



February 2020

MILK INFORMATION

MILK SUPPLY

Jan 2020 Milk Supply: 3.03 million litres.
Jan 2019 Milk Supply: 2.59 million litres
This represents a 17% increase on 2019.

MILK PRICE

Milk price for January has been increased by 1 cent per litre. This brings the price to 33.41 cent per litre including SCC bonus and VAT. The contribution from the Stability Fund is now at 0.5 cents per litre.

The average prices paid for the month, based on the average constituents of 4.22% butterfat and 3.44% protein, are as follows:

Variable =	36.84
Fixed Milk 3 =	36.14
Fixed Milk 4 =	36.15
Fixed Milk 5 =	35.51
Average Price =	36.79

DAIRY MARKETS

Milk supply growth globally continues to be quite muted due to a combination of low prices, environmental issues and drought. This has resulted in somewhat firmer markets since the New Year. Powder markets in particular and cheese to some extent have seen better prices while butter has been stagnant at around the €3500 per tonne mark.

On the downside the Corona virus issue in China has created difficulties in that market and low oil prices are an issue in North Africa and the Middle East. Currently demand is keeping ahead of supply and if this continues we should expect a reasonably balanced market for the next few months.

NITRATES DEROGATION

REVISED TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applications are now open for the Nitrates Derogation 2020. The **deadline** for submission of an application and of 2019 fertiliser records is the **8th of April 2020**.

The nitrates derogation is contingent on meeting water quality and environmental standards. With the current environmental challenges and a continuing downward trend in water quality, a review of the derogation was undertaken in 2019.

With that, further conditions have been added to the 2020 terms and conditions and you can see detailed information on these actions in terms and conditions available on the department of agriculture's website. Below is an outline of the new condition's farmers must adhere to.

- Adopt a farm scale liming programme from 2020
- LESS equipment to be used for slurry spreading from the 15th of April 2020
- Crude protein levels in concentrate feed cannot exceed 16% between April 1st and September 15th 2020
- Commonage/rough grazing will be excluded from derogation allowance of 250 kg N/Ha
- Grassland management, including grass measuring and annual grass production recording is required from 2020 – If farmers do not have the skills to undertake this measure, they must participate in grassland management training to be completed by the end of 2021

- Clover must be incorporated in to any newly reseeded swards from 2020
- One measure from the all-Ireland pollinator farm plan must be adopted to enhance biodiversity on farm
- Farmers must participate in an approved environmental training course by the end of 2021

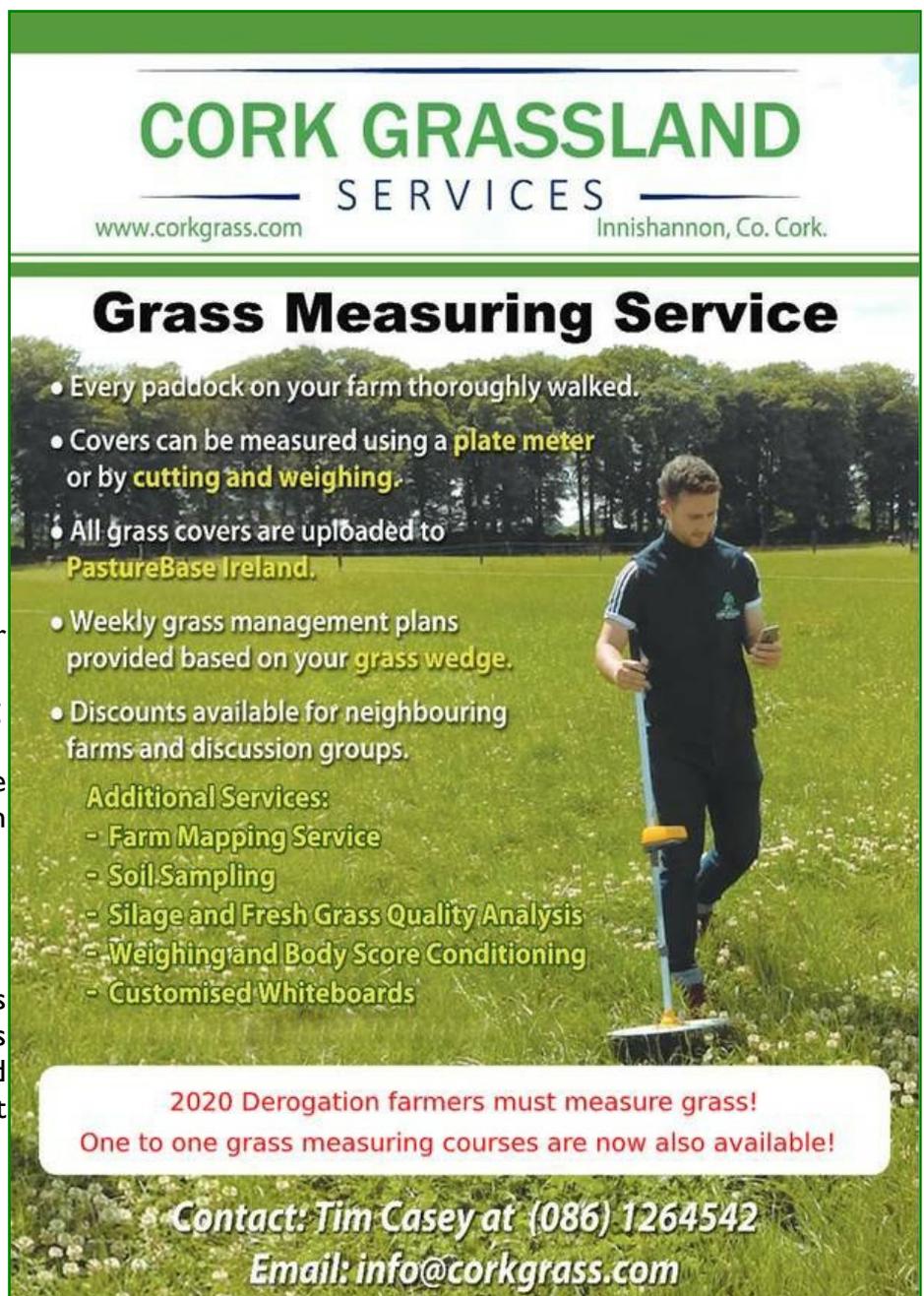
If you have further questions on the new conditions within the nitrates derogation there is more information on the department of agriculture's website or alternatively talk to your derogation advisor.

Farming for water quality

It has been a mixed bag in terms of weather this month with a lot of rainfall and low temperatures to contend with. With this in mind, caution needs to be taken when spreading slurry especially in areas where nutrient loss to overland flow and leaching in free draining soils can occur. Here are our top tips for spreading slurry over the next few weeks:

- Check your requirements on your nutrient management plan
- Target fields that have a high requirement for N, are newly reseeded and meet the required soil pH for good growing conditions
- Check soil moisture deficits in your area for the right soil type. Slurry should only be spread where SMD's are above 0. In many areas of moderately and poorly drained soil they are well below 0. You can check your area at www.met.ie/forecasts/farming
- Soil temperatures should be above 5°C and rising. This can also be checked on the Met Eireann website
- Adhere to all buffer zones on your farm. Typically, this is 5m from surface waters however if you have a field with a slope >10% you must adhere to a buffer of 10m

If you have any questions on spreading nutrients and protecting water quality, you can contact your ASSAP advisor through the co-op.



CORK GRASSLAND SERVICES
www.corkgrass.com Innishannon, Co. Cork.

Grass Measuring Service

- Every paddock on your farm thoroughly walked.
- Covers can be measured using a **plate meter** or by **cutting and weighing**.
- All grass covers are uploaded to **PastureBase Ireland**.
- Weekly grass management plans provided based on your **grass wedge**.
- Discounts available for neighbouring farms and discussion groups.

Additional Services:

- Farm Mapping Service
- Soil Sampling
- Silage and Fresh Grass Quality Analysis
- Weighing and Body Score Conditioning
- Customised Whiteboards

2020 Derogation farmers must measure grass!
One to one grass measuring courses are now also available!

Contact: Tim Casey at (086) 1264542
Email: info@corkgrass.com