Arrabawn TIPPERARY

Together we grow

SEPTEMBER 2025 - Issue 8

NEWSLETTER

Minister Heydon visits Arrabawn Tipperary

Edward Carr (Arrabawn Tipperary Chairman), Conor Ryan (Arrabawn Tipperary CEO), Martin Heydon (Minister for Agriculture), Michael Murphy (Fine Gael TD), John Hunter (Arrabawn Tipperary General Manager – Tipperary)

Conor Ryan, Michael Murphy, Martin Heydon, Edward Carr

Martin Heydon and John Hunster

Meet the Arrabawn Tipperary Farm Advisory Team

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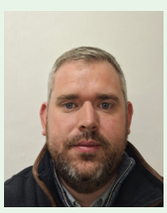

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Arrabawn Tipperary Milk Quality Award Winner 2024

Andrew Hogan, of Borrisokane, County Tipperary is the winner of the Arrabawn Tipperary overall Milk Quality award for 2024.

Andrew, who farms at Mountfalcon, just outside Borrisokane in North Tipperary runs a dairy and beef enterprise on 165 acres. This is Andrews's fifth year milking cows; he was a new entrant to dairying in early 2021.

Andrew has produced the highest quality milk since the beginning with having won AHI Cell Check awards in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Andrew was also the overall SCC winner in the 2023 Arrabawn Co Op milk quality awards.

Andrew runs a 14-unit Dairymaster milking parlour to milk 103 cows twice daily. The cows are milked at 7am and 4pm daily.

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

Andrew's herd produced 550,251 litres at 4.40% Fat and 3.56% Protein in 2024. Average milk solids per cow sold to Arrabawn Tipperary in 2024 was 446kg MS/cow.

The quality of milk produced on this farm is of excellent quality. The average SCC in 2024 was 51,000 using 20% selective dry cow therapy (SDCT). The average TBC was 7,000.

Ensuring excellent milk quality on this farm is guaranteed by giving careful attention ensuring a stress-free environment for the cows, alongside meticulous care around cow teat preparation and post-milking sterilisation. Andrew milk records the herd 4 times a year, which provides the information necessary to make informed decisions around both treatment during lactation and selective dry cow therapy.

The milking parlour is hot washed every second day. The hot wash is circulated for 10 mins at 75 degrees. Peracetic acid is applied in the final rinse.

The carbon footprint on this farm is 0.78 CO2 Eq. FPCM which is in the top 10% in Arrabawn Tipperary. The proportion of nitrogen spread in a protected format is 100%.

Arrabawn Tipperary would like to congratulate Andrew and his family on being awarded the Arrabawn Tipperary overall Milk Quality winner for 2024.

Key stats:

Cow numbers	103
Herd EBI	243
Milk Supply (ltrs)	555,251
Concentrates kg / cow	980
Milk solids kg / cow	446
Fat % (weighted)	4.4
Protein % (weighted)	3.56
Milking units	14
TBC ('000 weighted)	7
SCC ('000 weighted)	14
Proportion of herd using selective dry cow	20%
Proportion of nitrogen protected urea used	100%
Grass measures per year	40
Carbon footprint	0.78

SEPTEMBER
SPECIAL OFFERS

SPECIALS

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Genocells Launches Autumn Special Offer

In April 2025, Munster Bovine and Progressive Genetics in association with ICBF launched the ground-breaking Genocells technology exclusively to the Irish market. Genocells allows dairy farmers to determine individual cow somatic cell counts using a single bulk tank milk sample.

This autumn, Munster Bovine is delighted to announce a **Special Offer** for dairy farmers: Genocells testing at just €2.00 per cow, reduced from the usual €3.00. This limited-time promotion (valid until 1st December 2025) is the perfect opportunity for herds already milk recording to experience the benefits of Genocells at the future pricing model is very uncertain so I would play down the unbeatable and shoot for a great price.

To avail of the offer, simply call **022 43228** and book your test today.

The value of Genocells has already been proven in trials with Irish farmers. Conor O'Brien, a dairy farmer from Loughrea, Co. Galway, was one of 85 herds involved in a Genocells pilot programme. "Genocells is very simple, very straightforward. You just take a sample from the bulk tank, agitate it, post it away, and the information you get back is invaluable," Conor explained. Conor now plans to integrate Genocells into his testing schedule, giving him greater confidence when making herd health decisions.

Genocells works by extracting DNA from somatic cells in the milk and comparing it with the genotypes of cows contributing to the bulk tank. Because somatic cells are the only milk components containing DNA, this process calculates each cow's "percentage cellular responsibility." Combining this with milk yields and bulk tank SCC results allows Genocells to estimate individual SCCs without the need for individual sampling.

This extra layer of data equips farmers with more information points during the year, especially when approaching Selective Dry Cow Therapy. By identifying high-risk cows before dry-off, Genocells supports better decision-making on treatments and long-term cow retention.

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To wbenefit from Genocells, herds must meet a few requirements:

- All cows must be genotyped to ensure accuracy.
- Herds must be members of ICBF HerdPlus and use the free HerdPlus app.
- Farmers must complete four milk recordings annually, with the first recording finished before a Genocells test can take place.

Genocells has also been named a finalist in the Innovation Arena at this year's National Ploughing Championships. This prestigious competition highlights cutting-edge technologies that are driving Irish agriculture forward, and Genocells is proud to stand alongside the best in the sector.

Don't miss out on the chance to try Genocells this autumn at the special price of €2.00 per cow. Contact the team today on **022 43228** and discover how Genocells can help make more informed SCC decisions for your herd.

Now is the time to milk record

As lactation moves towards the Winter phase, it is a good time to consider milk recording your cows over the coming months. To date,1.12 million cows have been recorded, an increase of 1.1% since 2024. Milk recording can be done manually with an operator in the parlour, or DIY, in consultation with your nominated milk recording organisation. Milk recording of your cows has many advantages such as the early detection of animal health issues and treatment effectiveness, identification of high performing cows and improving milk quality in your herd. The generation of milk management reports from your milk recordings provides tracking and analysis of milk production data for your cows and allows you to make informed decisions on your management practices for your herd.

The key reasons to record cows in the management of milk at this time of year are:

1. Track high Somatic Cell Count (SCC>=200,000 cells/ml) cows during late lactation.

Any cow with an SCC of 200,000 or more may have subclinical mastitis requiring immediate attention. The identification of the infected quarter(s) in these cows using the California Milk Test enabling informed decision making ie. to treat, carry out culture and susceptibility testing or early drying off, was the most frequent advice given during the TASAH-funded Cell Count Solution consults during 2024.

2. Analyse the possible spread of infection in your herd.

The tracking of SCC during lactation allows you to look at herd level trends in spread. In consultation with your advisor/veterinary practitioner, you can examine spread by lactation number, days in milk or calving dates of your cows. Spread of infection from cow to cow at this time of year can originate from the parlour during milking.

3. Targeted treatment at drying off, selectively reducing the use of antibiotics

The AHI Dry Cow Strategy for dairy farmers outlines several mastitis control decisions before drying off. A milk recording taking place 4- 6 weeks before drying off is one of the main pieces of information at individual animal level that is needed for an optimal drying off approach. The examination of each cow's SCC along with her clinical history will allow you to consider prudent use of antibiotics at drying off. This depends on an acceptable level of risk, biosecurity arrangements and key achievements that you want for your herd.

Arrabawn Tipperary Online Services & Mobile Phone App

- **MILKEDIN (mobile phone app)**
- **Arrabawn Tipperary Online (web version)**

Download the **MILKEDIN** app from the App store or Play store.

- Milk Statements available on the 18th of each month
- Up to date milk data – volume, milk quality, financials etc.
- Compare and contrast pervious months, years
- Same username and password for both the app and online services.
- Contact your farm relations advisor for the log in details.

NEWS

Every Step Counts

THE SIGNPOST PROGRAMME

Liam Quinn

Lameness is a significant health and welfare issue in Irish dairy herds impacting, production, profitability and overall farm sustainability. Autumn is a highest risk period for lameness, so it is important to be alert especially if there is a history of lameness on farm.

A recent Teagasc study has found that approximately 1 in 10 Irish dairy cows are lame at any one time, with this increasing to 30% in some herds. The study also found that the top 20% of Irish herds achieved a lameness level of below 5%.

Causes

Lameness can originate from non-infectious causes such as foot abscesses, sole ulcers, sole bruising and white line disease. Factors that cause these cases include poor cubicle design, uneven roadways, body condition loss around calving, long walking distances and high stocking rates.

Lameness can also be caused by infectious lesions such as foul-in-the-foot, digital dermatitis (Mortellaro) and slurry heal, that are largely caused by wet and dirty environments in housing or poor roadways.

Impact

Lameness can have a large impact at farm level. From an animal welfare perspective, cows affected by lameness are restricted in their ability to access feed and water. This then leads to condition loss, lower levels of milk production and issues with fertility. Research has shown that each incidence of lameness can cost up to €300. Lame cows have a shorter lifetime on farm resulting in lower lifetime production and higher replacement rates having a negative impact on carbon footprint.

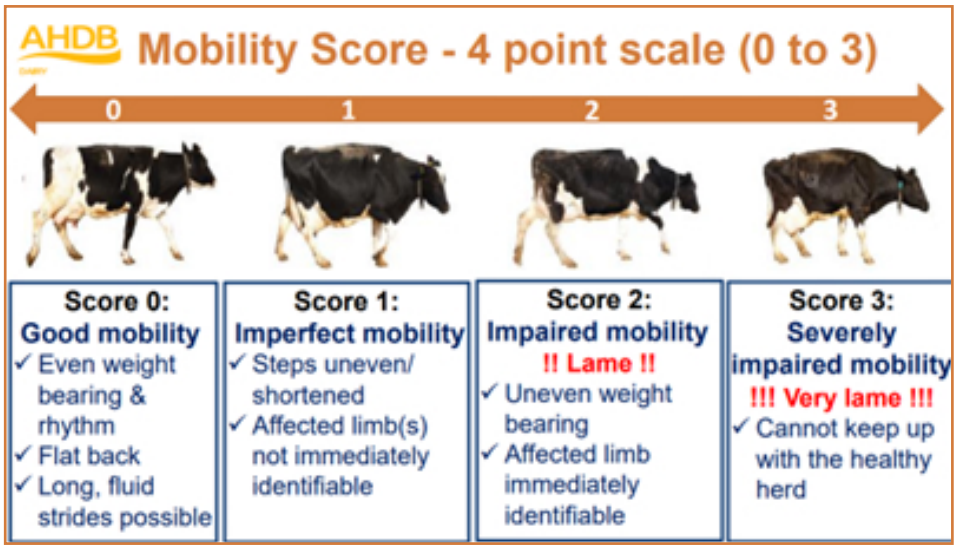


Figure 1: AHDB Mobility Score

Mobility Scoring

Mobility scoring is important in identifying how many cows in the herd are lame at any one time. The AHDB Mobility Score (Fig 1) is a tool that can be used to support decision making on lameness. This should be complete regularly as part of a lameness control plan.

Early intervention is important when it comes to lameness.

Treated incidences of lameness should be recorded to identify repeated cases.

Steps to reduce Lameness.

1. Improved infrastructure
2. Hoof care/ Foot trimming
3. Nutrition
4. Foot bathing

Summary

Lameness on dairy farms requires a combined approach of prevention and early detection. Now is a good time to asses the infrastructure on farm to avoid issues with lameness. A lameness management plan will improve animal welfare, reduce financial lossses and can reduce antimicrobial use on farm.

Water Quality Update from The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The report, which was published on Thursday, August 7th, includes three key updates:

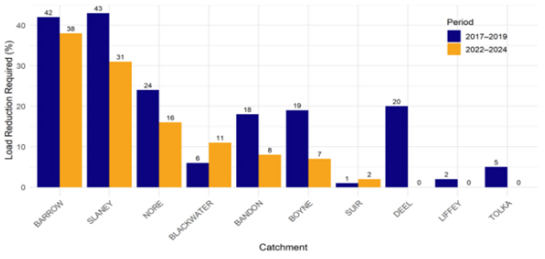
- The scale of nitrogen load has reduced in the catchments in the south-eastern half of the country; however, nitrogen levels remain too high.
- A new map has been created called the Farm and Landscape Measures for Agriculture (FLAG) map. This was previously called the Targeting Agricultural Measures map.
- An extension of the datasets of catchment nitrogen concentrations and catchment nitrogen load reductions needed, for the period 1990-2024. This provides a wider context for current levels.

The latest EPA report (2024) states that while nitrogen levels declined, they remain excessively high in catchments across the south-east in particular.

The report shows progress in nitrogen reduction across several areas, with most catchments now closer to their targets than in the 2017-2019 period. However, levels still fall short of those seen between 2008 and 2011, the closest to ecological targets in the past 35 years.

The EPA map to help identify where these highest risk areas are, and the types of actions that are needed, has also been updated. This map is now called the Farm and Landscape measures for Agriculture (FLAG) map.

Nitrogen load reductions required (%) to achieve environmental objectives in the estuaries. Source: EPA



This graph represents a major achievement in water quality improvement efforts, particularly given the challenges associated with reducing nitrogen levels in freely draining agricultural catchments. It highlights the effectiveness of targeted measures and sustained action in high-risk areas.

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