



Milk Markets Overview

Butter prices hold firm in Europe: despite a slight recent dip, butter prices across Europe remain relatively high. Skim Milk Powder (SMP) and casein are under increasing pressure due to a global slowdown in demand. Whey Protein Concentrate (WPC) demand continues to outpace supply. Cheddar prices are holding steady, while Mozzarella and Gouda are trending downward. Market

movements are also being influenced by upcoming US trade deals, which could shift pricing dynamics in the coming months.

Global production levels remain stable, supported by positive farm-level margins. Import growth in China is expected to slow due to weak consumer sentiment and adequate domestic stock levels. Demand from other global markets has also softened recently and a rebound will be crucial to support current price levels.

Main Sponsors of Charleville Show

Kerry Dairy Ireland were the proud main sponsors of the Charleville Show and sponsor of the All-Ireland Junior Pedigree Friesian Cow category. Pictured left to right are: Winners Emma & Paul Murphy, Pat Murphy CEO Kerry Dairy Ireland, John Kerrisk Area Manager, Mark Logan Dairy Judge and Tim Broderick Charleville Show Association.



First Graduates of Level 7 Certificate in Sustainable Dairy Development



Caption: Pictured with Michael Moynihan, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Youth are Belinda Gascoigne UCC, Dinny Galvin, Mary Buckley Kerry Dairy Ireland, Anne Normoyle, Josephine Twiss, Tom Murphy, David Fenton, Maura Walsh & Monica Gilmore IRD Duhallo, Seamus O'Tuama UCC, Matthew O'Shea, Kenneth O'Connell, Mike Teahan, Owen O'Sullivan, Michael Halpin, Mike Dowd, Martin Brosnan, Declan O'Dwyer, Noel O'Connor and Michael O'Callaghan.

Reaping the Benefits of Reseeding Using TS-3

Tomás & Siobhán Culloty farm in Scartaglen, Co. Kerry, where they milk 90 cows in a spring-calving system. Reseeding has been a priority over the last decade to increase grass grown and animal performance. This year additional land was added to the milking platform, prompting them to reseed for maximum return. The process began in March with the existing sward sprayed off, followed by ploughing, levelling, stone raking and seeding on April 10th with TS-3. Three tonnes of lime was applied along with two bags of 10-10-20 fertiliser per acre. An additional 20 units of nitrogen was spread on May 10th, and post emergence spray, Pro-Clova, was applied on May 29th. The first grazing took place on June 22nd. Fifteen days later the paddocks were ready to be grazed again at a grass cover of 1400kg DM/Ha.

The Kerry Agribusiness TS-3 seed mix was used again due to their consistent success with it. They value TS-3 for its reliability in both dry and cold conditions, especially during the shoulders of the year when grass growth is essential. "Even in tough weather, TS-3 keeps growing grass and helps get cows out early and keep them out," Thomas says. In addition to strong growth, Thomas highlights the mix's pasture quality and palatability. "Cows began grazing the new swards in June and adapted well, grazing it out cleanly". Performance has been excellent, with cows

holding at 24.5 litres of milk, 4.1% fat and 3.6% protein. "Normally, volume would dip in June," Thomas explains. The cows are currently on 1kg of meal and high-quality grass. Top performing grass varieties from the Teagasc Pasture Profit Index (PPI) are used when formulating TS-3.

Looking ahead, reseeding should remain a top priority for 2025, especially after a weather-challenged 2024 impacted reseeding levels on farms. While reseeding costs approximately €400 per acre, the long-term benefits far outweigh the initial expense. On average, farmers can recoup this investment within two years through improved pasture yields, quality, and animal performance. Reseeding remains one of the most cost-effective investments farmers can make.



Siobhan Culloty with her son Tomás in the newly reseeded paddock

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A Journey to Collaboration on Valentia Island

Donal O'Donoghue had been milking 60 cows on the family farm on Valentia and at over 70 had an eye on retirement. Donal had a conversation with his family and established that none of them wanted to take over the dairy farm, at least in the near future. This opened the opportunity to work with a "non-family collaborator". While there were lots of candidates interested in leasing the farm, Donal had a preference for someone that would continue to milk cows on the farm and James Lynch was chosen as the preferred candidate. Donal and James agreed on what farm investment was needed, including reseeding, and the contribution from both parties. This has enabled an increase in cow numbers.

Donal's Key Messages

- Start exploring your options, don't put it off or you could eventually be rushed into a decision; there is no obligation or weakness in exploring options – in all other sectors there is a path-way to step back. I wish I done it sooner!
- The farm will always be there and in your family name, just because there is someone else farming it, does not mean any loss, sacrifice or neglect of the asset.

- Don't assume there is only one option, be open to different scenarios. It is important to identify the right person.
- Young farmers will farm differently but their skills and enthusiasm are exceptional.
- In a good and fair deal no one party is fully happy; there is negotiation and give and take needed from both sides.
- Listen and take advice from qualified and experienced people; talk is cheap and the realities on every farm from land type to facilities to investment differ.
- Mutual trust and respect is key; we both need the arrangement to work.

James is looking forward to building up equity and experience in dairy farming and his advice for those looking for opportunities is to network, explore all options, be open minded and work with landowners seeking win:win opportunities.



Donal Murphy and James Lynch

Responsible Use of Anthelmintics in Dairy Cows

Anthelmintics are veterinary medicines used to treat infections caused by parasitic worms. These products may be either narrow- or broad-spectrum and are administered through various routes depending on the formulation. Common methods include oral administration (such as drenches or boluses), injection, or topical application via pour-on solutions.

Only licensed anthelmintic products should be used, and it is essential to follow the manufacturer's guidelines regarding

their suitability for use in dairy cows. Products approved for use in lactating animals will specify a mandatory withdrawal period, which must be strictly observed to ensure milk safety.

To protect consumer health and maintain milk quality, adherence to withdrawal periods is critical to prevent the presence of anthelmintic residues in milk. Kerry Dairy Ireland conducts routine sampling of milk from its suppliers throughout the year to verify compliance and ensure that no residues are found.

For tailored guidance on the appropriate and responsible use of anthelmintics in your herd, please consult your private veterinary practitioner.

Hitting Target Weights This Summer

Research has shown that the rate of liveweight gain of calves at grass is correlated with their level of exposure to parasitic worms. Calves will have been picking up infection from the pasture since they were turned out to grass. Fresh dung samples should be collected and submitted to a laboratory to determine the number of worm eggs present (faecal egg count – FEC). Research in sheep has now shown that treatment with an anthelmintic and immediate movement to clean pasture increases the risk of anthelmintic resistance. Therefore, it is recommended that animals are held on the "dirty" pasture for a period of 48 hours post dosing prior to moving to "clean" pasture.

Both FEC and weighing should be carried out to gain a more complete picture of what is going on. At 6 months of age the target weight is 30% of mature body weight or 170 to 200 kg.

Grazed grass is ideal for growth as youngstock convert protein into muscle very efficiently.

To support healthy digestion,

1. Graze higher grass covers or offer long fibre (e.g. hay or straw) alongside lush grass.
2. Feed 1 kg per head per day of a high-energy, 16% CP meal such as Bloom Elite Calf Grower to supports consistent weight gain and provide essential vitamins, mineral, and live yeast for gut health.

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