



North Tipperary Agricultural Show

ArraTipp were delighted to be the main show sponsors of the North Tipperary Agricultural Show which occurred over the bank holiday weekend on Monday 3rd August.



From left: Ultan Nesbitt, Bernard Dunne, Kevin Hassett, Ciara Carr, Michael White and Michael Ryan



From left: Declan Lee (North Tipp Show Committee), Eamon O'Sullivan (Chief Executive Officer of ArraTipp), Brendan Murphy (Treasurer, North Tipp Show), Johnny Moylan (North Tipp Show Committee).



Tullamore Show

ArraTipp were pleased to return to the Tullamore Show as it celebrated 35 years. The sun was shining as 70,000 people attended Ireland's largest one-day show. There was over 700 Trade Stands on the day from Agri Sectors, Home Industries, Farm Produce, Innovation, Forestry, Agri Machinery and more. We look forward to attending next year!



From left: Bernard Dunne, Clare Clabby, Aishling Downes, Kelly Sammon



From left: Billy Dalton and Kieran Hughes from McGraths Limestone Work LTD

FEEDING THE COW IN PREPARATION FOR THE BACK END

With the natural slowdown in growth throughout July, accelerated by drought conditions with soil moisture deficits reaching -70mm. Maintaining grass supply has been difficult on farms across the country. To maintain production supplementing has been a key factor on farms. To prepare for the back end of the year building on autumn grass supply is important.

1. **Continue to walk the farm**

Keep up with weekly grass walks to stay informed and on top of what is happening in each paddock. Where average farm cover has dropped below target and growth rates are low action needs to happen fast. Paddocks that are brown at the base are not actively growing and should be targeted first for grazing. Paddocks that are green at the base should be identified and avoided. Increasing the rotation length to 25-30 days helps paddocks recover and avoids any sacrifice paddocks, these tend to drive up stomatic cell count in herds.

2. **Implementing Buffer feeding**

Where the average farm cover is dropping, buffer feeding should be implemented to maintain milk production. Where grass is scarce supplementing with good quality silage >72 DMD and concentrates will help maintain production. Feeding should be altered depending on grass and silage availability. If grass is available, the diet can consist of 1/3 grass, 1/3 silage and 1/3 concentrates. When grass begins to diminish silage should be increased. With concentrate feeding up to 6kg can be fed in the parlour, after this any extra concentrates should be fed at the feed barrier.

3. **Spreading fertiliser**

Spreading fertiliser where growth rates have dropped below 35kg DM/ha is not advised, plants do not take up fertiliser when growth is reduced, and any nutrients spread can be lost to the environment. Paddocks actively growing (>50 kg DM/ha) can receive some fertiliser or dairy washings. Paddocks on heavier land should be targeted. Fertiliser will be important in building covers for autumn grazing. After periods of drought going in too early with full rate fertiliser can lead to problems with nitrates poisoning or elevated urea levels. To reduce the risk fertiliser could be spread at reduced rates for the first round when grass is growing consistently. Having fertiliser in the yard and spreading in time can be vital to provide a third cut of silage where second cuts could have been scarce.

4. **Fodder budgeting**

Where second cuts of silage were zero grazed or returned to the rotation in the pinch for grass and silage was introduced early to the diet, available fodder in the yard can be scarce. To monitor this a fodder available budget should be done in PastureBase to assess current feed quantity and quality. If there is a shortage early actions around the stocking rate should be taken. Cull cows or low yielding cows could be removed from the milk platform. Where there is a shortage of silage on the farm feeds such as Soya hulls, Beet pulp, palm Kernal or maize should be considered to stretch silage supplies.

AUGUST

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS



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END OF
AUGUST.**

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Lameness Management

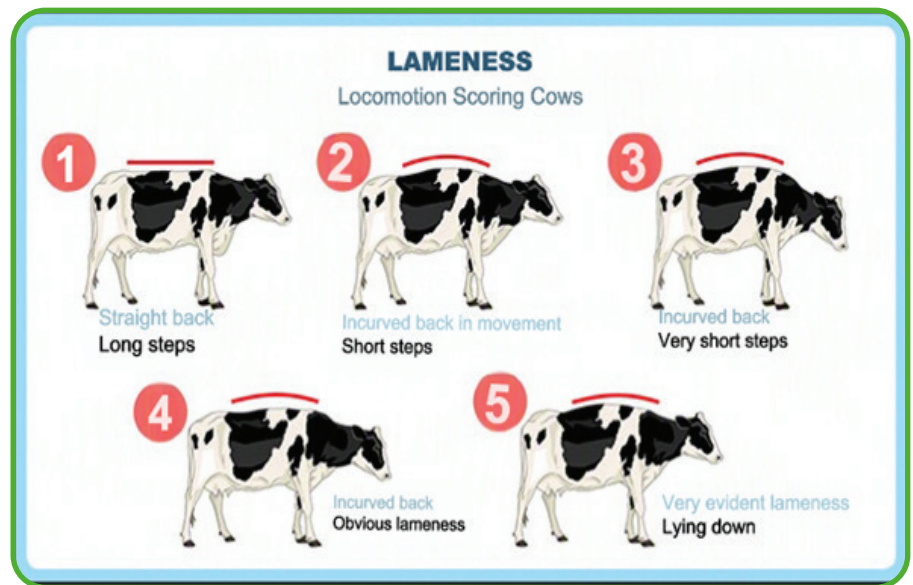
Lameness management becomes increasingly important coming into the Autumn months as cows progress through lactation. Where Lamé cows are not managed correctly economic losses present as reduced productivity, decreased body condition score, and high treatment costs. In 100 cow herd with a high prevalence of lameness, costs can accumulate to €8750 annually.

Lameness can be caused by several factors such as environment or management. Common problems that occur during the summer can include white line disease, sole bruising or more serious, sole ulcers. These are more common in the hind feet as they are more weight bearing. These conditions come about due to physical stress on the hoof such as moving cows under pressure, walking cows long distances daily or after wet weather. It is also more common in high input, higher output cows. As growth slows down and the length of the rotation increases it is important to rotate grazing paddocks further away from the yard with grazing closer paddocks.

Early detection is critical in treating cows that are lame. This can be done by locomotion scoring the herd 2-3 per year which is assessing the cow's posture and movements. The scoring system ranges from 0-5, with 0 indicating normal movements and 5 indicating severe lameness. Once the lame cows are identified early intervention is key to successful treatment. Identify the cause of lameness from assessing the hoof and treat accordingly. Every case of lameness should be recorded to identify trends. Cows that are lame in springtime are more likely to become lame again at the back end. Repeat offenders should be culled.

To get the most out of grazing in the back-end, cow roadways should not be forgotten about. Poor roadways can be the most common cause of lameness. Uneven stony surfaces can cause trauma such as bruising. Wet muddy surfaces cause softening of the hoof. Like finger nails the claw horn of a cow's hoof grows at 1mm per week. It should be worn down at the same rate, where wear is uneven imbalances occur and can increase the risk of lameness. After the main grazing season, the surface of the roadway should be assessed. Surfaces should be smooth, compacted and free from sharp stones. Avoiding traffic from heavy machinery on roadways will reduce debris and stone accumulation.

Good cow flow around the farm can also reduce the risks of lameness. As the cows leave the paddock roadways should have adequate space for cows to walk with their heads low to assess the ground before each step. Pushing cows with aggressive dogs or quads can force cows to walk on sharp objects such as stones. The use of batt latch systems is useful in allowing cows to come in for milking at their own pace. On entering the collecting yard, where there are concrete surfaces, they should be kept free from stones and grooving can be included where possible to avoid cows slipping in wet weather. Collecting yards should be of adequate size where a minimum of 1.5 sq. metres/cow is accounted for. As the cows exit the parlour rubber mats could be used on sharp turns to reduce stress on cows. To avoid holding the cows on concrete for long periods the cows should be let back to the paddock as soon as possible after milking.



Future Dairy

We are delighted to announce Future Dairy, a new collaboration between ArraTipp and Teagasc. Future Dairy is based on a Solahead Dairy Farm in West Tipperary consisting of 53 hectares of grassland and includes dairy facilities supporting 140 cows. We plan to carry out demonstration & research on the farm, including grass studies, road mark technologies and actions to improve water quality.

You can follow along and watch weekly videos on our social media accounts and YouTube.

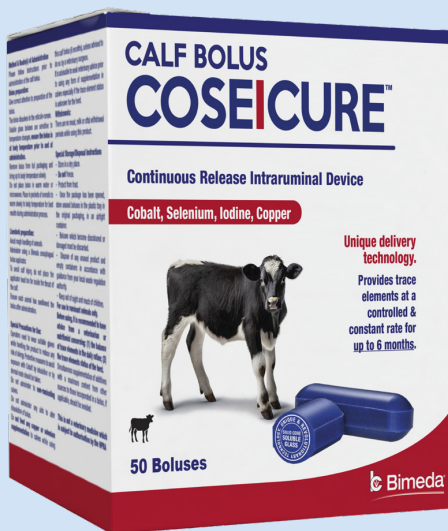


SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE WEEKLY VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE!



ArraTipp stand at Tullamore Show

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ArraTipp stand at Tullamore Show



5 Top Tips for August

Drought Impacted areas

In drought impacted areas, where grass growth rate is less than 35kgs DM/Ha, cease spreading chemical fertilisers

Grass Growth Rates Return to normal

When growth rates return to normal carefully apply fertilisers to avoid nutrient losses to water

Second & third cut silage

For second and third cut silage ensure all effluent is collected and stored properly

Silage pit capacity

Assess if your silage pits have sufficient capacity & adequate effluent collection & storage & plan to address any issues

Avoid Accidents & Losses

Check that machines and storage facilities are operating safely to avoid accidents and losses that may impact water quality

Step up for Better Water Quality



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