



March 2022

MILK INFORMATION

MILK SUPPLY

February 2021 Milk Supply: 5.69 million litres.
February 2022 Milk Supply: 2.97 million litres
This represents a 3% decrease on 2021.
Milk supply for March to date is back 7% but this is following on an exceptionally strong March 2021 supply which was up 14% on the previous year.

MILK PRICE

The price for February milk has been increased by a further 1 cent per litre. This gives a base price at 3.6% Butterfat and 3.3% Protein of 43.91 cents per litre including the SCC bonus and VAT.

The average prices paid for the month, based on the average constituents of 4.32% butterfat and 3.36% protein, are as follows –

Variable =	48.33
Fixed Milk 5 =	35.43
Fixed Milk 6 =	36.79
Fixed Milk 7 =	37.83
Average Price =	48.04

DAIRY MARKETS

Markets have strengthened further through February and into March. Pricing on all the main commodities including butter, cheese and skim milk powder have increased.

Milk supply worldwide is back almost 2% year to date and stocks are at very low levels. This is positive for milk pricing for the coming months – the only clouds on the horizon being demand burn off from the higher pricing and a projected reduction in Chinese imports.

NATIONAL DAIRY COUNCIL (NDC) LEVY

The National Dairy Council is the organization which has been tasked with promoting Irish Dairy Products to Irish consumers for many years. In more recent times, as well as promoting the benefits of Dairy, the organization has redefined it's role to champion and defend the Irish Dairy Industry within Irish society as a whole. This is in the context of increasing attacks upon our industry from different elements within the country.

The NDC is funded by farmer contributions as well as EU funding. Lisavaid milk suppliers have been paying 1/3 of the .07 cent per litre voluntary levy for some years. The Committee is of the view that Irish Dairy needs a central, consolidated voice to combat the negative campaigns being waged against the industry and is recommending that the full .07 cent per litre should now be paid. This decision will be reviewed in 12 months time to determine the effectiveness of the NDC's role.

This is a voluntary levy and should you not wish to pay it you will find a form enclosed which you should sign and return to Lisavaid. If you are not already participating and would like to do so contact Eleanor Hayes.

It is intended that collection of the full levy will commence in April from your March milk payment.



PARASITE CONTROL TASAH CONSULT

A newly developed Parasite Control Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) has now been launched for 2022. The purpose of the Parasite Control TASAH is to facilitate discussions and planning between farmers and their veterinary practitioners on the best practices around parasite control and trying to minimise the further development of anthelmintic resistance. Resistance is a growing concern and is considered present when wormers no longer kill the target parasites and have become less effective. Parasite resistance and control is a complex problem and requires planning tailored to specific farms. A 'one size fits all' approach is not effective for parasite control. For this reason, AHI encourages a parasite control plan that considers parasite factors, weather, testing, grazing and farm management for an individual farm.

The Parasite Control TASAH can assist farmers by funding a veterinary farm visit and two faecal egg counts and is open to all cattle and sheep farms in Ireland. More information on the programme and how to register is available on the AHI website

<https://animalhealthireland.ie/programmes/parasite-control/parasite-control-tasah-consult/>

LISAVARD FARMS LTD

We are currently milking 90 cows, with 9 left to calve. Production at the moment is: milk 27.5 ltrs, B.F. 4.25%, protein 3.46%, SCC is at 81 and TBC 10 (month to date). This equates to just over 2.1 kgs of solids/cow/day. Happy enough with that considering a third of the cows are calved since last October.

Grazing has been stop/start since the early days of January but they are out by day now. Grass intake is estimated at 6 kgs of D.M./day. The rest of the diet consists of 2.5 kgs of an 18% ration in the parlour, 2 kgs D.M. of fodder beet and 5-7 kgs of first cut silage.

A grass walk on March 15th showed we had an average farm cover of 1053 kgs D.M./Ha, just over 300 kgs/cow with only 38% of the farm grazed at this stage, we are way behind in our grazing from where we should be, but grass growth has only been between 10 and 12 kgs/day for the last two weeks and there is not a lot of recovery on grazed ground. 70% of the milking platform has received 30 units of nitrogen in the form of Urea so far. There is a stark difference between it and the 30% that hasn't received anything yet. It is planned to finish spreading this week and start the second round of fertilizer.

Silage fertilizer has been spread in two splits with a total of 88 units of N spread. This followed 4,000 gallons of slurry spread in January/early February. Ten acres of a hybrid grass forms part of our silage ground and we stitched red and white clover into it after first cut last year. This has only received 40 units of nitrogen, some in the form of ASN (for the sulphur). Its all a bit of a gamble/experiment to see if clover can actually replace nitrogen in silage ground. Time will tell.

Our annual TB test is coming up before the end of the month and we will take this opportunity to scan the autumn calvers to see how that breeding season went. We will also check any non-cycling spring calvers.

Things are a little damp out there still after 221 ml of rain in February and 100 ml for March so far. But with longer days and dry forecast hopefully things will start to squeeze up quickly. All we need then is a little bit of heat and we are away.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR MILK RECORDING REPORT

Milk recording your cows regularly (at least 6 times per lactation), allows you to easily see what's happening within your herd, allowing you to identify both problem cows and top performers. It is also the most reliable way of collecting individual cow information required if a prescription for dry cow antibiotics is needed.

To get the best value from milk recording, the first milk recording should be done within 2 months of calving and the last recording within a month of drying off, and the remainder done during the rest of the lactation.

Following each recording a CellCheck summary report is provided along with individual cow information. The CellCheck summary report is divided into 4 main sections, showing performance against recommended targets for each of the key areas of mastitis control.



- The first section includes a graph displaying the current and recent SCC for your herd and also shows the percentage of your herd with an SCC over 200,000 cells/ml (target is to have less than 15% of herd over 200,000 cells/mL). These cows are likely to have mastitis and if a high proportion of your herd is over 200,000 cells/mL, this indicates a mastitis problem in your herd.
- The next section shows the spread of infection during lactation. By comparing consecutive SCC levels in each cow, recently infected cows can be identified and also the proportion of the herd that is chronically infected. The target here is to have less than 7% of your herd recently infected and less than 8% persistently infected.
- The third section of the report shows the herd SCC distribution in different SCC brackets. A higher proportion (target of 85%) with an SCC below 200,000 cells/mL, means better mastitis control. This section also analyses data from herds that record clinical cases on ICBF. If you upload your clinical mastitis records to ICBF (or via some farm software packages) by texting 'Mast' and cow's freeze brand to 089 4577663, it helps identify when the infection originated (the dry period, or during lactation).
- The final section shows for cows that have been recorded within 60 days of calving, how well mastitis is being controlled during the dry period and at calving. It is split into cows and heifers so it is easy to see if there is a problem in a particular group. The report shows how effective the dry period was by looking at cure rates during the dry period and also identifies any cow that picked up a new infection during the dry period.

THERMODURIC BACTERIA

Since the introduction of thermoduric bacteria testing a lot of good work has been done on farm to lower thermoduric bacteria counts in milk. However, there is still a significant quantity of milk been supplied with high counts of over 1,000 cfu/ml.

A penalty of 0.5 cent per litre on milk with a thermoduric count greater than 1000 cfu/ml will be introduced from April 1st, 2022. The penalty is to incentivise suppliers to reduce these high thermoduric counts.



HERD HEALTH PRICING 2022

All prices displayed are inclusive of VAT.

HERD HEALTH PROGRAMME	
PROGRAMME	FEE
Munster Recommends Gold Programme	€349/herd (Testing, Munster Vet phone support and one to one Vet consultation)
Silver Programme	€280/herd (Testing and Munster Vet phone support)
Bronze Programme	€230/herd (Testing only)
Standard Herd Health Fee For All Non Milk Recording Customers For All Programmes	€399/herd
Johne's Programme	€2.75/test/cow
Milk Pregnancy Testing	€3.95/test/cow

Please note that all results can be emailed on request to Herd Owners own Vet if participating in Gold or Silver programmes.

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Revenue Services/Healthcare/Healthcare/2022/0001



OWN EQUIPMENT ASSISTED MILK RECORDING PRICE LIST

SCHEME OPTIONS

4 Visits	€12.50 PER COW
5 Visits	€14.25 PER COW
6 Visits	€16.00 PER COW
7 Visits	€17.75 PER COW
10 Visits	€22.25 PER COW
12 Visits	€25.25 PER COW

HERD FEE €65



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