



Milk Market Overview

The downward pressure on prices in Europe persists. Globally, our export competitiveness remains low compared to the US and slightly lower than New Zealand. Many buyers are reformulating to capitalise on available arbitrage opportunities. The unfavourable exchange rate further negatively impacts EUR pricing.

Global Supply

Europe:

- Significant increase in fat and protein levels compared to last year.
- Milk production is lower in areas affected by blue tongue last year.
- Strong milk prices, reduced costs and good margins are driving growth where possible.

Ireland: Milk production aligns with 2022 levels after two weak years, marking a bumper year so far.

New Zealand:

- Dry conditions are leading to lower milk production.
- Despite this, high forecasted profitability has driven PKE imports to record levels, with an expected season-end increase of 3%.

Global Demand

China demand remains strong compared to recent years. The primary discussion in dairy gatherings is the potential impact of new tariffs. China has imposed tariffs exceeding 100% on US dairy imports, disrupting the pork industry due to the annual import of 300,000 tonnes of whey from the US. The situation remains uncertain, with potential negotiations to lower tariffs.

Introducing the New Bloom Feed Range

This summer, Bloom Feeds is excited to launch two new dairy feed ranges: Apex and Impact.

Apex Dairy Range

Our premium offering, the Apex range, is designed to meet the highest standards of dairy nutrition. Key features include:

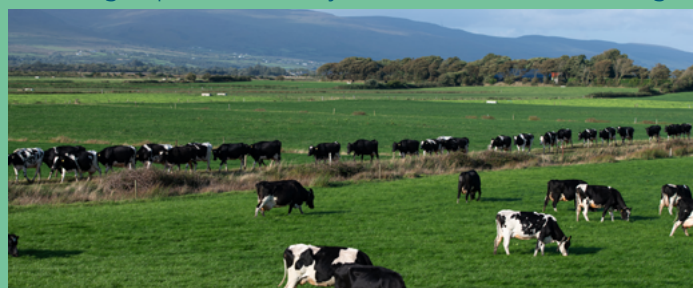
- Protein Content: Available in 14% and 17% crude protein.
- High UFL: 0.95.
- Quality Ingredients: Utilises high-quality cereals like maize meal and rolled barley for excellent starch sources.
- Digestible Proteins: Incorporates soybean meal and maize distillers for highly digestible protein.
- Rumen Protected Fat: Helps cows maintain body condition during the breeding season.
- Trace Mineral Pack: A unique blend of protected and chelated minerals to support trace mineral status.
- Vitamin E and Selenium: Two sources of Vitamin E and an organic source of selenium to boost immunity.
- Biotin: Included to reduce the risk of lameness.
- Rumen Health: Features live yeast, tested in Irish grazing conditions, to enhance fibre digestion and maintain stable rumen pH on lush pastures.

Impact Dairy Range

The Impact range is our entry-level dairy feed, offering excellent nutrition at a competitive price. Key features include:

- Protein Content: Available in 14% and 17% crude protein.
- High UFL: Over 0.90.
- Quality Ingredients: Uses high-quality cereals such as rolled barley and maize meal.
- Vitamin E: Two sources included to maintain a healthy antioxidant status.
- Trace Mineral Pack: Protected trace minerals to support herd health during the breeding season.

For more information about the new Apex and Impact dairy feed ranges, please contact your local sales liaison manager.



Kerry Agribusiness is pleased to announce the expansion of our renewable energy partnerships. We are delighted to welcome Energywise Ireland as a new partner, providing renewable energy solutions to our milk suppliers throughout our catchment area. For additional details, please refer to the enclosed information leaflet.

Maximising Silage Quality This Summer

Silage is the primary conserved forage on most farms across the catchment area, forming a substantial part of the diet for 4-6 months annually. Ensuring silage is made correctly is crucial. The goal is to achieve a dry matter (DM) target of 28-32% and a digestible dry matter (DMD) of 75. Follow these steps to meet these targets:

Step 1: Cutting Date

- Timing: Cut silage 6-7 weeks after fertiliser application.
- Precut Testing: Ensure nitrate levels are below 600 ppm to aid preservation.
- Nitrogen Utilisation: As a rule of thumb, 2 units of nitrogen are used daily by the crop.
- Optimal Cutting Time: Cut in the afternoon when sugar levels are highest, ideally above 3% for good preservation.

Step 2: Ensiling the Crop

- Spreading: Spread the cut grass over the largest possible area to ensure rapid wilting.
- Wilting: Aim for a wilting period of 12-24 hours to achieve the desired DM of 28-32%. Longer wilting can lead to energy loss.
- Chop Length: Adjust chop length based on crop dryness:
 - Dry Crop: 20-30 mm
 - Wet Crop: 35-50 mm
- Contractor Instructions: Ask your silage contractor to adjust chop length according to weather conditions to optimise fermentation.

Step 3: Filling the Pit

- Efficiency and Safety: Fill the pit efficiently and safely.
- Roll each layer evenly to a depth of 15 cm (6 inches) to expel air and aid fermentation.
- Apply sufficient layers of plastic to create an airtight seal.
- Ensure adequate weight is applied to commence the fermentation process.

By following these steps, you can maximise the quality of your silage, ensuring it meets the nutritional needs of your herd.



Producing High-Value Beef Calves for 2026

As the breeding season progresses, it's crucial to focus on producing high-merit beef calves. These calves, with superior genetic beef merit, attract repeat customers and improve cash flow early in the year.

Identifying High Genetic Merit Beef Calves

- Commercial Beef Value (CBV): This tool helps identify calves with high genetic merit.
- Dairy Beef Index (DBI): Used by dairy farmers to enhance the quality of beef calves produced.

Importance of Sire Selection

Historically, beef sire selection on dairy farms prioritised short gestation and low calving difficulty. However, this often led to challenges in meeting carcass weight targets and factory specifications. Utilising the DBI for sire selection can improve calf quality without compromising essential traits like easy calving and short gestation.

Steps to Breed Better Beef Calves

- Identify Beef Sub Index: Determine the beef sub-index of your herd to understand the quality of beef bull required.
- Correct Beef Sire Selection: It's not necessary to breed beef back into dairy cows to produce saleable calves; correct sire selection is key.
- Example: To produce a top 10% CBV animal from a cow with a beef sub-index of -€18, use a beef bull with a DBI of €160.
- Data from ICBF (2024) shows top 10% CBV Dairy X Beef steers had a 67 kg heavier carcass weight compared to the bottom 10% animals, finished at the same age.

Traits to Look for in Beef Bulls

- Dairy Beef Index (DBI): >€150
- Stock Bull: 4-star DBI within or across breed (meets Evolve Program criteria)
- Beef Sub Index: >€100 & positive for conformation
- Carcass Weight: >10 kg (early maturing breeds), >15 kg (late maturing breeds)
- Short Gestation: Cow calving difficulty <6%, heifer calving difficulty <3%

By focusing on these traits and utilising the CBV and DBI tools, you can produce high-value beef calves that meet market demands and enhance profitability.



Use sufficient number of dairy straws before switching to beef AI - need to use 2.5 sexed straws or 4 conventional straws to get a heifer calf on the ground.

ULTRANOR PROTEINS

Kerry Dairy Ireland manufactures a diverse array of dairy ingredients sourced from the milk provided by our milk suppliers across three sites: Listowel, Charleville, and Newmarket. In this article, we spotlight our Ultramor protein range, produced at our Listowel facility. These proteins are specifically designed for use in infant and clinical nutrition, as well as in protein-fortified foods, which are increasingly popular in today's market.

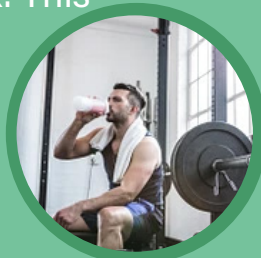


While proteins, being large molecules, are retained by the membranes, smaller molecules such as lactose, minerals, and water pass

through freely. The concentrated protein solution is then pasteurized and spray-dried to produce a high-protein, highly functional product for our customers



Modern consumers demand high-protein, clean-tasting, and nutritious products across various food categories. Kerry Dairy Ireland is uniquely positioned to meet this growing demand by utilising ultrafiltration technology to extract and concentrate milk protein from skimmed fresh milk. This advanced separation process employs semi-permeable membranes that preserve the natural structure of the proteins.



Kerry Dairy Ireland's Ultramor proteins offer a superior nutritional profile, a clean flavour, and maintain high functionality in our customers' finished products. Typical applications include high-protein nutritional bars, protein-enriched powders, lactose-free infant formula, clinical nutrition, ready-to-drink beverages, bakery items, confectionery, and high-protein extruded snacks. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and a commitment to quality, Kerry Dairy Ireland continues to lead the way in providing innovative dairy ingredients that meet the evolving needs of consumers.



Spring Farm Walk

Recently, we hosted a Spring Farm Walk as part of the Joint Programme in collaboration with Teagasc, on the farm of William and Mary Dennehy in Currow. The event attracted a substantial audience, who received a comprehensive overview of farm performance over the past five years,



Caoilfhionn Dodd Kerry Agribusiness pictured with host farmer William Dennehy and Claire McAuliffe Teagasc.

showcasing significant progress, key learnings, and tangible results achieved on the ground.

Expert speakers covered the following topics:

- Establishing and managing clover
- Clean and soiled water management in farmyards
- Practical demonstrations on reseed

For highlights of the event, please scan the QR code.



FARM & HOME STORE

SILAGE ESSENTIALS

Top Stretch Silage Wrap - 25 micron Film



Own Brand

Silawrap - 25 micron Film



Smart Wrap - Value brand 7 Layer Film



Epicrop Brand - Silage covers



Ecossyl 100- Silage Additive



1bag/1ltr treats 100t

Precision Microbes 10ltr - Silage Additive



10ltr treats 100t

Baletite NRF - high holding force



Powertite - 7 layer NRF



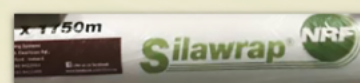
Epicrop Gold - Netting



Tama Edge to Edge - Netting



Silawrap - NRF Irish Made



Green and White Wrap also available on Request, Pallet Prices available on request.



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