

- Milk recording

23.1 Sign on for milk recording

After all year round teat disinfection, regular milk recording is the next most important tool in dealing with high SCC and mastitis.

ICBF coordinates the Irish milk recording service and there are two types of milk recording service, the Recorder service or the Electronic DIY (EDIY) service. The EDIY offers flexibility and is designed to simplify and streamline the process.

EDIY makes it easy:

- No upfront meter costs.
- No 'stranger' in pit or disruption of your routine.
- The farmer is in control.
- Meter auto agitates and auto samples.
- No writing - less mistakes.
- Quicker turn around time for results.

Monthly milk recording gives best results for mastitis control allowing:

- Regular and prompt identification of problem cows.
- Reviewing of treatment efficacy.
- Monitoring spread of infection within the herd.
- Monitoring stage of lactation SCC changes.

Milk recording makes money:

- The lower the milk price the more important to identify 'passenger cows' and get rid of them.
- Monthly milk recording is cheap.
- A 5,000 litre cow generates €1,250 milk income at 25cpl => even at this price you can afford to milk record.



Milk recording is a valuable source of information.

Refer to Guideline 12

Use individual cow SCC for management decisions.



Use the CellCheck Farm reports for your herd

The CellCheck Farm reports (Summary and Analysis) use your milk recording results, and clinical case records to give an accurate overview of udder health in your herd. They help you identify problem areas and potential risks as well as tracking progress after any management changes are made.

Monthly milk recording allows you to review individual cows for:

- Somatic cell count.
- Yield of fat, protein and milk.
- Identify infected cows early which facilitates timely treatment.

Monthly milk recording allows you to review cow groups:

- ICBF reports break animals into group by age and stage of lactation e.g. older cows and heifer groups allowing you to address their problems specifically.
- ICBF reports allow targeted interrogation during on-farm investigations.

'You can't manage what you don't measure'.