



Robert and Mary Troy winners of the Kerry Agribusiness Milk Quality & Sustainability Awards

Congratulations to the Troy family, Newtownshandrum Co. Cork who were announced as the winners of our 2023 Kerry Agribusiness Milk Quality and Sustainability Awards at a ceremony in the Woodlands Hotel, Adare on Tuesday 8th August.

The awards recognise and highlight the long history that suppliers have of supplying high quality and sustainable milk to Kerry Agribusiness and each of the nine finalists exemplified excellence across all parameters. Kerry Agribusiness would like to thank all finalists for opening their farms to the judging panel and congratulations to Brendan and Amy Collins, Corofin Co. Clare who were the runners up.

Robert and Mary milk 450 Holstein Friesian cows on a 136 ha milking block, putting the stocking rate at 3.3 cows/ha. However, the overall stocking rate is 2.6 cows/ha, an important factor to ensure the farm can produce all its winter feed requirements and limit excessive concentrate use. The herd supplied 465kgs MS/cow from 850kgs of feed and all calves on the farm also received whole milk.

There is a very strong focus on grassland management, with the farm growing about 14t DM/ha per year. Cows start calving in early

February and go straight to grass with all cows fully dried again in early December. The Troy's maintain a strong focus on the environment with a farm pond recently developed which will act as a settlement pond for water running off the land before it enters the watercourse. Fields nearest to the watercourse on the farm have been recently reseeded with ryegrass, red and white clover and will not receive any chemical nitrogen fertiliser. Last year, the Troys spread an average of 220kg N/ha across the milking block and are committed to reducing this further as more clover is established across the farm.



Pictured at the awards night are MaryAnn Hurley, MTU, Sean McCarthy and Ailish Moriarty, Kerry Agribusiness, winners Robert and Mary Troy, Pat Murphy, Kerry Dairy Ireland.

The herd's EBI is €224, with €65 for milk and €101 for fertility. Last year, the herd averaged 4.35% fat, and 3.7% protein, with an average SCC of 121,000. The farm's greenhouse gas footprint was recorded as being exceptionally low, at 0.79kg CO₂ per kilogram fat and protein corrected milk.

The Troys were awarded on the basis of their excellent milk quality, a commitment to caring for the environment and management of a profitable system with a good work-life balance.



Alan Bell and James Liddy, Kerry Agribusiness, pictured with runners up Brendan and Amy Collins, Corofin at the Kerry Agribusiness Milk Quality and Sustainability Awards night.

MILK MARKETS UPDATE

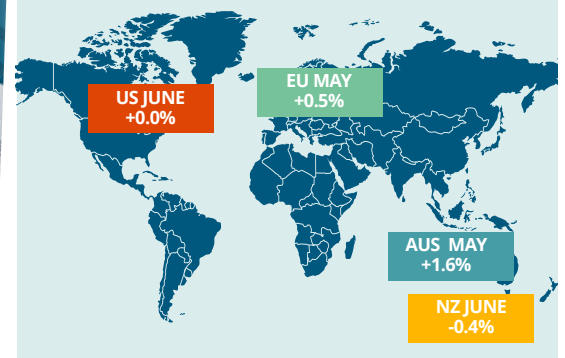
Prices in Europe and Global Dairy Trade (GDT) are flat to down slightly in recent weeks. In contrast, prices in the US have been on an upward trend over the past two weeks. This price surge in the US is attributed to the ongoing heatwave, which has led to a reduced availability of milk impacting the prices of US Cheese and Skim Milk Powder (SMP). Previously, US Cheese and SMP prices were trading at a lower value compared to other regions in the world. Prices are now more uniform across the Globe.

Global Supply

The latest culling data out of the US is suggesting that cow numbers are beginning to contract with milk prices currently below the cost of production. June milk production in New Zealand was weak but a recovery at least in the short term is anticipated with grass growth numbers improving. Profit estimates at farm level in New Zealand are predicted to be down significantly which might limit output as the season progresses. EU milk production is coming in slightly stronger than anticipated with fat and protein levels up year on year.

Global Demand

Dairy exports to the rest of the world excluding China have improved in May and June. Dairy demand out of China is not improving with stock levels still estimated to be high. Data suggests that Chinese milk production is slowing down but it remains to be seen if this will have any impact on imports. The demand for dairy in Europe and the US has not changed. As prices fall at retail level, there is an expectation that demand will follow but we have not seen a pick up as yet.





At the beginning of this year, Michael Enright from Castlemaine was having issues with cell count. Since then, he has completed two out of four milk recordings and received advice from a CellCheck Solutions consult, which he utilised to lower his herd's overall cell count.

Michael found that the data he received was very beneficial as it helped him detect new infections, prevent the spread of contagious mastitis and support the identification of the most efficient cows for breeding. By partaking in milk recording and a CellCheck Solutions consult with his vet and milk quality advisor, the herd's overall milk quality improved significantly, and his SCC fell by almost 50% to 180,000. Through effectively managing SCC, he is now operating a more profitable farm as well as improving the overall health of his herd.

Like Michael, be proactive and avail of a free CellCheck Solutions consult which examines - the cow, the milking routine and the farming environment. You will also receive an in-depth analysis of you herd's milk recording records. For more information head to Animal Health Ireland.

<https://animalhealthireland.ie/programmes/cellcheck/>



Michael Enright, Castlemaine.

Grassland Farmer of the Year Farm Walk

The Fitzgerald family invite you to their farm on Thursday, 14th September at 11am for a farm walk. Brickhill, Cratloe, Co. Clare, V95 EP9F.

Diarmaid is the Young Farmer and Overall winner of the competition and farms on the banks of the river Shannon, milking 160 cows stocked at 2.5 cows/ha. Diarmaid's land is in one block which he

stocks with milking cows as heifers are contract reared. Clover will be a key focus topic on the day as it has been successfully established across the farm and this has allowed a substantial reduction in chemical N fertiliser and improved cow performance.



Diarmaid Fitzgerald Grassland Farmer of the year 2022.

RESEEDING 10 POINT PLAN

1. Soil test - target pH is 6.2 - 6.5, and target P & K index 3.
2. Spray off the old sward with glyphosate.
3. Cultivate to ensure a fine, firm seed-bed. Apply lime to correct pH.
4. Select grass mixture based on intended field use (eg. grazing or silage), soil type, seasonal growth demands and farm stocking rate.
5. Sow 14kg/acre into warm, moist soil conditions.
6. Roll well to ensure good soil-seed contact.
7. Apply N, P and K as per guidelines.
8. Monitor reseed for pests e.g. frit-fly, leatherjacket, rabbits & take immediate action where necessary.
9. Post-emergence weed spray is essential approx. 6 weeks after sowing and before the 1st grazing.
10. Graze the new reseed frequently at low covers to encourage tillering of the sward.



KERRY

We can advise on all aspects of reseeding, from sprays, grass mixtures, weed control and fertiliser planning.

Kerry Agribusiness has a comprehensive range of grass seed mixtures to suit almost all farm situations but should you require any special mixes or further information please contact our Agri Division:

Address: Kerry Agribusiness, Kilmallock Rd, Charleville, Co. Cork.
Phone: 063 35000
Email: enquiries@kerryagribusiness.ie

For further information, contact your local Kerry Agribusiness Branch

www.kerryagribusiness.ie