

# Newsletter OCTOBER 2021



## Healthy Udder, Healthier Cow!

By Aisling Claffey – B.Agr.Sc., Ph.D. – Ph: 086 031 7483

Antimicrobial resistance and reducing antibiotic usage on farm have become more notable topics of conversation in recent years, but the pressure to achieve this is ramping up with a ban on the blanket use of dry cow therapy being introduced from January 28th 2022.

It has never been more important to identify and tackle underlying mastitis issues in your herd. There are several steps that can be completed to maximise the use of selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) and ensure a healthy start to lactation for your herd.

1. Regular milk recording – Ideally take 4-6 recordings throughout the year. The final one should be taken within 30 days of beginning to dry off to give the most up-to-date reflection of udder health within your herd.
2. Culture milk samples – Take samples from clinical and high SCC cows prior to treating the cow with antibiotics. Samples should be taken in early lactation in case an outbreak occurs. It is also worthwhile taking samples again in late lactation to identify the strains of bacteria present, so you can choose the right dry cow tube. Samples can be frozen if not possible to send to the lab immediately.
3. Sensitivity testing – This allows you to identify the antibiotics that no longer have the same level of efficacy within your herd. Many of us tend to stick with the same products annually and as a result there may be increased bacterial resistance to a particular tube within your herd. These resistant bacteria can survive into the subsequent lactation.

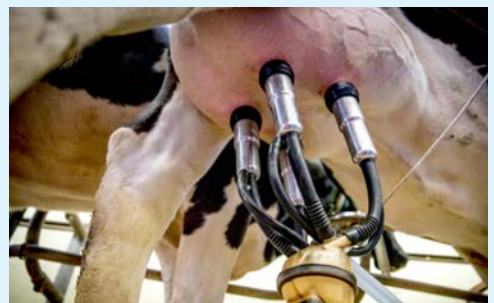
4. Record keeping – Good recording of mastitis cases and treatment throughout the year is critical.
5. Hygiene – Good parlour and housing hygiene is critical to minimise SCC increases in late lactation and to minimise new infections as milking cows and heifers are housed.
6. Animal selection – Only use SDCT on animals with a SCC under 100 at final milk recording, that has never had a clinical case of mastitis during the lactation or a reading over 200 at any one milk recording. For added confidence, use CMT at drying off to confirm there is no high SCC in a particular quarter.

Maximising udder health is critical to a productive lactation and we suggest you use a product from our Immuno range, all of which includes Aromabiotic. These can be fed during lactation and in the dry cow period and have been shown to improve overall immune function and contribute to lower SCC, which allows the cow to divert her energy towards milk production!

### ‘What the Farmers Say’

*Grennans Immuno Pre-Calver minerals have definitely improved the health of my herd. There was only 1 case where I had to withhold milk. Overall, there has been a big improvement in SCC, running at nearly half normal levels all summer. Grennans Immuno Pre-Calver is very valuable for me, and I wouldn't be without it.*

*William Strong, Tullamore, Co Offaly*



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# Autumn Pre-Housing Dose (PHD) for Weanlings

By Shane Gonoude – B.Agr.Sc, M.Agr.Sc – Ph: 086 646 6707

Autumn has arrived and soon we will have to plan for the run up to the housing period. From a dosing perspective the most significant cattle parasite at this time of year is lungworm, or hoose. Large numbers of infective lungworms can accumulate on the pasture in less than a week and cause severe respiratory disease and even mortality in a matter of days. Weanlings infected with lungworm end up with damage to their lungs which makes it easier for viruses and bacteria to take hold, causing pneumonia and other diseases and leading to lack of thrive.

When we house cattle in autumn, we move from being out in fresh clean air into a shed environment. On many farms, winter housing will be the first time a group of animals are mixed, resulting in an increase in disease outbreaks. Even in well designed and correctly stocked sheds air quality will not be as good as outside conditions.

Traditionally, farmers will give their cattle a worm dose at the time of housing to clear out the lungworms, and they may vaccinate them for pneumonia at this time also. But ideally, animals should be vaccinated before they come under stress from housing or weaning - the greatest challenge for housed animals is generally in the first 7-10 days after housing. While worm doses will kill lungworms within 24 hours, the damage these parasites cause to lungs will take 2 to 3 weeks to heal. So, it is advisable to give weanlings their pre-housing dose a month before housing.



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Vaccinate as part of a pre-housing dose programme. Vaccinations take anywhere from 5 days to 6 weeks to become effective depending on product being used, so it is important to plan the potential housing or weaning date in advance of the procedure.



As worms and infective larvae will continue to be picked up at grass for the remainder of the outdoor period it is vital that a persistent wormer such as **Dectomax** or **Cydectin** should be used. These products will continue to protect from new infection while giving the lungs a chance to heal in preparation for the housing period.

Contact your Grennans Rep for more information on pre-housing dose this Autumn.

# What A Harvest

By Paul Mooney – B.Agr.Sc – Ph: 086 353 2342

The bumper harvest has led to big interest in sowing winter cereals. Beware of sowing too early as it can lead to increased disease and aphid pressure. Take-all is a soil borne disease that many forget about until it strikes, so keep it in mine. Rotation is important so please talk to your agronomist on the best crop choice.

Crop	Optimum sowing date	Optimum seeds/metre squared based on optimum sowing date	Best Variety
<b>WINTER BARLEY</b>	October 1st	310	Valerie
<b>WINTER WHEAT</b>	October 15th	310	Graham
<b>WINTER OATS</b>	October 15th	400	Isabel

Seed rates need to be increased when you pass optimum sowing date or if sowing in poor conditions.

When sowing winter cereals for the first time, it is important that you familiarise yourself with the approximate date of each procedure, see table below:

Approximate date of each procedure for the growth of <b>WINTER BARLEY</b>		Approximate date of each procedure for the growth of <b>WINTER WHEAT</b>		Approximate date of each procedure for the growth of <b>WINTER OATS</b>	
1/10	Sow Crop	15/10	Sow crop	15/10	Sow crop
15/10	Apply 1st aphicide + Autumn weed spray	10/11	Apply Aphicide + Autumn weed spray	10/11	Apply aphicide
10/11	Apply 2nd Aphicide	5/3	Apply all P & K + ¼ of N requirements	1/3	Apply P & K + 1/3 of N requirements
25/2	Apply all P & K + ¼ of N requirements	1/4	Apply T0 if necessary + growth reg + trace el + remaining weed clean up	10/3	Apply 1st fung + growth reg & weed spray + trace el.
10/3	Apply Half of N requirements	10/4	Apply half of N requirement	7/4	Apply final 2/3 of N requirements
20/3	Apply 1st fung + Growth reg + trace el + remaining weed clean up	25/4	Apply T1 fung + trace el & possibly more growth reg.	1/5	Apply 2nd fung + trace el + growth reg
10/4	Apply last ¼ of N requirements	10/5	Apply remaining ¼ of N requirements	1/6	Apply final fung when heads out.
10/4	Apply 2nd fung + growth reg + trace el.	15/5	Apply T2 fung + growth & trace el.		
10/5	Apply final fung + trace el. When awns appear	10/6	Apply final fung when head appears		

# Importance of Closing Paddocks

By Brian Delaney

B.Agr.Sc – Ph: 086 044 9592

Cattle weight gain is the driver of profit - this is the reason why timely closing of paddocks in the Autumn is so important. Three weeks of spring grazing has the potential to deliver an extra 8-10kg liveweight per head over Autumn grass.

With exceptional growth and ground conditions, the temptation is to stay grazing late into the Autumn, but this will delay turnout in the Spring. Closing paddocks early with very good ground conditions is also great for any essential remedial work, such as spreading lime.

The driest paddock should be targeted for closing the first week of October, closing the following paddocks in rotation, with two thirds of the farm closed by 1st November. Good clean graze outs will also increase the availability of grass next spring as these swards will regrow quicker after closing. Any plants carrying a lot of dead material at the base will have to let this decompose before it can start to generate new growth.



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