



Inaugural AGM of ArraTipp

The inaugural AGM of ArraTipp will take place on **24th April 2026 at 11am in the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary**. It will be followed by an SGM, to seek approval on rules changes. We look forward to seeing as many shareholders as possible in attendance.

Grass 10 Grassland Management

John Maher, Teagasc Moorepark



Understandably, grazing is behind target on most farms. As the weather picks up, a more measured approach to grazing the 1st rotation will be necessary to ensure adequate grass supply is available for the 2nd rotation.

Historical growth rates suggest that the first rotation will need to be measured out for 40-45 days to allow for the 1st grazed paddocks to have adequate grass (1100-1200 KG DM/ha min) to start the 2nd rotation.

Farmers should, as soon as possible;

- Walk their farms to establish the level of grass available (many farms are tight on silage or quality silage)

Identify the paddocks that are suitable to get grazing in

- o Driest fields
- o Multiple access points
- o 'Medium' covers approximately 800-1100kg DM/ha to encourage good graze outs and retain quality when graze outs aren't achieved
- o Avoid long narrow paddocks where stock will walk a lot of grass into the ground

The Pasturebase figure Ireland figures demonstrate about 50% of farms have lost of grass and 50% are behind where they should be on grass supply. The key here though is to get grazing and budget/plan the grazing area out. Walking the farm would be a good thing to do to help plan this.

Second rotation

Starting the 2nd rotation is always a tricky time. The 2nd rotation should begin when the grass is almost right for grazing i.e.

1100 – 1300kg DM/ha. It is important to walk the farm and keep an eye on the first 4 paddocks that were grazed this spring. By watching what is happening in terms of growth on these paddocks will determine whether you will speed up or slow down grazing of the paddocks at the end of the first round in April. For those who measure grass, try to target a cover of about 180-200 kgDM/cow on the farm at the start of the 2nd round of grazing. Irrespective of stocking rate, the farm cover cannot fall below an AFC of 600kg DM/ha. A target stocking rate of 3.75 cows per ha multiplied by 180 per cow = 675 kg/ha AFC.

Nitrogen (N) targets

The target for most dry farms is to have 80-85 units N/acre (100-110 kg N/ha) applied by early May through a combination of slurry and fertiliser application. If no slurry or fertiliser was applied in February/early March, which was typical of many farms or later/heavier farms, this figure is closer to 60-65 units N/acre or 80-85 kg N/ha applied by early May. Sulphur (S) application with fertiliser should start also. The target N application for ungrazed silage ground is 85 units N/acre with 10-12 units of S applied per acre also. Later/heavier cuts will require more Nitrogen.

This month will be busy playing catch-up on fertiliser application, closing the silage ground etc. Application of fertiliser with Sulphur (S) will help with boost Nitrogen use. This is particularly true of silage ground. If slurry is not already applied to some paddocks on the grazing platform, applying an N-P-K plus S compound will benefit paddocks with low soil index and will all so help damaged swards. Try to graze damaged swards in better weather and avoid rolling grazing paddocks

as it does more harm than good!

Clean out Month after difficult early spring!

April is also the clean-out month. Grass will start turning reproductive from late April/early May. Getting the sward cleaned before this process starts is important. Some paddocks were under-grazed this spring due to some poor grazing conditions. April is the opportunity to correct this. This task is made easier by entering the right cover of grass and by starting the second rotation on time. There is also the temptation to focus on maximising cow performance and not to ask the herd to graze swards out well. This approach will result in a poorer quality sward in the mid-season and the very small benefit in yield achieved in April will result in much poorer cow performance in the mid-season.

It is critical that cows have access to enough grass and eat top quality grass (1.05-1.1 UFL) every day to ensure that level of herd performance is reached. This means that the cows must enter covers of about 1300-1400 kg DM/ha every day from mid-April on.

Reseeding

New grass (with clover) should be in the plan for most this year. The level of reseeded has fallen off over the last few years due to poor weather and farms tight on grass supply. Reseeding enables the herd to get more grass into the diet particularly at the start and end of the grazing season. This has had a huge positive effect on the level of grass grown on the farms. It has also enabled increases in the level of milk solids production on the farms and in particular the milk protein content. Reseeds also have the highest response to fertiliser N.

Tips for a Successful Breeding Season

A successful breeding season is a key driver of profitability in a seasonal calving dairy herd. Good preparation and informed breeding decisions can significantly improve reproductive outcomes. The following article outlines practical steps herdowners can take to maximise herd fertility and long-term performance.

The goals of the breeding season are:

- **To maximise the number of cows in calf** by the end of the breeding season. One of the biggest drivers of milk production within a herd is cow survival and herd maturity.
- **To breed enough high EBI replacement heifers that are suitable for your farming system.** These replacements should be born early in spring to allow them ample time to reach their target weights.
- **To increase the value of beef calves produced** by using high genetic merit dairy beef bulls that are easy calving with an acceptable gestation length.

Here are some tips to allow you to achieve these targets:

Pre-Breeding Preparation:

- **BCS:** The aim is for cows to have a BCS of 2.75 or greater at breeding. If there are cows that are not hitting this target, either provide additional feeding or milk them once a day. By milking these cows once a day and feeding them twice, you will reduce their energy demand while increasing their energy consumption, thus allowing them to gain body condition faster. Keep an eye on your bulk tank in early lactation, as any drop in yield or protein % can indicate an issue with negative energy balance.
- **Pre-breeding heat detection:** Heat detection should begin 3 to 4 weeks before the start of the breeding season. Record any cows seen in heat. Once you have heat detected for a full cycle of 24 days, identify any non-bullers. These are cows that are calved >35 days but were not seen in heat. These cows should be checked before the breeding season as they may require some treatment to bring them bulling.

• **Herd Health:** Aim to keep your cows as healthy and stress-free as possible during the breeding season. Ensure your herd vaccination programme is up to date and treat any lame cows now.

Problem Cows:

Problem cows should be identified early and assessed before the breeding season. Problem cows are any cows that have had a setback either

• at calving e.g. difficult calving, twin births, retained afterbirths

• since calving e.g. milk fever, ketosis, LDA, mastitis, lameness etc.

Late calvers and cows that are calved greater 35 days and not seen in heat should also be included in this group.

These problem cows should be vet checked and treated as necessary prior to the breeding season.

This gives them the best chance of going back in calf and being retained in the herd.

Breeding Plans:

Cow Selection:

93% of herds in the top 20% for EBI, milk production and fertility are milk recording versus 64% of herds with an average EBI – this is not a coincidence.

When choosing which animals to breed replacements from, milk recording results are a critical tool for making informed decisions.

The Milk Recording Lifetime Summary Report ranks cows within your herd based on profitability and performance. This ranking allows herdowners to make effective breeding decisions.

Cows in the bottom 20% of the herd are highlighted in red. These are your least profitable animals and should be bred to beef.

Cows in the top 20% of your herd are highlighted in green.

These cows should, where possible, be prioritised for breeding replacement heifers.

Additional replacements can be bred from the highest-ranking cows within the middle 60% of the herd.

Sexed Semen:

Sexed semen is a more fragile product than conventional semen, so we need to be even more selective when choosing candidates for sexed semen straws.

The following are some tips:

- Choose animals that are performing well in the herd and have a high genetic merit.

• Heifers and younger cows (< 5th lactation) have the highest conception rates to sexed semen.

• Cows should be calved > 50 days and not have had any setback – record keeping is essential here.

Any cow that had twins, difficult calvings or any sickness after calving should not receive sexed semen.

• Animals should be cycling regularly.

• Cows should be in good body condition and heifers should have reached their target weights.

• Ensure animals are on a good plane of nutrition and that the diet is consistent in the lead up to breeding.

MARCH SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

SPECIALS



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OFF
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FENCERS**



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Battery Type c/w Batt**

**WAS: €179.00
NOW: €149.00**



**Forcefield
Polywire 9
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**20%
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Fence Posts 10 Pack**

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€19.95
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Mosquito Fencer**

**WAS
€179.00
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3rd Lactation+ Cow Performance Group (54 3rd Lactation+ Animals Ranked)



Jumbo	Name	Sire	Calving Date	Lact	Days In Milk	Prod SI (€)	Fert SI (€)	Test Day					Current Lactation to Date (LTD)				Milk Recorded Lifetime (Life)				Group Rank
								Current Test Milk (Kg)	Current Test Fat (%)	Current Test Protein (%)	Current Test Fat + Protein (Kg)	Current Test Lactose (%)	Current Test SCC '000	SCC Lact Status	LTD Milk (Kg)	LTD Fat + Protein (Kg)	LTD Margin Per Day (€)	Life Fat + Protein (Kg)	Avg Days Dry Per Lact	Life Total Days	
1180	HO (69%), FR (16%)	DSU	06/06/2025	11	71	41	76	21.0	4.05	3.27	1.54	4.33	2460	1806	124	4.03	4519	103	3840	2.29	22
1447	HO (91%), FR (6%)	FYK	02/04/2025	8	136	53	127	22.5	3.72	3.38	1.60	4.57	132	3646	255	5.07	2995	96	2734	1.97	2
1454	HO (81%), FR (16%)	LWR	17/02/2025	8	180	48	115	27.0	3.01	3.48	1.75	4.50	77	5699	382	6.49	3373	80	2740	2.64	2
1474	FR (50%), HO (47%)	SB1300	09/04/2025	8	129	-30	133	22.0	4.76	3.52	1.82	4.44	19	2554	194	3.36	2247	115	2657	0.82	49
1494	HO (53%), FR (47%)	SB1300	29/04/2025	8	109	-13	54	16.0	3.86	3.32	1.15	4.68	505	2268	180	3.86	2421	127	2735	1.04	13
1519	HO (91%), FR (9%)	FR2032	08/04/2025	7	130	78	67	15.0	4.51	4.00	1.28	4.80	177	2579	215	4.05	2611	94	2365	2.03	19
1530	HO (81%), FR (9%)	FR2032	20/05/2025	7	88	63	95	21.0	4.17	3.16	1.54	4.71	42	2243	159	4.48	2576	131	2373	2.00	1
1532	HO (75%), FR (22%)	FR2056	12/02/2025	7	185	80	100	19.0	4.16	3.72	1.50	4.34	219	4711	367	5.75	3097	65	2371	2.84	53
1535	HO (100%)	HZB	06/06/2025	7	71	17	23	22.0	3.42	3.07	1.43	4.39	667	1074	73	0.87	1987	125	2381	0.84	3
1537	HO (78%), FR (13%)	PCZ	28/02/2025	7	169	59	94	22.0	4.21	3.30	1.65	4.72	31	4791	349	5.96	2922	92	2353	2.59	12
1619	HO (59%), FR (34%)	FR2298	19/02/2025	6	178	34	140	20.0	3.35	3.61	1.39	4.58	23	4436	316	4.88	2255	94	2003	2.15	14
1625	HO (69%), FR (25%)	PBM	12/03/2025	6	157	64	85	18.0	3.21	3.08	1.13	4.43	17	3206	204	2.41	2201	93	1992	2.03	27
1627	HO (84%), FR (16%)	LWR	19/03/2025	6	150	44	90	26.0	3.04	3.50	1.70	4.49	115	4889	326	6.57	2131	129	2013	1.92	26
1637	HO (88%), FR (9%)	FR2031	26/02/2025	6	171	41	120	20.5	2.70	3.35	1.24	4.70	23	4187	265	3.74	2177	88	1998	1.93	31
1638	HO (84%), FR (16%)	FR4020	21/02/2025	6	176	51	116	22.0	3.43	3.33	1.49	4.24	69	4531	295	4.29	2173	106	2014	1.85	23
1639	HO (84%), FR (9%)	FR4019	01/03/2025	6	168	13	78	27.0	3.57	3.34	1.87	4.67	13	5180	369	6.51	2191	100	1991	1.96	15
1640	HO (81%), FR (13%)	LWR	25/02/2025	6	172	54	103	16.0	3.22	3.70	1.11	4.64	1796	3880	255	3.55	2186	84	2000	2.01	16
1660	HO (88%), FR (3%)	FR2297	28/03/2025	6	141	61	48	21.0	3.73	3.52	1.52	4.59	118	3727	261	5.04	2161	98	1963	2.01	16

Top 20%

Bottom 20%

Accurate timing is critical for sexed semen – guideline is 12 to 20 hours after the start of standing heat.

Sexed semen will not survive as long in the cow as conventional – avoid inseminating cows that are too fresh. Signs of heat need to be gone off the cow.

• Sexed semen will work later in the heat than conventional – sexed semen has already gone through the process of capacitation during the sexing process,

which means the sperm cells are ready to fertilize. This process takes 8 to 10 hours and takes place in the cow for conventional semen.



Bull Selection:

When choosing bulls to breed replacement heifers, look at the cow EBI report especially the subindex figures, and focus on areas that need improvement before selecting bulls. Use a team of bulls – **no bull should be used on more than 20% of the cows.**

This is to mitigate the risk of:

1. The genetic value of the bull falling and ending up with too many replacement heifers from this bull.
2. Fertility – despite rigorous controls and lab testing, the field fertility of bulls can drop from time to time. Using beef AI at start of the breeding season will allow you to generate dairy replacements from your best females and allow you to produce high quality beef calves, improving the overall value of your calf crop.



Calf Fundraiser

Fundraising for North Tipperary Hospice

24th of March 2026
11am Start
Nenagh Mart



Interested in donating a calf?

Contact List:

- Charlene Powell: 083 0545775
- Bill Gleeson: 087 1170399
- Sean Kelly: 087 6199353

Nenagh Macra are running our calf auction again this year off the back of last year's massive success where we raised €10,000 for Embrace Farms. We are running the fundraiser this year and for a charity close to us all. The charity of choice this year is North Tipp Hospice. If anyone has an interest in supporting by donating a calf for this year's chosen charity please let us know, by contacting our social media or by contacting our Chairperson Charlene Powell on 0830545775 or Bill Gleeson on 0871170399 or Sean Kelly on 0876199353 Calf sale will be held in Nenagh Mart on the 24th of March at 11am.

Bluetongue:

Bluetongue is a viral disease that affects ruminants, including cattle and sheep. It is spread by biting midges. Transmission occurs when a midge feeds on the blood of an infected animal and subsequently bites an uninfected animal.

Temperature is a major factor in the transmission of Bluetongue. Temperatures of greater than 12-15 °C are required for the virus to replicate in the midges so the real risk period for transmission of Bluetongue is late Spring to Autumn.

Clinical signs of Bluetongue in cattle can include high temperature, reduced appetite, drop in milk yield, sores on the nose and inside the mouth, swelling of the face, lips and tongue, drooling, discharge from nose and eyes and lameness.

However, when looking ahead to the 2026 breeding season the greatest threat posed by Bluetongue is its effect on fertility. Bluetongue infection can result in early embryo deaths, abortions and the birth of full-term calves with severe brain deformities. We cannot predict how Bluetongue will spread amongst the national herd, but what we do know for certain is that vaccination is the only effective method of control.

Munster Bovine recently held a webinar on Bluetongue. For more information regarding Bluetongue, including Bluetongue vaccination, scan the QR code below which will bring you to Munster Bovine's YouTube channel where this webinar is available to watch back.



Make it a record year!

Recording all cases of clinical mastitis is essential. When it comes to measuring the success of drying off and the dry period, monitoring udder health performance during the year, or investigating a herd problem, details matter! Very often we rely on memory to provide these details.....but trying to recall those details in hindsight, often months later, is not easy. Keeping regular, simple records is the key—the more details you record, the more informed you will be.

Being able to look back and see when most cases occurred can be invaluable. For example, almost all cases of mastitis that occur in early lactation originate at drying off and/or during the dry period.

Having details such as the quarters affected and the dates of the mastitis, can also help us understand if “repeat offenders” are actually new cases of infection, or simply unsuccessful treatments.

Remember, recording the mastitis events on the ICBF system is another way to get even more value from your milk recording reports, as the “Clinical Mastitis” graph on the CellCheck Farm Summary report will then provide you with valuable information and direction!

How to record clinical mastitis:

- 1. ICBF Website:** Clinical cases can be recorded for all herds at www.ICBF.com The username is always your herd number and a password can be obtained by texting the word PASS to 089 457 7663 or by contacting the HerdPlus office on 023 882 0452.
- 2. HerdPlus Mobile App:** Clinical cases can easily be recorded via the HerdPlus App.
- 3. Text Message:** For no more than the price of a standard text message, you can record the information, from the parlour, as soon as you see a case. This service is available to all herds whose mobile is registered on the ICBF database.
 - To register your mobile number ring 1850-600-900.

Text the word MAST for a clinical case, followed by the JUMBO to 089 457 7663. E.g. Mast 627

· The case of mastitis will be recorded as having occurred on the date the text was sent, unless you specify otherwise e.g. Mast 627 18/01.

4. Farm Software: Clinical case dates can be recorded via Farm Software packages. Please ensure to send the file to ICBF on completion of recording.

Don't forget to record any treated cows on your whiteboard in the milking parlour so you and your milkers know which cows are now out of the tank!



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 ArraTipp 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

Updated & Improved Udder Guard

Udder Guard Super 8

Protect teat condition. Support udder health.

When teat skin is healthy, clean and supple, it's better able to cope with the daily challenges of milking, weather and slurry. A consistent teat disinfection routine is one of the simplest, most cost-effective steps to help reduce bacterial challenge at the teat end and support overall udder health.

Introducing Udder Guard Super 8

Udder Guard Super 8 is an 8000 ppm chlorhexidine di-gluconate based teat dip designed to provide reliable hygiene while also caring for teat skin. It combines strong disinfection support with a high emollient level, helping to maintain softness and flexibility—especially important during harsh weather, high yield periods, or when teats are under pressure.

Why choose Udder Guard Super 8?

- High-strength chlorhexidine support (8000 ppm) to help reduce bacterial challenge during milking.
- High emollient level to help keep teats conditioned and comfortable.
- Helps maintain supple teat skin, supporting a strong natural barrier.
- Ideal for herds looking for a robust, consistent milking routine.

Pack sizes to suit every set-up

Available in 20 litre, 200 litre, and 1000 litre pack sizes—whether you're topping up a small unit, stocking a busy yard, or buying in bulk for efficiency.

Udder Guard Super 8 – strong protection with added skin care.



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