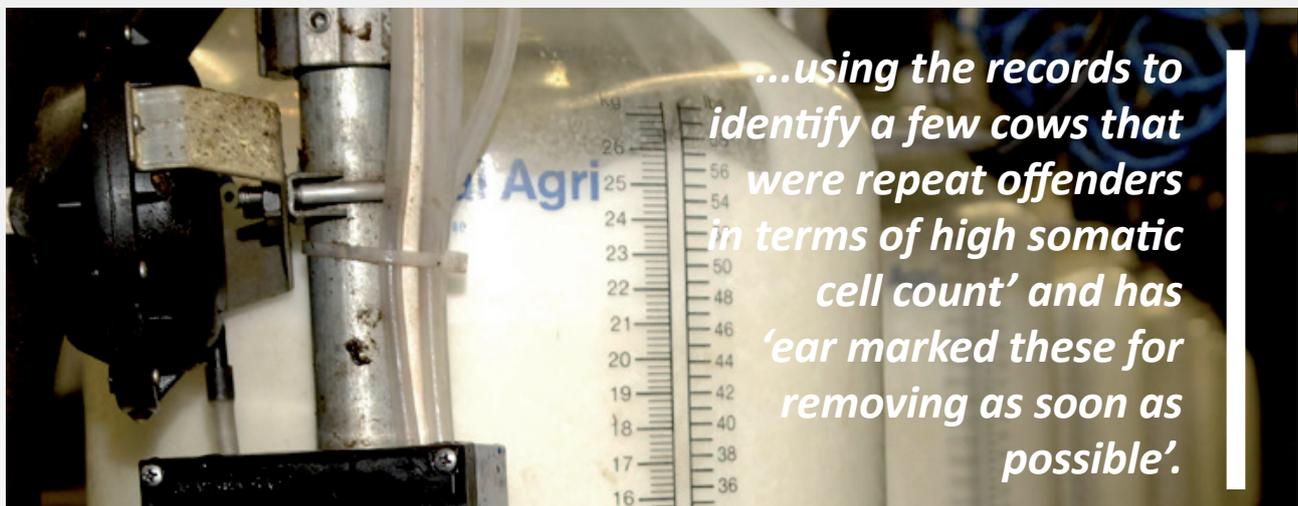


Milk recording to identify repeat offenders

Michelle McGrath, Assistant CellCheck Programme Manager

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.

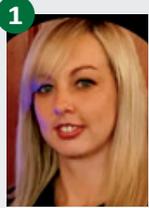


Herds that are milk recording get a CellCheck Farm Summary Report after each recording highlighting the areas of good mastitis control and areas that could be improved. This can mean an increased milk price if the bulk tank SCC is reduced. A wide range of resources are available to help farmers analyse 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'*.

CELLCHECK REGIONAL COORDINATORS

A Resource and Point of Contact for *CellCheck* Activities in your Area



1
Majella Mc Cafferty
086 0597949
majella.mccafferty@aurivo.ie
Mayo/Sligo/Donegal
Aurivo



2
John Murphy
066 7163200
john.murphy@kerry.ie
Kerry/Clare
Kerry Agribusiness



3
Aoife Feeney
afeeney@carbery.com
087 3484901.
West Cork
Carbery Group



4
Tom Downes
087 2564669
downest@lakeland.ie
Longford/Monaghan
Lakeland Dairies



5
Brendan Dillon
087 2626851
BrDillon@glanbia.ie
Cork/Waterford/
Wexford/Wicklow
Glanbia



6
Tom Starr
087 6697010
tstarr@arrabawn.ie
Tipperary/Limerick
National Co-op



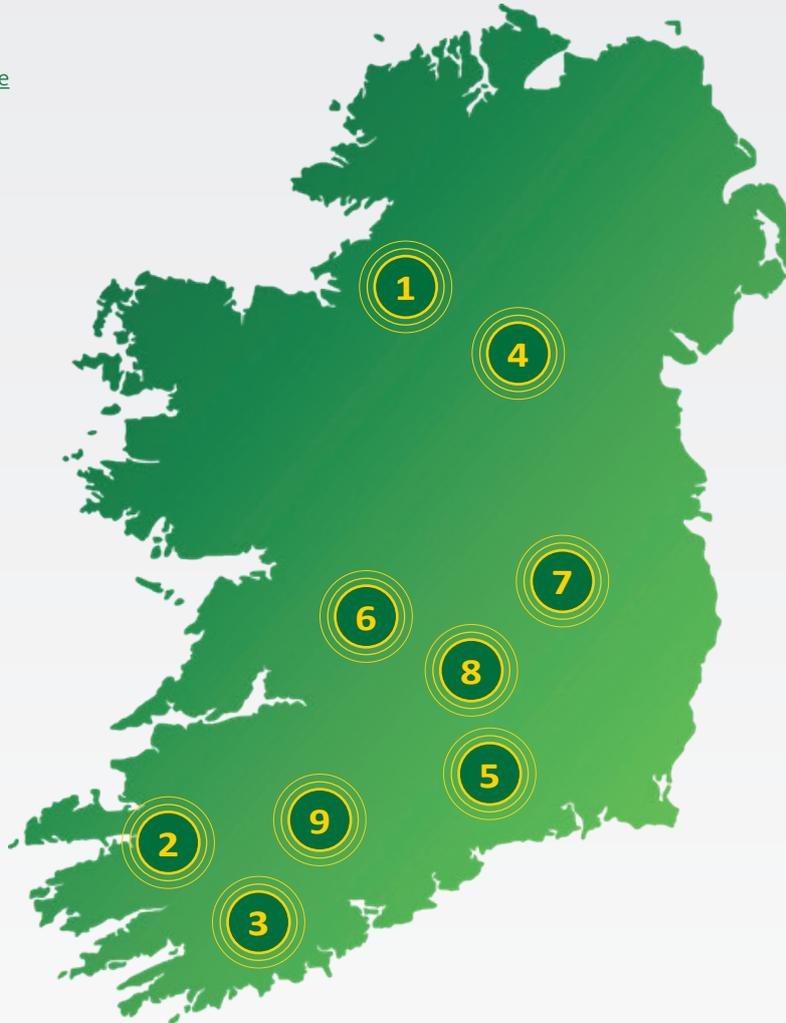
7
John Fitzpatrick
086 0426567
fitzpatrickj@glanbia.ie
Kilkenny/Laois/Carlow/
Kildare/Dublin
Glanbia



8
Andrew O'Neill
086 1836505
aoneill@tipperary-coop.ie
Tipperary
Tipperary Co-Op



9
Denis Guiry
086 8098639
dguiry@dairygold.ie
Cork/Tipperary/Limerick
Dairygold



NATIONAL MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAMME

Animal Health Ireland, 2-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 WN27

