

# “Your education, your future, just better”

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Vol 2 No. 5 February 19<sup>th</sup> 2022

Welcome to our weekly newsletter where we give an overview of college and farm activities. More detailed information on any aspect of the newsletter may be obtained by contacting us directly by phone or email.

## Grass

Despite wetter weather last week, we have been able to maintain grass in the diet of the calved cows each day. Cows have been out to grass for a couple of hours after both morning and afternoon milking. The drier paddocks were prioritised for grazing last week. Currently 17% of the dairy platform is grazed, with a target of 30-35% grazed by the end of this month.

## Dairy Herd

We just past the halfway mark in this years calving season. All third lactation cows and higher receive a calcium bolus immediately after calving in order to minimise the risk of milk fever. All calves, both heifers and bulls are genomically tested at birth below. This increases the reliability of the calves EBI figure as shown in the table below and so we can make a more informed decision when it comes to keeping and breeding replacement heifers.

Dairy Genomic Evaluation Report								
Jumbo/DOB	5800	25-Jan-2022	Breed		HO (75%), FR (19%), NR (6%)			
Tag/Sex	372222171675800	F	Sire		FR5593 (€228) <small>Sire Verified (SNP)</small>			
Name			Dam		372222171644915 (€250) <small>Dam Verified (SNP)</small>			
Date of Evaluation	10-Feb-2022 (Evaluation valid until 25-Mar-2022)		MGS		FR4709 (€255)			
Index	Official Genomic Evaluation (%)	Reliability	Weighting on Genomics	DNA Value	Parent Average Evaluation	Reliability	Diff from Parent Avg	Increase in Reliability
EBI €	300	49%	26%	407	239	30%	+61	19%
Milk Sub Index €	83	68%	56%	87	76	38%	+7	30%
Fertility Sub Index €	162	33%	8%	277	115	22%	+47	11%
Calving Sub Index €	46	49%	27%	40	45	36%	+1	13%
Beef Sub Index €	-12	40%	0%	0	-14	28%	+2	12%
Maintenance Sub Index €	8	39%	0%	0	7	25%	+1	14%
Management Sub Index €	3	54%	0%	0	2	29%	+1	25%
Health Sub Index	10	59%	43%	3	9	33%	+1	26%

## Drystock Enterprise

We are now 4 weeks away from lambing and so the level of concentrates being fed to ewes has increased. Mature

ewes carrying twins and ewe lambs carrying twins are now being fed 0.4Kgs of concentrates per head per day. The amount of concentrates being fed to the ewes carrying triplets has increased to 0.6Kgs per head per day. Concentrates have also been introduced to the diet of the mature ewes carrying single lambs at a rate of 0.2Kgs per head per day. Last week our Level 5 students vaccinated all in lamb ewes to protect against Clostridia disease and to provide passive immunity to lambs when born.



The returns from the first lot of finishing cattle that went to ABP in Rathkeale turned out well. Nine dairy bred heifers ranging in age from 21 to 23 months from the calf to beef enterprise were selected. The average carcass weight was 282Kgs and Kill Out percentage ranged from 50 to 54 percent. A base price of €4.35 was received plus quality assurance and breed bonuses. All heifers had a fat score of 4. A further load will go next week.

## College & Student Activities

On Wednesday last members of Macra na Feirme visited the college to speak to our Level 5 students. The students got the opportunity to hear all about the organisation and plans are now in place to establish a Macra club for students in the college.

Hannah Quinn-Mulligan also joined us on the day. Hannah is a former student of the college and chairs the Women in Agriculture Stakeholders Group.

Also last Wednesday John Healy from Herdwatch spoke to the students about the benefits to farmers of using this management tool.

Over the coming weeks our mechanisation students will work on their projects. Students have the option to work on a machine repair or a fabrication project. We will feature regular updates and progress reports throughout our spring newsletters.

### Photo of the Week



Speakers from Macra na Feirme, Women in Agriculture Stakeholders Group and Herdwatch visited the college during the week.

### Dates for Your Diary

- Our college Open Day takes place on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Our new Distance Education and Part-Time “Green Cert” courses will commence on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022. Visit our website [www.salesianag.ie](http://www.salesianag.ie) for further details.
- Applications are now open for our full time Level 5 Certificate in Agriculture course and our Level 6 Dairy Herd Management, Drystock Management and Mechanisation courses that commence in September 2022. Visit our website for more details.

### Group Visits

We are now open to accepting visiting groups, be that schools, groups of farmers or individuals. Contact Mary in admin at 061-393100 and we will be happy to tailor a package to suit your needs.

### Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok for daily updates on college and farm activities.

### Contact Details

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