

What are the fundamentals for a successful dry period?

Michelle McGrath, Assistant CellCheck Programme Manager

The dry period is a crucial time, when new udder infections can be picked up from the environment leading to mastitis, even though clinical signs may not be seen until the start of the next lactation. Hopefully, you will have had the opportunity to catch some of the key messages that the CellCheck virtual week are promoting this week. Just in case you missed them, they are available on the AHI website to review [click here](#). In brief, the focus is on three areas that are fundamental to a good dry period and will help improve mastitis control and overall herd health and performance at this key time of year. These areas were:

1. The importance of hygienic tubing cows at dry-off, whether you are using teat sealant, antibiotic tubes or both.
2. The importance of good winter housing management.
3. The benefits of milk recording, and how to get the most value from the milk recording data for your farm.

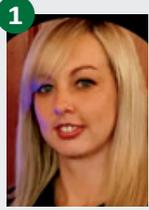
To help you prepare for this dry season CellCheck have produced a leaflet that demonstrates what is involved in effective tubing and also a self assessment checklist for winter housing. This shows you how to take a fresh look at your winter housing with a view to preventing and managing mastitis and outlines the small changes that you can make that will be effective in reducing the spread of disease. Both are available online [click here](#).

The entire dairy industry is working together to support you with the move towards using less antibiotics, and only using antibiotics where necessary to treat disease. Support is available through the CellCheck Dry Cow Consult, which is a chance for you to have a free 3-hour consult with your trained veterinary practitioner. It is an opportunity to assess the current drying off process and dry period performance and identify additional gains that can be made. Some eligibility criteria apply, and for more information and to apply, [click here](#).

By embracing the following motto for antibiotics, 'use as little as possible but as much as necessary' we will reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance in both human and animal health in Ireland.

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



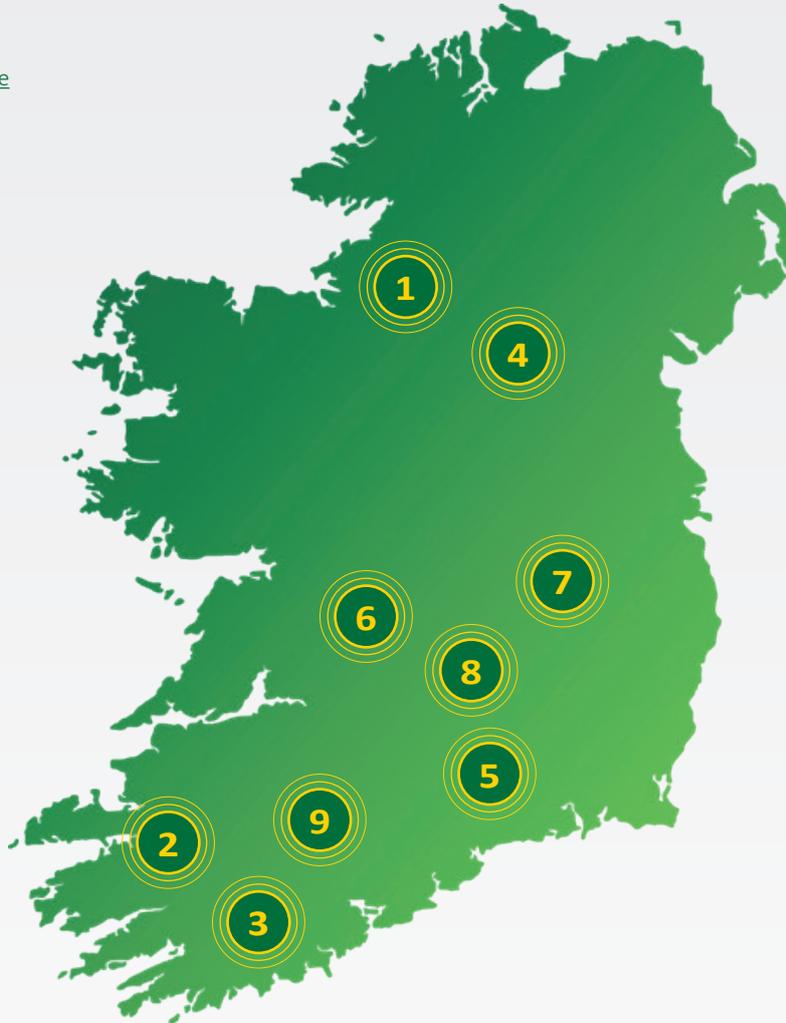
7
John Fitzpatrick
086 0426567
fitzpatrickj@glanbia.ie
Kilkenny/Laois/Carlow/
Kildare/Dublin
Glanbia



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

