

Useful resources to help you navigate Winter 2023

Over the last couple of months the focus for many dairy herds has been on planning and preparation for drying off and housing. Hopefully you are in a good position for this, but it is probably safe to say that the majority of us are never as well prepared as we would like to be.

CellCheck has developed a number of resources that provide you with important messages and tips to help make drying off as stress-free as possible. Finding the time to read up on these resources or watch the videos may be challenging, but even if you had thirty minutes to refresh your memory on the key aspects it will reward you greatly. There are a range of different resources available to suit all learning styles, from information leaflets and checklists to short and snappy videos and farmer testimonials.

In addition to this we are currently coordinating a virtual dry cow information campaign via text message/WhatsApp and email. This started on Wednesday 1st November and runs until Monday 6th December. This virtual campaign is being delivered in conjunction with the milk processors, DAFM and AHI, so if you haven't already explored the AHI webpage, don't forget to read any texts that come through from DAFM, AHI or your co-op. These messages will also contain direct links to the relevant resources, which you may find easier or quicker to access.



2023 AHI CellCheck Awards

The Animal Health Ireland (AHI) 10th annual CellCheck awards took place on Thursday, November 9th. The awards recognise excellence achieved by Irish dairy farmers in herd health, specifically those that achieve a consistently low somatic cell count (SCC) in their dairy herds. 500 dairy farmers from across the country with the lowest weighted annual average SCC for the previous year's milk supply were awarded on the night.

Bandon Co-op had 5 suppliers receiving the award.

They are as follows:

Clive Jennings, Enniskeane

Noel, Ann and Jeremy Jennings, Bandon

Ursela and John Kenneally, Upton

Vincent and Aidan Murphy, Kinsale

Owen and Rosaleen O'Brien, Enniskeane

One CellCheck champion was identified from each co-op. The Bandon Co-op winner for 2023 is **Owen and Rosaleen O'Brien, Enniskeane**.

Presentations were also made this year to 14 farmers, who have been winners of the CellCheck 'Milking for Quality' awards for each of the last 10 years. **Vincent and Aidan Murphy** were recipients of this prestigious award recognising their consistent commitment to producing the highest quality milk for the past 10 years.

Congratulations to all the winners and awardees on the night!