

Newsletter OCTOBER 2024



SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY

By *Diarmuid Lee* - (B.Agr.Sc.) - Ph:086 441 0762

We are coming to the end of the production year on spring calving dairy farms, so our attention is starting to turn towards drying off cows in preparation for calving again. By the end of the month and into early November, a lot of farms will dry off first calvers and under conditioned cows to allow them up to 90 days dry before calving in early February. This is the time of the year where you will decide on how productive that cow is going to be in her next lactation. The dry period allows the udder to repair itself and allows the cow to channel her energy into growing and taking care of the calf she is carrying for those last couple of months.

In the last few years there has been a big increase in farmers participating in Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT). SDCT is obviously the way forward in terms of curtailing the development of antibiotic resistance on your farm, but it is one that should be done with considerable caution because if not done correctly, results can be detrimental to the cows production for her upcoming lactation.

How to decide what cows are suitable for SDCT is crucial to its success. The first thing that must be done is to assess the Somatic Cell Count (SCC) results for the entire lactation using all milk recordings results. For farmers starting off on their journey with SDCT it is recommended that the threshold on SCC for all test results (minimum 4 results) for the year be below 50,000 and have zero cases of mastitis.

The cows that fit that criteria then should be treated like all other cows coming to dry off i.e. reduce meal feeding and reduce quality of silage to reduce milk yield. It is important to maintain twice per day milking even at the reduced yield to keep SCC low. Then on the morning/evening of drying off, SCC should be checked before milking using the California Milk Test (CMT). Cows that pass the CMT having had a SCC below 50,000 all year are now suitable for SDCT.

It might sound a lot more complicated than administering 4 antibiotic tubes and 4 teat sealers, but it has lots of benefits.

1. Reduced cost of antibiotics.
2. No withdrawal period necessary at the start of next lactation.
3. Improved future response to antibiotics when really needed by the cow.

We would see a massive case for feeding our Immuno additive through the dairy nut during the final weeks of the lactation. This is a great way of improving White Blood Cell function and thereby enhancing udder health and reducing SCC before drying off the cow, giving it a much healthier state for the next lactation. This product is available in selected dairy nuts, so contact your local J Grennan & Sons Rep /Branch / Stockist for further information.



RATH
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC
057 91 35004

CLOGHAN
090 64 57112

TINNYCROSS
057 93 25500

MOATE
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT
090 64 36358

MOYVORE
044 93 55593

AUTUMN CROPPING PLANS

By Paul Mooney - (B.Agr.Sc.) - Ph:086 353 2342

Winter cereal crops broke no records this year but don't let one bad year dictate your cropping plans 2025. Winter Barley, Oats and Wheat are crops that can deliver big yields, favourable harvesting dates and valuable straw. Saturated soils, massive slug burdens, incorrect rotations, aphicide resistance and delayed nutrition were to blame for most of the disappointing yields. Amazingly after been sown so late, Spring Barley was the big winner this year. When you think about it, it was no surprise, it never got a setback, went into a warm seed bed and got a long steady growing season due to cooler weather throughout the summer.

Spring barley won't always be the winner. Growers need to spread their risk by sowing a mix of crops. Correct rotation is critical to getting the best out of Winter Barley and Winter Wheat. Take-all disease can knock up to 50% of the crops yield. After grass, you will usually get two crops of W. Barley or W. Wheat relatively free of Take-all disease. While W. Wheat should never be sown in dodgy rotations, Latitude dressing does allow you some flexibility & can give you a good return when the rotation for your W Barley is less than perfect. Latitude dressed seed is available to order only and can't be returned. After a break crop or W. Oats you will get one year Take-all free. If you are unsure about the best crop or rotation, please talk to us.

As regards dealing with BYDV & aphicide resistance there are 2 relatively new Winter Barley varieties on the scene. **Joyau** is deemed to be BYDV **tolerant** but is a 6-row, so grain quality may be an issue. **Molly** is deemed to be BYDV **resistant**, but is a bit prone to lodging. **Tardis** will be first choice for most growers but perhaps a second/third aphicide application in early spring may help it?



Finally, Winter Oats can produce a big yield of both grain and straw and is well worth considering. It has lower input costs than barley or wheat, is a much safer option where Take-all is a worry and Oats may very well command a price premium next harvest if acreages sown continue to decline.

JGRENNAN
& SONS

SUPER WEANLING CRUNCH



- This coarse ration is ideal for delivering high growth rates in strong calves & weanlings 5 to 12mths and older

- 16% crude protein, Over 50% Cereal + Rolled Beans.

- Very palatable – young stock will take to it quickly

- Will drive on muscle and skeletal growth, especially in higher growth potential animals such as continental type bull weanlings

- Contains *Grennans Bovine + Yeassac Beef Mineral & Vitamin pack to supply all essential minerals and vitamins required to support rapid growth of muscle and bone

Also available with
LungBooster.



GRASS WATCH RESULTS & FEED MANAGEMENT

By Damien Guinan - (B.Agr.Sc.) - Ph:086 607 4729

GRASS QUALITY	Minimum	Average	Maximum
Dry Matter (%)	12.1	16.3	19.4
Est ME (MJ/kg)	11.1	11.5	12.1
Crude Protein (%)	19.1	25.3	29.4
NDF (%)	40	45	49
Oil A (%)	3.5	4.4	5.0
Sugars (%)	5.7	8.2	11.7
UFL	0.94	1.02	1.07
PDIE (g/kg)	99	108	116
PDIN (g/kg)	123	165	193

COMPOUND REQUIRED (kg/d)	COMPOUND REQUIRED (kg/d)					
	13kg DMI	14kg DMI	15kg DMI	16kg DMI	17kg DMI	18kg DMI
24 litres	5.7	4.7	3.7	3.0	1.6	0.6
26 litres	6.7	5.7	4.7	4.0	2.6	1.6
28 litres	7.8	6.7	5.7	5.0	3.6	2.6
30 litres	8.8	7.8	6.7	6.1	4.7	3.6
32 litres	9.8	8.8	7.7	7.1	5.7	4.6
34 litres	10.8	9.8	8.8	8.1	6.7	5.7

- Grass Crude proteins have increased significantly. The average is 25.3%. This is likely a response to the final round of nitrogen applied before the final rotation.
- Energy will be required to remove excess Ammonia from the diet.
- A high UFL 14% nut (**Grennan Elite Breeder 14% or Grass Care 14%**) is ideal to supplement this grass. See recommended feeding rates below.
- Grass dry matters remain very good due to the recent fine weather. This can change overnight. The high DM's have really boosted grass utilisation and milk yield on farm, long may that last.

Farm Hazardous Waste Collections

In conjunction with IFFPG Farm Plastics Recycling Centres 2024

Limited on a trial basis at the following sites (operating times differ)

2024 Trial Collections		Date	Time
LAOIS	Ballinakill Mart, Ballinakill, Laois, R32 X857	16 Oct	9am-5pm
WEXFORD	Unyoke Car Boot Sale Site, Ballyhought, Blackwater, Co Wexford, Y21 KC53	1 Nov	9am-4pm
OFFALY	J Grennan & Sons, Tinnycross, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 YH52	6 Nov	9am-4pm

Hazardous Wates Types	Cost (Ex.VAT)	Hazardous Wates Types	Cost (Ex.VAT)
Pesticides and Biocides (including Wood Preservatives, Rodenticides)	€3.95/kg	Waste Oil	€0.10/kg
Veterinary Medicines: • Doses, Dips, Wormers, Dry Tubes • Needles & Syringes • Glass Bottles of Injectable Medicines	€5.50/kg	Oil Filters / Oil drums	€1.20/kg
Waste Paint (Hazardous)	€0.64/kg	Corrosives, Brake Fluid, Coolant, Grease, Adhesives & Aerosols	€3.95/kg
		Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	€5.00/kg**

**Subject to Clarification on identification of POP's

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS & THEIR IMPACT ON SOIL STRUCTURE

By Aaron Kealy - (B.Agr.Sc) - Ph: 086 199 9148

In Ireland, the health of soils is crucial for sustaining grass-based animal production and high-yield arable systems, extending beyond mere crop yield to encompass their broader environmental and societal impacts, such as nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration, and supporting biodiversity. Although soil analysis is commonly utilized to assess nutrient needs, evaluating soil structure is equally vital, especially given the prolonged wet conditions that have deteriorated soil quality over the past 12-18 months, necessitating careful management strategies to restore and maintain soil health.

Adverse weather conditions affect soil structure in many ways:

1. Waterlogging: Wet conditions significantly harms soil health by displacing air with water in the soil's pore spaces, the lack of oxygen in the soil then leads to a reduction in microbial activity. This saturation can degrade soil structure, causing compaction which is difficult to cultivate once dried. Challenging cultivating conditions brings to light the importance of managing water levels to maintain healthy, productive soils.

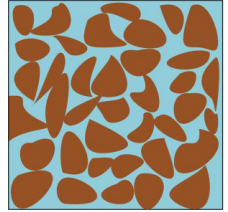
2. Rooting: Effective rooting is vital for plant success, especially in challenging seasons, it is uncertain how the 2025 season and particularly this autumn will turn out. Poorly structured soils, particularly slumped ones, present higher density challenges that hinder root penetration and growth. This restriction not only limits the root system's ability to spread but also significantly reduces nutrient uptake, resulting in compromised crop health and yield potential.

3. Nutrient Availability: A high soil density can also restrict microbial activity and biochemical processes which are crucial for nutrient availability. Waterlogged, anaerobic soils will have higher rates of denitrification, leading to an increase in nitrous oxide emissions and a lower soil nitrogen supply.

When conducting soil analysis after harvest, it's essential to consider factors such as bulk density and cultivation history, as standard sampling methods, which often focus on the upper 15 cm of soil, may not provide an accurate representation of nutrient availability. In fields with low disturbance or no-till practices, nutrient accumulation near the surface can lead to inflated readings of phosphate and potash levels; therefore, sampling to a greater depth of 25-30 cm can yield a more accurate assessment of the soil's nutrient profile, reflecting the full plough depth and ensuring better-informed agronomic decisions.

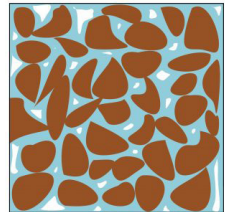
Saturation

All pores are filled with water



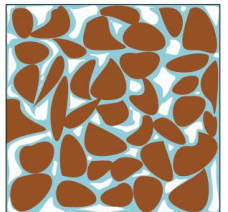
Field Capacity

Water in larger pores has drained



Permanent Wilting Point

Plants can no longer extract water



IT'S TIME TO INOCULATE YOUR TANKS.

'IT MAKES PERFECT CENTS'

1kg Treats 100,000 Gallons

TRIED & TESTED INOCULANT

DO YOU NEED MORE FROM YOUR SLURRY?

SLURRY BOOST



Easy Once Off Application

More Grass with Less Fertiliser

Decreased Agitation Time

3:1 Return on Investment



For more information contact any of our Nugget Stockists
Tel: 057 9133002 | www.grennans.ie

