ArraTipp
Together we grow

NOVEMBER 2026 - Issue 11

NEWSLETTER



Borrisoleigh Mineral Open Day



On the 27th of October, a Mineral Open Day was held at our Borrisoleigh branch, with a great turnout throughout the day. The event provided farmers with valuable information and advice on mineral nutrition, particularly for cows entering the dry-cow period, as well as guidance on the upcoming breeding season. Representatives from Bimeda, Mayo Healthcare, Grassland Agro and Inform Nutrition were also in attendance to offer their expertise and advice.

Winter Milk Bonus

The Board of ArraTipp has revised the Winter Bonus. The revised payment will provide an increased incentive for milk supplied during January and February, while maintaining the existing December payment for the 2026/2027 season.

The Winter Bonus for 2026/2027 will be:

December	**2 Cents / Litre**
January	**7 Cents / Litre**
February	**5 Cents / Litre**

Bonuses are paid on all milk supplied, once milk is achieving the following milk quality standards:

- **TBC less than or equal to 50,000/ml.**
- **SCC less than or equal to 400,000/ml.**
- **Thermodurics less than or equal to 1,000/ml.**
- **Lactose greater than or equal to 4.25%.**

If you have any queries regarding these changes or require further information, please contact a member of the ArraTipp Farm Relations Team.

NEWS

Soil Sampling is Essential for Profitable Farming

Soil sampling is one of the most valuable tools available to farmers, helping to improve grass and crop performance, reduce unnecessary fertiliser costs and ensure nutrient management decisions are based on accurate, up-to-date information.

Soil sampling is an investment that can deliver significant benefits in both the short and long term. There is an opportunity to review individual fields and organise lime and fertiliser applications in advance of the spring. When soil sampling, farmers should ensure enough time has passed since previous fertiliser, manure or lime were applied. Soil sampling should also be avoided in waterlogged conditions to help ensure reliable results.

These results will provide farmers with an up-to-date picture as to how much or how little fertiliser will be required. The results should also be used to identify which type of fertilisers would be most suitable to your soils. These new soil sample results should be compared with past results to determine changes or consistencies in soil fertility. **These results will allow you to:**

1. Apply nutrients where they are required
2. Avoid wasting nutrients by applying them where they are not needed
3. Avoid causing a pollution risk by applying excessive nutrients to a field where they are not required.
4. Achieve maximum growth rates by having optimal soil fertility i.e. a soil pH of 6.2 – 6.5, and Index 3 for Phosphorous and Potassium.





NOVEMBER
SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

SPECIALS

ArraTipp
Together we grow



WOOD PELLETS 15KG LAOIS SAWMILLS
5 for €38.00
€7.95 each



WAXIES FIRELIGHTERS (30 BAG)
2 for €14.00
€7.95 each



SUPERTHERM COAL
20kg Now Only:
€14.50
40kg Now Only:
€28.95



HAPPY COW SCRATCHERS
5% off
Full Range



FLAMERS KD LOGS 7.5KG
4 for €26.00
€6.95 each



CORDLESS LIVESTOCK CATTLE & SHEEP CLIPPERS CLIPSTER
WAS: €295.00
NOW: €249.00

Other Offers In-store!

www.arratippstores.ie

NEWS

Get Drying Off right: Protect the Next Lactation

The Gold Standard Dry Off Protocol

Lock Mastitis Out. Lock Success In.

Drying off is one of the best opportunities to get on top of mastitis and set cows up for a successful next lactation. In terms of mastitis control, it is the golden opportunity to hit the herd reset button. But getting it right takes time, preparation and, above all, excellent hygiene.

Optimum Hygiene

Optimum hygiene, confidence in technique and careful herd management are essential during the drying off process. Consistently following this 12-step protocol can support you in achieving your desired dry period outcomes of minimising new infections whilst curing existing infections.

Before you start, being prepared is key. A successful drying off starts long before the first tube is administered. A few simple preparations can make the job easier, safer and more efficient.

- Clip tails beforehand to help keep the working area clean.
- Mark cows clearly using different coloured sprays to identify cows receiving internal teat sealant only and those receiving both antibiotic and teat sealant.
- Work in the right order by starting with cows receiving teat sealant only, before moving on to those requiring antibiotics and sealant.
- Dry off in small manageable batches and have enough help available and make sure everyone knows their job.
- Keep tubes clean. Never leave tubes where they could become contaminated and do not use dirty tubes.
- Bring tubes to room temperature before use, in line with product instructions. However, do not warm them up by placing them in hot water!
- Don't rush! Allow approximately 3.5–4 minutes per cow, or around 15 cows per hour.

Dry-off Procedure

Step 1: Put on Clean Gloves

Wash your hands and put on clean disposable gloves. Change or disinfect gloves between cows to avoid cross contamination.

Step 2: Dip All Four Teats

Cover all four teats with an approved teat disinfectant. Leave on the teats for at least 30 seconds to maximise bacterial kill.

Step 3: Dry the Teats

Dry all four teats thoroughly using clean, individual tissue paper for each cow.

Step 4: Thoroughly Disinfect Every Teat

Using cotton wool soaked in methylated spirits, clean each teat thoroughly, paying particular attention to the teat end. Use a fresh swab for each teat. Start with the teats furthest away and finish with those nearest to you.

Step 5: Assess Teat Hygiene

Inspect each swab after cleaning checking for any signs of contamination. If visibly dirty, disinfect the teat again using a fresh swab. Never insert a tube into a dirty teat.

Step 6: Infuse Antibiotic Tube (If Prescribed)

Using partial nozzle insertion, carefully infuse the antibiotic as directed. Start with the teats nearest to you and finish with those furthest away.

Step 7: Massage the Antibiotic Upwards

Gently massage the antibiotic upwards into the udder, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Step 8: Disinfect Again

Before infusing an internal teat sealant, disinfect your gloves and clean all four teats again. Again, start with the teats furthest away. Never skip this step.

Step 9: Pinch the Base of the Teat

Firmly pinch the teat where it meets the udder. This ensures the internal teat sealant establishes an effective protective barrier within the teat canal and teat cistern. Start treatment with the teats nearest to you.

Step 10: Infuse the Teat Sealant

Keep the teat pinched and insert the sealant using partial nozzle insertion. Follow the product instructions. Do not massage the sealant upwards. It must stay in the teat to form a physical barrier against invading bacteria.

Step 11: Dip All Four Teats Again

Apply an approved teat disinfectant, making sure all four teats are fully covered.

Step 12: Keep Cows Standing

Move cows to a clean, dry area with fresh feed and water. Keep them standing for at least 30 minutes after treatment.

Monitor dry cows closely

Check cows regularly, especially during the first two weeks after drying off. Watch for swollen or painful quarters or signs of illness and contact your vet if mastitis is suspected.

Remember: Good hygiene, correct tubing technique, appropriate antibiotic use and a clean environment are key to protecting udder health during the dry period.



Ned Kelly Farm Walk 9/10/26

On Friday, the 9th of October, Ned Kelly, a farmer from Ballycommon in North Tipperary, opened the farm gates to start the Autumn Farm Walk Series, as part of the Teagasc Signpost Advisory Programme. The aim of this advisory programme is to provide farmers with climate and sustainability actions on their farms over the coming years, as the sector aims to achieve a 25% reduction in emissions by 2030.

The main topics discussed on the day were:

- Farm performance on Ned's farm
- A review of the signpost programme
- Slurry storage requirements
- TAMS & Costings

Despite the wintry conditions on the day, a large number of farmers were in attendance. It was a very informative event, with excellent discussions on slurry and soiled water, EBI, and cow performance.









National Dairy Council

Packing a Punch for Bone Health this World Osteoporosis Day

The NDC joined forces with boxing champion and True Irish legend Lisa O'Rourke to put bone health in the spotlight







Did you know that 51% of Irish teenagers have inadequate calcium intakes?
To mark World Osteoporosis Day, the National Dairy Council set out to raise awareness of the importance of good nutrition and building strong bones from an early age.

European elite boxing champion and true Irish legend Lisa O'Rourke joined Professor Sharon Madigan, Head of Performance Nutrition at Sport Ireland Institute, and health and fitness content creator Nathalie Lennon on her Shake the Ground podcast for an engaging conversation about nutrition, fuelling, injury recovery, and long-term bone health.

The campaign also made national headlines in the Irish Independent, sharing Lisa's personal story, while NDC CEO Emma Walls took to the airwaves across national and regional radio stations to highlight the importance of calcium and lifelong bone health.

With the new FSAI scientific report on food-based dietary recommendations for adolescents reinforcing the importance of milk, yogurt, and cheese, the campaign was a timely reminder that the foundations for lifelong bone health are built early.

Scan the QR code below to sign up for our newsletter and be entered into our €100 Lucky Day Competition voucher

SCAN HERE

NEWS

Teagasc launch a pre- Local Authority Inspection (NAIP) Checklist

Teagasc has launched a new farm self-assessment checklist to help farmers prepare for Local Authority inspections under the National Agricultural Inspections Programme (NAIP).

The checklist allows farmers to identify potential issues around the farmyard before an inspection takes place. It covers important areas including:

- Separation of clean and soiled water
- Slurry and soiled water storage capacity
- Farmyard manure storage
- Silage pit and effluent management
- Farm records and documentation

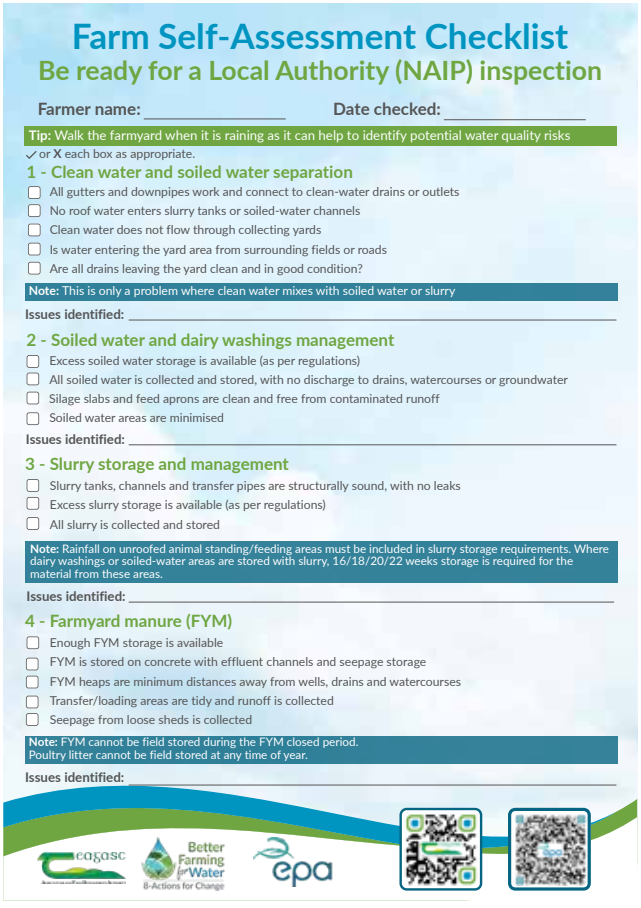
With 43% of farms inspected in 2025 found to be non-compliant with Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) regulations, it is important that farmers take time to review their own farmyard facilities and management practices.



A simple walk around the yard, particularly in wet weather, can help identify potential problems such as leaking gutters, contaminated run off, or drainage issues. The new checklist can be completed by the farmer or with the assistance from their advisor. It provides a practical opportunity to identify areas requiring attention and put corrective measures in place. Identifying these issues early can help prevent pollution incidents and avoid potential non-compliance during an inspection.

ArraTipp encourages all suppliers to familiarise themselves with the new Teagasc checklist and take the time to carry out a review of their own farmyard.

Contact any member of the farm relations team with any questions you may have on it.



Farm Self-Assessment Checklist

Be ready for a Local Authority (NAIP) inspection

Farmer name: _____ Date checked: _____

Tip: Walk the farmyard when it is raining as it can help to identify potential water quality risks

✓ or X each box as appropriate.

1 - Clean water and soiled water separation

- ☐ All gutters and downpipes work and connect to clean-water drains or outlets
- ☐ No roof water enters slurry tanks or soiled-water channels
- ☐ Clean water does not flow through collecting yards
- ☐ Is water entering the yard area from surrounding fields or roads
- ☐ Are all drains leaving the yard clean and in good condition?

Note: This is only a problem where clean water mixes with soiled water or slurry

Issues identified: _____

2 - Soiled water and dairy washings management

- ☐ Excess soiled water storage is available (as per regulations)
- ☐ All soiled water is collected and stored, with no discharge to drains, watercourses or groundwater
- ☐ Silage slabs and feed aprons are clean and free from contaminated runoff
- ☐ Soiled water areas are minimised

Issues identified: _____

3 - Slurry storage and management

- ☐ Slurry tanks, channels and transfer pipes are structurally sound, with no leaks
- ☐ Excess slurry storage is available (as per regulations)
- ☐ All slurry is collected and stored

Note: Rainfall on unroofed animal standing/feeding areas must be included in slurry storage requirements. Where dairy washings or soiled-water areas are stored with slurry, 16/18/20/22 weeks storage is required for the material from these areas.

Issues identified: _____

4 - Farmyard manure (FYM)

- ☐ Enough FYM storage is available
- ☐ FYM is stored on concrete with effluent channels and seepage storage
- ☐ FYM heaps are minimum distances away from wells, drains and watercourses
- ☐ Transfer/loading areas are tidy and runoff is collected
- ☐ Seepage from loose sheds is collected

Note: FYM cannot be field stored during the FYM closed period.
Poultry litter cannot be field stored at any time of year.

Issues identified: _____

teagasc Better Farming for Water 8-Actions for Change epa

5 - Silage facilities

- ☐ Silage slab is in good condition, with no cracks or damage allowing leakage
- ☐ Effluent collection system is operational
- ☐ Effluent storage tanks have adequate capacity (7 m³ / 100 tonnes)
- ☐ There is no evidence of silage-effluent discharge
- ☐ Bales stored on concrete and stacked more than two high have effluent collection/storage

Note: Silage bales should be at least 20 m from a drain or watercourse where collection and storage facilities are not available

Issues identified: _____

6 - Other potential pollution risks

- ☐ No point-source discharges enter drains, watercourses or groundwater from the farmyard
- ☐ Pesticides, farm chemicals, fuels and oils are stored securely in a bunded area
- ☐ Sheep handling areas are clean; drainage from dip-tub and holding pens returns to the tub or is collected
- ☐ Supplementary feeder locations are at least 20m from a drain or watercourse
- ☐ If GSR >170 kg N/ha, watercourses are fenced back 1.5m, no drinking points & troughs are sited > 20m away
- ☐ Farm roads are cambered away from drains and water courses and exclude bovines
- ☐ Any other issues on farm

Issues identified: _____

7 - Nutrient management and fertiliser use

- ☐ Current Nutrient Management Plan is available and National Fertiliser Database is up to date
- ☐ Slurry and manure application records are complete
- ☐ LESS is used on farms stocked at greater than 100 kgs organic N per hectare
- ☐ Buffer zones are being adhered to (3m, 5m, 6m, 10m, 25m, 50m, 250m)
- ☐ No chemical P or N or organic fertiliser is spread during the closed period
- ☐ Fertiliser is spread only when ground conditions, growth rates and the weather forecast are suitable

Issues identified: _____

8 - Documents to have available

- ☐ Nutrient Management Plan
- ☐ Fertiliser purchase records
- ☐ Slurry export/import records (if applicable)
- ☐ Farm maps
- ☐ Soil samples (in date)
- ☐ Farmyard plan including organic manure storage details and winter stock numbers

Outline the actions required for the issues identified

Section	Action Required	Minor Issue	Major Issue
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Further information is available on **www.teagasc.ie/waterquality** or on **www.epa.ie**
Note: the checklist is for guidance purposes only and is not a full Local Authority inspection

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