and Chemical N Fertilisers

First Application	Second Application	Time Between 1st and 2nd Application
Lime	Urea	Avoid Urea for 3-6 Months
Lime	Protected Urea	No Issue
Lime	CAN	No Issue
Lime	Slurry	3-6 months (if concerned about N uptake from Slurry)
Urea	Lime	1 Week
CAN	Lime	No Issue
Slurry	Lime	1 Week
Slurry	Any N Fertiliser (e.g. Urea, Protected Urea, CAN or Compound)	1 Week
Any N Fertiliser (e.g. Urea, CAN or Compound	Slurry	1 Week

Potassium and Lime

There has been a lot of surplus bales taken off milking platforms this year. For every 5 bales/acre harvested it will remove about 50 units or 1 bag/acre of Muriate Potash. It is important to help restore this offtake. If you have not replaced this K offtake it might be an opportunity to get muriate potash out this Autumn and target these paddocks and silage ground. K can also be spread at any time of the year and is not regulated like Nitrogen and Phosphorus.

Adequate lime is also vital for achieving optimum soil fertility, lime will help with the efficient uptake of P and K in the soil. For every 1kg of nitrogen spread you need 2kg of lime as chemical N is acidic. This said it one of the cheapest fertilisers to spread. I would advise to spread lime target lower pH soils/paddocks. Please see the table below if you are worried about spreading lime when slurry or chemical N has been applied also.

NEWS

Managing SCC in Autumn

By Clare Clabby – Farm Relations Advisor

- Maintain tank SCC – while SCC can increase towards the end of the lactation as milk yield reduces, it is important to stay vigilant and investigate any sudden increases in SCC at this time of year. An increase in SCC indicates the spread of subclinical mastitis throughout the herd.
- Use your milk recording information – the majority of herds milk recording will be completing their 3rd milk recording of the lactation in the next 4 to 6 weeks. Identify cows that have consistently high SCC (over 200,000 cels/mL) and cows that may be fluctuating from low SCC to high SCC across milk recordings.
- Prevent the spread - These high SCC cows, mentioned above, can act as reservoirs of infection and contribute to the spread of infection throughout the herd. If possible, milk high SCC cows at the end of milking to present the cluster spreading infection to the next cow. Where this may not be possible, an alternative solution is to disinfect the cluster after milking a high SCC cow using peracetic acid dip. When using a dip it is important to keep dip changed regularly, otherwise it is only contributing to further spread of infection. It is worth noting that milkers hands can also contribute to the spread of infections and disinfecting gloves after drawing milk from high SCC cows can help prevent spreading infections to other cows in the herd.
- Chronically infected cows ie. Cows dried off last winter with antibiotic dry cow tubes, treated a number of times during the lactation and consistently above 200,00cells/mL should be considered for culling.
- Clean environment – as we come into the back end of the year where buffer feeding around milking might occur, maintaining hygiene in these areas helps to prevent new infections from occurring. Keep areas cleaned down and if cows have access to cubicles its recommended to keep cubicles cleaned and limed as if cows were housed.

Joining the National Genotyping Programme (NGP) saved me €7000

Now in her second year of NGP, and having become familiar with the process, Mella says that "it is a bit extra [work], but for me, its worth it"

Mella Briscoe runs a 360 cow dairy farm with her husband Kevin Muldoon and their two sons Jack and Naise near Portumna in County Galway. Focusing on efficiency, Mella prefers a more compact cow to keep inputs down with the ultimate goal to feed under 800Kg of meal per cow per year. Last year the herd averaged 495Kg of milk solids with 1,200Kg of meal but Mella feels this can be improved, in particular, the herds average protein percentage. With these goals in mind, Mella now prioritises the milk sub-index of her selected dairy sires with special focus on protein percentage, and tries to only select sires with a maintenance sub-index of €15.

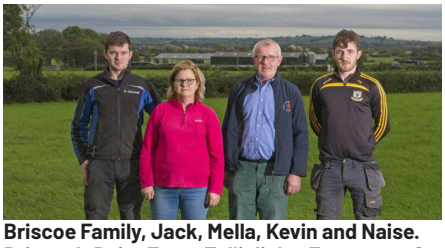
All this comes on the back of significant effort and progress in improving the herds fertility. When deciding which 30% of cows will receive dairy AI straws, fertility is always front and centre. "Any cow that calves every year, that is calving one serve every year has to get serious consideration." Mella explains. "She may not be not the top performer [on milk] but if you cross her to a good [milk] bull, she has the fertility to go with it."

Tackling fertility head on has seen the herd's six week calving percentage improve rapidly from 67% in 2021 to 89% in 2025. The impact on milk production was immediate. "Fertility drives production. That absolutely was shown to be true here." says Mella. "When we fixed it in 2022, the burst of milk into the tank, it explained it all very easily". Having gotten the herd to where they want in terms of fertility, Mella is now free to put more focus onto their other priorities of milk protein and maintenance.

Mella admits that she loves analysing data "more than a normal person". Long nights during calving season provide her with the perfect opportunity to go through her HerdPlus Dairy Cow Report in forensic detail, and, once she is finished choosing which cows will get dairy AI, she will run sire advice several times to make sure she is satisfied with the balance of her chosen team of sires, before finally sending it off to her AI technician. Sexed Semen is used on the best 80% of heifers each year based on their Genomic Evaluations.

Mella puts similar care into choosing her beef sires, using the DBI and beef sub-index along with all important calving difficulty. Aubrac bulls are Mellas preference for remainder of her heifers as she says in the past they have given her a good mixed of easy calving and performance. Having tried many different breeds, Mella has settled on mostly Hereford sires for the remainder of the cows, citing a combination of easy calving, easy rearing and consistency for her decision.

Given her great use of data, genotyping and the National Genotyping Programme were a natural fit for Mella. On the back of a bumper year for milk price in 2022, Mella had considered re-investing in the herd by genotyping all their females. She held off for year, and then took the opportunity to get her whole herd genotyped through NGP instead, a decision which saved her over €7,000 in genotyping costs.



Briscoe Family, Jack, Mella, Kevin and Naise. Briscoe's Dairy Farm, Tullinlicky, Eyrecourt, Co Galway. ***Photograph by David Ruffles***

Mella loves the extra data she gets from genotyping her calves through NGP, and how much more reliable her data is knowing that any parentage errors are found and resolved and having genomic evaluations on her calves at such a young age.

Although initially sceptical, Mella even sees a great benefit in having her beef calves genotyped as it re-assures her that the correct sire is recorded, not always a simple task with multiple stock-bulls of different breeds, and allows her to assess which bulls worked the hardest over the season and which produced the best quality calves.

Now in her second year of NGP, and having become familiar with the process, Mella says that "it is a bit extra [work], but for me, its worth it"

NEWS

Top 5 Tips for TBC and Thermoduric control this August

- **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.

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.