



Bloom Gold Autolac maximises milk solids in early lactation on Co. Limerick Farm

The transition from pregnancy to lactation is a crucial time for the dairy cow. During this period the cow undergoes metabolic changes and adjusts to producing an increasing amount of milk. The key to success from a nutritional point of view is maximising energy availability in the diet and dry matter intake.



Bernard Stack, Sales Liaison Manager Kerry Agribusiness pictured with milk supplier Michael Walsh.

To achieve this, it's critically important that the best quality forage and concentrate feed is made available to the lactating animal. The required protein content of the concentrate will depend on the results of forage analysis.

Michael Walsh of Newlawn, Ballyagran, Co. Limerick with his father Michael operate a 300 cow herd on a spring calving system.

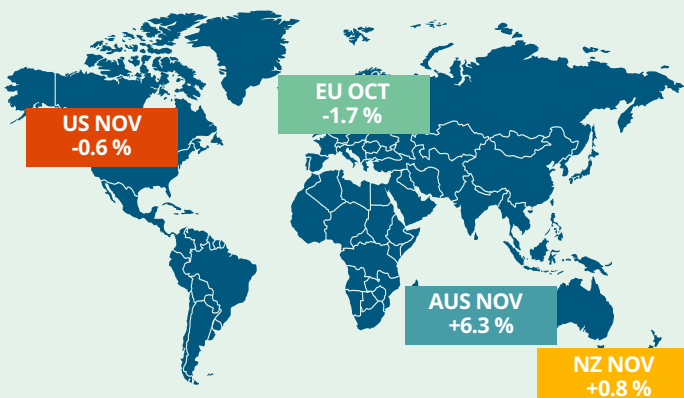
During a challenging spring 2023, the Walsh's fed Bloom Gold Autolac 17% concentrate in addition to 15.7% crude protein grass silage and 12% crude protein wholecrop. Michael stated that "the solids achieved were excellent when we fed the concentrate last year, the difference was noticeable and I would put this down to the fact that we were feeding Autolac, we will be feeding it again this spring"

Bloom Autolac contains very high levels of cereals as well as Megalac (protected fat) to maximise the energy content of the diet and subsequently milk protein %. It also contains a dual action buffer including Yea Sacc & Mag12, which maximise feed efficiency and fibre digestion while minimising issues with acidosis leading to increased performance and a higher butterfat %.

For more information on how Bloom Gold Autolac can help maximise performance on your farm this spring please contact your local Sales/Branch Manager.

Milk Markets Overview

The markets have remained notably subdued in the aftermath of the Christmas holiday. Presently, global milk supply is moderate at best, aligning well with the current demand level. It is anticipated that prices may rise if there is even a marginal increase in demand over the coming weeks, given the less optimistic outlook on future supply.



Global Supply

The reduction in milk production within the European Union can be primarily attributed to notable decreases in France and Ireland. Additionally, Italy also saw a decline in production, while Poland experienced a modest increase, and Germany's production remained unchanged compared to last year. In the United States, milk production continues to decline, largely due to a reduction in cow numbers. In New Zealand, challenging weather conditions have been reported, alongside indications that some dairy farmers are opting to exit the industry.

Global Demand

Dairy demand from China is not increasing, as was indicated by their reduced involvement in the recent GDT. In contrast, Southeast Asia and the Middle East are more active and taking up more product. However, overall market sentiment regarding demand is currently pessimistic. The UK is a significant market for Irish dairy products, especially cheese. According to UK retail data for the 52 weeks ending December 2nd, 2023, there was a decrease in sales volumes: cow's milk cheese declined by 2%, butter by 3.4%, and yoghurt by 0.6%.



Calf Care Efficiency

- Consider pumping fresh milk directly or transporting mechanically to the calf house.
- From day 1 to 4 ensure calves are drinking adequate amounts of milk. Subsequently calves can be put into larger pens and fed on automatic or group feeders.
- Calf pens should be bedded at least every second day and cleaned out regularly.
- Bedding should be easily accessible.
- Put a plan in place to sell surplus calves.



Grassland practices

- Have a farm map on hand with fields and acreage clearly outlined.
- Repair any fencing and water troughs before turnout.
- Complete an opening grass cover walk.
- Plan the order in which paddocks will be grazed and where slurry can be spread.

Spring Labour Efficiency

Did you know? Of the total hours needed to run a farm per year, the spring workload makes up one-third of it. One of the key elements to an efficient spring is having a good standard operating procedure.



Out-Sourcing Work

- Contractors should be booked in advance for fertiliser and slurry spreading.
- Consider recruiting staff for week-end and/or part-time work.
- Have defined roles and standard operating procedures in place for each task with a set wage, start and finishing times etc to make your farm a more appealing workplace.
- Start milking by 4.00pm at the latest in the afternoon to control the length of your working day and consider night calving cover to break up workload.



Cow Husbandry practices

- Train heifers to the milking parlour at least one-month pre-calving and spray teats to reduce risk of calving down with infection.
- Implement once-a-day milking for the first two to three weeks of the calving season.
- To make sorting easier, house dry cows in groups according to calving date.
- Provide a group pen for calving, with easy access to an individual pen for handling.



Kerry Agribusiness milk suppliers Fabian McCarthy, Michael Dillon, Keelan O'Donoghue, Mundy Horan, Conor Morris and John Leahy pictured with Claire McAuliffe and Tommy Cox Teagasc at the recent AHI/Teagasc CALFCARE event in Moyvane.

Does your SDAS cert expire in February or March 2024?

The SDAS renewal audit can be carried out 4 months in advance of the expiry date of your current cert without penalty i.e. like the NCT the new SDAS cert will run from the expiry date of the current cert.

If your SDAS cert expires during the busy calving period you can book an audit now with the SDAS auditor.

To check the expiry date of your current SDAS cert

- ✓ Visit www.qas.bordbia.ie/Dairy/Verify/
- ✓ Enter your herd number
- ✓ Click 'Check SDAS Status'

If you require assistance scheduling your audit - please contact your local milk quality manager.

If you have any questions/comments on the Newsletter please CONTACT US VIA EMAIL AT enquiries@kerryagribusiness.ie