Co-operative News

November 2023

Centenary Thurles
Co-operative Society Ltd

Welcome to the November edition of Co-operative News!

With this newsletter we are committed to giving you updates in Centenary Thurles every quarter. We want to keep you informed of what's going on in the Society – whether that is new developments in the technology we use, new products we are launching or challenges we are helping our stakeholders with. We also want to give advice on topical issues in agriculture and encourage a sustainable practice within our community.

If you would like to see some specific content in these newsletters or give us some feedback, please contact us on **(0504) 91932** or email **cholmes@centenarythurles.com**

Follow us for all the latest news in Centenary Thurles:

@centenaryagri
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125 Years' Celebration

A special thanks to all who attended our celebrations in The Dome on Saturday 26th August 2023. Feedback would suggest that the event was a great success and that it marked our 125th anniversary in both an appropriate and enjoyable fashion.

Great praise is due to all those involved in the organisation and delivery of the event. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following:

- David & Toby Morgan and staff at The Dome, who set up the venue and provided the catering on the night, both food and drink;
- Michael Cantwell and staff of Boulabán Ice Cream, who were in high demand judging by the length of the queue;
- The five bands who provided the musical entertainment across the evening and the night;
- Simon Gleeson of Lumatech who ensured all matters related to sound and vision operated at peak performance;
- Designworks for their role in planning and designing everything associated with the event, in particular our branding, print and signage requirements;
- The various providers of the table dressings and decorative items, tableware, pipe & drape, dancefloor, and balloons which enhanced the overall appearance of The Dome;
- CM Signs who produced all the signage for the event;
- Our photographer Don Moloney who captured the event so well — if Don took your photo on the night in the designated area, please contact us and we will email it to you;
- Thurles Sarsfields GAA Club who provided the extensive overflow car parking facilities required;
- And, of course, all our own many staff who contributed so much to the success of the event, through the planning stage to delivery on the night.

Keltic Swing, one of the many musical acts who performed at the event

L-R: Chairmen John Murphy and Paddy Daly

L-R: Eamonn Bergin, TJ Flanagan and John Murphy

L-R: James Fitzgerald, Paddy Whyte and John Martin

Ukebox, one of the many musical acts who performed at the event

Some of the guests enjoying the evening

Feed Price Reductions

2023 has seen some welcome relief from input price inflation on-farm. Our latest feed price decrease of €25 per tonne has brought cumulative reductions for the year to €105. Milk Suppliers are reminded that we pay a Milk Bonus equating to €15/€25 per tonne on all dairy cubes purchased between 25th November and 25th January (some terms and conditions apply). This will provide some further support to those milking over the winter.

Finance Ireland - Milkflex

Suppliers are reminded that Finance Ireland continues to provide finance to the dairy sector. Maximum loan size has increased from €300,000 to €500,000. Advantages offered by Finance Ireland include the fact that the loans are unsecured, easier to draw-down and payments are deducted through milk accounts. Additionally, repayment amounts can vary according to the prevailing milk price.
On the other hand, taking on additional borrowing in the current climate of increased interest rates, lower milk prices, high input prices and possible constraints on future milk output, needs to be fully considered taking these and all factors into account.

Should you wish to contact Finance Ireland, you can do so on **(01) 6470255** or **milkflex@financeireland.ie.**

On-line Shopping

Post-Covid, the trend for on-line grocery shopping remains on an upward trajectory. We would remind all customers that Thurles Fresh Milk products are available on-line at both Dunnes and Tesco. We thank you for your ongoing support for our branded milk.

Photo Publication

We have produced a collection of old (and not so old!) photographs to mark the celebration of 125 years of Centenary Thurles Co-Op. The booklet also contains a Foreword by our Chairman, Paddy Daly, reflecting on all those who have gone before us, initially to sow the seeds of success and subsequently to nurture the development of the Society to bring it to what it is today. Paddy also looks forward to the future with a strong degree of optimism.

For your free copy of this commemorative booklet, please contact your local branch.

Redeemable Bonus Shares

Following the issue of Redeemable Bonus Shares at our AGM in June, there has been some demand for redemption of these shares. 16 members who are remaining as shareholders have redeemed a total of in excess of 100,000 shares over the 4 months.

New Committee Member Elected

We are pleased to welcome Michael O'Connell from Clonomocogue, Loughmore to the Committee of Management representing the Ballyduag Electoral Area. We wish him well and look forward to his input into the collective decision-making process.

Harvest 2023 Update

Intake

Our intake for 2023 was much reduced at a little over 15,800 tonnes, impacted severely by weather conditions from sowing to harvesting.

Grain Prices

Including Trading Bonuses, we paid €202 for Barley, €212 for Wheat, €197 for Oats and €265 for Beans. In addition, we paid Transport Allowances and VAT where applicable. The reduction in yield was compounded by a reduction in price of the main commodities of €108 per tonne.

Special Support Fund

The Committee of Management, in recognition of the poor weather and yields suffered in the tillage sector, set aside a Special Support Fund of €150,000 to aid our growers. This support resulted in an additional payment per tonne supplied of €9.50, plus VAT where applicable. Payment from this fund was additional to the prices outlined above.

Milk Price Volatility Fund Release

The Committee of Management is acutely aware of the financial impact of falling milk price during 2023, particularly so, as input costs remain stubbornly high. Milk Prices fell in seven of the first eight months of 2023, a cumulative 25c per litre. Whilst price appears to have steadied at present, it still looks likely that we could start 2024 off a relatively low base price. The Committee of Management has therefore committed to releasing from the Milk Price Volatility Fund, the equivalent of 1c per litre (including VAT) based on 2023 Milk Supply. This payment will be made separately to Milk Suppliers in mid-March 2024, at a time when it is felt that it will be most needed.

Cara O'Dwyer

Last August saw the retirement of our Credit Controller, **Cara O'Dwyer** after more than 44 years' service. Cara performed many roles in the Society, particularly so during the Thurles Co-Op era. For the last 18 years, Cara's main focus as Credit Controller was in managing our debtors ledger. Cara was always willing to engage with and work with customers, to ensure viable payment plans were put in place and adhered to. She has been succeeded in the role by **Claire Hogan**, who we welcome to the organisation. We wish Cara well for the future as she pursues her other varied interests and hobbies.

L-R: Cara O'Dwyer and Paddy Daly

Fuel Essentials

CENTENARY Home & Garden

Willow Warm Carbon Neutral Wood Briquettes

or €6.50 each

Homestead Firelighters 30 pack

or €2.95 each

Firebloc Firelog 1kg

or €1.99 each

Waxies Firelighters 30 pack

or €6.50 each

Homefire Supertherm Smokeless Coal

10kg €7.95

20kg €14.95

40kg €29.95

Some products only at selected shops | Terms and Conditions apply | Prices subject to change.

Cashel | Littleton | Roscrea | Templemore | Thurles

Tipperary Fresh

Three years on from the relaunch after Covid of our innovative and niche product, Tipperary Fresh, we are pleased to report that we have now obtained a strong foothold in the market. 2023 sales have been particularly strong and our plan is to further grow our market share. This product is distributed nationwide through Dunnes Stores and has caught the imagination of a growing number of consumers. We wish the brand and all those involved continued success.

Centenary Thurles / Teagasc Signpost Update – Week of the 23rd October 2023

John Sheridan, Borrisoleigh, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	
Litres / Cow	15
Fat %	5.41
Protein %	4.09
SCC	178
Kg / MS / Cow	1.47
Meal Kg	3.5
Average Farm Cover	1060
Cover / LU	298
Pre-grazing Yield	1800
Demand / Ha	25
Growth Rate / Ha	41

Grazing conditions have become challenging on John Sheridan's farm with cows being housed for some periods over the last month. Where cows have been housed, hygiene has been a priority to ensure no rise in somatic cell count. The farm is in a good position from a grass point of view and the focus now is on getting paddocks with high covers grazed out to ensure quality grass will be available next spring. Every opportunity to graze grass has been taken with the use of spur roadways, on – off grazing and back fencing. Dry paddocks and paddocks with low covers have been prioritised where weather has been poor.

Liquid Milk

Expressions of Interest are sought from suppliers who might consider supplying liquid milk to our Thurles Dairy from Winter 2024. Requirements for premium payment would include minimum 5% supply each month; exclusive use of non-GM dairy feed; meeting quality standards including TBC, SCC and Lactose; and you should be located within 15km of the Thurles Dairy. Contact John Martin on **(087) 2462218** to discuss further.

Looking at winter feed requirements, by Howard Stanley, Centenary Agri's Animal Nutritionist

This year's grazing season has been difficult for all animals. Rain over a long period of time has meant the grass dry matter remained low. This led to animals being behind in terms of growth rates and overall performance. With potentially a longer winter ahead, I have compiled 6 key areas to look at for improving animal performance.

1. **Animal Health Plan:** It is always a worthwhile and cost-effective exercise to speak to your vet prior to housing animals and have a herd health plan in place. Your vet will give the best options for external and internal parasite control along with which vaccination program will suit your needs. This should be the first step in housing animals, as it will provide a good foundation for efficient performance throughout the winter period. It will also reduce any health issues and therefore improve animal performance.

2. **Group cattle appropriately:** First, there are numerous ways to group animals, and this will change from farm to farm. Separating male and female in young stock is very important especially if they haven't yet been castrated. The same advice goes for both dairy and beef farmers - separate thin animals, and group separately as they may need a different plane of nutrition. A beef finisher will typically group animals according to age, weight and how well fleshed they are or how close they are to slaughter. A dairy farmer will typically group animals according to calving date or body condition score. Thin cows may be given a higher plane of nutrition and cows with a high body condition score will be on a restricted diet.

3. **Ensure correct mineral supplementation:** Minerals are a very important supplement for the winter period, as forages naturally have a lower mineral profile than fresh grass. Minerals are important to support growth and the immune system of the animal and care should be taken when choosing a suitable mineral pack. Farmers who choose to feed some level of concentrate to animals over the winter will be getting a suitable mineral package in the feed, as all the minerals supplied to Centenary Feed and Grain contain an appropriate level of chelated (protected) copper, zinc, and selenium. For the farmers that feed only silage, it is advisable to top dress a mineral pack on top of silage to supply minerals and vitamins.

4. **Housing facilities:** Animals must always have free access to water. It is important to check at least once a day that water is clean, and the animals can access the water troughs. Having no water will greatly reduce feed intake and therefore affect animal performance. Having good airflow is also important. If a shed has poor air flow, then there is high risk of sickness. Similarly, animals don't like a draught. The ventilation can be assessed by lighting a newspaper inside a shed and watching where the smoke goes and how long it takes to clear out of the shed. Having feed barriers at the correct height is also another area that may be overlooked. Barriers should be both high and wide enough that each animal can eat feed without being impeded. A typical sign of a feed barrier being too low is when an animal has a lump on its neck. If this is the case, the feed barrier needs to be adjusted.

5. **Feed Management:** By feed management, I am referring to the way a farmer feeds their animals and how clean feed troughs are kept. All categories of animals will have better feed intakes when feed is kept fresh. Feed troughs should be cleaned out regularly to stop any spoilage and feed going off.

6. **Carry out a stock take of how much silage you have in the farm:** Keeping stock of feed on farm is another important area. Estimate how much feed you have on hand and carry out a stock take every month to keep track of usage. Some farms will have adequate supply of feed and some farmers will be short of feed. If you feel you are low on feed, or need to talk about your winter options, get in contact with our field sales team.

AGRISAVERS
ANIMAL MEDICINES
SAVE BIG!
Ballyduff | Cashel | Littleton | Loran | Montore | Roscrea | Templemore | Thurles

Animec
1L €34.95
2.5 Ltr €59.95
5Ltr €99.95

Animec Super
50ml €24.95
250ml €64.95
500ml €94.95
550ml €109.95

Ivomec Super
50ml €24.95
200ml €84.95
500ml €179.95

Albex 10%
1 Ltr €29.95
5 Ltr €69.95

Ectospec
500 ml €34.95
2.5 Ltr €129.95

Endofluke 10%
5 Ltr €109.95

Closamectin Pour On
2.5 Ltr €289.95
5 Ltr €534.95

Tramazole 10%
6 Ltr €80

Cepralock DC Teat Seal
144 Bucket €165

Boviseal DC Teat Seal
120 Bucket €159

Some products only at selected shops | Terms and Conditions Apply

Offer starts 16th October while stocks last

November gardening tips from horticulturist, Terriesa Torode

Hello everyone, here are a few jobs to be done this month.

Collecting leaves is one of the most important jobs as this is such a valuable resource in your garden. When leaf mould is spread onto the ground, it creates a rich, humus material that increases soil microorganisms and the soil structure, which is handy for heavy clay soils. There are several ways to collect leaves and it all depends on the size of your garden and the amount of work you are willing to do. For large lawns, a lawn mower will suffice,and you can place the grass and chopped up leaves into a leaf mould bin or compost bin. Gently rake leaves off flower beds and brush them off paths before they create a slippery surface. You can collect leaves and place them inside black bags, whilst keeping the top of the bag open to the elements for a year. This time next year, you will have beautiful leaf mould to spread around your garden.

Tidy up all beds, remove annual weeds but leave late autumn flowering plants. Lift all dahlias if you have not done so. All begonias, canna lilies, salvias, and any other half-hardy perennials should be placed inside in a frost-free position in a shed, labelled and stored away until next spring.

You can transplant many plants like perennials, shrubs, trees and hedges in November. While the ground is still warm, all plants should root easily enough. Some perennials can grow too large or even woody in their centre so lift and divide these perennials now and transplant them either to create a drift of plants or into new positions.

Vegetable growers can organise your rotational plots for next year. Clear away all canes and supports and spread well-rotted manure over dormant beds or use a green manure and fork this in in early spring. Both options will improve the soil structure, help vegetable roots reach down deeply and break up heavy particles of clay. It will also prevent the soil from erosion. The weather will break everything down without the need for any digging!

Stake all recently planted trees. Check all stakes on all trees for either expansion of the trunk or to ensure the stake is secure.

Start winter pruning of many shrubs and fruit trees. Apples, pears, currants and blackberries can all be achieved in the next couple of months. Remember to always spray your secateurs, saws and loppers with a disinfectant whilst pruning to prevent the spread of disease. Keep all tools very sharp - you want to make clean sterile cuts every time. Burn diseased stems and do not place cankerous stems, eg from an apple tree, into the compost heap.

Insulate large terracotta pots with hessian, bubble-wrap or an old blanket. Place pot supports underneath the pots to prevent expansion from frosts. Cover up large specimen plants like Australian tree ferns with fleece or hessian. Cover the centre up also to prevent rain getting to the fronds. Banana plants need bringing indoors and lightly fleece olive trees.

Spring bulbs all need to be planted now. Narcissus can be planted in pots and in drifts in the garden. Tulips just look fantastic in pots and by filling up three pots with some winter colour and underplanting with three layers of bulbs you can create a wonderful display for the next five to six months.

Net all brassicas from pigeons enjoying your tasty greens! Check canes holding tall brussel sprout plants and remove yellowing leaves from the base. Give all brassicas a liquid feed every two weeks to keep them healthy. Garlic is a cold season vegetable and must be planted out by the end of November in drills in the vegetable plot. If your soil is heavy use a long plank and lay on top of the soil whilst working to prevent soil being compressed down.

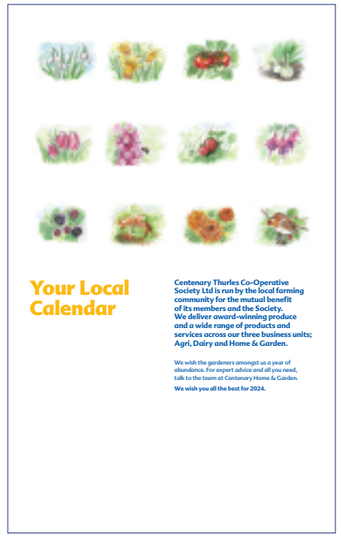
Take cuttings of all currants to keep a supply of young disease-free plants on hand.

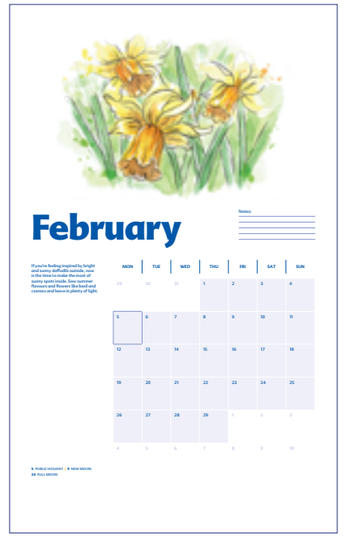
If you have any time left, all pots and trays and even the potting shed should all be cleared, cleaned and ready for next year.

Happy gardening folks!

Centenary Thurles 2024 Calendar

Our 2024 Calendar will be available from late November in all branches. The calendar features a wonderful selection of watercolour illustrations and tips for gardeners - from what is in bloom to what should be planted, and what to look out for in nature. These calendars are sure to appeal to gardeners of any level, so if you are interested in having one for you or for a relative, call to your local branch as soon as possible.





Milk Payment System

Our recently updated Milk Payment System, taking effect from 1st January 2024 has been sent to all milk suppliers. Some notable changes from the previous version include:

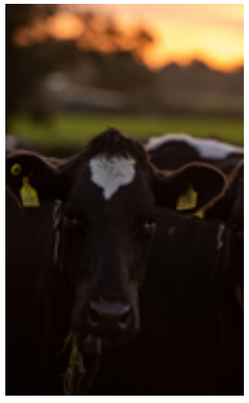
- A new rejection standard for Chlorates - >7ppb;
- New & Returning Suppliers must be registered for SDAS prior to first milk collection;
- Milk Quality Bonus will be automatically included in the Milk Price, so will be removed from the payment system;
- SCC penalty for tests 300-399,000 increased to 0.75c per litre; and
- TBC deductions reduced at the higher levels.

Agricultural Scholarships

Each year Centenary Thurles offers scholarships to sons and daughters of shareholders who attend agricultural college. To enquire about scholarship applications for 2024, please contact Tom Nyland at **(0504) 34038** or email **tnyland@centenarythurles.com**

NDC / Kerrygold Milk Quality Award Winners!

The Bergin family were our nominee for the National Dairy Council / Kerrygold Milk Quality Awards, winning in the Overall Runner Up category and the Environment Award. Well done to all involved.



Thurles Fresh Milk Santa Dash

We are pleased to support Tipperary GAA with their fundraiser for underage teams in the county on Sunday 3rd December next. This fundraiser coincides with the re-launch of our own Santa Milk for December.

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