

# CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH



This month I followed up with John Fitzgerald and his son-in-law Vincent Hennessy from Mallow to see how their year has been progressing. When I spoke with John in April he had recently completed his second milk recording of the year and was 'using the records to identify a few cows that were repeat offenders in terms of high somatic cell count' and has 'ear marked these for removing as soon as possible'. Regular milk recording allows every herd owner to keep track of the somatic cell count (SCC) of each cow. After teat disinfection, milk recording is the next most important tool in dealing with high SCC and mastitis.

Herds that are milk recording get a CellCheck Farm Summary Report after each recording highlighting the areas of good mastitis control, and areas that could be improved. This can mean an increased milk price if the bulk tank SCC is reduced. A wide range of resources are available to help farmers analyse the information. These include milk recording organisations, veterinary practitioners and advisors and should be availed of, as failure to act on the results limits the potential benefits from milk recording.

In John's case he not only uses milk recording to identify high SCC cows but also uses the information to choose 'replacements from the best cows'. Another important task which John had recently carried out was clipping the cow's tails. At this time of year tails can get dirty very quickly making their udders dirty which increases the risk of mastitis. John says he 'clips the tails 3 times a year and it is great for improving overall cow cleanliness and reducing the risk of clinical cases of mastitis'. He also emphasised 'the importance of keeping a record of any clinical case during the season as this information will be critical at the end of the year for selecting the cows that will need a dry cow antibiotic'.



In this section we will advertise dairy replacement/stock bull requests for our milk suppliers. Please contact **087-3453495** or email **ghunt@bandoncoop.ie**. Please note that Bandon Co-op cannot take responsibility for livestock advertised in this section.

# BUY AND SELL

2



**Bandon Co-Operative**  
Agricultural & Dairy Society Limited



[www.bandoncoop.ie](http://www.bandoncoop.ie)