



Grassland Farmer of the Year & Young Grassland Farmer of the Year Awards

Congratulations to Kerry Agribusiness milk suppliers Diarmaid Fitzgerald and John Casey which were worthy winners in the recent Grassland Farmer of the Year 2022 Awards.

Diarmaid the overall winner of the Grassland Farmer of the Year 2022 & Young Grassland Farmer of the Year 2022, milks 150 cows on a 67ha farm in Cratloe, Co. Clare. The farm has varying soil type with about 60% of the farm free-draining limestone and the remaining 40% low-lying land. The farm grew 13.5T DM/ha in 2022 from 149 Kg N/ha.

John, who farms with his father, Michael, near Causeway, Co. Kerry won the Clover/Sustainable Farming Category at the 2022 Grassland Farmer of the Year Awards. They milk 120 cows on 44.5ha at the edge of the Atlantic ocean. The farm grew 12T DM/ha in 2022 from 199 Kg N/ha.



Front row: Sean, Deirdre and Diarmaid Fitzgerald, John Casey. Back row: Frank O'Mara, Director Teagasc; Minister Charlie McConalogue; Robert Prendiville, Teagasc; Liam Herlihy, Chairman of Teagasc Authority and Orla Thornton.

Leading Milk Price Payment

Kerry Creameries Limited, following consultation with the Board of Kerry Co-Operative Creameries Limited, has paid an additional 0.90 cent per litre (Vat Inc., at Kerry average solids) with the April milk payment in respect of all qualifying milk solids supplied under the Kerry milk supply contract for 2022. This payment, together with the payments Kerry Creameries Limited made for milk supplied throughout 2022, more than fulfils Kerry's commitment to pay the Leading Milk Price on a Like-For-Like Basis. In addition, and on an exceptional basis, Kerry Group also paid 0.90 cent per litre (Vat Inc., at Kerry average solids) with the April milk payment in respect of all milk solids supplied under fixed price schemes in 2022.

MILK MARKETS UPDATE

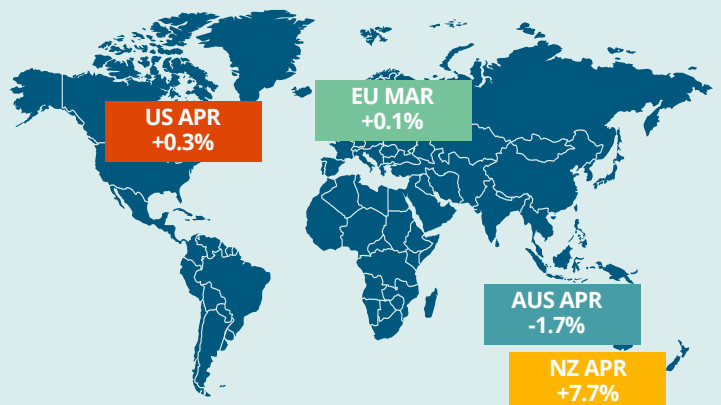
Global Supply

Milk Production globally is still growing, but signs of weakness are beginning to set in. US commodity prices feed directly into the class system of farmgate prices meaning margins at farmgate level are falling. Milk prices are estimated to be below the cost of production despite the cost of inputs falling. Fonterra's opening price forecast for 23/24 season is NZD 8/KgMS. This price is sitting slightly above the estimated cost of production. Farms in New Zealand are heavily indebted so increasing interest rates along with other input costs is creating a very challenging situation.

Global Demand

Lack of demand continues to be a big problem with global imports weak in March. Mexico is back buying from the US as prices have fallen but most other importing regions both big and small are not. Japan is the biggest

importer of cheese globally but consumption is falling rapidly as Japanese food companies try to pass on price increases to consumers. The lack of demand from China might be more structural. The economic situation in China is poor but they are also producing a lot more milk themselves. This raw milk is displacing imported milk powders in some food products. For example, many ice-cream products now advertise that they are made using local Chinese milk.



HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE

Outdoor workers such as farmers may be particularly at risk from high outdoor temperatures as well as from UV exposure during periods of good weather and/or during a heatwave.

You need to keep hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. You also need to protect your skin from the sun. The harmful effects from the sun, like sunburn and skin cancer, come from UV radiation (UVA and UVB). Individuals that spend all or part of the day regularly working outdoors, can reduce the risk of skin cancer by protecting skin from the sun's UV rays (by being SunSmart).

Be SunSmart by following the Healthy Ireland SunSmart 5 S's:

- **Slip** on clothing that covers your skin, such as long sleeves, collared t-shirts.
- **Slop** on sunscreen on exposed areas. Use sunscreen SPF minimum 30 or higher. Apply 20 minutes before going outside and re-apply every two hours – more often if perspiring.
- **Slap** on a wide-brimmed hat.
- **Seek shade** - especially if outdoors between 11am and 3pm when UV rays are at their strongest. If possible, schedule outdoor work before 11am or after 3pm.
- **Slide** on wraparound sunglasses to protect your eyes.



KERRY AGRIBUSINESS/BORD BIA SUSTAINABILITY COURSE

In collaboration with Bord Bia, Kerry Agribusiness has developed a **free online farm sustainability course** which will provide suppliers with on-demand access to information and resources to support them in the transition to a more sustainable future.

This interactive course is designed to give suppliers an opportunity to expand their understanding of sustainable dairy production and gain access to practical advice on how to implement sustainability into their own farming practices. The course covers the following topics:

- Greenhouse gases mitigation
- Optimising soil health
- Improving and protecting Irish waters
- Sustainable energy use



How do I sign up to complete the course?

You will receive a **Text Message** from Kerry Agribusiness with a login to your **farm.bordbia.ie** portal - click on the Farm Sustainability Learning Hub and once you confirm your details you will be auto-enrolled into the Kerry Agribusiness Sustainability course. If you have any questions or require any assistance please contact your local Quality or Sales Manager.

CONTROLLING THERMODURICS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Thermoduric bacteria are bacteria that can survive pasteurisation during milk processing, causing taints in milk and reducing product shelf life.



The primary source of thermoduric bacteria in milk is the farm environment with contamination coming from; soil, bedding, dust and dung. A secondary and often more problematic source is the milking plant when bacteria from the environment inhabit and multiply within cracked rubberware and on milk scale borne out of inadequate washing

Best practice to control Thermoduric bacteria:

- Keep collection yard and roadways clean
- Avoid extremely tight grazing/poaching
- Clip tails and udders
- Present a clean cow for milking – pre foam with teat disinfectant
- Dry wipe teats with paper towel
- All milk must be filtered and never reuse filter socks
- Ensure clusters and jettors are examined that they are cleaning thoroughly
- Use hot water 75°C-80°C for washing milking machine and bulk tank
- The solution temperature at the end of the milking machine wash cycle should be $\geq 50^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Descale minimum 3 times a week with acid descaler
- Ensure adequate water of 14L/unit for pre/post rinsing
- Use Peracetic acid at recommended rates in the final cold water rinse
- Inspect rubberware for deterioration and change if necessary
- Assess milk outlet of plate cooler to determine if cooler requires cleaning
- Use Moorepark list of recommended detergent and acid products.