

Milk Recording 2024 – Not too late to start

At this stage of the year, normally, most herds would have commenced milk recording. This year so far has been challenging, with very unfavorable weather conditions. Some herdowners that have not yet started milk recording may be wondering if it is too late to start now or if there is still a benefit to milk recording this year.

Herds that milk record regularly tend to have lower somatic cells counts (SCC) than herds that don't milk record. Regular milk recording allows you to identify problem cows early. This enables timely intervention, including veterinary care or changes to management practices to prevent the spread of contagious mastitis causing bacteria in the parlour. In herds that milk record regularly, cows with chronically high SCC will be

identified and can be earmarked for culling or targeted treatment at dry off. The information gathered from milk recordings during the year (at least 4 preferably) is essential when it comes to making decisions on which cows receive antibiotic treatment at dry off.

Milk recording also provides invaluable information on the performance of individual animals in your herd. This information allows herdowners to make important management decisions such as which animals to breed replacements from or which animals are underperforming and maybe should be replaced by a higher genetic merit heifer. This leads to the improvement of the herd's overall productivity.

Are you milk recording?

A recent study by AHI and Teagasc showed that milk recording was associated with ...



A **€39.04/cow** increase in gross margin



A **177.58 litre/cow** increase in milk yield



Lower bulk tank **SCC** readings



For more information on any of the Munster Bovine Herdowner services, don't hesitate to contact us in Mallow **02243228**, your local representative, your AI technician or visit the website at **www.munsterbovine.ie**



Carbery FutureProof Sustainability Bonus

Reminder that the minimum requirement is 4 milk recordings in 2024 to attain the Milk Recording portion of the sustainability bonus.